

CHRIST'S COLLEGE

2025



MAGAZINE

NO.250



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2025

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MAGAZINE

NO. 250

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Published by: Christ’s College Cambridge CB2 3BU
www.christs.cam.ac.uk

Cover photograph by Paul Everest

PAUL EVEREST



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COLLEGE NEWS

LETTER FROM THE MASTER



Lord McDonald
of Salford

Three years in, three thoughts are uppermost in my mind as Master of Christ's.

First, is the idea of custodianship. The Master, Fellows and staff are custodians of an ethos which stretches back five centuries. We want to be the best at everything that matters. The fact that Milton, Darwin, Oppenheimer, and Todd were here before us makes that ambition plausible.

Second is the idea of renewal. We are not simply trying to keep things ticking over, we are trying to improve them. This year, Governing Body agreed a refresh of our College strategy, which aims to make Christ's (a) greener, (b) more

accessible to excellent candidates from under-represented backgrounds, (c) better for postgraduates, and (d) a haven for students fleeing conflict. We recommitted ourselves to academic excellence and to equality of opportunity.

Our building priorities derive in part from the 'green' objective. In the mid-1970s (in the teeth of opposition from Jack Plumb) the Fellowship chose to build a new student library. Talking to returning students at reunion dinners this autumn, it is clear that the building suffered problems from the start. Fifty years later, it is falling down. In my first year, we decided to replace it; in my second, we ran a competition to choose architects to design the replacement; and in my third year, Grafton have produced a beautiful design, which we submitted for planning permission before the summer break. That process is reaching its climax.

At the Planning Committee meeting on 23 October, I had three minutes to make our case. I said: 'We need this building. We have over 700 students and right now offer them inadequate study space. We considered carefully all possible options within our Domus site and concluded that by far the best was to replace the existing and crumbling library, which – among its many shortcomings – cold shoulders the city. The ugliest part of our perimeter is the unbroken brick of the library wall along Christ's Lane. We rejected the design given planning permission in 2011 because it included a basement. These days we are more aware of the disruption to a historic site that digging entails, and the massive extra carbon. The new design is just eight

feet taller than the old one, and still not quite as high as the building on the other side of the lane. We can build now because of the generosity of our principal donor. He asked just one thing of us – to get cracking. With your help, we'll do just that and enhance the built environment of Cambridge with the loveliest library of the twenty-first century.'

Third is the realisation that academic rigour must be defended in the 2020s. Facts matter. The truth must be tested; it can be argued over but never simply asserted. This is what students learn at Christ's. No matter what they do next, the lessons learnt here help them. Of course, every college and university would claim that, but – three years in – I think we fulfil that requirement particularly well. I'm biased, but our results speak for themselves: 91% of finalists achieved good honours (Firsts and 2:1s) – the best result in Cambridge; and for the second year running, we came second to Trinity in the Tompkins Table. To quote one of my favourite correspondents: 'Onwards!'

Simon
McDonald of Salford

GRAFTON ARCHITECTS



Impression of the
new Library

BURSAR'S UPDATE



Michael Parsons

Income (excluding donations) for the financial year ending 30 June 2025 was **£15.6m** (2024: £14.0m) and expenditure of **£17.4m** was incurred (2024: £17.0m, excluding the one-off revision of the USS pension provision of £0.9m; £16.1m including this item).

The current level of UK tuition fees falls well short of the cost of educating our undergraduates: our education account was in deficit by £3.5m (2024: £3.3m deficit). Despite our extensive commercial activity during the vacations, accommodation and catering activities made a loss of £2.5m, and other income/expenditure had a deficit of £1.6m. Investment income of £5.8m partly offset these losses, to give an overall deficit on continuing operations of **£1.8m** (2024: £3.0m) – excluding donations and pension provision movements.

As can be seen from the charts, without donations the College's resources are insufficient to maintain its current operations. Donations income for 2024-25 was **£23.8m** (2024: £5.1m) – greatly boosted this year by significant donations/pledges from the Yusuf and Farida Hamied Foundation for the new Library and additional postgraduate hostels. With donations, total income for the year was **£39.4m** (2024: £19.0m).

Endowment

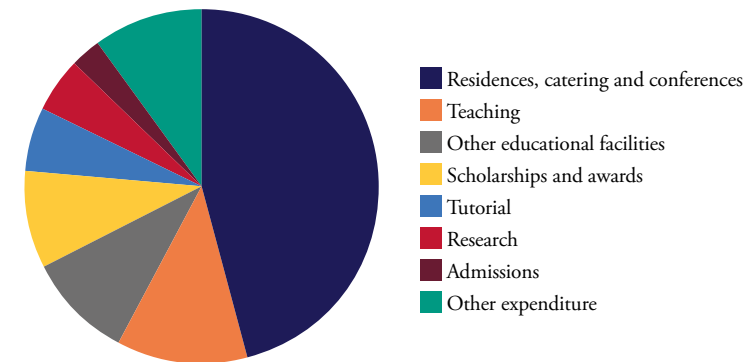
The Endowment is the College's investment portfolio that is invested for the very long term, providing an annual distribution to the College to support its operations in perpetuity. It is managed completely separately from the College's day-to-day or 'operational' finances.

The total return on investments is split between supporting spending and maintaining the purchasing power of the endowment for the future. In accordance with the College's spending rule, **3.75%** of the endowment value (average year-end value for the preceding three years) is used to support spending – for 2024-25 this was **£6.3m** (2024: £6.1m).

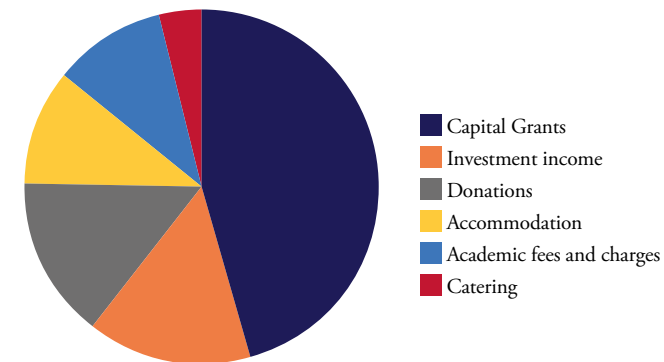
The College's has a widely diversified investment portfolio. However, investment returns were disappointing in 2024-25, with an overall total return of **2.9%** (2024: 9.7%). Returns from private equity and the actively managed equity portfolio, together with the fall in the value of the US dollar, detracted from performance.

Over 10 years, annualised returns have been **7.5%**, just less than the long-term return objective of CPI+4.25% which was **7.6%**. However, with high levels of inflation in recent years, annualised returns over 1, 3 and 5 years have fallen well short of this objective (1-year: -5.0%; 3-year: -3.3%; 5-year: -2.4%) and the long-term economic outlook remains uncertain. Nevertheless, over the long-term, the purchasing power of the endowment has more than been maintained since the College adopted the total return approach in 2012.

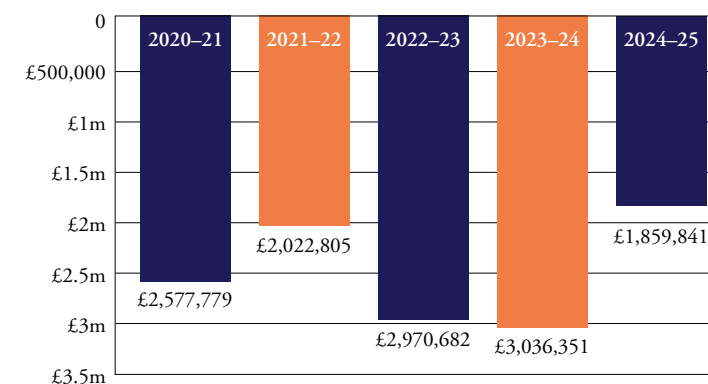
Expenditure 2024-25 – £17.4m



Income from All Sources 2024-25 – £39.4m



Deficit on Continuing Operations (before donations)



Before donations, the College has operated at a deficit in each of the last five years. In each year, donations have turned that deficit into a surplus.

Balance Sheet

The consolidated balance sheet remained strong, with total reserves increasing by £22.5m to £282m (2024: £259m).

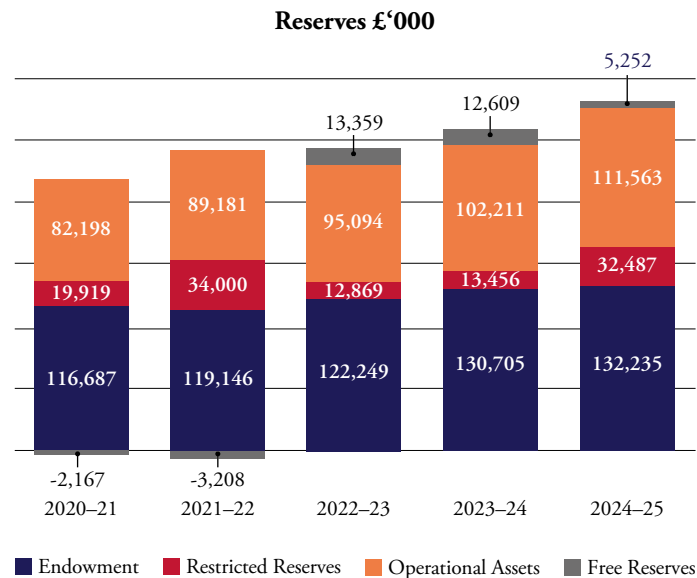
Unrestricted reserves are **£117m** which include £112m of operational fixed assets (including the domus site). The difference is **£5m** of “free reserves” (equivalent to approximately 3 months of operational expenditure) available to meet unforeseen costs and to invest in capital expenditure (2024: £13m; 9 months). The reduction in free reserves is due to significant capital expenditure on refurbishment of First Court and hostels.

The Council has set a target of holding at least 6 months’ “free reserves” but has acknowledged that the very significant planned spending on the Library+ project will inevitably lead to a sustained period of negative free reserves. Consequently, fundraising for this project (and more generally to support existing expenditure) is a priority focus.

The rise in restricted reserves is largely due to the Yusuf and Farida Hamied Foundation’s donation for the Library being held here until the project is complete, in accordance with accounting principles.

The College has long-term loans totalling **£25m**. £10m was borrowed from institutional investors in 2013–14 at a rate of approximately 4.4% repayable during the period 2043–2053, and a further £15m in 2019–20 through a private placement repayable in 2063 at 2.26%. There was no new borrowing in 2024–25. It is anticipated that the Council will need to consider additional short or long-term borrowing during 2026.

Free reserves reduced in 2024–25 due to significant capital expenditure on the refurbishment of First Court and College hostels.



Future Plans

Capital expenditure of £11.0m is budgeted for 2025–26, with ongoing commitments of £30.4m (including the Library+ project) budgeted into future years. The 2025–26 programme includes:

- The final stage of the three-phase project to replace the First Court roofs with new Collyweston tiles, improve insulation, and renew mechanical and electrical installations, including a remodelled and expanded Porters’ Lodge and preparation for low temperature heating systems to accommodate future heat pump plans for the domus site.
- The completion of the refurbishment of the Bodley Library (to bring the Upper Bodley back into use for study purposes and to expand the capacity of the Lower Bodley); creation of an enhanced Exhibition space and a dedicated Archives study room and Archives store; and much needed improvements to the Muniments Room.
- The final phase of the re-roofing and installation of solar panels on the Lasdun Building (completed this summer).
- The refurbishment of the final three Jesus Lane hostels, including improving insulation and replacing gas boilers with air-source heat pumps.
- Adaptation of 17 Emmanuel Road to postgraduate accommodation (acquired last year).
- The Library+ project, including a new Library, with an increased number and variety of flexible study spaces, and an accessible connection to the Upper Bodley Library (and through it to the Exhibition space and Archives Study room); a new multi-faith prayer room; a revitalised Bath Court; an expanded and improved Upper Hall; refurbished and electrified Kitchens; and a new toilet block for diners in Hall/Upper Hall in Second Court (at the bottom of the Upper Hall stairs).
- Many of the capital projects across our built estate will contribute to reducing our energy usage and carbon emissions – a vital contribution to the College’s approach to sustainability.

Michael Parsons

LETTER FROM THE SENIOR TUTOR



Tom Monie

The ebb and flow of the academic year allows everyone in College to look forward to their own personal highlights. This might be the arrival of new students and colleagues, the return of continuing students, Bridgemas events, Christmas activities, the foggy winter evenings, the new bulbs and flowers that signify Spring, annual Varsity events, the start (and end) of examinations, or May Week to name just a few. A personal favourite of mine falls in the Easter Term when I host weekly afternoon teas around the pool for the students to encourage them to take a well-earned break from revision. One of the most common questions I am asked as students return from the Easter vacation period is “When are the Senior Tutor’s teas starting?” They provide a refreshing break for the students and a wonderful opportunity for me to check in with people and see how things are going. To be able to do so in an environment as pleasant as the Fellows’ Garden and Pool is a bonus.

Such informal touchpoints are a critical part of the pastoral care that we provide at Cambridge. Care that is centred on providing a careful combination of a listening ear, gentle advice and guidance, and relevant signposting to other support services, processes and information hubs. Keeping students aware of this support and, in an increasingly digital age, the importance of face-to-face conversations is an essential part of providing support in a manner that will help our students reach their potential sustainably. Philanthropic support assists with this, as does a willingness to engage in new projects. Recognising the ongoing and variable impact of the pandemic on each year of students, we have this year participated in a University pilot project to deliver enhanced Consent training to all new students. Feedback was positive and we will look to develop this work further in the future.

A major achievement in the ongoing development of our Wellbeing provision during 2024–25 was the opening of the first Sensory Integration, or CALM, room in a Cambridge College. Designed in line with the Zones of Regulation model, the CALM room allows students to build self-regulation skills to allow them to engage more effectively in academic and non-academic activities during their time at Christ’s. Skills that we hope they will take with them after graduation.

One of the joys of being Senior Tutor is seeing the wide range of activities to supplement their studies that our students engage with across the academic year. We are fortunate at Christ’s that through the ongoing generosity of donors we can support students in all sorts of activities and at all sorts of scales. This year we have helped students in more areas than I have space to write about. These include a plethora of sporting activities and events, Varsity representation, National and International championships, performances at the Edinburgh Fringe, music events, dance competitions, debating, international societies and art, and that’s without considering the academic-related activities. There are however, two highlights that stand out from this year. The first of these was the success of three Christ’s rowers in the Women’s Blue Boat, Women’s Lightweight Boat and Men’s Lightweight Pair respectively. The other was the once-in-a-generation success of the Christ’s College *University Challenge* team who ran out winners in a nail-

biting final against Warwick. I don’t think the Theatre in College has ever had such a large and partisan crowd.

Of course, these aren’t the only successes the College has had. Examination results for 2024–25 were once again impressive and a testament to our students, the academics who have taught them and the support staff who look after them during their time at Christ’s. This year 92% of Christ’s students achieved Good Honours, the highest level across all Cambridge Colleges. 42% of our finalists and 37% of all students achieved first-class marks, placing the College third by this metric. Well done to everyone.

Last year I touched on the appointment of the award-winning Grafton Architects to design a new library for the College. The last year has seen the exciting development of a truly transformative set of plans. As I write this, we wait for planning approval, but I can confidently say that once the building is completed, we will be the envy of Cambridge. Students at Christ’s will have an outstanding study space and vastly improved catering facilities, and the focus on inclusive and accessible design and long term environmental and functional sustainability is refreshing to see.

To finish, I wanted to thank those of you who responded so positively to our communications towards the end of the year. Knowing that our alumni are invested in the ongoing success of Christ’s and the excellent student experience the College provides, encourages us to continue to focus on Christ’s as the best College in Cambridge.

Tom Monie

PAUL EVEREST



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ADMISSIONS

2024–25 has been another challenging and often unpredictable year for undergraduate admissions. The level of access to Cambridge enjoyed by different social groups continues to spark discussion and debate across the media and remains the subject of governmental pressure, with the University's capacity to levy undergraduate fees still allied to its progress towards agreed targets for widening participation. It is also the subject of considerable political pressure, in a broader sense, from campaigners and commentators concerned about exposing the under-representation of specific demographics. A scan of recent national broadsheet headlines reveals anxiety over a skew towards admissions from London and the South-East, anxiety over a skew towards grammar school pupils, anxiety over a drop in state school students securing the minimum entry requirements in the wake of the pandemic, jubilation over the University's decision to abandon its target for entrants from the maintained sector, demands for a cap on privately educated undergraduates, and calls for selection by lottery rather than interview. *Varsity*, meanwhile, has decried the role played by the "culture of knowing" ("insider" information enjoyed by certain schools and teachers), the number of children of alumni admitted to the University, and the cost to applicants of the new, commercially administered, entrance tests.

At the same time, many of the broader issues that I have outlined over the years loom ever larger over the admissions landscape. The volatility in A-level results first triggered by the shift from modular to linear assessment in England has gathered pace, dashing our hopes that the first pandemic-generation cohort to have been awarded GCSEs under normal conditions would move more smoothly from one set of public examinations to another. Teachers are increasingly struggling to predict outcomes for their students with the accuracy that was possible under the old modular system, particularly in the Arts and Social Sciences. The entrance tests that are used to inform interview shortlisting in our most over-subscribed subjects have been shifted online, handed to a third-party operator, and in a few cases, stripped of knowledge-based content. Some are evidently yielding helpful information about applicants' potential; the jury is out on others. Establishing the fee status of British citizens resident outside the UK, and citizens of other countries resident in the UK, has become a more complex endeavour. Political turbulence across the Atlantic has led non-US offer-holders who would otherwise have enrolled at an Ivy League institution to choose us instead, while US offer-holders have been withdrawing from Cambridge as places unexpectedly open up on Ivy League waitlists. Uneasiness about the financial costs of living away from home has led a few British applicants to decline their Christ's offer, to study at a local university.

Against this backdrop of sometimes contradictory priorities and concerns, Christ's has again sought to chart a fair pathway through admissions. Our primary criteria in choosing undergraduates remain academic ability and potential: we continue to look for the brightest and best students, irrespective of social, cultural, educational and financial background. And while we do take contextual factors into account when finalising College offer lists – particularly when candidates are clearly outperforming their school or regional context or have overcome significant challenges in their personal lives – one of our key strategies for boosting our intake from the most under-represented groups comes into play only post-offer. That

strategy lies, quite simply, in minimising attrition. Across the University, fewer than half of all offer-holders from disadvantaged backgrounds accept their offer and go on to meet its conditions. Our aim, at Christ's, is to ensure that the success rate is higher. We have been running a mentoring scheme for offer-holders who have experienced educational disruption, or have other contextual "flags", in conjunction with the charity Project Access, since 2017. We continue to provide online tutoring for students whose offers include grades in STEP Mathematics examinations, but who cannot secure support preparing for these examinations from their schools. We offer top-up bursaries for entrants from Northern Ireland and Scotland, where the maintenance loans available are less generous than in England and Wales. Some twenty students a year benefit from a pre-matriculation "bridging course", designed to boost confidence in the week before Full Term.

At the same time, more conventional outreach activities – designed to reach students before they apply – continue to proceed at pace. We work with a consortium of school partners in the West Midlands to deliver the HE Plus curriculum enrichment programme, and with a consortium of other Cambridge Colleges to deliver outreach conferences in the East Midlands and Northwest England. We run two Easter residential events – the Christ's-Trinity Women in Maths Residential, for aspiring women mathematicians and the Christ's-King's World of Words Residential, for students interested in languages, literature and culture – and two Experience Christ's Summer Schools, which give students from under-represented and deprived regions the opportunity to sample a range of subjects, including Architecture, Engineering, Psychology and Law. We invite students from our Link Areas to stay with us during the University Open Days, and prospective Medics and Natural Scientists to attend hybrid subject Taster Days. We offer regular school visit days and admissions "webinars" through the year and run advice clinics in August for students who have done better than expected in A-levels.



*Experience Christ's
Summer School*

*World of Words*

We retain a keen interest in student-run access initiatives, both in the UK and elsewhere in the world. Among those we have assisted this year are the UK, Austrian, Danish and Finnish branches of Project Access, the Nordic Study Abroad Community, Anyverse, and Access Abroad Hong Kong. I also conduct recruitment activities on behalf of the College and University in several countries, notably Cyprus, Denmark and Singapore. Many of these activities – and indeed, the bulk of our endeavours in Admissions and Outreach – would be impossible without the support of a number of generous donors, the dedication and hard work of our Admissions Team, Access Bye-Fellows, Directors of Studies and other Fellows.

The good news is that all this hard work is starting to pay off. The 2024 cohort included the highest-ever proportion of woman entrants – 50.4% – and the 2025 cohort looks likely to be similar, with significant increases in the number of women coming to us to study Computer Science and Engineering, in particular. Our undergraduate body contains students from over 40 different countries, and we are proud that these include a number of outstanding Ukrainian refugees. The proportion of state school educated students among our British undergraduates routinely exceeds 70%, hitting 75% more often than not: some 35% higher than the equivalent figure, thirty years ago. What has not changed, however, is the calibre of our students, who not only excel academically, but give generously of their time and energy to support other young people wishing to follow in their footsteps. It is to them that I owe, as ever, the greatest debt of gratitude.

Emily Tomlinson

LETTER FROM THE CHAPLAIN

What is the point of a college chapel in this day and age? Who is it for and what does it do? These were the questions I pondered as I wrote my sermon for the Freshers' Welcome Service at the beginning of the academic year. The response, I felt, was encapsulated in four words: 'Belonging', 'Spaciousness', 'Authenticity' and 'Hope', which suggest what the chapel aims to offer. It is a place where every member of the college is not just made welcome but belongs in their own right. A place which offers hope in any circumstance, and the opportunity to gather and reflect on the immanent, the transcendent and the human condition.



*Revd Dr
Helen Orchard*

If that all sounds a little worthy, I should confess that Christ's has become known informally as 'the fun chapel' among Cambridge chaplains. No doubt last Easter's Pet Service and ante-chapel aquarium prompted this reputation, but I suspect it has been afforded by our termly themes this year: Taste, Comedy and Play. I had long thought that the sense of taste would be a fascinating subject to explore spiritually, metaphorically and practically, and so we sat down in Michaelmas to enjoy sweet, sour, bitter, salt and umami offerings. 'Japan and the World' scholar Dr Elena Follador enlightened us on the real story of MSG, while Revd Shana Maloney spoke passionately about the bitterness of soul food in the context of slavery. Naturally, it was necessary to put our taste buds to work after each service with appropriate snacks and drinks (cocktails and mocktails), pondering the challenge of being 'salt of the earth' with alumnus Canon Dr Robert Mackley while sipping on mini margueritas and munching crisps. 'Sweet' proved to be a popular week as we welcomed Tim Hayward, food journalist and co-owner of Fitzbillies. It turns out that if you offer a taste of Chelsea Buns with a sweet sherry after Evensong you can fill the chapel to bursting! Dr Helen Jeffries from the Dept of Health and Social Care helped us understand the impact neurodiversity can have on taste, and we continued the practice of having one of our own speak in chapel as the Master took on 'Sour'. I had assumed he would relate an example of diplomacy soured, or some such. Instead, he surprised us all by speaking of the death of his brother Dominic in the period before our own Yusuf Hamied developed and made available generic AIDS antiretrovirals. It was an affecting address in which those four words above seemed to come into their own as the chapel served as a space where the most difficult experiences can be shared with courage and authenticity.

Lent term is renowned for being damp and depressing and so our theme of Comedy sought to lift spirits as we waited for signs of spring. We began each service with a joke delivered by a fellow, student or staff member. The reward for having your joke selected? Ice cream, of course, in the form of a Jack's Gelato golden token. We continued the laughter with stand-up by alum Matt Green, now an established comedian and actor; and Dr Dan Sperrin who gave a witty address on satire. Our Bye-fellow in English, Dr Fran Eastwood pressed GK Chesterton and St Francis into service for her homily on clowning around, and we were treated to a rendition of Sondheim's 'Send in the Clowns' by soprano Em Sparkes. Rabbi Dr Tali Artman-Partock spoke on laughing in the face of patriarchy, delivering some choice lines from rabbinic literature



*Singing on
Ascension Day*

which encapsulated Jewish humour. We completed the term celebrating the 40th Anniversary of Prof David Rowland's tenure as Director of Music with an Evensong of music composed entirely by Christonians, including a new commission by alumna Annabel McLauchlan Rooney.

Though we value Christ's academic prowess, all work and no play makes for a dull existence. What better moment to think about the importance of 'Play' through sport and art, drama and games than the exam term? Fellow

Jenny Gibson, Professor of Neurodiversity and Developmental Psychology spoke of the role of developmental play and encouraged us to try origami in the ante-chapel after the service. Various clergy shared their enthusiasm for board games and computer games, and we reflected on the beautiful game with the chaplain to Charlton Athletic and English Football, Revd Matt Baker. Meanwhile, the chaplain began the term discussing Christianity and Cosplay, inviting the congregation to wear an item which reflected their identity, (unearthing some fine accessories, including the odd wig); and ended it using a medieval miniature to explore Playing with the Trinity.

In addition to Evensong, Choral Eucharists for All Souls', Candlemas, Ash Wednesday, and Corpus Christi remain popular. Compline and Soulscape services continue to draw in students, offering a space to de-stress simply by sitting and holding a candle in the dark while listening to beautiful music. Sublime strains were also heard wafting downward into Second Court in May as the Great Gate tower remained shrouded in scaffolding, unable to be scaled by the choir on Ascension Day. Suggestions that anthems should be sung on the First Court lawn instead were roundly rejected; after all, college has many high places. Consequently, for one year only, we pounded up A staircase and onto the roof of the Fellows' Building (with orders from Maintenance not to lean too heavily on the balustrade). It was a clear morning, and the college has never looked more beautiful as the 'Alleluias' rang out. For this, and many other wonderful moments in 2025 as we welcomed back alumni for services, lectures, meals, and a bumper crop of seven weddings, I am thankful. I look forward to more such encounters with members in the coming year.

Revd Dr Helen Orchard

LETTER FROM THE DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Whenever I walk through College, I am reminded that, even though there has only been a Development Office since the year 2000, the support of the College's alumni has been central to Christ's for over 500 years. Physical clues abound, in the naming of buildings and rooms, the portraits, the inscriptions, the plaques. At the Commemoration of Benefactors Feast in December, the Master reads an ever-growing list, beginning with Lady Margaret, of those whose exceptional generosity has transformed the College's estate, size, and operations.

Beyond these literal reminders though, the impact of philanthropy is felt at every turn. The excellence and vibrancy of our student body can only be achieved because our supporters enable us to invest in targeted access and outreach work, and offer brilliant young people the financial support they need to come to Christ's. During their time here, the generosity of our alumni allows us to go beyond bursaries, with support for travel, sport, music and research, ensuring that students' time with us is rounded and enriching, and preparing them to make their mark on the world. Underpinned by endowment, our Fellowship brings together eminent leaders in their fields with newly appointed Junior Research Fellows, all united in their wish to offer the best possible teaching to our undergraduates and foster an environment of pioneering discovery and innovation.

The 2024-25 academic year has seen us receive £5.8m in fundraised income, along with £18m in capital grants. As the Bursar outlines, this wonderful total allows us, first and foremost, to fill the operational deficit we face on an annual basis. Delivering the world-class supervision-based teaching that makes a Cambridge degree so exacting costs significantly more than the fees we receive, so we must fundraise to support each and every student we admit.

In addition, our fundraising this year has enabled us to undertake much-needed work across the College, including beginning the final phase of reroofing, insulating and replumbing First Court, starting the refurbishment of the Porters' Lodge, rolling out the next phases of solar panel installation and fully renovating two more hostels on Jesus Lane. We have been able to continue the development of our wellbeing support programme for students, opening the first Calm Room in a Cambridge College offering a sensory-friendly approach for students needing a different approach to managing stress, anxiety or sensory overload. More than a third of our undergraduate students have been supported through bursaries, studentships, travel grants and sporting awards, and we have been able, with the help of alumni, to invest in two new boats to support experienced and novice rowers alike.

This has all been achieved with the help of over 1,100 alumni and friends, all of whose support is deeply appreciated by the Christ's community. We have supporters all over the world, giving on a regular basis, as a one-off or through remembering Christ's in their wills. Thank you all.

In particular this year, I would like to mention a trio of transformational gifts which have marked a step change in the College's academic contribution to the urgent challenges posed by climate change. Lady Margaret Fellows Jim Warwick (m. 1983) and Jane Dominey have endowed a PhD studentship in Climate Change



Alexandra Rowlands



STEPHEN BOND

Dr Yusuf Hamied
with the Darwin
sculpture

and Net Zero, alongside another studentship in Climate Change and Biodiversity made possible through a generous endowed gift from Fellow Commoner Charlie Kennel and Ellen Lehman. The postholders will join a growing community of climate change researchers, including the newly appointed Senior Research Fellows of the Darwin-Hamied Centre, a five-year pilot supported by the Yusuf and Farida Hamied Foundation to focus on the research at the intersection of biodiversity and demography, under the direction of Christ's Fellow Professor Daniel Field. Four more PhD studentships will be offered as part of this programme over the next five years.

The Development Office remains a busy hub for staying in touch with and welcoming alumni from the across the world. The last academic year has seen us welcome over 1,500 alumni to events here in College, in London and internationally. The Master and I made our first trip to Asia in September 2024, holding events for alumni in Hong Kong, Singapore and Malaysia. Christ's has close historic connections with this region and this was clear in the warmth of the welcome we received during our visit. Thank you all, and we look forward to our first European trip to Switzerland in Spring 2026, followed by a return to the US in the Summer.

Meeting our alumni, and feeling the strength of the affection with which Christ's is held remains one of the most rewarding aspects of my role. Thank you to all who have welcomed us so warmly and participated with such enthusiasm in our events and activities. In particular, I owe heartfelt thanks to our Alumni & Development Committee – Mark Davies (m. 1990, Chair), Soumen Das (m. 1995), Jennifer Haywood (m. 1989), Susan Hill (m. 1992), Misiek Piskorski (m. 1992), Bindesh Shah (m. 1992) and Jim Warwick (m. 1983), and Fellows Daniel Field, Camilla Nord, David Reynolds and Julia Shvets. This autumn we will bid a fond farewell to Susan, Bindesh and Julia, welcoming Alex Cheetham (m. 1988), George Bruell (m. 1986) and newly appointed Fellow Bill Freeman to our number. Their energy and commitment, along with the dedication and care of our Development

Team of Jonty Carr, Paul Everest, Rene Russell and James Rushworth is vital to the success of our work. Thank you all.

As we approach September, and that 'back-to-school' feeling, we look ahead to what the coming year holds. Our September reunions will start a year full of opportunities to return to College, to connect with fellow alumni, to meet current students and Fellows and to hear about the College's plans and priorities for the future. A special evening at the English National Opera in October will celebrate the achievements of Christ's alumni who have made their careers in opera, and on Earth Day in 2026 we will focus on sustainability at Christ's, from the Darwin-Galapagos Fund to the newly founded Darwin-Hamied Centre. Even if your travel plans do not align with one of our scheduled events, do remember that alumni are always welcome to exercise their dining privileges and dine at High Table. We would love to see you.

In lieu of a Telephone Campaign in 2025, many of you will have heard from College by email or letter to share our fundraising plans and priorities for the future and to ask if you might help us make those ambitions a reality. Thank you to all who have responded so warmly. At the heart of our plans lies the Library+ Project, a desperately needed transformation of the whole swathe of College running from the Old Library to Upper Hall. For the first time, Upper Hall and the Library will be full accessible, all gas will be removed from the kitchens, and the dark, uneven space of Bath Court will be lush and green and useable by students. You may have read about the project and seen Grafton Architects' plans and images in *Pieces*, and we look forward to sharing more over the coming months in the hope that you might wish to support the most transformative project the College will have seen in many years.

Alexandra Rowlands



SENIOR MEMBERS

Each list includes the current Senior Members as of October 2025 in order of election in the various categories, and records higher doctorates, external honours and membership of some learned societies. The date in brackets indicates the date of original election.

Master

Lord McDonald of Salford GCMG KCVO

Fellows

1962 Professor Cecil Courtney LittD
 1969 Professor John Wilson ScD
 1971 Dr David Jones
 1972 Professor Geoffrey Ingham
 1976 Professor Frank Kelly CBE FRS
 1976 Dr William Peterson
 1978 Dr Kelvin Bowkett (1966)
 1983 Professor David Reynolds FBA
 1983 Professor Gareth Rees
 1986 Professor Susan Bayly
 1987 Professor Nicholas Gay
 1994 Professor Sir David Klenerman FRS FRSC FMedSci
 1998 Dr Robert Hunt
 2001 Professor Marcelo Fiore
 2006 Professor Caroline Vout FSA
 2006 Dr Sophie Read
 2007 Dr Julia Shvets
 2008 Dr Elena Punskeya
 2008 Professor Sanjeev Goyal FBA
 2010 Professor Duncan Bell FBA (2004)
 2010 Professor Tom Monie (2006)
 2013 Dr Richard Williams
 2014 Professor Gábor Betegh
 2014 Dr Helen Pfeifer
 2015 Professor Christopher Thomas
 2015 Professor David Trippett (2009)
 2016 Professor Richard Mortier
 2016 Dr Edward Allen
 2016 Dr Andrew Stewart
 2016 Dr Emily Tomlinson
 2017 Dr Harriet Lyon
 2017 Dr Mike Housden
 2018 Dr Isabel Huang-Doran
 2018 Dr Giovanni Mantilla
 2018 Dr Sam Stanier
 2018 Professor Daniel Field
 2018 Dr Mary Franklin-Brown
 2019 Dr James Jones
 2019 Dr Henry Bradford
 2019 Professor Mark Girolami FRSE FREng
 2020 Dr Ksenia Zanon (2019)
 2020 Professor Chiara Giorio
 2020 Professor Hivoje Jasak
 2021 Dr Anna Protasio

2021 Paul Fannon OBE
 2021 Michael Parsons
 2021 Dr Camilla Nord
 2021 Dr Stephanie Rohner
 2021 Dr Matthew Ward
 2022 Professor Chris Pickard
 2022 Dr Irit Katz (2020)
 2022 Dr Henry Spelman (2015)
 2022 Dr Kareem Estefan
 2023 Dr Paul Barker
 2023 Revd Dr Helen Orchard
 2023 Dr Damon Wischik
 2023 Dr Joanna Bellis
 2023 Alexandra Rowlands
 2023 Dr Marcella Montagnese
 2023 Dr Katie Mennis
 2023 Dr Luca Sapienza
 2023 Dr Richard Tse
 2024 Martin Spooner
 2024 Dr Lucas Sá
 2024 Professor Deborah Prentice
 2024 Dr Rob Doubleday (2014)
 2024 Miles Kempton
 2024 Professor Jenny Gibson (2020)
 2024 Benjamin Tan
 2024 Dr Christoph Schran
 2024 Ella Grunberger-Kirsh
 2024 Thomas Cressy
 2025 Dr Chun Yin (Jamie) Chan
 2025 Dr William Freeman
 2025 Dr Puru Gupta
 2025 Dr Carlos Iglesias Crespo
 2025 Dr Esmae Woods

Emeritus Fellows

1961 Dr John Rathmell
 1962 Dr Alan Munro
 1963 Professor Peter Landshoff
 1966 Dr Robert Diamond
 1969 Professor Martin Johnson FRS
 FRCOG FMedSci FRSB
 1969 Dr Visvanathan Navaratnam
 1969 Professor Peter Rayner
 1974 Professor Andrew Cliff FBA
 1985 Professor Ian Leslie FREng
 1990 Dr Richard Batley
 1996 Dr Alan Winter (1975)
 2022 Professor Jane Stapleton FBA Hon KC

Honorary Fellows

1984 Professor Barry Supple CBE LittD FBA
FRHistS (1981)
1990 Sir Rodric Braithwaite GCMG
1991 Professor Sir Dillwyn Williams MD FRCP
FMedSci
1993 Professor Sir Christopher Ricks FBA (1975)
1995 Professor Sir Simon Schama CBE Hon
LittD FBA (1966)
1996 Rt Hon Lord Irvine of Lairg PC KC
1996 Mr Neil McKendrick FRHistS (1958)
1997 Professor John Clarke ScD FRS (1972)
1998 Dr Adrian Ning Hong Yeo (1970)
2002 Sir Charles Saumarez Smith CBE FSA
(1979)
2002 Sir Nicholas Serota CH Hon LittD
2002 Lord Williams of Oystermouth DD PC
FBA FRSL
2004 Professor Sir Martin Evans ScD Hon LLD
FRS FMedSci
2004 Rt Hon Lord Turnbull of Enfield KCB CVO
2005 Professor Sir Keith Peters GBE Hon
MedScd FRCP FRS FMedSci (1987)
2005 Professor Sir David Cannadine LittD FBA
FRSL FSA FRHistS (1977)
2005 Professor Dame Linda Colley DBE FBA
FRSL FRHistS (1979)
2005 Rt Hon Lord Luce KG GCVO PC DL
2008 Professor Quentin Skinner FBA (1962)
2008 Dr Yusuf Hamied Hon ScD FRS (2004)
2009 Professor Sir James Smith FRS FMedSci
(2001)
2009 The Rt Hon Sir Martin Moore-Bick PC
2009 George Yong-Boon Yeo
2010 Sir Hugh Pelham FRS FMedSci (1978)
2013 Professor Sir Michael Edwards OBE
Hon LittD
2014 Professor Margaret Stanley OBE FMedSci
Hon FRCOG (1991)
2016 Professor Tony Hunter FRS
2016 HRH Prince Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein
2016 Professor Duncan Haldane FRS
2017 Sir Martin Sorrell
2018 Professor Bill Steen Hon FIMechE
2018 Professor Philip Kitcher FBA
2018 Sir Richard Treisman FRS FMedSci
2019 Professor Tanya Luhrmann (1985)
2019 Swee Keat Heng
2020 Professor Simon Tavaré FRS FMedSci (2004)
2022 Professor Dame Theresa Marteau DBE
FMedSci FAcSS (2015)
2023 Professor Sir Peter Mathieson FRCP
FMedSci FRSE
2023 Annilese Miskimmon
2024 Professor Chris Frith FRS FBA
2025 Professor David Sedley FBA (1976)

Bye-Fellows

1999 Dr David Webster
2001 Dr Thomas Matthams
2005 Professor David Rowland
2014 Dr Tomasz Matys
2014 Professor Steven Murdoch (2008)
2015 Rupert Brown
2015 Dr Kayvan Sadeghi
2016 Dr Alexander Jones
2016 Dr Graham Spelman
2017 Dr Mary-Ellen Lynall
2018 Professor Richard Turner (2016)
2020 Mark Lewisohn
2020 Dr David Wallis
2021 Dr Tony Jewell
2021 Dr Ho-On To (2017)
2022 Alan Brown
2022 Dr Matthew Cheetham
2022 Dr Charlotte Houldcroft
2022 Dr Anthony Ng
2022 Dr Nick Pyper
2023 Dr Anthony Coyne (2016)
2023 Sandi Toksvig OBE
2023 Dr Fran Eastwood
2023 Dr Holly Giles
2023 Dr Sharon Lee
2024 Dr Maria Rostovskaya
2024 Dr Yvonne Sheratt
2024 Dr Marissa Smit-Bose
2024 Dr Alexandre Loktionov (2019)
2024 Dr Blanka Grzegorcyk
2024 Dr Ilona Kater
2024 Kelvin MacDonald
2024 John West
2025 James Way
2025 Professor Michael Schapira
2025 Dr Piyush Jani
2025 Dr Matthew Wang
2025 Dr Giordana Campagna
2025 Professor Rebecca Cassidy
2025 Nabil Khabirpour
2025 Dr Teresa Soley

Fellow-Commoners

1998 Shelby White
2008 Dr Michael Halstead (2002)
2009 Elizabeth Reddaway (2004)
2010 Michael Perlman
2021 David Ball (2011)
2022 Professor Jim Secord FBA (2008)
2022 Professor Charlie Kennel
2024 Professor Ash Amin CBE FBA (2011)
2025 Professor Sarah Franklin FBA (2011)
2025 Professor Sarah Radcliffe FBA (2011)

Lady Margaret Beaufort Fellows

2001 Sir Simon Campbell CBE DSc FRS
2001 Lady Jill Campbell
2004 Guy Whittaker
2004 Cecil Hawkins
2006 Alfred Harrison
2008 Graham Clapp
2009 Professor Stephen Blyth
2012 Dr Alan Smith CBE FRS
2013 Richard Gnodde
2013 Simon Palley
2016 Jim Warwick
2016 Dr Jane Dominey
2018 Amanda Hawkins
2023 Leda Nelis
2023 Hendrik Nelis
2023 Hon James Suenson-Taylor
2023 Sukanya Rajaratnam

Honorary Members

1999 Sir Li Ka-Shing KBE
1999 Fiona Fattal
1999 Chia-Ming Sze
2004 Solina Chau

Distinguished Visiting Scholars

Professor Massimo Morelli, Professor of Political
Science and Economics, Bocconi University,
2025–26
Professor Carolyn Abbate, John and Catherine
Buttenwieser University Professor, Harvard
University, 2025
Professor Tom Markland, Associate Professor in
Chemistry, Stanford University, 2026

New Senior Members



Jamie Chan

CHUN YIN (JAMIE) CHAN elected a Todd-Croucher Junior Research Fellow

I am thrilled to join Christ's College as a Todd-Croucher Junior Research Fellow. I have always had an interest in interdisciplinary research between Chemistry and Biology. After finishing my undergraduate degree in Chemistry in Hong Kong, writing my bachelor thesis on RNA structures, I continued to do research in RNA directed evolution. After that, I moved to Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich to start my PhD in RNA modifications and the origin of life. I completed my PhD in early 2025 and came to Cambridge shortly after to join the renowned MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology as a postdoctoral research fellow.

My current research focuses on expanding genetic alphabets. In nature, heredity relies on four nucleobases forming two orthogonal base pairs based on complementary shapes and hydrogen bonds. Organic chemistry has systematically explored creating unnatural base pairs that are orthogonal to the natural ones. I am captivated by the potential of incorporating these artificial building blocks into the central dogma, expanding its genetic code and sequence space. To achieve this goal, polymerases first need to be engineered that can efficiently incorporate these building blocks without sequence constraints, both in DNA and RNA. Next, an effective sequencing method needs to be developed to qualitatively analyse their polymerisations. Ultimately, unnatural nucleobases can be used in creating new codons in translation for unnatural amino acids. This research excites me because of its potential for creating new chemical space in multiple layers of biology, from nucleic acids to proteins. Its wide downstream *in vitro* and *in vivo* applications are also promising. However, it is a challenging endeavour that requires knowledge in organic synthesis, protein directed evolution and biochemistry.

In my free time, I enjoy hiking and travelling. As an academic, I feel privileged to be able to participate in conferences worldwide and meet people from diverse backgrounds. Reading an inspiring book while on a plane or train is a big plus. I believe that knowledge from different areas interconnects and what you learn from a non-scientific, leisure read or conversation can sharpen your senses and eventually benefits you comprehensively. Thus, I feel fortunate to be able to join the College and connect with like-minded people with various professional and cultural backgrounds, exchanging ideas and experiences that inspire. One of the College's great perks is having a swimming pool in summer. I also play social badminton and work out regularly. I look forward to spending my time in the College and getting involved in the community.

CARLOS IGLESIAS CRESPO elected a Junior Research Fellow

I am honoured to be joining Christ's College as a Junior Research Fellow. I grew up in Cáceres, Spain, where I also received my undergraduate degrees in Classics and Spanish Philology from the Universidad de Extremadura. I then came to Cambridge for my MPhil in European comparative literature (at Queens', supported by the "La Caixa" Foundation) and my PhD in Spanish (at King's, funded by the AHRC). After my PhD, I was a departmental lecturer in Spanish literature at "the other place"

for a year, splitting my time between Merton College and Hertford College in Oxford. I am thrilled to be coming back to Cambridge and very much look forward to joining my new community here at Christ's.

Broadly speaking, I work on the literature and thought of Spain and its wider European and colonial world during the period commonly known as the "Spanish Golden Age" (ca. 1492-1698). I'm especially interested in the historical role of poetry as an engine of intellectual enquiry and political identity making, as well as in the mindsets and movements underpinning these operations. These topics are at the heart of my current book project, entitled *Memory on the Line: Petrarchan Poetry, Intellectual Change, and Imperial Identity in Early Modern Spain*. Stemming from my doctoral research, the book maps the evolving intersections between the period's medical, rhetorical, theological, and political theories of memory in relation to the poetic school known as "Petrarchism". In so doing, I seek to recast Petrarchan poetry as one of the period's most capacious cultural discourses of memory, and thus as a crucial index of deep-ranging developments that marked Spain's swerve towards modernity amidst intellectual experimentation, social change, and imperial expansion. Building upon these insights, my next project will enquire into how early modern veterans used literature to negotiate the embodied trauma of war and the performance of disability across the global theatre of operations of the Spanish Empire. I am grateful to Christ's for giving me the time and the resources to pursue these lines of work.

Out of term, I split my time between the UK, Spain and the US with my partner, Johanna. I'm a regular at the chamber music concert series at the West Road Concert Hall, I love going to the opera (especially if its Mozart or Wagner!), and I'm a keen road-tripper and hiker. In my most recent outings, I have explored two islands: Mackinac in Michigan's Lake Huron, and Skye in Scotland (where this photograph was taken).



Carlos Iglesias Crespo

PURU GUPTA elected a Fellow

I am honoured to join Christ's College as a Fellow in Economics. I am a financial economist and my research focuses on decision making in financial markets dominated by large institutional investors and its implications for macroeconomic policy. My current work investigates topics such as the role of investor demand in the pricing of financial instruments, the influence of martingale measures on inflation dynamics under varying monetary policy regimes, and the design of credit markets.

I completed my PhD in Economics at the University of Warwick, where I was affiliated with both the Stochastic Finance and Macroeconomics research groups, before joining Christ's. During my time at Warwick, I led small-group teaching across a range of subjects, including Macroeconomic Theory, Financial Economics, Corporate Finance, Economics of Strategy, Probability, and Game Theory. I had the good fortune of teaching a diverse cohort of students from a range of disciplines, including Economics, Statistics, and Business.



Puru Gupta



Esmae Woods

ESMAE WOODS elected a Junior Research Fellow
I am honoured and delighted to be continuing my academic journey at Christs. I matriculated almost 10 years ago to study Natural Sciences and quickly specialised in Physics. Despite my narrow focus on Physics during my undergraduate studies, my research has covered a wide breadth of science. During my PhD, I focused on extending computational methods to understand and predict dynamical behaviour - which

led me to working on atomic clusters, proteins and photosynthesising complexes. Upon finishing my PhD last year, I have continued to work on understanding and developing computational algorithms, albeit now in the field of Nuclear Engineering.

My main focus is to improve reference safety calculations for nuclear power plants. Nuclear power relies on the interaction between free neutrons, small fundamental particles that move around, and fissile materials such as uranium. A neutron can interact with uranium and undergo fission, which produces both energy and more neutrons, and can therefore result in a chain reaction. Other materials, such as boron, capture neutrons and prevent them from undergoing fission. To produce a steady power output, a balance must be struck between these processes (amongst many others). This requires that, on average, each neutron has only one child, and computational experiments are performed throughout industry to find suitable designs. Due to finite simulation time, some computational experiments are limited by slow convergence (i.e. they have a long run time). Additionally, due to finite computational memory, unphysical neutron correlations can occur, caused by the combination of the reproduction nature of fission and control schemes implemented to fix the number of neutrons simulated. My research aims to further the understanding and limit the effect of these issues.

Whilst not at work, I appreciate the peacefulness of nature that can be found only a short drive away from Cambridge, and enjoy walks in the countryside with my husband.



William Freeman

WILLIAM FREEMAN elected a Junior Research Fellow
I am bemused and honoured to have been elected as WHD Rouse Junior Research Fellow in Classics. Since I took up the Fellowship in March, Christ's has proved a welcoming, intellectually stimulating community and the perfect place to continue my research, which investigates how the writers of ancient Rome shaped, and continue to shape, perceptions of the environment.

I spent four years as an undergraduate at Brasenose College, Oxford, followed by four years at Trinity College, Cambridge, where I completed an MPhil and a PhD in Classics, teaching myself (and, hopefully, a few others) how to do something called "ecocriticism". As my horror at the climate emergency grew, I found solace and excitement both in old poetry and in a wave of new environmentally engaged scholarship in the humanities. This scholarship was saying something both challenging and compelling about the world and about art – something that the usual patterns of scholarship in Classics were missing. It seemed time for a fresh look at how some of the world's most influential literature portrays humanity's impact on the environment.

My PhD took up this investigation by focusing on the poetry of Ovid. Ovid, one of Shakespeare's favourites, is most famous for his *Metamorphoses* – a book-length poem that contains descriptions of a great fire and a great flood (both caused by human folly) and a series of quirky tales in which humans transform into plants, animals, rocks, rivers, and stars. My thesis revealed this poet's nuanced understanding of interspecies relationships, providing the first sustained analysis of environmental themes throughout his entire oeuvre. In the process, I made some surprising discoveries concerning why Rome's readers and writers cared about the environment, and also why *we* care about it today. I am currently converting this thesis into a book, *Environmental Change in Ovid's Poetry*.

My next book project, *The Roman Rubbish Heap*, takes a broader view of Latin literature, delving into Rome's wastepaper, broken bric-a-brac, and (yes) heaps of dung. Rome has long been famed for its sewage, its communal latrines, and the "vomitoria" (incorrectly) thought to enable overindulgence. These themes garner a certain perverse fascination, but they are important in other ways, too. Now more than ever, it is clear that waste needs to be managed rather than ignored. My book aims to explain why waste mattered to Rome's politicians, philosophers, and poets, hoping thus to provide new insights into Roman attitudes to texts, art, the body, and social class.

When I'm not rummaging through Roman rubbish, I enjoy running, beating the Emmanuel Fellows' boat, reading contemporary poetry, going to the theatre, making a mess in the kitchen, and savouring a few pints at the Champion of the Thames.

Fellows' News, Academic Activities and Achievements

DR EDWARD (NED) ALLEN (Fellow) published *Modern Fiction, Disability, and the Hearing Sciences* (Routledge, 2024).

PROFESSOR SIR DAVID CANNADINE (Honorary Fellow) has been appointed Chair of the trustees of the Royal Mint Museum, and has published a new book *Queen Elizabeth II: A Concise Biography of an Exceptional Sovereign* via Oxford University Press.

PROFESSOR LINDA COLLEY (Honorary Fellow) was awarded Princeton University's Behrman Award for distinction in the Humanities and has also been appointed to a Distinguished Scholarly Fellowship at the Kluge Center at the Library of Congress in Washington DC starting next spring.

DR THOMAS CRESSY (Fellow) was awarded the William H. Scheide prize and the Donald J. Grout Memorial Prize.



Poster for Daniel's exhibition

PROFESSOR DANIEL FIELD (Fellow) is happy to share that the Darwin-Hamied Centre was launched successfully at a ceremony honouring Dr Yusuf Hamied on July 2nd, 2025. The Darwin-Hamied Centre aims to establish Christ's as a leading centre of biodiversity research in Cambridge; in its initial stages the Centre will be populated by two Senior Research Fellows and at least three PhD students, who will join the College between late 2025 and 2027. Daniel is also pleased to share updates on several recent projects: he co-curated *Birds: Brilliant and Bizarre*, a special exhibition at the Natural History Museum, London, which ran from May 2024 until January 2025. The exhibition attracted over 100,000 visitors who were introduced to cutting-edge research into the evolution, behaviour, and conservation of birds. In November 2024 the lab's research was featured on the cover of *Nature*, accompanying the announcement of *Navaornis*, a new fossil bird from the Age of Dinosaurs with implications for understanding the evolution of the distinctive avian brain. Another highlight was the release of *Dino Birds*, a documentary covering the research of several members of Daniel's research group, which aired in February 2025 on PBS NOVA, the most watched science television series in the world.

In August, Daniel and his wife Jenny welcomed twin sons, Rafi and Ari.

PROFESSOR SARAH FRANKLIN (Fellow Commoner) released her new book *The New Reproductive Order* (NYU Press, 2025), co-authored with Marcia Inhorn.

DR MARY FRANKLIN-BROWN (Fellow) gave a public lecture 'Golden Wreaths for Hippocrates' in December 2024. This lecture supported the loan of the Foundress' Cup to a major exhibition at the British Library.

PROFESSOR MARK GIROLAMI (Fellow) received an honorary Doctorate of Science from the University of Glasgow.

DR LEWIS GRAHAM (Fellow) published *Judicial Individuality on the UK Supreme Court* (Hart Publishing, 2025).

DR CHARLOTTE HOULDCROFT (Bye-Fellow) returned from maternity leave in January and was a keynote speaker at the Microbiology Society annual conference in Liverpool and the Ancient Pathogen Genomics symposium in Juriquilla, Mexico (both April 2025), discussing her research on ancient viruses - with some of the samples originating from Cambridge burial grounds.

DR IRIT KATZ (Fellow) has won a Leverhulme Research Fellowship for her project 'Spaces on the Move'.

PROFESSOR PHILIP KITCHER (Honorary Fellow) was awarded the BBVA Foundation's Frontiers of Knowledge Award in April this year. The same month saw publication of his book *The Rich and the Poor* on Polity Press, which descends from the CP Snow Lecture he gave at Christ's in March 2023.

PROFESSOR TANYA LUHRMANN (Honorary Fellow) gave the 2025 CP Snow Lecture "Revisioning the two cultures?": An anthropologist reflects on CP Snow's famous talk" in May 2025.

DR KATIE MENNIS (Fellow) was awarded the Milton Society of America's Albert C. Labriola award for her essay 'Latinizing Milton in the English West Indies' at their annual dinner in Boston in March.



Dr Katie Mennis

PROFESSOR CAMILLA NORD (Fellow) was promoted to Professor of Cognitive Neuroscience on 1 October 2025.

PROFESSOR CHRIS PICKARD (Fellow) was a contributor to the paper 'Feasible Route to High-Temperature Ambient-Pressure Hydride Superconductivity', which appeared in *Physical Review Letters*, April 2024, and was selected for PRL's Collection of the Year 2024.

DR SOPHIE READ (Fellow) edited *The Bible and Western Christian Literature: Renaissance and Reformation* (Bloomsbury, 2024).

PROFESSOR GARETH REES (Fellow) was invited to give a number of talks on the broad theme of challenges and new directions for science in a geopolitically divided Arctic: 'Arctic Environmental Impacts of War' (Arctic Frontiers conference, Tromsø, Norway); 'Three decades of Russian-UK collaboration on the Russian Arctic' (Arctic Science Summit Week, Boulder, Colorado); 'Can and should Russian arctic science be re-integrated into international research?' (Arctic Science Summit Week); 'What if the Arctic doesn't stay in the Arctic? Security, science, and the terrestrial Arctic in a changing world' (Centre for Study of Existential Risk, Cambridge); 'The impacts of high geopolitical tensions on arctic security and research' (Arctic Spirit conference, Rovaniemi, Finland); and 'Public engagement, education and co-creation in Arctic Climate Repair' (Arctic Repair conference,

Cambridge). He continued to serve on the Research Priority Team for Science Diplomacy of the International Committee for Arctic Research Planning, was appointed coordinator of the International Polar Year's Task Group for Capacity-building and Early Career Coordination, and published the research paper 'Russian dilemma for global arctic science', jointly with Professor Ulf Büntgen, in the journal *Ambio*. He was shortlisted for the medal of the International Arctic Science Committee. Outside the arctic world, he also continued to provide consultation to the state committee of sciences in Armenia, and collaborated with the Centre for Ecosphere-Noosphere Studies of the National Academy of Sciences in Yerevan. He submitted evidence to the UK Parliament's enquiry into Science Diplomacy, and was appointed Visiting Fellow at the Durham Institute for Research, Development and Invention.



Professor David
Reynolds

EMERITUS PROFESSOR DAVID REYNOLDS (Life Fellow) has continued to enjoy serving as Director of Studies for History (Part II) and for the History & Politics Tripos, which - though smaller - is attracting some particularly lively and able students. His carbon footprint has again been enlarged by lectures in foreign climes including Yale University ('Our Finest Hour revisited' and 'Brexit: a slogan in search of a strategy') and Gorizia, Slovenia (conference keynote on 'The Divided World of the Cold War'). A good deal of his writing time since January has been expended on the exploits of the 47th President, but he and TV director Russell Barnes (m. 1987) are enjoying their renewed collaboration on the *Creating History* podcasts. And there's still been time to watch some cricket. Photo shows a visit to Canterbury as guest of another former Christ's history student Krishna Shanmuganathan (m. 1992), who was appointed in March 2025 as Chairman of Kent County Cricket Club, with a mission to make the past fit for the future. Always a pleasure to see what gifted alumni are doing with their history degree!

DR LUCA SAPIENZA (Fellow) led a pioneering study introducing an innovative method for improving single-photon collection. He says: "One of the major hurdles in quantum technology is efficiently collecting and directing individual particles of light, called single photons. Single photons are useful because they can serve as fundamental units of quantum information. The existing systems for handling single photons generally rely on semiconductor-based methods that often impose design requirements that limit their flexibility and the ability to scale the technology to larger systems that can be easily produced.

"Our research overcomes the limitations of the established semiconductor-based methods by leveraging the three-dimensional fabrication of polymer nanowires that are only about one micrometer wide – about the width of a bacterium or a single strand of spider silk. We demonstrated that nanowires formed using the technique enhance photon extraction from quantum light sources, making them highly suitable for integration into existing photonic networks.

"Our work has introduced an innovative method for improving single-photon collection - an essential step in advancing secure communications, high-precision imaging and quantum computing - and was published on the cover of the journal *Advanced Quantum Technologies*."

SIR CHARLES SAUMAREZ SMITH (Honorary Fellow) published *John Vanbrugh: The Drama of Architecture*.

PROFESSOR QUENTIN SKINNER (Honorary Fellow) published a new book *Liberty as independence: the making and unmaking of a political ideal* (Cambridge University Press, 2025), and notes that it is now 63 years since he was appointed a Fellow of the College.

PROFESSOR SIR JAMES SMITH (Honorary Fellow) gave a Lady Margaret Lecture on "How lessons from frogs can mend a broken heart" in February 2025.

DR HENRY SPELMAN (Fellow) was awarded a 2024 Philip Leverhulme Prize for his work on early Greek literature. With Giacomo Fedeli, he jointly edited *Writing Literary History in the Greek and Roman World* (Cambridge University Press, 2024).

PROFESSOR JANE STAPLETON (Emerita Fellow) has had a *Festschrift* released in recognition of her achievements, *Torts on Three Continents: Honouring Jane Stapleton* (Oxford University Press, 2024).

PROFESSOR RICHARD TURNER (Bye-Fellow) led two impactful projects this year: Aardvark Weather, a new AI weather prediction system which can deliver accurate forecasts tens of times faster and using thousands of times less computing power than current AI and physics-based forecasting systems, and Aurora, in conjunction with Microsoft, a large-scale deep learning model that can predict global weather patterns and atmospheric processes like air pollution.

STAFF NEWS

We welcomed many new staff members during 2024–25, including **Adam Coleby** as Pastry Chef, **Mark Foster-Johnson** as Sous Chef, **Gemma Barron** as a College Gardener, and **Rene Russell** and **James Rushworth** in the Development Office.

Several long-serving staff members retired or left the College's employment during 2024–25, including **Amanda Burton-Palmer** who was at the College for 22 years, latterly as the Assistant to the Director of College Services and the Head of HR. **Dave Scott** left Christ's after 21 years of service as the IT and Information Manager, whilst Stuart Philpott, Bryan Cooke and Camilla Benstead all left the Catering Department after over 15 years of service each.

There were some notable cases of personal development and career progression over the year:

Robert Day, Deputy Head Gardener, left the College in April 2025, having been appointed as the Head Gardener at St Catharine's College. **Kelly Flack** was internally promoted into the Deputy role.

Several staff members secured permanent or fixed-term roles with the College having worked as casual staff members. These included **Jamie Fleming**, **Alaric Go** and **Vasilena Dimitrova**, who became permanent Food and Beverage Assistants; **Sharna Peters-Lewis**, **Wilaiya Coles** and **Asmaul Ilma**, who became permanent or fixed-term Housekeepers; **Pavneet Singh** who progressed from a Relief Porter to a Night Porter; and **Amandeep Chandra** who became a permanent Kitchen Porter. **Gowtham Vinjamuri**, having worked for two years as a casual Buttery and Bar Assistant, became a fixed-term IT Support Analyst.

Gemma Gill completed the WRAGS Trainee Gardener programme in September 2024. **Becky Burgess-Wilson** joined the College as the new WRAGS Trainee gardener that same month and is nearing the end of her programme.

Jessie Caines completed her year in post as the Graduate Trainee Librarian in July 2025 and is going on to study her Masters in Librarianship at UCL from September 2025. **Philippa Salmon** has recently joined the College as the new Trainee Librarian.

Chefs **Alfred Lytollis** and **Elliot Scoffings** both passed their Apprenticeships with Distinctions. **Katie Jeff** and **Kirsty Cunliffe** joined in February and March 2025 respectively as the College's new Apprentice Chefs, becoming our second cohort of Apprentices in the Kitchen Department.

Thorunn Byrne, Head of HR, was awarded an Advanced Diploma in Strategic People Management by the CIPD (the professional body for HR) in March 2025, the highest level of professional qualification for her occupation.

Tim Wilson (Front of House) and **Joyce Nightingale** (Housekeeping) both achieved 30 years' service this year.

STUDENTS

Reports from Clubs and Societies

Each report is written by the President or Captain of the society unless otherwise stated.



MCR Committee members

THE MCR

President: Amanda Gardiner; Vice President & Bar Manager: Jackie Rao; Treasurer: Cerys Walsh; Secretary: Danielle Brister; Welfare Officer: Charlotte Wood; LGBTQ+ Officer: Alex Baker; Women's and Non-Binary Officer: Alice Hilder-Jarvis; Academic Officer & Ethnic Diversity Officer: Neo-A.H.O. Allert; Disability Officer: Laura Chilver; International Officer: Betty Wang; Green Officer: Aramish Fatima; Halls & Swaps Officers: Ælfred Hillman & X. Chai; Ents Officers: Nicolas Dupont Bernal.

The recently elected MCR Committee would first like to thank the previous Committee, led by William H. Cook, for their tireless work over the past year in invigorating the Christ's postgraduate community. They handed over organisation of the MCR in a wonderful state, allowing us to take off running and build upon their successes. This year we have had a series of successful events, dinners, and discussions among the 314 postgraduates who call Christ's College home.

Freshers' Week in October 2024 kicked off the year with a busy schedule, including buddy tours pairing incoming postgraduates with second and third year PhD students to show them the College and town, an international cocktail night, consent workshops, a board game night followed by a tour of nearby MCR college bars, and finishing off the week with a BritPop-themed BOP. We continued the grand tour of Cambridge and its colleges through the term for our freshers with swaps at Trinity, Jesus, and Peterhouse; and established Welfare Coffee as not just a way to get caffeine, but a way to see new parts of Cambridge and socialise with your fellow MCR members. In addition to exploring Cambridge, we made sure students always came back to Christ's with special events such as our Halloween Grad Hall,

Thanksgiving and Michaelmas Superhalls, Burns Night Superhall combined with céilidh dancing, Valentine's Grad Hall with a blind date table, and a St Patrick's Day Grad Hall where we taught everyone how to 'cut the G' on a Guinness.

The previous committee established a new event within the MCR, Afternoon Tea, in the Buttery on Fridays. The warmth of our specialty teas and coffees, combined with the delicious scones with cream and jam provided by Christ's Catering, quickly established Afternoon Tea as one of our most popular events, and likely one to stay for years to come.

The incoming Committee had a strong start in Easter Term. We had a lot of excitement as MCR member Oscar Despard led the Christ's quiz team to a nail-biting win in *University Challenge*, a first for our college! In addition to her active work as Vice-President, Jackie continued the themed bar nights which previous Bar Manager Alaric had started, and has now added activities in addition to cocktails such as the Mario Kart Tournament Bar Night, with video game-themed cocktails and Waterstones gift cards for the winners. Welfare Coffee has expanded under Welfare Officer Charlotte, who has wrapped in wellness walks and continued to take us all across the University such as with our Botanic Garden Café Coffee and walking tour. In addition to Grad Halls and a 'Welcome to Summer' Superhall at the end of term, we introduced our first 'Subhall' as a joint effort between our Welfare Officer and Halls & Swaps Officers, a low-stimulus formal hall for neurodivergent students or those who want a quieter experience. Given the success of the event, it will be returning once a term as a joint hall between MCR and JCR students. We had a successful Reggaeton BOP hosted by our Ents Officer Nicolas, who continued to expand Afternoon Tea and has made it now one of our most popular events. LGBTQ+ Officer Alex put on several events including 'LGB-Tea' and a crafting space for students to get ready to attend Cambridge Pride together. Our Disability Officer Laura has turned the MCR movie screening into an annual tradition, to the delight and entertainment of everyone who attended. Academic Officer Neo held an incredibly engaged Emerging Research Seminar Series, where both PhD and Master's students were able to present their research to the Christ's community. The year wrapped up with a joint JCR-MCR Garden Party in the Fellows' Garden, where nobody let the quick spot of rain stop them from enjoying the entertainment.

One of our proudest achievements this year has been to amend the MCR Constitution, which had not been updated since 2021. In addition to updating the constitution to reflect current policies, we added a new MCR committee position, the Communications Officer, who will manage our social media and website.

We have exciting plans for the coming year! Our Green Officer Aramish is working with the gardening team to help guide updates to the Yusuf Hamied Court lawns, our Women's and Non-Binary Officer Alice will be starting a book club in Michaelmas with a focus on under-represented authors, and we have exciting themed halls, Superhalls, and swaps planned with other colleges thanks to the tireless work of our Halls and Swaps Officers Ælfred and Chai. Our treasurer Cerys is working with the MCR LGBTQ+ Officer Alex to develop an MCR gender expression fund. Our priorities for the coming terms include continuing to develop the MCR community to have accessible events for everyone, working together with the JCR to develop JCR-MCR relationships, revising safeguarding policies to make sure that all students feel welcome and safe, and helping students find accommodation both within and outside of College. Carrying on the work of our predecessors we intend

to provide full term cards and a fulfilling Freshers' week to welcome new members into our community and help it grow, as one of undoubtedly the most vivacious and standout postgraduate communities in Cambridge.

Amanda Gardiner and Jackie Rao

THE JCR

President: Josie Iino; Vice-President: Diya Jalan; Secretary: Ev Kimber; Treasurer: Christopher Lorde; Women's & Non-Binary Welfare Officer: Tanya Gupta; Male & Non-Binary Welfare Officer: James Tam; Class Acts Officer: Georgia Halliday; Access Officer: Isma Mirza; BME Officer: Malaika Subhani; Women's Officer: Ruby Livingston; LGBTQ+ Officer: Lily Owens; Freshers Representatives: Gautam Wadhwa & Helena Simpson; Charities & Greens Officer: April O'Neill; Catering and Facilities Officer: Brendan Bethlehem; Events Officer: Allegra Buckley; Webmaster: Daniel Choo; Internationals' Officer: Bhing Turongpun.

This year, the Christ's JCR has been at the centre of College life, organising events, supporting welfare initiatives, and strengthening the sense of community across Christ's.

From highlights such as the Valentine's Day Bop, Halloween and Bridgemas celebrations, to the Lady Margaret Beaufort-themed Garden Party in the Fellows' Garden, the calendar was full of opportunities for students to come together and celebrate College spirit. Themed formals, including the BME, Diwali, and Spring formals, added colour and variety to the year, while activities such as the College Assassin game, pumpkin carving contests, and punting schemes brought a sense of fun and light-hearted competition to term time.

The JCR also hosted events like a Eurovision watch party and a *University Challenge* screening, creating shared moments for students to enjoy together.

On the welfare front, the team introduced Jack's Gelato welfare walks, exam-time puppy therapy sessions, and movie nights, offering students a chance to relax and recharge. The Freshers' Reps led an excellent Freshers' Week and organised the much-loved Marriage Formal, welcoming new students and strengthening the bonds within the College community.

Through all of this, the JCR has continued to represent student voices and foster an inclusive, lively, and welcoming environment that reflects the warmth and enthusiasm of Christ's students.

Diya Jalan

ART COLLECTIVE

Committee: Helena Stuart, Vasilis Charalambous, Lily Owens.

Christ's College Art Collective have re-launched this year with a new committee and new aims. We offer alternative and collaborative projects that engage with local practitioners as well as the histories of Christ's. We aim to develop a diverse and meaningful programme of activities that encourage a sense of community through experimentation of different media, e.g. printmaking, sculpting, film screenings, talks. This year we have hosted a variety of arts-based sessions, following a particular theme of 'Nature & Ecology'. One of our highlights was our 'Imprinting

*The Art Collective*

Nature,' a gel-printing workshop with flora and fauna found around college. As a part of expanding our program, we hosted a talk entitled 'On Photography, Queer Ecologies & Decolonising Sexuality,' between Christ's Fellow Professor Caroline Vout and Art Historian Dr Edwin Coomasaru. This was one of our most attended events, which completely sold out! We are looking forward to the new academic year and continuing the College's engagement with the arts.

BOARD GAMES SOCIETY

Committee: President: Patrick Thomas, Treasurer: Dora Chen

It's been another brilliant year for Christ's Board Games Society! We've continued to have an enthusiastic turnout for our weekly sessions - with members sharing their favourite boardgames from their own collections and even running extra informal sessions during the holidays! It's also been nice to see that lots of people made time during exam term to take a break at work, and come to have a relax and chat over a boardgame or two. Among the many games that have been played at the society this year, the social deduction game "Blood on the Clocktower" has become a favourite

*Board Games Society*

of the society, even completely taking over some meetings. Particularly memorable was the Michaelmas event we hosted, with cross-college attendance! We finished the year with our AGM, where the current committee were elected to reprise their roles next year, followed, of course, by one final session, where we unveiled some shiny new boardgames for the upcoming year!

BOAT CLUB

The Christ's College Boat Club has had a successful year, with outstanding performances from seniors, and incredible progress from novices. This year the club was headed by Mariam Alireza as Captain of the Boats and Women's Captain, while William Woodard was Men's Captain.

In Michaelmas, the CCBC took part in Fairbairns, with both the Women's and M2 crew coming in 17th place in their respective races, while M1 finished joint third. Crews were also entered into Winter Head, with the Women's Crew coming in 15th place, M2 achieving 2nd place, and M1 winning overall in their category. The novice programmes have similarly flourished with NW1 reaching the Queen's Ergs finals, and the combined NW1 and NW2 crew reaching the Clare Novice Regatta Ladies Plate semi-final. Both the Men's and Women's novice teams also raced admirably well in Winter Head and Fairbairns.

In the new year, the CCBC took to the Guadalquivir river in Seville for their annual training camp after fundraising for the trip through an Ergathon. The camp aims to bring novices up to a senior standard while providing them with race experience in advance of Lent Bumps. Mixed novice-senior crews allowed for faster progress, and a wide 7km stretch on the Guadalquivir proved particularly useful for training in comparison to the morning traffic on the Cam. The intensive atmosphere also allowed for crews to bond both on and off the water.

In April, the wider College rowing community came together with 4 CCBC crews, 5 alumni crews, 2 alumni singles, the Fellows' crew and the staff crew all

*M1 on the river*



W1 at the Boathouse

taking part in Head of the Cam. The race was accompanied by a naming ceremony for two new boats generously funded by Christ's alumni: a Women's 8 named *The Spirit of '15*, and a 4 named *David Yale* after a late Fellow and former Boat Club President. A new board was also unveiled commemorating the Boat Men and Women of CCBC, with the ribbon cut by alumnus Norman Bardsley. To round off the day, 100 students, alumni, and friends attended a dinner in Hall with speeches from the Master, Head Coach and Boathouse Manager Kate Hurst, and Olympian and alumnus Kieran West, amongst others. Thanks to two further generous donations, the CCBC received a further 4 in July, and will also receive a new men's 8, arriving in Michaelmas Term.

The culmination of the rowing year came with May Bumps, which all crews practised hard for, logging a collective 12,000km of training over the holidays. On day 1, both W2 and M2 rowed over, managing to neither bump nor be bumped. After a strong start, W1 was bumped by the notoriously strong Homerton W1, making them sandwich boat on day 2. Meanwhile, M1 managed to bump Trinity Hall. Day 2 was a scorcher, and W2 was unfortunately bumped by First & Third at first post corner. M2 bumped Jesus, while W1 was bumped by King's W1. Despite getting within a few feet of Wolfson, the M1 crew was unable to bump them, but stuck close to them for the whole race and rowed over. On day 3, a messy bump ahead of W2 made it extra challenging to keep ahead of Fitzwilliam, who used the opportunity to close the gap. However, W2 persevered and successfully avoided being bumped. Despite facing two strong crews on either side, M2 succeeded in bumping Trinity Hall. W1 were unfortunately bumped by Peterhouse W1 (who had an Olympian rowing with them), while M1 were also bumped by Girton M1. Day 4 was another blazing hot day. Despite the heat and the tiredness from three days of Bumps, W2 managed to bump Magdalene W3 and M2 bumped Fitzwilliam, making them the most successful Christ's men's crew since 2017. W1 were bumped by Selwyn and unfortunately awarded spoons. M1 successfully rowed over and maintained their position, which remains their best result in nearly a decade.

THE CHOIR

The 2024–25 academic year has been particularly busy for the Choir, with a number of major projects in addition to the regular routine of rehearsals and evensongs during term time. This was a very special year for another reason: it marked the fortieth anniversary of David Rowland coming to Christ's as Director of Music. This momentous milestone has been marked by a number of events.

In October 2024, David gave a recital of Bach on the Chapel organ, 41 years after playing the inaugural recital on the then-new instrument. David has also made the first solo recording on the organ, which has been released as a CD available from the Development Office. On 16th November 2024, the Choir was joined by more than 100 alumni musicians to form a massed choir and orchestra for a special concert in Great St Mary's Church, including sections of Fauré Requiem and a selection of pieces by Parry which were recorded and released on CD earlier in 2024. The enormous turnout from across the generations, the enthusiasm and quality of the performance, and the rapturous reception from the audience all speak for themselves as a tribute to David. In March 2025, during Evensong in Chapel, the Choir performed Annabel Rooney's 'I will sing to the Lord', commissioned with generous support from Professor Peter Cane and Professor Jane Stapleton to mark the anniversary. The rest of the music for the service was entirely written by current and former members of the Choir: Charlotte Baskerville (m. 2012), Manav Paul (m. 2022) and Davon Halim (m. 2021). Each of these events has offered alumni from across the generations the opportunity to celebrate with David, and to thank him for the impact he and Christ's Choir have had on their own lives.

December is a busy time for choirs everywhere, and this was especially true for Christ's Choir this year. As well as the carol services in the College Chapel, the now traditional London carols event took place on 2nd December 2024, this year in the new and very congenial surroundings of St Lawrence Jewry. Alumni, students, and Fellows all enjoyed listening to music from the Choir, singing some favourite carols together, and conversing over festive refreshments from the College kitchens. Soon after, the Choir returned to Audley End House near Saffron Walden for a series of Christmas concerts in collaboration with English Heritage. This represents the continuation of a tradition interrupted by the pandemic, and this year's concerts were both an enjoyable experience for the Choir and a great success

CREDIT: LAWLETTE



The Choir

– notwithstanding the cancellation of one of the days due to extremely high wind! These concerts in December 2024 were also an opportunity to launch the Choir's latest CD, a selection of traditional English carols recorded in March 2024.

Recordings are a crucial aspect of the Choir's activities, giving unparalleled training and experience to the student singers. In March 2025, working once again with Simon Haw, the Choir undertook an exciting project as part of this year's commemoration of the 350th anniversary of the death of John Milton. With a mixture of choral pieces accompanied by both piano and organ, and works for solo voice accompanied by harpsichord and the College's new Steinway grand piano (in the Bill Fitzgerald Music Room), this album encompasses musical settings of Milton's words from his own time right up to the present day, including both some firm favourites (such as works by Handel and Parry), and some lesser-known and new works. The release of this recording is now eagerly anticipated.

The academic year was rounded off with the usual series of Leavers' events, and the termly Alumni Evensong service; this event has a new format, in which the service is followed by dinner in Hall where alumni and current students have the chance to dine together, to the great enjoyment of both. We hope you can join us in the upcoming year.

Looking ahead, the Choir visits Belgium in September 2025 as part of the centenary of the ecumenical Malines Conversations, giving concerts in Brussels and Mechelen, and singing for Sunday services with visiting dignitaries. October will, as always, bring a new crop of Freshers, and the start of another year of life-changing experiences for members of the Choir.

SIDNEY SUSSEX – CHRIST'S COLLEGE CHRISTIAN UNION

Under the umbrella of the Cambridge Inter-collegiate Christian Union, the Sidney Sussex – Christ's College Christian Union continues to be a gathering place for Christians in both colleges. This year, we held weekly Bible study meetings to study the books of Psalms, Colossians and Philemon. We found this to be the most effective way of encouraging one another in our Christian faith - staying rooted in God's

word. Furthermore, we also held prayer meetings to pray for the students and staff in both colleges, the university, and the missions of CICCUC. During stressful exam seasons, we also organised a snacks stand to give away free donuts and drinks, and free Christian reads to anyone interested. We leveraged this platform to check in with and encourage the students. Overall, the Christian Union has been active and lively in service, prayers, and studying God's words, journeying together in our walks with Christ.



Christian Union



Darwin Society

DARWIN SOCIETY

The Christ's College Darwin Society has continued to be a hub for rapport, free thought, and social activities. In a period when most college science societies have reduced in size, in favour of more well-resourced University-wide science societies, the Darwin Society has remained steadfast in creating unique events that blend original ideas with experience from senior academics.

In Michaelmas, we had seasoned traveller and journalist, Peter Mason, detail how Darwin's journey inspired him to abridge the *Voyage of the Beagle* book into a new version that controversially removes the science, leaving only the travel notes. This radical decision was scrutinised heavily by the society, the takeaways of which were published both online and in the *Varsity* newspaper.

In Lent, we celebrated Darwin's 216th birthday with an interactive seminar on the mathematics behind evolution with Fellow Paul Fannon OBE, and Assistant Professor in Evolutionary Biology at Homerton, Andrew Catherall-Ostler. The Lecture is available on YouTube under the name 'The Evolution of Kindness with Paul Fannon OBE'.

We also hosted Professor Dame Athene Donald, the Physics Department's first female professor, who spoke about how women are still systemically discouraged and alienated in STEM fields, and what we can do to shift the dial. It was inspiring to see the engagement with her book after the talk; many female students were quick to highlight how their own experiences, worryingly, still matched Athene's.

In other news, the Darwin Society hosted a small Alumni Careers Event. This event was a highlight for students; by promoting honest discussion, it ensured that students and alumni could get the most out of their conversations. The society hopes to continue this tradition into the years to come.

In Easter term, we were pleased to host Professor Dave Goulson, a leading insect ecologist, as our Darwin Lecturer, to discuss his research on the rapid decline of insect biodiversity. This talk, in combination with his bestselling book, *Silent Earth*, has led me to rethink the future of UK wildlife – a sentiment shared by many in the audience. After such a compelling talk, we drowned our worries with College port at the annual Darwin Dinner. It was a pleasure to have an attendance of 72 undergraduates and postgraduates – a testament to the active community that can exist within the college.

As expected, we also hosted many lighter events, including movie and board games sessions, bar crawls, and department visits. This year, we visited the Sedgwick Earth Sciences Museum, the Department of Astronomy, and the Herbarium.

This year would not have been possible without the hard work of my committee, namely Ioannis Karageorgiou (Treasurer), William Brammer (Secretary), and Luke Wright and Benjamin Y. Wang (Events Officers), and Navaneeth Hari Krishnan and Georgie Van Dyke (General Committee Members).

I'd also like to thank the Fellows for their support, especially Professor Tom Monie and Dr Mike Housden for their diligence and encouragement, and Victoria Howard (Events and Catering Officer) for their help in my past two years on the committee.

Dhruv Shenai

MEN'S FOOTBALL

Christ's I's: Louie McGinley-Gravestock (GK), Oli Lewis, Anno Heimbarg, Karlis Kaurats, Alexis Lauga, Frankie Bregazzi, Julien Lippman-Errasti (C), Cameron Bicknell, Stanley Somogyi (VC), Caleb Todd, James Dale, Matthew Van Schalkwyk, Benjamin Hilton, John Thompson, Will Goacher, Zain Ali, Alex Davis, Tan Hong Aik, Karl Kramm.

Christ's II's: Khai Wong (GK), Daniel Bohm, Bartosz Grzegorzewski, Owen McGovern, Sam Flurry, Jesse Edwards, Savinu Weerasekera, Orion Wei.

This was a wonderful season for the CCAFC, in which the I's successfully maintained their position in Division 2 following last year's promotion and narrowly missed out on silverware after reaching the Plate Final. After beginning the season with a narrow 1-0 loss to Trinity Hall we bounced back with a thunderous 6-4 win over King's the following week. A close 3-2 victory over St Catherine's placed us in a strong position to stay in the division early in the campaign. Alas, injuries struck – most notably to our commanding shot-stopper Louie – and the next three fixtures ended in defeats. The team returned from the Christmas break reinvigorated and showed it on pitch with back-to-back Plate victories over Hughes Hall and St Catherine's, sending us into the final against John's. In the league, our best performance was reserved for



Men's Football

our final league match against Robinson, where an imperial 2-0 victory secured the 3 points required to avoid relegation – by a 3-goal difference!

Heading into Easter, anticipation built for the Plate final. The team fought exceptionally well against Division 1 side John's, but a narrow 1-0 defeat in a scrappy game means Christ's will have to wait another year for silverware.

Other highlights of the season include our club tour to Malaga, where the team bonded through beach volleyball and trying the local seafood – I'm sure everyone would agree that the octopus was a real highlight. The II's also fought hard this season to maintain their second-bottom position in Division 6 – long may the half-time beers continue.

I'm delighted with the club's progress over my three years here and excited for its future in the capable hands of Francis Richard Bregazzi (C) and Louie McGinley Gravestock (VC), while I am confident that the club's social life is assured under the guidance of James Dale. We may be losing top-scorer in Stanley Somogyi, but rumours have it that one-time social sec Will Goacher has been scouted as a potential replacement. Only time will tell.

This club has been the greatest part of my Christ's experience, and I can't wait to return with the Old Boys and batter them next year.

Bleed blue.

Julen Lippman-Errasti

CHRIST'S AND PEMBROKE COLLEGE HOCKEY CLUB: "CHREMBROKE"

Captains: Toby Eddleston (CHR) & Matt Williams (PEM); Vice-captain: Luke Poulston

This season was mixed for Chembroke, with some early success but later struggles. We had a strong turnout in Michaelmas with some excellent performances from newcomers, securing several impressive wins in Division 1 of the league. However, we struggled more in Lent Term, meaning we joined St Catherine's to form "Chratzbroke" (currently accepting name suggestions). We had some excellent performances, with a notable highlight being a hard-fought 4-3 win against St John's 1s. With a fresh team, good availability, and several Blues players now allowed to rejoin our ranks, we felt confident going into Cuppers. However, we were unfortunate to come up against a strong John's 1s side that had regrouped since their league defeat, losing in a hard-fought game that ended 2-1. Nonetheless, we ended the year in a strong position and look forward to starting the league again in October!



*"Chembroke"
Hockey*

JAMES MEADE SOCIETY

The James Meade Society is the economics society at Christ's named after Nobel Prize-winning economist James Meade (1907-95), who shared the 1977 Nobel Prize for his contributions to international trade theory. Meade was a Professorial Fellow at Christ's from 1957 and would likely appreciate the society's creative approach to economic education this year, which included using poker games to teach microeconomic principles like risk assessment and strategic decision-making, alongside policy debates that applied economic theory to real-world issues. These activities reflect Meade's belief in using economics to address practical problems and exemplify the collaborative spirit of the Christ's economics community of around 20 undergraduates and 10 graduates who carry forward his tradition of rigorous yet accessible economic scholarship.

Timothy Chee

LACROSSE

Members: Georgie Van Dyke (Captain), Maise Craddock (Captain), Shonit Sharma, Oliver Lake, Mikolaj Rycek, Anders Hinge, Luke Wright, Adam Sandhu, Julen Lippman-Erasti, Benjamin Hilton, Alex Bevins, William Brammer.

It has been another successful year for the Christ's Mixed Lacrosse Team. After a Michaelmas full of artistic passes, unbelievable catches and an impressive number of goals, we somehow managed to move from Division 3 to Division 1! The whole team was very excited by our fast rise to the top and were ready for a successful Lent term. We held our ground in the top division and enjoyed every match (including a few in some very suboptimal weather conditions). As expected, there was much sliding on the wet pitches of Lent Term and even a broken pair of glasses! The backwards pass (frequently attempted by Mikolaj) occasionally worked in our favour and we really mastered our '3 short passes' and 'diagonal assembly' techniques. We had a lot of familiar faces returning for another year as a 'Christ's LAX Bro' and even flew a couple of players in from Durham for guest star appearances.



Lacrosse club

Cuppers was once again a fabulous adventure for our team. We left the comfort of our home pitches (Jesus Green and Parker's Piece) to venture out to the University Sports Grounds for a morning of back-to-back matches. This year we managed to get our society photograph taken before quickly jumping in a taxi and making it to the pitches just in time for our first game. The Christ's turnout was strong and after a quick phone call to our standby from Pembroke, we were all set.

We ended our triumphant and exciting year with a Christ's vs Christ's friendly where we got to wear our brand new kit. We will be able to play through even the foggiest of conditions wearing our bright yellow, pink and blue kits. They even have a new crest with Charles Darwin holding a lacrosse stick!

I look forward to another incredible year with the most amazing team and hopefully lots of new faces too!

Georgie Van Dyke

MEDICAL SOCIETY

President: Neel Badhe, Vice-President: Max Grossman, Treasurer: Toby Eddleston, Secretary: Samuel Badmus, Social Secretary: Caitlin Hardie, Fresher's Reps: Lena Tybura & Yazan Almoghrabi.

This year, Christ's College Medical Society (CCMS) has continued its mission to support, inspire, and bring together the medical students at Christ's through a range of academic and social events.

We began the year with a Welcome Event for the incoming cohort of medical students in October, offering a chance for new students to meet each other, as well as older years, in an informal and friendly setting. Early in Michaelmas we held a research evening, where students shared experiences of summer lab internships, offering advice on how to get involved with research and what they gained from the process.

A key highlight was our annual MedSoc Dinner, kindly subsidised by the Christ's College Medical Alumni Association (CCMAA). This event brought together supervisors and students from all years for an incredible dinner in the



Medical Society

Formal Hall. We were honoured to be joined by Professor Rahul Roychoudhuri as our guest speaker, who shared insights into his work at the interface of immunology and oncology, and the path that led him there.

In February, we held a joint CCMS/CCMAA event featuring Dr Larry Amure, who gave an inspiring and thought-provoking talk on racism and the NHS, reflecting on both his personal experiences and broader systemic issues. We also hosted two 'Medicine Around the World' talks, featuring alumni sharing firsthand experiences of practising medicine in diverse healthcare systems – from Canada and the US to Singapore and Australia.

In Lent, we organised a formal swap with Trinity College, which was a fantastic opportunity to meet medical students from another college and share experiences over two wonderful formal dinners. CCMS also held two ever-popular Curry Nights during the year, providing relaxed and lively social occasions for students across all years. Our annual Garden Party in June also served as a joyful conclusion to the year, giving students the chance to celebrate post-exams and enjoy the sun together in the Fellows' Garden.

We would like to thank Dr Stewart and all of our supervisors for their continued support and guidance, and to all the students, whose enthusiasm and engagement have made this another successful year for Christ's College Medical Society.

QUIZ SOCIETY

The Christ's College Quiz Society, founded in 2023 to organise the College's participation in University Challenge, saw its labours come to fruition this year when a team composed of Anniko Firman, Brendan Bethlehem, Linus Luu and myself (ably assisted off-screen by our reserve members, Ari Vladimir and Adam Sandhu) won the 2024-25 series of *University Challenge*. I will take the opportunity of this piece to thank all the members of the College for their enthusiastic support for the team, and particularly Janos and the rest of the Buttery staff for screening so many of our episodes there. We also greatly appreciate the letters of congratulations that have come from alumni, including some who had represented the College back in the Bamber Gascoigne era of *University Challenge*.



University Challenge

The Christ's College Quiz Society was in charge of selecting a College team to enter into the coming year's series of University Challenge. After a stringent selection process, Aidan Módica, Rebekah Merrall, Adam Sandhu (captain) and Arthur (Hin Ching) Chiu were selected for the team, with Will Brammer acting as the reserve. All the members of this team did very well in the qualifying quiz and prepared excellently for the interview. Unfortunately, despite their impressive efforts and ability, they missed out on a place on the televised rounds this year. I hope that they will reapply next year when the Society begins the process of selecting the team once more.

Finally, I personally thank the members of the society's committee, namely Linus Luu (Treasurer), Brendan Bethlehem (Ombudsman), Anniko Firman (Secretary) and Adam Sandhu (General Committee Member), for their contribution to the society over the past year.

Oscar Despard

TRINITY-CHRIST'S RUGBY CLUB

Following the success of the Christ's Freshers' Fair the previous season, Trinity appeared to take some inspiration in roping in a solid number of new recruits to the club. This took the group chat up to a total of 70 members by the end of the year, yet we still found ourselves struggling to field 15. This year also saw a very successful partnership with Trinity Hall joining, allowing us to retain the Trinity-Christ's name whilst bringing five great rugby players and social members to the team.

There was a new league format this year, in which all the teams competed in a singular league, unlike prior seasons. In Cuppers, we were defeated in the first round by a strong St John's side, but in summer term won a close and exhilarating game against a Queens-Magdalene side, with a beautiful final try scored by James Murray, bringing the team their first trophy in five years.

As is tradition, congratulations must be given to those who have represented the University in any Varsity games. Elvis Addai (Christ's) played every game for the Blues this season and was chosen in the 23, but unfortunately didn't make it onto the pitch this year. On the Rugby League side of affairs Bailey Liu (Christ's)



Trinity-Christ's Rugby Club

and Joe Robertson (Christ's) started in the Blues side, with Harris Wood (Christ's) representing the League 2s.

This has been a wonderful season, the committee has done a fantastic job and the merger with Trinity Hall has been a major success. We look forward to an even better campaign next year. We are looking forward to organising a Christ's alumni game and dinner; interested alumni should contact Elvis at eaa60@cam.ac.uk.

Elvis Addai - Christ's Captain '25-26' & Harris Wood - Christ's Captain '24-25'

SEWING SOCIETY

Committee: Lydia Broadley: Co-Founder and Co-President, Amelia Cheeseman: Co-Founder and Co-President, Zoe Tserkezou.

This year saw the newly established Christ's College Sewing Society find its feet and flourish. We founded the society towards the end of the last academic year with a few simple aims: to provide a sewing machine for College members to use, and to create a welcoming, relaxed space for anyone interested in sewing – whether to mend, alter, or make clothes and accessories from scratch. At the same time, we wanted to encourage more sustainable attitudes to clothing, promoting second-hand and natural materials, upcycling, and awareness of the environmental cost of fast fashion.

In Michaelmas, we were delighted to buy our first sewing machine, and soon after we set up a booking system to make it available to all members. By Lent, we began hosting regular society “workshops,” where people could gather to start or continue projects and learn how to use the machine with guidance from more experienced members. These sessions quickly became a hub of creativity: members worked on everything from skirt-making to knitting to leather crafting.

One particular highlight was our Tote Bag Workshops, which used fabric obtained almost entirely from second-hand sources. The popularity of these events meant we had to move into a larger room to fit everyone in – an encouraging sign for such a young society.

As a small committee – currently led by two co-presidents who have graduated this year – we're particularly proud of how much momentum the society has gained in such a short time. Looking ahead, we hope to grow our membership further and find new committee members who are passionate about sewing, craft, and sustainability to carry the society forward. It's been a joy to watch the Sewing Society become not just a practical resource, but also a creative and social space within college – and we're excited to see how it continues to develop next year.



Sewing Society

Prizes 2025

The College awarded the following prizes on the basis of results in the Examinations of June 2025.

Architecture

Levy–Plumb Prize	A. Bower, V. Charalambous, H. Stuart, D. McCleery
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Asian and Middle Eastern Studies

Syed Mahmood Prize	C. Olivieri
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Classics

Levy–Plumb Exhibition Prize	T.C. Khalil
Harrison Prize	L.R. Broadley

Computer Science

Bob Diamond Prize	D. Toh
College Exhibition Prize	C. Falas
College Prize	A. Nema, D.Z. Choo, I.T. Michalec, H.R. Simpson, J. Sun
Sir Robert Cox Prize	S. Jones

Economics

A.R. Prest Prize	T. Chee
College Exhibition Prize	D. Stanovova, A-M. Singh, K.M. Kramm
College Prize	M.K. Bardong, K. Tan
James Meade Prize	O. Peltonen

Education

Levy–Plumb Prize	J. Asiedu-Kwatchey, K. E. R. Woodman
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Engineering

College Exhibition Prize	D.J. Bohm, Y. Cai, J. He, Z. Yu
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Engineering or Chemical Engineering

Ivor Spencer-Thomas Prize	B. Liu
M.R. Lynch Prize	S.J. Li, M. Rycek, S. Sharma, A. Bevins, C. Lyu, S Yu, Y.T. Lin, O. Sharp, Y. Xie, A.A. Joseph, B. Li, R.H. Lim, Z.Y. Shen, J.X. Tan, W. Goacher, B. Grzegorzewski, W.X.S. Lim, T.J-F. Martin, T. Shen
T.C. Wyatt Prize	B.C. Atchison

English

Levy-Plumb Exhibition Prize	R.L. Karas, F. Gasull-Pearson
Levy-Plumb Prize	A. Krstonosic, M.Z.K. Gould, A. Horgan, A.J.R. O'Neill, G.J. Owens, L. Reed
Milton Prize	R. McAuliffe
Skeat Prize	K. Burge, T. Vaughan

Geography

College Prize	R.C. Broome, T. Spencer
Parker Prize	I.M. Pearson

History

Levy-Plumb Prize	K. Briggs, A. Briggs, A. Vladimir
Mrs Vincent Astor Prize	F. Pechey, R.F.R. El Samad
Sir John Plumb Prize	J. Lippman-Errasti
Sir Simon Schama Prize	I. Steinmeyer, L. Tay

History and Modern Languages

Levy-Plumb Prize	L. Glucina
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History and Politics

Levy-Plumb Prize	H.H. Tam
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History of Art

Levy-Plumb Prize	A.L. Billing, R. Zhang
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Human, Social, and Political Sciences

College Prize	C. Lorded, A.V. Hinge, I.C. Munson, J.M. Yip
Dr Fred Eade Prize	R. Livingston
Haddon Prize	B. Knight
Mabel Elizabeth Chapman Prize	Z.W. Lim
Walter Wren Prize	N. Pauly

Land Economy

College Exhibition Prize	P. Turongpun
College Prize	R.G. Thompson, E. Howard

Law

de Hart Prize	N. Adler, E.A. Addai, Z. Ali, A.G Tan, S. Li, D. Jalan
Rapaport Prize	P. Ivaturi, T. Schockmel
Stapleton Prize	M. Mir

Linguistics

Levy-Plumb Prize	B.W. Bethlehem, L.L. Linn, L. Snowdon
Mabel Elizabeth Chapman Prize	H. Chan

Management Studies

College Prize	N. Badhe
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Manufacturing Engineering

College Exhibition Prize	A.Z. Milhofer
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Mathematics

College Exhibition Prize	A. Bascal, H. Chen, T. Ramanan, D.M. Halim
College Prize	X.T. Le, Y.H.I. Wong, R. Taylor, B. Hilton, A. Sandhu
Dr J.A.J. Whelan Prize	Z. Chen, F. Lee, G. Leonida, Y. Luo, L. Luu, B.Y. Nielsen, H.R.P. Phillips
Kelly Prize	I. Pylaiev, O.J. Lake
Paley Prize	K.D. Teo, Z. Wright

Medical Sciences

College Exhibition Prize	S. Daga
Jennifer Perelman Prize	A. Varma
Michael Perelman Prize	C.Y. Wong, M.A. Chimonides, E.A. Samuel
Staines Read Prize	T. Vinod
Szeming Sze Prize	H.C.A. Yip, Y. Al-Moghrabi, M. Del Campo Martinez

Modern and Medieval Languages

Latimer Jackson Prize	A. Lewis
Levy-Plumb Exhibition Prize	R.R. Brett
Levy-Plumb Prize	B. Clarke, C. Young, O.M-A. Flint, R. Barry, D. Little
W.B. Lauder Prize	O. McGovern

Music

Canon Greville Cooke Prize	A. Modica
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Natural Sciences

College Exhibition Prize	M. Zhang, L. Wright, M. Grossman
College Prize	H. Wang, K. Cheng, K. Lai, A.L. Hall, E.K. Feather, L.X. Ho, J.A. Yates
Darwin Prize	T. Eddleston
Dr Kaetrin V. Simpson Prize	W. Brammer, C. Turnell
Greig Prize	H.C. Chiu, X. He, S.A. Banerjee, M.L. Coxon, Y. Chen, B.C.H. Collishaw, S. Gao, J.Y Ng, Y. Wang
Lord Todd Prize	I. Karageorgiou
P.J. Fay Prize	T. Spencer
Rosabel Spencer-Thomas Prize	S. Sun
Simon Wilson Prize	E.Z. Jin, N. Hari Krishnan, A-N. Costea
Sir Arthur E. Shipley Prize	G. Van Dyke
Valerie Barker Prize	C. Windle

Philosophy

Levy–Plumb Prize	D. Wang
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Psychological and Behavioural Sciences

College Exhibition Prize	D. Shypovych
College Prize	I. Shahid, A.A.Q Yew

The College is also pleased to announce the recipients of the following non-academic prizes awarded during the academic year 2024–2025.

College Art Prize	M.L. Bennett
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Charles Blackham Prize	M. Newman-Kemp
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Tim Heymann Memorial Travel Prize	M. Ganeshwaran
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Bishop Porteus Scripture Reading Prize	B.B. Knight
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Sporting Awards

A.C. Blyth Award	T. Spencer
Bruce Perry Award	E. Dodds
De la Hoyde Award	A.H.P.J. Lauga
Garry Owen Award	E.A. Addai
W. Blyth Award	K.L. Hempson

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SPECIAL FEATURES

THE PLATE AND JEWELLERY OF LADY MARGARET

Mary Franklin-Brown
Honorary Keeper of the Plate

In this publication last year, I promised a series on the old plate of Christ's. This year's contribution is devoted to the plate and jewellery of Lady Margaret. It is based on documents preserved at our sister college, but we possess the only surviving plate that has been associated with her, and this article concludes by reassessing the evidence for that connection. Research is a road that goes ever ever on, but time is finite, especially during term. What I offer, then, is a modified version of a piece that is forthcoming in the journal *Silver Studies* 2025. Readers who find themselves pining for a footnote may consult that publication, where they will also find discussion of the Wreathen Cup and a new argument proposing that it was made for Henry IV.

Lady Margaret Beaufort (1443–1509) kept a splendid house. After 1495, when religious conviction or political exigency led her to live independently of her fourth husband, she maintained her own properties with her own officers. At her London house of Coldharbour, her palace of Collyweston in Northamptonshire, and other residences in her itinerary, she sat under a cloth of estate to host potentates of England and royalty from other lands. Her young cupbearer, Henry Parker, would later wonder at the length of the procession that followed him into the hall at Christmastime. He also described the ordinary patterns of her life:

Thus did she use her life: her grace was every morning in the chapel betwixt six and seven of the clock and daily said mattins of the day with one of her chaplains. And that said, from seven till it was eleven of the clock, as soon as one priest had said mass in her sight, another began. One time in a day she was confessed, then going to her dinner how honourably she was served, I think few kings better. Her condition always at the beginning of her dinner was to be joyous and to hear those tales that were honest to make her merry, the middes of her dinner either her almoner or I read some virtuous tale unto her of the life of Christ or such like, the latter end of her dinner again she was disposed to talk with the bishop or her chancellor, which sat at her bord's end, of some godly matter.



Fig 1

The chapel services nourished the soul through the ears and eyes. Her confessor, Bishop John Fisher, remembered that she maintained a large number of priests, clerks, and choristers. Her account books record payments to accomplished musicians, and the inventory of her chapel goods, the *Book of the Revestrie*, details elaborately worked vestments in a rainbow of colours. The taste that Parker describes for merry or edifying tales is likely to have shaped her library. This was overlooked by those who inventoried her estate, but Fisher described her as having a great number of books in English and French. The bequests in her will give the highlights: Geoffrey Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*, John Lydgate's *Troy Book*, a volume of John Gower (likely the *Confessio Amantis*), an unspecified translation from Boccaccio (probably the *The Fates of Illustrious Men* or *On Famous Women*), Froissart's *Chronicles*, and French translations of Genesis and the *Magna Carta*. She commissioned at least one English translation from a French romance and herself translated devotional tracts.

But what of the cups that Lady Margaret's officiants and cupbearers had carried, the gold and silver objects that shimmered on the altar of her chapel and on her table in hall or chamber? Of these, a full inventory was drawn up for the *Revestrie*, which enumerates the valuables not only for the chapel, but also for the cellar and other household departments. It is preserved among the Lady Margaret papers at St John's College, Cambridge (founded 1511), along with almost complete chamber accounts for the last decade of her life (which detail her expenditure on plate and jewels), her will, and the accounts of her executors (which record their distribution after her death). Christ's (founded 1505) still holds a collection of plate commonly thought to derive from her bequest, all in silver-gilt: the Wreathen Cup, which I discussed last year, a covered, footed beaker and a covered hourglass salt cellar dating to 1507/8, another pair of covered hourglass salts made c. 1500, and six apostle spoons. The extraordinary survival of both documentation and objects ought to give uncommon insight to the scholar willing to trudge back and forth between the two colleges. Since the late nineteenth century, several Fellows of Christ's have trod this path only to discover that, aside from a description of the Wreathen Cup in the will and a related entry in the executors' accounts, the surviving objects do not appear in any of the documents. Even the cup is absent from the inventory. Further enquiry seemed unwise.

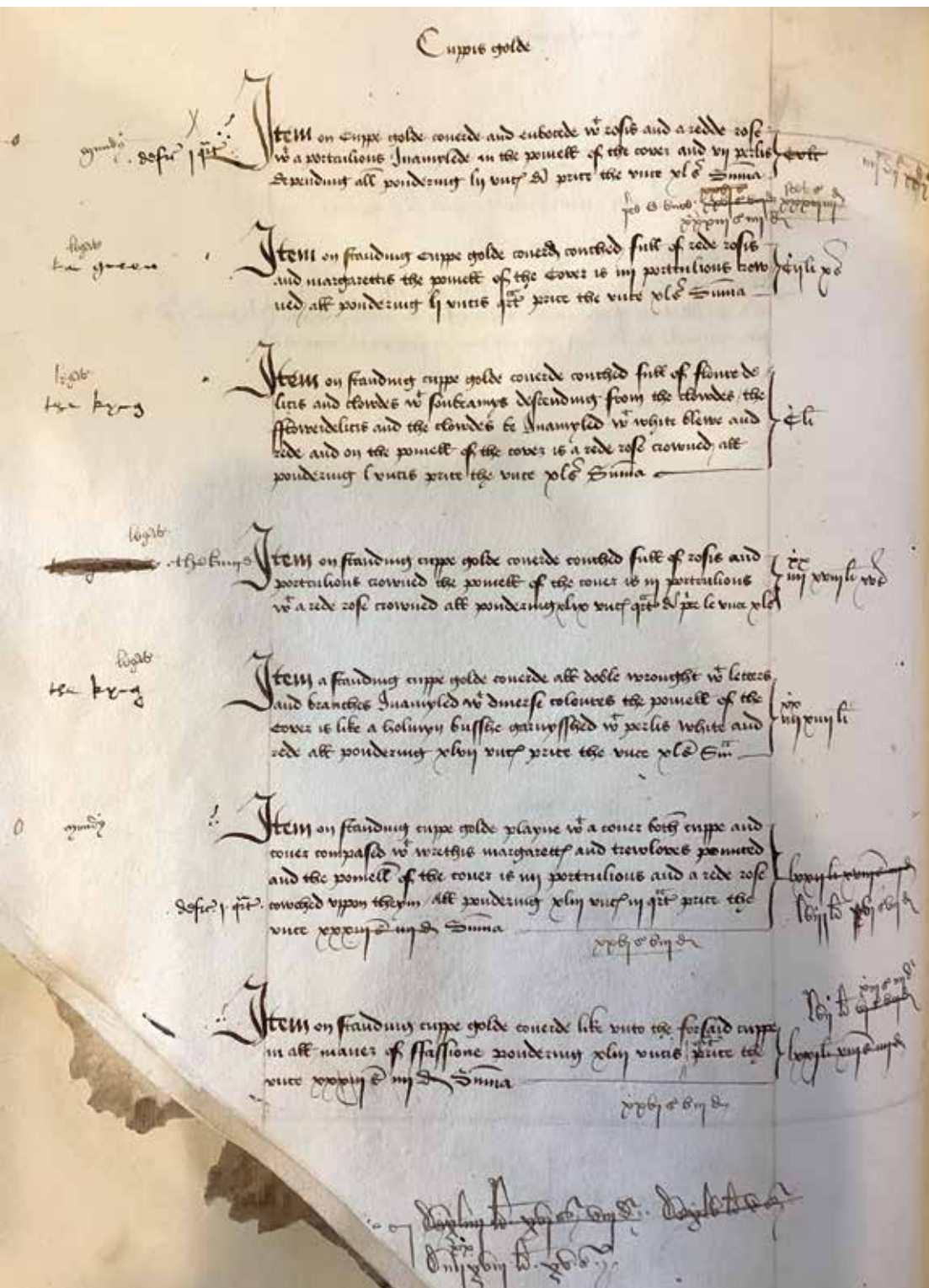
I would like to take the misalignment between documents and objects, not as an impasse, but as a point of departure. If we read the documents for what they tell us, rather than what they don't, they illumine the material and visual culture of the sole individual who belonged to both the Lancastrian dynasty of the fifteenth century and the Tudor dynasty of the sixteenth. They show how two dynasties with only tenuous claim to the Plantagenet inheritance created royal magnificence and a royal iconography. In the period c. 1330–1550, magnificence was a virtue whose definition as a 'fitting expenditure on a great thing' was drawn from Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*. Essential to it are the suitability of the great expenditure to the individual making it and the worthiness and wondrousness of the resulting work. The examples that Aristotle offered were principally to the benefit of others – votive offerings, sacred buildings, and civic feasts – but he also stated that magnificence should be manifest in the furnishing of the home. This positive understanding of magnificence was reaffirmed by Thomas Aquinas. Beginning in the 1330s, the Visconti mobilised magnificence to buttress their fragile claim to rulership over cities in northern Italy. From that point, the practice and theory of magnificence

spread quickly, an imitation encouraged by the journeys of princes, aristocrats, and ambassadors and informed by new translations of Aristotle into Latin and French.

In recent scholarship, much has been made of the role of the dukes of Burgundy in transmitting magnificence to other northern rulers in the fifteenth century. Yet the Lancastrian dynasty of England had been founded by Henry Bolingbroke (b. 1367), Earl of Derby. He had been a guest of Gian Galeazzo Visconti in Milan in 1393, where he witnessed the practice of magnificence in its birthplace. We can recognise the will to magnificence, perhaps, behind the unprecedented spending on goldsmiths' work in his reign as Henry IV (1399–1413), contributing to a household expenditure that alarmed Parliament. The most bookish of Henry's bookish sons, Humphrey (1390–1447), duke of Gloucester, procured an early copy of Leonardo Bruni's new translation of Aristotle's *Ethics* (1416–17), and a desire for magnificence on the early Lancastrian model may have continued through the century, though checked by the ruinous cost of Henry V's campaigns in France and the civil wars between Lancaster and York. The Yorkist Edward IV was heavily influenced by his contact with the Burgundian court during his exile of 1470–71, and Henry VII continued to imitate the Burgundian model, spending an astronomical sum on plate and jewels. Lady Margaret, however, would have been informed by Lancastrian practice of the middle of the fifteenth century long before her son established his court.

The inventory of Lady Margaret's plate allows us to understand Lancastrian/Tudor magnificence. It shows how the demand of suitability to the individual had allowed it to fuse with another practice of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, the use of family armorials and personal badges to project identity, a practice that went on to become an 'obsession' (as Timothy Schroder has characterised it) among the Tudors. The emphasis on individual suitability and the aesthetic component of magnificence also create a parallel with the Ciceronian concept of decorum, widely known because Cicero's *De officiis* had enjoyed uninterrupted transmission in the Latin West. Decorum was a highly individualised aesthetics of posture, gesture, adornment, and speech cultivated by those in high office. Fisher was surely thinking of decorum when he stated, in his sermon on the month's mind of Lady Margaret's death, that 'in favour, in words, in gesture, in every demeanour of herself so great nobleness did appear, that what she spake or did it marvellously became her'. Yet the humanist bishop would have been the first to recognise that its setting and instruments were Lady Margaret's magnificence.

When, on the other hand, we examine the surviving plate, it becomes clear that each object has a distinct relationship to Lady Margaret. As we saw last year, the Wreathen Cup is older than she – far older, I now believe. It is an heirloom of the Lancastrian dynasty that assumed a new role in Lady Margaret's collection as a bearer of memory. It would seem to have a natural place at Christ's College, given the role of our chapel to be a chantry for Lady Margaret and her family. Yet she did not assign it that destination. Its ownership by Christ's may be the result of the active, intelligent practice of collection by the College in the years around its refoundation. It is certainly this activity, not Lady Margaret's, that procured the beaker and standing salts. These objects are in silver-gilt rather than gold because the poor scholars had to spend prudently and knew their place in the social order. A study of the College plate reveals that the first members of Christ's were not merely passive beneficiaries of Lady Margaret's generosity, but active and sometimes independent-minded collaborators with her in the creation of a house that would preserve her memory.



Magnificence in the Floral Mode

The *Book of the Revestrie* was made after Lady Margaret's death on the 29th June 1509. It was copied, sometime before the end of that year, from a series of preliminary, partial inventories. Most of the book is in a single hand, but the names of legatees and purchasers have been entered in the left margin by several other hands, which also make occasional additions and annotations to the list. A comparison of the *Revestrie* with the special bequests in the will reveals that, however dispersed Lady Margaret's possessions may have been when she died, everything must have been gathered together at Collyweston for the inventory. Every piece of plate designated as a bequest in the will appears in the *Revestrie*, with the exception of one gilt pax brede, one parcel-gilt basin and ungilt silver ewer, and the Wreathen Cup. Despite the significance of the cup, four missing items from a total of 56 bequests of plate do not support the idea that a cache of objects had not yet been inventoried when the *Revestrie* was made. Moreover, it is clear from marginal annotations that the basin and ewer posed a problem for the executors. They must not have expected to recover any more of Lady Margaret's plate, for they replaced the two pieces with similar objects.

Like earlier plate inventories, the portion of the book devoted to plate and jewels is organised hierarchically, commencing with a few special jewels, then gold (two chalices, 17 standing cups, seven salts, and two spoons), then silver (most of it gilded), listed according to the household departments. These are also ordered hierarchically: the chapel (with 10 more chalices and nine 'images', or objects depicting the saints), the cellar (with seven more standing cups), the spicery (with two great spice plates), the pantry (with 13 more salts and a great number of spoons), the ewery (four ewers and a basin for handwashing and six sets of candlesticks), and the scullery (diverse platters, chargers, etc.). A few more folios, in at least two different hands, list jewellery and miscellaneous small objects, including more holloware and spoons. Descriptions detail the materials, techniques, and decorative motifs before giving the weight, price per ounce, and final valuation. In the left margin, the names of legatees have been written, or else the name of the person to whom the piece was sold. The language is early modern English and poses only one challenge: a wide lexicon of plant motifs, which is less modern and mostly composed of loanwords from French.

A reader who has perused the great plate inventories of c. 1300–1600 is struck by the unity that characterises this collection. Unlike the collections of the Valois princes, this is no miscellany of objects carved from hardstones, exceptional jewels, and fantastical sculptural forms. A cup of serpentine, a salt of beryl and another of jasper, are the exception in a list dominated by vessels of gold and silver. The emphasis is on gold, especially for drinking vessels. Royal patrons did own large quantities of gold at the time, but hardly any of it has survived, and certainly nothing from Lady Margaret. A sense of the richness of this material (which had to be at least 19.2 carats) is given by a few remnants of past splendour: the chalice and paten of 1507/8 given to Corpus Christi College, Oxford, by Richard Fox, Bishop of Winchester (fig. 3), or the Royal Gold Cup, commissioned c. 1380 by Jean, duc de Berry, as a gift for his brother, Charles V of France, which can now be seen at the British Museum (fig. 5). In the descriptions of the *Revestrie*, there are many references to pearls (a highly prized jewel at that time, and one whose Latin name,

Fig 2 (opposite)



Fig 3

'margarita', recalls Lady Margaret), and some references to unspecified other 'stones'. There is a gold spoon with a 'fair emerald' set into its knop. ('Knops' are ornamental nobs placed the end of the handle of a piece of cutlery, as the finial on a cover, or in the centre of a stem.) Fair sapphires are set into the knops of a covered gold cup and salt. But there are no references to the rubies ubiquitous in other inventories. Similarly rare (except on knops) are sculptural or architectural forms, which occur on only a few gold salts. One receptacle for salt is supported by a man playing a bagpipe whose bag is represented by a huge pearl. Another pair of salts is supported by groups of men holding shields. A great silver-gilt spice plate is topped with a lion standing on a castle. One silver-gilt cup is described as being like a horn supported on a base shaped like a tower.

Despite the rarity of sculptural forms, Lady Margaret's plate is far from plain. Most pieces are ornamented with engraving, chasing (and repoussé), embossing, pouncing, or enamel. We considered chasing and repoussé last year. 'Pouncing' refers to the creation of designs on a flat surface by making fields of tiny indentations (figs 4 and 5). The wing of a triptych (a devotional 'image') now at the Metropolitan Museum in New York shows how an artist could vary the depth and angle of the indentations to create effects of shading and depth (fig. 4). Forms created in this most subtle of techniques would have come alive in dancing candlelight, and it was very popular in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. Also ubiquitous in Lady Margaret's collection is enamel. Many of her vessels have designs enamelled in the



Fig 4



Fig 5



Fig 6



Fig 7

bowl, which reveal themselves as the liquid is emptied. We have already seen a version of this with the arms in the Wreathen Cup. It is an old medium, but no one had yet tired of it. Translucent enamel over gold gives colours a depth and luminosity they would not otherwise achieve (fig. 5).

In Lady Margaret's collection, the motifs created in these techniques remain within certain parameters. The plate for use at table bears few inscriptions. Heraldic or symbolic animals, lions or harts, make occasional appearances. The chains of the great ewers are threaded through the necks of dragons or swans. Aside from the images of saints on the chapel plate and the salts already described, anthropomorphic ornament is rare. The most significant occurs on spoons. Lady Margaret did not possess the set of apostle spoons that the lore of her Cambridge colleges has attributed to her. Quite the opposite. She had five parcel-gilt spoons with wodewose knops. A surviving example of this type of spoon can be seen at the Victoria & Albert Museum (figs 6 and 7). The wild men evoke those moments of misrule and mummery that were permitted in the court calendar. They remind us of a different Lady Margaret from the one of Bishop Fisher's sermon, a Lady Margaret who enjoyed merry tales, kept a fool called Skyp, and appointed an abbot of misrule at Christmastime. It would seem that her sense of humour included some tolerance for laughter at her own expense, since one context in which the wodewose ran riot was the charivari, which mocked marriages deemed inappropriate, such as when a widow took a new husband.

Lady Margaret also had five more spoons with strawberry knops. This last entry not only provides an unnoticed reference to a rare type of spoon, but also brings us to the most common class of ornament on her plate, which is not men or beasts but plants, especially flowers. The blooms for this golden garden have been chosen intelligently. Two are heraldic: the red rose of Lancaster and the (much rarer) fleur-de-lis, an allusion to the royal arms and the longstanding claim to France by the late Plantagenet and Lancastrian kings. As frequent as the rose, however, is the common daisy (*Bellis perennis*). A selection of six descriptions gives a sense of the language of the manuscript and the ways the daisy is employed:

1. Item on standing cuppe golde playne with a couer, bothe cuppe and couer compased with wrethis, margarettes and trewloves pounced, and the pomelle of the couer is .iiij. portculions and a rede rose cowched vppon theym. (SJLM/2/3/2/1, fol 29v)
2. Item on standing cuppe gold couerd, chaced vpright, with a margarete inamyld in the botom of the cuppe, and rounde aboute the myddes of the pomelle of the cover be .iiij. perlis depending. (fol 30r)
3. Item .ij. pottis gilt, euery of theym havyng on compas abowte the pott like a whope graven fulle of portculions and margarettes. (fol 39v)
4. Item .ij. flagons gilt chaced wrethen, with greate chaynes issuing forthe of swannes neckes and chaynes for theuer vices, the oon chace playne and the other pounced with smalle and long braunches of margarettes. (fol 41v)

5. Item on gilt standing cuppe couerd chaced wrethen the oon chace playn and the other inboced with walter flowers and in the botom of the cuppe .iiij. margarettes with other blewe flowers inamyld. (fol 42v)

6. Item on gylte cuppe like a horne, with a couer fulle of portculions and rosis, the same cuppe standing vppon a brode fote like a tower full of portculions and margarettes, and vppon the heighth of the couer a tufte of margarettes standing vppon a redde rose. (fol 43r)

Readers will have noted that the compiler of the *Revestrie* does not call the flower 'daisy', a word derived from Anglo-Saxon and commonly employed in Middle and early modern English, but rather 'marguerite', a word from French. The recourse to the French loanword is particularly striking in the first entry above because the word is coupled with 'trewlove', a term formed of two words of Anglo-Saxon origin (this is the herb *Paris quadrifolia*, whose leaves grow in a pattern that resembles a true-love knot). To interpret the *Revestrie*'s gallic floral vocabulary, we must return to the *Grandes heures* painted in exactly the same period (c. 1503–8) by Jean Bourdichon for Anne de Bretagne (fig. 8). The juxtaposition of flower and name on Bourdichon's marguerite page tells us that Lady Margaret's adoption of the daisy was one of those verbal-visual puns so beloved of the ruling classes in the period, a punning that expressed particular elitism in England when it employed the French language. Another such pun is the portcullis, with which the daisy is sometimes paired (numbers 3 and 6 above). Because 'Beau-fort' means 'fair-strong', the portcullis had long been the badge of the Beaufort family. After Henry Tudor's



Fig 8

accession to the throne, it was incorporated into the royal iconography. The pairing of the daisy and the portcullis was a rebus of the name Margaret Beaufort.

The play between images and words opens space for the kind of conceptual slippages that Susan Crane has identified as components of the personal badge in the late Middle Ages. A pairing of image and motto, the badge not only asserts an identity but also creates enigmas or ramifies potential meaning, thus working to 'mystify the aristocratic self by enlarging its signature'. In the case of the daisy, which does not always appear in conjunction with other heraldic symbols (see numbers 2 and 4 above), competing meanings and associations could be drawn into the nexus of Lady Margaret's identity. The flower's spring blooms, which opened themselves to the light of the sun, were associated variously with Venus, the Incarnation of Christ, and the blessed in Heaven. Geoffrey Chaucer had declared in the prologue to the *Legend of Good Women* (c. 1380–87) that despite his zeal for old books, the month of May drew him out into the meadows, where 'of al the floures in the mede | thanne love I most thise floures white and rede' (F Prologue, lines 41–42). Some lines later, his fictional self would encounter the perfect queen, Alceste, dressed as a daisy. Chaucer calls the flower a 'daysye', but literary scholars have traced the conflation of daisies and women in this text to a tradition of poems about women as marguerites by his French contemporaries Guillaume de Machaut, Jean Froissart, and Eustache Deschamps – or else to a Latin mythographic tradition that dates back much farther and better fits his professed obsession with old books. This is not the place to rehearse that argument, but I cite it because such chains of textual associations would have arisen in the minds of the well-read guests at Lady Margaret's table. Dinner would be accompanied by conversation, a reader, or music, but an individual's mind can wander and the ornaments on the plate offer paths for it to follow. It could follow a path of marguerites, trying out various associations with the Lady presiding at table.



Fig 9

Yet too much of the same motif would be tedious, and taste in this period was for variety. Not only do the heraldic flowers and daisies appear in varying combinations, but there is also a host of other flowers, which create new sets of associations. When we consider this group, we become aware that the list of flowers chosen to decorate Lady Margaret's table differs significantly from those employed in her chapel. The list of chapel plate records ample decoration with roses and daisies on basins, cruets, and stools, though not on chalices. Other flowers appear rarely on the chapel plate. The list of copes and vestments, on the other hand, records no roses and only four uses of the daisy, but three other flowers make an appearance. A comparison of the different lists can give us a better understanding of why particular flowers were chosen. One gilt chalice has blue borage flowers enamelled around its foot, and two gold cups for the table have borage flowers, one blue, one white, enamelled in the bottom of the bowl. The distinctive, star-shaped blossom of the *Borago officinalis*, with its protruding, pointed stamens (fig. 9), is one of the most common flowers to appear in floral manuscript borders – including books of hours – in the fifteenth century. Steeped in wine, the plant made a tonic thought to

relieve melancholy. The plant's decorative and medicinal potential account for its appearance in cookbooks, as well, where its flowers are recommended as a garnish and its leaves are employed in soups and sauces. The appeal of the motif for cups and chalices is clear, but its presence remains modest in Lady Margaret's collection and it is not replicated on vestments. Conversely, the list of copes and vestments records a flower that does not appear in the main plate lists, the 'syphanye', which probably derives from Old French 'sifoine', the Christmas rose (*Helleborus niger*). Hellebore is one of the few plants to bloom in midwinter, hence its various associations with the Nativity and Christmas. However, its toxicity was well known and those attempting to employ it in medicinal draughts (as, for example, a sedative) were advised caution. The glimpse of an enamel hellebore shimmering up through the wine at the bottom of one's cup would be disconcerting. It would seem, then, that one parameter for decorative motifs on plate was edibility. Plants seen on the altar or table had to be something one would not mind encountering in a salad – as one would not mind a rose or a daisy.

Another flower, the 'water flower', makes occasional appearances in the lists of plate, always on silver-gilt pieces. Blue water flowers are recorded on a pair of basins for chapel, great water flowers are pounced on a pair of pots for table, and water flowers are embossed on the standing cup in no. 5 above. It is on the chapel textiles, however, that this flower makes its most extravagant appearance. Among the 39 copes, it appears 11 times, on copes of every colour, including all three of the black ones. One could say that it is the flower of Lady Margaret's chapel. But what flower is it? One thinks at once of the water lily, but the Egyptian blue lotus (*Nymphaea caerulea*) does not seem to have been known in this part of Europe at the time, and the plants indigenous to the region, *Nymphaea alba* and *Nuphar lutea*, lacked a strong tradition of representation in Italian, French, or English art. Unlike hellebore, they are not among the 337 plants depicted in the *Grandes heures*. The claim, widely repeated in Classical and medieval herbal writing, that the water lily caused impotence did not enhance its decorative appeal. It does make occasional appearances in the relief carving of English cathedrals, possibly as an encouragement to celibacy. One might pursue this line of interpretation, were it not for two problems. First, the compilers of the inventory possessed an extensive vocabulary of plant names, most of French origin. The English word for the water lily, attested from c. 1400, was 'nenufar', from the Old French. 'Watir lillie' is also attested in the fifteenth century. There seems no reason the inventory would not employ one or the other. Then there is the problem of colour. *Nymphaea alba* and *Nuphar lutea* have flowers of white and yellow, respectively, yet the assumption that lies behind these ornaments, the basis of the descriptions in the *Revestrie*, is that the plants can be recognised. Colour contributes: every other flower for which an enamel colour is given does bloom in that hue. Water lilies, then, cannot be the blue flower on the chapel basins.

There is another possibility, and it played a central role in my article last year. One common species of forget-me-not, *myosotis scorpioides*, favours damp soil beside river courses or bodies of water. In marshes and fens, it can grow directly in the water and create floating rafts. It is also edible. If the water flower is the *soviene vous de moy* beloved of Henry IV, then its association with Lady Margaret's chapel becomes clearer. The events of Good Friday are ever to be remembered, and the forget-me-not, of all ornaments, is perhaps best suited for vestments worn in periods of mourning.



As the water flower, it is also appropriate to decorate pots and basins. But most intriguing is the connection this motif creates between the Christ's Wreath Cup and the cup described in no. 5 above, which is also chased wrythen. In no. 5, however, the bottom of the bowl is occupied by Lady Margaret's badge. This cup makes the same link between Lady Margaret and the founder of her dynasty that we can see in her motto, *souvent me souvient*.

Two more flowers appear on cups. One of the gold cups has a blue 'jelofer' flower or gillyflower. Several plants were called gillyflowers at the time, but the colour indicates that this one must be stocks (*Matthiola incana*, which is called 'violette guiroflee' in the *Grandes heures*, fig. 5). All gillyflowers were appreciated for their sweet smell, and the cruciform shape of stock blossoms appealed to the religious imagination. Finally, enamelled in the bottom of one or two silver-gilt cups is a blue columbine (*Aquilegia vulgaris*). In the *Grandes heures*, where this plant occurs three times, it is 'ancolie' or 'ancolie', the term that has survived in modern French (fig. 11). The consonance of the word with 'melancolie' made these flowers a symbol of mourning. On the other hand, the *Revestrie's* term 'colombyne' derives from another, now obsolete French word for the flower, 'colombine', or, 'the dove's plant', for from certain angles the blooms resemble a cluster of doves roosting together. The association of the dove with the Holy Spirit gives the flower a spiritual sense, as does the fanciful Latin 'angelica' in the *Grandes heures*. Any one of these blooms would have made a pleasant revelation to a dinner guest who had drained their cup.

Lady Margaret's plate was a flower garden to lift the mood, jog the memory, and inspire the imagination. To this end, its plants had to be recognisable, yet the depictions made no pretence to realism. As with Bourdichon's manuscript borders, where plump caterpillars loll on intact leaves spread across a surface of gold, the whole point of the exercise is to create an artifice more perfect, more splendid, and more precious than nature. Here a known flower form is depicted in gold. There another bloom's colour has been recreated with enamel. Guests must have been both dazzled and intrigued. And at the centre of it all was another flower, the Lady, who might be assimilated to all the imaginary marguerites in plate and poetry, were it not for the fact that she had curated the whole experience. However many gifts it might have included, what gave the collection its unity was Lady Margaret's taste, her intelligence, and her mastery of court ceremony. It is time to turn to the evidence of her activity in the chamber accounts.

Fig 10

Fig 11

The Lady, her King, and their Goldsmiths

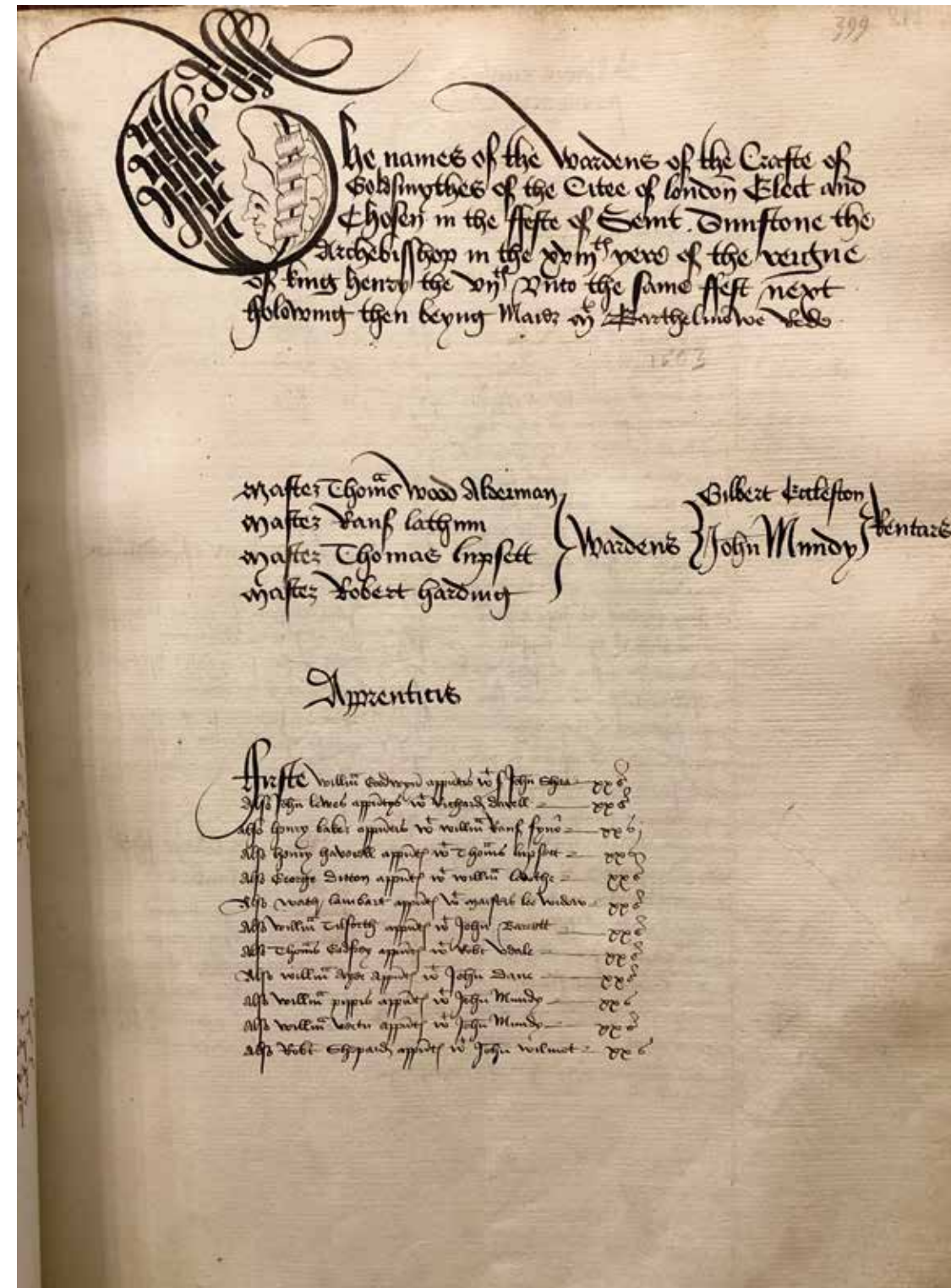
The chamber accounts that show Lady Margaret acting autonomously are those from after her separation from Thomas Stanley, Earl of Derby, but the records from the beginning of that period do not survive. The account books at St John's, which were published by Susan Powell in 2022, reflect only the final decade of her life. They are detailed and accurate: she had highly competent officers and she checked their work.

These books show regular recourse to goldsmiths, as often for repairs as for the purchase of new items. Repairs were paid in almost every year for which the accounts survive. An itinerant household of this size must have taken a toll on its plate. Lady Margaret clearly did not want to accumulate a store of broken plate, and she was disposed to repair rather than make new. One entry offers a rare personal image: in 1502, an unnamed goldsmith of Stamford (the closest large town to Collyweston) was paid to solder the cover 'of the cup of gold which my ladies grace daily drinketh in'. Surprisingly infrequent are new purchases for the table. Aside from gifts which may have come in the 1500s, particularly from the king, Lady Margaret's collection must have been largely complete c. 1500. She was, after all, a middle-aged lady by the time her son ascended the throne. Over the course of four marriages, she would have accumulated a good deal. Usually we cannot guess which pieces from the *Revestrie* had come to her in what season of her life, although a silver-gilt cup pounced with Stafford knots was likely from her third and perhaps happiest marriage, to Sir Henry Stafford, who died in 1471. She may have acquired more plate, particularly gold, in the early years of her son's reign, in imitation of the king's rapid rebuilding of the royal collection. But from 1502, she seemed willing to purchase for the table only to meet a specific need. For the chapel, however, she was still actively collecting.

The unnamed goldsmith of Stamford made a few pieces for Lady Margaret, but her preference was for three other goldsmiths, who also supplied the king. The first two, Sir John Shaa and John Mundy, supplied her chiefly with holloware. Shaa had been one of the wealthiest and most influential of the London goldsmiths, and Mundy had apprenticed to him in 1482. The earliest account books give the impression that Lady Margaret had maintained a long-standing relationship with Shaa, and that Mundy assumed a similar role after his former master's death in 1503. Because of the dates of the surviving accounts, it is Mundy who figures prominently. His first appearance is in 1498, where he is identified as Shaa's 'servant'. In the same year he reappears in the Court Minute books the Goldsmiths' Company in London. These books, still held at the Goldsmiths' Company in London, record the activities of the guild: the taking of apprentices, their progress from apprentice to the middle ranks of the craft, and eventually their membership and leadership roles in the company. In 1498, Mundy is listed among the English *lowys* sworn (a middle rank). In 1500, he is listed among the yeomen of the company.

After that date, Mundy continued briefly to serve as a courier for financial transactions between Lady Margaret and Shaa, which are not elucidated by the accounts. But he was rapidly building up his own workshop, taking his first apprentice in 1501 and seven more over the course of the decade. He was named a Renter of the Goldsmiths' Company in 1503, an office that involved managing the properties owned by the Company. He was elected Warden for the first time in

Fig 12 (opposite)



1505, and re-elected in 1509. The Chamber Books (wardrobe accounts) of Henry VII show that he was supplying the king by 1504, and his work seems to have been appreciated, for in 1505, 1508, and 1509 he made the king's New Year's gifts. Lady Margaret began purchasing from him in 1506, buying a silver-gilt chalice and two small covered salts. He supplied her a silver-gilt stoup for holy water in 1508. It is possible that the other items that follow it on the same page, for which no maker is specified, were also by Mundy: a silver ale cup, a gold chalice, a gold goblet, and a silver-gilt cruet and chalice. Shaa and Mundy also made most of Lady Margaret's gifts, her most extravagant spending on plate in the period. Bishops of her acquaintance received modest beneficence. In 1509, for example, she paid John Mundy for a silver-gilt salt for the bishop of London. But it is was on her son that she lavished her wealth. Her usual New Year's gift was a gold cup. The amount has been lost, but Shaa was paid for a standing cup weighing 33 7/8 oz in 1499. Mundy was paid £100 6s. 8d. for a gold cup in 1506. Lady Margaret's last gift to her son, at New Year's 1509, was another a gold cup from Mundy worth £100.

The third goldsmith appears only at the end of the period. Although purchases are detailed, it is also implied that he provided other services. His name, which is spelled variably, was probably John van Utrecht. He seems to have begun doing work for the king and Lady Margaret in the same year, 1507. I have not been able to find mention of him in the records of the Goldsmiths' Company, so he was probably a foreigner operating under royal protection. For the king, he created a new baldric (a sword belt) and a red rose for a tablet 'that was given to my Ladies grace'. The king may have recommended him to Lady Margaret, because her cofferer initially refers to him as 'the king's goldsmith'. For her he made a number of small objects in gold: a pair of spectacles, three garters, five brooches, and other jewellery. She had already received a gift of spectacles from Elizabeth Talbot, dowager-duchess of Norfolk, in 1505. Perhaps Lady Margaret had now decided to seek out a more customised pair from a specialist craftsman, who took the opportunity to show her his other work. She continued to purchase jewellery from him in subsequent years. In 1508, he was paid for a set of hooks and book clasps, as well as jewelled ornaments for her gift of gloves to Hugh Oldham, a longtime officer of her household who had risen to be Bishop of Exeter. In 1509 van Utrecht made for her two gold brooches, a tablet, and a jewelled gold image of St George. During these last three years of Lady Margaret's life, payments are recorded for his journeys to visit his wealthy patron at Hatfield (twice), Greenwich, and Tongs in Hertfordshire, and he received numerous small rewards for unspecified reasons. By 1508, Lady Margaret's cofferer was referring to van Utrecht as 'my lady's goldsmith'.



Fig 13

This individual's sudden prominence in the accounts is surprising, but specialist skill in grinding lenses would have made him invaluable to an older lady. Perhaps just as precious to Lady Margaret was the more common skill of sizing rings. She suffered extreme pain in her hands, likely from arthritis. A scene of her lamenting and crying out to God for relief was described touchingly by Fisher: 'It was a mater of great pity. Like a spear, it pierced the hearts of all her true servants, that was about her.' There was widespread belief at the time that the condition could be relieved by wearing a kind of ring called a 'cramp ring' (fig. 13). One or more of these are probably



Fig 14

included in the grouping of rings in two images of Lady Margaret from c. 1510: the large-scale portrait now owned by St John's College (fig 1) and a portrait in painted glass originally made for one of the side chapels at Christ's and now positioned in the north wall of the choir (fig. 14). Such rings were not purchased. They were made from gold and silver that the monarch offered to the cross on Good Friday. Nonetheless, they would need to be sized for the wearer, and fitting hands progressively deformed by arthritis would not have been an easy task. It is possible that van Utrecht's frequent visits to Lady Margaret and all those small rewards reflect an ongoing need to adjust spectacles and rings. If this is the case, then the last trace of his activities is to be found in the inventory of the closet next to the bedchamber in which she died. Along with a small gold goblet, several religious images, a gilt shrine, silver medicine pots, candles, and spoons, there were also two pairs of gold spectacles and a whole purse of clasp rings in silver and gold.

To find these rings recorded in the inventory and some suggestion of their sizing in the account books is not surprising. What is worthy of note is their appearance in the two portraits that I have just mentioned. The oil painting has recently been authenticated as the work of Meynnart Weywick, a Netherlandish artist present at the English royal court in the 1500s and 1510s. Weywick may have encountered Lady Margaret in that context. The royal favour he continued to enjoy and a passing acquaintance with the lady may be the reason her executors commissioned him to create a portrait for Christ's College as well as another image, perhaps the model for the portrait in painted glass that was soon realised by Netherlandish glass painters for a window in the chapel. The two depictions are similar in posture and decor, and both are idealised. Despite holding her prayer book, Lady Margaret has no spectacles. In the oil painting, she has long, perfect fingers with no hint of arthritis. The painted glass offers an even more idealised image with the face of a younger woman. The association of cramp rings with infirmity seems out of place in both.

It is possible, however, that the rings communicated something to viewers of 1510 that we fail to register. The understanding of these rings had been transformed in the early Tudor period. A powerful or magical ring is an ancient myth, but a new narrative had been articulated in the royal circle. It is revealed to us by Polydore Vergil, court historiographer of Henry VII and Henry VIII. For the Tudors, the rings' efficacy derived from the healing power of the king's touch (another belief

with a much longer history). In his *Anglica historia*, Vergil connected two threads from the *Life of St Edward the Confessor* by the twelfth-century monk Aelred of Rievaulx. First, Edward was said to have healed the blind and sick through the laying on of hands. The second thread is the story of a ring, the penultimate episode in Edward's life as Aelred recounted it. English pilgrims in the Holy Land encountered a mysterious old man, who revealed himself to be St John the Evangelist. He gave them a ring to bear to the king with the message that his death was approaching. St John explained that once long before, disguised as a pilgrim, he had attended the consecration of an English church in his honour. When he asked the king for alms for the love of St John, Edward discovered that he had already given away everything in his purse, and so he gave the pilgrim a ring from his own finger. The pilgrims carried it back to England and delivered the saints' message to the king. Vergil identified this ring with one preserved at St Edward's shrine in Westminster Abbey. From it, Vergil concluded, derived the ritual of the King of England consecrating rings on Good Friday, touching them to confer the power to relieve suffering. Lady Margaret would, then, have believed that the cramp rings worked through the healing touch of her son. This gives us another view, more intimate and more spiritual, of the gifting between the lady and her king. The goldsmith's work is eclipsed by the operation of a power at once divine and royal. The success of that operation proved the legitimacy of Henry VII as the heir of the Confessor through the line of Lady Margaret.

That lineage mattered to Henry and his mother. The king's new Lady Chapel at Westminster Abbey and Lady Margaret's patronage of a chapel there asserted it on a grand scale. The painters for Christ's have done so in miniature. At the College, these links have been enhanced by the most recent arrangement of the surviving old glass in the north wall of the chapel. The kneeling figures of Lady Margaret and Henry VII are now positioned in the lancet windows of the choir, on either side of one of the few surviving panels from the original choir, which depicts a young Edward the Confessor holding his ring, as if to offer it to the pilgrim. From an examination of Lady Margaret's accounts, we have arrived at the commemoration of Lady Margaret, in a programme of college works funded by her gold. It is time to consider her bequests of plate.

A Mirror of Lady Margaret's House

Although her Latin was elementary, Lady Margaret was an intelligent woman who had inherited the Lancastrian interest in literature and learning. It was natural for her to direct her patronage toward scholars. Around the turn of the century, she endowed University Readerships in theology at Oxford and Cambridge and the position of a University Preacher at Cambridge. It was certainly John Fisher, her chaplain and confessor for a time and also proctor and eventually chancellor of Cambridge University, who guided this patronage. He soon encouraged a more substantial undertaking: the foundation of colleges at Cambridge. Their attention was first drawn to God's House (founded 1439). This institution had received new letters patent after the accession of Henry VII, but it was small and, in the eyes of Fisher and Lady Margaret, financially insecure. Their interest was welcomed by the then Head, John Syclyng. The new, much larger foundation, renamed Christ's

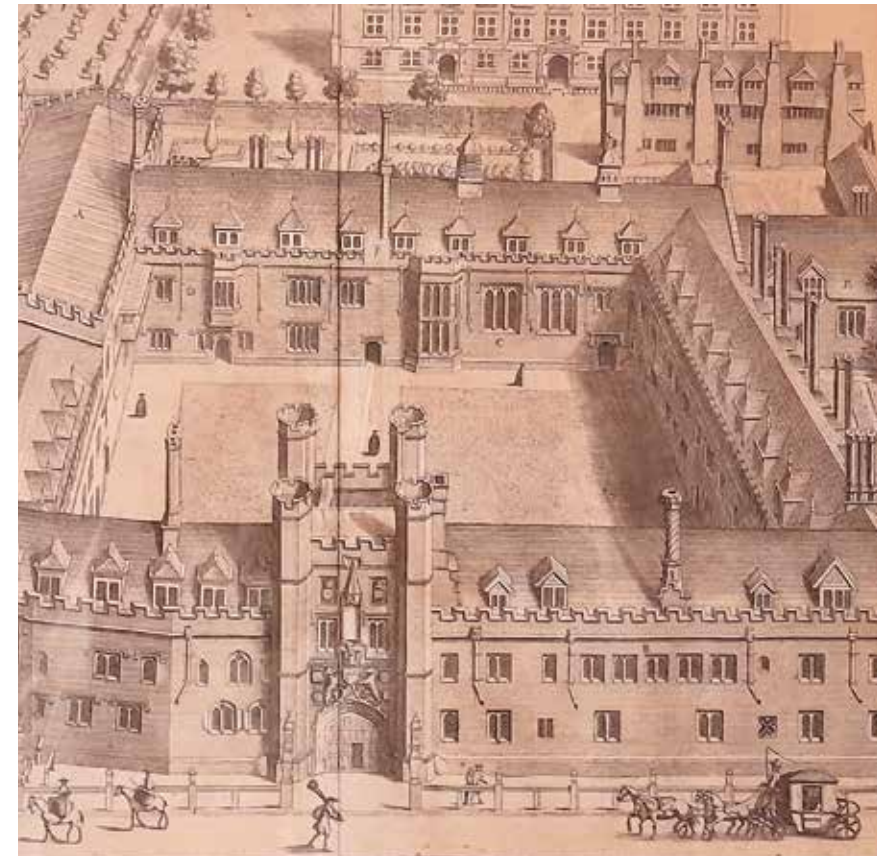


Fig 15

College, received letters patent from Henry VII in 1505. The statutes, accepted the following year, had been shaped by Lady Margaret herself. A major building project was undertaken to expand the site from what had probably been just a few small buildings fronting on the street to a full and stylistically unified court. A new chapel, likely smaller than today but in the same location, was consecrated in 1506. Work continued, and in the years following Lady Margaret's death the College used its new wealth to enlarge the chapel.

No drawings survive from the early Tudor period. However, since no major changes were made to this first court for several centuries, the birds-eye-view engraved by David Loggan in 1690 can give a good sense of the College early in the reign of Henry VIII (fig. 15). The gatehouse is positioned in the west range, with the treasury above the Great Gate and the library occupying the first floor to the south of the gatehouse. Facing it in the east range are the most significant residential rooms. The hall was originally a multipurpose space, used for lectures and for dining. At its upper end, there was a large fireplace and a door connecting to a passageway in the centre of the range. This passage and the spiral staircase at its end communicated with the two formal apartments. The Master had the ground floor, Lady Margaret, the first floor (the latter apartment was also made available to the Visitor, John Fisher). As a woman, Lady Margaret would not have dined in hall or worshiped in chapel, but interior windows at the two ends of



Fig 16

her apartment opened onto both spaces and allowed her to experience communal gatherings (fig. 16).

The disposition of this court strikes us as familiar because we are members of Christ's, but it would also have been familiar to everyone who was anyone in the Tudor period. It is the arrangement of the early Tudor courtyard house, whose rational organisation was well known to the builders – borrowed from Lady Margaret – who set it out. Unlike many of the Oxford colleges, the model for Lady Margaret's Cambridge foundations was not the monastic cloister, where the church and refectory run parallel to each other in the north and south ranges, but the royal and aristocratic country house. Such a household also had ordinances, which were read out to Lady Margaret's retinue at regular intervals. It had communal prayer, and the chapel children had a grammar master. Despite the older students at Christ's College and the particular focus on religion and learning, the renewed institution was a mirror of Lady Margaret's house.

The altar and table, too, were mirrors that had to be set with fitting vessels. Those who have researched the College plate have usually assumed that any of these vessels worthy of comment must have arrived in College at the end of summer 1509, with the Lady Margaret bequest. There is no doubt that a great cartload of books, vestments, and plate did come at that time, for the shipment inventory, dated the 14th August, is still extant (SJLM/8/2/3/1). It can be cross-referenced with the *Revestrie* and the will that was proved in 1512 (SJLM/3/1/5). In the will, Christ's comes first in the list of bequests of plate. Here she gives the College two gilt crucifixes, a chalice of gold and two of silver-gilt, precious images of the Virgin, St Mary Magdalen, St John the Baptist, and St George, and a collection of other liturgical objects in gilt. She then bequeaths her other gold chalice and more gilt objects to her chapel at Westminster. A group of secular objects are bequeathed to her family and acquaintance: to the king (now her grandson, Henry VIII), five 'of my best cups of gold with their covers' and to the queen (Catherine of Aragon) one of the next best gold cups. One of the gold cups with borage flower is given to the bishop of Winchester, and the cup with the gillyflower goes to Sir Thomas Lovell. After a series of other bequests, the list concludes:

Also the said princess willed that all her plate, jewels, vestments, altar clothes, books, hangings, and other necessities belonging to her chapel in the time of her decease and not otherwise bequeathed should be divided between her said Colleges of Christ and Saint John by the discretion of her executors.

The *Revestrie* shows how seriously her executors took this task while also attempting to provide for St John's, which did not receive detailed bequests of plate because it had not figured prominently in Lady Margaret's mind when she drafted this part of the will. Thus for the list of images for chapel, in the left margin where recipients are listed, we see the assignment of the designated images to Christ's. The other images, in equal number, are assigned to St John's to equalise the two colleges' inheritance.

By the time this work was done, all of the chapel plate was spoken for. But her will had said nothing about the disposal of the considerable quantity of remaining household plate. This included five gold cups and four gold salts. The executors chose to sell many of the most valuable pieces, including all the gold, to John Mundy, who appraised for them. This money could be devoted to expanding the chapel at

Christ's and beginning the building works at St John's. Some of the gilt objects they sold, and some they sent to Christ's, where they could be put to immediate use. The shipment inventory, then, is made up partly of the designated chapel plate, and partly of the executors' selection of household plate. In the latter category, it lists:

- two pairs of pots
- the cup with the enamel columbine
- another plain cup with enamel missing from the bottom
- the cup in the shape of a horn (no. 6 above)
- a dozen bowls
- two basins and two ewers
- two salts
- a great spice plate
- a spoon engraved with the word 'mercy'
- six spoons with wrythen knops
- a dozen slip spoons (i.e., spoons with plain handles)

The wodewoses must have been deemed frivolous, for they were sold to Mundy.

Readers will already have perceived that the Christ's beaker (fig. 17) is not in this list. An association has sometimes been made with the cup in the shape of a horn, but the specific form of the drinking horn was still well known in the period, and that is surely what was meant. The beaker was a common form for which various words were employed without recourse to paraphrase. The word *biker*, of Norse origin, is already attested in fourteenth-century English and is used in the Great Treasure Roll of Richard II. In the earliest surviving Christ's plate inventory, from the mid-seventeenth century, the piece is called 'the Foundresses tunne'. 'Tun' is a word from Middle English, ultimately of French derivation, but it does not seem to have been employed in the sense of a small drinking vessel before the mid sixteenth century. Neither term appears in the *Revestrie* or account books. Here we find 'ale cuppe' and 'goblett', which may be distinct forms. R. W. Lightbown has suggested that 'gobelet' referred to a beaker in late medieval French, so this is a plausible construal.

The gently tapering body of the Christ's beaker and the top of its cover are beautifully engraved. Over the centuries this work has lost none of its crispness. The diaper design is a latticework bound together with marguerites, which encloses the heraldic devices of the double rose, the portcullis, and the fleur-de-lis. The connection to Lady Margaret is clear, but the convergence of the daisy with all three heraldic devices is not a feature of her own collection: it is recorded on only one piece in the *Revestrie*, a gilt salt. On the Christ's beaker, the engraved design makes a mesmerising statement of Lady Margaret's royal lineage. Two narrow bands of stamped eglantines run round the centre of the vessel and another round the edge of its cover, where it is surmounted by shallow battlements. Inside the vessel, where in Lady Margaret's collection one would usually see a flower, we find another double rose, but it is engraved rather than enamelled (fig. 18). The cover's knop is a posey of daisies atop a cage formed of six portcullises with pinnacles at each joint. The knop is less accomplished than the rest of the piece and one might wonder whether it is a later replacement or a transfer from another piece. The base is substantial: a plinth with vertical sides, forming the outline of a rose. The sides are edged by more



Fig 17



Fig 18



Fig 19

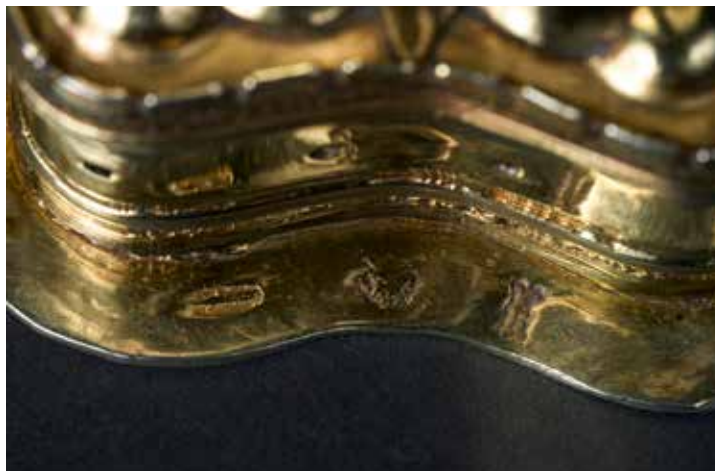


Fig 20

narrow stamped bands of eglantines and surmounted by the same battlements. In the wide, smooth band between the two bands of eglantines, holes have been left where there must once have been pearls, other stones, or small enamels. The top of the base is decorated with the drops ('doppys') that are so frequently mentioned in the *Revestrie*. Despite the similarities to the cover, this base does not appear to have been original to the beaker. From the cable that runs round the base of the vessel, the surface of a different foot extends, also decorated with drops, but narrower and more complex in form. This has been soldered to the existing base (fig. 19). The object we see today seems to be a fusion of two closely related pieces.

Both were assayed in London in 1507/8. The assay is a test of the purity of the metal. Sterling – that is, an alloy of 92.5% silver – was required. Vessels that passed the assay were 'touched' with the king's mark, the leopard's head crowned, and a letter corresponding to the date of the assay (here *k*). They were also given a mark to identify the workshop or maker. On the beaker, this mark takes the shape of a fish, which appears on both the foot and the cover (fig. 20). There is nothing in Lady Margaret's account books or the *Revestrie* that could correspond to these pieces.

The two salts in the shipment inventory have also been associated with pieces surviving at Christ's: the pair of covered hourglass salts of hexafoil shape (fig. 21). Their lobes are, alternately, plain or decorated with double roses in repoussé on a chased ground. In the centre of each salt is a hexafoil knop, with two narrow bands of crosses and a cable running round it and a crocketed pinnacle in each angled depression. (This design is identical to the knop now on the Wreathen Cup; the resemblance to the pinnacles on the knop of the beaker is subtle but suggestive.) The rose salts were not assayed, but they bear a maker's mark, much bruised, that could be a horseshoe (fig. 22). Only one original cover survives; the other is a Victorian copy, and this would seem in keeping with the pair in the shipment, which was also short one cover. However, the salts given to Christ's are described everywhere as round, not hexafoil. Despite the *Revestrie's* attention to ornament, it mentions none on them. They must have been small, for the total weight of the two salts and one cover is recorded as 38.5 oz. The rose salts and original cover total 43 oz. Their craftsmanship is poorer than any of the other early pieces. Finally, given the way Lady Margaret collaborated with the king in his governance and patronised the leading London goldsmiths, it seems unlikely that she would have purchased pieces that had not been assayed.



Fig 21



Fig 22



Fig 23



Fig 24



Fig 25

What, then, of the final, individual salt, which is smaller than the pair but more substantial and of finer craftsmanship (fig. 23). This is also hourglass and hexafoil in shape, with alternation of plain and decorated lobes. Here the ornament is achieved with engraving on a matte ground. The surface is much worn, but one can still perceive the quality draughtsmanship of the three heraldic motifs: the double rose, the portcullis, and the fleur-de-lis, each of which appears once on the salt and once on the cover. The knob is decorated with narrow, regular moulded bands that create the impression of stacked hexafoils with a larger one at the centre. This salt was assayed in London in the same year as the parts of the beaker, but the maker's mark, though barely legible, is different (fig. 24). The difference of workshop is confirmed by subtle divergences in the drafting of the rose. The crosshatching in the centre is more square, and a rounded outer edge has been drawn for both groups of petals (fig 25). The quality of this piece is more in line with what we could expect of Lady Margaret's collection, but two of these salts and one cover would weigh 63.5 ozt, far more than the salts in the inventories.

The solution to this puzzle begins with another entry in Lady Margaret's accounts. On the 15th June 1507, her cofferer, Miles Worsley, recorded a payment to her receiver-general, Hugh Ashton 'for two days riding to London to reckon with master Mundy the goldsmith for such plate

as was bought for Christ's College'. Lady Margaret was heavily engaged in supplying the College at this time, and the money was coming from her wardrobe account. Here we find Worsley making disbursements of money to Morice for the building works. Smaller items that Lady Margaret purchased herself were debited directly to the chamber accounts. We find payments for copies of the College's statutes, for the making of the College's new seal, for antiphoners for the choir and other, unspecified print books, and even a payment to Bernard Flower, the king's glazier, for painted glass for the windows in the library. The money actually paid to Mundy on the 15th June was not debited. In this instance, it must have come from a College account. But it is clear that the College had sent someone to London to purchase plate earlier that year.

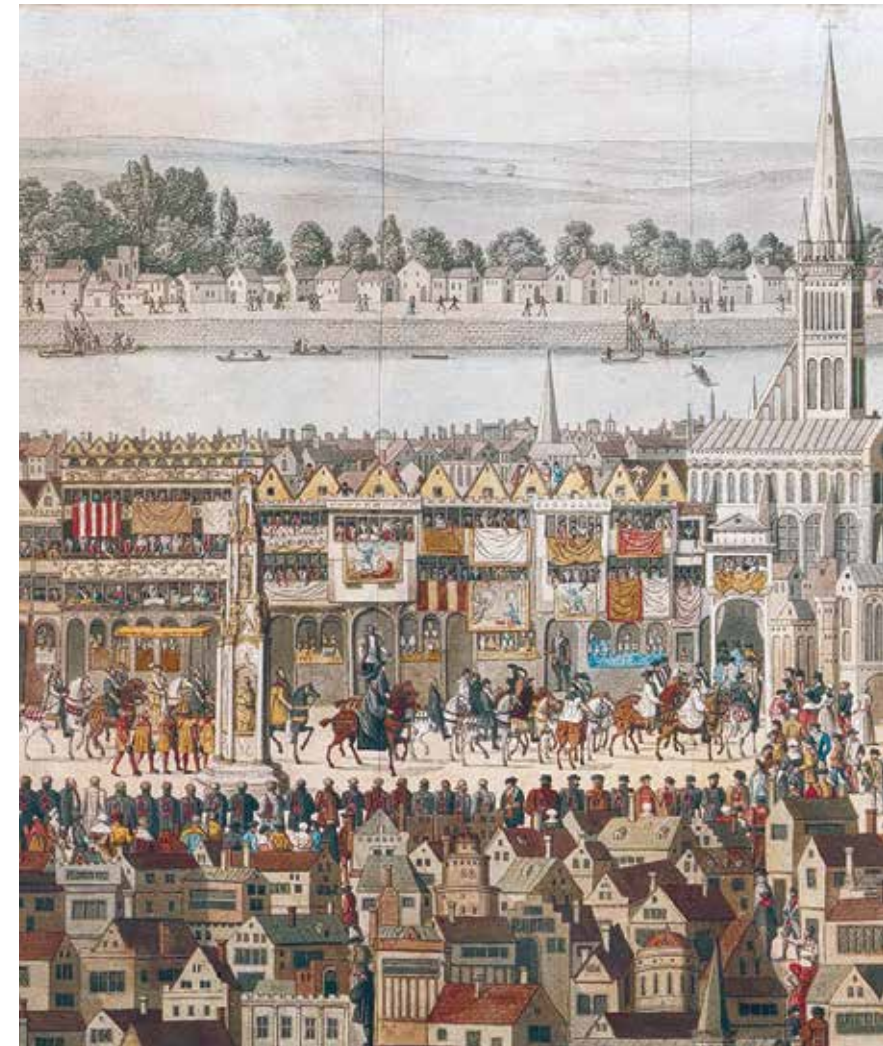


Fig 26

This buyer, perhaps Syclyng or one of the Fellows, would have visited the goldsmiths' quarter in Cheapside. It is difficult for us today, standing sadly on the pavement and contemplating Krispy Kreme and Zara, to imagine what this street would have been in 1507, so I share here an image of the coronation procession of Edward VI several decades later (fig. 26). The street, which runs from the Tower of London (home of the Royal Mint and the Royal Treasure House) to St Paul's Cathedral, was lined with goldsmiths' shops whose wares were displayed spectacularly. For a poor Cambridge Fellow who found himself, for the first time, with a heavy enough purse to buy from such shops, the experience must have been exhilarating. Maybe he got a bit reckless. He certainly purchased from more than one maker. From Mundy, it would seem, he purchased on credit.

The College was purchasing plate in 1507 because it was already a functioning house of its own. The chapel had been consecrated the year before, and Lady Margaret seems to have come into residence for a period in Michaelmas 1506. She

may have brought her plate with her and lent it to the hall, but the Master and Fellows would have perceived the need to be able to set the table even when their patron was not among them. They may have done so well before 1507: the pair of surviving salts may have been purchased in the last decades of God's House, in celebration of the new charter under the new Tudor dynasty, or in anticipation of a royal visit. At this time, the community would have had little money to spare. This may account for the salts' inferior quality, which would be compensated, in this case, by their importance as one of the sole relics to survive from the institution before 1505. If Lady Margaret gave the College money to spend on plate in 1507, the Fellows would have been able to patronise the best shops for the first time. The single salt must be representative of that purchasing excursion: an object that proclaimed the College's new wealth and Tudor patronage but was not personalised to Lady Margaret. The beaker, on the other hand, is more special. One can imagine it being placed in the Foundress's apartment to await her next visit, a small gilt bouquet in gratitude of her beneficence. She may well have drunk from it. In the memory of the Fellows, it would quickly become the 'Foundress's tun'.

I hope readers will forgive me for what I have just done. The documents simply do not support the claim that any of our surviving plate came to the College from the Foundress' direct bequest of 1509. Nonetheless, this examination of the evidence has led to a number of insights. Lady Margaret's collection of plate, which no one has ever before studied, was a material expression of her intelligence, her humour, and her magnificence. Taste varies, but I am sure there are readers who prefer wodeuses to apostles. If my proposed reading of the 'water flower' is right, then the College's Wreathen Cup, which certainly did belong to her, inspired her own iconography. She owned another cup of similar design that combined the forget-me-not with her marguerite, and she chose the forget-me-not to ornament her chapel vestments, many of which came to Christ's. It is impossible to know whether it was Dr Wilsford, to

whom Lady Margaret bequeathed the Wreathen Cup, or her executors who initiated the exchange of the Wreathen Cup for a different piece in her collection, but that exchange brought the cup to Christ's. Taking the invitation of the Lancastrian memory mottos, *soviene-vous de moy* and *souvent me souvient*, the painted glass of the same period commemorates Lady Margaret, Henry Tudor, and the golden bond between them. Finally, the College community aspired to mirror Lady Margaret's house, not only in its architecture, but also in the way it set the table. The second of our Lady Margaret treasures – and I believe it can still be called that – is a beaker chosen to suit her. For more than five centuries, Christ's has preserved this posy for its Foundress.



Fig 27

Acknowledgments

This article would not have been possible without the generosity of experts in historic plate who have shared their knowledge and insight: Alex Butcher, Jane Ewert, Kirstin Kennedy, and Timothy Schroder. I am again indebted to Joanna Bellis for helping this scholar of French get reacquainted with the English language. Jessica Lutkin, of the National Archives, kindly sent the text of her thesis on royal purchases of plate in the decades around 1400. Once again, a number of archivists have assisted this research: Lucy Hughes at Christ's College, Lynsey Darby at St John's College, and Eleni Bide and Sophie Leverington at the Goldsmiths' Company, as well as the helpful staff at the National Archives in Kew. The Research Fund Managers at Christ's College generously funded new photographs of the historic plate, which were taken by the ever-patient Jonathon Vines. Anya Heilpern and Chris Parkinson, who have studied the old glass of Christ's, were quick to help in offering photos, and the Master demonstrated exquisite timing in capturing Hall at a propitious moment.

Further Reading

The best biography of Lady Margaret remains Michael Jones and Malcolm Underwood, *The King's Mother: Lady Margaret Beaufort, Countess of Richmond and Derby* (Cambridge, 1992), which is still in print. The story of the Goldsmiths' Company at the end of the Middle Ages was set out by T. F. Reddaway in *The Early History of the Goldsmith's Company, 1327–1509* (London, 1975), a book that can still be found on the second-hand market. I also recommend John Forbes's fascinating *Hallmark: A History of the London Assay Office* (London, 2002). Timothy Schroder has recently published an illuminating study of plate in the early Tudor period, *A Marvel to Behold: Gold and Silver at the Court of Henry VIII* (Woodbridge, 2020). Deborah Krohn's *Staging the Table in Europe, 1500–1800* (New York, 2023) is a beautifully illustrated history of the art of the table in the Early Modern period. For the early history of Christ's College, readers can find illuminating essays in the volume edited by David Reynolds for the cinquecentennial, *Christ's: A Cambridge College Over Five Centuries* (Cambridge, 2004).

Figure captions

Figure 1: Portrait of Lady Margaret Beaufort by Meynnart Wewyck, c. 1510. Oil on panel, 1800 x 1220 mm. Cambridge, St John's College (on loan to the National Portrait Gallery, London). Reproduced by permission of the Master and Fellows of St John's College.

Figure 2: Lady Margaret's gold cups, inventoried in the *Book of the Revestrie*, 1510. Cambridge, St John's College Archive, Lady Margaret papers SJLM/2/3/2/1, fol. 29v. Photo by the author, reproduced by permission of the Master and Fellows of St John's College.

Figure 3: Gold chalice and paten, 1507/8, by a maker whose mark was a fleur-de-lis. Given to Corpus Christi College, Oxford, by Richard Fox, Bishop of Winchester. Gold with enamel. Oxford, Corpus Christi College. Photo © Bridgeman Images.

Figure 4: Panel depicting the Way to Calvary, from a triptych made in Paris, c. 1400–1420. Gilded copper, pounced, 248 x 106 mm. New York, Metropolitan Museum of Art, 17.190.369. Photo by the Met.

Figure 5: Detail from the Royal Gold Cup. Enamel and pouncing on gold. London, British Museum 892,0501.1. Photo © The Trustees of the British Museum.

Figure 6: Wodewose spoon, made in England, 1400s. Silver, length 204 mm, weight 46.1 g. London, Victoria and Albert Museum M.65-1921. Photo © Victoria and Albert Museum.

Figure 7: Detail of wodewose knop. Photo © Victoria and Albert Museum.

Figure 8: Daisy from the *Grandes heures d'Anne de Bretagne*. Paris, BNF MS lat. 9474, fol. 44v. Source gallica.bnf.fr / BnF.

Figure 9: Borage from the *Grandes heures d'Anne de Bretagne*. Paris, BNF MS lat. 9474, fol. 18r. Source gallica.bnf.fr / BnF.

Figure 10: Gillyflowers (stocks) from the *Grandes heures d'Anne de Bretagne*. Paris, BNF MS lat. 9474, fol. 77v. Source gallica.bnf.fr / BnF.

Figure 11: Columbine from the *Grandes heures d'Anne de Bretagne*. Paris, BNF MS lat. 9474, fol. 28r. Source gallica.bnf.fr / BnF.

Figure 12: Court Minute Book of the Goldsmiths' Company, records of 1503. John Mundy is recorded as a Renter of the Company and takes two apprentices. London, Goldsmiths' Company, Court Minute Book A, p. 399. Photo by the author, reproduced by permission of the Goldsmiths' Company.

Figure 13: Cramp ring, English, c. 1308–1558. Metal and iron, diameter 70 mm, width 25 mm, weight 6 g. London, Science Museum, Welcome Collection A641034. Photo © The Board of Trustees of the Science Museum.

Figure 14: Painted glass from the north wall of Christ's College chapel, easternmost window. Depicted left to right are Henry VII, St Edward the Confessor, and Lady Margaret. The glass was made by Netherlandish painters working in England, c. 1510. Photo courtesy of C. Parkinson.

Figure 15: Bird's-eye view of Christ's College (detail). Engraving by David Loggan for the *Cantabrigia illustrata*, Cambridge, 1690.

Figure 16: Christ's Hall today, viewed through a window from the Lady Margaret apartment, now the first floor of the Master's Lodge. Photo by Simon McDonald.

Figure 17: The Foundress's tun. Height 233 mm, weight 707 g all in. Cambridge, Christ's College, Peck no. 29. Photo by Jonathon Vines.

Figure 18: The Foundress's tun, detail of inside. Photo by Jonathon Vines.

Figure 19: The Foundress's tun, detail of foot. Photo by Jonathon Vines.

Figure 20: The Foundress's tun, marks. Photo by Jonathon Vines.

Figure 21: Rose Salts. Height 167 mm, weight of pair of salts with covers 1468 g. Cambridge, Christ's College, Peck no. 27. Photo by Jonathon Vines.

Figure 22: Rose Salts, maker or workshop mark. Photo by Jonathon Vines.

Figure 23: Tudor Salt. Cambridge, Christ's College, Peck no. 28. Height 150 mm, weight 1047 g all in. Photo by Jonathon Vines.

Figure 24: Tudor Salt, marks. Photo by Jonathon Vines.

Figure 25: Tudor Salt, detail of engraved rose. Photo by Jonathon Vines.

Figure 26: Cheapside in the sixteenth century. Detail from a depiction of the Coronation Procession of King Edward VI, 1547. Copperplate engraving, coloured, by Samuel Hieronymous Grimm, 1788, based on a wall painting of the sixteenth century. London, Society of Antiquaries, SOA786027. Photo © Bridgeman Images.

Figure 27: Reassembled old glass from the east window of the Church of All Saints, Landbeach, Cambridgeshire. Anya Heilpern has established that the small head of an academic and the larger body of an academic standing behind a lectern are likely to have been made for Christ's College, c. 1510. Note the legend 'Souvient' at the bottom of the panel. Photo courtesy of C. Parkinson.

SOURCE, DELTA AND OASIS

How a supply of fresh water sustained life in Cambridge and led to the characteristic gardens of Christ's College.

Graham Tite (m. 1963)

To those who know Christ's, Hobson Street remains familiar for its gates out of the car park that connect the College to the 'real world' beyond the long walls enclosing it. Amidst an array of Cambridge's most interesting shops and cafés, Hobson Street also remains home to the College's old brick arch leading into the rear of the College Chapel – perhaps easy to overlook but worth a glance next to the main frontage of Christ's. These rear surrounding areas have been explored in two previous pieces for the *Magazine* in which Hobson Street was traced back to its "King Street" origins and even farther back to "Walles Lane", the original name of the long route that follows the College walls along their entire length.¹ But who and what was Hobson? His name still resounds in Cambridge, but why should it do so after 400 years?

In this piece, the simple task of fetching water fit to cook, brew, clean, wash, and irrigate gardens with becomes the basis for understanding late-16th to mid-17th century Cambridge (and London). It is a topic that covers the growth of urban life, architecture and the cult of gardening which flourished during these years. Thomas Hobson (1544–1631) and John Milton (1608–74) are two stellar figures in this story.

London's New River and its two Cambridge counterparts

Before the "Conduit" brought a decent water supply to the centre of Cambridge early in the 17th century, its inhabitants had always depended on water carriers, shallow wells and a number of pumps distributed around the central area from where water could be collected. Bottles of "spa" water had also begun to make a limited appearance for those who could afford such luxuries. London, during the late 1500s, had itself seen rapid population growth – and thus demands for water exceeded its supply. The "New River" was proposed as a remedy and eventually it was constructed in 1602–13: a massive feat of engineering in its time and a vital step towards the widespread construction of canals as seen in their 18th and 19th century heyday.

The man-made watercourse of the New River can be viewed today in picturesque stretches, such as those that exist in Broxbourne. This Hertfordshire town is *en route* from springs near Ware to the end point 20 miles to the south in Clerkenwell, the "New River Head", from where the water flowed downhill to nearby sections of the capital city.

This project was widely famous and was imitated twice-over in Cambridge during the same space of a few years in the first decades of the 17th century. Much discussion took place beforehand, however, with the schemes in London and in Cambridge being traceable back several years prior to the digging of the first trenches. Legal and financial preparations were made, with the University joining up with the leading townspeople in bringing the project forward.²

Trinity College already made use of water supplies of medieval origin, with sources to the north conducted beneath the main river to reach the College precincts.

T. H. SHEPHERD/PUBLIC DOMAIN/VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS



The New River Head, where the man-made watercourse culminated – the location of the present-day Sadler's Wells Theatre

ROBERT WILLIS/PUBLIC DOMAIN/VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS



The fountain in the centre of Great Court, Trinity College

This achievement was celebrated in spectacular fashion in 1601 with the erection of the beautiful fountain that stands in the centre of Great Court.

Meanwhile, the citizens of Cambridge – including Thomas Hobson – pressed on with their civic scheme and in 1614 erected the Conduit Head, a stone monument placed in the Market Square. This ornate pillar remained in place until mid-Victorian times. In the 1850s the Conduit Head was re-erected in its current position after a modern water supply took over the Conduit's principal role.



J. Le Keux/F. MacKenzie/Public Domain/Via Wikimedia Commons

The stone monument to Hobson's Conduit situated in its original setting of Cambridge Market Place

The two elaborate and architecturally beautiful stone structures, at Trinity College and in the Market Square – until it was moved – demonstrated a local awareness of the European tradition of celebrating the arrival of water supplies with grand sculptures and buildings. Particularly in Italy, civic fountains were great emblems of prestige, and monuments of this type soon reached Britain – such as at Cowdray House in Sussex. An ornamental fountain in Cowdray's courtyard early in the 1500s was supplied from a conduit house still *in situ* nearby in the grounds. After a fire in the 18th century the fountain was moved – and is now in the care of the V&A Museum in South Kensington.



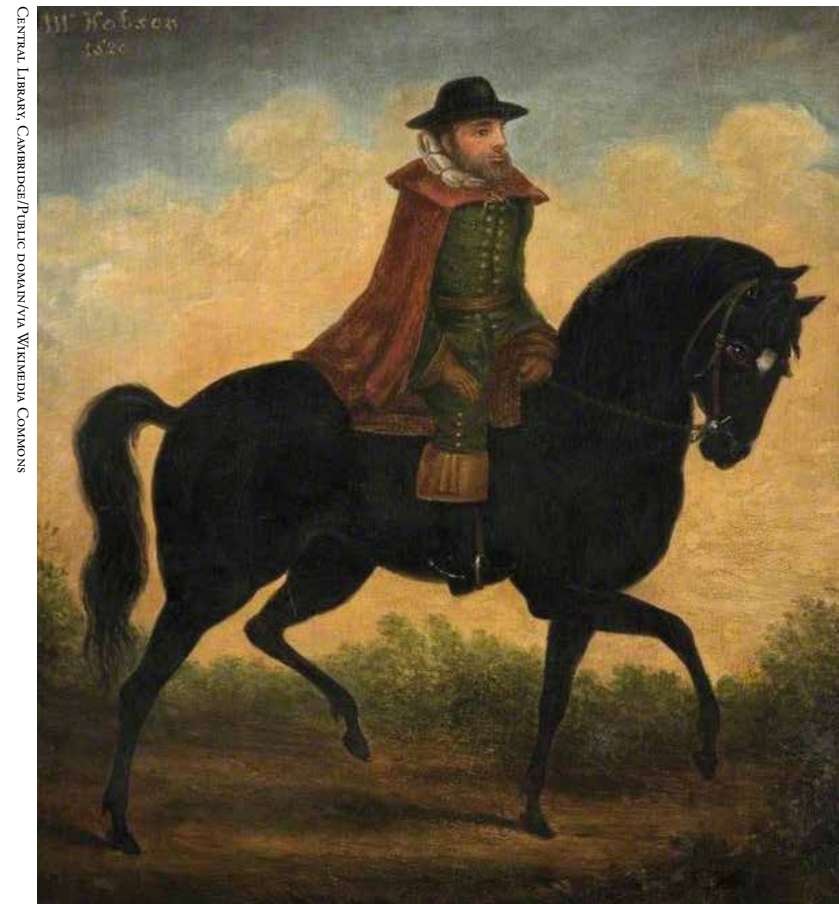
FRANCIS GROSE/CC0/Via Wikimedia Commons

The courtyard of Cowdray House, engraved by Francis Grose, featuring its original fountain prior to relocation

Thomas Hobson, and how two poems by John Milton helped to make him famous

Thomas Hobson perhaps remains the citizen remembered more than any other in Cambridge. In spite of being a donor to Corpus Christi College and being buried in the adjoining church of St Benet's, Hobson held no position in the University. Instead, he ran a business providing postal services, horses for hire, and the carriage of goods from London. These made him well-known, almost indispensable, and led to the personal fortune that allowed his notable charitable donations.

Signifying such generosity, he gave the Spinning House to Cambridge. At the time, the site on St Andrew's Street – opposite Emmanuel and Christ's – was an almshouse-cum-workhouse. Later it became a small prison with its own miniature court, in which the Vice-Chancellor of the University presided. However, Hobson's fame stems primarily from his financial backing of the scheme to bring water to the central areas of Cambridge. With both the civic and academic institutions benefitting from its construction, his backing of this new watercourse has led to his lasting fame, and the use of his name in reference to the eponymous Hobson's Conduit.



CENTRAL LIBRARY, CAMBRIDGE/Public Domain/Via Wikimedia Commons

A 1620 painting of Hobson by an anonymous artist – 'The Cambridge Carrier', demonstrating Hobson's role in Cambridge's trading connection to London

“Hobson Street” is the current name for the one-way thoroughfare that circumnavigates the walls of Christ's and which was – before about 1830 – called “King Street” from the ancient *King's Ditch* whose route ran through it. Before that it was part of “Walles Lane” because its route follows the long boundary of the whole site of Christ's.

If the dates are examined, the death of Hobson in 1631 came just at the end of John Milton's seven years as a student at Christ's (1625–32). Milton's two poems about Hobson – ‘On the University Carrier’ and ‘Another on the same’ – are therefore short, affectionate reminiscences of recent student days. Hobson is thus a figure from the past with unique qualities: pioneer capitalist and philanthropist, both known to readers of John Milton's poetry and memorialised in the naming of the Conduit and of “his” street.”

Where the water flows and the King's Ditch

“Hobson's River” rises in springs some distance due south of Cambridge at Nine Wells. The watercourse runs picturesquely past the Botanic Gardens, down through Brookside to the Conduit Head. The monument which once stood in Market Square is now situated near the T-junction where Trumpington Street begins its route into the centre.

Here it flows at the sides of the road in front of the Fitzwilliam Museum, Peterhouse and Pembroke College. As it passed through busy streets, this part of the supply must have been considerably polluted in the days of horse travel, given it lay open and not in the pipes or tunnels that made up much of its route downstream.

A second branch of the Conduit terminated in the centre of the Market Square – historically known as Market Hill – where the Conduit Head once stood from its erection in 1614 until it was removed to the present location in the mid-1800s. This part of the supply was significant as it brought water – of reasonable purity for the time – into the area where it was of greatest use. It was through this branch that the Conduit provided for the inhabitants and businesses near the end of Petty Cury, the main commercial street and the site of inns that needed plenty of water.



The stone monument to Hobson's Conduit, now located at the corner of Lensfield Road and Trumpington Street

Bill Bowden (CC-BY-SA2.0)



Hobson's Conduit remains visible in the Master's Garden, with this 1995 landscaping incorporating the watercourse

The third branch of “Hobson's Water” flowed east along Lensfield Road and north through Parker's Piece where it split into two streams at Emmanuel College. The first of these passed through runnels in front of Christ's and under the end of Hobson Street when it re-emerged to increase the flow of the King's Ditch, the principal watercourse for scouring the busy and dirty streets.

From the rear of Emmanuel College, the final and longest branch reached Christ's Pieces and entered the Christ's College domus site close to the Fellows' Building. It then goes the short distance into the Master's Garden where it can still be seen today forming a beautiful terminus next to the Darwin Portico. A piped supply also led off in the direction of the Screens and crossed First Court towards the Porters' Lodge.

Why “delta”?

Although a delta should really indicate the points at which a natural river splits into many channels and meets a larger body of water, “delta” has been used in this piece to describe the way in which Hobson's man-made stream moved through the gentle slopes of the centre of Cambridge as its various forks led north. There are three main routes for the water and the third and longest branch divides into two sides to pass into the site of Christ's. The College therefore stood on a sort of ‘island’ between two small and narrow man-made streams conveyed in pipes and coming to the surface only rarely.

Today there is little evidence of this island status with relation to either Hobson's water or the King's Ditch. However, until the development of Third Court at Christ's eliminated most of the above-ground evidence, these watercourses held significance throughout the College site. My conclusion (see *Oasis* below) suggests the following:

Firstly, that although Christ's does not back onto the River Cam as other prestigious colleges such as King's or Trinity do, it did benefit from the supply of water to develop the lovely garden areas we can appreciate to this day – or when perusing Loggan's print of 1690, by which time these green areas had been more thoroughly established.



CHRIST'S COLLEGE ARCHIVE - CC03198

David Loggan's c. 1690 engraving demonstrating the landscaping already in place throughout the 17th century

Secondly, the succession of three main courts with their lawns and trees surrounded by the shelter of buildings resulted in a particularly strong sensation of peace and quiet which reigns at Christ's. A fourth, 'Library' or 'Bath Court', is hidden away – which was formerly a cultivated green space too.



CHRIST'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE

The Fellows' Garden viewed from amongst the foliage where Hobson's Conduit enters the College site

Oasis – the role of *green* in the world of learning and the law

The cult of gardening had reached great heights by the reign of King James I (1603–25) in England. For those who had the free time and the means to enjoy this pursuit, gardens were of the greatest importance. In the engravings of David Loggan (1634–92) are images of colleges such as Christ's, its neighbour Sidney Sussex and – to a lesser extent – colleges in Oxford. Main buildings are shown surrounded by garden walls that hold within them the sorts of features we find described in these words of Robert Burton:

To walk amongst Orchards, Gardens, Bowers, Mounts and Arbours, artificial wildernesses, green thickets, Arches, Groves, Lawns, Rivulets, Fountains, and such like pleasant places, like that *Antiochian Daphne*, Brooks, Pools, Fishponds, betwixt wood and water, in a fair meadow, by a riverside (...) to disport in some pleasant plain, park, run up a steep hill sometimes, or sit in a shady seat, must needs be a delectable recreation.³

In this extract from *The Anatomy of Melancholy* you could be on the Backs in Cambridge, on the Garden Mounts in Exeter College and New College, Oxford; at Eton, or in one of the several spaces shown by Loggan in the grounds of Sidney Sussex and Christ's. These choice spots "*betwixt wood and water*" still exist today offering quiet retreats. London too created its own green spaces amid the city's hurly-burly; this formed an emerging national tradition in which buildings and garden ornaments enjoy a green setting.

Colleges sought to provide as many of such "pleasant places" as they were able to within the enclosing walls that protected their inhabitants from the teeming, unhealthy, plague-afflicted streets outside. The aims were for quietness, seclusion, and spaces for exercise and contemplation. There was a further aim of achieving a degree of self-sufficiency, pursued through growing fruit and herbs, harvesting



CHRIST'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE

The present-day Darwin Garden in the New Court of Christ's, incorporating a statue of a young Charles Darwin and types of flora from his journey on The Beagle

honey and making use of the College's in-house kitchens and brewery, for example. Walls-within-walls helped to create micro-climates, which lengthened growing seasons and provided shelter. Loggan's views are thus full of walled areas such as the Master's Garden at Christ's.

These amenities within College walls were created long before the Victorian cricket grounds, football pitches and boathouses we now accept as part of the landscape of Cambridge, Oxford or other universities. By 1690 a court for ball games or '*Sphaeristerium*' existed just inside the Fellows' Garden to provide in-house facilities for exercise – evidenced by Loggan's engraving. Self-containment was still important just as it had been in the monasteries beforehand. The college that both Milton and Darwin knew depended on its gardens for leisure, some sports and – even more importantly – to foster a serene and contemplative lifestyle within the perimeter walls. It was this blend of architectural grace and horticultural serenity that William Wordsworth also found at London's Inns of Court – an atmosphere that made provision for an inner calm that could lead to intellectual development and academic achievement:

*Conducted through those labyrinths, unawares,
To privileged regions and inviolate,
Where from their airy lodges studious lawyers
Look out on waters, walks, and gardens green.⁴*

Further reading

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Stazicker, E. *Cambridge 1574–1904, a portfolio of twelve maps*. (2020) edited by
Baggs, T. & Bryan, P. Cambridge: Cambridge Records Society
Kensey, M. F. *London's New River in Maps*. (2012). Published by the author.

Notes

1. Christ's College Magazine passim: 2021 no.246 p.54, 2024 no.249 p.103.
2. Bushell, W.D. (1938). *Hobson's Conduit*. Reprint, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012.
3. Burton, R. *The Anatomy of Melancholy*. (1621) edited by Gowland, A. Reprint, London: Penguin Classics, 2023.
4. Wordsworth, W. *The Prelude*. (1850). London: Edward Moxon, p.169–203. Wordsworth made his first journey to London in 1788 during his first Long Vacation from St John's College. The blank verse poem contains an excellent account of the first impressions that the city made on a young, provincial undergraduate.



A VIEW FROM THE GARDEN

James Foster, College Gardener

Dry January Blues (and Greens)

I think it would have been around mid-March, as we sat with our morning cups of tea in the shed talking about the absence of any 'proper' rain, when our Head Gardener Sergio stood up, scratched his beard, stared heavily through the window onto the yard and said, "We'll pay for this." They were words of experience, not grim but definitely delivered with an edge of caution, and with a look I'd previously thought was reserved exclusively for veteran sea captains standing at the helm of their ship. Probably so, we all agreed, not quite sure exactly what 'pay for this' meant. Something to do with the cost of living? There was more sipping of tea and a murmur about a hosepipe ban. Sergio adjusted his battered sou'wester and relit a smouldering pipe before sending us out to swab the decks.

That dry, warm spring had followed a particularly dry winter and, as the temperature crept upwards, the ground beneath us became increasingly dry too. The tops of the trees were lush but their roots were drinking from a very depleted soil. It is early October as I write this and we've only recently seen 'proper' rain. The consequences of the record-breaking heat of this year's summer, as anticipated by our captain and evidenced across county and country, have been all too apparent for plants and gardeners. We talked it about it all the time – you probably did



too. Summer visitors to the College were also keen to talk to us. Amongst the stories: dry lawns in May in the Midlands, and a couple from Gloucester – even Gloucester, famed for its rain showers and waist-high puddles – who lost their allotment vegetables during the Temporary Use Ban (TUB) on hosepipes, which was implemented there in July.

Cambridge relies on water from a chalk aquifer and our last TUB was in 1992. There is a feeling of uneasiness that creeps in during hot summers here, when there are no restrictions on water use: watering is essential if we want to keep our plants alive, particularly those which are new or establishing, but there is always a lingering awareness of the water table and the tremendous strain that it must be under. High abstraction, low water table, dry chalk streams... the potential consequences should be alarming. It is easy to forget this as the temperature drops, rain falls and things feel familiar again. Gardeners retreat into sheds, indoor jobs get done. Brew up, talk about the weather.

The challenges are here, along with great opportunities to adapt and innovate. Increasingly, this is what we discuss amongst the team. Leaving dry discussions for another time and place, I will share greener news from the past year in the gardens – it is equally important to notice these things too.

Bees

Ever the bellwether, our bees emerged early and energetically to gather the spring forage. It brings us much joy to see them begin to zip in and out of their hives as the days get warmer, and, for the beekeepers on the team, there is a feeling somewhere between pride and relief in knowing that our colonies have made it through the winter. We begin regular inspections of the hives as soon as the daytime temperature allows, usually early April, but late March this year. The first task is to locate the queens and check on the health of the brood. We don suits and light the smoker, head into the apiary and gently prise open the first hive. We are greeted with the smell of propolis and spring honey, the sight of brood combs filled with eggs and larvae, the hum of thousands of bees: it is an experience that I cannot really do justice to with words. What follows, however, can be summed up in a single word: anxiety.

Swarming is a natural process, indicative of a healthy, well-resourced colony in the process of successfully propagating itself. We intervene in an effort to curtail and contain this uniquely apine behaviour, but bees always have their own ideas – they've been beekeeping far longer than we have. We had several swarms this year; incredible to watch but it's always hard to lose a good queen and her workers. I take some comfort in the knowledge that they were healthy and happy, and in discovering that this was the experience of many Cambridge beekeepers. [I inadvertently rode my bike through a huge swarm from Emmanuel College on Parker's Piece in April and found the experience rather comforting.] A couple of nifty operations this year allowed us to use the swarming process to our advantage, and we established four new colonies in addition to the three that we took through winter. Whilst flowering periods have often been short-lived in the heat and drought, we have broad diversity in our planting and our bees are hard-working and productive. In the end, the harvest was good – greater, even, than in previous years.

Mulberries



Our venerable *Morus nigra*, with its sprawling crown and gnarled limbs on props, has surely seen some hot summers in its time. It felt the heat and drought, putting on berries a full two weeks earlier than the previous year. They ripened and dropped with such speed that the grass around the tree was a mass of sticky purple for many weeks. Insects, birds, and mammals (we see you, berry-pickers) all had a fantastic time. We rushed to gather ladders, buckets, and volunteers for the harvest in early July. Students join us throughout the year and mulberry picking is a highlight for us all. All told; a harvest weighing just under 20kg (excluding berries eaten by workers). We await an excellent jam from the kitchens.

Vegetables

Now in its fifth year, the planting of seasonal vegetables in the borders of Second Court continues to provide both a visual and literal feast during the summer months. Climbing beans, sunflowers and corn provide height and structure to the long, narrow borders, with colourful chard, tomatoes, herbs, courgettes and edible flowers all rubbing shoulders underneath. We are proud to say that we grow everything for this display from seed – somewhere between 2000 and 5000 plants each year. We carry out trials of different vegetable varieties in beds, bins and



polytunnels in the yard; a recently established allotment in the Master's garden is home to perennials including rhubarb, raspberries and asparagus, and we are always looking to build on the successes of previous years with interesting colours, textures and flavours. We tend and water the plants, watch flowers turn to fruit (thank you, bees), then collect and present a weekly harvest on a trestle table under the archway leading to the Fellows' garden. That Friday vegetable table – curated beautifully by our Deputy Head Gardener, Kelly – is colourful, vibrant and delicious. Staff, students and Fellows emerge, fill bags and pockets, and walk away with dinner. The whole thing is a triumph. It reminds us that the practical can also be beautiful. Food, like water, is something to be celebrated and treasured.

This year, for the first time, we recorded the weekly harvests of our key crops:

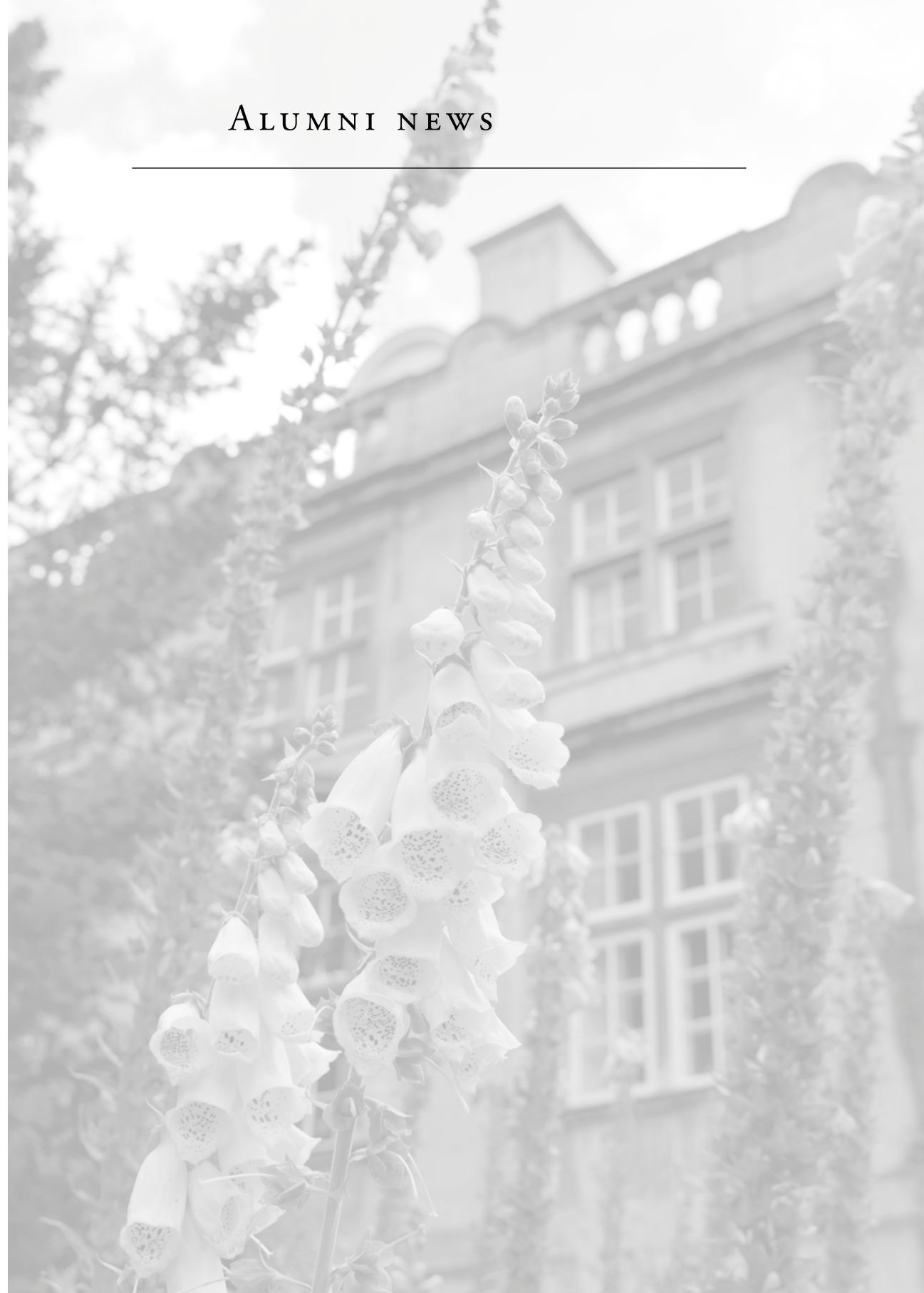
Vegetable Harvest: 2025

Date	Potatoes (kg)	Tomatoes (kg)	Courgettes (kg)	Cucumbers (kg)	Beans (kg)
18 Jul	3	1.1	11	0.5	1.2
25 Jul	3	2.5	6.8	0.8	1
1 Aug	3.1	4	4.3	0.5	1
8 Aug	1.6	10.4	9.7	0.5	1
15 Aug	2.4	8.1	14.2	1	2.1
22 Aug	2.4	6.5	6	1.9	2.3
29 Aug	2.9	3.9	14	1.1	1.5
5 Sep	2.1	2.2	4.7	1.2	1
12 Sep	3.1	3	1.7	1.5	1.1
19 Sep		3.3	2.6	1.3	0.4
26 Sep		3.4	0.5	0.3	0.4
Total (kg)	23.6	48.4	73.7	6	13

Summer is finished, again. We remove bamboo canes and the spent vegetable plants and return to the shed for a quick brew before we start to get things shipshape for next year. The voyage of the seasons continues, as it were. We experiment, explore, and we arrive where we started: watching the garden, talking about the weather. A line – 'and the end of all our exploring' – from T.S. Eliot's 'Little Gidding' comes to mind, especially with its conclusion that we know things and places 'for the first time'. Pollination, food, and water: comfortable, familiar, and taken for granted. Dry Januarys are sobering times.



ALUMNI NEWS



ALUMNI NEWS

Year Group News

1949 Year Group News

David Cawsey
visiting Cambridge
for the wedding of
his granddaughter
Sophie



David Cawsey returned to Cambridge in December for this very happy occasion – a family wedding. The bride is his granddaughter Sophie, Applied Maths PhD and Bye-Fellow at Jesus College. The groom, Matt, is a Pure Maths PhD (Trinity Hall). And the 'usher' on the right is grandson Andrew, MPhil (King's). The marriage was in Jesus College Chapel and the reception in Trinity Hall.

1950 Year Group News

Four members
of the 1950 year
group reunite to
mark 75 years
since their
matriculation



On 1 October – marking 75 years since their matriculation – four members of the 1950 year group gathered for lunch back at Christ's. Joined by partners and guests, **Christopher Barber, James Greenhalgh, Peter White and John Wren** reunited over lunch, followed by a short discussion with the College Archivist Dr Lucy Hughes. Lucy provided more background information on the paintings on display in the Portrait Room and took the opportunity to

display some artefacts from the College archives – including Darwin's signature, some Tudor era playing cards, and the God's House Seal, with the latter dating from the fifteenth century.

1952 Year Group News

Celebrating his 92nd birthday, **Francis Boston** continues his long membership of the Montreal Philatelic Club, of which his wife Jocelyne is Treasurer. This year he has added stamps featuring the profile of King Charles to his extensive collection.

Francis received a visit in the autumn from his daughter, who lives in Stockholm. He has also had occasion to look through his visitors' book, which he started at Christ's in 1954. Francis notes how his first year's worth of visitors included students of 15 different Cambridge colleges, 14 Swedes, 6 Danes, 7 Norwegians and more

than 50 members of Christ's, among them the College Chaplain John Brown, Prince John Lobanow-Rostovsky (m. 1954), and the Professor of Egyptology, Harry Smith.

1955 Year Group Representative **Robin Loveday** reports:

Malcolm Page reports that his annual pattern of living since retiring from the English Department has been nine months of the year in Vancouver and three months in Australia – his wife's roots are in Brisbane. The journey, however, is an ordeal so he may not be able to face it much longer. He also hopes to make a final visit to Britain – to see cousins, plays and art galleries in London. His three sons are settled in Ottawa, Miami and Sydney (going where the careers they wanted took them), and he has six grandchildren.

Robert Mueller is back in the groove, but approaching his 89th birthday his knees finally gave him the unequivocal message last October that he had to stop playing tennis – before ending up on the operating table to get two new ones. Thankfully there is no pain, but unfortunately there is also no more cartilage. After 12 years on the rugby field, 11 on the badminton court, followed by 50 something on the tennis court, it was time to say adieu. So, for both Ingrid and himself, it's occasional Nordic walking in the woods nearby and lots of stretching exercises to keep mobile. As far as the little grey cells are concerned, Ingrid and Robert regularly play bridge at their local club which recently celebrated its 90th birthday. That really keeps mental fitness up; the standard is quite high. His two sons and their families live in Barcelona and Zurich respectively. As travel has become more arduous, their trips abroad have become more difficult.

Richard Simmons continues to live in Lichfield and was happy to meet Robert White recently. Sadly, one of his Christ's friend's – **Michael Ratcliffe** – died not long ago. He has been able to make a final visit to his old school and, despite the lousy train service in Germany at the moment, he and his wife manage to visit both families at least twice a year, which is as good as it can get. He hopes to revisit Christ's before the end of the year, despite much reduced mobility.

Oliver Follows writes: 'The fascination of the pre-war cars has never faded, and I still enjoy the car and maintenance of the ones that I still have. The physical effort of lifting the large components is an increasing challenge but much can be achieved with a hoist and levers.'



Oliver Follows' 1927
twin-cam Lea-
Francis Tourer,
originally built by
the Vulcan Car Co.
in Southport

Roger Marcuson writes: 'Having retired from vascular surgery, I took up horology. Here is a photo of me in the British Museum examining a watch by François Rabby probably made in Paris in about 1715.'

Having not contributed news for the magazine before, **David Hunt** provides an account that brings us up to speed with his life post-Christ's: 'I have spent much of my career as a schoolmaster. I have taught at Merchiston Castle (Edinburgh), Falcon College (Rhodesia/Zimbabwe), Charterhouse (Surrey), Wrekin College (Shropshire), Haileybury (Hertfordshire), and The Doon School (India) – in three of these as Head of English, in two of as Housemaster. For four years I was the Registrar at Haileybury, responsible for publicity and recruiting



Roger Marcuson
inspects an
eighteenth century
watch at the British
Museum. Credit:
Trustees of the
British Museum

internationally. I was the appointed Secretary of the annual Oxford Conference for Education for three years. At all my schools I have directed, and acted in, many stage productions, specialising in Shakespeare.

Subsequently (with my wife) I was for seven years Project Manager for India with GAP, selecting and organising young volunteers to serve during their 'gap year' in many and varied institutions in India (hospitals, schools, orphanages, leper colonies, ashrams, etc.) and regularly visiting their placements to monitor their progress. In retirement (in Sussex) I tutored foreigners privately in English Language and was a regular lecturer on cruise ships, covering worldwide destinations. My subjects were principally Indian history, culture and topography, as well as Poetry and Drama, subjects on which I also lectured in the USA and at international schools in Europe – all stemming from the enthusiasms nurtured at Cambridge.

The past twenty years, living in the Lake District, I have lectured extensively, giving poetry and piano recitals and performing my own poetry in a wide variety of venues – including British embassies, maharajahs' palaces, Wordsworth Trust properties and even the House of Commons.

I particularly treasure the memory of performing *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* at Dove Cottage, in the very room where Coleridge and Wordsworth worked at the second edition of *Lyrical Ballads* – and, again, of performing the same poem to the ship's entire complement of passengers while sailing across the Tasman Sea appropriately accompanied alongside by six albatrosses!

I was also a Trustee and Council Member of the Lake District Summer Music Festival and was active as a licensed Lay Reader in the Carlisle Diocese. I have published two books of my own poems (*Inklings* and *Glimmerings*) and the late Queen Elizabeth personally expressed her appreciation of my poem on the Duke of Edinburgh at the time of his death.

I married, in 1966, Judith Goddard, the daughter of Leslie Goddard, the legendary Rector (headmaster) of St Paul's School, Darjeeling. Born in India and having trained at St Thomas's she was, at the time, running the American hospital for Tibetan refugees, at 10,000 feet in the Himalayas, when, returning from the 1964 Tokyo Olympics to my home in Rhodesia via many Asian countries (and not in the least bit looking for a wife) I was instantly smitten by this competent and dedicated nurse tending so many homeless TB-infected children. Our first date was on Tiger Hill, above Darjeeling, watching the sun rise on Kinchenjunga and the whole Everest range! My proposal, back in Africa, was necessarily by telephone – and Judy later joined me in Rhodesia, where our first two children were born, the third arriving after our return to England. Those early years of marriage were against the backdrop of Rhodesia's illegal Unilateral Declaration of Independence, universal sanctions and the embarrassment of being the pariah of the world.

The family fortunes have long since revived. Judy and I have travelled extensively, for example to the forbidden countries of Tibet on the heels of the Chinese takeover and Russia in the last years of the USSR. Our treks have included Kilimanjaro, the Himalayas in Nepal and Bhutan, the Swiss Alps and the Australian outback. Following our many relocations in nearly 60 years of marriage, we recently moved to the Bristol area – where Judy, suffering from Long COVID, died earlier this year. My Parkinson's Disease has not, fortunately, affected my creative urge. I compose, roughly speaking, a poem a day and I am currently working on a third book of poems, along with my memoirs, which I plan to publish later this year. I owe

much to the stimulus provided by the English Faculty at Cambridge, whose heyday – I am told – coincided with my years there. My love of Milton and Chaucer came from those lectures of C.S. Lewis, whose three years away from Oxford fortunately coincided with my own at Cambridge. Much inspiration came from two habitations – the first in First Court, next to Milton's, and the second with its big view over Parker's Piece. I wonder how many of your readers remember the significance of 'Fourth Court'? My father taught it me before I arrived – and I have used the term occasionally ever since. It certainly involved a trek!



David Hunt

1956 Year Group News

Richard Boxall writes: 'Jennie, my dear wife of 64 years, passed away on 10 July 2024. We met as "blind dates" for the 1957 May Ball. Jennie's brother Alastair was a Scholar and occupied rooms in 2nd Court. We were both members of the May Ball Committee. In those days Christ's, a relatively small college, was unusual in that we held a May Ball every year. My dancing was somewhat limited as I was recovering from a knee injury sustained when climbing into Jesus on the Lent Bump Supper night of that year!'

Peter Downes writes: 'I am continuing to keep as active as I can, given a wonky hip! I sing with two local choirs, play viola in the local orchestra and am Secretary of the local Rotary Club. I am pleased to attend the alumni events that Christ's provides as this gives me the chance to meet up again with old friends from nearly 70 years go! How time flies!'

1957 Year Group Representative **Hamish Donaldson** writes:

Our average age is now about 88 which means the demise of many year group members but also the 60th wedding anniversary of many as well. Sadly, we lost **John Rudolph, Desmond Jones, Peter Colville, Laurence Coventry, Brian Cleobury** and **Michael Hession** last year.

Anthony Harkavy provides an update: 'I continue to write short stories (341 at the latest count) but publishing is not really viable. Otherwise, I am managing to walk up to two miles on a good day, and play beautiful jazz chorded melodies and improvisations on my darling Steinway Model K upright. Looking back, it's a pleasure to recognise how lucky we were all those years ago.'



Anthony Harkavy

John Eardley's outstanding news is that he and Anita were able to celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary: no great 'splash' but a happy time with family, and close friends and neighbours in the garden (the weather was kind). They were the proud recipients of personal greetings from King Charles and Queen Camilla. He no longer has Bishop's Permission to officiate but still manages to 'barrack from the back row', and send out sermons via email, as opportunity arises.

In spite of prostate cancer, **Bob Paterson** still enjoys one morning a week cutting down invasive trees, mainly laurel, sycamore and holly, on Limpsfield Common for the National Trust before adjourning to The Carpenters Arms for well-earned refreshment. Bird-nesting season seems to have become less restrictive this year for

some unfathomable NT reason. For Bob, Bridge, History Society, Arts Society and Probus keep the brain ticking over.

Tony George is still on the Parochial Church Council and doing what little he can to help them meet the challenge of a declining congregation. Otherwise, he just potters along well looked after by great neighbours and a very supportive family.



Jeremy Willings
and his painting
of Sillon Beach,
Brittany

Featured in **Jeremy Willings'** painting is the seafront of Sillon Beach stretching from Paramé to St Malo in Brittany. It was a beautiful mid-June morning with bright sunshine creating a wonderful contrast of light and shadow. Over the last year Jeremy has been very active, travelling extensively in the Indian Ocean area and in Europe. He was able to spend a week in Florence last November and enjoyed viewing its Renaissance treasures as well as indulging in Florentine cuisine and fine wines. He attended motor racing at Goodwood, the Le Mans 24 hours race and attended the En Primeur wine tasting in Bordeaux in April. He even enrolled in a local gymnasium in January this year to keep his body in good condition.

Ian Brook writes to say that his wife died at the end of 2023 but he is reasonably fit and well. He is still painting watercolours, playing bridge and trying to improve his Italian. He may get to one of the Christ's reunions one day, though many of our contemporaries have died.

Michael Edwards' year has been pretty full again. The book of poems *A Country for Old Men* is finished, and he is hoping to complete another poetry volume in French. Work is under way on a study of poetry, *Anaktisis* (recreation, new creation), as a more accurate way of understanding poetry and all the arts than Aristotle's Mimesis. He is going to have a 'poetic chair' in sculpted metal dedicated to him as one of the 'prominent alumni' of the Cité Internationale Universitaire de Paris. It will be placed in the park of the Cité, along with others recalling former residents Sartre, Aimé Césaire, and Léopold Sédar Senghor. A particular pleasure was supplying another poem to be set to music for the ensemble Rejoyce, one of whose founders is **Tom Baarda** (m. 2017), a Christ's alumnus. Michael sends greetings to all our year, especially to good friends who he's not seen since our time together.

Edward Stewart lives in a beautiful old presbytery, looking out over green fields to Warwick in the distance. He send good wishes to all of Class 57. **Hugh Westmacott** and **David Hargreaves** also send best wishes, as does **John Nye**, who is suffering from macular degeneration. **Ben Sladen** has to use a walker and is no longer able to drive. **Alan Munro** is no longer very active but welcomes visitors to Rock Road. **Donald Steel** has been writing a tribute to **Ronnie Hoare** (m. 1958) which will appear in the next issue of the *Magazine*.



Philip
Edmondson

Philip Edmondson reports that life goes on mundanely as usual, gardening in the Cotswolds and fishing on the Loddon at Stratfield Saye. However, he has been putting together an account of eighteenth century medicine practised at the Gloucester Royal Hospital, following the discovery of some previously unknown manuscripts, which will be given to the Gloucester Heritage Records Hub in a few months' time. Be very thankful that you were not born 300 years ago!

Roger Cass continues to live in Camarillo, California, just north of Los Angeles. He is celebrating his 61st wedding anniversary with his wife Jean and has five of six children living in California while the eldest (60) is in Arundel, Sussex. They have multiple grandchildren, so are very fortunate.

Richard Gregory has tried a bit of writing and is waiting for a peer review. He notes that the world of academic publishing has altered out of all recognition. The people who want to recreate dinosaurs need to reflect how the poor dinosaur will feel being catapulted millions of years out of its time!

Last autumn **Chris Eyles** took Amtrak across the Rockies and spent three weeks touring the National Parks of Utah and Arizona with American relations, with a brief diversion into New Mexico, ending in Salt Lake City. He took the helm of HMS Portland, a 4,900-ton Type 23 frigate 33 metres long, travelling at 28 knots, during a day trip from Devonport to the Eddystone Lighthouse with a group from The Worshipful Company of Scriveners. A few weeks later, on a trip to Morocco, he tried to emulate Lawrence of Arabia. However, he never did manage to find the mount's clutch, accelerator or brake. In the Spring he entertained Rachel and **Carl Whitehouse** for a few nights in Marlow. He hopes that they, as well as Pauline and **Rodney Hillman**, will help to celebrate their Diamond Wedding in August at a lunch party in the Library of the Royal Society of Chemistry in Burlington House. Chris continues as Treasurer of Marlow and District U3A and of his professional institute's benevolent fund. He and Win still sing in Marlow Choral Society and continue to hike with our U3A's 'Wednesday Walkers'. In October he is due to be installed as Master of Marlow Lodge No. 2752. He has, however, realised that, despite being a relative youngster of only 86, it is probably unwise to continue to pilot a small plane so has hung up his headset and will be letting his licence lapse.

Norman Thomson is actively trying to rescue a magnificent early twentieth century church in Forres, which houses the finest single collection of stained glass by an Aberdeen born artist called Douglas Strachan, widely acclaimed to be the finest Scottish, and one of the finest British, artists in this field. This is the second largest such collection, funnily enough the largest is in Cambridge, in Westminster College. A Trust has been set up of which Norman is secretary, which is seeking to buy the building from the Church of Scotland as a community asset, something for which there is widespread public support – it also helps to have the Lord Lieutenant on-side as President and one of the main active trustees.

Fred Cooke's wife writes that Fred has dementia but is well looked after by very kind staff in a care home. His legacy, it seems, has not been forgotten as he has been included in the Pioneers of Canadian Wildlife list for the research he did on various species of North American birds during his academic career.

Tom Burton meets **Sam Legerton** two or three times a year. He also hears from **Ben Sladen** and keeps in touch with **Richard Luce**.

The photograph (overleaf) shows the survivors of the Christ's 1st VIII that won its oars in the 1960 Lent races having a reunion at Henley Royal Regatta this summer. From left to right **Kit Joy** (m. 1958), **Norman Bardsley** (m. 1958), Linda Donaldson, Debbie Lloyd (widow of **Chris Lloyd**, m. 1959), **Tim Parkinson** (m. 1958), **John**



Chris Eyles rides a
dromedary on a trip
to Morocco

Members and loved ones of the 1960 Christ's 1st VIII at the Henley Regatta



Brindley (m. 1959), **Hamish Donaldson**, **George Astbury** (m. 1955). For tea they met **Mike Muir Smith** (m. 1962) and **Bill Howkins** (m. 1960) the survivors of the very talented Christ's crew that won the Visitors Challenge Cup for coxless fours in 1963 – probably the last time a college crew has won an event at Henley.

Sam Legerton reminds us that the proposed new local village development is now entering the final battles between Tarmac (gravel extractors), Cadent, (whose 48" Gas Pipeline stands in the way), Greater Crested Newts (ditto) and the Local Footpath Society; battles which are being played out within sight of their bedroom. Costs are escalating. The final objective is still a new village of 6,000 houses for 14,000 people over the next 30 years. It could be self-sufficient. Water from an ever-running stream and from the chalk 200' below the gravel. Solar panels, wind turbines and an on-site anaerobic digester only require the addition of a battery store. Sadly, he won't be here to orchestrate, nor to drink in The Caledon Arms or The Farmers Rest.

Hamish Donaldson continues to be chairman of Haslemere Festival although he has managed to pass the planning of the Arts Festival to a younger volunteer. During the year the festival ran a Christmas Market, Cycling Sportive, Arts Festival, Classic Car Show plus a concert to mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day (complete with full-size replica Spitfire).

1958 Year Group News

David McGill writes: 'Many years ago when I took up golf, I vowed never to use a buggy. To me, it is a walking game. I regret to announce that advancing years have forced me to break that vow. However, by contrast, I can now celebrate 50 years membership of the MCC.'



Morton and Brenda Voller

Morton Voller writes: 'In mid-2021 we moved back to the greater Houston area to be closer to our one surviving son and his family and after three years moved to a fully-served very comfortable retirement community nearby.'

Through retirement years I (with Brenda) have enjoyed numerous trips to the UK for fun and/or family events and to Christ's and to many great destinations around the world, including two with **Mike Elliott** (now passed)

a mate at Christ's and in lodging... and wife Ann. Life has its ups and downs but we have been blessed.'

1960 Year Group News

John Pollard writes: 'Last year, on the 8th June 2024, I celebrated the 50th anniversary of my best known algorithm, the Pollard rho method for factorisation (published in 1975). The Pollard rho method for discrete logarithms was published in 1978. For information about both, put "Pollard rho" into Google, Wikipedia or YouTube.'

Daryl Barker writes: 'Many years ago I was given some seeds from the 'winter sweet' (*Chimonanthus praecox*) in the First Court by Merle Rolfe, former College Steward and friend. One of them has grown into a tall and healthy tree and every winter it has produced copious scented flowers.'



Daryl Barker's well-established 'winter sweet'

1961 Year Group News

It is exactly 60 years since **Gideon Ben-Tovim** graduated after studying Moral Science and Social Anthropology, having come to Christ's from St Paul's School as a Classics Scholar. As a student he acted in eight productions, including with Trevor Nunn, Richard Eyre, Michael Apted and Miriam Margolyes, and one with George Rylands in Ancient Greek! He sang with the Original Christian Minstrels.



Gideon Ben-Tovim

After completing his MSc in Sociology at the London School of Economics, Gideon was appointed Lecturer in Sociology at the University of Liverpool, ending his career there as Reader with a long track record of teaching, research, publications and training in his specialist field of Race, Ethnic and Community Relations.

At the same time Gideon was active in local politics, serving as a Councillor (Labour) on Liverpool City Council with spells as Chair of Education and Leader of the Opposition, as Chair of Liverpool Community College and several school governing bodies, and as Chair of Merseyside Race Equality Council.

After retiring from academia and local politics, Gideon became an NHS Chair, serving as Chair of Liverpool Primary Care Trust and Chair of the Innovation Agency Northwest coast. He was appointed OBE for services to health in 2013.

He is currently active in the environmental field as Chair of the Liverpool City Region Climate Partnership and Chair of the Liverpool City Region Local Nature partnership.

He lives in Sefton Park Liverpool with his wife Marge. They have three daughters and seven grandchildren, and a great grandson. He is still in touch with his old Christ's friend, **Malcolm Mackenzie**.

Bill Kyte writes: 'I was awarded a Major Open Scholarship to Christ's where I studied for a degree and doctorate in Chemical Engineering. Whilst at Christ's I met my future wife, Jennie, on a skiing trip organised by **Pat Schicker**. We have just celebrated our Diamond Wedding Anniversary. I also toured Europe, camping and travelling over 3,000 miles, in an old Morris 8 with **Roger Grenville Jones** (m. 1960). We are still in touch with both Pat and Roger.'

I worked in the electricity sector for 50 years in numerous roles – from nuclear safety through pollution control to climate change politics. Whilst working on

power station Flue Gas Desulphurisation (FGD) in the 1980s, I collaborated with colleagues in our construction division including **Charles Langer**.

At the power company E.ON SE, I ended a long and interesting career as Senior Advisor on Sustainable Development and Climate Change issues in Europe and the United Nations (UN). During my career I attended the UN Climate Change Conferences at many interesting worldwide venues where I interacted with world leaders and others making the case that business could be the solution, rather than the problem, for combatting climate change.

I was a founder of and am now the Honorary President of the UK Emissions Trading Group (ETG) which advises the government. I was Chief Advisor, International Climate Policy and Board Member at EURELECTRIC (the European Electricity Association) in Brussels. I was instrumental in persuading the UK government to introduce a Cap & Trade policy, which led to the UK Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS), rather than the Treasury's favoured carbon tax which, in turn, influenced the subsequent European Union (EU) ETS.

Internationally, I was the Director of the International Electricity Partnership representing the Electricity Associations of the EU, US, Japan, South America, Canada and Australia on climate issues. I am also a Fellow of the International Emissions Trading Association (IETA).

I was awarded an OBE in 2003 for 'Services to the Environment in the Power Sector' in recognition of my work on climate change.

Since my retirement I have continued to take an active role in UK and EU climate change policy through both ETG and IETA including working to link the UK and EU ETSs.

During my career I have noticed, in government, science is important but politics takes precedence. In business, and more so in government, institutional memories are short, and much effort and time is often wasted in 'reinventing the wheel'.

1962 Year Group Representative Brian Lott writes:



*Murray Gillin
(centre right) at
his 90th
birthday lunch*

Murray Gillin was in Cambridge for a short visit in April and left a copy of his biography *Make it Happen* in the College library. He celebrated his 90th birthday in May and had the privilege of being hosted for a dinner at the RACV Club in Melbourne by a group of his past PhD grads, research colleagues and business associates.

Tim Callan had an exciting Christmas in Spain and has a regular stream of international visitors to his flat in Kensington – he and I both miss our regular lunches with the multi-talented **Peter Brewin** who was my best friend for 62 years and Tim's room-mate throughout his three years at Christ's, in Second Court, Glisson Road and then Midsummer Common. We attended Peter's memorial service in January in Plaxtol church, which was packed with local and international friends and colleagues, including representatives of Powdrex, the company he led for many years.

Robin Thompson also attended Peter's service but has since had a serious fall which fractured his neck. After some excellent neuro-surgery on his spinal cord at

St George's Hospital, Tooting, he is making good progress in rehabilitation. Robin was a good friend of **Geoff Hunt** who died recently and had some input for an obituary of Geoff's life.

Granville Tunncliffe-Wilson also knew Geoff Hunt well. Granville and Jean's travels this year have been more local: to their daughter and family in Cockermouth; a train trip to Rugby to Jean's brother and other childhood friends in the area, and a stay at the Wheatsheaf in Crick; and a family gathering in The Lakes.



*Granville's
family gathering
in The Lakes*

At home, they have become more accepting of the encroaching brambles and nettles, and enjoyed watching a roe deer and two fauns browsing their hawthorn hedge. The greenhouse and soft fruit are productive and from one hive they have collected a spring crop of honey.

We also lost **Peter Mrkusic** in February this year. He had written just before Christmas of his extraordinarily happy time in England and Dubrovnik with his granddaughter Amelie who is a prefect at Geelong Grammar School and hoping for a place at Christ's. In October his son **Greg Mrkusic** (m. 1994) and family visited Peter in South Africa; they rented a villa in Pilanesberg game reserve with his other son Paul and partner Fanie. Peter had been playing bridge and tennis regularly but back trouble and a minor car accident had restricted his activities latterly. He was experiencing some headaches and was admitted to hospital in January in Johannesburg where advanced brain cancer was diagnosed and he died a month later.

Ian Laing is still skiing and enjoyed a holiday in the French Alps with his daughter – it was magical with brilliant sunshine and fresh snow. He is on a 14-day cruise around Iceland on the Queen Anne. He keeps in touch with **Godfrey Newman** with whom he plays scrabble several times a day – very competitive and generally about evens. He also exchanges the occasional philosophical email with **Nick Everitt** and put the world to rights over a pub lunch in Barnes with **Tony Rogerson**.

Donald Forsdyke writes from Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario. During the Covid pandemic embalmers worldwide were astonished to find white clots in the blood vessels of bodies of victims. The case that this phenomenon was well-known in the pre-antibiotic era, where infections were common and more often fatal, was made in vain by Donald but is now formally published in the journal *Biosystems*. Donald's paper, published in *Biosystems* in December 2024, touches on the hubristic overreach of the disciples of those who proclaimed "the modern synthesis" of the works of Darwin and Mendel. A chance discovery of marginalia in the final work of George Romanes (Caius), by a Cambridge graduate (brother-in-law of Virginia Woolf), further establishes linkage between the evolutionary ideas of Romanes (Darwin's young research associate) and William Bateson (St John's College).

Roger Pilkington is still actively involved, working three days a week with his son in the family business which specialises in parquet wood flooring and has had a collaboration with the largest Austrian manufacturer for more than 50 years. The company is hoping to be involved in the College's new library project.

Mike Muir-Smith has written a strong letter to Lord Ridley bemoaning the lack of engineering and scientific input to the policies promoted by the Government

and Civil Service which ignore the economic and environmental benefits of the hydrogen economy and promote EVs despite the impossibility of powering all the EVs projected by 2050. Cheap, environmentally-benign reciprocating engines are already running on hydrogen, and the gas distribution infrastructure which has been in place for more than a century would require minimal adaptation at a fraction of the cost and environmental impact of upgrading the electricity grid.

Robin Kerr was diagnosed last September with one of the bone-marrow cancers, myeloma, and is nearing the end of six months chemo. It has not been a barrel of laughs but he is alive. He and Sarah were able to attend the Head of the Cam dinner in College last April and the associated boat-naming ceremony. At the time of writing they are looking forward to a post-chemo holiday in the West Highlands in July – August.

We can sympathise, as my wife Judy has just finished a tough six months of weekly chemo and we are just off to Portugal, followed by Ireland and Norfolk for some R&R near the sea during the next three months. We travelled extensively in 2024 but so far this year have spent most of our time in London where Judy has been enjoying her three new grandchildren born last year and recently joined by a fourth when her daughter Ellie gave birth to Thelma in April. I had to have an unexpected triple heart by-pass operation in May and have recovered well; we sold our house in June and moved to a smaller rented house nearby which we are enjoying after a very busy two months moving. In June I attended an Old Felstedian Society lunch at the In and Out Club in St James, and a Fisher Society lunch in College.

1963 Year Group Representative Graham Tite relays:

Colin Simpson writes: 'As a keen member of U3AC (University of the Third Age in Cambridge), I co-lead the Bridge Street Bridge Group. In the holidays, independently of U3AC, I co-host weekly sociable bridge sessions in the communal lounge of my West Chesterton retirement development. If you think you might be interested, please contact the Development Office who can forward your details.'

Andrew Armit writes: 'My interests include the reduction of annoying artifacts in the sound of 78rpm records and from piano rolls. In each case I am building hardware with micro-processor control. It is not so much whether it is new, but that I gain pleasurable insights into solutions. Consideration is also given to combating hearing loss in others and Parkinson's Disease in me, for which I have built a wrist-worn metronome-like device to overcome (or at least mitigate) freezing of gait. This helps me, but has got no serious interest. I am not good at self-promotion. My progress has been slowed by installing a bathroom in my sister-in-law's holiday home. I have been on my hands and knees to do the floor, bath, wc, basin. I am the plumber – to be ignored by the local population in the holiday resort but accepted by the local builders as they toot their horn seeing me mending the doorframe and sill.'

Richard Greenhalgh made arrangements for an in-person event in London for our year and lots of us met for lunch on 17 October at a splendid Edwardian building in Wimpole Street, the Royal Society of Medicine. It was a great success, and the guests are all grateful to Richard and to Alexandra Rowlands and the Master who both kindly joined us. A full list of our names as Freshmen was discussed as we were seen in the group photo gathered around Dr Pratt, then Senior Tutor, whose legendary activities and eccentricities were main subjects during the four-hour lunch.

At our age it was appropriate that we should convene at a medical centre of excellence and those of us who came or have otherwise e-mailed include: **Chris Chapman**, who now lives with his family in a village near Cambridge but also travels widely and often goes to their holiday flat in Venice. Others there were **Chris Brooker**, **Peter Coltman**, **Tim Hill** and **Jeremy Hilton**, all much-valued members of our English Tripos sub-group (the largest subject represented I believe). Others attending were: **John Bayes**, **David Parkinson**, **Richard Josephy**, **Richard Fidler**, **Tim Barnes**, **Stephen Morris**, **Andrew Armit**, **Richard Arthur**, **Richard Chaplin**, **Patrick Horrigan**, **John Scriven** (with apologies from **Tony Backhouse**, **Tony Hill**, **Roger Higgs**, **Alan Milton**, **Brian Turner** and **Peter Holman**).

Robert Grimley spoke the words of the College Grace as he also did on the 6 September when eight of our group were able to attend in the Hall for a splendid feast laid on by the College by way of a reunion for old members of various dates. Robert also writes: 'It was an honour to be invited to preach at the Commemoration of Benefactors in December and to be a guest at the Feast afterwards. The service offered an opportunity to reflect again on our foundress, Lady Margaret de Beaufort's own motto which she bestowed on the College: *Souvent me souvient* – "I often recall" or "Remember me often" – a very appropriate theme for a sermon to remember with gratitude our benefactor of old right down to our own contemporaries and successors.'

1964 Year Group Representatives Mike Jenner and **Roy Nettleship** write on behalf of their year group:

As with many of us, 80 is passing us by this year, so to celebrate, **Ian Harvey** and DeAnne Julius headed off with the children and their families for an "activity" holiday in Greece – sailing, dinghies, paddle-boarding, biking, tennis etc. Ian says: 'It's great to see the teenage grandchildren beginning to excel at the things we enjoyed so much 65 years ago. Some things, such as bike technology, have changed immensely. Other basics, like gybing a dinghy in a good breeze with the spinnaker up, have not!'



Ian Harvey and DeAnne Julius in Greece

Having just spent a couple of weeks hiking around Verbier, Ian is in the UK, where he needs to prepare for an IP conference in Sweden at the end of the month. He says: 'Given the Trumpian assaults on different parts of our economic structures, I hold my breath hoping that IP will not enter his sights. With his assaults on academic research in the US, invalidating Chinese IP in the US to 'benefit' US companies (which he could do) would be yet another blow to the long-term competitiveness of the US. Fingers crossed, as we all need the US to remain a strong and competitive economy.'

Mike Jenner has taken up boxing this year following a programme developed specially for Parkinsons patients. This is in addition to a daily regime of exercises. There is no cure for Parkinsons, but research has proved that exercise is beneficial.

Michael Jones can't think of anything and certainly nothing he would want to read if it was written by anyone else! **Ben Lewin's** book *The Frontiers of Science* will be published by the Royal Society of Chemistry in the autumn. **Andrew Lister** was in touch, but just to confirm that he had nothing newsworthy to tell us.

For **Nigel Martin** the last year has had its moments as he discovered that HDTV really was better than ordinary TV, one of the benefits of two successful cataract

operations. He continues with the Golf Croquet alongside **Peter Tymms** (m. 1969) at the Riverside in Chester-le-Street, as well as his annual walking week (last year near Newbury along the Thames Path) with his wife and two fellow alumnae of New Hall and the spouse of one of them (Downing). Their annual trip to Scotland to see daughter and husband included a week's dog-sitting while the latter (husband, not dog) did the Norseman Ultra Triathlon!

For **Roy Nettleship** and Ruth, the weather so different from last year has been no easier for sailing. The wind has often been too strong (for them), and at other times they have been sheltering from the all-pervading heat and sunshine. The garden has received some attention and has survived the dryness remarkably well. Journeys to various far-flung corners of the country have provided great enjoyment. **John Parker** has been telling various Probus, U3A and Rotary groups in the South Yorkshire Area about Glass and Sustainable Living but shortly will be herding sheep across Southwark Bridge to exercise his rights as a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Glass Sellers of London.

Dick Peacock is still active (President) in the Cambridge Society of Ottawa. Members enjoy the summertime lunches on a café patio every fortnight, and one individual in the Oxford Society usually joins us there "because we are more fun". The Society hosted the Boat Race Brunch again (with Oxford and friends) this year at a pub. Lots of people came and had a great time watching the races live on YouTube (one hour delay to cope with opening hours for the pub). **Guy Goodman** (m. 1959) was there too.

Paul Ramsay continues as a Reader (now the only one) at St Mary's Nantwich, taking services there and at a care home, as well as funerals. As Chairman of the Nantwich Parish Church Preservation Appeal Trust he is project manager for the project to restore the North and East Elevations of this Medieval Church and on which work began in July 2024. Phase One is fully funded with donations from some grant bodies and is well in hand to be complete in August 2025. An appeal was started in July 2024 for phase two, which has raised £50,000 locally but needs some major funding, applications for which have so far been unsuccessful. Paul had a Transurethral Prostatectomy in December which curtailed activities before and after, but he is now fully recovered.

Much of **Michael Smith's** time has been spent on a waiting list for various clinics and an operation that he would have hoped, even in his own former surgical discipline of Urological Surgery, would have been carried out very much sooner. A renal 'tumour' was picked up as an incidental finding on a scan for another reason in mid-May 2024. This led to a more detailed scan which confirmed the tumour. It was considered 'somewhat risky' to biopsy by needle. It was small, found by chance and asymptomatic, therefore could be left and followed up by subsequent scans or removed. With an 80% chance of malignancy, he opted for surgery in mid-July. This was cancelled at the last moment at the end of November whilst he was ready to get on the trolley to go to theatre. Surgery took place in late December, a wait of seven and a half months from identification as a possible malignancy. Fortunately, it was a rare benign tumour.

The other highlight for Michael was the installation of 20 extra solar photovoltaic panels and solar batteries. Their net usage of electricity from the grid is zero on many of the summer days and export to the grid can be tracked. Their electricity bill has plummeted. However, a few 'delays' has meant that they are still

waiting to be paid for their Smart Energy Generation, which probably will not be backdated. So much for their effort to go very green and be paid for this. For the future, they are planning a last safari in Zambia in the late autumn, just at the end of the dry season and start of the wet season there. Michael has taken up bowling as a hobby and will be competing in his first tournament this summer.

Martin Stentiford has had a terrible 12 months. Claire – his beloved wife, partner, best friend for almost 40 years – lost her long and painful battle with cancer and it has been a truly horrible year. His boys and his siblings, his extended family and friends have been hugely supportive, for which he is truly grateful. The boys and one of his sisters-in-law arranged for them all to spend Christmas in France, Claire's first missing Christmas, and they tried to create a family Christmas as if she was still with them – it was quite successful. Martin is trying to get his life back on line but the loss of a loved one is much more devastating than you can imagine.

Ian Tattersall is relieved to report that life in New York City is still tolerable, current events in the public sphere notwithstanding. He has recently shifted his research in a historical direction, which he hopes will get him back to his old haunts in Madagascar. He was sorry to have had to miss this year's reunion dinner in College, but with luck will make the next one.

For **David Waczadze**, the two highlights of the current year were passing his 80th birthday without too many scars and travelling to Georgia to see his newly found relatives. His father left Georgia in 1922 when the Bolsheviks took over the country, but his elder sister (David's aunt) stayed behind. As there was no communication between them during the Soviet era all trace of her was lost. Three years ago, a Georgian guide and Facebook led to the discovery of a multitude of fourth and fifth generation 'cousins' who were direct descendants of David's aunt. He and his wife were welcomed there for the third time this year, once again with typical overwhelming Georgian hospitality and generosity. Their visit enabled them to experience at first hand the divisions in the Georgian society between pro- and anti-government. It is so sad to see this adorable jewel of a country with its talented population and rich culture caught between the West and Russia. Otherwise still enjoying retirement in Alsace.

John Whicher had a superb 80th birthday party when his whole family, all 13 of them, hired a mansion in the Loire, in France, for a week of celebrations, wine and fabulous food. Apart from that, he and his wife Jenny continue to fly their small aeroplane to barbecues at farm strips all over the south-west of England. They have just started running a U3A Geology group in Sherborne and are hunting for speakers for the winter session, any offers welcome! John continues to write papers on geological matters. The garden has dried out so much that lots of plants have died which should reduce the workload next year. Their aeroplane is a Skyranger Nynja, one of the most popular microlights in the UK, which they built from a kit in 2016–17, taking about nine months to complete. It is a French design but interestingly most of the kit parts were manufactured in the Ukraine, which had a big aircraft industry in Soviet times, subsequently



*John and Jenny
Whicher with their
Skyranger Nynja*

repurposed to build parts for many different European aircraft manufacturers, but now busy making drones. It is lovely to fly, and they particularly enjoy visiting farm strips throughout the south-west.

Mike Williams notes that as fellow alumni of our age approach the age of 80, we are told that both physically and psychologically, this is something of a watershed. Our achievements in the world of business, if any, seem to fade into the distance and family, mobility and golf handicap (or rather its relentless march upwards), move more centre stage. Grandchildren's prowess and family gatherings – a jolly week at Christmas with 18 of them, including a 98-year-old Bevin boy coal miner now great-grandfather, remind them of the delights as well as the challenges of old age. Thoughtfully he has declined to trouble us with details of their international excursions though a daughter in Australia with her family sadly means they have no option but to continue to enjoy/endure the vicissitudes of airline dinners.

1965 Year Group News

Wynne Aveling is enjoying living in Sussex, only 30 minutes from Glyndebourne and still making an annual trip there with **Andrew Turnbull** (m. 1964) and his wife Diane. He writes: 'I have come to realise that I will never complete the 50 remaining Munros as I have run out of people to walk with and those left are all the most remote ones. Caught up with **Bob Fieldsend** who is in fine form and still playing tennis.'

Jim Mackison writes: 'In May my wife and I went on a four-day trip to Verona. I had long been interested in that city, not just for the Shakespeare connections and the famous Roman arena but because I was involved in planning the original British Airways LGW/VRN route start-up back in the 1990s. As far as family is concerned, my daughter, Tamiko Dooley, played Grieg's 'Butterfly' at Brighton Station on Channel 4's *The Piano*, Series 3, Episode 2. As a mum of two, Tamiko now has more time for music after ten years as a city lawyer. On the composing front she is developing a musical called *Flyology*. With her co-creator she has organised workshops and stage reading performances around the London area. If you like musical theatre, search 'Flyology musical' to check out the chaos. It's been a joy to follow the emerging project.'

Having finally retired at 77, **Tom Swallow** has been able to increase support for wife Mary as Volunteer Fence Judges in Eventing Cross-Country Horse Trials across the UK. Following an ill-judged – and now abandoned – return, after 55 years, to long-distance motorcycle trials, the allotment is better weeded than ever, and the grandchildren are indulged enthusiastically.

He notes how the Crustaceans have rowed with distinction – or at least persistence – in the Fairbairns, Head of the Cam, St Ayles Skiff World Championships at Stranraer, and Monster The Loch Ness race. Crews have included:

Dan Davidson (m. 1966) and Clare, favourite grandpa and Captain of Aberdeen Rowing Club.

Peter Nelson (m. 1965) and Vivienne, still travelling regularly to Africa supporting development projects.

Gavin Suggett (m. 1966) farmer and actively reforesting his Sutherland hillsides.

David Walden (m. 1965) and Jean racing regularly at Taunton Rowing Club.

Rob Holdsworth (m. 1975) and Julia, leaping headlong with great enthusiasm and success into any and every rowing opportunity, following his later start on the river at Worcester Rowing Club.

We await the return to health of **Robin Kerr** (m. 1962) and **Richard Kenning** (m. 1966), for both of whom a seat awaits in the next Fairbairns.

1966 Year Group representative **Gordon Beer** writes:

'The highlight of the year for me was last September's fiftieth and final annual meeting of the Satchel Club which is reported in more detail by David Banford below. In June this year I returned north to my native Yorkshire for a sad final Alumni day at Fulneck, my old school outside Pudsey. I had heard that the school could not continue with falling numbers and the VAT onslaught. The school was founded in 1753 by the Moravians who had come, a few years earlier, from Fulnek – a village in the Czech Republic and the birthplace of the Moravian Church. Having arrived as a thirteen-year-old eleven plus and thirteen plus failure I owe a great deal to the quality education I received. We will of course continue with the annual Old Boys Dinners!'

David Banford has provided a potted history of the Satchel Club:

'In an inducement not to take ourselves, or life, too seriously a group of 1969 Christ's College graduates founded The Christ's College Satchel Club on 1st June 1974 at Anthony and Caroline Nelson's matrimonials at The Hyde Park Hotel in London.

The first meeting was held at Charlie Steven's hostelry in Winsford on Exmoor on 4th October 1974 and the three-day meetings across the country (and one year in France) have been held every year since then for 50 years, with the exception of the 2020 Covid year. So, 50 years of jollity, camaraderie and friendship cemented by half a century's passage of time. Always the same format with a revolving Hon Sec to set the date after collection of the annual dues which reached finally £100. Informal beer and often darts on the Friday night, a long hike (often a climb as well) on the Saturday reducing somewhat as Anno Domini took its toll. A Black tie dinner (in the later years) on the Saturday night with full College grace and fine wines, followed by speeches (due to a surfeit of lawyers perhaps) and minutes of the prior year's gathering. Our final meeting was the 19th to 21st September 2024 back in College. The photo below records the eleven of us and the Master and his wife in the Fellows' Garden last September before our final dinner together. Those present left to right in the photo were **John Bailey**, **Mike Harris**, **Gordon Beer**, **Anthony Nelson**, **David Banford**, **Peter Broadbent**, **Tim Cartmell**, **Bill Charles** (m. 1967), **Chris Durnford**, **Mike Vaughan** and **Mike King**. **Terence Kyle** (m. 1965) was sadly absent ill. From our original sixteen we had lost four - **Alan Mogg** in 1999, **Charles Ap Simon** in 2004, **David Robinson** and **Chris Radbone** in 2023. So, through the years many, many high jinks including a Health and Efficiency barman and forfeits aplenty.



Members of the Christ's College Satchel Club gather with the Master of Christ's College at a 2024 September Reunion

Members of
the former
Christ's College
Satchel Club
gather at the
Henley Royal
Regatta

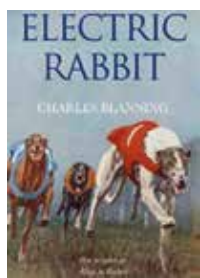


A great testament to Christ's College friendships and bonhomie. Now it's time to pass the baton on to a new generation. *Exhilarator omnium Christe!* The Satchel Annual Minutes filling nine notebooks and accompanying photographic evidence were consigned to the Guy Fawkes bonfire on 5th November 2024.

David also writes: 'On a scorching hot day, the first of July 2025, when the mercury hit 36.9° in Henley, 14 members of the former Christ's College Satchel Club gathered to celebrate Christ's camaraderie and our ladies on the first day of The Henley Royal Regatta, with a 'Lady Satchel' gathering, the first time in 52 years that ladies were invited. Luckily there was a shirt-sleeves order issued by the Regatta organisation in the nick of time, so that those with regulation flannel blazers from the 1970s were spared the excruciating difficulties of wearing winter wear in the torrid heat!

A jolly day was enjoyed by all with no College Latin grace or speeches – might be a pattern for the future occasional get-together, perhaps at The May Bumps at Fen Ditton in 2026?

Philip Kitcher writes: 'I do have a couple of things to report: a Frontiers of Knowledge Award and a new book. The latter descends from the C.P. Snow Lecture I gave at Christ's in March 2023 and is titled *The Rich & the Poor* – a part chronicle, part analysis of a disturbing sea-change: the abandonment of ethics in public policy.'



The cover
of Charles
Blanning's novel
Electric Rabbit

Charles Blanning writes to tell me that in September 2024 he published *Electric Rabbit*, a sequel to his acclaimed novel *Rags To Riches*. *Country Life* magazine recommended *Electric Rabbit* as one of its "unputdownable books of the year". On stage at the Little Theatre, Wells, he has appeared as Carter in *Witness for the Prosecution* and is preparing to direct *The 39 Steps* for production in March 2026.

Peter Warne writes: 'For many years I have intended to reply to your missive, but good intentions seem to get displaced by other issues. However, now while I have time at an airport awaiting a flight to the UK, I seem to have an opportunity to extract a digit. I have lived, and previously worked as an engineer, in Calgary, Alberta in western Canada for over 40 years now. I am heading back to the UK for a family wedding, but will catch up, separately, with **Colin Aldridge** and **Dick Clements**. In Calgary I am the co-organiser of the Cambridge alumni group, which involves a lot of animated conversation in a carefully selected hostelry. The high point of the year is the meeting, with our Oxford equivalent for a Boat Race breakfast. I have next year pencilled in for a Christ's reunion.

1967 Year Group Representative Barry Carter reports:

Pete Adriaenssens and his wife Liz are feeling guilty about the mass of CO₂ that they are responsible for, since they now have to play piggy-in-the-middle from California in order to visit their son, Louis, and his family in Australia and their daughter, Alice, and her husband in England, having done so within the last year. However, their next itinerary in August affords two bonuses – Alice will be attending a meeting in Australia so that the whole family will get together for the first time in four years, in Sydney. And the second bonus – Pete and Liz will visit **Colin Chipperfield** and his wife Linda in Melbourne during the same trip.

Brian Bradfield is approaching 91 and says his mobility is minimal, but thanks to son Richard he is still enjoying his holidays in France, reading French novels daily, and enjoying all things French. He's still deeply into early nineteenth century politics and sends his best wishes to all other survivors.

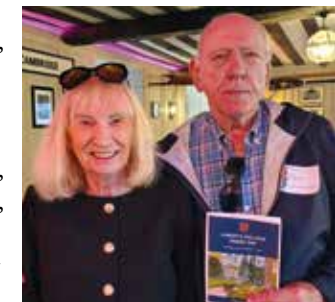
Clive Butchins is still actively involved in local groups and projects: the museum, the Green Belt Society, progressing the Neighbourhood Plan, Rotary and the new local Boreham Wood Radio station due to start broadcasting imminently. However, the highlights have been keeping in touch and spending time with grandchildren, who are now even more spread out than ever, following his daughter's move to Lancashire from Hertfordshire. He spent nearly three weeks visiting his son's family in Rwanda, seeing his newest granddaughter (born in September 2024) for the first time, along with their three-year-old. A delightful trip and so wonderful to spend time with them all, including the in-laws' family who organised a traditional Rwandan party to mark the arrival of the latest addition to the family. They also squeezed in another trip to the Akagera Safari Park.



Clive Butchins
visits his son and
family in Rwanda

Barry Carter continues his research at Sandia National Labs, and his Emeritus and Research Professor positions at UConn; he has recently been appointed an Adjunct Professor at UMich. In July 2025 he and Bryony sold their house in Coventry, CT, and bought one in Ann Arbor, MI, to be near their daughter, Emily, and her three children – and then to help while Emily is fighting a cancer diagnosis. His older son Ben is a nurse and **Adam** (m. 1994) is a Professor at NYU. Barry has Zoom meetings with Colin and Linda Chipperfield and talks with **Dave Williams** at least monthly as they work on the second edition of their *Companion* textbook. Having decided he would never understand dislocations in crystals in 1968, his latest paper on the subject was published in *Acta Materialia* in March 2025 – freely available to all, an enjoyable read with no AI in sight.

Colin Chipperfield has finally retired after a 50-year career, mostly in the nuclear, manufacturing and scientific research industries in the UK and, since 1980, in Australia. He and his wife, Linda, met in Cambridge in 1969, emigrated to Australia in 1979 and now have four grandchildren. They both attended an excellent Family Day at Christ's



Colin and Linda
Chipperfield
pictured in the
Christ's College
Buttery, attending
the Christ's College
Family Day 2025

College in July 2025 and are looking forward to hosting Pete and Liz Adriaenssens in Melbourne in August 2025.

David Colville happily reports that retired life goes on and that he and his wife continue to enjoy their London base and made a successful visit to Singapore earlier in 2025.



Glyn Dale-Jones
pictured in
Reims and
skiing in Tignes



Glyn Dale-Jones is still practising full time as a corporate lawyer and enjoying it. He works through an umbrella law firm called Excello Law which means he can work from home and from the Italian house in Piemonte for several months of the year. Time in Italy now has to be limited thanks to Brexit, but various short breaks were possible including champagne tasting and Michelin food in Reims and enjoying the fabulous UK weather on the Llŷn Peninsula in North Wales. His main love is skiing and he spent 19 days this year in Tignes and Les Trois Vallées. He still skis quite aggressively (being fairly fit) though lunch stops tend to be longer! Skiing is one of the few sports where you can be as good as or better than much younger people at our age! The other advantage is that the lift pass is free in Tignes for over 75s and much reduced in Les Trois Vallées!

Chris Eaglen and wife Sandy attended the 2024 Christmas Carol Event which was a good evening to start the Christmas Season. This year Chris wrote several papers to upload to ResearchGate and Academia. These were relating to nuclear projects and commercial management. Chris made contact with Dr, now Professor, John Billingsley whom he first met when they were both in the Cambridge Engineering Department Control System Group in the late 60s and 70s. One of the Cambridge graduates he mentored obtained his PhD and another student is embarking on their Engineering studies and will be researching Battery Applications this summer. Significant time has been dedicated to procurement issues and to public policy work, but a vacation in Cornwall is still enjoyable.

Edward Franks is leading a quiet life in Jamaica Plain (four miles south of Boston). He posted two monographs, an article and a book review on Academia.edu. Hard copies are in the College Library, University Library and the Department of Classics. Edward says that *The Evolution of the Fiscal Role of the Dioceses in the Later Roman Empire* focuses on all aspects of regional dioceses and the vicars as a mini-praetorian prefect to control governors and have supervision over the total diocesan administration in fiscal, judicial and administrative matters as the prefect's representative. Edward says that the heyday of the vicars lasted from 330–385 and slowly declined afterwards. 'A Look at the Diocesan Vicar's Role and Governance in the Later Roman Empire' is a shorter version of the larger paper but focuses on the timeline from the inception of changes in duties, restrictions of authority, and interaction with other administrative units before the decline of the office.

Having read English at Christ's **Andrew Higgott** moved in a different academic direction; he has been teaching and writing on the history and theory of architecture since the early 1980s. He retired 13 years ago but continues to work, although he

says invitations are now much reduced! Since his partner is Brazilian, part of each year is spent based in São Paulo, but they've visited most of the country by now. Predictably Rio is a favourite but also lesser-known cities including Belém on the mouth of the Amazon, and Paraty on the coast south of Rio, are tremendous. The college's recent triumph in the *University Challenge* tournament reminded Andrew of being the reserve team member in (he thinks) 1968. He, and his participating teammates, did very well that year and reached the final. It was an all-Cambridge final, a fact disappointing to the producers - and they were narrowly beaten by Churchill. The team included **David Mellor** and **Stuart Scott**, and at least one other brilliant player. Hopefully others will remember, but very well done to this year's team!

No extensive travels this past year but **Maurice Howard** did go to Aix, Avignon and the Roman sites nearby. He was at the Palais des Papes in the week of the Conclave in Rome and it struck him how many years he has taken students to St Peter's and the Vatican, full of wonderful things to look at, but without ever really being able to explain how papal ceremony works. He says: 'In the medieval palace at Avignon, it's all there, from the ceremonial staircase, to the hall of the consistory, the papal apartments and private chapels, all in their due sequence, and all explained to a wide audience via a HistoPad'. Maurice has spent the year continuing on several heritage committees, has stepped up to chair the Southwark Cathedral Fabric Committee for a while, and is celebrating the fact that the learned Societies around the courtyard of Burlington House, Piccadilly, have at last (it has taken 10 years) negotiated a long lease from the government to take control of the property. Otherwise, he is still getting around the country to see close friends and family in Somerset, Shropshire, Edinburgh, Inverness and more.

Ray Langford wrote to us from sunny Stavros in Crete where he and Lucie were celebrating multiple birthdays with their sons and their families. The photo was taken in Seville.



Ray Langford
pictured in Seville

Adrian Lowe writes that he is still well but hasn't seen any Christ's alumni since before the pandemic, though he stays in touch by phone with Ray, and exchanges Christmas cards with **Phil Leverick**, **Lloyd Zokay**, and **Colin Howard**.

David Sparrow says he hasn't taken part much in College events, but in November 2024 he was invited, along with many other alumni who had sung in the College Choir, to join the celebrations for David Rowland's 40 years as Director of Music. David S arrived at Christ's in 1967 on the Cambridge Certificate of Education course with a degree in Music from Durham. He enjoyed singing in the College Choir and sometimes played the organ for services. Because there were no ladies in the choir, some of the baritones were deputed to sing the soprano line an octave lower, but they got through the music just the same! The Director of Music was **Anthony Trodd** (m. 1966), with whom he sadly lost contact. At David Rowland's celebrations in Great St. Mary's during the afternoon rehearsal he stood next to a chorister who had sung in the choir when **Guy Woolfenden** (m. 1956) was organist! His neighbour was much older than David, and he did not stay for the concert as he was playing viola in a concert elsewhere. David suspects he was then the oldest singer (78) but was made very welcome by fellow choristers, and especially

by the alumni team. It was a thoroughly enjoyable occasion! After Christ's David was Assistant Master of the Music at Chelmsford Cathedral for 18 years and then Director of Music at King Edward VI School, Chelmsford for 20 years! He still sings in Chelmsford Cathedral Choir as a volunteer bass, and in a local chamber choir, the Stondon Singers and claims it keeps him quite fit.

Robert (Bob) Stone is once again Chairman (this time 'Acting') of The Philosophical Society, based in Oxford (about 340 members), organising and speaking at philosophy conferences that take place in Oxford (October) and in Rome (May). For **George O'Sullivan** it has been another busy year with church related activities and with care-giving responsibilities. Leisure walking on the highways and by-ways of the West Midlands has continued and he was also able to complete the London Capital Ring walk with a friend, using several day trips down from Birmingham over an extended period. Sadly his 52-year driving career has ended as a result of his eyesight having declined to an extent which prevented driving licence renewal.

Jeremy Tafler's rebirth as a psychotherapist continues to provide stimulation – he is even beginning to contemplate adding a two-year Master's qualification. More prosaically coping with six-year-old granddaughter over from San Francisco for three months (endeavouring to bolster her English accent). **Richard Tebboth** says that he and his wife continue to cope as well as they can with her Alzheimer's disease, latterly with the help of some of the social services that he used to inspect on behalf of the Welsh Government. They remain active and involved – singing and playing music, walking, seeing family and friends, but with few more adventurous excursions. Their Covid-era Shakespeare play-reading group reconvened in January 2025 for *Twelfth Night* and will do so again (rather belatedly) in August for *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. **Peter Tymms** continues to do some work with Durham University and with the British Academy. He has two sons and two grandchildren who are all doing well. His wife sadly has Alzheimer's and is in a care home nearby. He keeps busy with gardening, woodwork and croquet. He regularly plays with **Nigel Martin** (m. 1964). He also meets up with **Michael Clayden** from time to time and has a couple of projects with **Thomas Barber** (m. 1992), his nephew.

Dave Williams says that he continues to age ungracefully. He and Margie have downsized to a condo in Dublin (Ohio), still convenient to the Brookside golf club where his handicap remains stubbornly high despite cutting his working hours at Ohio State by half and consequently doubling his hours on the fairway. They travel as often as possible to London to visit their middle son, Bryn, and grandson, Ford. If you're ever in Hoxton, he says, you should try Bryn's Thrift Tacos. One of those visits conveniently overlapped with Dave's 75th so a party was thrown in Bermondsey. Their oldest, Matt, enjoys life in Chicago with two more grandkids. It's still difficult to comprehend that their youngest son, Steve, turned 40, but a well-timed party in New Orleans on a Mardi Gras weekend brought the realisation home. The passing years were also brought home by **Tony Petyt's** untimely death last year. This is perhaps a good reminder to plan for the 60th reunion in 2027.

Geoff Woolsey-Brown (formally Brown) reports that he will shortly be moving from Norwich to Canterbury – a whole new world! **John Wright** is now retired but still giving Paediatric Cardiology advice to Fiji. Enjoying golf, garden maintenance and planting trees in the Central Otago desert (sic), New Zealand. His annual visit to Birmingham to visit children (5) and grandchildren (12) coincided with

catching up with **Peter Tymms** as he passed by on his way home after visiting his family. They shared watching the extraordinary end to the third Test Match before heading off to Edgbaston Golf Club for a recovery drink!

Geraint Jones writes: 'On St Swithin's day I passed my 77th birthday. Also seven years since my retirement from the Chancery Bar. I was based at Fenners Chambers in Cambridge from 1974 until I retired and still live nearby. I remain in good health and keep fit using an exercise regime I learnt playing rugby and rowing at Christ's. I lost my wife to cancer in 2012 and occupy myself mostly in boating activities. I keep a trailer-sailer at Grafham Water SC, where I am Honorary Treasurer, and a sailing cruiser at Ipswich. I also spend time with my son Rob, a Colonel in the Royal Marines, and his family. I am in touch with only one Christ's man, **Frank Knight**. We used to share a flat and went on an epic backpacking holiday in Crete in about 1976. Those were the days!'

William Allberry continues to busy himself taking services and preaching in local churches, including All Saints, Kingston upon Thames. He's been working with another alumnus, **David Pope** (m. 1972), in planning a 130-mile pilgrimage walk from Malmesbury to Kingston as part of this year's Athelstan 1100 celebrations (Athelstan, the first King of all England was crowned in Kingston in 925, and was buried in Malmesbury). The walkers will arrive in Kingston on Coronation Day, 4th September. Before then William is spending October teaching English in Tamilnadu Theological Seminary in Madurai, S. India, meeting many old friends and students there.



John Wright and Peter Tymms at Edgbaston Golf Club



William Allberry

1968 Year Group News representative Andy Symonds reports:

In February **Robert Borgerhoff Mulder** and **Harley Nott** (m. 1969) skied deep powder under cobalt blue skies at the head of the precipitous Yaylalar Valley in the remote and little known Kackar Mountains of north eastern Turkey: fabulous conditions enlivened five times a day by the Al-Adhan Islamic call to prayer. Estonian, Russian, American, Georgian, British, Polish and Turkish skiers and snowboarders shared the lodge in which they stayed. While the world outside lurched toward tyranny and war, the atmosphere in the lodge was one of mutual assistance and happy conviviality.



Robert Borgerhoff Mulder and Harley Nott ski together in Turkey's Kackar mountains

Rowan Williams lets us know that retirement gets no less hectic, and the last few months have seen a good deal of travel – most memorably to South Africa last November for some teaching, and then to Pakistan in March, which involved a bit of quite demanding Christian-Muslim dialogue at a rather tense time (we are living in a pretty tense age, at the mercy of a tiny handful of huge and damaged egos). He managed to finish a new book, due in the autumn – but by far the most important new arrival, scheduled for December, will be a second grandchild!

Chris Farrell reports: 'In the autumn of 2023 I attended a lively 'Cambridge in America' social here in Chicago. I hoped to see a nametag with Christ's College on it, and there was one. **Mike Dickenson** (m. 1969) and I were contemporaries for two years, both came from Grammar Schools, both married Americans and we've both lived in Chicago for decades, without realising it or knowing each other until now! We are retired from everything except the technical passion that fuelled our studies, then our careers, and which, thankfully, still occupies us. More importantly, we share a taste for the same white wine.'

Ranjan Ramasamy writes: 'Some may be interested in the findings published a few months ago from my research group that deals with an interesting aspect (I would like to think!) of global climate change and mosquito-borne diseases in coastal areas. This topic has kept me busy since 2010.'

Paul Roper says: 'Greetings everyone. Normally at this time of year we would be setting off in our beloved narrowboat to cruise the inland waterways. Sadly, we have now sold her – the time was right, but we miss her. We always promised that once we stopped cruising for five weeks in Spring/Summer we would spend more time on the fairly large garden and we have done that, however there is a burden of watering given the very dry Summer. We are going away on more short breaks, and we also had a fabulous cruise to South Africa in January. We have come to love cruising the southern hemisphere in January/February and we have booked Chile, Argentina, Falklands and Uruguay for next year.'



John Purcell
attends
Wilmington
May Day
celebrations

John Purcell reports: 'I have had a fairly busy summer playing jazz around the Eastbourne area with my band Con Brio and with Morris dancing for Long Man Morris. I am a member of Shakespeare's Globe, Southwark and endeavour to get there whenever I can. The picture shows me in Morris costume at dawn on 1st May by the Long Man Wilmington – a regular Mayday event. Best wishes to all the surviving members of my year group.'



Stephen and
Valerie Hart
with a
painting of
James
Chuter Ede

Stephen Hart has arranged to get the portrait of **James Chuter Ede** (m. 1903), the Home Secretary educated at Christ's, exhibited at Ede's old school in Dorking. In this he was joined by **Nigel Collin**, who was once (like Ede) a councillor on Epsom and Ewell BC. The portrait used to hang in Surrey's County Hall but, when the county headquarters relocated five years ago, there was no wall space for it and the Ashcombe School were very pleased to accommodate it instead. Stephen visited the school, with his wife Valerie, in March to view the painting, and to sign copies of his biography of Ede.

Tim Palmer sends greetings to the 1968 year group: 'As usual, the year has been split between Cambridge and France – giving song recitals, doing other musical things, being a grandfather of six and continuing with nearly 25 years of work on the barn conversion in the Ardèche – I think we can say that the barn really is now converted! I try not to make concessions to the years rolling by but, after performing Schubert's *Winterreise* last year, I've started to cut back on song recitals and bought a ride-on brush cutter to help keep the vegetation in France under control.'

Sumanjit Chaudhry responds: 'Greetings to everyone from New Delhi! After three years, my wife, Anu, and I have finally moved back into our new house in Defence Colony, Delhi. It was quite a long journey moving out, putting everything into storage, shifting into another place, knocking the old house down, navigating the world of permissions and permits and slowly rebuilding it and finally shifting back. I can now understand why one does it only once in a lifetime. Delhi is going through a massive reconstruction phase, and buildings are all beginning to grow upwards with greater regularity. This is probably one of the major contributors towards the pollution problem that we now face. My next project is to try and get fit for a Racketlon tournament in November in Mumbai. Racketlon, a rapidly growing sport globally, involves playing four racquet games – table tennis, badminton, squash and tennis – one after the other (one game each of 21 points). It is a lot of fun but it tests one's fitness greatly. The only saving grace is that they have age-defined groups so I hope to play in the 75+ category. Whilst I have been playing tennis regularly, I last played squash 23 years ago and table tennis and badminton some 40 years ago, so this is going to be a long haul. Let us see if I can do it. If any of you are visiting India, please get in touch. It is always a great pleasure catching up with old friends.'

Paul Ormerod writes: 'I have been appointed an Honorary Professor in the Alliance Business School at the University of Manchester, and been elected as a Fellow of the Royal Economic Society. In other things, I have been a keen hill walker for many years. I completed the Scottish Munros some years ago, along with their associated Tops, a subcategory which most Munroists do not do because it adds substantially to the task. Anyway, this year I completed the Corbetts, 222 hills in Scotland between 2,500 and 3,000 feet. The key point is that they have to have, unlike the Munros, at least 500 feet ascent all round. They are therefore much more isolated peaks than the Munros, and for this reason most experienced hill walkers consider a Corbett completion to be harder than a Munro one (also, many Corbetts are still pathless, unlike the Munros). I attach a photo of my final Corbett, Ainsghal on the Isle of Rum, in typical weather. i.e. mist with no view!'



Paul Ormerod at the
peak of Ainsghal

Nigel Collin reports: 'Having attained the three-quarters of a century milestone I am still far too active with several local groups. Specifically, I was instrumental in establishing a repair cafe in Epsom some three years ago and this has gone from strength to strength. We have been nominated for the King's Voluntary Award and the Cabinet Office will opine in October, fingers crossed. Best wishes to all who remember me.'

Philip Bradney responds: 'No particular news from me, except I did finally retire last year, and we were able to visit our daughter and family in New Zealand in January. Still reasonably healthy I am glad to say, and I am still busy with the garden and my model engineering hobby. Very warm regards to friends and colleagues at Christ's.'

Geoffrey Lockwood tells us: 'I will be retiring as conductor of Holmfirth Choral Society at the end of this year, but I'm looking forward to conducting the Verdi *Requiem* before I go. This is quite a wrench having been associated with local music-making since graduating in '71, leading me to review my life with some regret that I didn't maintain contact with friends and acquaintances from times past – especially those from my student days. I send my best wishes to all of them,

especially **Ranjan**, with whom I shared Biochemistry supervisions, and **Dave Topham**, whose clarinet playing tested my piano accompaniment skills, not to mention his enthusiasm for amateur radio.'

David Topham lets us know: 'Mercifully at this time of life no major excitements to report. We live peacefully in the Scottish countryside, next to a statue of the racing driver Jim Clark, who was born here in Kilmany. His "pilgrims" visit in very fast cars but, as ever, friends from Christ's are welcome to drop by in any sort of transport.'

Geneviève and **Andy Symonds** have had to spend a fair bit of time in France, despite having sold up there three years ago, and took part in a vineyard visit in the Bergeracois in May organised by the South-West France Cambridge group.

1969 Year Group Representative Robert Swanson writes:

Responding before many others would have been aware that the call for contributions had been issued, **Dave George** set the tone for several of the early replies: "Alive and kicking here beside the Moray Firth, still conducting civil weddings", and anticipating the birth of yet another grandchild. Succeeding replies were often similar in content, mentioning family milestones and assorted physical and medical travails, with a comment along the lines of "Nothing significant to report". Most of us are now in what is euphemistically called 'retirement', although freelancing, families, and other distractions generally preclude torpidity. **Mark Papouchado** reported that he is "still working away" as a cardiologist in North Bristol, and "drowning in the red tape that is suffocating not just the NHS but every aspect of modern living".



John Lambert
and Hugo
Williams,
March 2025

Predictably, almost all of the replies originated in UK, with few offerings from elsewhere. From America, **John Lambert** again reports a horrifyingly energetic lifestyle. Having climbed all 48 of New Hampshire's White Mountain peaks of at least 4,000 ft before reaching 70, he is now repeating the process, with a few extras added to the list (including successful conquest of Mount Elbert, the highest peak in the Colorado Rockies). He continues to row daily (if he is not hiking), and was recently elected President of Cambridge Boat Club (Massachusetts). He noted a visit to London earlier this year, which included a meeting with fellow-oarsman **Hugo Williams** (m. 1970) shortly before his death.

From an opposing time-zone, while repeating the mantra of having "not a great deal to report this year" the contribution from **Jonathan Best (Jonah)** was a glowing report of the delights of life in Australia (much enhanced now that he has a pacemaker): "Living in the Blue Mountains with its clean air and healthy lifestyle options has certainly served me well." He maintains "(admittedly rather

light) touch" with **Nick Devons** (in Amsterdam) and **David Crust** (in London). Among UK contributors, **Frank Knight** jumped the gun back in December, recounting his attendance at the 'Christmas with Christ's' event at the Guildhall in London, and there unexpectedly



Christ's at
Christmas,
Guildhall,
London,
December 2024:
Angus Murray,
Howard Duthie,
Peter Bullett, and
Stephen Boffey

meeting **Stephen Boffey**, **Peter Bullett**, **Howard Duthie** and **Angus Murray** – all participating as members of the alumni choir.

A more recent message referenced "a straggle of brief emails" with **John Lambert**, **Mike Dickenson** and **Tom Cassidy**, "but no actual meetings", and "an enjoyable gathering of former ADC theatre technicians (the so-called Old Shaft of Darkness) who in their time were responsible for a number of memorable productions under the Christ's Amateur Dramatic banner from the late 60s & early 70s".

Now that the disruptions of Covid have largely receded, **Robert Swanson** has finally managed to resume his visits to China, lecturing last autumn at old and new haunts in Tianjin, Xi'an and Beijing.

The medics get the most name-checks this year, thanks to **Tony Jewell**. Now resident in Cambridge, he devotes some of his time to leading the College's Medical Alumni Association, nurturing cross-generational connections between medics from their arrival in Cambridge and beyond graduation. Reacting to the death last August of **Phil Williams** (recorded in last year's *Magazine*, but occurring after the submission deadline for the 2024 report), he and **Dave Westaby** arranged a reunion event for '69 medics in College in July. In addition to them, other 1969 medics present were **Andy French**, **Chris McManus**, **Mike Morgan**, **Stephen Palmer**, **Mark Papouchado**, **Eric Webb** and **Michael Woo**, plus their guests. **Phil Cushing** and non-1969 medics **Arnold Fertig** (m. 1968) and **Peter Drew** (m. 1970) also attended, with the assemblage completed by **Dr Navaratnam** and **Prof. Johnson** (both conveniently admitted to their Fellowships in 1969).



Medics' reunion,
July 2025

Ending this year's catalogue, **Roger Stennett's** latest collection of poems (*Country Sleep*) is due for publication in September, in the interval between submission and publication of this report. Plans and negotiations for another major project are currently under wraps; if they reach fruition all will be revealed next year.

Obviously, the replies to the call for news are not a reliably representative sample of the year group. Silence may speak volumes, but what it actually says remains unintelligible. Nevertheless, whatever is happening beneath the radar, the blips which have pinged into the inbox suggest (to quote Jonah Best) that we generally "seem to be trucking along (as we used to say) quite nicely". Finally, a 'Save the Date' notification. Next year we are among the groups which qualify for a reunion lunch in College, possibly portentously on Saturday 4th July. The Association Dinner will also be held that evening, giving the opportunity to be nostalgic for a full day and provide useful fodder for the 2026 report.

1970 Year Group News from representative **Dewar Donnithorne-Tait**:

John D. Smith writes: 'My wife and I continue to be happily retired but, having spent all my working life in both teaching and with examination boards, I still tend to think in terms of the academic year. I remain fully aware of half-terms, Christmas, Easter and the summer holiday breaks by sending some spending money to each of my three grandchildren. I am lucky that sales of my most recent Travel & Tourism textbook allow me to be so generous! Furthermore, 2024–25 has been a good year for

John and family at
Anfield Stadium



the football team I support, and I was pleased to see Liverpool finish champions this season. As can be seen in the photograph, I took my eldest daughter and three grandchildren on the Anfield stadium tour. Will further success follow in the 2025–26 season? Nothing in life is guaranteed and as I write these comments news breaks that Liverpool's Diogo Jota has been killed in a car crash. Perhaps this is a

further reminder to us all to enjoy life while we can and not put off to tomorrow the things that we can do today.'

Richard Fassam-Wright writes: 'Since finishing working as a senior official for the EU and the UN in 2017, I have been involved with undertaking various international Election Observation Missions (the most interesting being in Ukraine in 2019 leading to the election of President Zelensky) as well as consultations and lectures on the Russia-Ukraine war. I have also written two historical novels, *A Moscow Awakening*, based in the USSR in the mid-1970s, which was published in 2022, and my latest just-published novel *The Triangle of Death*, set in 1930s, which follows the fate of three newly recruited police constables, with different backgrounds and motivations, as they embark on a tour of duty in British Mandate Palestine in the mid-1930s as the colonial authorities struggle to contain an uprising by the local Arab population (website: richardfassamwright.co.uk). Comments welcome!'

David Ian Hall writes: 'I had a cataract operation in June. I found out that this can affect all ages, and I'm 73, but I didn't think that was old. I was scared stiff at the idea of scalpels and eyes, but no worries. All went smoothly and professionally at Addenbrooke's Eye Clinic.'

One of the advantages of living in Cambridge is that there is always so much to do, in Town and Gown. We frequently attend alumni events organised by the College, and also by the University. We enjoy alumni Evensong, especially the last one of the academic year when the retiring Organ Scholar plays us out to an impromptu voluntary – this year, the theme to *Good Omens*. The date coincided with the feast of Corpus Christi, so it became an Alumni Eucharist. The Chaplain offered Communion to communicant members of any Christian church, or a blessing. I opted for a blessing. I was confirmed in my mid-teens but lost my faith in my first year at Christ's, and called myself a confirmed atheist. After a brief conversation at a book-signing with the now sadly late John Polkinghorne (one of the Maths lecturers in my Part IA Natural Sciences) I was converted to agnosticism. Hence my not taking Communion, but gladly accepting a blessing.

Eucharist was followed by a meal in Hall, where alumni sat with the choir and student body and, in the case of Janet and me, by the Master and his wife. I asked the Master how he was going to behave when the Fellows came in to High Table. Christ's is the only Cambridge College where the student body do not rise in respect for the Fellows entering (a disagreement that started during the civil war – I blame that upstart Milton). 'Oh I shall be with the student body', the Master said. True to his word, he remained seated until the gong sounded for Grace, when he rose with the rest of us. 'We stand for God, not for the Fellows', someone said.

During the meal I had an interesting conversation with the Master's wife about Germany. They had served several years at the Embassy, which at the time was in Bonn, at a time when I used to work in West Berlin several weeks per year.

Janet and I also enjoyed the annual Association Dinner, the first one to be held after the Christ's Association was formally wound-up last year. We were nevertheless still able to associate without the Association. The afternoon was enlivened by tours of the Master's Lodge and the College Gardens.

Other advantages of living in Cambridge include the constant refreshment with new students. Fresh approaches to music, art and drama – we love the ADC. Finding out what is going on can be a challenge. I am beginning to think that information about cultural events is spread by a network established by the Cambridge Spies, strictly on a need-to-know basis.

London is also easily reached, and we went to a very amusing staged production of the Hitchcock film *North By Northwest*. This was at the elegant theatre that is part of Alexandra Palace. I was astonished and pleased to find that there is a direct train from Cambridge to Alexandra Palace.

After the restrictions of Covid, Janet and I have a renewed desire to travel. Starting with October 2024, we went with our intrepid Australian friends Tony and Tracey on a tour of Scotland as far north as we could, seeing Orkney and Shetland by train, car and ferry.

We discovered that Scottish trains are much cheaper and more reliable than English ones. Orkney and Shetland have wonderful landscapes and culture, very friendly people, and very good food. The Stone Age archaeological remains on the islands are just amazing. We did not see a single deep-fried Mars bar.

This year we have taken short breaks in Paris and the fascinating ruins of Pompeii. This side of the water we've enjoyed Ledbury Poetry Festival and Ely Folk Festival.'

Dan Smith writes: 'This year, on 31 August 2025, I complete ten years as Director of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). This is the maximum time allowed (two five-year terms).'

Over the past three decades I have been successively, the Director of the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO) from 1993 to 2001, the Secretary General of the London-based peacebuilding NGO International Alert, from 2003 to 2015, and Director of SIPRI from 2015 to 2025.

With best wishes to all friends and fellow students from 1970–73 at Christ's.'

Dewar Donnithorne-Tait writes: 'Alison and I continue with our passion for wildlife and wilderness conservation with two prolonged safaris (including some wildlife conservation project work) to Africa and one to NE India in the last year. We continue to work on our French land to improve it for both birds and small mammals. I remain an advisor to the Wildlife Conservation Fund in Kashmir and as a volunteer with the Deer Specialist Group of the IUCN Species Survival Commission, both in connection with the endangered Hangul or Kashmir Stag.'



David Hall in Paris,
at the Louis Vuitton
building for a David
Hockney exhibition



Back from the brink
of extinction, Indian
One Horned Rhino in
Kaziranga National
Park, Assam, which
has a thriving
population of them

My work with the Royal Aeronautical Society is more intense than ever in a variety of areas but especially with being a member of the Learned Society Board. I am part of a new initiative concerning the use of Uncrewed Aircraft Systems (drones) in support of nature conservation.

Apart from our wildlife focus in NE India, we obtained a permit to travel in Nagaland, with a view to tracing some of my grandfather's expeditions made during his India Frontier Service work with the Naga tribes in the 1920s and '30s. Some of his work is held in the British Library and I am currently working on transcribing

one of his amazing papers into electronic form. He was based in Maymyo, now in Myanmar, so we were not able to cover the full range of his travels but we did succeed in visiting – and having lunch in – one of the government inspection bungalows on the Myanmar border where he had stayed and visiting tribes and villages on the Indian side of the border, which were part of his work.'



A Naga village
high in the
mountains near the
Myanmar border

1971 Year Group Representative Pete Clarke writes:

'Another year has flown by. I am sure I am not alone when I say that time seems to be accelerating as I get older. I often think of a scene in *Fawlty Towers* where John Cleese says, "Zap! What was that?" followed by, "That was your life mate!". Having said that, on a day-to-day basis, life in Bath meanders pleasantly along. I keep busy with watching Bath Rugby (wow, what a season!), occasionally making Meccano models (yep, sad isn't it), watching and umpiring cricket (England v India was brilliant but

following Middlesex, less so). I try to keep fit by going to the gym (hate it – always have and always will), swimming (in a 15m pool so with a good push off I can get to the other end with only four strokes), cycling (e-bike, of course) and playing golf (handicap is now 36 and I fear, rising). That's me and now to news of others (interestingly, all bar one of their surnames begin with the letter B):



Chris Lemar
and Pete Clarke
on a cultural
trip to London

Robert Barnes writes: 'I have just passed my 72nd Birthday and am still working as an architect. The majority of my architectural work is in London, mainly residential but also specialist artist's studios, exhibition spaces, research laboratories and schools. Quite a varied diet which keeps me occupied. The main current trends are reuse of existing buildings and installation of various new technologies to make them sustainable, e.g. Air Source Heat Pumps, Mechanical Ventilation and Heat Recovery, PV Roof Installations, Green Roofs, Rainwater Harvesting, Sustainable Urban Drainage, and the reuse of materials, etc. All very interesting and complicated to fit in. For those who might be interested, further details can be found at my website which is robertbarnesarchitects.com.

I have taught at London Metropolitan University for the past 33 years where I jointly run a Postgraduate Design Unit where we focus on The Architecture of Rapid

Change and Scarce Resources. We are currently working in Greece with refugee organisations, and previously in Nepal and India within slum communities. This year we have a student from our Unit who is nominated for the RIBA Silver Medal, watch this space! I have been on the board of ACME Studios for the past 25 years and which recently celebrated 50 years of providing fine artists with affordable studios and in some cases residential accommodation, mainly in the Greater London area. On the personal front, I am a grandfather with two small grandsons Noah and Finn who live (appropriately) in Barnes, with my eldest daughter Ella, and I have another daughter Holly, a fine artist who lives in Bristol, and a son Tom who lives in Berlin and is a music composer for film and theatre. Also I have survived prostate cancer and have a new hip! Finally I'm looking forward to playing with the Christ's College Alumni Golfing Society at Royal Worlington this coming September and afterwards attending the Alumni Dinner.'

Andrew Bibby writes: 'My new book *The Borders: The Lands We Share* looks at the various factors that influence the way the landscapes look on both sides of the Scottish/English border. More details can be found at andrewbibby.com. It is published by Gritstone Publishing, the publishing co-operative that I helped set up nine years ago. Living as I do in the Pennines, I continue running over the fells when I can, and still manage (sometimes) to come in first in local fell races in the over-70 class. The usual bottle of wine as a prize is always welcome.'

David Bleiman has published his first full poetry collection *Tongue Stramash, poems in Scots* which has been described by Hugh McMillan as erudite, tender, on occasions whimsical. The book is available from poetrykilt.bigcartel.com.

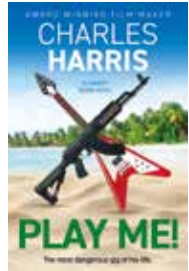


David Bleiman
reading his latest
book of poetry

Richard Brotherton writes: 'Since retirement as architect to the City of New York in 2022 – last working on the \$8 billion project to close Rikers Island and building four Borough-based jails – I have made presentations to various learned societies: "Palestinian Plain Construction, Crusader and Mamluk Vaults" (Society of Architectural Historians, Albuquerque); "Muqarnas, Interlacing Arch Construction & Menelaus' Spherics" (NEXUS, Architecture and Mathematics, Turin); and "Henry De Gower's Monumental Modernizing Vision for St David's Cathedral: Vaulting Intentions and Wonderful Beauty" (British Archaeological Association, Haverfordwest). My next project? I am looking forward to inspecting the north range of First Court at this year's reunion as part of an architectural history of the College.'

Alan Brown writes: 'I still have an active Non-Exec life with eight roles. Five are light; three are fairly full on. Two of these roles are worth mentioning. I chair UCIM (University of Cambridge Investment Management), the regulated entity that manages the Cambridge University Endowment Fund, and I am on the Christ's Investment Committee. The two other roles which fall into the 'fairly full on' category are Chair of Artemis (a fund management company) and being a Trustee and Treasurer of the King's Fund, the oldest medical charity in the country. On the personal front, I have just had my ninth grandchild and, at the other end of the scale, my oldest grandchild is graduating from UCL and turning 21! That makes me feel old! I am about to realise a long-held ambition. We are going for three weeks to French Polynesia, something I have wanted to do for decades. That is also why I won't be able to attend the Reunion Dinner!'

Chris Southgate has directed a project leading to the book *God, Struggle, and Suffering in the Evolution of Life* (Bloomsbury). He says: 'What was fun about this book, is that it is real searching of academic dialogue, looking to find both points of contact and red lines.' Chris also continues to edit the *Journal of the TS Eliot Society*. In the summer he walked up a Munro in Sutherland – the mountain somehow seemed a lot steeper and rockier than nine years before...



Charles Harris's latest book, *Play Me!*

Charles Harris



Award-nominated author **Charles Harris** saw his third novel published in October. *Play Me!* is a comedy crime novel about a hapless British rock star who finds himself framed for a political assassination in the Caribbean. Charles' first novel, *The Breaking of Liam Glass*, was a satire set in a tabloid newspaper and was nominated for two international literary awards. The second was *Room Fifteen* –



Peter Drew

a psychological thriller about a police detective with amnesia who thinks someone is trying to kill him before he gets his memory back. Both have been Amazon genre bestsellers. Before writing novels, Charles made films, many of which won awards. He co-founded the London Screenwriters' Workshop, the first screenwriters' workshop in the world, and has written two popular books on screenwriting, a collection of short stories and a book on police slang. This year he was re-elected to the board of the Society of Authors. And in case of hecklers at his book signings, he's a sixth Dan black belt in Aikido!



John Duncombe and David Banks

And finally, last September the Likely Lads held a dinner in college (the Likely Lads being an alumni group of friends from years 70 through to 74). Eleven members from our year attended including **David Banks**, **Peter Drew** and **John Duncombe**.

1972 Year Group Representative Steve Bagnall summarises achievements and landmarks on behalf of the matriculants from 1972:

For our year group 2025 was the 50th anniversary of our graduation back in 1975, and some of us will have been able to mark that by getting together for dinner at the College in September 25. It's probably also the 50th anniversary of your first job. I wonder if you stayed in that line of work or diverged radically from it? Either way, most of us are no longer worrying about our career progression. **Neil Marshall** captures this telling us "[This year] I have not worked at all; retirement suits me well". He also captures the general mood by adding "I regret to say old age is catching up on me. I don't have the stamina for long days anymore". He is hardly inactive though: "I have to set myself to target breaking through the rankings for bridge and playing a round of golf on all the (New Zealand) South Island courses. Both will take a while". The other thing we are all supposed to be doing nowadays is looking after our brain health and Neil appears to have that covered too. He says: "I did manage to tidy up a thesis and if all goes well might be able to report on academic success next year".

I was already genuinely drawing inspiration from the role model Neil had set here when later he emailed me again to give a segway to a completely different theme in your reports this year. The email began with news from his hiking trek in the Dolomites, (quite good I thought for a lower stamina level activity), but the point was that he had there bumped into complete strangers who had gone to Christ's: "I started chatting to a couple of gentlemen last night and discovered we had a lot in common. They might even tempt me into some voluntary work. We breakfasted together and to my amazement I discovered that all three of us were at Christ's. They were 15 years after me. **Lee Sears** and **Jerry Connor** were there from 1987, I think. Both have worked in leadership as a profession and still do. Lee lives in Bath, Jerry outside Sydney."

This reminded me (**Steve Bagnall**) that earlier this year a fellow member of the book group I've been in for at least ten years suddenly announced that he went to Christ's too. He had to his astonishment noticed my name in this very journal. I hesitated to ask whether his astonishment was that he had got as far as reading what other year groups are up to or rather, based on my analysis of various books we have read together, astonishment that I studied at Christ's at all. Steve also thanks those who enquired about his garden shed, and he can report the successful purchase of a new shed.

Regular readers will be aware of **Dave Pope's** pioneering work creating pilgrimage trails. He too has had the experience of discovering that other pilgrims are often members of the College. He explains: "It's been an interesting year, with the completion of the walking and cycling routes for the 100-mile Athelstan Pilgrim Way (athelstanpilgrimway.org). In addition, this September sees the 1100th anniversary of Athelstan's coronation in Kingston upon Thames, and I have been helping to plan an 11-day commemorative walk from Malmesbury, where Athelstan is buried, to Kingston. I was delighted to find that my contact at the Kingston end, Revd **William Allberry**, is also a Christ's alumnus (m. 1967). William and I have been checking the route together in preparation for the event and we will be leading the walks in August and September."

Those of you in the legal profession, and others, will be aware that judges are expected to share their wisdom well into their senior years, with the retirement age recently increased from 70 to 75. I like the concept that us older folk have wisdom to share. **Tommy Teague** has successfully negotiated his way through these moving goalposts and reports: "I formally retired as chief coroner of England and Wales on 24 May last year, and as a circuit judge a fortnight later on 7 June 2024. However, I've remained fairly busy since then chairing the Jalal Uddin Inquiry, due to report on 10 July. With that task complete, I hope to leave professional legal work behind."

I continue to play the cello regularly in various string quartets and other ensembles. Among those with whom I play is **Gerhard Heyer** (m. 1973) who visits us from



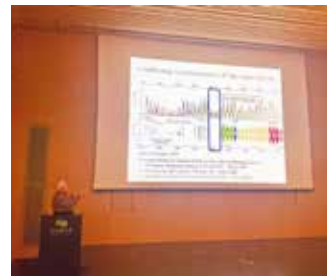
The start of the Athelstan 1100 Pilgrim Way walk from Malmesbury to Kingston upon Thames. L-R: Bill Reed (m. 1968), William Allberry (m. 1967) and Dave Pope



Tommy Teague and Gerhard Heyer at last year's event celebrating David Rowland's 40 years as Director of Music at Christ's

Leipzig from time to time. We are both former secretaries of the College Musical Society and took part in last November's wonderful concert in Great St Mary's that brought together past and current members of the society."

I was struck by another Christ's connection there through music and found the next news awe-inspiring. Tommy has found the time and energy to become a sunspot expert, so there is hope and indeed proof that we can take up new directions and interests. As a 14-year-old in the school astronomical society I did a project on variable stars. I still have it, but it's definitely not at Tommy's international symposium level. He writes:



"I've developed an interest in, of all things, sunspots and have published some papers (mainly with professional co-authors) on the history of the sunspot record. This led to an invitation to address last October's 9th Space Climate Symposium at Nagoya University – an opportunity I was only too happy to seize as it gave me an excuse to visit our older sons-in-law in Tokyo." And there is a wonderful picture to prove this...

In June, I was in College for the Association Dinner, and it was good to see **Dermot Main Thompson** and **Edward Cole** there. Ed writes: "I'm very much enjoying being mobile again after my second hip replacement. This has given me a new lease of life and I even plan to take up canoeing again and maybe a bit of off-road biking as well (with an e-bike!). Other than that, my rehabilitation walks on the North Downs were slow enough to start with that I started noticing and then becoming interested in the many varieties of butterflies and orchids we have locally. I've even splashed out on a DSLR camera to record and help identify what I see, with some very pleasing results given how flighty butterflies can be!"

I've also been lucky enough to be able to combine visits to friends in East Anglia with returns to College for the Association Dinner and Fisher Society Lunch as well as a very enjoyable dinner on High Table in February (thank you to the Fellows) and I plan to be at the reunion in September, so several happy return visits to Christ's this year." **Bob Stevenson** tells me he is also looking forward to the reunion dinner. He will be fresh from tours of Eastern Europe this year.

Like Ed, **Jamie Darke** is also successfully dealing with surgery recovery: "My greatest achievement in 2024: to rise above four surgeries under general anaesthetic and going blind in my right eye. My greatest satisfaction this year and last: not business intelligence consulting and some minor property development, but being a governor of St Julian's, the foremost British international school in Portugal, where I lead on safeguarding, chair the policies and bursaries committees, and am helping set up a new one on education – truly stimulating and enriching, and I was fortunate to be invited to join the Board six years ago".

Finally, we must note the sad passing of two members of our year group, **Ian Tibbles** and **Ian Smith**. **Jim Whelan** recalls "Ian Tibbles was my roommate in our final year at Christ's (he was near top of room lottery and I was near bottom, but he asked me to share a great two-bedroom set in the Fellows' building in 2nd Court beneath Gorley Putts' rooms!). He was a great guy". **Alan Cottenden** was able to attend a celebration of Ian Smith's life in Halifax, where he and his wife were GPs for most of their working lives.

1973 Year Group Representative Christopher Rees reports in:

Now that the college has won *University Challenge* there remains only one Glittering Prize as yet unsecured, namely the Headship of the Mays. A suggestion for how to achieve this follows later in this piece.

We should begin by marking the deaths of two of our number in the past year. **Gary Hopkins** died suddenly and unexpectedly in March. **Jeremy Hudson** has contributed a fine obituary for Gary in this *Magazine*. In November 2024 we also lost **Charles Paterson** who died of cancer. **Ian Bunce** and **Kevin Walsh** attended Charles' funeral in Chichester where his widow remains a Parish Priest. Charles was a talented musician and a number of his choral pieces have been recorded. He was also, like Gary, a schoolmaster for many years. In that sense he was carrying on a great Christ's tradition. The author of *Goodbye Mr Chips* was a Christ's man. **James Hilton** (m. 1918) had been so impressed by one of his teachers at the Leys School that he was moved to create the wonderful screenplay for the 1938 film. **John Makinson** tells me that the original film was shot at his old school Repton.

Speaking of schools, it has only just occurred to your representative how many of our year came as duos from their respective schools. **Richard Swaab** and the late lamented **Gaby Rado** from KCS Wimbledon, **Fergus Brownlee** and the equally late lamented **Nigel Breakey** (along with **Nick Foley** as a most fortunate third addition to the Rugby Club) from Fettes, **Paul Reacher** (aka Barney Rubble) and **John Sauerman** from King's Canterbury, **Keith Woodward** and **James Griffith** from King's Chester, **Gary Hopkins** and **Ivan Buck** from Ipswich GS and **John King** and **John Entress** from Bishop Gore. This got me to thinking that if only we could persuade two members each year of the old school of one of our more famous alumni, John Milton (m. 1625) to apply then the last Glittering Prize referred to above might be within our grasp.

As one of the Head of Houses said at a Reception recently the only two things in which you are allowed to be elite in Cambridge at the moment are academic work and rowing. With our academic reputation secure now is therefore the time to repair the omission of being a Great College without a Headship in the Men's Mays. We will never achieve that without a policy of recruiting several experienced oarsmen each year (I speak from the experience of being one of the six novices in the 1974 1st Boat which was bumped out of the 1st Division). If therefore a diplomatic approach (and who better to make it than our current Master?) were to be made to the High Master of St Paul's to seek to persuade two of their 1st Boat to apply to Christ's for each of the next five years then we may be able to celebrate being both top academic college and Head of the River in 2032, the 400th anniversary of John Milton's graduation as an MA. Beat that Trinity.

Away from the internecine strife of Cambridge, **Bill Golush** reports that he is now a gold life master in the American Contract Bridge League. He has sufficient tournament play for the next rank, sapphire life master, needing just some club level or robot play on bridge base online. He is looking forward to the summer games at the National American Contract Bridge League in Philadelphia. This all sounds incredibly stressful but I'm sure Bill is up to the task.

Many of the year celebrated their 70th birthdays. **Tony Smith** took his family for a holiday to Barcelona, **Karl Railton-Woodcock** moved to fashionable Port Melbourne and had a tattoo inspired by René Magritte. Karl says he still feels around 40 but the mirror and general physical state says otherwise. **John Entress's**

Tommy presenting
on the topic of
sunspots at a
Symposium at
Nagoya University

wife Judy threw a surprise party for John and as the only guest who had also been present at John's 5th birthday party I recounted the Powellian scene of our first day at Dunvant Infant's School when John bit the arm of the Headmistress as she was trying to control him. He was sent home in disgrace and we all thought that this was a mighty fine way to start an education.

It is perhaps a sign of our now undeniable seniority that I was asked to respond to the speech of the Master at the College Association Dinner in May. I had not attended this event before and I can recommend it as a convivial occasion, especially as wives and partners are invited. **Robert Swanson** (m. 1970) was in his usual wistful manner and **Martin Evans** (m. 1971) was also on excellent form. Having been engaged in various successful high technology companies like CSR and ARM, Martin has used his retirement to edit a magazine about model railways. It was also a privilege to meet **Yusuf Hamied** (m. 1954) at the dinner. Yusuf recounted how kindly he had been treated by Lord and Lady Todd (as they then weren't) when he was one of the few Indian undergraduates. Knowing that he would be on his own for Christmas Day the Todds invited him around for lunch. We talked cricket and found we have a friend in common in **Tony Lewis** (m. 1958). **Amit Roy** (m. 1964) was also present at the dinner. Amit is a colleague at the *Daily Telegraph* of **David Millward**. David has now secured American citizenship and as a proud Chelsea supporter is no doubt still revelling in the fact that his team has become club world champions, so they now really have, as their chant goes, won everything.

Ian Newton retired from his post of Chief Interpreter of the International Labour Office (a UN agency) in 2017 and became Executive Director of InZone, a Centre within the University of Geneva, fostering access to higher education for persons in fragile contexts – principally refugees in the Horn of Africa and Jordan. Since the end of the pandemic Ian has been Professor of Interpretation Studies at the Shanghai International Studies University, which houses the most prominent interpretation program in China and prepares students for careers in the United Nations. He has also continued to lecture on a program sponsored by the University of Nairobi and the African Union to train interpreters in African languages. The rest of his time is spent at his home near Lyon, his wife's city of origin. Ian will not yet realise it, but one of his relatively near neighbours is **Robert Spencer-Churchill** who has been lost to this column since graduation but – thanks to information from his cousin who has become a new neighbour of mine – I can advertise the merits of Maze Churchill cognac which Robert and his family lovingly curate at their domaine in that feted appellation. At £147 a bottle it is I'm sure both reassuringly expensive and rather good. Perhaps the alumni office should order some bottles for special occasions when sending the magazine to Robert.

Edward Gildea stood for election last year as the Green Party candidate in Northwest Essex against Kemi Badenoch. Ed says that the highlight was the hustings in a vast church in Saffron Walden with 1000 people crammed in. After Edward's speech about the need to focus on the climate crisis, the applause cracked on like thunder and if the election had been determined by a clapometer that evening he would have been elected by an overwhelming majority. Undaunted by this minor setback to his political aspirations Edward is still adventuring and after kayaking in the Finnish archipelago earlier in the year he will board a yacht in Ushuaia and set sail for Antarctica in January 2026.

Your representative took a more sedate nautical option when he noticed that the Queen Mary 2 was due to sail from Southampton to New York on the very day of the 40th anniversary of his marriage to Mari so he duly booked a berth. The trip had the added bonus of being able to meet up with Professor **Alan Nash** and his wife Matina in Montreal. Alan admitted during the evening that he always sat in the front row in lectures, which is obviously how you go on to become a professor. We asked a waiter to take a picture of our little group. Inadvertently the waiter also included in the background a large portrait of Audrey Hepburn (Cambridge School of Speech and Drama 1951).



Christopher Rees, Alan Nash and their partners gather in Montreal

Yours sincerely,
Christopher Rees

1974 Year Group Representative Paul Littlewood reports:

I have received various updates from alumni but the response is still a bit disappointing. Please keep me in touch with any interesting news you have in the future, no matter how trivial!

Jan Wiekak writes: As it is now over 50 years since we matriculated, I thought it was about time I wrote something for the Christ's College Magazine, which I read avidly each time I receive it! I have actually been in contact with Christ's over the past few years, as I've been helping students who have an offer to read Maths at Christ's to prepare for the STEP maths exams which form part of their offer. This activity resulted from an Admissions Department article I read in the College Magazine.

After completing the Part III Maths tripos in Cambridge, I obtained my doctorate in Particle Physics at Imperial College (and CERN in Geneva), managed international sales and marketing teams in various software companies for 25 years, and then went back to the academic world, teaching and now tutoring in Maths. I've also been writing – under the name Alex Fallows – and recently published two novels – *Cheek To Cheek* and *The First Question*. I live in the Lake District with my family, and spend my time tutoring, writing and fellwalking.

Martin Holmes writes: 'I joined Rossendale Male Voice Choir late in 2021, singing with the basses. We sing a varied repertoire including pieces by Verdi, Eric Whitacre and Christopher Tin. Ernest Tomlinson was a former conductor (his father Fred was founder conductor for over 50 years) and we perform several of his arrangements too.'

2024 saw us celebrating our centenary year with a broad repertoire and audio-visual history. The choir tentatively approached *Britain's Got Talent* as contestants and after much scrutiny was invited to the Winter Gardens in Blackpool. Our day started early and, 40 strong, we arrived there at 9.00am and were immediately ushered on stage for a sound check.

We were back on the Opera House stage nearly 10 hours later, just after 7.00pm, where we performed Oasis' 'Don't look Back in Anger' to a packed and well-warmed audience. There is nothing quite like 3000 people shouting "golden buzzer" at you.

Members of the
Rossendale Male
Voice Choir
performing as part
of ITV's Britain's
Got Talent



Before this we had individually signed our rights away and we were sworn to secrecy. We waited months hoping to get through to the next round. However, it was not to be.

In early April we were told we would not be appearing in the next round. Instead, we would be on *Britain's Got Talent* unseen on ITVX. It is pleasing to know that there were well over 3,000,000 viewings of the clip online and we haven't done Rossendale Male Voice Choir any harm at all.

I'm on the back row, second from the right. Graham Sellens, former GP (St John's, 1973) sports the tinted shades in the centre front row.'

Tony Parr, Richard Monks and Nick Tanner write: "Know thyself? If I knew myself, I'd run away." Thus spake the German writer and polymath Johann Wolfgang van Goethe in the early nineteenth century. But where would he run away to? Most likely to his beautifully peaceful summerhouse in Weimar, a town in the eastern German province of Thuringia. It was in the very same town that a small delegation of former Christ's students gathered in the summer of 2024 for a mini-reunion. Under the expert guidance of Germanist **Nick Tanner**, a company consisting of **Richard Monks** and his wife Jane, **Tony Parr** and his wife Renée, and honorary member Anita Diaz spent a sunny weekend of culture, history, art, architecture and of course the traditional Thüringer Klösse (potato dumplings). Apart from being a focal point of the German Enlightenment (and home to both Goethe and Schiller), Weimar was also the host of the short-lived Weimar Republic and cradle of the Bauhaus Movement. In other words, there was plenty to fit into what proved to be a highly enjoyable and instructive weekend.

Hugh Ashton writes: 'I am now very active in local politics, having acted as agent/campaign manager for my twelfth local government election this year! Generally having a lot of fun as a City and District councillor (before we go unitary).'

Richard Baker reports: 'I am continuing to paint and draw and show work with the Cambridge Drawing Society. My studio is in our very leafy and wildlife-friendly garden a short walk from Cambridge railway station.

L-R: Renée, Nick,
Tony, Jane and
Richard. Photograph
by Anita



My wife and I regularly take the train to Norwich to see our delightful three-year-old twin granddaughters (non-identical) and our son and his partner.'

1975 Year Group Representative Harry Hyman writes: 'I have been busier than ever since handing over the reins as CEO of Primary Health properties PLC, a company I founded in 1995. 30 years on I have moved to non-executive Chair but that has coincided with a contested combination with our competitor and rival Assura PLC. At the time of writing, we don't know the outcome but write with fingers crossed.

With my pro-bono work International Opera Awards goes from strength to strength. Last year we held the Awards Ceremony in Munich, the home of the Bayerische Staatsoper, and this year in November we are hosted by the Greek National Opera in Athens. The Awards – which aim to recognise the best in opera from around the world – were set up to raise the profile of the artform, to recognise and reward the best, and to provide a set of bursaries for aspiring talent in opera from around the world.

I am trying to play more golf and salute the work of **Chris Garden** in organising the college alumni golf days... bravo.

At **Tim Saunders'** funeral, which was a celebration of comradeship and enduring friendship through the years, there was a brilliant turnout of Christ's alumni.

John Baillie writes: 'It was a lovely surprise to be invited back to Christ's College for a 50 year anniversary of matriculation – my first thought was "what has the time gone?". I was sponsored by the Royal Navy whilst at university so, after graduating in 1978, I started further training for the Navy's Weapons Engineering branch. On completion of training in 1980, I was appointed to HMS Cardiff. Later that same year, my naval career was abruptly terminated when I was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes. From then on, I completed an MBA at Cranfield and pursued a career in "plastic cards", with employers such as Philips, American Express, DMR, Sema Group and latterly Visa International.

Since retiring, my wife and I have enjoyed dog ownership and I have also found the time to volunteer at Dogs Trust and at The Rivertime Boat Trust. I have maintained contact with **Richard Barrett** and last saw him in the Cotswolds in 2023.

Michael Corry writes: 'I am pleased to share that, after years of training and a fairly rigorous four-hour grading late last year, I was awarded a 4th degree (4th dan) black belt in taekwondo. I'm sure the young guns went easy on me in the sparring but I was still exhausted by the end of it. The grading involved everything from board breaking to knife defence work to Korean history and culture. It seems a little odd to reach one's sporting apex at age 67 and that's it for gradings for me. I now look forward to a gentle meander down the other side of the mountain.'

John Dallman, Carey Wolfe, John Phillips, Andy Jordan and recently retired Judge **Mark Gosnell** have all been seen showing off their swings in various Alumni Golf events alongside organiser **Chris Garden** and many other contemporaries from neighbouring matriculation years.



Richard Baker



Michael Corry
pictured after his 4th
Dan grading in
Taekwondo

Fifty years on from matriculating at Christ's, **Dilwyn Griffiths** reports that he has successfully completed a PhD in European Politics at Birkbeck, University of London. He will now hang up his academic cap but hopes to get a book out of his thesis.



Tom Swallow and Rob Holdsworth at the St Ayles Skiff World Championship

Rob Holdsworth writes: 'I've finally retired as a judge, at last, and I've not missed the work one bit. Happily, I've still got plenty of energy, and amongst other things I've enjoyed a busy year of rowing, including regularly with Christ's College Boat Club in their Alumni M3 boat. After my involvement with M3 last year in the end-to-end Loch Ness race and our usual Fairbairn Cup race on the Cam, this year has seen me in the Head of the Cam race with M3 and rowing in the Golspie boat for the St Ayles Skiff World Championship in Scotland, with **Tom Swallow** (m. 1965) – with me and Tom pictured standing on the right.

We came second in our heat, pipped by the Dutch but well ahead of the American crew and the other crews. Next up for me is the Great River Race, from Millwall to Hammersmith with other CCBC rowers in September. Special credit to Kate Hurst, our fantastic CCBC boatwoman, for all she does to keep us all afloat, and for all she did to welcome me and my Worcester crew to row on the Cam over two days in July, when we also had a dinner in the Portrait Room and an overnight stay in College (thoroughly recommended!). It's also been a (very!) busy year of church involvement and study for me, and by the time anyone reads this I will have been ordained. It's not something that I had thought would follow when I retired last year, and it's been a gradual process, but I'm sure it's right – as does our vicar, who encouraged me to offer myself for it, and as do lots of others, including the people who interviewed me! Family-wise, I'm still in my childhood bedroom in Worcester, and Julia, who I met when I was at Christ's, is still the ever cheerful soul that she was when we met; the main difference now is a few grey hairs for her and far more for me, plus our three children and five grandchildren! I love going back to Christ's and am looking forward to our reunion dinner, 50 years on from matriculation. Best wishes to all.'

Back row: Vicky Jordan, Bill Aldridge; Fourth Row: Carey Wolfe, Margaret Aldridge, Donna Preddy; Third Row: Andy Jordan, Louise Beach, Rick Nelson; Second Row: John Beach, Lisa Nelson; Front Row: Jeremy Preddy



John Beach, Carey Wolfe, Jeremy Preddy, Bill Aldridge, Andrew Jordan (all m. 1975) and **Rick Nelson** (m. 1973) together with wives undertook a six-day cycling tour of Puglia in May 2025, following on from cycling in the Extremadura region of Spain in 2024 and cycling across Sardinia in 2023. So far, all trips have been completed without serious injury, although **Jeremy Preddy's** descending can border on the reckless. And despite some initial uncertainty our wives really got stuck in, the smug grin from an e-bike rider becoming all too well known as the chaps plod slowly up long hills!

The College 1st VIII of 1978 (**Carey Wolfe, Andy Jordan, Bill Aldridge, Alasdair Docwra, John Beach, Paul Barton and Jeremy Preddy**) together with

Guy Whittaker (m. 1974) and **Rick Nelson** (m. 1973) have continued their rowing activities, competing in the Fairbairn Cup in Dec 24 and Head of the Cam in April 25. Our pace is increasingly sedate but the get togethers are just as enjoyable. More noteworthy performances are that in June 2025 **Alasdair Docwra** rowed the Vogalonga (35km in the lagoon and canals of Venice) and **Bill Aldridge**, together with his double sculls partner, finished 2nd by a margin of six inches in the British Masters Championships at Nottingham. This was eclipsed in July when **Bill** and his partner won gold in double sculls (Masters H category, average age 70 to 75) at Henley Masters Regatta, coming from behind to beat a German crew by a length and a half in the final.

Both **Bill Aldridge** and **Rick Nelson** will be going to the World Masters Regatta in Spain in Sept 25 with their respective crews, and in October 25 the Christ's Crustaceans will be racing in an eight at Lake Orta, Italy.

David MacInnes has moved back to the UK after a number of years in South Africa. He is based in the West Country and is now in good health he says.

Saroj Sanyal writes: 'I was made an Honorary Member of the Indian Society of Soil Science, New Delhi, a Fellow of the Clay Mineral Society of India, New Delhi, and I also obtained the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Uttar Banga Krishi Viswavidyalaya in March, 2024.'

Since retiring some years ago from his career in London and the West Country as a Contentious Trusts lawyer, **Stephen Fisher Crouch** has been enjoying himself both in East Devon, at the home in which he and his wife have been living ever since their marriage in 1988, and elsewhere in the UK and Europe, attempting to make every single day an interesting and rewarding one.

Each autumn and winter has involved running his modest pheasant shoot near Honiton, cultural trips with other couples to the south of France and to Italy, and skiing (very slowly and badly) with a small band of equally old male friends from school, university and the City.

Then, the spring and summer months mean looking after his walled gardens at home in Colyton, in which pride of place is reserved for his apricot, fig, peach and quince trees, and also taking part (without notable success as yet) in his bright red 1960 MGA roadster in classic car rallies with his wife, or one of his three adult children, acting as expert navigator.

To date, those rallies have all been in the UK, but 2026 might well herald more challenging trips to Western Europe. One specific wish is to retrace the course followed by his father when competing in Monte Carlo Rallies just before WW2, albeit at a much slower pace.

All in all, a far from sedate retirement to date.

1976 Year Group Representative Jan Chojecki writes:

This year's "prompt", accompanying the call for news to the Year Group, was a copy of the (twenty) College Regulations for August 1976. These included: "No undergraduate may proceed to the B.A. degree so long as a College Bill is outstanding", "the playing of electronic equipment or of musical instruments [between midnight and 8am] is forbidden", "an undergraduate should not leave Cambridge for the whole day... without written permission", and the vaguely worded catch-all "Conduct injurious to the good order and discipline of the College may result in penalties including the requirement to live out of College". **Kevin**

Loader remarks "Pretty sure **Peter Swaab** and I didn't get college permission to leave Cambridge and squat on the streets of Hanover Square for the night before tickets to Bob Dylan's 1978 Earls Court gigs went on sale! I remember Dylan's record label sent a soup van out in the night to keep us all sustained. It was four tickets per person – I think they cost about £6.50 each – so most of us ended up going twice."

Al Reid observes "One thing that was not in the College Regulations – probably because it was so rare – was what to do if you wanted, as an undergraduate, to get married! Rosalyn (Girton m. 1976) and I met in an history lecture in November 1976. We were engaged on 1 May 1977, at Christ's, and enjoyed a trip on a punt on the Cam that afternoon. We decided to marry in September that year – thus before our second year began – and both had to ask permission of our respective Colleges for permission to get married. Thankfully, permission was given, we were married in Sevenoaks and then returned to Cambridge to live in a Christ's flat in Devonshire Road near the railway station. In other news, I am still working part-time as General Secretary of TISCA (The Independent Schools Christian Alliance) – largely supporting Chaplains and Christian Heads. I step down as a school governor (Monkton Combe) this summer and hope to have a little more time on the golf course and in the garden."

Paul Martin is in the diminishing ranks of the not-yet-retired. "I am still breathing and still fully occupied with advisory and academic work, after emerging from three decades in the national security arena. As a newcomer to these pages, my potted history since 1979 can be found on the RUSI website." YGR **Jan Chojacki** adds: "Paul was awarded the CBE in 2013 for services to defence. His profile piece on the RUSI website, which also lists the several books he has written, deserves to be read. It opens as follows: 'Dr Paul Martin CBE is a security practitioner with more than thirty years' experience in the UK national security arena. During a career in UK government service from 1986 to 2013 he held a variety of senior positions, including heading the Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure (CPNI, now NPSA) and leading national security preparations for the London 2012 Olympics. He is also a former Director of Security for the UK Parliament.'"



Richard and Abby Gray

Richard Gray writes: "I'm still working! I co-founded a UK company specialising in microfluidics in 2001. It was acquired in 2023 by a US company called Unchained Labs. After a period of transitioning the products to Unchained, it's time to move on, so I'm starting a consulting business later this year. Another activity is an annual fundraiser for cancer research called DoMor. My wife Abby and I started it after I had successful surgery for Stage 1 lung cancer in 2023 – I've never smoked in my life! We have DoMor 3 on Sept 20th this year, and we're hoping to raise \$100,000."

Rob de Tullio writes: "Since leaving all those years ago, I have basically been working in software, starting on PDP-11 mini-computers with 128kBytes of memory though the PC revolution and now working in the cloud. Along the way I managed to meet and marry my wife, Elaine, set up home in Warwick and have a son, Alex, who has ended up in the London insurance world. I currently manage and help the software teams that develop the loan origination systems for Tandem

Bank. I still enjoy solving the challenges of getting software and systems to bend to the business needs and regaling my youthful co-workers with "war" stories from computing "history" (the 1980s) so have not found a reason to retire.

In early December 2023, I felt a small amount of back pain which unusually persisted for several weeks. Having decided to seek medical help this was, within a few weeks, diagnosed as stage 4 prostate cancer. This had been essentially symptom-less until my back started hurting due to the cancer fracturing my spine. Although there is no cure, it is possible to slow down progression and provide quality of life and life-extension. So, since March 2024, I have been in the hands of a fantastic collection of specialists and professionals at the ICCN and the London Clinic, who have already given me over a year of quality life to do those things I was putting off until sometime in the future. Over the past year, I have had more tests, scans and different treatments than I knew existed and have taken up a weekly 5km Parkrun to measure my progress. As part of sorting out nearly 70 years of accumulated stuff, I recently donated my Thin Lizzy memorabilia to the Irish Rock and Roll Museum in Dublin including a very worn poster that maybe some of you may remember used to adorn the wall in my college room."



Rob De Tullio at a Parkrun



Rob De Tullio with his Thin Lizzy collection



Dipankar Sen

Dipankar Sen: "I am now retired, after an academic career in Canada as a biochemistry and chemistry professor. My main claim to career fame (so to speak) was the discovery of DNA G-quadruplexes, now a substantial field." [YG Rep adds: DNA G-quadruplexes are involved in a wide range of cellular functions and have great significance for the development of therapies for conditions such as cancer.]

Rob Murgatroyd: "I fear I don't have much to report that's of national importance. Passed over for a Nobel prize again this year. I am still a bit in denial that I have retired, though haven't done any more healthcare management consultancy, save a few small odds and sods, for the last couple of years. Client and agency phone calls are few nowadays, not only because I have stopped the exhausting process of marketing myself as a freelancer, but also because the NHS is trying to avoid going under by shedding as many heads that aren't front line as possible and ruthlessly clamping down on external management consultants. As indeed they should. Meanwhile, at home we have two events to celebrate. Louise and I became proud grandparents in March this year when our first son (Oliver) and his wife (Alice) produced a lovely daughter: Charlotte Rose, aka Lottie. Strange sensation to realise that the generations have moved on a notch. Secondly, we are raising a glass to my mother-in-law Olive, who is reaching 100 years of age, born almost exactly a century before Lottie."

Elwyn Wong and Giulia, recipient of a College award established by Elwyn Wong



Elwyn Wong has established a College award for international students. He writes. "Forty-nine years ago, to the week, with a crop of hair perhaps as full as my curiosity, I first stepped onto First Court with great enthusiasm wondering what Christ's would bring in the next three years. In October this year, with glorious Michaelmas sunshine and an equally warm welcome by the Master and Alexandra Rowlands, my wife and I met with the first recipient of an international student award we established. Giulia is now a second year Philosophy student who is talented, vivacious, and so full of promise. It felt joyous and magical to be standing at the same spot, as you all were and as I was, and pass the torch."

Print cover of Tim Jackson's book *The Care Economy*



Tim Jackson's latest book *The Care Economy* (Polity 2025) has just been published. The blurb reads: "Care is the foundation for life itself. But its fate in the economy is precarious and uncertain. In our hearts it's honoured as an irreducible good. But in the market, it's treated as a second-class citizen – barely recognised in the relentless rush for productivity and wealth. How did we arrive in this dysfunctional place? And what can we do to change things? Renowned ecological economist Tim Jackson sets out to tackle these questions in this timely and deeply personal book. Irreverent, insightful and profoundly inquisitive, *The*

Care Economy offers a bold and accessible manifesto for a healthier and more humane society – a powerful antidote to a conflict-ridden world." YGR **Jan Chojekski** adds "Hugely timely and topical, Tim's book is highly recommended. It's an entertaining and thought-provoking read, covering much more than might be gleaned from the title. Somehow managed to get Greek mythology, Barbie and my late mother's GP into the first couple of chapters and went on from there. Tim's thinking is drawn from a vast range of sources, *inter alia* from Daphne du Maurier's *My Cousin Rachel* (the 2017 film of which, incidentally, was produced by **Kevin Loader**). There's even an important message from Taylor Swift." The Polity website offers a 40% discount on checkout with this code: TJAC4.

Leigh Sparks writes: "At the end of Sept 2024, I joined many of my contemporaries by retiring, in my case from my post as Deputy Principal of the University of Stirling. I remain involved with the University one day a week on special projects and continue with my Scotland's Towns work for the Scottish Government. I have become chair of a Community Interest Company (CIC), Made in Stirling, which is an arts and creative industries collective focused on a very successful retail shop and exhibition space in the city centre of Stirling. I am increasingly involved in more work as a fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. Retirement has brought a greater ability to travel and spells in Spain, Laos, Singapore and Vietnam bracketed our biennial Christ's trek to Italy to support the sadly ailing Wales rugby team. In addition to Rome with **Tim Davies** and his wife Karen, we enjoyed a longer spell in Florence and Bologna."

Kim Walker has moved to Cambridge. "My wife Fiona and I now live in a house just north of Midsummer Common and have been making an effort to

reconnect with the College by attending Alumni events. Highlights include May Bumps and a dinner in formal hall (where I found myself somewhat starstruck sitting opposite a member of the triumphant *University Challenge* team!). All in all, I'm enjoying being back in Cambridge after several decades away. I'm still in fairly regular contact with alumni **Martin Webster**, **Michael Morley**, **Paul Whitlock**, **Damien Welfare** and **David Oughton** (m. 1977)."

Also local to Cambridge, **Roy Maclean** remarks: "Your search for news amongst us must be getting increasingly difficult! And, alas, I can't contribute very much. My sole new activity is stand-up paddleboarding – mainly for now on the lovely River Lark (which is East of Ely). My circumnavigation of Britain is a little way off, however."

And for Swavesey's **Larry (Bamidele) Amure**, "another year has gone by in what seems like no time at all. As a retired person, I seem to be busier than I ever was. I am on three different committees, and I am vice chair on two of them. I visit the College whenever I can, and I have given a talk in the Hamied seminar room about my memoir *Beyond the Horizon Might be Better*, published last year. In August, I will be at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe doing a couple of interactive book-reading sessions with Q&A."



Larry Amure at the Edinburgh Festival

Andrew Ingram writes: "My eldest daughter Alice – whom some will remember as a very small visitor to the College – is now Associate Director of Legacies for Cambridge University. She met the Alumni people at Christ's recently and explained that her first visit to the college in 1978 involved sleeping in a sock drawer."

John Innes reports: "spent most of last year finding, purchasing, renovating and then moving into a new house. It is a major downsize (from six bedrooms to two), and further away from my place of work at the University of British Columbia. However, since I retire on 30 June, a week from today, that's not a major issue. The new house is on Bowen Island looking towards Vancouver, and it's been interesting watching whales passing by regularly – humpbacks and orcas. I'll still be doing academic work and still have graduate students to supervise. I'm the editor-in-chief of a new journal, *Advances in Bamboo Science*, which is doing very well, but is proving extremely time-consuming. Retirement looks like it will be extremely busy!" YG Rep **Jan Chojekski** remarks "By remarkable coincidence, John's news update email message arrived in my inbox while I was on a ferry passing in front of... Bowen Island. I dialled his number, and we had a fine ship-to-shore exchange as we sailed by."

Damien Welfare is enjoying the second year of a part-time MA in Historical Research at Birkbeck College, London.

Rory Field reports that for the last several years he has gone skiing for a week with two other Cambridge friends, Tony and Richard, to Megève in France. He has a great photo of the three [as undergraduates] with their partners attending the Magdalene May Ball, which required white tie and tails back then. He is beginning to feel rather proud that they are still able to ski at all! [Proof in photo – he assures me it's him – YG Rep]. In honour of the Christ's victory



Rory Field on the slopes

in *University Challenge* this year, he thought he would mention that Richard (Pembroke) is the only friend he knows to have been in a *University Challenge* team twice in his time as an undergraduate. "It can make for quite existential discussions after dinner!" remarks Rory.



Christ's footballers
on a golf tour to
St Andrews



James Ball
with Jan Chojecki,
June 2024

After featuring in the 2023 issue on their golfing trip to Rome, our CCAFC contemporaries are this year pictured, unmistakably, at the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews. Thanks to Mike Cullen for sharing. At the back left is **Chris Garden** (m. 1975), next to **John Thornton** (m. 1977), while in front, left to right, are **Maurice Cox** (m. 1978), **Tony Overs**, **Mick McGuire** and **Mike Cullen**.

With great sadness we note the passing of **James Ball** in January this year after a short illness. He leaves his wife Catherine. An obituary appears elsewhere in this issue. **Jan Chojecki** attended a memorial service in Shepreth in June, joined by **Simon Sandberg**. Jan notes "Having always enjoyed my annual dialogues with James, he was a most entertaining correspondent, I am pleased that at least I did manage to

meet up with him last year for a fine catch-up over lunch at The Punter followed by a wander down the Backs. He was in great spirits and seemed so well, it is such a shock that he was taken so swiftly."

And finally, **Stuart Roberts** writes: "I am now pretty much fully retired although I still do bits and pieces both for the University of Reading and The Free University of Brussels (I am a Visiting Research Fellow at both of these institutions). My *magnum opus* – a comprehensive online database of ecological and morphological traits of all European bee species – is presently at the very last stages of preparation before going live to the public. I shall be glad when this is finally done as I have spent 20 years developing it and I am keen to share the load with other bee-people who are considerably younger than me! I have also recently published (with friends) my first descriptive paper introducing a new species. This is a species from Odisha in India, and it is being named in honour of a student I worked with at the University

of Calcutta who, very sadly, lost his life in tragic circumstances. My other first (and I blush a bit about this) is that I have the great honour of having a bee species new to science named after me – *Andrena (Ulandrena) robertsi*. I caught the Holotype specimen, the only known example, west of Tobruk in eastern Libya a number of years ago."



The Bee side:
Andrena
(*Ulandrena*)
robertsi. Credit:
T. J. Wood

1977 Year Group Representative Roger Newenham is pleased to report that the 1977 intake remains stubbornly above ground – and in many cases busier than ever. Roger is partly retired, but still hoping for one last major case as an expert witness

before permanently hanging up his slide rule. Based in Dorset with his wife, he now qualifies as a SKI-er: *Spending the Kids' Inheritance*. A recent trip to Australia ended all too soon with a reluctant return to the UK, though New Zealand and Japan are next on the list. In semi-retirement he wonders how he ever found time to work, being treasurer of both the PCC and the village allotments association, as well as organising the 2025 Village Open Gardens weekend and next year's Street Fair.

Nick Low has traded parish matters for something grander, having been appointed High Commissioner to the Republic of Maldives. Between counterterrorism, climate policy, and the odd crisis-preparedness drill, he seems to be holding the Indian Ocean together rather well. President Muizzu's visit to London in July provided Nick with a sharp reminder of the joys of British weather.

From Perth, **Stu Moore** writes that he has been nobly press-ganged into serving as President of the local Cambridge Alumni group (the usual story: "no-one else would do it"). Events with the Oxford crowd are frequent, including the annual Swan River Regatta – which, unlike us in 1977, they take rather seriously. This year Stu introduced astrophysicist Natasha Hurley-Walker at the Oxbridge Dinner, and reports that his understanding of the cosmos has now expanded well beyond the *Monty Python Galaxy Song* – a genuine quantum leap in knowledge.

Meanwhile, **Al Darlington** confesses to no new achievements beyond the vital business of remaining alive and occasionally turning out for the Christ's Golf Society. He is in regular contact with **Ian Ogilvie** and **Mike Dennis** and proposes beer and steak soon – surely an admirable retirement plan in its own right.

Mike Seaman remains firmly in harness, with colleagues urging him not to retire. He modestly reports nothing newsworthy, though we suspect that still being at work is news enough for most of us.

Andrew McLoughlin was appointed a District Judge in Birmingham last year after a lengthy legal career, and capped that achievement by becoming a grandfather this year. In a fine display of keeping it in the family, both parents of the new arrival also studied at Christ's – a dynasty in the making.

Chris Gopsill writes: 'I had worked for more than 35 years, based on my PET degree, in the field of engineering and consulting. This was focused very closely on environmental sustainability, with multiple projects including development of VOC free paint formulations, and longer-term setting up of large-scale solar panel production plants, based on a relatively new technology, including more than 37 trips to China.

Following my retirement from corporate life, I wanted to do something significant differently, and focused on the human side of sustainability, based in Switzerland where I've been living since 1993. Thanks to a chance meeting with a former colleague, I discovered a very impressive and impactful charity based in Switzerland, supporting migrants and asylum seekers from all around the world to start companies or find jobs, and thereby overcome long-term unemployment and deskilling. I started as a volunteer mentor in 2018 and developed to the role of pro-bono board chairperson. I found this volunteer work extremely inspiring, impactful and informative.'

Jonathan Tafler – after decades of heroic resistance – has finally succumbed to contributing to these notes. He reflects that, while his English degree was not directly vocational, it proved a fine grounding for a career with the RSC and, more recently, teaching at RADA. He continues to act, write, and dramatise for BBC

Radio (his latest, *Next Season*, is on BBC Sounds). Later this year he appears as Sigmund Freud in *Dr Freud Will See You Now*, *Mrs Hitler* at Highgate's Gatehouse Theatre. Clearly retirement is not imminent.

Finally, from the Bavarian Alps, **Alan Batten** assures us he is both "alive and kicking" – and rather good at skiing (and SKI-ing). He promises something more eccentric for next year, though frankly a jaunt to Botswana last month already qualifies.

1978 Year Group Representative Tim Podesta writes:

Thank you for your news this year, the themes of which I can relate to are in regard to staying busy in retirement or partial retirement – and the delights of grandchildren. My wife Liz and I enjoyed a spring bluebell walk with **Peter Brown** and Helen and have planned a road trip later this year around Corsica with **Paul Barnes** and Mary.

From **Richard Clark**: 'I am still working – no plans for retirement yet! I have been Team Rector of the North Wingfield Team Parish, just south of Chesterfield, for the past three years and I am Deputy Chair of the Derby Diocesan Business Committee. While I was a vicar in Nottingham I founded the joint churches outreach to sex workers, the Jericho Road Project, which reaches its 25th anniversary in September. And if I am not worn out by the ordained ministry, Sue and I have three grandchildren in Sheffield to finish me off!'

From **Paul Barnes**: 'Like many others in our year I reached State pension age this year which is a significant milestone. However, I have hardly retired and keep busy as an End Point (Apprenticeship) Assessor which I enjoy and see as a key part of technical skills. I meet many excellent candidates who have much to contribute and work hard for their qualifications. It's not all work – you may see me singing at a few festivals in the south west with the Magnificent AKs.'

From **Chris Parsons**: 'Ian Nunez and I exercised our dining rights at Christ's (the first time ever for me!) last term and received a warm welcome and an excellent dinner on high table. I spend much more time now, though, at Clare College, where my wife is the Master.'

From **Edmund Hewson**: 'I was awarded my PhD (after seven years part-time study), which I studied for at Leeds Beckett University entitled 'Porosity, Agency and Religious Gazes in British Travel Accounts of the Long Nineteenth Century'.



Rick Sopher receives the Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur from Jacques Chirac

From **Rick Sopher** comes an update on his notable achievements and recent activities. He pursued a career in finance, rising to CEO of Edmond de Rothschild Capital Holdings (1993 to date). Prior to that he became the youngest ever partner at BDO Stoy Hayward, chartered accountants (1981 to 1993). In 2007, for his work in religious education, he was awarded the Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur by French President Jacques Chirac.

This sideline has become more central in recent years, and he is emerging as a key figure in interfaith scriptural dialogue, forging new ways of understanding the links between the Bible and the Qur'an. In 2023 he led the first interfaith group, which included Jews, to Madinah, Saudi Arabia, where he became the first Jewish person to plant a date tree there for approximately 1,400 years, and in

March 2025, he participated in the Drumlanrig Accords, a historic agreement between UK Imams and Rabbis that was presented to HM The King. In 2024 Rick was made an Honorary Fellow of the Woolf Institute, Cambridge, where he convenes the Qur'an and Bible Reading Group of Professors of Religion worldwide.

Jonathan Goldberg writes: 'Just over a year ago (end of June 2024), I was awarded the title of Distinguished Engineer by the TM Forum, for my contributions to the organization as part of my employment with Amdocs. Not long afterwards, I took early retirement from Amdocs, and after a refreshing break, resumed my association with TM Forum as a part-time staffer. I've been there just over eight months, contributing and overseeing the TM Forum Open API standards, easing integration in the service provider industry.'



Rick Sopher plants a date tree in Madinah, Saudi Arabia



Jonathan Goldberg is awarded the title of Distinguished Engineer by TM Forum

1980 Year Group News

Simon Piggott writes: **Moray McLennan**, now retired from his role as CEO of M&C Saatchi plc and with a fairly clear diary, had time to organise golf and dinner in College in May for members of the Soho Curry Club (SCC). Seven of us played a round of golf at the Gog Magog Golf Club. A three-ball captained by **Richard Goldstein** and two fellow Old Epsomians, who for some decades have been honorary members of the SCC, led off. Moray himself captained a Christ's fourball, together with **Andy Myers**, **Simon Barker** and **Simon Piggott**, who were, for some of the time when not in the rough, hot on the heels of the threeball.

Following these golfing endeavours, the group met up with **Alex Bell**, **John Page** (welcomed back to the fold after many years of absence, no doubt having been busy with his family of six children),

Andy Ellis, **Martin Le Brun** and **Steve Castle** in the Champion of the Thames in King Street, prior to dinner in the splendidly renovated Old Portrait Room in First Court, where portraits of distinguished Christ's alumni, including Charles Darwin and John Milton, looked down on those assembled. In the 1980s, we learned these had been the rooms of the late David Yale, *inter alia* College Praelector 1980–82, and where Messrs McLennan and Goldstein had enjoyed many a law tutorial, prior to studying diligently in the adjacent Law Library.



Moray captaining a Christ's fourball



Joined by peers, the Christ's fourball participants dine in the Portrait Room at Christ's



The prize-giving concluding the day's events

An excellent meal was had by all, for which we must thank Christ's catering department, with a first toast to the absent **Danny Fearn**. We all wished Danny the very best given his current health issues.

Despite reasonably strong front nines on the golf course by Messrs Myers and Piggott, the wheels rather came off on the back nine and it was Richard Goldstein's team who were declared winners at dinners by a comfortable margin. Unfortunately, Old Epsomian Clive Watson, not a Christ's man but someone who had gained an MBA at the Judge Business School, walked off with the individual prize, an eggcup, which he is obliged to bring back for next year's encounter.



Greg Rubinstein
being appointed
a 'Ridder' in the
Orde van
Oranje-Nassau



Stephen Jolly provides an update that, at the beginning of 2025, he was appointed CEO of the British Gun Trade Association.

And **Greg Rubinstein** writes: 'A couple of months ago, I had the great honour of being appointed a 'Ridder' (Knight) in the Orde van Oranje-Nassau, in a surprise ceremony hosted by the Dutch Ambassador at his residence in London. A surprise to me at least, but not to the family, colleagues and friends from England and abroad who very kindly came along to join in the fun, and who managed to keep it all totally secret – including Christ's contemporaries **Danny Fearn**, **Andy Ellis** and **Alex Bell**.

1981 Year Group News



Alumni crews
for the Head
of the Cam in
April 2025



Jill Goldsmith reports that she was at the heart of the alumni rowing at the Head of the Cam in April, in an VIII which included: **Kate Hooton**, **Helen Saul**, **Sue Gay**, **Sam Fabbro**, **Kate Raines** and **Lynn Oxborrow** from other year groups.

Alan Arntsen writes: 'I still continue to work at the law firm I set up with my partners just over 33 years ago and I am also very active with my pro bono voluntary duties. Just last October I was elected as Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Buenos Aires British Hospital. This Hospital is set up as an Argentine not-for-profit organisation – originally founded by British settlers in 1844 as a dispensary and today it is one of the main well-renowned, high-complexity institutions in the region. Although initiated for a specific community, today it serves locals and nationals from nearby countries. It is by far the largest community serving institution left by those early Britons.'

Mark Draper writes: 'I recently celebrated 40 years working in the electricity industry, and all the changes make it ever harder to keep the UK lights on. My roles are now part time, but it is good to still be involved, including in my own company

I set up 15 years ago. On the family front we have moved on to the next generation, being proud grandparents to Luke who is now 18 months old and very much a bringer of joy and fun. My College involvement is very active through rowing once or twice a year out with the old Alumni in the winter Fairbairns event and the spring Head of the Cam, both followed by very sociable dinners afterwards. At our most recent gathering it was great to see the new ladies eight being named 'Spirit of '15' a lovely nod to 'Spirit of '84'. This was the name we chose for the previous eight supported by the ladies four I coxed way back in 1984 and rowed so well to the Headship in the Lent Bumps by the 2015 ladies. Where did all those years go?!

Ian Foster writes: 'I've now been at the University of Bristol for nearly 13 years and was promoted to Associate Professor of Languages in September 2023. On the personal front, Sal and I have lived in Weston-super-Mare since 2014 and welcomed our first grandchild, a girl, in January 2024.'

1982 Year Group Representative Cathy Stone reports:

Robert Blade writes: 'I took partial retirement from Defence Equipment & Support (part of the Ministry of Defence) last summer after 42 years, starting as a Student Engineer before coming up to Christ's and ending as a Principal.

Over my career I have contributed to procurement and support of iconic programmes, including the Challenger 2 main battle tank, the Merlin naval helicopter, the Eurofighter Typhoon, the Ajax armoured reconnaissance vehicle and the Queen Elizabeth Class aircraft carriers. I am now working three days a week – a good work-life balance! Embracing lifelong learning, I took and passed a cyber security exam just before Christmas, becoming a Certified Information Systems Security Professional.

My extra time since last summer has enabled me to spend more time on cultivating our allotment, still playing tennis (with a July 2025 debut representing Avon County Veterans) and a list of jobs around the house that inevitably continues to grow.

Our son, Jonathan, graduated with a First in History from the University of Southampton last July. He is now taking a Master's law conversion course with the aim of becoming a solicitor. He has been grateful to receive advice from **Cathy Stone (Wilcox)** and **Mary Siddall (née Keefe)**.

Daryl Fox (née Rice) was fortunate to have a two-month sabbatical from her job (as a partner in the private client team at a Guildford law firm) through April and May. Together with husband Seb (Girton 1982), they travelled around the South Pacific.

She says: 'Pitcairn Island was a focal point of the trip, and an amazing experience. The two-day sea crossing on a supply vessel, from Mangareva in French Polynesia, underlined tiny Pitcairn's remoteness. The island's (often turbulent) history is never far away and there was much to explore. Eleven days allowed time to walk the trails, get to know our hosts, and meet a good proportion of the islanders (today's population is around 45 people – most of them descendants of the *Bounty* mutineers).

Following the *Bounty* led other parts of the itinerary as well: to Tubuai in the Austral Islands, and to Norfolk



Daryl Fox with her
husband Seb on
Pitcairn island

Island, as well as making sure to go to Matavai Bay on Tahiti. But there was also time to explore stunning Niue, learn about land reclamation and other initiatives in low-lying Tuvalu, and experience the recent cultural revival in the Marquesas Islands.

In other news, younger daughter Helena (Sidney Sussex 2017) lives in Glasgow where she works for a heritage charity alongside writing and performing, whilst older daughter Louisa – having done her PGCE at Homerton – is teaching English and French at Impington Village College and lives off Mill Road!

Marina Hardwick (née **Tzamouranis**) says: "I'm coming up for two years working as a Supervisory Analyst at Rothschild and Co Redburn, it is a lovely bunch of people and excellent analysts and I'm really loving it. I visit New York a few times a year as my daughter lives there. I've settled into a perfect little house in Wimbledon with my elderly cat."

Jane Harwood (née **Laughton**) writes: "I have retired but still do some non-executive roles for charities and national bodies. I get much pleasure from growing vegetables in our allotment and playing the baroque violin. We have bought a beautiful old farmhouse in the Dordogne where we are spending increased amounts of time, loving being part of the local community and speaking lots of French! Our three children have long since left home and have found careers as a barrister, a health safety and environment expert and a professional actor/singer."



Landscape and
portrait art by
Steve Mills

Steve Mills is fully settled into the retirement routine, with long daily walks and three or four paintings/week. He says: "I now have twelve paintings on display (and up for sale) in the restaurant at our village pub (The Rose & Crown, Hartlip) and people point at me and say: "He's the artist". Rejected by both Landscape and Portrait Artist of the Year again this year – my two entries attached. Got to keep going though: if I give up challenging myself, I'll turn into a very expensive pet."

Jeremy Motteram writes: "A highlight of the year was the wedding of our daughter Millie to Alex Silver at Christ's in August 2024; a beautiful day with the marriage in Chapel, drinks in the Fellows' Garden and wedding breakfast in Hall. And quite an interesting top table with **Millie** (m. 2009), Alex (Jesus m. 2009), **Duncan Silver** (Alex's father, Christ's m. 1976), me (Millie's father, Christ's m. 1982) and mothers Marion Silver and Joanne Motteram."



Images from the
wedding of
Millie Motteram
and Alex Silver
at Christ's

Martin Nye is having a fascinating year as High Sheriff of Wiltshire. In addition to the customary role of supporting the judiciary, police, emergency services and the voluntary sector, he has chosen a theme of "food" encompassing all aspects of food from farm to fork.

Professor **Jeremy Levy** was appointed as the Associate Dean of the NIHR (National Institute for Health and Care Research) Academy – Integrated Pathways.

Cathy (Wilcox) Stone is still training lawyers to write and draft more simply, but plans to cut down from July 2026, to make more time for travelling and other adventures. She and **Derek Stone** have notched up about 120 countries each so far, (including Ghana, Togo, Benin, Zimbabwe and Zambia in 2025) but, having copied **Jane Harwood** in buying a house in the Dordogne, they're also going to be spending more time there.

Richard Syme retired in 2024 after 35 years in Defence and Aerospace, latterly for Airbus Defence and Space, where his team designed and built hardware for over 100 satellites and spacecraft, mostly geostationary telecommunication satellites, but also earth-observation, meteorological and planetary science spacecraft. He has joined a second choir and has enjoyed singing with Andrea Bocelli, Karl Jenkins and Eimear Noone in recent months.

He met up with his fellow 1982 physicist, **Jonathan Webb**, for the Cavendish Science Festival in June and they savoured some excellent food and engaging conversation at College, when exercising their dining rights.

Jonathan Webb writes: "I've managed to retire, partially unretire as a colleague offered me a role too good to refuse, and then, as that's ramped down, retire again. Now I find myself cycling, running, taking photos and doing stuff that I find enjoyable, and ignoring everything else."

As a result, I had time to visit the Cavendish Science Festival with **Richard Syme** for two days of talks, nibbles and conversations revolving around:

- What's happening at the Cav (green energy, Particle Physics, semiconductors, Astronomy, cross departmental working)
- Croissants and tea
- What our children are doing/not doing

The new and extremely impressive physics labs were funded by the late Ray Dolby of C30, C60, C90 fame and Dolby theatre sound. There was clearly money to be made out of reducing tape hiss.

Richard previously pointed out that Old Members can have a termly meal with the Fellows in Hall. So off we went for a splendid high-table meal, then into the Senior Common Room to check that the wine was up to scratch. There followed a most lively debate which stretched from Egyptian coffins circa 300 BC, through biblical stories and their relation to Egyptian mythology, what's changed in College in the last 40 years, then onto the current wars and how we might solve them. Unfortunately, we didn't solve them. My thanks to all the Fellows who were present and made for a splendid evening and my apologies for not remembering any names – a habit that has plagued me for the last 61 years.

I spent the night in College for the first time since graduating and for the first time ever in Second Court. I'd forgotten how calm the college is, and took a wander in the early morning; sneaking into the Fellows' Garden before it was officially open,

checking on the new building, bike racks, revamped X-block and reworked Third Court garden."

1983 Year Group News

David Capper writes: 'I have been promoted to Professor in the School of Law at Queen's University Belfast. My professorial title is Professor of Civil Procedure and Remedies.'

David Carr writes: 'My wife Emma and I were ambushed with the President's Award at the annual Horserace Writers and Photographers Association's Derby Awards. Frighteningly, we organised most of the event yet the presentation stayed secret from us. We even went through a dry run with someone else getting the award. Trust no-one! Even more worryingly, this is usually something of a lifetime achievement award. Which means I can't really be 27 any more...'



Celebrations for Andrew Davies' 60th birthday taking place in the Portrait Room at Christ's



Andrew Stewart finishing an Ironman triathlon

Andrew Davies writes: 'As part of celebrating my 60th birthday I held a lunch party in the Portrait (formerly Mountbatten) Room in College. The group included eight of us alumni from my era at Christ's – how many of them can you identify? As usual, the college excelled themselves in providing a lovely venue, great service and delicious food and wine. I am already thinking of celebrating my next significant birthday in the same way!'

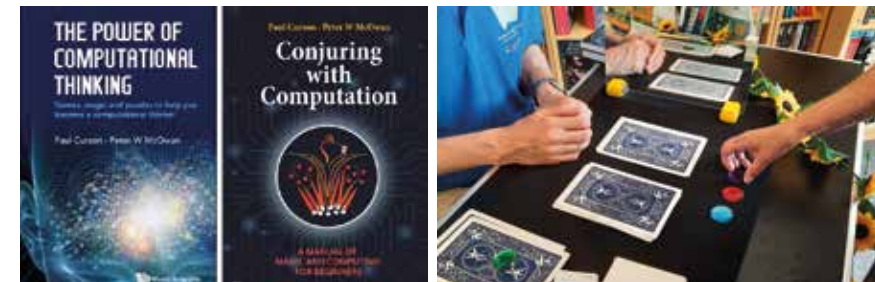
Andrew Stewart writes: 'I participated in my first triathlons during 2025. Previously, I had been put off by the getting wet bit (I couldn't swim properly) but decided, at the suggestion of my daughter-in-law, to enter Ironman 70.3 Elsinore, Denmark (1900m swim, 90km bike and 21.1km run) in June.'

Peggy Vance has been appointed an Independent Member of the Parole Board of England and Wales, so has stepped down from the Lord Chancellor's Advisory Committee for the appointment of magistrates in London. Peggy continues to run Stellar Theatre and is completing her training as a psychodynamic counsellor.

Neil Calver writes: 'On 28 July 2025 I was appointed the Presiding Judge (i.e. Judicial Leader) of the South Eastern Circuit, which is the largest circuit in the UK.'

Paul Curzon writes: 'This summer is the 20th anniversary of my award winning Computer Science For Fun (CS4FN) public engagement project and we recently held a birthday event that included a talk on "The Illusion of Good Software Design" and close-up magic. My second book about computing is also now published in paperback, called *Conjuring with Computation*. It is a fun introduction to computing through magic tricks (and an introduction to magic and how it is founded on computation). It covers topics including computational thinking, programming, cyber security and human-computer interaction each introduced through different linked magic tricks.'

I am a Professor of Computer Science at Queen Mary University of London, and this is one part of my public engagement work around computer science which includes holiday workshops and masterclasses that I do for the Royal Institution as



Paul Curzon's books on computation, and a demonstration of close-up magic

well as for primary and secondary schools. One of the workshops I do is a magic workshop for primary school students (that I will be doing at the RI again in August) and the book is an extension of the ideas from that.

1984 Year Group Representative Sophie Sutherland writes:

By the time this article is published many of our year group will have reached the milestone of their sixtieth birthday. For us and many of those we are in touch with its proved a time to reflect on shifting priorities. We've also thought often of those in our year group who are missed and haven't reached this stage alongside us. We really appreciate opportunities to catch up from time to time with Christ's friends. It's been lovely to receive messages this year from many people we have not seen for a long time and we're especially grateful to **Andy Reeves** for gathering news from those he's in touch with (see below). We hope to organise a very informal gathering in the near future.

Sophie was especially happy earlier this year to be reconnected via the alumni office with her former Y corridor neighbour **Finley de Witt** (née Lydia Warwick). Their novel *Lovebroken* (see below) is a compelling read – heartrending and funny in equal measure and, thanks to the professional understanding Finley brings to their own story, full of valuable insights into the effects of trauma.

Finley writes: 'These days I live on the south coast and divide my time between sea swimming, writing and my work as an ally to survivors of childhood trauma. Last year, I published *Lovebroken*, a thinly disguised memoir offering hope to anyone who's struggled with their mental health. The book addresses the dangers of ill-informed treatments and has been featured in Rick Hanson's Wise Brain Bulletin and on the PTSD UK website. In spite of the material, I promise it's a cracking read - the tagline is: 'Trauma has never been so funny or so shocking'! I use IFS (Internal Family Systems) as a healing process and have found it to be transformative both for myself and my clients. Wishing well to all alumni, and I'd be delighted to hear from anyone from Christ's.'



Cover of Finley de Witt's novel Lovebroken

Timothy Day writes: 'After a large amount of time and several changes of academic interest I am now Dr Tim Day, having achieved my PhD in summer 2024 via the University of Sunderland. It's an investigation into how STEM and creative frameworks fit together in the music technology industry and in music technology education.'

Having graduated in Law in 1987, **Tim Lord** KC was briefly a solicitor at Slaughter & May before switching to the Bar where he has practised for over 30 years. He took Silk in 2008. He practises in commercial litigation, civil fraud and banking and finance disputes from Brick Court Chambers (the same Chambers where Mr Justice **Neil Calver** (m. 1983), High Court Judge, practised before going to the Bench). He married Amanda (née Green), herself a Queen's College Law graduate, in 2001 and they have two sons: James has just graduated with a First from Durham University in Geography and William is going back to complete his English degree at Durham. When not working as a barrister, Tim works on his livestock farm in West Sussex and is a keen follower of horse racing. He would be delighted to hear from Christ's friends from the 1984–87 vintage.

Andy Reeves writes: 'Of course, we all turned twenty whilst at Christ's and now we are all hitting our sixties! The thing that stands out most for me from my time at Christ's, and which I celebrate most these 40 years on, is the meaningful and lasting friendships that were nurtured there, in my case on the sports fields, in the buttery and at the college bops of the mid 1980s. We did of course work hard too!

Soulmates, bridesmaids, best men, godparents, and even cancer buddies are some ways in which friendships have continued to flourish over the past few decades alongside attending sports events and gigs together. I'm sure many of you will have similar experiences (though hopefully not all!).

Some very dear friends were borne of my special time at Christ's from a bit of a mix of year groups, 1984 and 1985.



Adrian Ross at the Cheltenham Literary Festival

Adrian Ross is always a joy to catch up with and last autumn was a welcome visitor to see my wife Jane (Girton m. 1984) and I following our move from Ross-on-Wye to Cheltenham. Here is Adrian at the Cheltenham Literary Festival posing for a photo for his kids (that was his excuse at least).



Beth, Jane and Sarah supporting the Lions at the Aviva in June

Beth Morris has been a constant friend and a 'bestie' for my lovely wife Jane. Despite our differing rugby allegiances, we had a great trip out to Nice for the RWC group stages in 2023 and then also last month to Dublin to watch the Lions in their warm-up match. Both times we were joined by another great friend **Sarah Mullen** (m. 1985) and respective partners.



Kevin Bugg and Tim Jones watch England at Edgbaston

Another sporting event we have recently re-kindled is an annual trip to watch England in a Test Match; Edgbaston has been the venue for the last three years with **Tim Jones** and **Kevin Bugg** (and often partners too).

Unfortunately, I had to miss this year, so Kevin and Tim held the fort.

With the pre-eminence of WhatsApp, we now have an active sports chat group, mostly around footy, though six nations and cricket also feature. This extra connectivity has encouraged us to meet up in London for beers & curry two-three times a year with the group including **Alan**



Alumni gathering in Cornwall

Knights (supporting Luton and Liverpool), **Neil Hart** (Leeds), **Dharminder Kang** (Arsenal) and **Nigel Ashton** (Newcastle) joining **Tim Jones** (Wycombe Wanderers), **Adrian Ross** (Brighton) and myself (Forest). We very much miss having the late **Tim Birdsall** (Man Utd.) with us at these evenings, he used to fly over from Larne, Ireland for them. Sadly, there is no admissible photographic evidence of these beer and curry nights!

Kids moving out of home and working less has created more opportunities for reconnecting with old College friends. Recently it was lovely to be away in Cornwall for some sea swimming with (L–R) **Mike Sellers** (m. 1985), Jane Reeves, Kelvin (Sarah's husband), **Julie Sellers** (m. 1985), **Andy Robson**, Liz Robson (Homerton m. 1983), **Fiona Blyth**, **Stephen Blyth** (m. 1985), **Anne Kramer** (m. 1985) and **Sarah Mullen**.

Not all re-connections have been planned out though and fate has lent its hand when it comes to health. Back in 2017, I was diagnosed with follicular Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma, it was an almighty shock, but as I was to find out, this blood cancer is treatable over the medium to long term through a combination of chemotherapy and increasingly immunotherapy treatment. I was made aware at the time that Stephen Blyth was also receiving treatment, but for a more aggressive form of Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma and we re-connected whilst I was undergoing treatment and Stephen being a few months ahead of me was able to pass on lots of valuable insight. Thankfully, Stephen came through his cancer and is now fully clear.

Eight years on and blood cancer struck the friendship group again; this time Tim Jones being diagnosed with Chronic Lymphocytic Leukaemia (CLL). And, then the next twist in the story... a scan in April showed that my Lymphoma was growing again and would need treating soon. Stephen Blyth was again there to support me brilliantly as I evaluated my options, and I was pleased to get onto a very encouraging clinical trial in Oxford University Hospitals. Tim and I are both now being treated in the same haematology department! You just can't keep us Christ's pals away from each other! Incredible how circuitous life can be.

I am pleased to say that both Tim and I are doing very well on our treatment.

Finally, as College Rugby Captain 1986–87, I would point out that in March



Tim Jones and Andy Reeves



Clockwise: The Christ's teamsheet for the 1987 Cuppers final; Phil Bancroft (m. 1985), Richard Ungless (m. 1986), Andy Robson, Jason Kemshall (m. 1986), Andy Reeves all trying to work out where hooker John Elliot (m. 1985) was going to throw the ball; Scrum half Kevin (Gerbs) Powell winning the ball with openside flanker Jason Scantlebury (m. 1986) looking on while Andy Reeves and superfast winger, Mike Sellers are ready in support

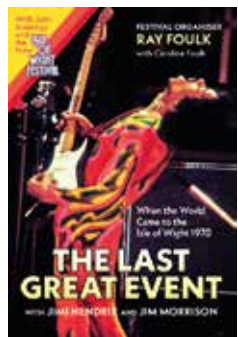
2027 it will be the 40th anniversary of the 1st XV making the Cuppers final, so, maybe a re-union in Cambridge should be on the cards?

Here is the original team sheet that was on the board that day, and below are a couple of action shots from our quarter-final victory over Jesus College (taken by our late friend, **Tim Birdsall**).

So many fond memories of my time at Christ's with life-long friendships created. I'm very much looking forward to reconnecting further over the coming years.'

1985 Year Group News

Ray Foulk writes: 'Published this year – a new revised edition of my 2016 book, *When the World Came to the Isle of Wight, Vol 2, The Last Great Event* (Medina Publishing, 2025).



Print Cover of Ray Foulk's book on Isle of Wight Festivals, 1968–1970

The book is the latest in the series of volumes covering the famous Isle of Wight Festivals, 1968–70, of which I was (with my brother) the founder and organiser. The events included Bob Dylan's only concert in over seven years and Jimi Hendrix's last UK or major performance. He died 18 days later. These festivals made world news at the time, including the Guinness Book of Records with a many as 600,000 attending in 1970. They also laid the foundations of today's ubiquitous rock festivals.

The book contains a fascinating paragraph concerning Christ's College:

"As a footnote, in September 2010, I was unexpectedly reminded of my background as a festival promoter. I attended a 25-year anniversary reunion of my class in the School of Architecture, University of Cambridge. Entering the London venue I spotted our former studio master, Peter Sparks. To my surprise he recognised me immediately.

"I don't know if you remember me, Peter..." I greeted him.

"Yes I certainly do. How could I forget after getting me into all that trouble!"

"How? Why? What about?" I asked, taken aback.

"Didn't you know? After I interviewed you and had given you a place, just before you came up I had a call from your Senior Tutor at Christ's to say 'what have you gone and done, giving a place to this person who organised a drugs festival on the Isle of Wight?'"

Suddenly, this all made sense. Obviously there had been a fuss about me and it explained the mystery as to why, at the last minute, Christ's withdrew my room in college and made me lodge outside their hallowed walls. They were fearful I would be a terrible influence on their younger students. The CV accompanying my application [to Christ's] had proudly boasted of my background as a promoter and listed the Isle of Wight Festivals and other events I had been involved with. Clearly, it was only later that someone realised what it all meant.'

1986 Year Group News

Penny Pullan writes: 'I have just heard that I have been accepted for training for ordination as a Priest in the Church of England. Because I'm over 55, this means unpaid, so I'll continue working almost full time and do a bit more theology study online on Thursday evenings. All being well, I'll be ordained in 2027, a year after my daughter!'

Julian Tang reports that he attended a couple of meetings sponsored by the WHO last year – one on the update of the Influenza Research Agenda (as a Rapporteur and committee member) and the other on Workplace Indoor Aerosols (as a keynote speaker).



Julian Tang attending WHO meetings

1987 Year Group Representative Fiona Stephenson reports:

Julia (née **Coombe**) and **Stephen Smith** are back in the UK on the south coast after 15 happy years working abroad in Ireland, Hungary and Switzerland. Julia now works primarily at Chichester Festival Theatre as its company secretary and Stephen supports several local organisations with their finance functions as a consultant, as well as doing a lot of sailing. They have three children – two at university and one working in London.

Professor **John Isaacs'** pioneering work on developing new treatments for rheumatoid arthritis was recently featured by the BBC. John is Professor of Clinical Rheumatology in Newcastle, where he has been based since 2002. He is also Associate Medical Director (research) at Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

Richard Harrison
and company
gather for a meal
in London



Richard Harrison, Sarah Butler (née **Daniel**), **Russell Barnes, Martin Stoddart, Russell Jones** and **Glafkos Persianis** managed to catch up for dinner in London in June 2025. The stars had aligned perfectly as Sarah was over from Australia visiting family (her youngest daughter is studying in the UK), Martin was over from Seattle and Russell Jones was in town from Denmark (where he now lives, when not honing his football refereeing skills). Over food and wine, the topic of our year group's 40-year reunion (in summer 2027) was hotly discussed. Many are keen for a good turn out! Earlier in the year Richard and his wife Rebecca had met up with **Geoff** (m. 1987) and **Charlotte Smailes** (m. 1988) for lunch in Wiltshire.

Meanwhile in May, **Fiona Stephenson, Kate Watkins, Jane Martinson, Andrea Ward** and **Rowena Armstrong** met up for a fabulous weekend get together in Oxfordshire.

Paul Nathan writes that since leaving Christ's he worked in finance for a couple of decades before looking after his kids. He then went back to uni (to University College London) to do a MSc in Astrophysics. He is currently in the third year of a PhD using AI methods in Cosmology. He still sees a few people from Christ's, including **Trevor Greetham, Alison Bostock** (née **Williams**) and **Chris Vaughan**, who he has seen recently. For those that knew him back in Christ's, he is still writing novels. He recently recorded a careers talk with the Darwin Society, which reminded him of how much of an imprint Natural Sciences had left on him and how much he had learned from it – and even more from his friends of that time.

Andrew Wright says: 'Having retired from my GP partnership (although immediately returning a day a week as a salaried GP), I've been developing a portfolio career! I am continuing in my role for NHS England as the Primary Care Dean for the East of England, and also have roles as national Lead Dean for Palliative Medicine and Community Sexual and Reproductive Health. As if that wasn't enough, I have recently been appointed Visiting Associate Professor in Medical Education at Anglia Ruskin University and start in a role as Bye-Fellow and Tutor at Hughes Hall in September!'

1988 Year Group News

Gaby Darbyshire's
dog, Milkshake



Gaby Darbyshire writes: 'I'm still living in the US (26 years now, my how the time flies), and am currently in Los Angeles, running an early-stage venture fund – Dangerous Ventures – that invests in startups focused on climate resilience, from clean energy generation and mobility through to water management, flood prediction and fire suppression, and circular economy waste-to-value. It's never felt more important to be working on these issues, even though the political climate (pun intended) is not friendly over here these days, and I am heartened by watching the inevitable march towards progress in the EU and elsewhere. Besides the work, I'm lucky to live in a beautiful place, with

the ocean walking distance from my home and the mountains on our doorstep; our new "foster fail" dog Milkshake keeps us busy running around after, and we get lots of visitors – family and friends from all over the world.'

Matthew Robson writes: 'Officially became an empty nester as son number two went off to university. Elected to be a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering, which was a lovely experience. Met up with Niki, Dan, Pippa and Alex for dinner in London.'

Joel Edwards provides an update: 'Another two grandsons were born in the last year, lots of thankfulness in our family. Still vicar of Dagenham. I attended a national Anglican conference along with **Sarah Tett** (née Dalzell, m. 1989) organised by **Kieran Bush** (m. 1998).

Alan Tulchin writes: 'I will be starting a new job in August 2025, as Teaching Professor of History at Georgetown University. Classmates visiting Washington DC are invited to look me up!'

Alex Cheetham (née Bond) tells us that **Sheeraz Shah** at Working Title films worked on the sci-fi horror film *The Substance*, starring Margaret Qualley and Demi Moore, which won an Oscar, Golden Globe, BAFTA and other awards, and that **Rebecca Hodgson** executive produced the BBC One hit drama, *This City is Ours*, which starred Sean Bean and James Nelson-Joyce amongst others. It was received to critical acclaim and BBC One has commissioned a second series. She's currently in production on *Dear England*, the television adaptation of James Graham's award-winning play.

Alex herself has joined the Christ's Development and Alumni Committee given her experience at the 'other' place.

Daniel Palmer writes: 'My wife Kristi and I have settled in Santa Barbara, California, after an international career in the energy business. We have two daughters, Kathryn and Megan, who are at studying at UCLA. I'm working as Managing Director at Climate Investments, a climate-focused venture capital fund. When not working I'm still found windsurfing and kitesurfing on the Pacific Coast as much as possible. Always good to catch up with Christ's friends when I'm in the UK.'

1989 Year Group News

Barry Williams reports that his midlife crisis continues as he has blown the cobwebs off his drumkit and formed a band which recently played at a low-quality local charity music festival. Good fun, but not time to give up the day job.

Jennifer Haywood writes: 'I continue to practise commercial chancery law at the Bar, although now mostly as a mediator or arbitrator. I also still enjoy being a member of Christ's Development Board, getting an opportunity to learn about the College's development plans and what is going on in College and the university more generally and meet other members of the Christ's community. It has been great fun to catch up with old friends from College a few times over the last year.'

David Clinch provides an update: 'I am still based in Singapore and working across the region in the energy and infrastructure sectors advising on conventional and renewable energy as well as energy transition. I have been catching up with **Maxine Osbaldestin Palmer** and her family who have been based here in Singapore and also **Peter Haspel** and **Ken Tune** on a visit to the UK. I had a really nice trip



Matthew Robson
and friends

back to Christ's last summer, including punting down the river. If anyone is passing through Singapore, please get in touch.'

1990 Year Group Representative James Ellson writes:

The past year's international headlines have been particularly horrific, and our national news almost uniformly depressing, so I'm hoping that an update from our year group will soothe, and transport you away for a few minutes... back to the plodge, first court, and into the buttery... Staying in touch is always uplifting – thank you!

Our year group's 'A' lister **Sacha Baron Cohen** has a new role of Marvel character Mephisto in Disney's TV show *Ironheart*. Often in the headlines too is **Fiona Harvey**, environmental editor of *The Guardian*. She writes on climate change and the COP conferences. A recent piece 'Climate is our biggest war' made clear that if we breach 1.5C, then we will reach a tipping point and irreversible consequences including species die-off, sea level rise, heatwaves, flooding, and droughts.

From the headlines to the inside pages:

Emma Williams writes: 'My consultancy continues to take me on a tour (IRL and virtual) of universities supporting researchers in their careers and my third book, *Leaving Academia*, has been shortlisted for the Business Book Awards. Richard has been buried deep in his own hedge fund, Grantabridge Research. Somehow alongside, we have managed to raise cost centres #1, #2 and #3 to adulthood with a chemistry teacher, analyst and potential archaeologist in the mix. Fighting the 'empty nest' syndrome by accumulating house rabbits (Gimli and Frodo) which goes to show we are still nerds after all these years.'

Richard Tateson writes: 'I am still mainly teaching Biology but with an increasing range of more or less fun sidelines involving writing A Level exam questions, running the biology bit of a one-year university foundation qualification and filling in as head of the science department at my main employer until they can find someone better (an impossible task of course, blush). In my spare time the jam season has begun with foraged cherry plums and blackberries. And I recently had a delightful lunch with **Divi Perera**.'

Dan Feather writes: 'I met up with **David Brown** at The Plough to watch my daughter Emily row in the Bumps. Emily has just done her first year in Natural Sciences. It sounds as though the course is just as challenging as it was 32 years ago. So lovely to come back to college and see the beautiful gardens and grounds. Often see **Simon Daniel**, **Rajiv Shah**, **Linda Crow** and **Simon Wilson**. All doing well.'

Neale Upstone writes: 'My highlight is that I finally went back to Avoriaz and skied 'The Swiss Wall' which seemed tamer than I expected until someone told me someone died on it recently. As far as the family goes, we opened the house last summer for two weekends for Cambridge Open Studios, and will do so again this year. Oh, and my most of a decade long house extension actually got to the end.'

Mark Davies writes: 'In April I stepped down as Chair of British Rowing after seven years, to be succeeded (for the interim) by **Peter Milhofer** (m. 1988), who was in my Christ's May crew in summer 1991. I've set up a business to see if I can turn the work that I did in my year as a fellow at Oxford into reality. The Big Map is seeking to transform the way we deliver sport, by linking schools and clubs. I'm stepping down as Chair of Onside WEST in Hammersmith (now delivering well for underprivileged young people in the area, thanks partly to generous help from **Arabella Duffield**), and I'm also stepping down from the Christ's Development

Board after too many years as Chair. I bumped into **Richard Tateson** randomly near the Globe Theatre recently, and regularly catch up with **Arabella Duffield**, **Richard Pollard**, **Annette Alcock** and **Dan Gluckman**.'

Sarah Walker writes: 'The years continue to whizz past, without much change (other than new/greyer hairs in unexpected places). Still working too hard, still (mostly) enjoying it. Just started a new NIHR Health Protection Research Unit in Healthcare Associated Infections and Antimicrobial Resistance in Oxford, and trials in antibiotics for neonatal sepsis and antivenoms in UCL which will keep me busy for the next five years or so. I went back to the Fisher Society and College looks as lovely (and unchanged) as ever. Roll on our next dinner!'

Ben Sinnott writes: 'We finished our year-long road trip driving the Pan American Highway from Deadhorse, Alaska to Ushuaia, Argentina late last summer. It was more fun than we could ever have hoped. Having sold our house along the way (oops) we decided to move to New York City last autumn and have been enjoying it ever since. Future plans are pending – the restoration of my historic Formula One car is finally complete. We're racing the car at various events in the US, and plan to go to Europe so I can drive it at various tracks next summer (demo laps for the crowds), including Silverstone before the F1 GP. Hope to meet some old friends there.'



Ben Sinnott and his F1 car

Laura Marschall (née Hicks) writes: 'As Master of Sake 2025, I worked at Yamamoto Honke, a historic sake brewery in Fushimi, Kyoto, for three months at the start of the year. I was honoured to be a Head Judge at the Tokyo Sake Challenge. Since returning I've started a new business Sake Cat, pop-up sake pairing dinners and sake consultancy for restaurants. Still working as a private chef, and this summer, I'm working in Toronto, Montreal, New York and Turks and Caicos. Watched our youngest, Eliot, play rugby for Ontario in an inter-province tournament. He's just finished at Sedbergh, so end of an era. Next week is our silver wedding anniversary – how time flies! Will be heading back to UK in September to get our oldest, Max, off to Bath University.'

Clare Teachman (née Moore) writes: 'I have now been living in the US for 25 years and although it's definitely a very challenging and distressing time right now, I continue to enjoy my life in Michigan. Last year I became an empty nester. My younger son started at Michigan State University while my older son is heading into his final year at the University of Michigan. He spent a semester at Charles University in Prague, and I combined a fantastic couple of weeks in the UK (my Dad turned 80) with a visit to Prague and a weekend in Budapest. While I was in England, I managed to catch up with the incomparable **Claire Ramster** which was fantastic although not long enough. I hope to see more old Christ's friends on future trips.'



Clare Teachman and Claire Ramster

Arabella Duffield writes: 'Midlife whack-a-mole in full flow for me this year. Have timed out of Save The Children (after 25 years working for them in one role or another). Boys busy doing scary level go-karting and GCSEs. Me running around behind them. Still some time for fun though...'



(L to R): Hilary Norman (née Brown, m. 1991), Elizabeth Gutteridge (m. 1989), Ed Seaton, Kate Davenport (m. 1993), Annabel Rooney (née McLauchlan, m. 1991), Jo Brady (née Gallacher), Kathryn Aldous (née McKeggie) and Paul Brady; Jo Brady and Kathryn Aldous

Jo Brady (née Gallacher) writes: 'It was great to return to Christ's last November and meet up with so many chapel choir and music society members from across the years whilst celebrating David Rowland's forty years as Director of Music.'

Seeing Kathryn Aldous ('Keggie') over from the US was particularly exciting after so many years, and much catching up and reminiscing was done. It also made a change for our daughter, Jess (now a choral scholar at Queens'), to be watching me sing for a change!

Paul Brady writes: 'I have mentioned in other years that I play hockey for a club over the winter. One of the most enjoyable games of the last season was a 1–0 win away against Royston HC who play their matches at the St Catherine's College astro pitch just by Grantchester meadows. The pitch was opened in 1995 when it was the first astroturf pitch in Cambridge. We played college league matches on it in 1995–96 (the last year of my PhD). I have yet to find out if I can do 10km in under my age this year. The hot weather has put me off, but I hope to have an update by next year's yearbook.'

Sarah Ellson (née Boardley) writes: 'I've recently been appointed as a Chair of the Football Association's Disciplinary Appeal Panel, a role that covers appeals at every level of the game around misconduct such as swearing at the referee, to betting on matches. This will sit alongside continuing in my role as co-head of the Regulatory Department at Fieldfisher (where I have worked for over 25 years). This

year's most interesting work involved travelling to look at Malta's legal system and preparing a report on recent changes. At home I risked turning into a raspberry such has been the abundance of soft fruit this summer.'

And finally, me: 'Our smallholding continues to be a place of surprise and calm. We discovered one chicken had been laying eggs in an old badger sett (we



James and Sarah Ellson on top of their 225th munro

found 27!). We had a good crop of honey last year (we harvest it as blocks of comb honey, which I heard described recently as one of the last gourmet foods). We now have four hives, and I've dealt with three swarms over the last few weeks. In other news, Sarah and I climbed our 225th munro (57 to go); and – breaking news – I've just signed a publishing deal with Vinci Books for the DCI Castle series. EBooks, paperbacks, audiobooks, and translations. Exciting times!

1991 Year Group News

Catherine Middleton writes: 'As usual, time seems to be passing very quickly and it doesn't feel like a year since the last entry. I've enjoyed spending time with College friends but haven't made it back to Cambridge recently. I've just got back from a holiday in Austria, travelling by train in a circuit through Belgium, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Lichtenstein (only just) and France. And just for fun, another walk, this time up Mt Toubkal in Morocco.'



Catherine Middleton pictured on Mt Toubkal, Morocco

1992 Year Group News

Peter Haynes joined the academic staff of Imperial College London in 2007 and has enjoyed a variety of roles including seven years as Head of the Department of Materials and three as the Vice-Provost for Education & Student Experience. From October he will become Imperial's third Provost and Deputy President.

Grant Mitchell says: 'After 28 years working for Co-op Insurance (and its successor, Soteria Insurance) in various actuarial, finance and executive roles, it was time for a change, and this year I have moved to be Managing Director of Safe World Insurance Group, a small specialist insurer based in Chorley, Lancashire.'

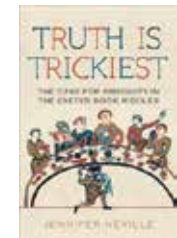
Jennifer Neville reports that her latest book *Truth is Trickiest: The Case for Ambiguity in the Exeter Book Riddles* came out from University of Toronto Press in July 2024.

James Reynolds writes: 'In August 2024, my partner Nomia and I welcomed our son, Benjy, born in Washington DC. Tardo pero llego.'

Sarah Spratt reports: 'I am just completing my second year of a History Master's at Brasenose, Oxford, which I am enjoying studying for much more than I did my undergraduate Law degree! My stepdaughter Audrey has just graduated in Philosophy from Corpus Christi and attending her graduation brought back many happy Christ's memories.'

1993 Year Group Representative Richard Alton reports:

Sam Musoke (née Lancaster) has lived in Uganda since 2001, but was in Paris in July presenting to OECD DAC about a new international non-profit accounting standard



The cover of Jennifer Neville's Truth is Trickiest



Sam Musoke presents to OECD DAC in Paris

and harmonised grant reporting template that is being published in October 2025 after six years of development and global consultation.

Matthew Parish is living in Lviv, Ukraine and is the Editor in Chief of an Anglo-Ukrainian newspaper called the Lviv Herald, the Executive Chairman of an NGO called the Ukraine Development Trust (you can Google them both), and a political advisor.

1994 Year Group Representative James Mobbs reports:



30th Anniversary celebration reuniting the 1994 Matriculation group



The 1994 Matriculation group dining in Hall



A late-night trip to Gardies

Richard Andrews and **Amanda George** united in August 2024 to organise an unofficial 30th anniversary year group reunion at Christ's, attended by 39 other members of the "Class of 94".

Saturday 31st August 2024 was the day for our unofficial reunion, marking thirty years since matriculation.

First there were afternoon refreshments in the Lloyd Room and Third Court. Then, after a detour to the Buttery by many of the attendees, we had a drinks reception in the Fellows' Garden – glorious in the early evening sun.

Dinner took place in Hall, bringing back a lot of memories.

Amanda gave a short welcome speech, congratulating everyone on looking so good and issuing a friendly warning not to go *too* far in channelling our student days (but perhaps the less said here about the food fight that led to a ban on Christmas Halls, the better).

Conversation flowed late into the evening, with much swapping of seats and stories as we shared the highlights of the last few years – or the last thirty in some cases. The evening continued with a trip to a late-night bar and concluded for some with an obligatory stop-off at Gardies.

Many of us stayed in College overnight, and conversation continued over breakfast in Upper Hall the next morning, with more exchanging of news and phone numbers.

Thanks to Amanda for organising (including tracking down over a hundred of the year group, of whom 39 attended), with support from Richard. Thanks also to the College staff, who were very welcoming on the day.

The attendees at dinner were: **Deborah Agnes, Richard Andrews, Peter Austing, Chris Bishop, Philippa Brice, James Brice, Sumit Chakravarty, John Clarkin, Michael Elliott, Maisam Fazel, Alastair Foote, Amanda George, Julian Hall, Felicity Hitchcock, Victoria Ingham, Will Lamb, Susannah Long,**

James MacNamara, Gautam Malkani, Dilum Manawadu, Andy McMurtrie, Alistair Melville-Smith, Rebecca Mills, Jonathan Moore, Greg Mrkusic, Adam Parkinson, Jagruti Patel, Helen Reynolds, Adam Searle, Helen Shaw, Carine Silver, David Silver, Sujit Sivasundaram, Zoe Stoughton, James Tysome, Alice Wales, Lucy Williams and Mark Yeung. **Caroline Melville-Smith** came for the afternoon, and **Andy Kidd** very nearly made it but his flight from the US was cancelled at the last minute.

It was a fabulous day to bring many of our year back together, and while our next big reunion is likely to be an official college one, we hope to have another informal gathering in the next few years and get even more people along.

In other news, **Matthew Higgins** writes: 'This year I was elected a Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences and also a member of EMBO.'

Rob Reed is still enjoying life to the full, up in sunny Newcastle with his wife Gemma and children Alyssa and Jack. And as he approaches his half century, he is delighted to have finally fulfilled his ambition to see Newcastle United win a trophy!

As for me (James), the last six months or so haven't been the easiest of times for me, as I've been struggling with muscle strains in my left leg that have made walking an uncomfortable experience and have cut down on my social activities. However, having reached my 50th birthday in June I am looking forward to a joint celebration in the autumn with my mother (who turns 80 this year)!



Rob Reed and family

1995 Year Group News

Zoe Llewellyn (née Lovett) writes: 'We moved to the mountains of Gwynedd last year and are enjoying living within sight of Cadair Idris and learning Welsh.'

1996 Year Group News

David Russell has recently been appointed as Director of the Charities Advisory Trust, which coordinates an array of initiatives including Good Gifts and Knit for Peace. He continues to serve as UK Coordinator of Survivors Fund (SURF), which supports survivors of the Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda. To raise funds for the charity this July he ran around London along the Capital Ring – from which he is just recovering!

Helen Atkins has become a recipient of a research grant from the Leverhulme Trust, and published an essay personally in a *Callaloo Literary Journal* special issue about the rural experience of black Britons.

1998 Year Group Representative Brooke Morriswood reports:

Ian Cowley is still enjoying village life just outside Cambridge, which involves bell ringing, the parish council, leading the Beaver colony (and helping with Cubs and Scouts), helping with school trips... and somewhere in there is time for a career and family too! His three boys are now 10, 8 and 5. **Charlie Johnston** is still living in Melbourne, Australia with his wife, daughter (15), and son (13). He's not trying to overstate the Australian stereotypes, but... his daughter just convinced them to get

a pet snake, so they are getting used to that. He's working as a freelance strategy consultant, mainly from home which is nice and relaxed.

For **Chris Mason**, another 12 months have zoomed by in Charlton in southeast London, with pilgrimages to Yorkshire whenever possible. His nine-year-old daughter and six-year-old son (eventually) persuaded him to get Disney+. The outcome: never mind posh dramas, he is now addicted to Donald Duck cartoons. If this is what a midlife crisis looks like, he's all in.



Choir Alumni reunite to celebrate 40 years of David Rowland being Musical Director of Christ's College



Kathryn Moore-Bick and Sarah Cumbers at David Rowland's 40-year celebrations



Brooke Morriswood and family

Kathryn Moore-Bick (née Dooks) and **Chris Moore-Bick** are still working at Deloitte and the Ministry of Defence respectively. It's always great to bump into other Christ's alumni who now work at Deloitte including **Rebecca McPhail** (née Triggs). Kathryn was pleased to be able to return to Christ's in November 2024 to celebrate 40 years of David

Rowland as Musical Director of Christ's College Choir. It was great to catch up with many friends from those days including life-long besties **Caroline Fitzgerald** (m. 1996) and **Clare Malloch** (m. 1997), **Lynn Hutchings** (m. 1997), **Rhiannon Thompson** (m. 1996), **Chris Thompson** (m. 1997) and **Sarah Cumbers** – an interloper who sang in the Choir and was at some other college!

The choir was such a formative part of Kathryn's life at Christ's, nurturing a lifelong love of singing, so it was great to be able to celebrate this and to thank Dave for the important role he played in that. It was also a chance for the obligatory post-formal hall trip to Gardies.

Brooke Morriswood is now approaching his two-year anniversary in the world of Medical Communications and is thoroughly enjoying himself. He's spent most of this year juggling ten manuscripts in nine different therapeutic areas and finding that his confidence and ebullience are now fully restored after the battering both took in his final years in academia. This year he also turned whistleblower to notify the University of Würzburg about the bullying and inappropriate behaviour perpetrated by his former boss and has received an abject written apology in return. Parenting continues to consume virtually all his non-working hours, with his son Edgar (10) now having completed his first full rugby season and both Edgar and Oscar (6) becoming rollercoaster fanatics.

Daniel Sargent lives in California, where he is the Alexander F. and May T. Morrison Professor of American History and Citizenship at the University of

California, Berkeley. He teaches modern international affairs and foreign policy – much the same subjects he studied at Christ's. He and his wife, Alethea, have four children: Corrina (13), Ramona (10), Johanna (6), and Raphael, born in February 2025.

Hui Ling Siow remains at the helm of her fashion brand after more than a decade and was recently featured in Malaysia's national newspaper, *The Star*, where she shared her insights on fashion and sustainability.



Hui Ling Siow featuring in Malaysian newspaper The Star

1999 Year Group Representative Louise Buchanan reports:

Dominique Ashby is still based in London and running her own business applying the Neuroscience which she read in Cambridge into the business world, in order to help create more humane, brain-aligned cultures and working practices. Dom still works a lot with legal teams, so she hasn't fully left the legal industry behind! Her life continues to include her old Science friends from College.

Joseph Conlon remains a Tutorial Fellow in Physics at New College, Oxford. His verse history of the early universe, *Origins: The Cosmos in Verse*, was published by Oneworld in November 2024.

Kai Juin Wong would like to update everyone that after holding the appointment of Director-General for Northeast Asian affairs in the Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 2019 to 2024, he has been appointed this year (2025) as Singapore's next Ambassador to the Republic of Korea with concurrent accreditation to Mongolia.

Emily Robinson was promoted in October 2024 to Professor of British Studies at the University of Sussex.

2002 Year Group News

Simon Fairclough writes: 'I married Emmanuel Lebaut in July 2024, with a service of blessing and dinner at Girton College where I am now a Fellow.'

2004 Year Group Representative Anjolie Rusius reports:

Another year has passed and it's great to hear how the 2004 year group are getting on. This year it's a bunch of birth announcements and house moves, with a smattering of professional updates.

Having lived in Aberdeen for six years, **William Allan** and his family are moving to Salford to start a new church (Hope Church Salford), so if you're in the area do pop by and say hello.

It was all change for **Amy Barnes** in September 2024 as her eldest Evie started school and Nola suddenly found herself a middle child, as Amy's third child, Sonny was born at Kingston Hospital, 14.49pm, 8lb 8oz. Amy informs me that he's a total joy, and a



Amy Barnes and family, and third child Sonny

*Sophie Edwards'
daughter
Harriet*



*James and
Anjolie Rusius'
son, Jasper*



great advert for a third child! If that wasn't busy enough, the whole family have now moved to Godalming, building up their community again from scratch - best of luck to you all.

Also in September 2024, **Sophie Edwards** and her family had a second daughter, Harriet. Unfortunately, Harriet was born with a congenital diaphragmatic hernia, but thanks to the incredible doctors and nurses at King's College Hospital and Great Ormond Street, who looked after her for nearly three months, Harriet is now home and well, and the smiliest of babies. So very grateful to the NHS.

Next up, **Ali Amini** and wife Faezeh are pleased to announce the arrival of their third child, Laia, born in November 2024. Big brothers Elias and Danial are thrilled with their new little sister.

To complete the baby news round-up, **James Rusius** and I (**Anjolie Rusius**, née Buggal) welcomed our son Jasper in March 2025 – exactly 19 years, to the day, after becoming a couple at Christ's! Big sister Ellissa is loving her promotion and is absolutely in her element with him.

It's always great to hear professional news and on this front, at Easter **Jess Kirby** (née Harris) became Director of Services at Macular Society, a national charity supporting people with sight loss through macular degeneration and other macular conditions. Jess is leading the information and support services for people with sight loss including counselling, befriending, practical skills, and information and advice services. Fantastic news Jess, wishing you all the best in your new role!

Shen-Han Lee was selected as one of the four winners of the 2025 Lasker Foundation Essay Contest for his essay entitled "Biomedical Education in the Era of Large Language Models: A Paradigm Shift". This year, the Lasker Foundation asked early career scientists and health professionals from around the world to identify a specific innovation in education or training to help ensure a sustainable, inclusive, and successful biomedical research workforce. In his essay, Shen-Han identified large language models (LLM) as an innovation that can usher in a golden age of science, if only educational systems shift away from rote memorisation and passive LLM use towards cultivating critical thinking and exploring the creative process of generating ideas. His essay is published in the July 2025 issue of the *Journal of Clinical Investigation*. At the invitation of the Lasker Foundation, Shen-Han will be attending the Lasker Awards Ceremony in New York City in September 2025 where he will be meeting this year's Lasker Award Winners.

Shen-Han was also recently awarded the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh (RCSEd) International Fellowship, which will support a Clinical Observership in Head and Neck Surgical Oncology at The Royal Marsden NHS Trust in London with Professor Vinidh Paleri, one of the world's leading robotic head and neck surgeons. Shen-Han looks forward to returning to London in March 2026 for his clinical attachment and plans to revisit Cambridge, slightly over a decade after finishing his time at the University.

Shen-Han Lee



Finally, via our informal 2004 female alumni WhatsApp group (please get in contact if you would like to be added) we discovered that a few of us have some information for this bespoke "not really real news" section. Myself (**Anjolie Rusius**), **Annabel Baxter** (née Lloyd) and **Laura Hadrill** (née Skelly) have all moved house, but it's not really much to write home about, seeing as we all only moved a few roads away! Perhaps it'll start a trend.

2005 Year Group News

Tom Hayes writes: 'I was elected as the Labour Member of Parliament for Bournemouth East in July 2024.'

Lottie Bagnall (née Greenhow) and her husband Harry welcomed their baby son, Jonas, to the world in January 2025. His big sisters Heidi and Iselin are completely besotted (their 12-year-old Labrador Mungo not so much...)



Tom Hayes



*Lottie Bagnall's
son, Jonas*

2006 Year Group News

Patrick Breen married Eleanor Bruce at Glen Tanar, Aboyne, Scotland on 28th June 2025. It was a glorious day and everyone had a wonderful time. Christ's alumni in attendance included **Andrew Maddox**, **Charlotte Pearce Cornish**, and **Nicola Norman**.

Anna Horvai writes: 'We were delighted to welcome baby Lily at the start of the year; older brother Henry loves calling her 'his baby'.'



*Patrick Breen
and Eleanor
Bruce celebrate
their marriage in
June 2025*



*Anna Horvai's
daughter Lily*

2007 Year Group News

Mičo Tatalović, a science journalist who did a Zoology MPhil at Christ's from 2007–09, is coming back to the University as a Distinguished Visitor to the Department of Physics during the autumn term. The visit is funded by the Maria Leptin | EMBO Science Journalism Fellowship to support his residency at the Cavendish Laboratory at the University of Cambridge for three months. He will focus on astronomy and astrobiology topics.

2008 Year Group News

Year Group representative **Valerie Jagger** writes:

Robert Stiff saw his software startup Trelica acquired by 1Password earlier this year. Alongside fellow alumnus Alex Litvinenko, they've gone from a 25-person startup to life inside a 1,500-strong company. Happily, the Christ's connection continues, with current undergraduate Helena (m. 2024) joining for the summer.

James Leonard Tipler married Capt. Henry Bryan Anthony Richard Andrews on 6 September 2025. They are known as Capt. & Mr Andrews-Tipler.



*James Leonard
Tipler with his
then-fiancé
(now husband)*

2010 Year Group Representative Dara Hamill reports:

Norma Schifano writes: 'As it happens, precisely 15 years later I'm delighted to come back to Cambridge! On the 1st of September I will join the Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages to take up the position of Assistant Professor in Italian and Comparative Romance Linguistics. I'm really excited and I look forward to opportunities to renew my connection to Christ's.'



Imogene Geh's daughters



Hamish Robertson's children, Edmund (left) and Eloise (right)

Imogene Geh (née Fletcher) writes: 'My husband and I welcomed our second daughter in November 2024. Her name is Tiffany. Our daughter Florence is loving being a big sister!'

Hamish Robertson and Ophelia (Downing, 2010) celebrated the arrival of Eloise in October 2024. Edmund, who is now three, is a very proud big brother.

Moyra Lawrence moved to Japan to carry out stem cell research at Kyoto University and was lucky to meet many other Christ's alumni when they came to Japan for tourism (some motivated ones were even learning advanced Japanese). After lots of sushi, stem cells and shrines, she's heading back to Europe in September.

Dara Hamill welcomed her first baby, a daughter, Isabella, to the world in February of this year. A strong little happy woman!

2011 Year Group News

P. G. Kurilecz's marriage to Charlotte Hill



Thomas Mawson's marriage Rachel Morley



Victor Chang meets with the Master of Christ's, Simon McDonald

P. G. Kurilecz married Charlotte Hill in March of this year in a beautiful ceremony at St. Stephen's Church in Twickenham, followed by a reception at Pembroke Lodge in Richmond Park, with celebrations including several friends from across the University, Britain, and the world.

Thomas Mawson tells us that he and Rachel Morley were married in February in Edgefield Church, Norfolk. **Rachel Stoplár** (m. 2011), read from *Paradise Lost* during the ceremony. Tom is a rural property solicitor in Bristol and his new wife, Rachel, is the Director of the Friends of Friendless Churches.

2012 Year Group News

Victor Chang writes: 'After working as a solicitor in London for six-and-a-half years, I finally moved home to Malaysia in 2022. Last year, I had my first child and also started my own solar company, providing solar PV and battery storage solutions for homes and businesses as part of Malaysia's green energy transition. It's a far cry from the world of law but I'm glad to be finally scratching my entrepreneurship itch while doing a small part to help to save the earth!'

Henley Leong writes: 'We have kept extremely busy on both the personal and professional fronts. I was happily

promoted to Director earlier this year, and my two kids, aged 3 and 1, even more happily take up most of my time when I'm not in the office. I am excited for the day they visit Cambridge and Christ's.'



Henley Leong and family

2013 Year Group News

Will Kellett writes: 'My wife Gaby (Caius, m. 2013) and I were delighted to welcome our daughter, Annabelle, into the world in April 2025. It has been a joy to watch her grow in her first few months, albeit with a few sleepless nights here and there! She has already enjoyed a trip to Italy for a wedding with many Christ's alumni, including two of her godparents, **Arjun Rajani** (m. 2013) and **Mariane Lisboa de Paula** (m. 2014). We look forward to visiting Cambridge with her as she grows up to show her where her parents met and spent three of their happiest years so far.'

2014 Year Group News

Fin Brown wrote to us ahead of his wedding: 'My partner Emily Morgan (Caius) and I are getting married at the College on the 9th August this year (2025), having met in my third year, coincidentally first meeting at Christ's for a university outreach scheme.'

Laura Scully writes: 'After meeting at Christ's, **Jonny (Davies)** and I got married in May 2025 in Oxfordshire surrounded by our nearest and dearest from Christ's.'



The wedding celebrations of Laura Scully and Jonathan Davies

**2015 Year Group News**

Rachael Stemp reports that in March 2025, she and her husband Chris had a baby boy called Asher.

Year Group Representative **Mariya Chepishcheva** is currently a postdoc at Yale University School of Medicine, and attended several conferences during the last year, with the most recent being the Organization for Human Brain Mapping Conference in Brisbane, Australia. There, she presented her work on three of her current projects concentrating on (1) resting state functional magnetic



Rachael Stemp and husband Chris in Cambridge with son Asher, born in March 2025

Mariya
Chepishcheva at
Australia Zoo



Naomi Alcaide,
Manuel Preuss
and their
families



resonance imaging and common clinical assessments in acute/subacute traumatic brain injury, (2) connectome based predictive modelling of trauma in the emergency room and (3) diffusion tensor imaging biomarkers and functional outcome after trauma.

Naomi Alcaide and **Manuel Preuss** (né Heller) write: 'We both live in Berlin and often meet up together with our families. Naomi has a four-year-old son and a ten-month-old daughter and is currently completing her PhD in Political Geography. Manuel has a two-year-old daughter, is currently on parental leave, but will return to his job at Vinted as a decision scientist in autumn 2025.'

2016 Year Group News

Omar Shah writes that he achieved CEng status with IMechE and is working in forensic engineering at ESR Technology, Warrington. He has joined the Alpine Club, and in September got married to an alumna of Emmanuel.

2017 Year Group News

Rafael Rehwald writes: 'I was recently appointed to the Editorial Board of *European Radiology* (Section: Neuro), the flagship journal of the European Society of Radiology. This peer-reviewed publication is one of the most widely read and respected journals in the field, with a global readership and a strong impact factor. It

plays a key role in shaping clinical practice and disseminating cutting-edge research in medical imaging across Europe and beyond. I'm honoured to support the journal's editorial process and contribute to advancing innovation and quality in neuroradiology worldwide.'

Jules Skotnes-Brown has been awarded the Royal Historical Society's First Book Prize for 2025 for his book *Segregated Species: Pests, Knowledge and Boundaries in South Africa, 1910–1948* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2024).

Elizabeth Guest married **Arran Collis** (m. 2016) in July 2025 in Christ's College Chapel.

2018 Year Group News

James Vitali writes: 'Life continues apace for me! Since February I have been on a book-writing sabbatical from Policy Exchange (where I was Head of Political Economy). I have a full draft now and will be revising / editing for a publication date next year. The book is an attempt to set out a new political economy for our country

based on spreading the values of personal ownership and responsibility more widely.

Last year I was elected as a County Councillor for the area in Dorset where I was raised.

This year, I was named as one of the *Sunday Times*' thirty leaders under thirty, along with the likes of Lando Norris, Cole Palmer, Rosie Wrighting MP and Molly Mae.'

2021 Year Group News

Divya Dewan writes: 'Our baby Dev turned 7 months old! Here's a glimpse of our little trio!'



Divya Dewan
and family

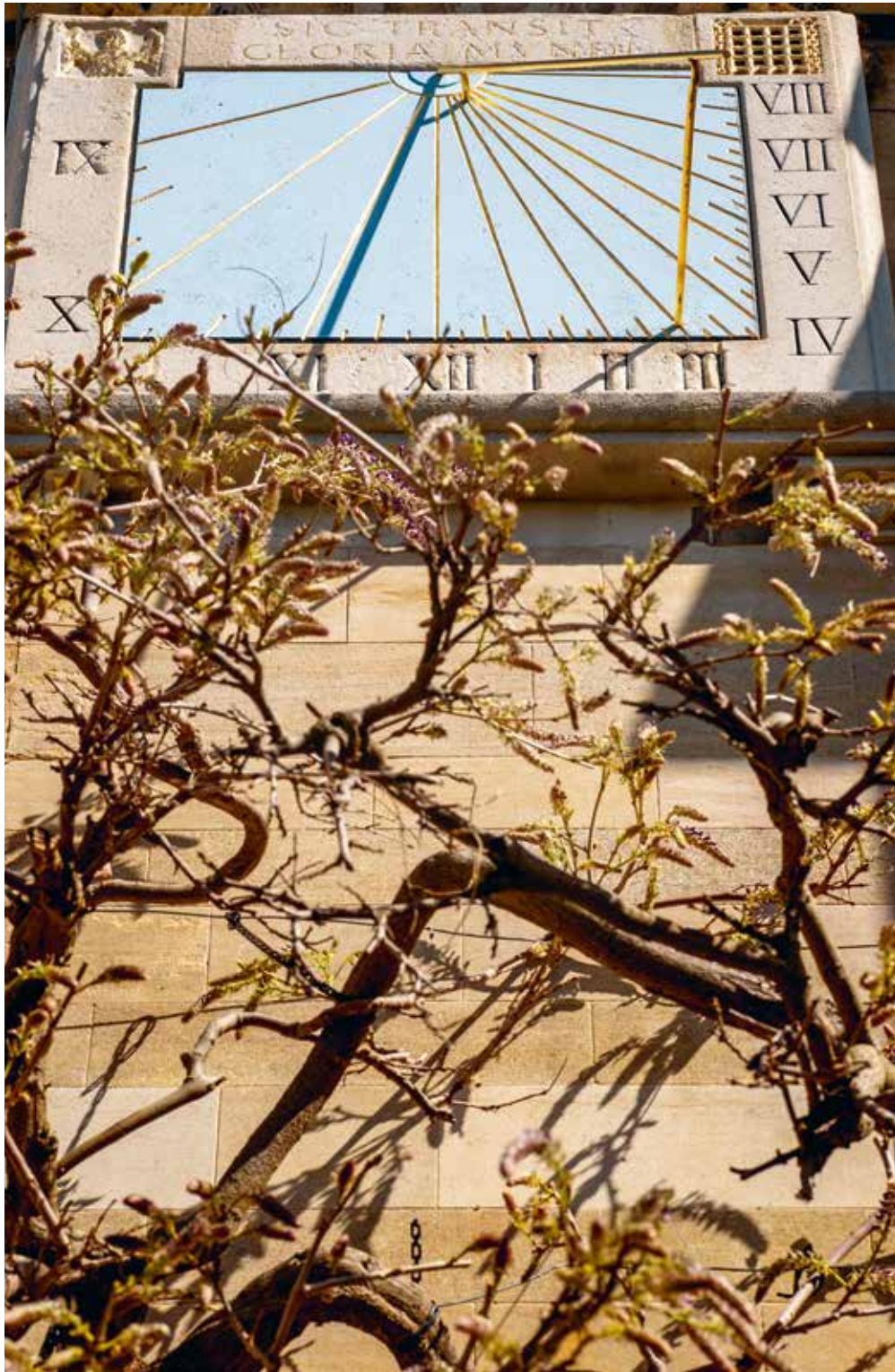
Jules Skotnes-
Brown with
his book
*Segregated
Species: Pests,
Knowledge and
Boundaries in
South Africa,
1910–1948*



The wedding
of Elizabeth
Guest and
Arran Collis,
July 2025



IN MEMORIAM



CREDIT: PAUL EVEREST

IN MEMORIAM

It is with great sadness that we record the deaths of the following members since the publication of the last *Magazine*. There is a separate list at the end for those members whose deaths we have learned of too late for inclusion in this year's *Magazine*, and whose obituaries will appear next year.

- Richard (Graham) John Ballard (Fellow Commoner; Former Fellow)
- Michael Richard Lynch (Lady Margaret Beaufort Fellow; 1983)
- Allen John Francis Metherell (Former Fellow)
- Robin Buchanan Nicholson (Honorary Fellow; Former Fellow)
- 1941 John Hollingsworth
- 1943 George Kemp
- 1947 Stuart Smith
- 1948 Andrew Noel Schofield
- 1949 Alan Hodgson
- (Arnold) Wallis Johnson
- (Donald) Fraser McVittie
- 1950 (Clifford) John Roper
- 1951 Shirish Bhailal Patel
- 1952 John Wright Gavin Challoner
- Michael Charles Fox
- Bryan Edward Mills
- Roger Dalziel Moffitt
- 1953 Henry de Boulay Forde
- Stanton Thomas Fuller
- Roger Thornber
- David Francis Lloyd Watkin
- 1954 (Wilfred Aelian) Gerald de Alwis
- Peter Edward Luff
- John Anthony Pitchford
- (John) Michael Ratcliffe
- William (Micheal) Robin Johnston
- Murray Richard Wigsten
- 1955 Richard Douglas Armstrong
- 1956 (William) Rodney Freeman
- (George) Robert Archer Armistead
- 1957 Peter Robertson Colville
- Laurence James Campbell Coventry
- Michael Anthony Hession

- 1958 John Michael Brown
- Andrew Mark Kerr
- David Frank Kruger
- Robert Matthew Morris
- Jeremy Francis John Russell
- Ian Ronald Walker
- 1959 Colin MacDonald Amies
- Derwent Swaine
- 1961 Roderic William Dutton
- (Andrew) David Graham
- John Raymond Lord
- William Simon Rukeyser
- Bernard Roland Scholes
- Ian Elliott Scholey
- 1962 Peter Ronald Brewin
- Geoffrey Richard Hunt
- Peter George Paul Mrkusic
- John Douglas Murray
- Jonathan Sale
- 1963 Christopher Martin Case
- David John Robinson
- 1965 Michael Boris Burawoy
- 1966 Peter Harold Bolton
- Peter James Musgrave
- 1967 Terence Patrick Fletcher
- John Laurence Horder
- 1970 Hugh Vivian Williams
- 1971 Philip George Dondi
- 1972 Ian Malcolm Tibbles
- 1973 Gary Hopkins
- Charles Dougal Paterson
- 1974 Kevin Paul Chappell
- Ranjit Kumar Madhavan Nair
- 1975 Timothy John David Saunders
- 1976 James George Ball
- 1978 Ian Patrick Lynch
- Stephen Charles O'Hara Smith
- 1979 Patrick Commons
- 1980 Clive Mark Hyman

Richard Graham John Ballard (Fellow Commoner; Former Fellow)

Graham Ballard was born on 17 January 1927 and attended Prince Henry's Grammar School in Evesham (1937–44) before reading English at Wadham College in two stints: 1944–45 and 1948–51. His two periods at Oxford were interrupted by service in the RAF (1945–48). He was called up in the last months of the Second World War and flew as a rear gunner in Lancaster bombers.

Before joining the College, he worked as a manager for the Boyd Neel Orchestra, as a Research Manager for Selfridges, and for the Brooke Bond Group, including on a large cattle farm in Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), and as the Group's Managing Director in Kenya, where he managed tea/coffee plantations and grew carnations on an industrial scale.

Graham was elected a Fellow of Christ's when he became Bursar in 1983; on his retirement in 1994 he was elected a Fellow Commoner. He was the honorary Secretary of the College Association for many years.

He shared a deep love of music and particularly opera with his wife, Domini; they were frequent visitors to the Royal Opera House and keen supporters of (and hosts at) Glyndebourne. Visvanathan Navaratnam has fond memories of attending productions at Glyndebourne and sharing many evenings playing contract bridge, "testing each other's skills and also the patience of our wives!". Graham was a connoisseur of wines with an impressive cellar which he shared generously with friends. In retirement, he indulged his love of reading, amassing a vast library and actively participating in the Jesus College Book Lending Scheme (the oldest book club in the world) until the end of his life.

Graham was married to Domini until her death in 2019; they had two sons, Sebastian and Toby, and a granddaughter, Kari-Lor.

Graham celebrated his 98th birthday surrounded by his family, and died nine days later on 26 January 2025.

**Michael Richard Lynch** (Lady Margaret Beaufort Fellow; 1983)

In August 2024 Dr Mike Lynch and his teenage daughter, Hannah, lost their lives in a freak sailing accident off the coast of Sicily. Dr Lynch had been a successful inventor, entrepreneur, business leader, government adviser and investor, founding two multi-billion-pound technology companies, Autonomy and Darktrace, and several others including Featurespace and Luminance. He was a pioneer of neural-network-based artificial intelligence which, in the past four years, has entered a thrilling new phase of relevance. If he had lived, he would have been a hugely important figure in the UK as we grapple with how to make the most of this area. We're very much worse off through the loss of one of our smartest and fiercest.

Mike Lynch was born in Ilford in June 1965, the elder of two sons of Irish immigrants, and brought up in Chelmsford. His parents were Michael, a firefighter from Co Cork who "advised against earning a living running into burning buildings" and Dolores, a trauma nurse from Co Tipperary who worked in the same hospital where her son had his first job, as a cleaner. Mike won a scholarship to the independent Bancroft's School in Woodford (he would later become Lead Patron of Bancroft's Foundation). He did well at school, encouraged by the enthusiasm

of a science teacher who "liked blowing things up", and played clarinet in the jazz band he led.

He arrived at Christ's to read Natural Sciences in 1983 and in his first year formed another jazz band, playing the clarinet initially and then the saxophone. Rebecca Duckworth (née Bright) recalls: "Mike led the band with understated yet clarion authority – and with an unexpected suavity. I clearly recall him dishing out his selected music and quietly directing proceedings both with good humour and definite intention. He was in charge! I enjoyed singing *Summertime* and *Georgia on My Mind*. 'The Lynch Mob' was an apt name for our assortment of undergraduates (Maths, Classics, NatSci, History, English, Engineering – a rum crew). A valuable time."

Mike's interest in music was extensive. He set out to build a digital sampler while at school using the newly available digital signal processing chips. In his own words (from the British Library Sound Archive): "At the time there was a new kind of instrument that came out which was called a digital sampler that would sample music. And the problem with the digital sampler was that they cost £100,000.... So I set out to build one, and, which, without realising it, made me one of the few people in the world doing things with digital signal processing chips, which I think were designed for the front end of missiles at the time. And, after designing one for myself, someone heard about it and they bought the design. And so I actually started out by designing synthesisers which were an incredible training, because it's all real time, it's all assembler code, multiple processors, and they were, I suspect, probably the most complex thing on the planet at the time. And that's how I got started. And it was, you know, an introduction to business in that, because people were paying for the designs, that was funding me to learn more. And that was my first foray into commercialisation of technology. And that continued, much to the College's annoyance, while I was an undergraduate." Why annoyed? "The solder on the carpets in the room and that sort of thing."

By 1987 Mike had developed a design for a 16-bit sampler for the Atari ST computer, and set up his first business, Lynett Systems, to produce electronic equipment for the music industry. Later he would attribute some loss of hearing to adjusting synthesisers for bands.

He had transferred to Electrical and Information Sciences for his final undergraduate year and, encouraged by his Director of Studies, Professor Peter Rayner, Mike stayed on in the Engineering Department to undertake PhD research with Peter, continuing his third-year project work. His PhD thesis, submitted in 1990, was entitled "Adaptive Techniques in Signal Processing and Connectionist Models". The signal processing challenge was in pattern recognition – in music, speech, characters or images – and the connectionist models are now more typically called neural networks. A further influence in these years was Professor Bill Fitzgerald (Fellow, 1990–2014; obituary pages 90–93 *College Magazine* 2014) whose enthusiasm for Bayesian statistical methods was infectious.

In 1991 Mike founded a new company, Neurodynamics, that matched fingerprints for the police and developed some of the world's first automatic number plate readers, two examples of pattern recognition. But a growing challenge for the police was extracting information from large amounts of text. The number of witness statements in a large case could be such that no one sees all the information or it's hard to spot that, for example, some years earlier there was a related crime. Using computers to analyse textual information was a major opportunity and in 1996 Mike spun out a separate business, Autonomy.

Autonomy's software enabled a computer to search huge quantities of diverse information, including phone calls, emails and videos, matching themes and ideas. Within a few years customers already included the US State Department and the BBC, and it looked as if Autonomy's product would be used by most of the world's largest companies. It was dual-listed on Nasdaq and the London Stock Exchange in 2000, quickly entering the FTSE 100. Autonomy's valuation was significantly inflated over this period, reaching over £5bn, fuelled by the general exuberance surrounding internet and technology companies. As the dot-com bubble burst in the early 2000s, Autonomy's valuation dropped to just £0.3bn.

Around this time, early in the growth of the world wide web, Mike made what he described as perhaps his biggest mistake: listening to industry analysts. Analysts declared that the internet ad model was dead, and despite Autonomy having a technology that Mike considered more advanced than Google (founded in 1998), the company "pulled the plug because we didn't see a business model for it".

Unlike many of the technology companies that had gone to market in the boom, Autonomy was already profitable and survived the bubble bursting. Over the next decade Autonomy grew its underlying business, helping large organisations deal with the explosion of digital data by sorting through unstructured data or information not held in easily searchable databases. Part of the strategy was to buy companies already in adjacent areas to gain access to their customers, replace their software and thus grow Autonomy's market share. By 2010 Autonomy's software was licensed to 65,000 customer organisations. It had carved out a globally recognised position in one of the most strategically important technologies of the time.

Though quietly spoken, Mike had a reputation for toughness. He thought salespeople were paid a fortune relative to more technical people and he saw no problem with firing five percent of the sales staff every year. He was a leader who tended to be loved or hated. As Autonomy grew, Mike had several run-ins with City analysts and, unusually for a business leader, he was prepared to confront them. It was considered bad form in the City when he threatened legal action over an analyst's note, forcing a major bank to make a public correction.

Mike was a generous and thoughtful benefactor of the College. An early donation established the M.R. Lynch Engineering Prizes, and further donations supported Engineering teaching and the Bill Fitzgerald Music Room, with its Steinway piano, in our new Yusuf Hamied Court.

In 2006 he was awarded the OBE for services to enterprise and the following year joined the board of the BBC. In 2008 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering. In 2011 he became a member of the Prime Minister's Council for Science and Technology, and in 2014 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society and appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of Suffolk.

In 2011 Autonomy was acquired by the US giant Hewlett-Packard for £7.1bn with an offer at a 64% premium to Autonomy's share price the previous day. HP had been a hardware business and wanted to change its strategic direction to grow services and software through the acquisition. But within months HP removed its Chief Executive Officer and its Chief Strategy and Technical Officer, the architects of the change of strategy. Thirteen months after the Autonomy acquisition, HP announced a writedown of assets claiming serious accounting improprieties by the previous management. The authorities investigated, and while the UK Serious Fraud Office found insufficient evidence, in 2018 the US authorities indicted Mike for fraud. Despite representations

by senior politicians and accusations that the US authorities were attempting to exercise extraterritorial jurisdiction, in May 2023 Mike was flown to the US to be held under house arrest in San Francisco. He was charged with wire fraud, securities fraud and conspiracy. On 6 June 2024, he was found not guilty of all charges.

After he left Autonomy in 2012, and not held back by what would be a 12-year legal odyssey, Mike founded Invoke Capital. Its purpose was to invest in and advise fast-growing fundamental technology companies in Europe and to realise the commercial possibilities of Britain's science and deep technology base. Its successes include Darktrace and Featurespace, two companies with early links to College through Bill Fitzgerald.

Mike Lynch met his future wife, Angela Bacares, in New York, where she was an equity trader. Angela had started life as a child of Colombian immigrants and could not speak English when she started school but soon excelled academically. Mike and Angela were married in 2001 at St Mary's Cadogan Street, one of the oldest Roman Catholic parishes in London. Esme, their first child, was born in 2003 and Hannah in 2006. The family divided their time between a Georgian town house in Chelsea and a 16th century farm and estate in Suffolk. Both houses contained large, accurate models of steam locomotives, and Mike had six dogs all named after engineering parts: Faucet, Switch, Tappet, Pinion, Valve and Cam. The family shared many interests and loved sailing together.

Mike and Angela bought a 56-metre sailing yacht in 2014. They renamed it *Bayesian* after the 18th century minister and statistician Thomas Bayes, reflecting the importance of modern Bayesian methods in Mike's career. *Bayesian* was a sloop (a single-masted ship) and one of the world's largest sailing yachts.

The voyage around the Gulf of Naples in August 2024 was to celebrate Mike's acquittal with family and colleagues who had supported him through the trial. On 18 August, *Bayesian* was anchored at Cefalù on the northern coast of Sicily. The sea was calm, but thunderstorms had been forecast. It was decided to motor to the west for shelter and to anchor near the small fishing port of Porticello for the night. The safety investigation into the foundering of *Bayesian* is ongoing. The interim report of the Marine Accident Investigation Branch has found the probable transient presence of hurricane force winds well in excess of 64kts at the time of the accident, and that these winds were sufficient to knock *Bayesian* beyond its angle of vanishing stability.

The funeral of Mike and Hannah Lynch in the church of St James's Piccadilly was packed with friends and family, politicians and scientists, business people and Hannah's schoolmates. Amid the eulogies Sir Paul Nurse, former President of the Royal Society, criticised the Government's decision to allow the extradition as "both shameful and shameless". The overall mood was deep sadness and profound sympathy for Angela and Esme.

Mike Lynch had an ability to recognise strategically important technologies and the drive and acumen to commercialise them. He was a powerful advocate for and supporter of tech start-ups in the UK. His passing is a loss to us all.

Professor Frank Kelly (Fellow and former Master)

Personal memories of Mike Lynch at Cambridge

Michael Lynch (universally known as Mike) came up to Christ's to read for the Natural Sciences Tripos in 1983. I first came to know Mike in 1985, his third undergraduate year when he transferred to the Electrical Sciences Tripos after

completing the Part 1 Natural Sciences Tripos; I was, at the time, a Director of Studies in Engineering. During his third year I supervised him, together with another student, for one hour each week to discuss their progress and to work on problems that I had set the previous week. In the supervisions at the beginning of the year I began to think that Mike was not an ideal student and was somewhat lazy as he often appeared to have not even looked at the problem I had set. However he would work on the problem during supervision and showed considerable insight. He often proposed innovative solutions to the problem – not necessarily always correct but always interesting.

As I got to know Mike better I began, little by little, to uncover why he appeared to be somewhat lazy but was so capable. It was simply that he didn't have time to prepare work for supervision as he had so many other commitments, both professional and social. On the social side he played clarinet in the College traditional jazz band and was also involved in the music for the College pantomime. His love of jazz continued throughout his life and he moved to more modern forms of jazz when he took up the alto saxophone, then the tenor saxophone and much more recently the double bass.

However an indicator of his outstanding entrepreneurial abilities was that he had set up an embryonic company working from his room in College. The company product was a digital sampler based on an Atari computer.

Third year Engineering students could opt to replace some of the formal experimental work with a small research project. I was, by then, impressed with Mike's creative thinking and I suggested that he undertake a project in, what was then, a rather new area of adaptive signal processing. I don't remember the details but the project involved a combination of theoretical and computer-based experimental work.

In the final examinations Mike was awarded a II.1 degree but he could certainly have achieved a first if he had been able to commit a little more time to his studies! It was clear to me that he had a first-class brain and I suggested that he stay on at Cambridge and undertake PhD research in the Signal Processing and Communications Research Group, under my supervision, to continue with his project work. He agreed to the suggestion and was awarded a Science and Engineering Council Research Student grant to start PhD research in October 1986. It was very unusual for me to offer a PhD place to a student with a second class degree rather than a first class.

His work quite soon evolved into an investigation of Neural Networks in Pattern Recognition. This was a new area of technology based on computational and statistical techniques and was the precursor to Deep Neural Networks which are the basis of the Artificial Intelligence revolution. Mike produced some excellent work and we presented research papers at three international conferences in 1989 and 1990.

It had become a tradition in the Signal Processing Group that students could work any hours that suited them as long as they made regular appearances at the mid-morning coffee break. I began to notice that after coffee break there was often a person hanging around the coffee area and he would engage in earnest conversation with Mike. I was never quite sure who he was but I always suspected that he was employed by Mike to work on the sampler product of his company. In some ways I thought it better not to enquire too deeply into Mike's commercial activities as long as he was producing successful research work.

After the successful completion of his PhD Mike stayed on for a one-year postdoc appointment working on some industrially funded research. Although he was producing results from this work I noticed that he was quite frequently not in the laboratory and, as I had almost come to expect by now, he was in the process of setting up a new company which became Cambridge Neurodynamics and which really marked the beginning of his meteoric entrepreneurial career. The company products were based on his PhD research and were taken up by many blue chip companies. After a few very successful years Cambridge Neurodynamics evolved into Autonomy which developed and used a much wider range of computational learning and statistical techniques for application in the commercial world.

Mike, and later his wife Angela, became good personal friends and his loss is deeply felt.

Professor Peter Rayner



Allen John Francis Metherell (Former Fellow)

I am saddened to report the death of Allen Metherell, who was a Fellow of Christ's from 1965 to 1989. A physicist of wide-ranging interests, an incisive and also irreverent teacher, and a figure of mischief and brilliance, Allen left a memorable mark on both the College and the University.

Allen was born in Singapore in 1937. Shortly after his fourth birthday, his mother fled with Allen and his baby brother Alexander from the Japanese invasion. Their escape, via flying boat to Surabaya and then to Darwin, took a dramatic turn when their Lockheed Electra crash-landed in the outback *en route* to Broome, Western Australia. They camped in the bush for a week, supplied by air drops, before being rescued. Reunited with Allen's father, the family settled in Sydney in 1942.

Allen was educated at Cranbrook School, Sydney, from 1944 to 1955. He moved to the UK in 1956, earned a BA in Physics at Exeter University (1961), and completed a PhD at Churchill College, Cambridge, in 1965. That year, he was appointed Demonstrator at the Cavendish Laboratory and elected Fellow of Christ's, where he took on the roles of Director of Studies in Physics, and Tutor for Advanced Students (equivalent to the modern 'Postgraduate Tutor'). He was promoted to Lecturer within the Cavendish.

In 1989, Allen took early retirement from the University, resigned his Fellowship and moved to the USA, where he was Dean of Science at Adelphi University, New York, and later a Visiting Professor at the University of Central Florida. Though his title at Adelphi was lofty, he wryly noted that his office was so small it barely allowed him room to 'make mischief' – a sharp contrast to the grand set of rooms he had enjoyed at Christ's, and for which he had compiled a complete list of occupants back to 1849.

Allen's early research was in electron microscopy, particularly the dynamical theory of electron diffraction (which, unlike the simpler kinematic theory, allows for electrons to interact with a crystalline target more than once). As a PhD student in Peter Hirsch's Metal Physics group at the Cavendish, supervised by Michael Whelan, he developed expertise in many-beam theory. This is a variety of multiple-scattering theory applicable to coherent radiation interacting with a periodic structure, and essential in considering diffraction at high energies and in thick, nearly-perfect

crystals. Allen's skill in this field led to a 1968 sabbatical at the US Steel Research Laboratory in Pittsburgh to advise on the design of the first million-volt electron microscope in the US. Later, he collaborated with Alan Cook (Jacksonian Professor of Natural Philosophy in the Cavendish Laboratory) and Terry Quinn (at the Bureau International des Poids et Mesures, in Sèvres) on ultra-precise measurement, particularly in testing Newton's law of gravitation at short range. A creative solution to the problem of locating a mass's centre precisely led him and Quinn to consider a perfect silicon crystal shaped as a tetrahedron, enabling atomic-scale certainty in spatial location – and a tractable, if complex, gravitational field.

Allen published two books alongside a solid body of peer-reviewed work. *1942: Escape from the Rising Sun* (1988; reissued by Hesperian Press in 2014) recounts his wartime childhood escape and was written for his children before his third marriage. The textbook *Simple Quantum Physics* (1979), co-authored with Peter Landschoff (then, as now, also a Fellow of Christ's), was based on undergraduate teaching in physics and mathematics at Cambridge, and was written while Peter was housebound through illness and needed a project to preserve his sanity. A review of the book in the *American Journal of Physics* pointed both to 'a rather high level of mathematical sophistication' and also to 'chapters that are very nice and fun to read'. In my own view, this is a perfectly reasonable assessment of both of the authors. When the second edition was needed twenty years later a third co-author was added (also from Christ's) and the title was changed to *Essential Quantum Physics* – allegedly because US marketers feared "simple" implied "not worth having."

Within Christ's, Allen's presence was striking. Fiercely intelligent and formidably opinionated, he was devoted to the institution yet unapologetically irreverent. Somewhat mercurial, he combined flashes of irascibility with a mischievous sense of humour. One very senior Fellow once told him, "The trouble with you, Methereil, is that you *say* what we *think*." He had little time for tradition: he might appear at evensong wearing denim and a red-starred cap, beer in hand, loudly intoning "amen" before anyone else. He once asked a visiting preacher to anoint him during a combination room gathering, which – depending on the version – ended with orange juice being poured over his head. He later asserted that he wished it had been claret. A spoof hagiography of "St Alano Methereilli" penned by the chaplain hung proudly on his door. He delighted in practical jokes, including – he claimed – forging a letter from Alan Cook inviting an external academic to become head of the Cavendish. Visiting Cambridge many years later, with his wife Cathy, Allen remarked to her that he could not believe some of his behaviour during his time at Christ's.

Allen's approach to teaching in Christ's was also distinctive. He gave supervisions in his dressing gown (not always in the morning) and was known for combining scholarly rigour with impatience for bureaucracy. As the college's sole graduate Tutor – at a time when Christ's had far fewer postgraduate students than now – "Dockie Meths" was well regarded, conscientious, and popular. He continued teaching well into his 60s, and beyond, generously tutoring high school and college students in maths, physics and astronomy in Florida, and when visiting such places as the Kennedy Space Centre with family members possibly being mistaken for an official guide. As Cathy rightly remarked, he was 'born to share his knowledge with others'.

Appointed Junior Proctor in 1971, during a time of considerable student unrest, Allen stood out by his youth, shoulder-length hair and an Abraham Lincoln beard. Proctors are University Officers responsible, broadly speaking, for 'maintaining

good order in the University, especially among its junior members.' The students at that time mistook Allen for a radical; in truth, he was staunchly conservative and sceptical of their calls (which he characterised as "absurd") to "democratise" the University. He was even satirically caricatured as "Superproc" in a student newspaper. After his Proctorial term of office ended in 1974, he was invited to debate the proposition that 'This House believes that the National Union of Students does more harm than good' at the Union Society, which gave as its reason for the invitation the fact that he was "the most reactionary Don in the University". His opponent was an Islington councillor and barrister named Jack Straw, who had been President of the NUS from 1969 to 1971 and was, somewhat later, to be a cabinet minister under Tony Blair and then Gordon Brown. I do not know which side won the debate.

Though Allen left Cambridge in 1989, he maintained ties to Christ's for many years and visited often. On one such occasion, having lost his luggage *en route*, he acquired a pale blue 'shell suit' and wore it – with characteristic defiance – to High Table.

He died in Orlando, Florida, in December 2023, aged 86. News of his death did not reach us in Christ's until spring 2025, when it was conveyed by his daughter Jessica, who, with her siblings Sidonie and Oliver, visited the College in May. They recalled fond childhood memories of time spent at Christ's, which had felt like a second home to them. Allen had three other children, Theo and Natasha, both of whom predeceased him, and Oliver. He was immensely fond of all of his children.

Allen Methereil was a unique and brilliant figure: incisive, eccentric, loyal, and impossible to pigeonhole. His loss is keenly felt. The College and University are duller without him.

Professor Gareth Rees (Fellow)



Robin Buchanan Nicholson (Honorary Fellow; Former Fellow)

Robin Nicholson was a university and then industrial metallurgist, who served as Chief Scientific Adviser to the Cabinet Office (1981–86). He then joined the board of Rolls-Royce plc, where he served until 2005. He was also a non-executive Board Member of BP plc and Pilkington plc.

Robin studied Natural Sciences at St Catharine's College, Cambridge, gaining a BA in 1956, followed by a PhD in Metallurgy in 1959. He was a Fellow of Christ's from 1962 to 1966, and was made a lecturer in Metallurgy at Cambridge in 1964, before becoming Professor of Metallurgy at the University of Manchester in 1966. He joined the European subsidiary of the nickel company Inconel 1972, initially to be the Director of its research laboratory, becoming a director in 1975, and Managing Director from 1976–1981.

From 1981 to 1986 Nicholson served as Government Chief Scientific Adviser in the Cabinet Office. He was also a member of the Science and Engineering Research Council (SERC) from 1978–81, and a member of the UK Government's Council for Science and Technology (CST) from its inception in March 1993 to March 2000. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1978. Robin died on 15 November, at the age of 90.

I first met Robin when I was a second-year undergraduate at Christ's, reading Natural Sciences Part I (academic year 1965–66). I was looking for an exit from “mainstream” Physics, and decided to take the new (to me) half-subject of Metallurgy alongside Advanced Physics. Robin was my Metallurgy supervisor. I remember well his boyish enthusiasm and his outstanding teaching skills, making light work of things like phase diagrams and dislocations. He resigned his College Fellowship at the end of that year, to take up the Chair in Metallurgy at Manchester (at the age of only 32). But he had set my course, and I went on to take Materials Science for Part II, and complete a PhD in the Metallurgy department.

His later achievements in the service of industry and government have been well documented elsewhere, but I think now is a good time to remind ourselves of the central role that Cambridge in general and Christ's in particular played in the development of materials science in the 1950s and 1960s – a “key enabling technology”. Without advanced materials, we would simply be put back 100 years.

A seminal 549-page work was published in 1965 entitled “Electron microscopy of thin crystals”. This might seem an esoteric subject far removed from the realities of manufacturing industry, but it described how the then-new tool of the electron microscope could be used to look through thin foils of metal to see what made them strong. When metals are permanently deformed (bent, stretched, squashed) they flow, and the flow is enabled by atom-sized imperfections called dislocations. By putting impurities in the metal, one can create small obstacles which can help stop the dislocations moving, and help stop the metal deforming. In this way, metals can be made stronger. So, pure aluminium is weak, aluminium (with the right impurities) is strong. Modern aircraft made of pure aluminium would not get off the ground.

The authors were Peter Hirsch, Archie Howie, Robin Nicholson, Don Pashley and Mike Whelan. Archie and Mike were working in Peter's Metal Physics group in the Cavendish, Robin was in Metallurgy of course, and Don was in the Tube Investments Laboratory at Hinxton Hall (where the Human Genome Project is now based). The late Professor Anthony Kelly (formerly Vice-Chancellor of the University of Surrey) later wrote: “At that time Cambridge was the leading centre for thin-film electron microscopy and we had some of the foremost brains in dislocation mechanics in the world”. It is clear that there was strong collaboration between the two university departments and a neighbouring industrial research centre – an example of what came to characterise “The Cambridge Phenomenon”. In fact, by bringing together people from different perspectives, it is likely that greater progress was made than might have been the case if the work had been done in one single group or department.

Of those working alongside Robin, Peter (later Sir Peter) was a Christ's Fellow 1960–66 (and later an Honorary Fellow) who left to take up the Chair of Metallurgy at Oxford, where he remained for the rest of his life. Gareth Rees's obituary for Allen Metherell (who also worked in the Metal Physics group) recalls that he was supervised by Mike Whelan (who later went to Oxford with Peter). What is also remarkable is that the Head of Metallurgy at this time was Alan (later Sir Alan) Cottrell, also a Christ's Fellow 1958–65 (later an Honorary Fellow, and Master of Jesus) who was instrumental in developing our modern understanding of dislocations in solids. Truly, the planets were aligned.

Dr David Jones

John Hollingsworth (m. 1941)

John came up to Christ's in 1941 to read Economics, taking his BA in 1947. When he left Cambridge he went to India as a gunner in the Indian Army, playing cricket for them after he got his Commission.

On returning home he went into the insurance and pensions industry. The firm he joined had offices in Manchester and London; John opened the Birmingham office and eventually became Chairman of the Group.

His other interest was horses: he hunted with the Croome Hunt, and latterly with the North Cotswold Hunt, as well as riding at three-day eventing competitions, including those at Badminton, Burghley and Chatsworth.

In 1967 he sold a horse called Be Fair to Lucinda Prior-Palmer, who with this horse won the European individual championship aged 21, and in 1977 won the European Championship again along with Badminton and Burghley – a remarkable achievement.

In later life he enjoyed playing golf, and spectating at Cheltenham Races. He passed away peacefully on the 10th September, bizarrely 20 years to the day that his late wife died in 2004.

Martin Hollingsworth



George Kemp (m. 1943)

George Kemp died on 3rd March 2025 aged 99. He was always fully aware of the changing world around him, keeping up to date with politics, wildlife, stamp collecting and rugby through various publications and television.

He served with the Royal Engineers in India and Singapore before starting his civilian work as a civil engineer. This was varied and interesting work taking him from the development of the new town of Crawley and Gatwick Airport, to projects in Africa and Europe.

One of his career moves brought him from London to Norfolk with the Watney Mann group. This was life-changing for George, who took up sailing and his love of painting came to fruition. He had always loved to sketch as a boy. His subject matter of the Broads, with wild skies, boats and tranquil landscapes was unlimited. He sold many of his watercolours privately and at exhibitions, as well as accepting commissions.

His wife Audrey of 70 years predeceased him by 10 years. His daughters will miss him dreadfully.

Eliza de Souza (daughter)



Stuart Smith (m. 1947)

Stuart was born on 27th October 1928 in Blackburn, Lancashire. He came up to Christ's in 1947 to read Modern Languages, having been awarded a Minor Scholarship. After graduating Stuart did his National Service with the Intelligence Corps and was posted to Vienna. After National Service he returned to Cambridge to complete a Diploma of Education.

In 1953 Stuart worked for a year as an ‘assistant’ teaching English in a Lycée in Orléans, before taking up a position as a French

and Spanish teacher at Hertford Grammar School in 1954. He next taught in a grammar school in Manchester, before moving to Bushey Grammar as Head of the Modern Languages Department. He returned north in 1966 to Southport as Head of Modern Languages at King George V Grammar School. When the grammar school system came to an end in Southport, he moved to the newly built King George V Sixth Form College in 1979 as Head of the Modern Languages Department. Stuart took early retirement from KGV in the mid-80s but continued teaching part-time at a private school until 1993.

Stuart had two children, five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. One of his grandchildren, Naomi Rostron, née Sharp (m. 2011), followed Stuart to Christ's to also read Modern Languages.

Stuart was an active member of Southport Bridge Club for many years, until a move to Nantwich into a retirement-living flat in 2012. Stuart enjoyed holidaying in Europe regularly, particularly France and Spain, throughout his lifetime until he started to slow down in his late 80s.

Stuart died on 11th June 2025, aged 96.

Gillian Sharp

Andrew Noel Schofield (m. 1948)

Andrew came up to Christs in 1948 to read Mechanical Sciences, taking his BA in 1951. After his degree he moved to Africa to work as a civil engineer for Scott and Wilson Ltd in Nyasaland (now known as Malawi). Following this, he returned to Cambridge as Demonstrator in Engineering from 1955–59, also returning to Christ's for his PhD, which was conferred in 1960. From 1959–68 he was a University Lecturer in Engineering, a period which also saw him appointed Assistant Lecturer (1961), Fulbright Fellow and a California Institute of Technology Fellow (1963–64).

He returned to Cambridge to take up a Fellowship at Churchill College in 1964, where he remained for four more years, before accepting a Professorship at the Institute of Science and Technology in Manchester (UMIST) in 1968. He returned to Cambridge again in 1974, being appointed Professor of Engineering and leading the Soil Mechanics group within the Department, where he remained until retirement in 1998, becoming Professor Emeritus.

He was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering in 1986 and a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1992. He was recipient of the Royal Academy of Engineering's Frank Whittle Medal in 2017, in recognition of his transformational research in soil mechanics and geotechnical engineering.



Alan Hodgson (m. 1949)

Alan was born in Lancashire into a working-class family. A studious child, he joined St John's Prize boys' choir at age 9 and later became Head Boy of Blackburn Cathedral Choir. He was exposed to a wide range of music, igniting a lifelong passion. He was also a keen fell walker, particularly in the Lake District. He spent two years National Service in Singapore, producing a weekly classical radio show for the garrison.

After, he joined Christ's College to read Modern Languages. He was the first in his family to go to university. He discovered rowing and quickly joined the 1st boat.

In the 1952 Henley Regatta, his boat was beaten by a whisker to take second place in the Thames Cup. After Cambridge, he moved to London and joined Martin's Bank (now Barclays).

In 1954, he met my mother, Jo, in Marylebone church choir. He returned to Cambridge and became the Bank's youngest manager. They settled in Berkhamsted and later outside Oxford. They raised five children and had a long and happy life together. My father was actively involved in the local wildlife trust after he retired and spent a great deal of time in the Lakes. Between his 70th and 80th birthdays, he climbed its 56 highest peaks. He was hugely proud of his children, nine grandchildren and one great-grandchild, many of whom are also keen walkers. Alan died on 23 October 2024 at the age of 96. He was greatly loved and a wonderful man. He is greatly missed.

Kate Munro



(Arnold) Wallis Johnson (m. 1949)

Wallis had a strong Quaker heritage. His father was from a family of Irish Quakers living in Armagh, and his maternal great-grandfather, William Scarnell Lean, trained young teachers at the Flounders Institute in Ackworth, Yorkshire, at a time when Quakers were barred from universities.

Wallis grew up in Street and was a pupil at Sidcot School. After leaving school he registered as a Conscientious Objector and worked in the Friends Relief Service office and in work camps with the International Service for Peace.

At Cambridge he studied Maths and Geography. His main extra-curricular interests were film and rowing. He followed his Cambridge degree with a specialist degree in Geography at the University of London, and then a teaching certificate at Bristol.

He taught for three years at the Russell School in Croydon, during which time he met and married Rosemary Cleaver.

Next began an exciting chapter for Wallis and Rosemary, with Wallis teaching Geography and Maths in a secondary school in Abeokuta, Nigeria, and Rosemary teaching Music. Their children Bryony and Chris were born there over the following couple of years.

In 1962 the family returned to the UK and Wallis took up a Geography teaching post at Ackworth School, where Nick completed the family and they spent eight happy years there.

A change of career took the family to York in 1970, where Wallis began working for the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust. This was a varied and wide-reaching job, including projects in Northern Ireland during the Troubles and supporting community work there. Wallis was instrumental in securing a grant to establish Lagan College, the first integrated school for the children of both Catholic and Protestant families.

During this period, Wallis was appointed Secretary to the Charitable Trusts Administrators Group. He was invited to give evidence to the House of Lords Committee on small charities, set up a community foundation in South Yorkshire and advised the Home Office on promoting community foundations across the country.



Upon retirement, Dad launched himself into another of his interests: art. He lost no time in enrolling at York College and set up the upstairs of their bungalow as a studio. He became a prolific painter and delighted the extended family with portraits and watercolours which continue to be appreciated in their respective homes.

Wallis' other keen, lifelong interests included politics, environmental issues, film (his mother's first cousin was David Lean), and peace matters.

He was blessed to have 62 wonderfully happy years with Rosemary – they celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary in 2018 – and the constant love and support of his family.

He leaves behind three children, ten grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Bryony Penman

(Donald) Fraser McVittie (m. 1949)

From his early days, Fraser expressed a love of nature, and a spirit of adventure. He was born in Penrith in 1928, and from Penrith Grammar School, won a scholarship to Christ's. A new and adventurous phase of his life began. His first degree in Natural Sciences was followed by a PhD in Metallurgy. And he fell in love with a beautiful young nurse, Anita Rosemary Hughes. The marriage took place at the College – the beginning of a lifetime of mutual devotion.

In 1956, the young couple came to live in Sheffield and over the next few years, the arrival of Julian, Susan and Alison made their family complete. Fraser's skills were in demand, first with Hadfields Ltd, who produced manganese steels for mining equipment, and then with Streetley, who headhunted him to set up and oversee blast furnaces around the world. Family time was all the more precious when Fraser was at home; he would take the whole family walking in the Peak District, exploring the hills, paths and expanses of moorland.

On Anita's death, Fraser thought he would "put his feet up and rest awhile." He faced the prospect of his own death calmly. It was his last and greatest adventure. In his last weeks, he showed that stoical courage which was typical of his life as a whole.

Fleur Houston and Julian (Jim) McVittie



(Clifford) John Roper (m. 1950)

John Roper passed away peacefully on 6th November 2024, aged 94. He had been admitted to hospital six weeks beforehand after breaking his hip. Until then John had fulfilled his wish to live independently at home, despite having Alzheimer's.

John was always very organised and wrote the following in 2012, in readiness for the Christ's College Magazine:

"As a child I was fascinated by the invisibility of electricity and decided to be an electrical engineer. I applied to Cambridge simply because it was the nearest university to Ipswich, my home town! I was offered a place at Christ's after National Service, during which I served in REME and was trained to maintain Radar sets.

I managed to persuade Dr. Davies that I could cope with the "fast" course which involved the Long Vac term after the first year. During that term I met my wife Ann at a tea dance in "The Dot" café. After my graduation we were married in Christ's Chapel, with John Taylor as best man and Neil Hughes as an usher.

Although I was called John at home, there were so many other Johns at college that I obtained the pseudonym "Roger" (thanks to John "Charlie" Best), which I continued to use during my working life.

I did my practical training at Loughborough but found it difficult to support a wife and child on an electrical engineer's pay. I joined ICI in 1956 as a mechanical engineer and spent the next 30 years on polyester and nylon projects, firstly in Wilton and then in Harrogate where I transferred in 1960. I eventually achieved my objective by becoming Chief Engineer of ICI Fibres."

John was always grateful for his education at Christ's and his fulfilling career which included business trips to the USA, China, Taiwan, Japan and South Korea. His favourite project involved living in Portugal for a year, whilst supervising the construction of a polymer and staple fibres plant in 1964–65.

John remained devoted to Ann and, when she had severe Lewy body dementia, he cared for her in their own home with amazing pragmatism and love. She died in his arms in 2013. They had been married for 59 years and have a daughter, Sue. Their final home was in Chipping Campden where John became well known for his daily walks which he continued to enjoy even at the age of 94. He also supported many local projects and charities with generosity. As a result there is a room named after him at the Chipping Campden headquarters for the charity "Campden Home Nursing" which supports people with life-limiting illnesses. The "Roper" room is used for craft activities and also as part of the Dementia Café. A very appropriate and special legacy.

Sue Peasgood



Shirish Bhailal Patel (m. 1951)

Shirish Patel was born on 7 March 1932 in Visnagar in the state of Gujarat and came up to Christ's in 1951 to read Mechanical Sciences, taking his BA in 1954, and participating in the sports of sailing and squash whilst here.

After leaving Christ's, Shirish worked on large dam projects such as the Koyna Dam in Maharashtra and the Kariba Dam in Zambia before starting his own engineering company, Shirish Patel & Associates, in 1960. He was instrumental in the conception of a "New Mumbai", or *Navi Mumbai* as it is now known: a new city across the harbour designed with the intent of easing the congestion in Mumbai itself. In 1970 he was made Chief Planner at the City & Industrial Development Corporation (CIDCO) and oversaw its creation.

His visionary approach to urban planning and dedication to sustainable urban development have left an enduring mark on Mumbai's landscape: Navi Mumbai, the Koyna Dam, and the Kemp's Corner flyover amongst many others.

He was founder and President of the Land Research Institute, a founding member of the board of directors of Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC), served on the Mumbai Heritage Conservation Committee, and was involved in research on an industrial solar cookstove.

His approach to urban planning was one of service; tirelessly dedicating himself to progressive city planning in order to better the lot of the general public. He wrote extensively on topics such as slum evictions, urban flooding and recycling industrial land. His six decades of multidisciplinary, ethical, and holistic solutions to the burdens of urban density and congestion have left an indelible mark on Mumbai's landscape.



John Wright Gavin Challoner (m. 1952)

John Challoner was born on 3 November 1931. After spending two years completing his National Service, he came to Christ's College to study Modern and Medieval Languages, matriculating in 1952. After graduation, he went on to become a teacher, teaching first in Bavaria and later in Belfast between 1957 and 1962. However, he went on to spend the majority of his career at Sedbergh School, where he himself had studied as a boy, becoming a Master there in 1962 and remaining in post for 29 years.

Working first as a House Tutor, John threw himself into the life of the school, shepherding dramatic productions, running the school sailing at Killington, teaching French, and spending a decade at the helm of Sedgwick House. He will be sadly missed by all those whose lives he touched over his years at the school. John is survived by his wife Rosemary, sons Simon and Mark, and daughter Kim.

Katy de la Riviere



Michael Charles Fox (m. 1952)

Mike Fox, the son of a Derby Co-operative Society manager, showed early academic promise and won a scholarship to Derby School. During the war, the school was evacuated to the Peak District due to the threat of bombing. In this formative, if somewhat isolated, boarding environment, Mike thrived – developing a love of languages and a lifelong passion for rowing that would shape the course of his life.

He went on to read French and German at the University of Liverpool, where he met Hilary Colecliffe. They married in 1956 and remained inseparable for the next 67 years.



In 1952, Mike came to Christ's to complete a PGCE, an experience he remembered with pride throughout his life. He stroked the College VIII and won blades in the May Bumps – his oar taking pride of place in every home he lived in for the next seven decades.

Following National Service as an officer in the Royal Signals, stationed in post-war Düsseldorf,

Mike returned to Derby School to teach. He later moved to The King's School, Chester, where he remained for over 30 years as Head of Modern Languages and Master in Charge of Rowing. A gifted teacher, he inspired generations of pupils to excel in French and German, with many going on to study languages at Oxbridge and other leading universities.

At the same time, he transformed the King's School Rowing Club into a formidable force, with many of his crews competing at Henley and on the international stage, and numerous pupils going on to earn Blues, represent their country, and even row at the Olympics. Alongside his teaching and coaching, Mike qualified as an international umpire with FISA and officiated at major regattas around the world. In 1994, he was awarded the Medal of Honour by the Amateur Rowing Association for his outstanding contribution to British rowing.

After retiring in 1995, Mike channelled his energy into long-distance walking and trekking, including several expeditions in the Himalayas well into his 80s. With Hilary, he spent 20 years living near Paris, before settling in Amsterdam for the final decade of their lives.

Mike died on 8 May 2025, and is survived by his six children and thirteen grandchildren. He was proud that two of his sons, Charlie (1987) and Ben (1989), also studied at Christ's.

Charlie Fox (m. 1987)



Bryan Edward Mills (m. 1952)

Bryan Mills was a true entrepreneur and an awe-inspiring man. He came from a relatively poor background yet was not driven by money; he saw it as a necessity not a goal. He was awarded a scholarship to attend Latymer school in Chiswick and afterwards fulfilled his National Service in the Intelligence Corps in Germany. In 1952 he matriculated at Christ's to study Economics and Law.

After graduation, he joined the Foreign and Commonwealth Office but left the service due to his wife's illness. She died tragically soon and sometime afterwards he married again to an Irish lady. They had four children together and so Bryan thought that he had better find a way to earn more money.

In 1964 he and a partner started CMG, a computer services company. Bryan was ahead of his time in the company policies that he instigated, such as employee shares, egalitarian benefits, and open management. These approaches were unique back then and it was no surprise that the company went from strength to strength. CMG was a business family that he created and was very proud of. It eventually went public and created significant wealth for many of its employees. During this time, he also founded the Computer Software Services Association.

In the early 80s he retired and moved to Ireland. There he fulfilled a lifetime dream of owning a Palladian mansion which he restored and enjoyed living in for a time. He also became the UK Chairman of F International, which led to him spending time between London and Ireland. After a time, Bryan sold the mansion and moved to Wimbledon with a new wife. He also joined the Board of the IT company ServiceTec, helping them to grow and expand their services.

Beyond his professional achievements, Bryan will be remembered for his kindness, integrity, and the personal relationships he built with employees,

customers, and suppliers alike. He was not only a colleague but a mentor and a friend to many. Bryan also had many interests outside of work, including Palladian architecture, ballet, art, history, and vintage cars. He was however never interested in doing sport apart from rowing at Cambridge, because he said he could do that sitting down.

Jennifer Mills



Roger Dalziel Moffitt (m. 1952)

Roger Dalziel Moffitt was born on 3rd April 1934 in Norwich. After Repton School, Roger attended Christ's from 1952 to 1955 studying Electrical Engineering, and singing every week in the College Choir. He graduated with a First Class degree, then joined the Atomic Energy Authority in Risley, Cheshire, as a design engineer for the nuclear power stations "Calder Hall" at Windscale, Cumbria, and "Dounreay" in Scotland. While in Cumbria he spent his weekends exploring on his Ariel motorbike and climbing many of the peaks.

He met and married Vivien in 1962, and they both took new jobs at the Atomic Energy Authority Research Establishment at Harwell in Berkshire. His job involved doing experiments, many in the nuclear reactors.

In 1968 he moved with Vivien and their three young girls to Marchwood Engineering Laboratories in Southampton. He worked in the design department for the next 25 years.

He loved walking in the New Forest on weekends with his family and dogs, and camping and hiking when on holiday. He was the local church organist and leader of the choir, and an accurate pistol shot, once qualifying for the National Finals at Bisley.

After retirement they moved to rural Herefordshire. They became involved in village life, him as assistant organist, and both of them in the Gardening and Cheese and Wine clubs.

He was intelligent yet humble, and always genuinely interested in others. He died peacefully at home after his 90th birthday on 11th April 2024 after an eight-month battle against cancer.

He leaves behind his beloved wife of 62 years, Vivien, three daughters, seven grandchildren, and an older sister.

Rebecca Gigrich (nee Moffitt) (m.1982)



Henry de Boulay Forde (m. 1953)

Henry de Boulay Forde was born on 20 March 1933. He grew up in Barbados before coming to Christ's to study Law in 1953. He was admitted to the Bar in 1959.

Henry played an instrumental role in Barbadian politics and actively took part in Barbados' Independence in 1966. As well as never losing a constituency election and holding his Christ Church West seat for 30 years, Henry was appointed Minister of External Affairs and Attorney-

General of Barbados in 1976. He became the leader of the Barbados Labour Party, shaping the Party's future and serving as Leader of the Opposition more than once over the course of his political career.

In 1996, Henry chaired a Constitution Review Commission in relation to the question of Barbados becoming a republic. Over the course of his political career, he advocated for women's rights, establishing the Commission on the Status of Women to fight for gender equality. He also established the Succession Act, ending the illegitimacy of children born out of wedlock, and the Family Law Act, redefining family structures outside of the church.

After retiring from politics in 1999, Henry continued with his legal career, working as a Partner and Principal of Juris Chambers. He is survived by his widow Cheryl and his sons Nicholas, Martyn and Ryan.

Stanton Thomas Fuller (m. 1953)

Stanton Thomas Fuller was born in Wallington, Surrey in 1932. He attended the Grammar School and was the first pupil from the school to obtain a place at Cambridge.

Leaving with a 2.1 honours degree in English, he started work with the Mullard Philips Group in Lancashire, becoming the first arts graduate to enter their Graduate Management Trainee scheme. After three years he was transferred to Southampton to assist in setting up a brand new semi-conductor factory.

In 1961, Stanton joined Arthur Young and Co, a London based firm of accountants, as a Management Consultant. For two years he undertook many assignments in the UK and overseas, before being contracted to Plessey, Liverpool, for a six-month period.

By 1966, this six months had stretched to three years. Plessey took him on permanently as a member of the Executive Management team. During the following years Plessey undertook a process of great change. In 1975, Stanton was appointed Director of the Installation and Customer Services Division of Plessey, with UK and worldwide responsibilities for the provision of telecommunication equipment. Stanton travelled extensively to South America, Africa and the Middle East, where much of the business was.

In 1979, Stanton was appointed Managing Director of the factories in South Shields and Sunderland. Then in 1984, he returned to Liverpool, to undertake the development of the Wavertree Technology Park. It involved the development of a derelict 64-acre site, which four years later was opened by Prince Philip.

Stanton retired from the role of Chief Executive in 1988. Within two years he became Chairman of the Board of Governors at Liverpool John Moores University, being instrumental in transforming it from an almost bankrupt polytechnic to a successful university.

Stanton had a close relationship with his nephew. He married twice, to Irene, who died in 1994, and in 1999 to Margie, becoming a stepfather to her three children. In the early years of their marriage he also became a grandfather, enabling him to enjoy a full family life as he grew older. Margie survives him as his widow. He died in June 2025 in Seaview, Isle of Wight.

Margie Fuller

Roger Geoffrey Thornber (m. 1953)

Roger came up to Christ's in 1953 to read Mechanical Sciences, taking his BA in 1956. He was a member of the Boat Club, rowing in the victorious 1954 Lent Eight.

After leaving Cambridge he joined DeHavilland and later in his career moved to British Aerospace, where he became Operations Manager for the Tornado plane at the Warton Aerodrome in Preston.

He died on 24th April 2024, aged 90, with his family by his side.

David Francis Lloyd Watkin (m. 1953)

David came up to Christ's to read Medicine, as well as being Vice Commodore of the Sailing Club, and a member of the Rowing Club whilst here.

After Cambridge, David joined Westminster Hospital Medical School, where he won the prize for obstetrics after delivering more than 40 babies. It is also where he met his future wife, Elisabeth, a fellow student.

He was a House Surgeon at Westminster Hospital, a House Physician at Kingston Hospital and then a Senior House Officer in the Accident and Emergency and Orthopaedic Departments at Kingston, before moving to Bristol, where he became a Senior House Officer at Bristol Royal Infirmary. In 1975 he moved to Leicester Royal Infirmary as the inaugural Clinical Subdean, and subsequently held Senior Registrar posts at Derbyshire Royal Infirmary and Sheffield Royal Hospital.

His many roles included Regional Adviser for the Royal College of Surgeons (of which he was made Fellow in 1962), which led to chairing the specialist advisory committee responsible for training. He was elected President of the Association of Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland in 2000–1.

He published *A Surgeon's Lifetime: Evolution in General Surgery 1959–2001* in 2023, a memoir in which he describes the 'bad old days' of house jobs in teaching hospitals and reflects upon the innumerable changes that occurred throughout his career.

He died on 14 July 2024, aged 89, and is survived by Elisabeth, their three children and four grandchildren.

(Wilfred Aelian) Gerald de Alwis (m. 1954)

Gerald de Alwis was born on 29 November 1927 and spent his school years at St Thomas' College before completing his undergraduate degree at the University of Colombo. In 1954, he came to Christ's for his Master's degree in Education with a focus on teaching English. While in Cambridge, he represented the College in Cricket and Hockey, which he had enjoyed since his school days.

Gerald spent his career committed to education. After marrying his beloved wife Indrani in 1954, Gerald returned to his old school, taking his first teaching job at St Thomas' College, Gurutalawa, before becoming the youngest ever Principal of Uva College, Badulla. From then on, he took on a range of other Principal jobs across Sri Lanka before taking a job at the Department of Examinations. He worked with them until retirement as Deputy Commissioner of Examinations.

He also served on several educational boards across his career, including more than 25 years on the Board of Governors at St Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia, and the advisory board of Ladies' College Vocational Department. He is remembered for being hardworking and conscientious, and very committed to his Christian faith and family. He will be missed by all his family and those who knew him.

With thanks to Shahan Amaratunga

William Micheal Robin Johnston (m. 1954)

Micheal came up to Christ's to read Law, taking his BA in 1957. He was a Marguerite, and rowed for the Boat Club, serving as Captain in his final year. After leaving Cambridge he became a journalist, working in London for the BBC for a few years before heading to Dublin to join the fledgling RTÉ, working as a rowing correspondent and eventually rising to Senior Producer.

In the late 1960s he joined the executive body of the Irish Amateur Rowing Union, serving as Secretary from 1973–76 and President from 1979–80. He enjoyed many successful years coaching for rowing clubs including Garda, Dublin University Boat Club, Dublin University Ladies Boat Club, University College Dublin Boat Club and Neptune/Royal College of Surgeons. He served as a national and international rowing umpire, umpiring at the 1972 Munich and 1992 Barcelona Olympic Games. In 1992 he published a book on the history of the Senior Eight Championship called *The Big Pot*.

Micheal was one of the founders of the Dalkey School Project, a precursor to the Educate Together movement. He championed equality-based education in Ireland, work which led to him receiving an Honorary PhD from Trinity College, Dublin in 2011.

Micheal died on 4 October 2024, aged 89, and is survived by his wife, Pat, his children Brigid, Becky, Anna, Josh and the late Luke, and his grandchildren.

Peter Edward Luff (m. 1954)

3 February 1934 – 10 June 2025

Peter was born in Hundleby, Lincolnshire, in 1934. He attended Boston Grammar School before completing his National Service with the RAF. He went up to Christ's in October 1954 to read Modern Languages (French and German) before changing to Law. He was an active member of College life, playing for both the football and cricket 1st XI teams and being elected a member of the Marguerites Club. He remained at Christ's for a fourth year to complete the Colonial Service Course before setting sail for Cape Town to serve as a District Officer in what was then Northern Rhodesia (now Zambia). After the Colonial Service he continued his career in public service before retiring in 1991.

Throughout the years Peter remembered his time at Christ's fondly and very much enjoyed the reunions generously sponsored by Dr Yusuf Hamied. Peter died peacefully at home at the age of 91. He is survived by his wife Uta, children Kirsten and Martin, son-in-law Dave, daughter-in-law Jamie and grandson James.

Kirsten Dawes

John Anthony Pitchford (m. 1954)

John Anthony Pitchford died on the 13th December 2024 after 20 years of Parkinson's disease.

John left Tonbridge School and came up to Christ's in 1954 to read Agriculture and spent the next four happy and formative years there becoming Secretary, then President of CUBC, winning the Boat Races of 1957 and 1958. The latter crew stood a good chance of winning the Grand Challenge at Henley but, unfortunately, two members of the crew were injured in a car crash.

John did not row in the May Boat as it was thought he would unbalance the crew! However, he loomed large in College life, both physically and in personality so that

John (R)
pictured with
Micheal
Johnston
(m. 1954)



it was no surprise that in the run up to the Papal Convocation of 1958 an election poster appeared in College with a cartoon of John, in full Papal regalia, plus rowing shorts and a crozier of oar-like appearance. No wonder that the Master, Canon Raven, would declare in his presidential CCBC speeches at bump suppers “that Christ’s is now a Rowing College.” During much of

his time at Christ’s John lived with Micheal Johnston, a great friend, above the Red Lion in Petty Cury.

John was an inspiration to many young and novice oarsmen throughout his life until he gave up rowing and coaching in 2003 at Bewl Bridge Boat Club. There he rowed in many boats and regattas, founded the junior section in 2004 and persuaded his many contacts and friends to donate older boats to the club. He is much missed and remembered there, not least for becoming the World Champion in Ergo for his Veteran Class.

After graduation, John worked at Lister Engines at Dursley, Perkins Diesel and then for himself. He travelled abroad, meeting a young Betty Bass in America; they married and came back to live in Dursley. Betty proved well able to adjust both to a strange country and what, she felt, were strange friends! Their children, Edward and Judy, grew up at Goldstrow Farm, but sadly Betty died too young. John then married Anna from Hungary who devotedly supported John through the long twenty years of Parkinson’s. They and their son, Janos, regularly made the trip to Orseg where they had a house and spent the summer, often welcoming English friends. Anna was with John when he died at home in The Oast House, as he wished.

Alas, time has diminished the number of those who have every reason to be grateful for John’s life and to remember his escapades, benefitting from his infectious humour and encouragement. Few CUBC Presidents will have had to fine their own College for impeding a Blue Boat. In our case an eight, coxed by a Fellow, David Yale, caused the problem when returning from a crustacean outing to the Plough. Later we redeemed ourselves by winning the enormous silver “Chapel Izod Trophy,” beating Trinity College, Dublin in the Fours final on the Liffey.

George Astbury (m. 1955), John’s family and friends.

(John) Michael Ratcliffe (m. 1954)

Michael Ratcliffe was born in Manchester on 15 June 1935. He attended Cheadle Hulme School before matriculating at Christ’s in 1954 to study Modern History.

After graduation Michael worked for a time as a supply teacher before becoming a trainee journalist at the *Sheffield Telegraph*. From there he moved to *The Sunday Times* in 1962, then to *The Times* in 1967. He remained at *The Times* until 1984, working for ten years as Literary Editor and becoming Chief Book Reviewer from 1972 onwards. In 1971, he met and moved in with his partner Howard Lichterman, a statistician who went on to work as marketing executive for the Welsh National Opera and English National Opera.

In 1984, Michael joined *The Observer* as its theatre critic. As well as writing for *The Observer*, he employed his knowledge of the theatrical scene with Howard’s

specialist tour company London Arts Discovery Tours, leading tours in Budapest, Paris, Vienna and Berlin. He wrote a series of groundbreaking essays across a wide range of topics related to the arts, including a contribution to John Goodwin’s *British Theatre Design: The Modern Age* (1989), and an assessment of gay fiction in its social and historical context for *Prospect* magazine in 1996.

Michael and Howard formed a civil partnership in 2006 before marrying in 2015. They lived together in London and enjoyed travelling together, especially to Lake Como and Salzburg.

Murray Richard Wigsten (m. 1954)

Murray was born on 1 April 1929 in Poughkeepsie, New York. He served as a Corporal in World War II, later attending Cornell University, graduating with a BA in 1952, and MA in 1954, before coming up to Christ’s to read English, obtaining his degree in 1956.

He ran Wigsten Associates, an auction and antique appraisal business, with his son Jeff in Weare, New Hampshire.

Murray died on 14 January 2022, aged 92.

Richard Douglas Armstrong (m. 1955)

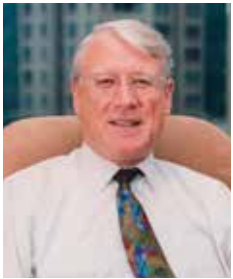
Richard was a talented modern linguist and read French at Christ’s, gaining a first class degree, which he followed up by quickly learning Russian. He was also a keen oarsman and rowed at 4 in the College first VIII in the May Bumps of 1957.

His career after Christ’s was as a schoolteacher at The Leys School in Cambridge, where he was an inspirational master outside the classroom if not within it. He helped establish The Leys School Boat Club and for many years was master in charge of rowing at the school, frequently to be seen cycling the towpath in his trademark red bobble hat. He organised many extracurricular activities for the pupils, stretching from exploring the ancient churches and windmills of East Anglia to going on camping expeditions in the Lake District and in northern Scotland, including many Easter scout camps at Loch Assynt in Sutherland, a tradition which still continues.

Richard, known throughout the School as “Strong”, was my assistant housemaster when I went up to The Leys in 1970. He was universally popular for his unassuming but slightly quirky ways, reading *Le Figaro* every morning and often speaking in French whenever he felt like it. His skills in Russian were less appreciated, but did come to his rescue when he was arrested one summer holiday in the former Soviet Union for taking photos of some rare flowers without realising there was a military facility in the background. He was legendary for the fact that, during the big freeze of 1963, he cycled from Cambridge to Ely along the river (not the towpath) – an act typical of Strong.

His funeral at Little St Mary’s Church in Cambridge was attended by several hundred Old Leysians. A unique and inspirational schoolmaster, he will be missed by many.

Andrew Jordan (m. 1975)



(George) Robert Archer Armistead (m. 1956)

Robert was born in Sussex; he attended Christ's Hospital school where his father William, also at the College (m. 1924), was Head of Maths from 1927 to 1967.

Robert read Civil Engineering. He had considerable musical talent, a good tenor voice, and was an accomplished pianist, recorder player and oboist. In the 1960s he sang with the Royal Choral Society.

In 1959 he joined consultant engineers Binnie, Deacon and Gourley. Apart from London and a brief spell in Huntingdon, Robert's professional life was spent overseas: Nigeria, Iraq, Hong Kong and Lesotho and finally back to Hong Kong for his principal role. His time in Iraq (Kirkuk) was curtailed in 1967 by revolution.

In 1970 Robert and I met in Iran, on the steps of a plane during a refuelling stop whilst he was travelling to Hong Kong. His first period there was interrupted by two years in the cool hills of Lesotho – a cultural contrast.

He soon returned to Hong Kong and would eventually become Managing Director of Binnies Hong Kong. By 1990, it was their largest overseas operation, providing a range of engineering specialities and multi-discipline projects, including new town infrastructure. He progressed the development of a dedicated team of engineers, scientists and administrators through contemporary challenges, including computerisation and a future merger. As a manager, he walked the talk and engaged caringly with his staff. He was a well-respected and popular leader. It's perhaps a fitting tribute that, after two takeovers, his former company is once again called Binnies, now under the ownership of the RSK group.

Robert and his wife Sheila had a rich social life in Hong Kong. It's also where his son Oliver was born and is now established with his own family. In this respect he leaves a living presence there, at least, for the immediate future.

In 1993 Robert and Sheila settled back in Sussex, engaging fully with village life. He retired early to spend more time with his music and gardening; pursuing some of his other undoubted talents, including the creation of a carefully selected arboretum. He was active with the parish church's music and was Chairman of the Parish Council for several years where he made a name for himself, engaging with issues and challenges of the day with his customary aplomb. He died in April 2025 and Sheila sadly a couple of months later. Robert was charismatic and charming; he leaves many friends and will long be cherished by all who knew him.

Anthony Armistead (m. 1960)

William Rodney Freeman (m. 1956)

Bill was born on 1 July 1935, in Ipswich, Suffolk. During the war he was evacuated to Gloucestershire, before being sent to The Leys School. Following two years of National Service in the Royal Signals, he came up to Christ's to read Economics and Law. Here he organised the Poppy Day collections, raising a record amount in 1959. After his degree he trained for three years as a Chartered Accountant. He only worked for two companies through his working life. He was Finance Director at Bull Motors in Ipswich and then worked with The Dairy Trade Federation in London for 26 years.

He met Jenifer in 1959, and they married in 1962. They had four children – Peter, Catherine, Crispin and Simon – and were married for 62 years before his death in January 2025.

In 1996, after retiring, he was ordained as a priest and spent ten years working as a Non-Stipendiary Assistant Curate. He loved village life, and was deeply involved in village organisations, helping to apply for and secure in excess of £200,000 in grants for the church, village hall and other projects.

He loved exercise and fresh air, and embarked on month-long walks across European countries, having spent two years training, planning each route and learning the language of each country he was visiting. His travels led to the discovery that he could paint and, encouraged by his wife, he became a prolific artist.

He converted his favourite paintings into greetings cards which are still sold across Suffolk, and which have raised over £50,000 to date. He also held plant sales in the village raising over £50,000. All money raised from these activities has been split between his favourite charities: his local church and Hope and Homes for Children.

He was a kind, gentle, intelligent and very generous man, and is truly missed by his family and local community.

Catherine Seel (daughter)

Peter Robertson Colville (m. 1957)

After a stellar sporting career at Rugby, Peter followed his father to Christ's, where he gained Hockey Blues in 1959 and 1960, and was Captain in 1961. He later led a combined Oxford and Cambridge 'Swallows' Team to South Africa. He taught at Cranleigh before going to teach at Christ's College, Christchurch, for three years, where he lunched with Sir Edmund Hillary, who had been the first to conquer Everest a few years earlier. Taking up his backpack, he spent four months travelling through the Far East, India and the Holy Land, arriving back in England at the same time as those of us who have done National Service. Mike Payne, suddenly becoming Captain of Hockey (on the demise of Pat Robson from Cambridge) called a meeting on 7 October 1957, which Peter, the late Mike Rouse and I attended. Thus started a long and treasured friendship.

Peter returned to the Uppingham of his birth, where he followed his father, who had just retired. Peter was variously House Tutor, Housemaster (he described this as 'the jewel of his life'), Careers Master and Registrar. Here he met and married the recently widowed Sheila, who took less easily to School life. When he retired, they moved to Wisbech, where Peter designed and built quite the best house that I ever visited. Peter became a regular golfer. Their final move was to Witney, where he inherited Sheila's four-generation family of 19, which he loved.

Peter was a man of faith, who took great pleasure in other people's achievements; he had the ability to make other people feel that they were the most special.

Sam Legerton (m. 1957)



Laurence James Campbell Coventry (m. 1957)

Laurence was born in 1938 in modern-day Zambia, in what was then called Northern Rhodesia. In 1953 the family settled in the UK, when his erudite father took up the position of Scientific Liaison Officer at Rhodesia House.

Laurence had a very fertile mind. During his studies at Christ's in the late 1950s, he honed his debating skills in his favourite subjects: History, Politics, and Religion. These were topics he was never afraid of talking about even in

the politest of company, something which he shared with his beloved wife Daphne. In addition to his academic pursuits, he was a member of the Cambridge Rowing Team and in 1958 he and his team won the regatta against the University of Dublin.

After his mother's untimely death not long after his graduation from Christ's, he felt the pull of Africa tugging at him. He met his late first wife, Selma, while living in Salisbury, modern-day Harare. The couple eventually settled in Johannesburg, where Laurence worked as a banker with the well-known South African bank, Nedbank, and they had two children, Helen and Tim. For ten years he was also the Treasurer of the League of Friends of the Brecon War Memorial Hospital, helping to manage its finances.

Laurence met his second wife Daphne in 1994, and from then on, much joy in his life followed. Daphne loved Laurence very much. One of the many reasons why was because of how easily he accepted her four children, Alexander, Fiona, Jacqueline, and Bethany, into the fold.

With thanks to David Epstein

Michael Anthony Hession (m. 1957)

Michael was born in Blackheath in May 1939, the only child of severely puritanical Christian parents, with all that that implies. Aged six, he was sent away to an evangelical boarding school where he experienced a harsh regime.

There was a lighter side during his time there, when he climbed the clock tower to make the clock strike thirteen at midday, which inspired Anthony Buckeridge, a teacher there, to include this in one of his popular *Jennings* stories, broadcast on *Children's Hour*.

He won a scholarship to Christ's to read Medicine which also allowed him to escape the repression of his upbringing. He played the cello, acted in and produced plays and wrote for University magazines. He excelled in and enthused over everything.

In 1960 he went on to Barts Hospital, qualifying as a junior doctor in 1964. He found the pay restrictive and the long working hours expected of him excessive to the point of being dangerous. With others, he formed the Junior Doctors Action Committee organising the first NHS protest against pay and working conditions.

He took the fight to Government and campaigned for representation of Junior Doctors on the General Medical Council. He founded and edited what became the *British Journal of Hospital Medicine*. He later became a Consultant Psychiatrist, inspired by the need to understand the effects of unhappy childhood.

In his spare time, he learned to fly, co-piloted a plane in a Gatwick to Adelaide race, drove a Rolls Royce, farmed 114 acres, acted as photographer for the Hay Literary Festival, developed a garden complete with lake, lily pond, arboretum and Greek temple, stood for Parliament, was a prodigious and sometimes reckless skier, coped with diabetes and was one of the founders of Hay Music, for whom he hosted concerts in his house.

It was in music, particularly opera and the works of Handel, that he found the emotional outlet he had not been allowed as a child.

He died on 27 December 2024 aged 85 at home with his wife Mary and his children beside him, and now lies buried in a Herefordshire churchyard in sight of his beloved home.

Michael Jones (m. 1964)

John Michael Brown (m. 1958)

John Brown was born on 9 March 1937, and matriculated at Christ's in 1958 to study Economics before switching to graduate in Law. Before coming to Cambridge, John carried out his RAF National Service training in Canada. In 1960, he and two friends used their RAF experience to fly from Cambridge to Kathmandu in a single engine light aircraft, a three-seater Auster. As well as aiming to break a world record, the three hoped that this adventure might bring attention to the refugee crisis that saw 20,000 Tibetan refugees fleeing from occupied Tibet to Nepal. The journey took 60 flying hours, and the three students travelled 6,000 miles through England, France, Italy, Cyprus, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Kuwait, Bahrain, Iran, Pakistan, India, and Nepal. This remarkable feat helped to raise awareness about the refugee crisis while also claiming two world records: for the first ever flight from the UK to Nepal in a light aircraft, and for landing the smallest plane in Kathmandu airport.

After graduating, John went on to a career in the Chemical Industry, working with ICI for ten years, and with the COATES Group in international troubleshooting for 20 years. He also set up his own business consultancy. After his retirement, John returned to Nepal with his wife Diana and they decided to set up the charity 'Sponsor a Child in Nepal', which later became the JMB Educational Fund. As well as sponsoring students, the charity worked to increase the number of girls enrolled in school, bringing it up to 45% at the schools that they worked with. Over the 18 years that John spent at the head of the JMB Educational Fund, the charity went from strength to strength, changing countless lives in Nepal.



Andrew Mark Kerr (m. 1958)

Brought up in Edinburgh in a family of lawyers, Andrew attended the Edinburgh Academy, where he excelled at acting, with a memorable Hamlet in his final year. At Christ's he read Natural Sciences, sang in the Chapel Choir, the Choral Society and the Original Christian Minstrels; and won blades in two Christ's VIIIs. For his third year, he switched to Law then returned to Edinburgh to take a Scottish LLB, graduating in 1964, joining the family firm Bell & Scott, and becoming a partner in 1969 and Senior Partner 1987–96. At university he met Susanna Robertson while both were in the chorus of *HMS Pinafore*. They married in 1967, and had one daughter, Elizabeth.

Andrew and his brother Robin (m. 1962) shared a love of ships – starting early by displaying a huge model WWI battleship, with radio control, to Prince Philip in 1959! Andrew joined the Naval Reserve, serving for 15 years, including joining HMS Defender in Malta as the Six Day War was declared: the Articles of War were read in the Wardroom. Later, he became lawyer to the Northern Lighthouse Board for 25 years.

In 1969, Andrew became secretary to the Festival Fringe, a post he held for 33 years, transforming it into a charitable company with a professional ticketing and venue-booking facility. This led to his chairing the Scottish Arts Council's Drama Committee, and becoming founding Chair of the Dunedin Consort.

Shortly after he and Susanna moved into the Georgian New Town, they formed the first Street Association in Edinburgh. This led to his Vice-Chairmanship in

1972 of the New Town Conservation Committee, and in 1999 of Edinburgh World Heritage. One of his passions was to restore original street lighting throughout the New Town. Andrew was made an MBE for services to the arts and conservation in 2017.

Robin (m. 1962) & Susanna Kerr, and Elizabeth Burgess.

David Frank Kruger (m. 1958)

David Kruger was born on 10 September 1936. He joined the Royal Engineers in 1954 and was sent by the Army to Christ's to read Mechanical Sciences in 1958.

David spent his career with the Royal Engineers, attaining the rank of Lt Colonel by the time that he left in 1991. He worked from then until 1999 for the Ministry of Defence as the Deputy Controller of the Army Welfare Service. After his retirement he became Chairman of the Andover Abbeyfield Society, and Treasurer of the Penton Tennis Club.

He died on 22 September 2024, and is survived by his five children and seven grandchildren.



Robert Matthew Morris (m. 1958)

In his long Home Office career, which began in 1961, Bob worked variously on crime, policing, security, prisons, immigration and constitutional matters. He was private secretary to two home secretaries, and secretary to departmental committees on Northern Ireland and on UK prisons. He led UK delegations to the EU, the Council of Europe and the UN.

In Bob's final position, he was in charge of relations with Buckingham Palace and the Church. He was made a Commander of the Royal Victorian Order (CVO) in 1996 in recognition of his service. After retiring from the Home Office in 1997, he became acting secretary for public affairs to the Archbishop of Canterbury. He found time to do a PhD on relations between the Metropolitan police and the government, 1860–1920, and started working for UCL's Constitution Unit.

This launched a whole new programme of work on church and state: beginning with a book and journal articles on disestablishment, continuing with detailed reports on the coronation and revision of the accession and coronation oaths, and then leading onto a comparative study of the other monarchies in Europe, exploring the paradox that so many countries are hereditary monarchies, while also being the most advanced democracies in the world. His latest book, published last year, was about the Home Office 1782–2007.

Bob sang in Christ's College Choir all through his time there, and continued singing in choirs for the rest of his life, in latter days, alongside some of his children.

Bob is survived by his wife, Janet; their children Emily, Matthew and Ben; and grandchildren Isabel, Sally, Julia and Joe.

Matthew Morris (m. 1986)



Jeremy Francis John Russell (m. 1958)

Jeremy Russell was born on 28 February 1939 in Richmond, Surrey, and was educated at King's College, Wimbledon. He then came up to Christ's, where he read English and was greatly influenced by FR Leavis. After leaving Cambridge he returned to teach at King's for a short time before embarking on a range of teaching roles over the next fifteen years. This included a position at Stand Grammar School in Manchester and then lecturing roles at Chiswick

Polytechnic and later in Hendon.

In 1973 Jeremy decided it was time for change. He then read for the bar, joining 2 Pump Court in the Temple before later moving to 2–3 Hind Court and finally 3 Dr Johnson's Buildings. He initially practised a broad mixture of criminal, civil and family law, and eventually specialised in family law. He remained mentally sharp up to the end and was still occasionally doing remote work until shortly before his death.

Jeremy's other great passion in life was beekeeping. For several decades he devoted most of his spare time and energy to building up a thriving commercial honey farm in Stanhoe, Norfolk, with bees placed on local farms and estates and taken up the Yorkshire Moors for the heather crop each summer. After meeting his wife Sushila at an international beekeeping conference in Acapulco in 1981, two children, Francis and Charlotte, followed. The family then divided their time between Wanstead in East London and Norfolk.

As the pandemic and the threat of lockdown loomed, he and Sushila moved up to Stanhoe more permanently. He died peacefully in hospital on 19 September 2024 following a short illness and is very sadly missed by his wife, children and friends.

Charlotte Russell



Ian Ronald Walker (m. 1958)

Ian was born on 28 May 1939. He came up to Christ's in 1958 to read Mathematics, taking his BA in 1961. He followed this with a PGCE in Bristol, and became a College Lecturer, first in Newport College of Further Education, and then at the Teacher Training College in Caerleon, where he taught Mathematics to intending secondary school teachers. He was much admired by many of his students both for his method of teaching and his sense of humour. One special year group kept in touch at Christmas each year until he died, peacefully at home, in early January 2025, aged 85.

In 1958, his future wife Judith also came up to Cambridge to read Mathematics; they coincided in many of their lectures, and also came to know each other through the Christian Union, although they went to different churches. They were married in Judith's church in London in 1965.

Amongst his other interests, Ian was very keen and knowledgeable about birds, and Judith remembers many walks together and learning from his enthusiasm. When they moved to Newport he belonged to the Gwent Ornithological Society and later became its President.

He did not complete his third year at Cambridge and was diagnosed with depression. He did suffer from many ups and downs in mood throughout his life,

but amazingly at the age of 71 he was diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome. As well as helping his family to understand many of his difficulties, it opened up for him an extra dimension to his life as he joined and supported two different groups with parents and their children who had had the same diagnosis.

Judith Walker



Colin MacDonald Amies (m. 1959)

Colin Amies was born in Inverness in 1940. In 1959, he was offered a place at Christ's, where he specialised in civil engineering. It was during his time at Cambridge that Colin took up flying with the Cambridge University Air Squadron.

After leaving Cambridge, he worked for Shell, before moving into civil engineering and playing a significant role in the protection designs of the Hong Kong tunnel and being part of the designing team for the Commercial Union Building, the largest structure in London at its time. In 1968, he joined Exacta Circuits, a printed circuit board manufacturer, becoming the Managing Director within a year. A few years later, he took on a role as the Electronics Industry Adviser for the Midland Bank, before becoming one of the co-founders of what is now Advent Venture Partners.

He also built cars and boats in his free time, and flew planes across foreign continents, while also building a fascinating business career spanning over four decades. Colin always felt that his Cambridge degree and Shell apprenticeship opened many great opportunities and experiences up to him.

Colin was very happily married to Kate in 1965 with four sons and nine grandchildren.

James Amies

Derwent Swaine (m. 1959)

Derwent Swaine died following complications from a minor accident on 12 May 2025.

Derwent was born in Yeovil, Somerset on 8 May 1939 and attended Crewkerne School before being awarded a place at Christ's to read Natural Sciences – Chemistry being his love from an early age. After being advised to defer his National Service, he secured a job as a laboratory assistant at British Nylon Spinners near Pontypool to fill the year before coming up to Cambridge. He found BNS an impressive factory and research centre and there he worked on the possibilities of organophosphorus compounds in fibre production which he found fascinating. After graduating from Christ's he went on to the University of Bristol where he completed a PhD on the protein urocanase in 1966.

A career followed in research and development, first in the tea industry with Brooke Bond visiting their tea estates in Kenya, then with Unilever where in the 1980s he was involved in the development of their Clearblue home pregnancy lateral flow test, a technique which is now used in the familiar Covid test. Throughout his time with Unilever he travelled extensively with shared projects in Europe and Australia.

He was a man of many parts who was interested in all the arts. An enthusiastic Prommer at the Albert Hall each summer and a keen cyclist who until very recently cycled his age in miles on his birthday. He was also a much-loved and encouraging grandfather to his six grandchildren.

His student time at Cambridge made a big impact on his life. He spent the last thirty years living in Oxford but enjoyed frequent trips back to Cambridge, always dropping into Christ's and attending alumni dinners and events.

Janette Swaine



Roderic (William) Dutton (m. 1961)

Roderic was born in 1942, the youngest of five children. He was brought up on the family's farm at Wivenhoe, near Colchester, and boarded at Friends' School Saffron Walden 1953–60. He quickly established a reputation for being sensible and reliable: indeed, his nickname was Dobbins. He was an opening batsman and spin bowler in cricket teams and a reliable back at football. He became Head Boy in his final year at school, as had his elder brother Jimmy (and his sister Susan had been Head Girl).

After leaving school, and having been awarded a Reginald Reynolds Scholarship, he spent a year with Voluntary Service Overseas, teaching sciences at Yundum College in The Gambia. The Gambian national cricket team heard about his cricketing skills and invited him to join them for their international match against Sierra Leone. That team went on to win the cup and Roderic proudly (but discreetly) displayed his 'cap' and engraved trophy all his life. He went on to Christ's to read Natural Sciences, sharing digs in Malcolm Street.

After Cambridge, he worked briefly for the British Council in Libya, before enrolling in an MSc in Economic Geography at the School of Oriental and African Studies. Later, he gained a PhD for his research work on the colonial and post-colonial farming of wheat in the Lower Madjerda Valley in Tunisia.

Roderic married Esther Haynes in 1971. They had two sons: Jake and Joss (Jake tragically predeceased him, but gave him a grand-daughter, Vega). They moved to Durham in 1972 when Roderic joined a multi-disciplinary team at Durham University's Geography Department that was conducting surveys in northern Oman, sponsored and funded by Petroleum Development Oman. Seeing the scope for practical, follow-on projects that responded to the needs of rural people, Roderic spear-headed the Khabura Development Project on the hot and humid Batinah Coast, 200 km and a good four hour drive north-west of the capital, Muscat.

In 1981 Roderic was appointed Director of the University's newly established Centre for Overseas Research and Development (CORD). Roderic's applied research approach was implicit from the start: any holistic geographical survey must bring together local and international experts in earth, life and social sciences to work collaboratively with, and for, all. The final scientific results were published in 1988 by the Government of Oman as a mammoth special report in the *Journal of Oman Studies*.

A couple of years later, the Royal Geographical Society was approached by Prince Hassan, then Crown Prince of Jordan, for a community-led geographical survey in north-east Jordan. Roderic was appointed one of three programme directors to mastermind what became the Jordan Badia Research and Development Programme.

Roderic retired from Durham University in 2002 and CORD closed down at the same time. He returned to Oman in 2007 as the field director of a project initiated by the Sultan's request that Earthwatch Europe should develop education in the

environmental field by setting up field centres, enhancing wildlife protection and encouraging student participation in the field. This work was a fitting conclusion to the career that had begun at Khabura 40 years earlier. He was appointed OBE in 2010 for his work in the Middle East.

He and Esther continued to live in Durham until his death. The hospitality of their family home in was enjoyed and valued by friends and colleagues, old and new, as well as by others working on Roderic's projects.

Roderic endured the inexorable effects of Parkinson's Disease with dignity and grace, and died in fulfilment of his wishes at home with Esther and Joss by his side.

Mark Bertram



(Andrew) David Graham (m. 1961)

David Graham died on 18 June 2025 at Sonning Gardens care home. He was born to Barbara and Cuthbert Vass (CV) Graham in Calcutta and attended boarding schools in England (Malvern and Sherbourne) following which he went to Christ's to read Engineering in 1961. Whilst at Cambridge he met his future wife Gisela, and following their marriage in 1966 they moved to Ontario, Canada, where David worked at Westinghouse. Their daughters Elizabeth and Barbara were born in Canada, and in 1973 they moved back to England where David founded his company Hill Graham Controls in High Wycombe, partnering with a Houston-based firm, Ross Hill Controls, run by a friend. The firm provided cutting edge engineering technology to the oil and shipping industries and expanded rapidly, requiring frequent travel to clients across the globe.

Many years later the company, along with its partner firm, were taken over by Ansaldo, an international energy company, and around this time David moved to Houston to manage Ross Hill Controls for several years. Afterwards he moved back to England and established himself as an independent consultant, re-connecting with previous colleagues and clients to resolve complex control module related issues.

The family home for many years was and remains in Wargrave, near Henley, and he was a regular visitor to Henley Regatta. When he was not taking business clients there, he would put on his Christ's blazer and go specifically to socialise with other Christ's alumni. He had enjoyed rowing at Christ's and he continued this hobby for as long as he could by joining the Wargrave veterans rowing club.

A colleague from Hill Graham Controls described him fondly as a "real engineer, and true gentleman who hated bad manners" which seems to sum him up very well. He was also a dedicated family man, and loved travelling for pleasure with his wife after he retired. He will be sorely missed by his wife, Gisela, his daughters, Elizabeth and Barbara, and grandchildren, Oscar, Lucy and Marlena.

Elizabeth Graham

John Raymond Lord (m. 1961)

John Raymond Lord, who died in March this year in his beloved Lytham St Annes, came up to Christ's in 1961 from Oundle School to read Economics and Law. He had just turned 83. John followed in the footsteps of his father who was at Christ's in the 1930s.

John was a good sportsman and was elected to the Marguerites. Being brought up in Lytham St Annes he was a good golfer and also played football for the College. Football was one of his passions and he was a long term supporter and season ticket holder at Blackpool FC – through good and lean times.

After graduating from Christ's, he qualified as a solicitor and worked for several firms in the Fylde area. Latterly he was the probate partner at Napthens in Preston.

Christ's golfers may remember John hosting the second ever Christ's Golf Day at Royal Lytham around 15 years ago with accommodation arranged in the Dormie House. It was a memorable and very happy occasion for all of us who were there.

John was very well liked and made many friends at Christ's and in later life. He always set out to be friendly and, as a good listener, he had the great gift of making you feel that he was really interested in what you had to say.

He will be greatly missed by Judith, Jo, Henry and his grandchildren – along with his many friends.

Anthony Edwards (m. 1961)

William Simon Rukeyser (m. 1961)

Born in New York City, Bill attended New Rochelle High School before going to Princeton, where he majored in English and obtained his AB in 1961. Following this, Bill came up to Christ's to read for a PhD in English Literature, leaving in 1963.

After Cambridge he spent four years with the *Wall Street Journal* as a Reporter in Europe, and in 1967 he joined Time Inc. as an Associate Editor of *Fortune*. He was one of the founders of *Money* in 1972, and became Managing Editor, a position he held for eight years before returning to *Fortune* as their Managing Editor.

In 1988 he relocated to Knoxville and was appointed Editor-in-Chief at Whittle Communications, remaining there until 1998 when he moved to the new magazine *Corporate Board Member*, where he stayed until 2009.

He served as Chair of the University of Tennessee Medical Center, Chairman of the Knoxville Jazz Orchestra, Director of the Overseas Press Club, and a member of the advisory board of the Princeton University Press Club. In 2002, he was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters at Maryville College.

He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Elisabeth; son James; daughter Lisa; and four grandchildren.

Bernard Ronald Scholes (m. 1961)

Canon Bernard Scholes (or Fr Bernard) will be remembered for the enthusiasm and energy he brought to his priestly ministry, spanning over 64 years.

Born the younger twin and the youngest of seven children, his education was somewhat disjointed due to WWII. However, he excelled and began his seminarian years in 1954, leading to his ordination in 1960. Following his ordination, he furthered his education by studying for a BA in History at Christ's and went on to teach History, English and PE in London secondary schools.

After 20 years of teaching, Fr Bernard was appointed parish priest of Holy Rood Catholic Church in Watford and following a sabbatical in 1996, he completed a further 16 years as parish priest of the Catholic Church of Our Lady & St Joseph's in Hanwell. During these years he was appointed to the Chapter of Canons and the Dean of Ealing. His energy and interests were boundless, chairing the Westminster Education Committee, championing global justice and peace, celebrating diversity

and inclusion, supporting HCPT and the Sick and Retired Priests Fund, to name but a few.

In 2012 he retired happily to Boxmoor, Hertfordshire, where he continued his ministry helping in the community. He loved all sports, opera, his large extended family and was a keen supporter of Brentford FC. Ill-health eventually meant that he required additional support and he moved to St Anne's Care Home in Stoke Newington, where he was cared for until he died peacefully on 17 March 2025.

Shortly before his retirement he wrote in the Hanwell parish magazine: "Ultimately I leave everything in the hands of god, thanking Him for the good I may have done, leaving my shortcomings to his tender mercy, and overall rejoicing in the privilege of having been called to serve His people as a priest". May he rest in peace.

Anne Bulfin (Niece)



Ian Elliott Scholey (m. 1961)

In his first year Ian had a room on the ground-floor of 'W', the Chancellor's Building (or Blyth Building) in Third Court. He shared a corridor with others whose names began with 'S', who, together with a few non-S members, kept in touch. Making friends and acquaintances was one of his great skills: he collected them like cherished books – each adding to his knowledge of the world, to be dipped into from time to time. He came up to read Geology, Mineralogy and Petrology from Nunthorpe Grammar School, York, which offered Geology at 'A' level. By a strange coincidence, the school prize he gained in the subject was *An Introduction to Georgian Architecture* by Sir Albert Richardson, who, as Ian knew, had designed the Blyth Building.

After graduation, he worked as a prospecting geologist in Northern Rhodesia, but soon decided to get some business experience and read for an MBA at the Manchester Business School. His father and grandfather had both been in banking, so he turned in that direction, first with Hill Samuel & Co Ltd, London, and then with Barclays National Merchant Bank, Johannesburg. He later returned to London to Barclays Bank International (BBI), where he met and in 1981 married another banker, Evelyne (née Roch) from Switzerland. For both of them a family was everything, and they had two sons, now both following professional careers. As Ian's own career developed, he spent time in New York, Zurich and finally in Tokyo, as BBI's Treasurer, but the growing power of the trading floor and other factors meant that merchant banking no longer satisfied his principles, so he resigned. In a memoir he describes this time in the late 1980s as his 'midlife rapids', but after a few years he found his feet again as Bursar of the Royal Ballet School, where he used his substantial financial experience to benefit a creative business.

Throughout his life Ian travelled widely, and wherever he went became a place for serious study and understanding. He eventually focused on South-East Asia, and after leaving the Ballet School studied at the School of Oriental and African Studies for an MSc and MA. He learned Indonesian and wrote two dissertations. In his later years his great passions were opera and art, which he shared in a happy marriage with Evelyne. He died in the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital on 1 June 2025.

Barry Shurlock & Tony Sleight (both m. 1961)



Peter Ronald Brewin (m. 1962)

Peter Brewin was born on 4 September 1944. After obtaining his degree in Engineering at Christ's, he spent the first six years of his career in the chemical industry in both research and line management. He then embarked on a career in powder metallurgy (PM) first in research and then becoming one of that fraternity of PM pioneers who worked tirelessly to support not only PM research, but also industrial development in many of the industry's sectors. In 1977, he became Managing Director of Powdrex Ltd – by the time he left in 1995 to start his own consultancy, he had developed it into an internationally recognised company with global patents and licensees.

In 1989, Peter worked to help establish the European Powder Metallurgy Association (EPMA), becoming a founder member of the EPMA Council, on which he served until 1998. In 2001 he was appointed the first Technical Director of the EPMA, which included responsibility for collaborative research projects, working groups for the different sectors of PM, educational activities such as PM summer schools and technical aspects of the association's services to members.

After his retirement in 2007, Peter was awarded the prestigious Ivor Jenkins Medal (2009) by the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining (IOM³) in recognition of his significant scientific and industrial contributions to the understanding of materials processing and component production in the PM industry. One year later in 2010 the EPMA presented Peter with its Distinguished Service Award,



recognising his outstanding contributions to the growth and development of the European powder metallurgy industry. Peter's old colleagues remember him as an invaluable member of the team, always kind and courteous, and generous with his time and support.

After his retirement Peter trained as a lay reader and preached at his local village church. Even after he lost his own voice due to illness and had to communicate through a speaking iPad, he continued with his preaching activities, serving as a reminder of his well-recognised qualities of tenacity and ingenuity. He also took up a number of hobbies and spent many hours playing music, especially his beloved violin.

Peter will be lovingly remembered by Adrienne, his wife, and his children Simon, Anna, Nicola and Caroline.

Bernard Williams



Geoffrey Hunt (m. 1962)

Geoffrey's life's work and achievement were in Bible translation. Following linguistic training he travelled in 1970 with his wife Rosemary and young son Owen to work with the Hanga people, in Ghana, whose language had never been written; their daughter Rowena was born there. The picture shows Geoffrey in Hanga. In 1982, having inaugurated a successful literacy programme and translated the New Testament they returned to the UK, then moved

to Dallas, Texas, for Geoffrey to work with the Summer Institute of Linguistics for two years, during which their daughter Jacqui was born. Geoffrey's scientific abilities were there applied to the emerging use of computers in linguistics.

Geoffrey was born on 25 March 1943 and grew up in Islington. He came to a strong Christian faith in his early years. In his teens, having seen a film about Bible translation, he wondered if God was calling him to that life. However, his natural aptitude was not in languages but in the sciences, which gained him a place at Christ's. Then, during his studies, he met Rosemary at a Wycliffe Bible Translators young people's weekend; they were soon engaged and married in 1966.

After their years in Ghana and Texas the family settled in High Wycombe. Geoffrey became involved in a variety of software projects using computers in linguistics including a sign language dictionary using video. From 2011 to 2019 he returned to the Hanga area several times to further their Bible translation. He was in a care home with Alzheimer's for six months before his death on 21 February 2025. He is survived by Rosemary, Owen, Rowena and a grandchild Miles and predeceased by Jacqui.

Granville Tunnicliffe Wilson (m. 1962)



Peter George Paul Mrkusic (m. 1962)

Peter Mrkusic was born in 1943 in Vienna to a Croatian father and Austrian mother. The family moved to southern Africa in the early 1950s, and he spent his childhood and youth in the Cape and in what is now Zimbabwe, writing his A-Levels at Churchill High School. After a gap year including a spell working in the Kitwe Copperbelt, he came up to Christ's, where he read Natural Sciences and made many life-long friends including Brian Lott and John Murray.

On leaving Cambridge, he settled in Johannesburg. He had a long and varied career in the engineering industry, much of which was spent at the Edward L. Bateman engineering group, with whom he travelled extensively to operations in the Americas and in Israel especially, and ended up as Managing Director of a joint venture with Lurgi AG. After early retirement, he took the opportunity to focus on his lifelong interest in antiques and collectibles, firstly with his late wife, Felicity, and later with two of his sons, Ivan and Paul. Paul now continues to run what has become Bancroft Antiques. He is survived by his partner, Atsushi, his sons, Greg (m. 1994) and Paul, and three grandchildren.

Greg Mrkusic (m. 1994)



John Douglas Murray (m. 1962)

John Douglas Murray, brother of Andrew and beloved son of James and Myrtle Murray, passed away peacefully in Weston, Florida, on 17 November 2023. He was born in Leeds on 4 September 1944, during the height of World War II. His life was defined by boundless curiosity, intellectual rigour, and a fearless appetite for adventure.

John earned a BA in History and Economic History from Christ's in 1965 – an academic achievement that reflected his sharp mind and enduring passion for knowledge.

In his late teens, following a year of serious illness that left him bedridden, John made a determined recovery. Soon after, he undertook a remarkable journey, hitchhiking from North Africa to South Africa in the 1960s – an early sign of the daring spirit that would shape his life.

After initial roles in security and journalism in Africa and London, John began a remarkable corporate career. He spent over 30 years in senior marketing and general management positions at Procter & Gamble and Mars, working across the globe. His innovative leadership helped bring beloved products to millions – from the Great Wall of China to the jungles of Thailand. Fluent in French and German, and conversant in a dozen more languages, he brought global fluency both literally and professionally.

A passionate traveller, John visited every continent and gathered a trove of unforgettable stories – crossing into Soviet-era Ukraine, sampling exotic dishes in Syria, and once even spending a night in a Congolese jail.

In retirement, he brought the same energy and ingenuity to a thriving fishing and rental business in Pompano Beach, Florida – yet another chapter in a life defined by adventure and reinvention. He passed away surrounded by his loving family.

John is survived by his wife Christine, daughter Jessica, son Michael, and three grandchildren, all living in the United States, as well as nephews and nieces in the United Kingdom. His legacy of adventure, wit, and generosity lives on in all who knew him – and in the stories still being shared in his memory.

Christine Murray

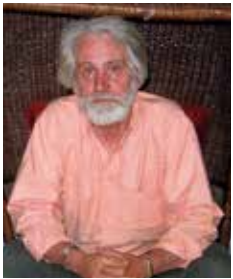
Jonathan Sale (m. 1962)

Born and raised in Cambridge – his father was an English Fellow at Magdalene – Jonathan attended The Leys School before coming up to Christ's to read English, taking his BA in 1965, and working for the student newspaper, *Varsity*.

After leaving Cambridge, Jonathan became a journalist, working on Fleet Street on magazines such as *Queen* and *Punch*, where he spent many years, eventually becoming Features Editor. Following the takeover of *Punch* in 1986, Jonathan was made redundant and set himself up as a freelance writer, a role he continued for the rest of his life, writing for *The Independent*, *The Times*, *The Guardian*, the *New European* and the *Daily* and *Sunday Telegraph*, amongst others. His regular column in *The Independent*, 'Passed/Failed', where he interviewed public figures about their schooldays, was published as a book in 2014: *Telling Tales Out of School*.

He was a lifelong supporter of the Labour party, and later became Chair of the Peckham Rye ward. He campaigned to save Honor Oak Park Rec, and served on the committee of the Friends of One Tree Hill.

Predeceased by his first wife, Ruth, he is survived by his partner Diana Aubrey; his children, Rebecca, Jessica and Peter; and his grandchildren, Jack, Heather, Solly and Reuben.


Christopher Martin Case (m. 1963)

Christopher Martin Case was born in Cornwall in 1943. His mother was American, his father English, and they were both academics. After his parents separated, Chris grew up in America, before coming back to England to read Philosophy at Christ's.

After Cambridge, Chris moved to London, where he shared a house with Syd Barrett of Pink Floyd, and discovered he was among the 'Beautiful People' of 60s London. He worked as an assistant to the art dealer Robert Fraser, among whose clients were The Beatles and The Rolling Stones. But Chris was curious to explore the world beyond the celebrity circuit, and in 1968 he hitchhiked to India, where he visited several ashrams, and learned meditation techniques that he practised for the rest of his life. However, Chris was still restless, he wanted to go further east, and so he arrived in Japan...

Over the next 50 years or so, Chris had an antiques business, selling Japanese textiles, furniture, and art. He was also a contributing editor to the cyber punk magazine *Mondo 2000*. In his forties he began to DJ in Tokyo clubs and outdoor festivals. Later, at a farmhouse in the mountains northwest of Tokyo, he hosted musical events.

I met Chris, with his beautiful Japanese wife, Futaba, in Kyoto, where they lived with their daughter in a traditional Japanese house. Chris put on a piece of music by Erik Satie, and our friendship began. Music was one of the ways Chris explored life. Beginning with Bach (he greatly admired the playing of Glenn Gould) Chris's love for classical music grew to encompass a vast range of music – from ancient to contemporary, across cultures and traditions – and he enjoyed introducing people to the possibilities of music, beyond the ordinary.

Chris was very hospitable and offered a refuge in the country from the megalopolis of Tokyo to many people. Some visitors might be chance encounters, who came for a day, and stayed for weeks. Musicians, cyber punks, thinkers and travellers – Chris welcomed anyone who could appreciate the stillness of the surrounding hills, or the moonrise over the river, as much as they appreciated the music he shared with them.

Chris never entirely let go of the philosophical principles taught at Cambridge. But he was curious, and unafraid of the unknown. 'Life is about figuring out WTF is going on', he once said. Whatever Chris figured out, it probably contributed to his idiosyncratic sense of humour – ironic, quick-witted, agile and absurdist – and his ready laughter.

Chris passed away on 10 September 2024, aged 80. He is survived by his three daughters, Charlotte, Radha, and Diana.

Peregrine Hodson

David John Robinson (m. 1963)

David came up to Christ's in 1963 to read Natural Sciences, taking his BA in 1966. Whilst at Christ's, he played badminton and cricket and was a member of the Milton Society.

After Christ's, David went to the University of Birmingham for his PhD before moving to Dundee in 1970 where he joined the Scottish Crop Research Institute, rising to Principal Research Scientist. He also served as Principal Scientific Officer of the Hutton Institute, dedicating his career to research on plant viruses.

David died on 14 March 2025. He is survived by his wife Judy and their two children.

Michael Boris Burawoy (m. 1965)

Michael Burawoy was born on 15 June 1947 and matriculated at Christ's in 1965 to read Mathematics. He pursued postgraduate education with an MA at the new University of Zambia in Social Anthropology, followed by a PhD in Sociology at the University of Chicago. Michael joined the Berkeley Sociology Department as an Assistant Professor in 1976.

For nearly five decades, Michael was a leading intellectual influence in the discipline, publishing 12 books and well over 120 papers, essays, and book chapters contributing to sociological theory and methods. He was especially recognised for his work to advance public sociology as a distinctive, legitimate mode of doing sociology through engagement with non-academic practitioners and collaborators, always with an orientation to the public good. His contributions to sociology were recognised by the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Marxist Section of the American Sociological Association (2020) as well as the W.E.B. DuBois Career of Distinguished Scholarship Award (2024).

Michael was also a transformative leader and was elected President of the American Sociological Association (2003–04) as well as President of the International Sociological Association (2010–14). His leadership and service were characterized by intellectual vision, political commitment to raise voices of those at "the bottom", dedication to advance the public good, and integrity, generosity, compassion, and good humour.

He retired in 2023 after 47 years of service to the university, but he continued to mentor graduate students and remained very active in the discipline. Upon his retirement, Michael was awarded the Berkeley Citation (2023), one of the campus' top honours, reserved for those whose "contributions to UC Berkeley go beyond the call of duty and whose achievements exceed the standards of excellence in their fields."

UC Berkeley Sociology Department

Peter Harold Bolton (m. 1966)

Peter was born on 3 January 1948 and came up to Christ's in 1966 to read Natural Sciences, taking his BA in 1969. He spent his working life in IT support, first with the Department of the Environment in Hastings, and then with Defence Housing for the MOD. Following early retirement, he spent fifteen years as a volunteer at the Kent and East Sussex Railway, restoring preserved railway carriages. He died on 1 February 2025.

Janice Bolton

Peter James Musgrave (m. 1966)

Peter Musgrave was the last of 11 pupils from Holgate Grammar School, Barnsley to come to Christ's. The first, Samuel Avery (m. 1946), was his senior history teacher. Unlike his mentor, Peter was not a sportsman, but revelled in the cut-and-thrust of tiddlywinks. He was the captain of the College's *University Challenge* team in 1970 which lost to Churchill College by the narrowest of margins in the three-match final.

After graduating with a First in History, Peter undertook research under Eric Stokes as part of his Indian social history programme. This entailed visiting northern India to study documents held in various archives. During his visit he contracted jaundice which proved to be a symptom of a life-long problem, viral hepatitis.

Before he had completed his thesis, Peter took up a lectureship in Economic History at Leicester University in 1972. In 1976 his Head of Department suggested he turn his attention to pre-modern Italy: the outcome, in 1991, being *Land and Economy in Baroque Italy (Valpolicella, 1630–1797)*. Over the next eight years the scope of his research broadened and led to *The early modern European economy* (published by MacMillan in its *European history in perspective* series).

In 1980 Peter married Sheena Wilkinson, a lecturer in Medieval English at the University. When she reached retirement age in 2010, Peter, by then a Senior Lecturer and Head of Social and Economic History, decided to retire too and they moved to the Gower Peninsula where Sheena had spent her childhood. They continued to visit Italy, where in the past they had spent much time translating medieval documents as part of their work, and they also researched the Wilkinson family tree, visiting many churches to discover details going back to the 17th century.

After Sheena died in 2017, Peter spent his last years alone. Their careers had precluded a family of their own; Peter's father had died a few months before he came to Cambridge; his mother, his younger brother, his only uncle and aunt had pre-deceased him in turn and he never had had any cousins. On 10 November he succumbed to fungal septicaemia, his condition probably exacerbated by a severe form of immunological depression associated with his other medical problems.

Richard Holroyd



Terence Patrick Fletcher (m. 1967)

Terence Patrick Fletcher was born in Blackburn, Lancashire in 1936. At 18, Terry did his National Service in Malta where the rocks sparked his lifelong fascination with fossils. Terry then went to Durham University to study Pure Science and continued his childhood passion for football playing semi-professionally for Bishop Auckland AFC.

On graduating, Terry joined the British Geological Survey. He was posted to the Natural History Museum and Northern Ireland where he also studied for an MSc at Queen's University, Belfast.

In 1967, Terry read for a PhD in Palaeontology at Christ's. His thesis was on Cambrian trilobite faunas of Newfoundland – research important to our understanding of how early animal life evolved. At Christ's, Terry also played football for the first team and was a member of the Marguerites.

On returning to the Survey, Terry was posted to Leeds and Edinburgh where he surveyed the land and updated geological maps. He spent holidays studying fossils all over the world. In Newfoundland, Terry made a geological record of Cape St. Mary's for the Canadian Geological Survey.

Terry joined several expeditions to the Burgess Shale in the Canadian Rockies, scaling cliffs in areas inhabited by lynx and moose. Amongst many adventures, Terry once suffered a serious fall, saved only by his rucksack getting wedged between rocks, and had to be airlifted out.

Terry's research continued into his retirement, and saw him giving lectures and writing peer-reviewed papers. He was a Fellow of the Geological Society and an Associate Professor of the Royal Ontario Museum.

Kathrine Smith (niece)



John Laurence Horder (m. 1967)

John was born on 14 May 1948 and studied Engineering at Christ's. His time there was a very happy one, and he followed news from the College with great interest throughout the rest of his life. John's life was guided by his deep faith, and after two years working as a civil engineer with Maunsells after graduation, he felt called to Christian Ministry, and became a pastor of Turners Hill Baptist Church in Sussex in 1977. He and his wife Caroline spent a decade in Malawi serving the church as missionaries, and on their return to the UK he joined the staff at Moorlands Bible College in Dorset. Pastoral care was his heart, and he was a valued member of the Moorlands team for 20 years. After retirement, John became a trustee for the Zambesi Mission from 2013–18, supporting their work in Malawi. He loved people and cared deeply for others. His many interests included poetry, photography, railways, butterflies and Leicester City Football Club – but he was at his happiest when out in the countryside walking with Caroline.

John died on 25 November 2024, to the great sorrow of the many who knew and loved him. He was a devoted husband, and a beloved father and grandfather. A man of great kindness, gentleness, wisdom and humility, he is deeply mourned by his wife Caroline, daughters Abigail, Rebekah, Sharon and Claire, and grandchildren Thomas, Susie, Elijah and Jack.

Claire Horder



Hugh Vivian Williams (m. 1970)

Hugh (Hugo) Williams went up to Christ's to study History in 1970. At Maidenhead Grammar School, he had been a keen historian and spearheaded the Boat Club. His deep passion for rowing and the river continued throughout his life – he captained Christ's College Boat Club and coached a number of its successful Bumps crews, he was victorious over Oxford in the veteran Boat Race in 2002, and he was a longstanding member and sometime chairman of Tideway Scullers School.

The ties that Hugo made at Cambridge lasted a lifetime. For example, he was a founding member of Pu(u)ddle (Persons Understanding the (Unique) Difficulties Derived from a Lack of Effort) – a group of friends from Christ's College Boat Club who have remained in touch to this day (including an ongoing online weekly catch-up).

Such was his passion for rowing at Cambridge that he and his don Simon Schama mutually agreed that he would transition to studying Law in his penultimate year at Christ's. He loved Cambridge (as had his grandfather, Arthur Swallow, who went up to Christ's in 1927). Following his degree, Hugo pursued a career in law. He founded (and led as senior partner) a number of successful City law firms (Williams Davis Meltzer, Plexus, and WHCG), but alongside his great success as a litigator he enjoyed a number of entrepreneurial endeavours, including co-owning a brewery in the Czech Republic (Zateč) and co-founding a restaurant (Smiths of Smithfield). He was incredibly well-liked, very funny, determined and purposeful, a man of fierce principle, deeply intellectually and spiritually curious, hugely generous and someone who cared for others passionately – most of all his family. He passed away peacefully at his home in Chiswick, surrounded by his wife Gilly, and their children Holly, Phoebe and Magnus.

Magnus Williams

**Philip George Dondi** (m. 1971)

Philip spent his early years living in Leytonstone with his parents and older brother Peter. After Grammar School, Philip went to the University of East Anglia, gaining a BSc degree in 1971, and then to Christ's to complete his doctorate in Natural Sciences in 1975. Research funding was not readily available in the 70s and after much consideration Philip decided to enter the world of IT. He worked for several IT companies over the years including

Olivetti who he joined in 1978: he was part of the team that recorded the times of the competitors in the first London Marathon in 1982. In 1983 Philip joined a small company in a marketing role for their products in the CAD/CAM market, before joining Microdec, producers of bespoke software for local authority career services, in 1993. He stayed with them until his retirement in 2008.

During the last 15 years of his life, Philip joined the Patient and Public Involvement Representation and became involved in cancer screening research for various types of cancer. He was a keen advocate of screening and became more and more involved with the team of researchers based at Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge where his contribution was highly valued.

Philip was an avid golfer and was a member of Saffron Walden Golf Club for 42 years and served on many of the club's committees, co-writing a book recording the history of the golf club. He was also a lifelong supporter of Leyton Orient Football Club!

Philip is remembered by family and friends as highly intelligent, kind, generous and most of all for his great sense of humour. He was married to Vivienne for 31 years.

Vivienne Dondi

**Ian Malcolm Tibbles** (m. 1972)

Born in London on 10 February 1953, Ian spent his early years in the Lake District, before returning to London where he attended Wilson's Grammar School, Camberwell. Then, inspired by Sir Roy Porter, Ian won an exhibition and came up to Christ's to read History in 1972.

Ian had fond memories of Christ's, where he met close friends including Jim Whelan, who he always recalled was quick to offer to room share after Ian topped the third year ballot! A keen sportsman, Ian was awarded a half-blue in badminton having played for the Cambridge Cockerels and Christ's College 1st Badminton Team.

Ian later went on to achieve a wide-range of additional qualifications including an MSc in Economics (London Business School), Level 7 Coaching and Mentoring (Institute of Learning and Management) and Level A & B accreditation (British Psychological Society).

Ian's early career included time in the NHS before working as a Management Consultant. He then went on to found his own company and develop ACE (Achieving Communications Excellence), a model of human behaviour. This allowed him to do what he loved most, supporting people and teams to reach their full potential.

Ian married Janet in 1975. They lived all over the UK, finally retiring to Cornwall, and enjoyed lots of lovely holidays together. Outside work, Ian enjoyed music, good food, debating, sport and gardening. They have one daughter, Katie,

who studied History at Oxford University, creating some friendly rivalry back home, particularly during the Boat Race!

Katherine Tibbles

Gary Hopkins (m. 1973)

Gary was born and brought up in the Wirral and educated at Wallasey Technical Grammar School (now The Mosslands School).

He came up to Christ's in 1973 to read English. After graduation he trained as a teacher at the University of Liverpool. He then taught for a few years at Wrekin College, where he made a very strong impression. In 1982 he was appointed to a post at Birkenhead School, close to his boyhood home, where he remained until retirement in 2013. He proved an inspirational and popular teacher of English, displaying high academic standards and a particular enthusiasm for American literature. His interest in the pastoral side of the teacher's role was rewarded when he was appointed Head of Junior School in 1990 and later Head of Sixth Form.

Gary was a man for whom the adjective suave might well have been invented. He found it easy to establish excellent relations with pupils of all ages. Hundreds of pupils who were fortunate enough to come into contact with him will remember him with respect and affection. Over the years he produced several school plays and was responsible for entering his school's team to the English Youth Parliament Competition. On his retirement the School's Headmaster described Gary as 'one of the towering figures of the last thirty years'.

Gary died suddenly and unexpectedly at the age of 71.

Jeremy Hudson (m. 1973)

**Charles Dougal Paterson** (m. 1973)

Following a scholarship at Ipswich School, Charles came up to Christ's to read Classics as a Choral Exhibitioner. After graduating in 1976 he did a PGCE and subsequently enjoyed a career in teaching, initially at Tiffin School, Kingston upon Thames, and from 1983 at Leicester Grammar School until his retirement in 2014.

Though his teaching career was in Classics, music was always a fundamental part of his life. He had sung, played and composed from an early age, and at Christ's he took part in many performances, not least the regular Evensongs in the Chapel Choir. He sang in numerous other choirs too. Over the years he conducted several, and composed and arranged a good deal of music for them, notably Leicester Grammar School Choir which he conducted for more than 25 years. As a member of Leicester Cathedral Choir, it was a particular pleasure to him that his music was sung during one of the services for the re-interment of King Richard III there.

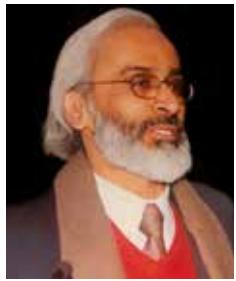
In March 2025 a concert of his music was held in Leicester Cathedral, attended by a large audience; he clearly enriched the lives of many, many people, and the world will be the poorer without him. Charles was one of my oldest friends, honest, loyal and kind, and with a gentle sense of humour which sparkled throughout his life. He died on 18 November 2024, age 70, after a long struggle with cancer. He is survived by his wife Susan, their two sons and two grandsons.

Peter Bumstead (m. 1974)

Kevin Paul Chappell (m. 1974)

Kevin studied English at Christ's and had lived in Cambridgeshire, Dublin and elsewhere before moving back to Cheltenham some years ago. A Gloucestershire man born and bred, a talented musician and an able scholar, Kevin maintained a sense of humour and an intellectual curiosity until the end. He faced the challenges of serious ill health with stoicism and determination. Kevin died in Gloucester Hospital on 23 February 2025.

Anita Diaz

**Ranjit Kumar Madhavan Nair** (m. 1974)

Ranjit Nair, distinguished philosopher, passed away of cardiac arrest at his home in New Delhi on 14 April, at the age of 70.

Ranjit had a lifelong attachment to Christ's, which he entered at the age of 20, as a J.N. Tata Scholar, soon after receiving a bachelor's degree in Physics from the University of Kerala.

With a passion for ideas that bridged disciplinary boundaries, his interests in physics and philosophy were honed at Cambridge. Once he returned to India, he combined this education with a conviction that India needed platforms for serious reflection on foundational science, philosophy and society. His motivation led him to establish the Centre for Philosophy and the Foundations of Science in New Delhi. The CPFS was devoted to exploring fundamental questions at the intersection of philosophy, science, and human well-being. Under his stewardship, the Centre became a rare intellectual space where scholars, scientists, and public thinkers could engage with questions of fundamental science, epistemology, scientific revolutions, and cultural perspectives on knowledge.

His own writings and compilations reflected a concern with the philosophical underpinnings of modern science. Among his works were *Mind, Matter and Mystery* and *The Republic of Science*. He edited the voluminous collected works of ECG Sudarshan. At a time when scientific discourse was increasingly siloed and fragmented, he emphasized the need for rigorous and lively exchange across disciplines.

Over the years, Ranjit convened and participated in numerous conferences, dialogues, and workshops, often drawing international participation. He was particularly known for his engagement in public science, hosting and moderating talks with leaders in many areas of science. Among them, he was noted for a bet with Stephen Hawking in 2001 where he contested Hawking's view that a theory of everything would make physics redundant in twenty years. Just a week before his passing, Ranjit hosted an on-line conversation on 'Cosmic Conundrums' with Nobel Laureate Roger Penrose.

Nair was an indefatigable champion of Indian science and its history. He played a key role in getting a bust of Jagadish Chandra Bose installed at Christ's. In fact, his interest in science went back to his undergraduate days at the University College, Trivandrum, where he played a driving role in the student-organized Science Society of Trivandrum.

He is survived by his wife, the noted poet and linguist, Rukmini Bhaya Nair, who studied with him at Cambridge, his daughter, Vijayanka Nair, also a Christ alumna, and son Viraj Nair.

To colleagues, Ranjit was both a mentor and a bridge-builder: his conversations were marked by erudition – and by warmth, patience, and a willingness to listen. To scholars around the world, he modelled a life dedicated not to professional titles alone, but to inquiry as a way of living.

Ranjit Nair's passing is a profound loss to India's philosophical community and to the many international colleagues who worked with him. The countless conversations he inspired stand as enduring reminders of his vision. He leaves behind a legacy of boundless scientific imagination, institutional vision, and a deep commitment to dialogue between science and philosophy in service of the public good.

Arun Kumar

**Timothy John David Saunders** (m. 1975)

Tim was born on 29 December 1956. After schooling at Felsted, Tim came up to Christ's in 1974 to read Engineering, taking his degree in 1978. A strong sportsman, Tim was a Marguerite, and represented Christ's at Rugby, Hockey and Rowing, where he coxed the Rugby boat. He met his wife, Judy, whilst a student, and they later married in 1981.

After Cambridge, Tim worked for a number of well known engineering firms – Sir Alexander Gibb, Halcrow and Jacobs. This gave him the opportunity to satisfy his thirst for physical and intellectual exploration. Everywhere he went as a tunneling engineer, he learned the language – Welsh, Indonesian, Arabic in Iraq and Sinhalese in Sri Lanka. He also studied the history of each country.

An adventurous traveler with a yearning to understand the world, Tim travelled to some of the world's most challenging and sometimes dangerous places. He went to the world's hottest place – the Danakil Depression in Ethiopia, spent a week with the isolated Baduy tribe in Java, inspected remote dams in Sudan under armed guard and travelled around northern Iraq during the Iran-Iraq War.

Tim was also a traveler of the mind and a voracious reader – equally at home reading books on advanced mathematics or collections of poetry. He always had three books on the go. An upstairs book, a downstairs book and that most valuable of male accoutrements – a loo book.

None of this would have been possible without Tim's remarkable personality. Modest, kind and the epitome of understated talent. There's a well-known saying that the quietest person in the room is the brightest and that was certainly true of Tim. Tim wasn't afraid of the new or the unknown but never sought fame or fortune. While he was a good people manager due to his calm and giving nature, he preferred doing a great job to seeking advancement.

Tim was a wonderful father to Emily and Gus, a loving husband to Judy, adored by his grandchildren and a loyal friend. He was one of life's givers. He believed in community and was a school governor, Chairman of the Sonning Regatta Committee for many years and Commodore and Bosun of Henley Sailing Club.

John Phillips (m. 1975)

**James George Ball** (m. 1976)

When I met James, at Stockport Grammar School, he was a quiet and swotty boy but by the Sixth Form, James the man began to emerge. He studied Latin and Greek and wrote amazing essays in English and General Studies. His great intelligence and eccentricity were recognised, even indulged, by the school.

James won an Exhibition to Christ's but stayed on at school for another term teaching juniors, one of whom was my brother Charles, who was struggling to learn to read. Charles, now an anaesthetist, credits James with teaching him. James was a natural teacher, patient, kind and brilliant at explaining things.

After leaving Cambridge, James gained a PhD from the Warburg Institute in a very esoteric subject about 15th century Venice. Studying in Padua he learnt fluent Italian and mixed effortlessly with the locals.

Back in London he branched into financial publishing with Euromoney. His career embraced production, journalism, and public relations, working in London and Hong Kong. He even became a banker in Italy.

In Hong Kong, James met his wife, Katharine. It was clear there was great chemistry between them, and they had much in common – particularly humour, kindness and high intelligence. Katharine added a new dimension to James' life and a new level of happiness and contentment. Having known James for 54 years I have no doubt that Katharine was the best thing that ever happened to him, with Bob Dylan a distant second.

James could effortlessly engage with anyone regardless of their station in life. He was curious, caring, interested, interesting, kind, loyal, funny, brilliant, eccentric and occasionally silly. We were fortunate to have him in our lives.

Richard Thoburn

**Ian Patrick Lynch** (m. 1978)

Ian Patrick Lynch was born on 20 May 1959 in Welling, Kent, and was educated at Chislehurst and Sidcup Grammar School, where he was elected Head Boy. He came up to Christ's in October 1978 to read Classics.

An enthusiastic member of The National Youth Theatre and Chairman of the Bexley-Sidcup Young Conservatives, Ian continued to pursue these interests while at Christ's, often participating in debates at the Cambridge Union and in events organised by CUCA. He was also a founding member of the Milton Society.

After graduation, Ian joined Barclays Bank, working initially in Head Office departments in London, before taking an MBA at the University of Warwick. From 1992–95, he worked for Barclays on Wall Street in New York City, and developed a keen interest in baseball, becoming an avid supporter of the New York Yankees.

On his return to the UK, Ian joined IBM and later, Oracle and Butler Group. He and his wife moved several times in the UK, living in Worcestershire, West Sussex and Surrey, before retiring to South Wales.

Ian died peacefully on 13 October 2024, aged 65, after a long illness. He will always be remembered for his warmth of character, his quick wit, his appetite for

reading and his boundless imagination. He is greatly missed by Anne, his wife of 40 years, and all his family and friends. May he rest in peace.

Anne Lynch

**Stephen Charles O'Hara-Smith** (m. 1978)

Stephen (Steve) O'Hara-Smith came up to Christ's in 1978 to study Mathematics, although he switched to Computer Science after the first year.

In 1994 he moved to Ireland with his wife and had two children. Steve had a long and fruitful career as a programmer and senior software developer. He was known among colleagues and friends for his humour and quick wit.

Steve passed away unexpectedly from a heart attack at age 65 at his home in Co Kerry, Ireland on 20 September 2024. He was working up until he passed and thoroughly enjoyed exercising his brain every day, whether that was through work or any new project he could think of. Steve always had an interest in music and in recent years started performing weekly with his guitar, singing covers as well as his own original songs.

Steve is predeceased by his wife Karen and brother Nick and is sadly missed by his children Kieran (Ciarán) and Samantha, sister Anne, extended family, friends, and colleagues.

Samantha O'Hara-Smith

**Patrick Commons** (m. 1979)

Patrick Commons was born in 1948 in Leeds, where he attended St Michael's Roman Catholic College. He completed his first degree at the University of Warwick in History. He then took the attractive and highly regarded MA programme in the Culture of the European Renaissance at the University of Sussex. This programme provided him with the chance to spend a full term in Venice, an intellectual and life experience he particularly cherished.

He came up to Christ's in 1979 to prepare a PhD in the history of ideas and was supervised by Duncan Forbes of Clare College. Whilst at Cambridge he met his future wife, Susan. They married in 1983 and had three daughters (Kathleen, Clare, and Sarah).

Patrick left Cambridge in 1981 and began working for Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs in Leeds, London, and other places. He was specialising in tackling tax avoidance, an activity he continued until his retirement in 2015. Once retired they moved to West Yorkshire, known as 'Bronte Country'. They benefited from their retirement and travelled, often to Granada, where their daughter Clare has set up a language school, and also to his beloved Italy, where he was happiest in a picturesque piazza with a coffee and his newspaper. In 2015, he walked 350 miles or so of the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage. He passed away on 11 May 2025.

While at Christ's, he was a pillar of the Graduate Society and we met each Tuesday night for dinner and drinks. I am sure that many of our fellow students will remember him, for he was good company and an excellent storyteller. We

were not always in touch, especially in the early years after leaving Cambridge, but have exchanged again regularly since 2011. My main regret is that we never met in person again.

Norbert Waszek (m. 1979) and Patrick's daughter, Sarah.



Clive Mark Hyman (m. 1980)

Clive's academic and professional accomplishments were exceptional. He was awarded an entrance examiner scholarship at Christ's, where he was involved with rowing, rugby and also hockey whilst being Senior Treasurer on the committee that organised the May Ball in 1982. He went on to achieve notable success in his career where he became the youngest person to be made Partner at KPMG at the time, at the age of 34, and later continued his professional journey

at Hyman Capital. Throughout his career, Clive earned the respect and admiration of peers and clients alike for his intelligence, professionalism, and integrity.

Those who knew Clive will also remember his generosity and kindness. He was known for his willingness to help others, his sense of humour, and his ability to form meaningful connections with people from all walks of life. Whether at work or in his personal life, Clive left a positive and lasting impression on those around him.

Beyond his career, Clive valued the simple things in life with his beloved wife Rachel who he married in 2021. Together they enjoyed spending time outdoors, especially walking in Regent's Park, and found joy in everyday moments. His warmth, resilience, and openness were defining traits that enriched the lives of those closest to him.

Rachel Graham

We have also learned of the deaths of the following members, whose obituaries will appear in next year's *Magazine*:

	Peter Bernhard Hirsch (Honorary Fellow; Former Fellow)
1946	Lionel Peter Balfour-Lynn
1950	Eric Bullock
	Donald Clive McKeag
	James Nursaw
1952	Leon John New
	Miles Derek Peregrine
	Joseph Leslie Quie
1953	Noel Anthony Michael Eastwood
1954	John Nelson Turner
1957	Brian Cleobury
	Alan Hayes
1958	Ronald James Bremner Hoare
	David James Knowles Masson
1959	William David Lane Erasmus
1961	David Griffiths Scott
1971	David Foxman
1972	Richard Anthony Collings
	David Ian Hamilton Smith
1979	David John Horgan
1980	Christopher Edward Dawe
2000	Colin James Cornforth



KEEPING IN TOUCH



KEEPING IN TOUCH

VISITING THE COLLEGE

The College is generally open to members of the public from Monday to Sunday 9am to 12pm (except during the 'Quiet Period' and during the Christmas closure period) while the Fellows' Garden is open Monday to Friday only. Christ's members are welcome outside of these hours (when the College gates are open) but please check in at the Porters' Lodge (St Andrew's Street) on arrival and let the duty porter know that you are a member of College.

Alumni are very welcome to attend services in the Chapel. During Full Term, Choral Evensong is sung in the College Chapel at 6.45pm on Thursdays and at 6.00pm on Sundays.

DINING IN COLLEGE

Alumni who joined the College as undergraduates are entitled to dine at High Table or Formal Hall after seven years have elapsed since their matriculation. Those who joined the College as postgraduates or exchange students are entitled to dine after three years have elapsed since matriculation, unless they have not yet graduated. Alumni may dine in College a maximum of ten times per year. It is not possible for alumni to dine in the Hall at lunchtimes but if you do wish to visit and eat at College in the daytime, please get in touch as we may be able to arrange dining in Upper Hall when it is open.

Booking

High Table and Formal Hall can be booked by emailing alumni@christs.cam.ac.uk. Bookings must be made before 2pm at least two days before you wish to dine. There is no High Table or Formal Hall on Saturdays. When making a booking, please confirm your name(s), date(s) of matriculation, and any dietary requirements you or your guest might have. A maximum of six alumni (including guests) can exercise their dining privileges at High Table on any one night. Please note that High Table will only take place if at least two Fellows have also signed up to dine.

Guests

It is possible to bring one guest to High Table or to Formal Hall by prior arrangement and subject to space. If you wish to bring more than one guest, or a guest who is under 18, extraordinary permission must be obtained from the Fellows' Steward – please contact the Development Office in the first instance (alumni@christs.cam.ac.uk).

High Table

Those dining at High Table with the Fellows assemble in the Senior Combination Room, where wine is available from 7.15pm. Dinner is served at 7.30pm. Gowns are generally worn except when dinner is served in the Senior Combination Room, which is normally outside of Full Term. After dinner, coffee can be taken in the Fellows' Parlour and wine and coffee will be served in the Senior Combination Room when there is sufficient demand. Guests are advised to enter via 'the Octagon', the entrance for which is in Second Court.

Formal Hall

Eligible alumni may alternatively dine at Formal Hall, where gowns are also worn. They should make their own arrangements for wine at the Buttery.

Prices

For alumni, the first dinner of each academic term is at the College's expense, but there is a charge for subsequent dinners and for guests. The rate at High Table for 2025–26 is £51.36 per head (including wine and soft drinks), while the rate at Formal Hall for 2025–26 is £17.94 per head (excluding drinks – these can be purchased at the Buttery).

Dress Code

The standard dress code is 'smart' but gowns are typically worn at High Table and Formal Hall during term-time. If you do not own a gown please contact the Development Office (alumni@christs.cam.ac.uk) as we may be able to leave one in the Porters' Lodge for you to use. Guests do not need to wear gowns.

STEPHEN BOND



MARRIAGES AND WEDDING BLESSINGS

Since the College Chapel is not a parish church, any wedding taking place here requires a Special Licence from the Archbishop of Canterbury (rather than the reading of banns). To obtain this the bride and/or groom should be current students, Fellows or staff, or alumni. For all marriage enquiries, please contact the Chaplain at chaplain@christs.cam.ac.uk, and they can discuss your plans with you.

It is not currently possible to hold weddings of same-sex couples in the College Chapel; however, if you would like to organise a Service of Blessing following a Civil Marriage or Civil Partnership, please do contact the Chaplain, who will happily discuss options with you.

The College can also host wedding breakfasts and evening events. Please contact the Conference Team at conference@christs.cam.ac.uk to discuss possible dates.

STAYING IN COLLEGE

During term time, two guest rooms (C3 and C5) may be booked by members, subject to availability. Both rooms are for single occupancy and are simply furnished with shared bathroom facilities. Guests may stay a maximum of three nights. Bookings may be made via the Accommodation Office at:

accommodation@christs.cam.ac.uk
+44 (0)1223 334926

During the vacation, guest room bookings may be made online via the Christ's College Hospitality website at christscollegehospitality.co.uk or by contacting the Accommodation Office, who will be happy to answer any questions.

College rooms are available at a 10% discount to alumni using the code *alumni1505*. Due to the nature of College buildings, we are unable to accept children under the age of 18 years to stay in College.

UPDATING YOUR DETAILS

Please do keep us informed of any change of mailing address, email address or telephone number, either by visiting the College website at christs.cam.ac.uk/alumni or by contacting the Development Office at:

alumni@christs.cam.ac.uk
+44 (0)1223 766710



