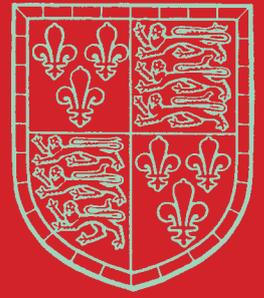


pieces

Christ's College Newsletter



Issue 14 Easter Term 2009

Curtain Up!

The opening of the Yusuf Hamied Centre

Hidden Christ's

Exploring College's best kept secrets



From The Master

Welcome to the summer edition of 'Pieces'. Last issue, we reported on a successful start to the Darwin bicentenary, with a fundraising dinner; the restoration of Darwin's room, and the unveiling of Anthony Smith's sculpture of the young Darwin. Since then the College has hosted a range of activities, including notable lectures from Professor Richard Fortey FRS on 'Charles Darwin as Scientific Hero' and Professor David Sedley FBA on 'Socrates versus Darwin'. Also our students have launched the website 'Charles Darwin & Evolution' – www.christs.cam.ac.uk/darwin200 – celebrating the life, work and impact of Charles Darwin; the website is a striking achievement, reaching out to children of all ages and their teachers.

The official opening of the Yusuf Hamied Centre on 18 April showcased a range of talents, from the versatile musicians of the Chapel Choir and CCMS to the 'CADS' cast who staged 'The Importance of being Earnest'. Turn to page 6 for a full report by JCR President Chloe Hole. We were also delighted to see Anthony Smith's sculpture shortlisted for the Marsh Sculpture Prize, and to congratulate the recipients of the Sporting Bursaries – all these recent events are profiled in 'What's New' on pages 3–5.

I write this on the weekend of the May Bumps, which of course occur in June. The men's second boat won blades, and the women rowers continue their success, with both boats winning blades. Alumni and their families at the May Bumps picnic were treated to the sight of the women's first boat making their final bump directly in front of the cheering party!

Besides such achievements, this issue highlights those parts of College we sometimes overlook: in a feature on 'Hidden Christ's': fellows and staff share their favourite discoveries in the fabric of the College. If you have memories of your own, don't hesitate to contact the editor (hm317@cam.ac.uk). We hope that you enjoy the issue and look forward to welcoming you to the College again soon.

Professor Frank Kelly, FRS

Editor: Helen Mort
(Publications Officer)

Cover image: Clock Tower,
photograph by Alan Winter

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Sporting Awards

On March 5th, the Senior Tutor presented Old Members' sporting bursaries to Alexandra Bryant and Nick McLoughlin for their outstanding achievements throughout the year. Alexandra (2nd year NatSci, Chemistry) was Captain-elect of the University women's squash team which reached the semi-finals of British Universities & Colleges Sport competition.

Nicholas (2nd year Math Tripos) was Captain of the University Water Polo Team which defeated Oxford 15-11 at Parkside Pool.

Young Darwin nominated for sculpture prize

The College was delighted to discover that its new sculpture of the 'Young Charles Darwin' by Anthony Smith (m. 2002), in the Darwin Garden, has been shortlisted for the Marsh Sculpture Prize, an award for the best public sculpture of the year. The judges' decision will be announced in November 2009 at a lavish prize ceremony at the Whitechapel Art Gallery in London, attended by HRH the Duke of Gloucester.

Philip King: Sculpture in the Workplace

Sculptor Philip King (m. 1954) recently had an exhibition in Canary Wharf celebrating his work over four decades. The sculptures range from 'Declaration', 1961 – a minimalist piece made out of cement and marble chippings – to 'Moonstruck', 2007 in painted steel and aluminium.

Honour for Bill Steen

On April 23rd 2009 the Laser Material Processing Laboratory in the University of Vigo, Spain was named after Professor Bill Steen (m. 1954). Bill had been invited in 1982 by Professor Mariano Peres Amor, the Head of the Physics Department, to give an introductory course, lasting a week, on laser material processing, at that time a subject in its infancy. Since then the enthusiasm and talent of the scientists at Vigo led by Professor Betty Leon (Head of Applied Optics), Professor Juan Pau (Head of Laser Material Processing) and Professor Mariano Peres Amor (Head of the Physics Department) have built one of the leading laser activities in Spain. Bill was included in many collaborative projects and conferences they organised. Vigo is close to Santiago de Compostella but largely unvisited by tourist. It has a fine rocky coast and deep granite gorges in the interior. Vigo is the port where Francis Drake "singd the King of Spain's beard".



MA Congregation

The sun made a rare appearance for the MA Congregation on Saturday March 21st. Alumni who matriculated in 2002 came back to College to collect their MA degrees in brilliant spring weather and were able to visit the Master's Garden for drinks. The day's programme included lunch in College, and afternoon tea for graduands and their families. For the first time, there was also a dinner in Hall on Saturday evening.

Darwin in Bogota

As the successful Darwin celebrations continue apace in Cambridge, with the popular Lady Margaret lecture series filling the Yusuf Hamied Theatre, word is spreading fast beyond Cambridge too.

Dr Nick Gay was recently invited to Bogota, Chile, to present a 'Cafe Scientifique' as part of the British Council's 'Darwin Now' series at the invitation of Christ's alumnus Adam Bowie (m. 2004) who works as Project Delivery Assistant.

Dr Gay's talk, entitled 'Biochemistry and evolution (or the complex beauty of the organism and the anarchy of the genome)' explored the extensive biochemical evidence that supports Darwin's Theory of Evolution, and how compared to this the widely believed idea of 'Intelligent Design', advocated by a tiny minority of biochemists, has essentially no basis in science.

The event, held in the British Embassy building in Bogota, was attended by about 70 people and led to a interesting and wide-ranging debate on topics as diverse as the ethics of genetic testing and the rise of eugenics in the wake of Darwin's theory.

Elsewhere around the globe, Dr John van Wyhe, Bye Fellow and director of the website 'Darwin online', embarked upon a 13 stop Darwin lecture tour of the USA in April 2009.



Dr Nick Gay in Bogota.

Award for David Reynolds

Congratulations to Professor David Reynolds, whose 90 part series 'America, Empire of Liberty' on BBC Radio 4 won the 'Voice of the Listener & Viewer Award' for the best new radio programme of 2008.

Centre Stage at The Globe

Recent graduate Adetomiwa Edun (m. 2002) is currently on stage at Shakespeare's Globe in London, playing the part of Romeo in a production of Romeo and Juliet. He was praised in the Financial Times for bringing a 'freshness and vivacity' to the role, and The Observer described the production in similarly glowing terms: 'Adetomiwa Edun's Romeo is lithe in foot and speech; he reels you in...the audience were rapt but responsive'. The production will run until August 23rd, 2009.



Outer Hebrides II – Harris and Lewis

By Robin Kerr (m. 1962)

Following on from last year's conquering of the southern half, brother Andrew ('58) and I alight at Garve to bike the rest of the Western Isles – but first we must get to the ferry at Ullapool – a long pull over the spine of Scotland, via astonishingly deep Corrieshalloch Gorge, after which a three hour ferry voyage gets us to charming Stornoway, capital of Lewis and home to 90% of its population, for the night. Day 2 is sunny and warm as we ride effortlessly over Barvas Moor (site of the ill-fated plan to build 234 wind turbines to supply the rest of Scotland with renewable power) to the west coast. We visit the wonderfully conserved Gearrannan Blackhouse Village and the standing stones at Callinish, whose largest one is taller than anything at Stonehenge. On Day 3 we learn why yesterday's ride across Barvas Moor had been so easy – headwind. We battle into a SE gale all morning, before turning south, but then have to creak over the mountains that divide Harris from Lewis: however, the views are great and the garden at the Harris hotel, in Tarbert, is lovely. Day 4 is a round tour of Harris – south by the rocky east coast of fishing villages, now full of weavers these days (Harris Tweed, in case you wondered) and artists. The hinterland has hundreds of lochs but very little soil (how did they live? – but that's another story). At Rodel, on the south coast, we admire the beautiful church – contemporary with Christ's, and wearing well. We lunch at the rebuilt hotel, where the Queen (and Andrew) last visited in 1956. An eagle hangs high above us as we ride to Tarbert by the west coast. With beaches to rival Barra's, they make mending a puncture almost worthwhile. Day 5 is the same ride as last year's – through Skye to the railhead at Kyle, but this time in rain, sleet and a ferocious headwind which combine to add two hours to the journey. Next year is to be the southern Hebrides – perhaps a bit kinder!

Christ's Chapel visits Wadham, Oxford

by Revd Christopher Woods,

Who says there is rivalry between Oxford and Cambridge? Not in the College Chapel tradition! On Sunday 10th May, a group of students from Christ's visited our sister College in Oxford (Wadham) for the afternoon and evening. We were entertained to tea and cake, then attended Choral Evensong and were treated to a wonderful dinner in Wadham College Hall afterwards. Coffee and more cake rounded off the fantastic hospitality and welcome from staff students and fellows.

The Chaplain of Wadham College, the Revd Dr Harriet Harris and the The Chaplain of Christ's, the Revd Christopher Woods, planned the event to increase the already existing link between the two Colleges. As part of the visit, Fr Woods preached at Wadham Choral Evensong (sermon available at <http://www.christs.cam.ac.uk/college-life/chapel-and-choir/sermons-lectures/sermons/>).

Wadham College was founded by Dorothy Wadham in 1610 and next year marks their 400 anniversary, where a year of celebrations is planned. A return visit is planned in the next academic year, when Dr Harris and some fellows and students from Wadham College will visit Christ's. We very much look forward to welcoming them.



University Challenge

A team of Christ's students appeared in University Challenge on Monday 6th July. Captained by Charles Blackham, the team of Will Critchlow, Abarna Ramanathan, Jon Anderson and Matt Doggett (Reserve) was the youngest in the contest, with an average age of 18 years and 6 months. After a narrow defeat at the hands of Warwick (200 points to 170), Christ's qualified for the next round as one of the highest scoring losing teams.

Cambridge Union President

Congratulations to Jonathan Laurence (m. 2006) who has been elected President of the Cambridge Union for Lent 2010, becoming the first Christ's President for 9 years (the last was Jeremy Brier in 2001). Jonathan studied English and is about to begin an MPhil in American Literature.

Darwin Voyage

Congratulations to Anthony Smith who has been invited to join a sailing ship as 'ship's artist'! The Dutch TV company VPRO is making a 35 part documentary about Charles Darwin and the voyage of the Beagle and will be retracing the route on a modern clipper; a beautiful ship called the Stad Amsterdam.

Reunion Garden Party

The Reunion for alumni who matriculated in years 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2001 was held on Saturday June 20th. Alumni enjoyed drinks, a buffet lunch in the Fellows' Garden and a chance to visit Darwin's refurbished rooms in First Court, as well as the Yusuf Hamied Centre.



Summer Garden Party

"It was wonderful to relax as in days gone by; excellent service and warm ambience. Even the weather understood!" Patrick Briggs (1960)

The Christ's Summer Garden Party on Saturday the 11th July provided an opportunity for alumni and their family and friends to reunite in the glorious Fellow's gardens. Guests and organisers were grateful that despite forecasts to the contrary the weather remained warm and sunny throughout the afternoon. For the young (and young at heart) there was an array of giant garden games, a bouncy castle and a dazzling story telling performance from children's poet and author Tony Mitton. Thanks to a valiant face painting effort, the gardens were full of tigers, butterflies, spidermen and a cat-pig! For the adults (and interested children), the Darwin rooms and Old Library exhibition were opened and Honorary Garden Steward Geoffrey Ingham kindly provided a tour around the gardens providing a fascinating insight into the history of the plants and trees.

Curtain Up on the Yusuf Hamied Centre

Chloe Hole (m. 2007) reports on festivities to mark the official opening of the Yusuf Hamied Centre

Since the Yusuf Hamied Centre opened in October 2008 it has been an incredible resource for Christ's students, providing us with a host of wonderful facilities including the new theatre, undergraduate common rooms, fitness suite and function room (perfect for our college bops and freshers' week!). Having heard so much about Dr Hamied, and benefited so greatly from his generosity, it was a privilege to attend the opening celebrations on Saturday 18th April and meet him in person. The afternoon began with tea and coffee in the function room before moving through to the theatre. Dr Hamied gave a touching speech about how he came to be at Christ's College and the impact his six years here had on his life and career; paying tribute to the late Dr Pratt and the contribution he made to the college whilst serving as Senior Tutor.

A sequence of performances then showcased the versatility of the new theatre. A string quartet comprised of Christ's students opened the proceedings with performances of Haydn's quartet no. 75 and opus 33 no. 6 followed by Christ's College Chapel Choir singing some classical pieces before moving on to some more modern close harmony, including a great rendition of 'I Got Rhythm!'. Next, Christ's Amateur Dramatics Society presented some scenes from 'The Importance of Being Earnest' by Oscar Wilde, which was their first production using the new facilities in Michaelmas Term 2008. Professor Jim Secord, a new fellow at Christ's, followed this with a short talk on 'Global Darwin', including a slideshow displaying some of Darwin's correspondence. Finally to round-off the afternoon, Helen Mort (m. 2004) performed a poem written especially for the occasion.

Fortunately, the weather was good enough for pre-dinner drinks to be enjoyed in the Fellows' and Master's gardens, where the various guests got the opportunity to talk to many of the students who had just performed on stage, before moving to formal hall for dinner. The distinguished array of guests gathered made for some interesting dinner conversation! Guests included Dame Sandra Dawson (Master of Sidney Sussex College), Professor Jeremy Sanders (Chair of Inorganic Chemistry at Cambridge's Chemical Laboratory), Dr Mary Archer (Chairman of the Addenbrooke's Board of Directors) and Lord Karan Bilimoria (Founder and Chairman of Cobra Beer).

It was a particular privilege for me to meet Tony Lewis (m. 1959), the last man to captain England on his test debut and the face of the BBC's Test coverage in the 1990s, and Professor Carl Djerassi who is best known for his contribution to the development of the first contraceptive pill, but now focuses on writing plays and novels. The evening concluded with some fantastic port (which was older than me!), before Dr Hamied and his guests departed. I would like to thank Dr Hamied and his wife Farida once again for all they have done for Christ's. The opening ceremony was a fitting way to celebrate a facility that will be at the heart of College life for years to come.



Top: Dr Hamied and The Master pictured outside the Yusuf Hamied Centre.

'A Handbag?' students from CADS performed *The Importance of Being Earnest* at the theatre opening, and members of the College Choir were in fine voice.



Images from Tom de-Freston's forthcoming show, representing his work at Christ's over the last twelve months.

Reflections

Tom de Freston has been this year's Levy Plumb Visual Arts Resident. To celebrate the culmination of the year Pablo de Gandia has curated an extensive exhibition of his year's work. The show, Reflections includes a substantial catalogue with five critical texts and an unabridged interview with the artist, conducted by Professor Admiral Face. Texts have been contributed by Christ's own Doctor Carrie Vout, Ruth Padel, Jaya Savige and Pablo de Gandia. Damien Freeman of

Magdalene College has also contributed an essay. Catalogues will be available at the exhibition.

Pablo de Gandia says of the project, 'The show looks to pull together and make sense of the diverse strands in de Freston's work. From the more singularly spiritual floaters and fallers to the more caustic and tragic comic history paintings, overloaded with art historical quotations and figures dressed only in socks and boxers. It should prove to be a fitting testament to his outpouring of creativity over the last twelve months.' The show runs for two weeks from the 5th of September, with a private view in College on Saturday the 5th. Information for the exhibition can be obtained by contacting Pablo de Gandia on pgd29@cam.ac.uk. Tom also represented College from 1–2am on Friday the 24th of July, on the fourth plinth in Trafalgar Square, as part of A. Gormley's One and Other project.

Arts News in Brief

Sense and Sensibility

To celebrate May Week, the Fellows' Garden became the stage for two sisters' search for love as CADS performed Jane Austen's 'Sense and Sensibility'. The production took place on the evenings of June 17th and June 18th, and proceeds from tickets sales went to Jimmy's Night Shelter, a charity for the homeless based in Cambridge.

Congratulations to Sarah Howe

Sarah Howe (m. 2001) had her first pamphlet of poetry, 'a certain chinese encyclopedia' published by tall-lighthouse press in April 2009. Sarah was selected as part of the tall-lighthouse pamphlet scheme, a pioneering series publishing poets under the age of 30 under the editorial guidance of poet Roddy Lumsden.

Visual Arts Society

This year Tom de Freston set up the Christ's College Visual Arts Society, which already has an enthusiastic following within College. The aim of the Society is to develop the awareness and role of the Visual Arts Centre and to extend an exciting programme of workshops, exhibitions, poetry readings, play rehearsals and talks staged by the centre.

For more information about the Visual Arts Society and the Visual Arts Centre, please visit the College website: www.christs.cam.ac.uk/college-life/visual-performing-arts

Hidden Christ's

Last issue, in 'Mapping Cambridge' we featured some unusual views of College, including Dr Alan Winter's panoramic view of the courts, taken from the rooftops. This issue, we're looking at discoveries: places in Christ's that are hidden or unusual, findings that have surprised visitors and College members alike.

The last few years have seen members of College using the space around Christ's in increasingly inventive ways. In summer 2008, Christ's Amateur Dramatic Society took over the Master's Garden one glorious evening in June for a one-off performance of Romeo & Juliet, with a stunning balcony scene.

In April 2009, Levy-Plumb artist-in-residence Tom de-Freston used the Chapel for his exhibition 'Deposition'. Over the past year, the Chapel has also been home to poetry events; in November, alumni and students gathered there for 'Milton's Footsteps', an informal reading of new poems and old favourites.

Swimming Pool

Perhaps one lesser known feature of College is the Fellows' swimming pool (pictured on the left, second photo from the bottom) at the back of the Fellows' Garden. Fed from Hobson's Conduit, the pool used to be used occasionally for bathing, but tests conducted several years ago showed the water quality to be poor and unsafe for swimming. Since then, the pool has not been used.

In 2008, Mr Richard Barlow-Poole (m. 1938) made a generous gift of £30,000 to help fund the refurbishment of the Fellows' bathing pool, a hidden gem in the Fellows' Garden. Mr Barlow-Poole's request was that the pool when finished should be named in memory of former Master Professor Malcolm Bowie. Sadly Mr Barlow-Poole himself died before the work could be started. The estimated cost of the project is £50,000 which means that we need to find a further £20,000 before we can begin to transform the pool. If you are interested in finding out more about the renovation please contact Catherine Twilley, the Development Director, at cmt23@cam.ac.uk

Pictures (from top to bottom):

Second Court viewed through camera obscura, (photograph by Issam Kourbaj, 2009)

The Chaplain, Revd Christopher Woods, pictured on the roof during Ascension Day (photograph by Ruth Waite, 2008)

The Fellows' Pool pictured through camera obscura (photograph by Issam Kourbaj, 2009)

Inside the clock tower in third court (photograph by Alan Winter).

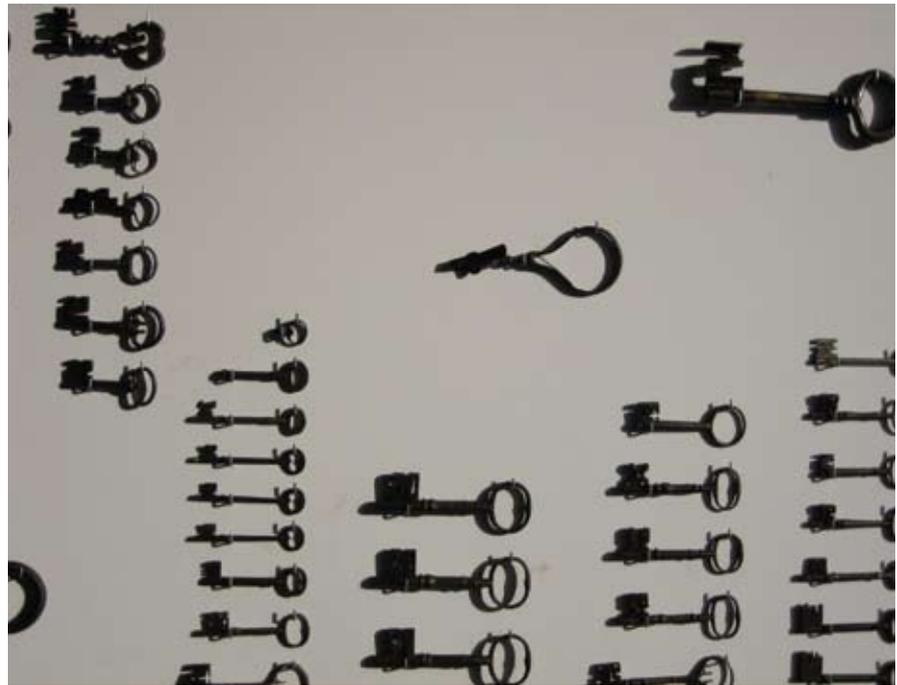


Unlocking College History

Helen Mort discovers the College Archives and talks to Professor Geoffrey Martin about his role as Honorary Keeper.

Stooping to climb the winding staircase that leads up to the College Archive, Professor Geoffrey Martin, Honorary Keeper of the Archives, produces a huge, round key. It's ancient, but still used every day in 21st century Christ's. Its function? To open the door of the amazing room he works in. I'm here to see a part of College I've never been to before, and to see an even more impressive and mysterious collection of keys. Earlier this year, Professor Martin brought together a number of ancient keys found in the Muniment Room, the Attic of Y Building and elsewhere. On the initiative of Artist-in-Residence Issam Kourbaj, the keys have been cleaned, arranged and decoratively mounted above the door of the Archive and Muniment Room.

The keys would have been used to open doors, chests and boxes in the College, almost all of which must have disappeared by now, so that their exact usage remains something of a mystery. The Archive itself is an unexplored area of College for many, though its door is open when the Archivist is in situ. Located up a steep and narrow staircase



next to the Porters' Lodge, the small room is home to a spectacular range of documents, largely relating to College properties and including a fragment of a Papal Bull from the early 12th century (the oldest document Christ's owns) and the College's Foundation Charter of Henry VII from 1505.

Professor Martin, a distinguished Egyptologist, has been Keeper of the Archives for over a decade and, since his appointment he has engaged in a systematic reorganisation and a programme of conservation. Though the Archive has few visitors (for lack of space

researchers have to be accommodated in the College Library, courtesy of the Librarian Candace Guite), Professor Martin receives requests for information of many kinds almost every day, often about ancestors, frequently from scholars looking for specific documents. As Geoffrey says: "This is by no means a dead archive, but very much alive, used by a variety of people for a variety of purposes. The privilege of handling original materials is wonderful, and being able to help people is even better: making material available for serious research, not for monetary gain but for the sake of knowledge itself".

An Alternative View of...



Second Court

Artist-in-Residence Issam Kourbaj says: "I found this hidden sculpture or structure in the 2nd Court very beautiful!"



Third Court

Alumni Officer Rosie Applin says: "I found these beautiful orange flowers blooming outside the doorway of the Development Office in Third Court – I walk past them every day, but its only occasionally I stop to have a proper look."

Hidden Christ's

I asked staff and fellows at Christ's: "What has been your favourite 'discovery' around College?" Their responses unearthed a wealth of surprises...

"Sometimes hidden places suddenly get revealed for the first time. A couple of weeks ago the gardeners cleared and planted an area at the opening of 3rd Court. I'd never really looked at that patch of earth before; now it has shape and, soon, colour. Actually, the gardeners do that trick all year round – bringing alive areas that would otherwise be flat and colourless. I am regularly grateful."

Professor David Reynolds, Historian

"I love the armadillo's tail sticking out of the arch over Hobson's conduit at the back of the Master's garden. I can see it from my office window and, apart from its position, it's quite convincing! Most people don't notice it but when they do they exclaim "What's THAT sticking out of the wall!!"

Jan Eade, Tutorial Office

"Many years ago when I first came to Christ's there was a Porter George Utting. He was a retired Policeman who took a great interest in interesting facts about the College. When he was about to retire he came to see me to show me a space in College that no one knew about. He took me to N1 which was just a single student room. He showed me a very small peep hole which indicated a large void space. This he informed me was the Old BT exchange room which had been blanked off many years ago. I advised the Bursar at the time who quickly came and had a look. Soon after, it was removed by Maintenance and now N1 has an additional kitchen and bedroom..."

Jeremy Taylor, Head Porter



"My 'hidden' bit of Christ's would be the port cellar, which is under the ramp up to the kitchens and stretches across under the Steward's Office. Apart from the obvious appeal of the port stored there, it's how a cellar should be. In contrast to the rest of the cellars in the catering department, which are modern, square, rendered and, for the most part, dry, the port cellar is brick lined, has vaulted ceilings and enough damp to give a musty smell and make the labels fall off the port."

Chris Austin, Steward

"In my rooms, A4, there are 4 doors, one in each corner. One of these is a fake – it's not a real door but instead a cupboard. Inside is a very old safe for examination papers, and inscribed on the inside of the door in gold are the names of all the occupants of the room since 1849, starting with the "Reverend J. Skeat (Rector of Kegworth)" – and finishing with me!

Dr Robert Hunt, Senior Tutor

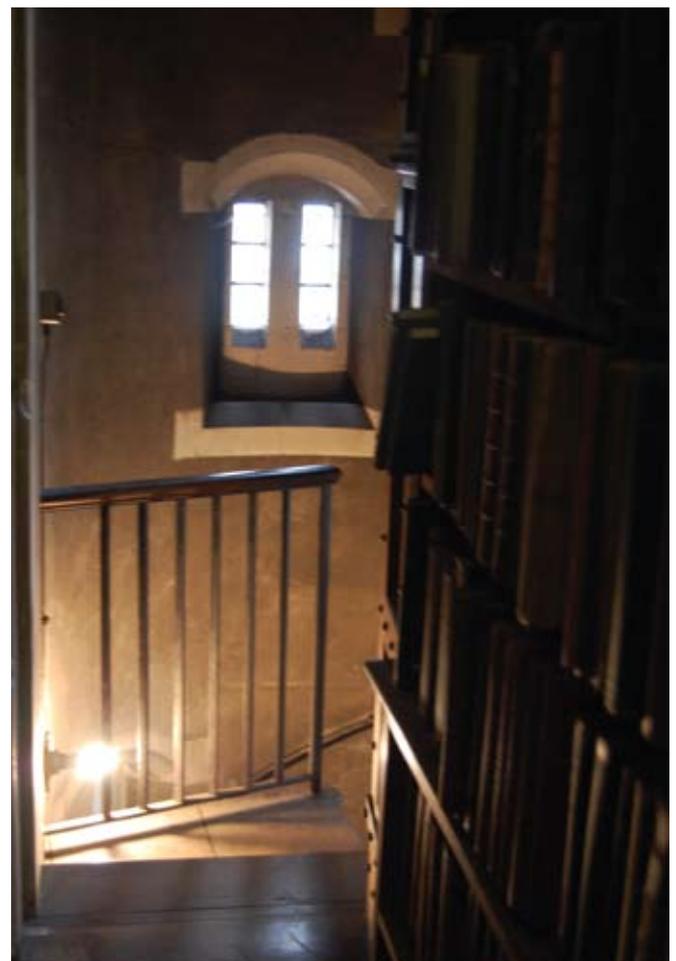
"Poking around in the College Chapel, one finds a fair number of 16th century delights, hidden away, behind the later puritan wood panelling which currently adorns the chapel. Some of the wood panels are on hinges and when opened, reveal a glimpse of the memory of what the chapel might have been like when Lady Margaret founded the College and when John Fisher lived here.

Behind one of the wood panels in the ante-chapel, you can see the remnant of a holy water stoup, recognisable in stone by its 'shell' shaped, indentation. Likewise to the right of the Altar, behind a wood panel, you can glimpse a rather dusty mediaeval 'piscina'. A piscina was used to cleanse vessels used in Mass and to dispose of water used in liturgical ablutions. Another very interesting hidden treasure in Chapel, lies in the loft above what is currently the fellow's room O2. The chapel roof, with wood beams and gilded bosses continues the full way along to what is the extreme west end of the current ante-chapel!"

Christopher Woods, Chaplain

"My favourite is the eerie spiral staircase, leading from the Old Library to the Library Annexe below. It is visible as a turret from Christ's Lane, or from the far corner of Bath Court. The image below captures it at its haunting best..."

Colin Higgins, Assistant Librarian



If you would like to contribute your own favourite discoveries at Christ's, please send them to hm317@cam.ac.uk, and you might see your memories featured in a future issue of Pieces!



The Development Team: Helen Mort (Publications Officer), Catherine Twilley (Development Director), Veronica Perkins (Development Office Administrator), Alex Cullen (Development Officer) and Rosie Applin (Alumni Officer) pictured outside the offices in Third Court.

Letter from the Alumni Officer

by Rosie Applin

As a new arrival at Christ's, I am currently being bowled over by the beautiful grounds, fascinating history and enthusiasm and friendliness of the alumni I have already been in contact with. Thank you to everyone who has been so welcoming! With Catherine Twilley, Development Director, and the rest of the Development Office team, I am currently working on an alumni relations strategy that will not only consider new ways of engaging with alumni, but also how alumni can support and connect with students and recent graduates.

Some of you may have already heard from me as I have been badgering year group representatives and asking them to join up to the new Christ's College Alumni Facebook Group and encourage others in their year groups to do so.

It is early days but I do very much hope that using this sort of new technology will compliment the existing communications such as events, the website and Pieces, and give alumni an effective new way to stay in touch with each other and the college. Any feedback or thoughts on this would be very much appreciated.

To those year group reps I haven't already been in contact with, I will be in touch soon in order to clarify where we are with the scheme and to offer any support you may need to stay in touch with your year groups.

If you would like to get involved in work experience opportunities, we would love to hear from you.

I look forward to meeting many of you at our summer events!

Rosie Applin – ra371@cam.ac.uk

Connecting With Christ's

There are now more ways than ever to keep in touch with College, including:

Facebook

Christ's College Alumni now have a page on social networking site 'facebook': a new way to stay in touch with alumni from your own year group and from other years, featuring information about all forthcoming alumni events, discussion topics (including work experience and careers mentoring), photographs.

For more information about joining the 'Christ's College Alumni, Cambridge University' facebook group, please contact Rosie.

Website

The alumni pages of the College website are regularly updated with recent news and include a list of forthcoming events, and a guide to planned reunions for the next three years, which you can link to from the alumni home page:

www.christs.cam.ac.uk/alumni

E-newsletters

We send out regular e-newsletters from the Development Office to keep you up to date with news from College. If you don't receive these, it could be because we don't have your most recent contact details. To update your e-mail address, please contact **Veronica Perkins, vp281@cam.ac.uk**

Year group reps

Since its conception, the Year Group Representative Scheme has proven to be a very useful communications link between alumni and the Development Team, keeping us in touch and up to date with alumni news and views. In order to check that the scheme is still working well, the Development Team are currently reviewing the scheme. Your candid thoughts and views would be very much appreciated on this.

According to our records, we are currently looking for Year Group reps for the following years:

1947, 1965, 1967, 1972, 1988, 1981

If you are the rep for your year and wish to query this or if you would like to volunteer, please do let us know.



Keep on Singing...

Rebecca Duckworth (m. 1983) is Director of Ely Cathedral's Chorister Outreach programme, part of "Sing Up", the government's National Singing Programme. She visits primary schools across East Anglia inspiring children and training staff to sing. The year culminates in a 900 voice concert at Ely cathedral.

"Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it". (Proverbs)

Twenty three years after graduating, I am delightedly settled in an exciting working role, master of my own time (always admired the Enlightened Despots), able to dog walk, drink tea and collect my children from school at 3.20. Ker-pow!

Cartwheels, playing the piano and singing were the mainstays of early life. I was the subject of endless prophecy, "You'll be Prime Minister;" "Thursday's child has far to go", "Book me front row seats at Covent Garden". Expectations soared and my father's internalised voice "Foreign Office perhaps?" added to the big build-up. Family reverence for an historical forebear heightened the pressure to be great. This glorious trajectory continued when at Cambridge a childhood wish to have tea with the Queen was delightfully fulfilled. I took part in a C.U.L.E.S. pantomime, co-directed by Prince Edward. At the end of the run HRH coolly announced, "My parents want to see it".

A stunningly informal day ensued at Windsor Castle, including Her Majesty sitting on the floor tickling the corgi's tummies and me spitting Madeira cake onto her lapel ("one needs a table on these occasions, doesn't one?" was Princess Margaret's solicitous response).

A choral exhibitioner reading English part 1 and history part 2, my life was packed with choral singing and musical productions. Acting upon pre-Cambridge advice, I was taking a "sensible" degree and keeping music as a hobby. I was happy at Christ's, especially in the third year. Graduating in 1986, the train tracks of "O" levels, "A" level's and university came to a cruelly abrupt halt, rudely epitomised by my nameless pigeon-hole. Having decided against a long held plan to attend a London conservatoire, I experienced a post- Cambridge flounder; highly educated yet qualified for nothing. The big build-up seemed to have collapsed.

The strong thread of music continued and shortly after a PGCE I became Assistant Director of Music at King's College School (my predecessor having slapped a bishop and needing to be replaced hurriedly!). Conducting choirs in King's chapel and West Road Concert Hall was exciting. I sang oratorio, gave classical concerts and toured to Salzburg, Edinburgh and Paris. Finally, a singing diploma brought a sense of musical legitimacy. One can so easily imagine that 85% of Cambridge graduates become "trophy" people, obvious choices to be featured in a college magazine or chosen to give after dinner speeches!

With the birth of my first daughter eleven years ago, I finished at King's but continued to train choirs, give concerts and teach singing for an ever expanding "hour a week". Now however, waiting in the wings seems suddenly to be over. Caring for my 2 daughters is my priority, yet in the roles of Project Director and animateur I have truly experienced "having my cake and eating it" (in contrast to spitting it...). The role I currently enjoy uses a musical gift, experience AND brain power. And it's fun!

The National Singing Programme is making a profound impact on the nation's children. To quote Howard Goodall, leader of the programme, "Teach geography and geography improves, teach music and everything improves".

Of the 45 cathedral's involved in the programme, Ely was chosen to romp off to Covent Garden to show-case its work. And so, at the Royal Opera House, there was both prophecy fulfilled AND ample opportunity to sing, play the piano and "cartwheel"! Sursum corda!

Rebecca attended the College's anniversary dinner on July 18th 2008, celebrating thirty years since the admission of women to Christ's. Following a speech by Dr Mary Redmond at the dinner inviting women to share their stories and experiences of Christ's, we are looking to collect material from women who attended the event. If you would like to get in touch, please e-mail ac597@cam.ac.uk.

Doggy-paddling in Farsi

Media worker Scott Gronmark (m. 1971) has spent the last eight months devising a phone-in show for Iranian television. Here, he discusses some of the challenges and joys of working in Iran.

Scott studied Philosophy at Christ's and now runs Scott Gronmark Associates, working with broadcasters to advise them on the use of interactive services.

The BBC has just launched a Farsi language TV channel broadcast from London via satellite to a potential audience of 100m Persian speakers in Afghanistan, Iran and Tajikistan, and available on the BBC Persian website to the sizeable Farsi-speaking diaspora. For the last eight months I've been helping to devise and launch a live 50-minute daily programme called *Nowbat-e Shoma* (Your Turn). Basically a single-topic phone-in show, it also encourages viewers to send emails and SMS messages (huge in Iran) and to appear live in vision on webcams.

Well, so what? There were already phone-in shows on state television in Iran and on the Voice of America TV channel. But *Nowbat-e Shoma* is not only a handsome, lively watch, but also seemingly unique in offering members of the public an opportunity to speak freely on sometimes risky subjects in a politically unbiased forum.

Since launch, we've had to bring in a team to handle the scores of callers trying to get on air every day, and we've had live webcam contributions from all over the world – even from Tehran, despite the Iranian government declaring the channel “illegal”.

Working on *Nowbat-e Shoma* has been humbling in many ways. The editor fled his country after a spell in solitary confinement for writing something the government took exception to. A female team member was once flogged for attending a party featuring alcohol and pop music. Some of the team have opted not to appear on camera to protect family members living in Iran. Yet the determination to remain editorially impartial and to feature as wide a variety of views as possible has been impressive. Most of the team – Farsi speakers from around the globe, including several fresh off the plane from Tehran – have no TV experience, but they've picked it up faster than I have ever seen it done.

So how did a non-Farsi speaker who has never visited any of the relevant countries become involved in this extraordinary, meaningful project?

I left Christ's 34 years ago with a mediocre philosophy degree, a vague yen to write, and an even vaguer hankering to work



Above: an image from *Nowbat-e Shoma*

for the BBC. Four years in publishing led to seven years writing horror novels full time, satisfying *Yen One*. A Cambridge friend took care of *Yen Two* by securing me a part time job as a researcher with BBC radio, which eventually led to long stints as a producer on the main TV news bulletins and at Westminster (I worked with John Sergeant before he became a professional entertainer), and a two-year spell editing live political programmes. I followed that by running the BBC website's homepage, then took charge of interactive TV – i.e. what happens behind the red button.

Reaching 50, I left the BBC and re-entered the real world. Four years after setting up a media consultancy, I was asked back to help create an audience participation programme on its new Arabic language TV service. The show, *Nuqtat Hewar*, proved a hit after launching last year, and that led to my current project.

I liked Christ's from the off – amiable dons, plenty of friends, and a stimulating supervisor in the form of the great Conservative thinker, Roger Scruton. But the University itself never really made sense to me. Where was it, exactly? What was it? Who ran it?

When I joined the BBC ten years later, it took me a while to realise that this was Cambridge all over again – a vast, complex, mysterious organisation crammed with very bright people who occasionally produced marvellous works. No wonder it's so Oxbridge-heavy – for many, the BBC environment is just terribly familiar. When I recognised that I was once more in a somewhat aloof, sink or swim environment, it helped; I didn't exactly turn into Michael Phelps, but at least I eventually learnt how to doggy-paddle at the deep end.



Marguerites Round-Up

by Jonny Thompson

The Marguerites Club completed the perfect season in Lent term, convincingly winning all of their remaining fixtures. It was a busy term for the members of the Club who have continued to excel in their representation of both the College and University across all major sports. On the field noticeable performances have come from Marguerites Didi Akinluyi (m. 2005), Rob Bartlett (m. 2005), Danny Longman (m. 2005) and Nick McLoughlin (m. 2007). Didi Akinluyi won the indoor Varsity shot put competition, whilst Rob Bartlett represented the Stymines (University Golf 2nd Team) vs Oxford. The term's outstanding performance should however go to Nick McLoughlin. Nick captained the Blues water polo team to a fantastic victory over Oxford at Kesley Kerridge. Trailing 5–8 in the 3rd quarter Nick rallied his side, supported by a large and vocal crowd, to a thrilling finish.

Beagles on Track in Turing Relay

Christ's entered two teams in the Turing Trail Relay on Sunday 15th March, including students for the first time. William Winter got Beagles 1 off to an excellent start, leading the race down the hill from Ely Cathedral onto the riverbank and finishing his stint in 4th place at 6m24 per mile. Paolo Natali scorched his way from Dimmocks Cote to Clayhythe at 5m40 per mile across rough grass and with several styles to climb, and put us into the overall lead. Chris Austin set off along the riverbank closely pursued by sinewy men including a triathlon international, but held almost all of his own and got us to Jesus Green in 4th place at 6m54 per mile. Jakob Foerster ran an excellent stint back to Clayhythe at 6m12 per mile, but found on arriving that no-one was there to take over. Undismayed he set off into the fifth stint only to find the same problem at Upware. So again he set off and completed the run all the way to Ely, eighteen miles at a good deal better than seven minutes per mile, mostly across rough grass: we don't know his exact time because the race officials refused to time him and none of us was there at the finish. Had he but known, only a couple of minutes behind at Clayhythe first Charlie Ferguson (7m07) and then Helen Mort (7m04) were trying to catch him: Charlie's official time is misleadingly long because the two dead minutes after Jakob arrived at Clayhythe were charged to his account. Beagles 1 achieved an official time (from the start until Helen arrived at Ely) of 3h52 placing sixth out of 47 teams and winning the Organisation Category with over ten minutes in hand against the Centre for Mathematical Sciences 1. Some way behind, the fellows on Beagles 2 were being led by the student members of the team to an overall time of 4h30 and to fourth place in the Organisation Category (19th overall).

By Dr Alan Winter

Sport In Brief

May Bumps

The May Bumps picnic at Osier Holt on June 13th saw an intrepid crowd of fellows, staff, students and alumni alike gathering to cheer on the Christ's teams. In splendid sunshine, the College teams enjoyed great success: the men's second boat won blades, as did both womens' boats. The womens' first boat bumped directly in front of the cheering Christ's spectators. Congratulations to all the rowers who took part.

CCBC Steering Committee needs you!

Next January, Christ's College Boat Club Steering Committee Chairman Robin Kerr will reach the end of his constitutional four years in the post, and the Boat Club is currently seeking a new Chairman. Anyone who is interested in being considered should contact Dr Nick Gay: njg11@cam.ac.uk



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For more information about any of these events, please contact Rosie Applin, Alumni Officer: ra371@cam.ac.uk / 01223 768276

Saturday 6 September

Brendan Gallaher (m. 1976) and Rebecca Gallaher invite alumni to their home in LA for a drinks reception in honour of Professor Frank Kelly and Mrs Jackie Kelly. For more information, please contact cmt23@cam.ac.uk.

Saturday 12 September

Reunion for alumni who matriculated in 1948 or earlier, or in 1955 or 1956. Afternoon tea, drinks and dinner in Hall.

Saturday 26 September

Reunion for alumni who matriculated in 1957, 1958, 1959 and 1960. Afternoon tea, drinks and dinner in Hall.

Saturday 10 October

A Service of celebration and Thanksgiving for the life of Dr C L G Pratt will be held at 11.30am in the Chapel at Christ's College.

Wednesday 14 October

Lecture by Lisa Jardine: 'C.P. Snow's Two Cultures Revisited' in the Hamied Theatre. Professor Jardine revisits C.P. Snow's famous lecture, given 50 years ago. For more information, please contact Clare Kitcat: ck359@cam.ac.uk

Saturday 10 April 2010

Meeting of the Christ's College Medical Alumni Association (open to all Christ's graduates and members in the Medical and Veterinary Sciences and allied Natural Sciences).

June 2010

Garden Party and Buffet Lunch for alumni who matriculated in 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963 or 1964.



Christ's rowers on the River Cam at sunrise