

## Editorial

This issue of *Christ Church Matters* is full of history and anecdote, some of it no doubt *ben trovato*. It shows amongst many other things a certain English (and more correctly but more anxiously perhaps, a British, European and Rhodes Scholarish) affection for eccentricity, particularly when it is manifested within Oxford by dons in the period when they often seemed to be a rather harmless protected species; though the war time experiences of some of them, particularly Robert Blake, and the Cherwell-Einstein connection noted below, rather belie that. Our articles will also convey I hope a strong sense, not just of nostalgia, but of the interestingly changing assumptions of the many different generations of House

undergraduates. The aspirant actors of a previous period, more subservient to the control of OUDS and the ETC, will be able to compare their fortunes in the period of the ritual OUDS Summer Majors in College gardens with the free market described by Harry Lloyd. The success of Christ Church graduates in a rather different market can also be tracked in the articles on the automotive industry. All very various; all at least in memory deriving from a single community, and it is in the attempt to extend that memory and to sustain a highly individual sense of community that *Christ Church Matters* can derive a great deal of pleasure.

CHRISTOPHER BUTLER, *Tutor in English & Co-Editor*

## Building Bridges

THE YEARS THAT FOLLOWED the Second World War were challenging to the utmost for the UK in many respects. Apart from restoring the physical devastation, throughout Europe countless displaced people sought resettlement, seeking to build a new life, demobilised service personnel urgently needed to return to civilian ways and overall there was the reordering of the political and cultural structures. Britain was almost bankrupt: it reached exhaustion as its resources were stretched to their limits especially in fulfilling a peacetime presence in war torn Germany.

Early in the long adjustment to peace, minds began to turn to re-establishing links between academic institutions severed by the War and to engage once again in free cultural exchange. In Germany, it was realised that the whole educational system had a vital role in the reconstruction following the Nazi era. In the British zone in 1945, the Military Commander was fortunate in having Robert Birley as the 'educational advisor' (remembered as Head Master of Eton and as Professor of Philosophy at the City University) who played a crucial part in the renewal of schools and universities. Hugh Carlton-Greene (Director of the BBC) played a correspondingly important part in recreating an independent media policy for the press and radio. In the educational sphere, spontaneous help also came from individuals and institutions willing to give a lead in such ways as organising Youth Camps and providing new texts for schools. In the former, Michael Foster (Philosophy Tutor at the House) and Revd K Riches

**Britain was almost bankrupt: it reached exhaustion as its resources were stretched to their limits especially in fulfilling a peacetime presence in war torn Germany.**

(subsequently Archdeacon of Oxford and Canon of Christ Church) devoted notable time and effort. S. Wood (father of Oscar Wood, another Philosophy Tutor at Christ Church) made an outstanding contribution in providing support for German schools.

Michael Foster was so concerned that he resigned his Studentship in 1946 to become Professor of Political Science at Cologne University to assist in the reconstruction of its academic life. Having graduated at St Johns, Oxford, Foster studied at Göttingen and Dresden, finally being awarded his PhD at Kiel. He had many friends in Germany and despite all, retained a high respect for the underlying culture of that country.

Foster was a very retiring individual even though he served in the war having enlisted as a Private and ending it as a Colonel (in military intelligence). His strongly Christian moral sense would arouse him as an outspoken advocate in a cause

which he felt to be just. He retained his position at Cologne for two years but was dismayed that in that then ravaged city he was provided with a comfortable house in the suburbs (it is reputed that he let out the rooms to students and other homeless people retaining only the bathroom for himself).

Foster returned to Christ Church in 1948 and was reinstated in his Studentship and was able to resume publication of his philosophical book, the importance of which is even now being recognised. At the time it was considered by many to be outside the mainstream of philosophical thought.



In 1959, Foster died in tragic circumstances and it was members of the JCR, many of whom had received much kindness from him, who approached the Dean (C A Simpson) to create some lasting memorial. What they had in mind was a possible bursary to bring a German student (or two) to Oxford for the long vacation. A much more ambitious scheme emerged to found and endow a scholarship (The Michael Foster Scholarship) to bring young German male scholars at roughly the BA level to Oxford for two years, then the minimal time in which an Oxford degree could be obtained. A group of Oxford colleges agreed to accept Foster scholars in turn. The House led a public appeal in the USA and

UK which produced just sufficient endowment to allow the scheme to proceed. The first scholar was Thomas Geer who came to the House in 1961.

The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) which had re-established itself in London (1952) responded warmly and created a complementary award to take Oxford BAs to (West) German Universities. In 1962 R Hollinrake (Merton) was elected to go to Heidelberg to further his postgraduate work in Music.

A generous benefaction from the Dulverton Trust in memory of Michael Wills ( a member of the W. D. and H. O. Wills tobacco family) enlarged the

scheme to allow two scholars to be elected each year. The awards now known as the Foster-Wills Scholarships were again matched on the German side. A committee was set up in Oxford and Bonn to oversee the making of awards and still continues to do so. It was able to encompass also the making of post doctoral awards for Oxford graduates made possible by the generosity of President Heuss.

For some time these Scholarships took on the role of the Rhodes Scholarships which the Trustees discontinued for German candidates in 1914 and in 1939. These were restored however in 1970 and all eventually thrown open to women candidates as well as those who were married.

The Foster-Wills-Heuss awards were recognised as amongst the first instituted post-war from sources outside Germany. With the growth of the EC and then the EU, more opportunities such as the Erasmus scheme came into being. In Cambridge, the Kurt-Hahn Scholarships (in memory of the Duke of Edinburgh's old Headmaster and a former member of the House) were founded to enable German scholars to study at that University.

In the array of bridges which now have been built one can reflect on their small beginnings at Christ Church.

PAUL KENT, *Emeritus Student*

## Cardinal Sins

NOTES FROM THE ARCHIVES

ON THE COVER of the Michaelmas 2003 edition of *Oxford Today* was the striking image, from the Christ Church archive, of the early 17th century map of the Oxford castle site and the houses surrounding it. The map is not only visually appealing, but it was drawn in great detail and at some expense to serve as evidence in a legal dispute between Christ Church and the City of Oxford which, in January 1617, was submitted to arbitration by an order of Chancery. Contemporary records of the case, and a later summary survive in the archive.

Warham Bank, or Fisher's Row, on the west side of the castle mound, was granted by Henry VIII to Christ Church as part of its endowment. Sometime in the late sixteenth century the City council built houses on part of the land, created gardens, erected a new mill, and diverted the mill stream. The Dean and Chapter, concerned at the loss of revenue, appealed to the Lord Chancellor but the City argued that Warham Bank was not as long as Christ Church claimed, and that the new houses were on City land.

The enquiry began on 8 April 1617 at the Star Inn on Cornmarket (where Woolworth's used to be and where the entrance to the Clarendon Centre now is). The Chancery commissioners, John Dormer and George Carleton, called forward numerous witnesses beginning with those who gave evidence for the Dean and Chapter. Christ Church's problem was to produce witnesses who could testify to encroachments on its property which had taken place as much as 40 years earlier. The first witnesses to appear for the Dean and Chapter had no local knowledge at all: two retired soldiers who had served on the continent, Timothy Chamberlaine and John Swayne. Both men described the castles they had seen on their travels; if Oxford castle was the same as these, there was no question that the land in dispute belonged to Christ Church. Next the Dean and

*Early 17th-century plan of the Oxford castle site, probably drawn as evidence in the law suite between Christ Church and the City of Oxford.*

Chapter relied on the evidence of two venerable Oxford residents: John Woodson, 82 years old, recalled the tenancies of the various properties on Warham Bank; all, he said, belonged to the Dean and Chapter but he recounted, probably not very helpfully to Christ Church, that it was a mayor and an alderman who had rebuilt and repaired the properties when they had fallen down. Margaret Moore, who was allegedly 109, said that she thought the properties once belonged to Oseney Abbey (and thus to Christ Church) but she again told of the Mayor's rebuilding. Although the Dean and Chapter produced younger and more active witnesses, much of Christ Church's case depended on the words of two soldiers from out of town, and two very elderly tenants who were trying to remember events from decades before.

It was not until July that the City's case was put to the Chancery Commissioners. Benjamin Gamon (labourer), William Farr and John Cook (fishermen), Roger Moore (painter), William Cakebread (tailor), and William Inglesby (glover) all gave very precise information about the properties in question. The Attorney General's summing-up seemed to confirm the saying that possession is nine-tenths of the law; Sir Henry Yelverton ruled, on 26 October, that the new mill stream had been cut through Christ Church land but required that the Dean and Chapter grant a lease to the City, with no further argument, and that the ownership of the land on which the houses had been built must be tried at law. It was not until 1622 that a



settlement was finally reached. The Chapter Clerk, John Willis, who wrote a most impartial summary account of the proceedings in 1667, allowed his bitterness to overcome his even-handedness only at the end. He states, in the Book of Evidences (a volume recording Christ Church's title to its property), that:

*All the advantage the College had by this tedious and Chargeable Suite was onely that of 20s per annum paid for the New Cut .. The whole Castle Mills with the tithes are by the City now enjoyed, the three houses on Wareham Bank, and all the houses on the Castle ditch...*

It was important though, he continues, that the suit be recorded in such detail. Who knew, after all, when the archive might be needed in the future?

JUDITH CURTHOYS, *Archivist*

# ‘Sebastian Flyte, meet Albert Einstein?’

**T**HE POPULAR IMAGE of Christ Church in the interwar years is of Sebastian Flyte holding court in Evelyn Waugh’s *Brideshead Revisited*, or of the Bollinger Club dinner at the start of *Decline and Fall*. But there was more to the House in the 1930s than effete and dim-witted aristocrats, for it was also keen to add to its scholarly lustre by taking on German-Jewish professors who had been removed from their posts by the Nazis.

The first German-Jewish academic to take up a post at Christ Church, already before 1933, was Albert Einstein – a remarkably little known connection. Einstein first came to Oxford in 1931, through the initiative of Frederick Lindemann, Professor of Physics at Oxford, later Lord Cherwell, Churchill’s wartime scientific adviser. Einstein stayed in Oxford for three short periods between May 1931 and June 1933. He was accommodated at Christ Church, ‘the calm cloisters of which he relished as much as Oxford relished him’, according to a historian of science at Oxford.

The correspondence in Einstein’s file at Christ Church shows that relations between the scientist and the House were cordially warm. In June 1931 the Dean wrote to Einstein, offering him a research studentship at an annual salary of £400, ‘for something like a month during term time in the course of the year’. Einstein replied in July, expressing his unconcealed delight at the prospect of spending time in unfamiliar but highly congenial surroundings. On 23 October the Dean was able to inform Einstein that the Governing Body had elected him to a studentship and to express ‘our earnest hope that we may often have the pleasure and honour of seeing you in our Society’.

However, on 24 October the Dean received a letter from Professor J.G.C. Anderson, protesting vehemently against Einstein’s appointment; those who had framed the relevant statutes never intended emoluments to go to people of non-British nationality, Anderson argued, adding that it was wrong to ‘send money out of the country’ in the dire economic situation of the Depression,

especially as the university was receiving a large grant from public funds. The Dean retorted that the academic benefit to the House far outweighed narrow nationalism: ‘I think that in electing Einstein we are securing for our Society perhaps the greatest authority in the world on physical science; his attainments and reputation are so high that they transcend national boundaries, and any university in the world ought to be proud of having him.’

Einstein, unaware that he had incurred the wrath of Little Englanders reluctant to burden the British taxpayer with foreign scientists, accepted the appointment on 29 October. But on 2 November Anderson fired off a further letter, covering over three tightly packed sides. The Dean circulated this missive to his colleagues, asking for comments. Only one response appears on file, evidently from the one ‘outsider’, a lecturer in chemistry, mentioned by Professor Anderson as having been appointed to a studentship. This simply reads ‘Is the Professor quite accurate in describing me as an English-speaking member?’, signed ‘A.S.R.’. Alexander Stuart Russell had been appointed Dr. Lee’s Reader in Chemistry in 1919 and a Student of Christ Church in 1920. He had studied at Glasgow, and presumably spoke with a Scots accent to match. This ended the objections to Einstein; indeed, after such a withering put-down, it is hard to imagine what further xenophobic tirades from Anderson could have achieved.

After 1933 Einstein could not return to Christ Church, so he proposed that his stipend be used to fund posts for Jewish academics dismissed from German universities by the Nazis. In May 1934, Dean Williams was able to inform him that the House proposed to give a sorely needed £200 to the distinguished classical philologist Eduard Fraenkel, formerly of Freiburg University and now in Oxford. Two distinguished German-Jewish professors found refuge at Christ Church. Felix Jacoby, a specialist in Greek historiography and poetry, had been Professor of Classical Philology at Kiel University from 1907 until his dismissal in



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*Albert Einstein, 1879-1955. Research Student, Christ Church, 1931-2. From a copy, in the Christ Church archive, of the David Low caricature drawn for the New Statesman.*

1935. He emigrated to Britain in 1939, where he continued to work on his *Fragmente der griechischen Historiker*, publishing fifteen volumes of texts and commentary over the 35 years during which he pursued this magnum opus. One can imagine what it meant to Jacoby, stripped of his position and at the mercy of the Nazis, to receive a letter from Dean Williams in December 1938 inviting him in the warmest terms ‘to continue your important work on the fragments of the Greek historians as soon as possible here at Oxford’.

Paul Jacobsthal, who had been Professor of Archaeology at Marburg University from 1912 until his dismissal in 1935, was appointed to a post at Christ Church in 1937. An expert on Greek vase painting, his studies of the influence of Mediterranean civilisations on early North Alpine cultures led to his also becoming University Reader in Celtic Archaeology. On Jacobsthal’s death in 1957, Christopher Hawkes, Professor of European Archaeology, wrote to Dean Lowe: ‘Everyone at all connected with these studies must always owe a very great debt of gratitude to the House? All that great generosity has of course not only assured [Jacobsthal’s] residing and working here, but in so doing has also guaranteed that the prime opportunity for holding the central position in these studies shall lie with Oxford.’ A fitting tribute.

**ANTHONY GRENVILLE (1962)**  
*With thanks for the expert assistance of archivist Judith Curthoys*

# Other People's Houses

**A**LTHOUGH WE MAY THINK we have first claim on 'Christ Church' and 'the House', the institution in St Aldate's is far from the only one entitled to those names. Within Oxford, I'm told (by the Ripon College Lecturer in Liturgy and Worship, so you'd better believe it) that St Stephen's House, now Oxford's seventh Permanent Private Hall, but occupying premises associated by my generation with the 'Cowley Dads', is known to its staff as 'the house' (its students, however, call it 'Staggers'). 'Christ Churches' abound all over the world. The aptly named John Robert Godley ('a king of men', said Gladstone), with fellow Housemen and others, planned a Church of England colony in New Zealand - 'An English county with its Cathedral city, its famous University, its Bishop ... its sturdy and loyal labourers.' Just over 150 years ago their dream was realised as the Province of Canterbury. City and college quickly became Christchurch, perhaps by the same Antipodean elision that gives us 'G'day.'

I was keen to spend time down under, researching further linguistic links, but the editor was unenthusiastic, muttering about budgets. I therefore picked an example closer to home, in Kent - England, that is - Canterbury Christ Church University College, an establishment about which I am ashamed to say I previously knew very little. Size is, as they say, not everything, but CCCUC's statistics impress. More than

12,000 students (including part-timers) take between them a range of undergraduate and post-graduate courses in four major faculties: Arts and Humanities; Business and Sciences; Education; and Health. An associate campus near Tunbridge Wells includes Centres for Applied Social and Psychological Development, and for Leadership and Management Development. A third campus, at Broadstairs, focuses on nursing, policing, business studies and popular music technology and a fourth, on Medway, is due to open in 2004-2005. Recent external assessments awarded 'Excellent' ratings on both teaching and research.

Founded in 1962 to counter a shortage of teachers in church schools, CCCUC was the first teacher training college built by the Church of England in the 20th century. The Archbishop of Canterbury is the visitor; college and cathedral share a name and jointly sponsor St Augustine's Library; through the Council of Church Colleges and Universities, the college enjoys links with those of many other denominations.

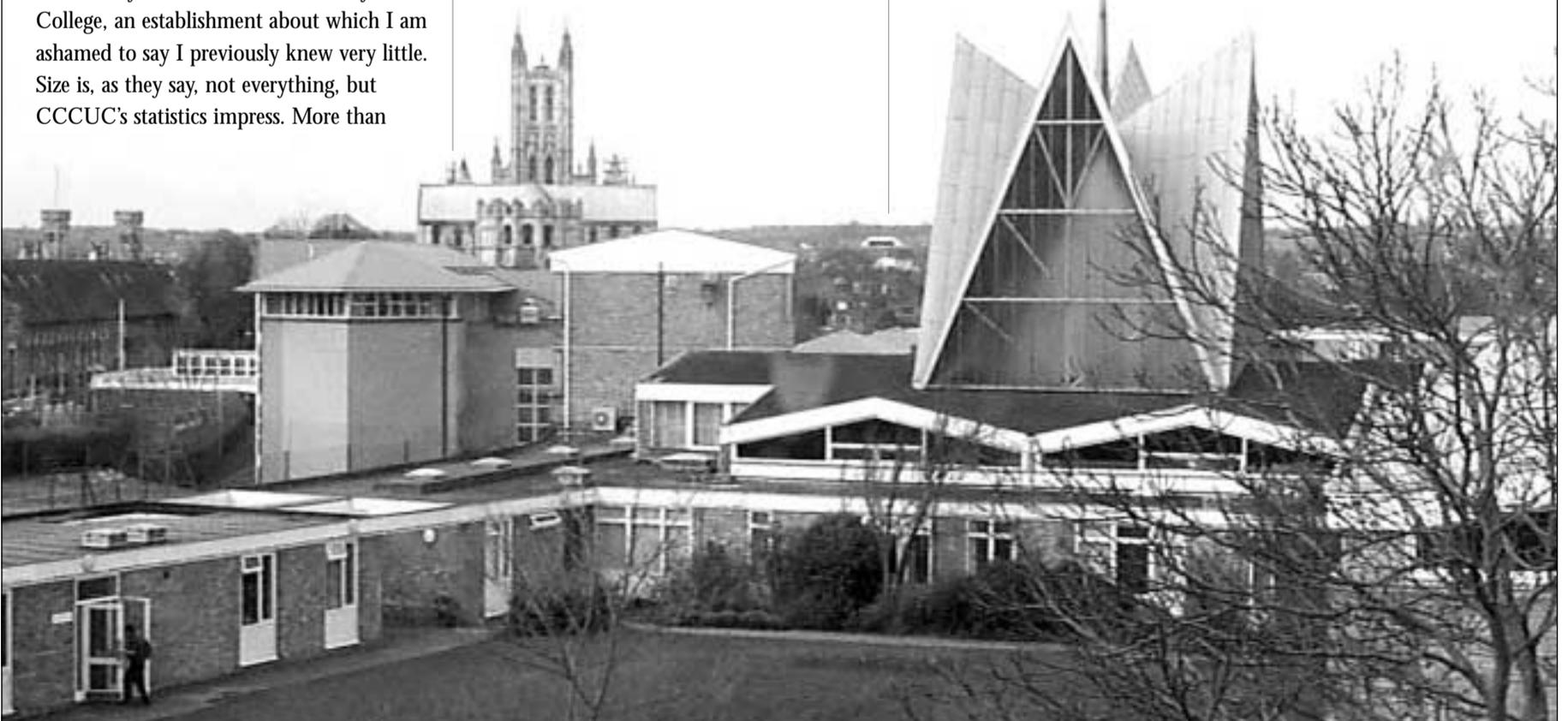
Junior to Wolsey's foundation by more than 400 years it is no surprise that most of the college's buildings are new. At least one, however, can compete with Tom, Peckwater and the rest. The 67 students who enrolled

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in September 1962 occupied St Martin's Priory, a Grade II listed building dating from 1550, but adjoining St Martin's church - a world heritage site and the oldest parish church in England still in constant use. Before Frideswide was a gleam in a Mercian prince's eye, St Augustine was dropping into St Martin's, no doubt praying that the builders get a move on with his new abbey, just down the road.

The 16th century Priory soon outgrown, purpose-built premises now forming the college's main campus were opened (by Michael Ramsey) in 1964, to be followed by other new and refurbished buildings. The Priory was also recently refurbished and now houses the college's Computing Services. As the main site is only a stone's throw from the city walls, on land once covered by orchards and domestic buildings of St Augustine's abbey, the college's buildings are most often seen forming a foreground to views of the cathedral. Some, however, are notable on their own account: the early 19th century Sessions House, now home to the Faculty of Education, has won architectural awards for the sensitivity of its conversion; the old courtroom is now a lecture theatre (students comfort themselves with the fact that the prison cells have disappeared).

*Views of Canterbury Christ Church University College.*



Canterbury is, of course, also the seat of the University of Kent, founded three years after CCCUC, which occupies a windswept campus a taxi ride from either of the city's railway stations. Before Christ Church obtained University College status in 1995, Kent validated its degrees and still does so in the case of Research degrees, although this is due to change in 2004-2005, when CCCUC aims for university status.

Nearly half Canterbury's first year students are accommodated in halls of residence, and about a third of all students (including part-

timers) are local, suggesting that many live in parental homes: whatever the outcome of the present debate about 'top up' fees, this is a pattern likely to become more common throughout higher education.

Recent alumni include Jonathan Holmes, writer and editor for radio and the presenter of 'Dead Ringers', a graduate of the Department of Media, as is Charlotte Westgate, who now produces the breakfast show at Oxford's BBC radio station. The author Geraldine McCaughrean took a degree in Education at CCCUC and

worked in publishing, before producing more than 120 books for adults and children, winning the Carnegie Medal, two Whitbread prizes, the Guardian Fiction Award and other trophies.

So, if, like me, you can't make it to New Zealand this year, take a stroll round the city walls of Canterbury and spare a glance or two for the buildings of Christ Church University College – or start by consulting [www.canterbury.ac.uk](http://www.canterbury.ac.uk).

CHRIS SLADEN (1953)

*Thanks are due to Judith Curthoys, House Archivist, and Isobelle Leggett, of CCCUC's External Relations unit.*



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## *The Silent Traveller in Oxford*

REVIVAL OF A LITTLE-KNOWN GEM

THIS IDIOSYNCRATIC MEMOIR of wartime Oxford by the expatriate Chinese author and artist Chiang Yee, first published in 1944, has long been out of print. Happily, the small but enterprising Oxford firm, Signal Books, recently put out a new edition (£9.99 paperback) in its 'Lost and Found' series of classic travel writing.

Characteristically, the author confessed himself underwhelmed by Christ Church's architectural glories – 'What can there be left for me, a humble Chinese... to add on them?' – but was enthusiastic about Wolsey's kitchen, partly because 'the kitchen front' was such a hot topic at the time. He also enjoyed lunch at Canon and Mrs Hodgson's 'quarters in Tom Quad', where he thought (surely mistakenly?) that the delicious food had come from the great Tudor kitchen.

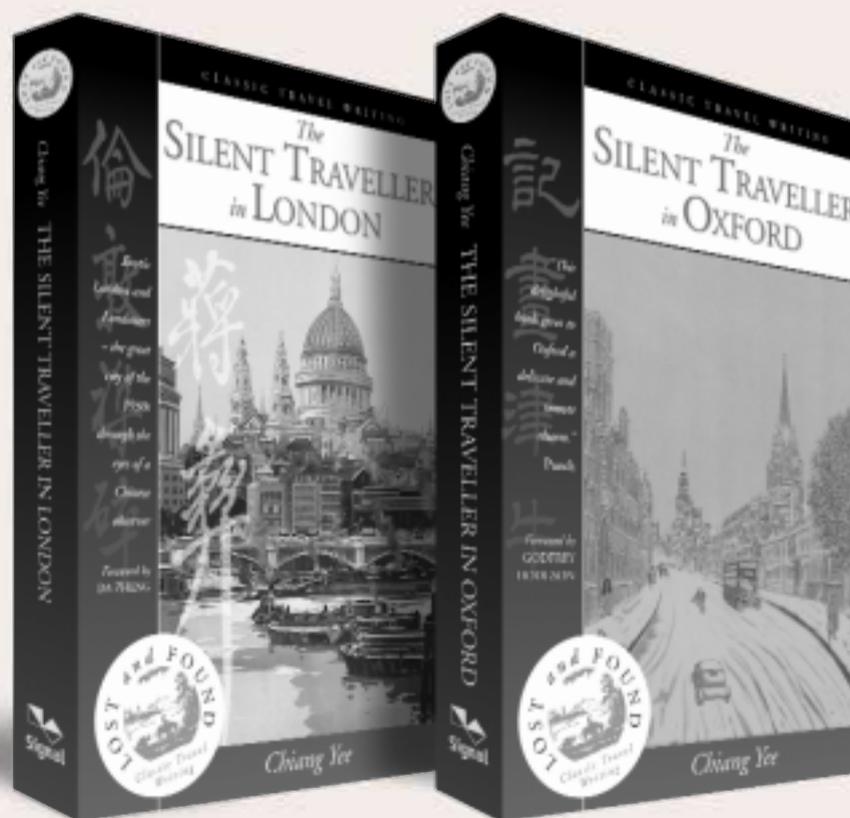
Similarly, his throwaway reference to the centrepiece of Tom Quad ('A statuette of Mercury, I believe') is counterbalanced by his admiration for three small cherry trees at

the corner of Meadow Building, a spot he visited repeatedly.

Indeed, the real interest of this book, whose text may now strike readers as a trifle bland, is the way the author enthuses over bits of Oxford flora unremarked by less sensitive (Western) visitors – tree lupins in St John's garden, azaleas on Boar's Hill, buttercups in the Parks.

Sadly, present day economics have resulted the author's own decorative colour illustrations being reduced to dull monochrome (apart from one on the front cover). Chiang Yee's thumb-nail black and white drawings, however, continue to enliven the text, as do his gently philosophical poems, in both English text and Chinese characters.

CHRIS SLADEN (1953)



*The Silent Traveller in Oxford* and its predecessor, *Silent Traveller in London* are available in bookshops, or try [info@signalbooks.co.uk](mailto:info@signalbooks.co.uk).

# ‘Thought we’d lost a few there...’

I WENT UP TO THE HOUSE in 1953 to read English with J. I. M. Stewart, literary historian, critic, novelist (and detective story writer ‘Michael Innes’) as my tutor in literature. A small precise man, kindly but remote, JIM was invisible behind a desk piled high with the books he was researching for a tome in the Oxford History of English Literature. Once I had read out my feeble weekly essay, silence would fall, broken only by the scratching of JIM’s pen. Then the top of a head would appear over the barricade. ‘That was a..ah, most judicious survey. Do you for next week, consider the poet Donne.’ At school we were thrashed for reading detective stories under the desk in class...

Stewart immortalised one of our great eccentrics, Canon Jenkins, whose house was a jungle of unopened parcels of books, dust and confusion. I saw the Canon, watching cricket, dive beneath the deckchairs for cigarette ends which he rolled into a fag and lit with a magnifying glass. Scrabbling for butts beneath a Senior Common Room table, he was once exhorted by an exasperated Dean Lowe, ‘Come out Jenkins, I perceive you!’

Anglo-Saxon, Middle English and Philology were only a third of the English syllabus but, rebarbative as I found them, took at least half my effort, making me poor material for a fine tutor, Robert Burchfield, New Zealander, rugby man and later, editor of the Oxford English Dictionary.

The then Senior Censor was the late Lord Blake, historian of the Tory Party, quintessence of Great and Good. Over getting-to-know-you sherry in his rooms he said, ‘I quite take your point,’ (my bleat about Anglo-Saxon preventing my thinking great thoughts about literature), ‘but believe me, it is far easier for you to learn Anglo-Saxon than it is for us to get rid of the Anglo-Saxon dons. Some have been here since Anglo-Saxon times.’

Christ Church had its originals among the undergraduates too. The medical student son of a distinguished surgeon concealed his corned beef sandwiches in the hollow stomach of the corpse he was dissecting, reaching inside every so often for a mouthful. A fellow-student fainted.

I like to believe that Lateral Thinking was invented in my rooms, our group’s base-camp for our final Commem Ball. Debonair Edward De Bono had landed himself with two girls for the event; his idea was for the rest of us to take turns giving them a whirl so that neither realised she was not the sole partner. A high-risk stratagem which worked - at least until the early hours when chips, and not only chips, are down.

A couple of stairs along from me in Meadow Buildings brooded the eccentric Alex

**‘I saw the Canon, watching cricket, dive beneath the deckchairs for cigarette ends which he rolled into a fag and lit with a magnifying glass.’**

*JIM Stewart, Emeritus Student 1973.*



Weymouth, heir to Longleat, creator of deep-space whorl-type paintings, and in later life, famous for beard, exotic women and family controversy. In the other direction, opposite a Fellows’ Garden resonant in summer with the click of bowls, resided Lord Lindemann, Churchill’s scientific adviser during the War. His large American limousine, driven by a Passpartout-like batman, was parked in the Meadow driveway, alongside the much-envied Austin-Healeys of our Rhodes Scholars.

Meadow was perfect for the river: in early morning, walks, feeding chocolate to the squirrels and, in the afternoon, rowing. In 1955, so many Housemen were sequestered for Blue Boat training that lesser, lighter folk were admitted to the 1st Torpid. Our champagne party was in Tom Quad, and the crew were already merry as we moved to Hall for the supper the House offered to any first crew making five bumps.

Our table was immediately below the top table where sat Dean, Dons and Canons, some very dodderly. Luckily I was not chosen to say Grace that night. By the end of dinner, we were so stupefied that no one reacted when some fool passed along a lighted thunderflash. The last man stared at the fizzing, sparkling baton with abstract curiosity till, fearing explosion in our faces, we yelled ‘throw it!’ and he did, but straight at the Dons’ table. It failed to go off, but as my scout observed next day, ‘Thought we’d lost a few there. Turned right green, they did.’

After dinner, while firkins of ale spouted in rooms all over college, the crew staggered out to the Meadow for a Viking ritual of boat-burning (not our racing boat, but a leaky discard kept for such purposes). As the flames leapt up, one of our number hurled himself on the bonfire, shouting ‘I’m an Indian widow, I’m committing suttee!’ This seemed reasonable in a grieving widow, until, as she began to char slightly at the edges, it dawned that old Bloggs was



not even married. So we pulled him off and threw him in the river (he can't have drowned, for he ate in Hall next day). The crew then flaked out and cannot be held responsible for the 2,000 broken windows in the 'orgy of privileged vandalism' known as the 'Christ Church Kristallnacht'.

We made up for this passivity after Eights Week a year later, seeking explosive relief from study for Finals. The large hog in his house was taken in good part by Dean Lowe, who had it restored to the college farm. Our Head Porter, the redoubtable Mitch, had seen off the swan-uppers who rescued the bird paddling frantically round Mercury. This was a serious offence, they pointed out, the swan being a protected species and the property of Her Majesty; the young gentlemen would answer for it. Mitch begged to doubt. The swan had

flown in of its own volition. 'In a bow-tie?', asked the swan-uppers. 'Do you suppose,' asked Mitch witheringly, 'that a bird would fly into the House improperly dressed?'

Worse trouble loomed with the police, bombarded with complaints from the Women's Institute pleasure cruise which had come upon the Balliol barge grounded on a sandbank downstream, daubed with words not then common currency. To this day, Balliol believe the culprits to have been their traditional rivals Trinity, just as Trinity blame Balliol for the rudery writ even-handedly on their boathouse.

I've been back to the House only a couple of times. Once to take my MA and once for a Gaudy, when I bumped into Sir Alec Douglas-Home, former Prime and subsequently Foreign Minister (usually it's

the other way round). In his latter capacity, I used to escort him in 1973 from the European Council of Ministers' meetings on the 14th floor of the Charlemagne Building in Brussels to brief the press in their snake-pit on the ground-floor. His grim gallantry was beyond praise, yet I cannot believe that my face evoked happy memories. Or that he grieved when after dinner I was hurled to the ground by a high-velocity Bishop of Exeter in colourful cassock, to the cry 'Never stand between a Bishop and his port!'

Returning only twice may seem ungrateful, but then, I've only spent six of the last fifty years in the UK, and three of those were 1953-6. Long enough ago for me to deny any and all of the above, if challenged.

*MICHAEL PERCEVAL, Barcelona (1953)*

*Michael Perceval, back row left, with the 1955 Christ Church First Eight.*

# Six Years at Christ Church

**A**FTER 29 EXTREMELY HAPPY years as a Fellow of St Peters', I had to adjust myself rather suddenly to the idea of coming to Christ Church. It was not easy to answer all the letters which I received when my appointment was announced. Many asked me how a Roman Catholic layman could possibly be a canon in an Anglican cathedral, the very question I had been asking myself; and a few, from Catholics, told me that it was now my duty to wrest back this Protestant establishment for the Catholic Church to which it rightly belonged, as if they saw in me a Trojan Horse!

Not for a moment was I regarded as an oddity in the cathedral; if anything it was sometimes embarrassing how seriously I was taken. The Dean understood perfectly the distinction I wanted to make between being a canon and being (or even looking like) a minister of religion. The Sub-Dean took me in hand without my realising at the time that he was doing so, as if he were a sacred anaesthetist! As to these and all the other canons, they and their families form a wonderful community, to which it has been a delight and privilege for Caroline and me to belong. Occasionally, I suspect they have found it useful to have around a lay person, not bounded by their

constraints of charity and propriety – like the nineteenth-century Archbishop Magee of York, who when a waiter spilled soup down his best suit, said, 'is there a layman present to express my feelings?'

I have mentioned the cathedral first because I had viewed my unfamiliar duties there with nervous anticipation. Of course the cathedral is much more than the Chapter. As I have discovered, it is a huge and exciting community of Friends, congregation, musicians and singers, and volunteer helpers, all held together by a top-class team of vergers. More than that, however, I have always seen the college as notably supportive of the cathedral, whatever the individual views of religion. In other words, however much the structure has to be kept under surveillance for problems which could appear, the dual foundation still in practice works.

When I left St Peters' I had a very high standard of what was meant by good company. I was not disappointed here, either by the company or by the welcome I received. The SCR are great sports conversationally. I already knew, or knew of, some of the fine scholars and scientists

**'When I left St Peters' I had a very high standard of what was meant by good company. I was not disappointed here, either by the company or by the welcome I received.'**



whom I would encounter here. Before many years I was plunged into being Editor of the *Christ Church Report* and did some research into what my colleagues were up to. It was a fascinating eye-opener. I rest my case on what I wrote in *Christ Church 2000* at pp 18-19, and what I wrote in the subsequent two Reports about newcomers. In addition, to have been Senior Treasurer of the Music Society for 5 years, and to have occasionally acted as adviser to historians for their extended essays, has given me dealings with some of the liveliest undergraduates in college.

I have found the whole undergraduate (and graduate) atmosphere extremely friendly. When I came to live in Tom Quad, I had had 37 years of feeling responsible for, and quelling, undergraduate noise, and that seemed to me enough. I decided that undergraduates could make what noise they liked unless I was personally incommoded by it. And such is the impregnation of the English conscience, even of Catholics, with the Protestant ethic, that never having felt responsible, I have never been incommoded!

*HENRY MAYR-HARTING, Regius Professor of Ecclesiastical History (1997-2003)*



# Drama at Oxford

**A** FEW WEEKS INTO MY FIRST TERM, an older friend invited me to a double bill of plays at the BT: *The Shape of Things* by Neil LaBute, and *Time at the Bar* by an undergraduate. Halfway through I was terrified. I was in a room of less than forty people and had just seen a small, yet brilliantly acted production. Flawless accents, timing just beautifully well-judged, and I was convinced that I would remain a small anonymous fish in this apparently oceanic pond for the next three years. When the second show began I was again horrified to find two freshers I recognised already acting in 2nd week. What was I doing? After an hour, however, I left the theatre confused. It had been pretty awful, a sloppy school play with mimed pumps and real pints, Channel 5 dialogue, with posh kids playing 40 year-old miners from Huddersfield. I then realised what I have believed ever since: there is no such thing as 'Oxford Drama'.

There are daily rants about the way it is organised and how difficult it can be to 'get in'. But really there is nothing in which to get. Students put on plays and anyone auditions. There is no central clubhouse, no subscription fee, no membership. You just turn up at auditions till you get a part, do it, start again. It isn't organised.

A few weeks later my first role: Dicky Greenleaf in *The Talented Mr Ripley* at the BT. I found the play on the OUDS website and recognised the name from the film, and that of the director as a guy a couple years ahead of me at prep school, so thought a friendly face would do me good. It was my first stab in the dark, but I got lucky. The show was a great success, filling the studio each night with a 5-star review to match. I assumed I would have to work my way up the ladder until I was getting parts in 'big' productions, but the reality was, that even though this was a small company made up of first-time actors, we all did tremendously well as a result of it.

This led to two lead roles the following term. One of which was *Bent*, at the Old Fire Station, (the theatre seen to be next on the ambition-list after the BT) and the other was Christ Church's own *Dr Faustus* in the cathedral. This was perhaps the most exciting project I've done here. College drama often gets a bad name and is looked down upon rather snootily as plays for friends and family



rather than for public consumption. Ed Wethered's production, however, surely broke these barriers and established Christ Church as one of the most talented colleges for drama in the university. It is strange coming from school, to be directed by contemporaries rather than teachers, but here was an example of where it was advantageous – someone who could control a room of students on a Sunday morning, but at the same time appear approachable, who wants to hear ideas.

But after a term off, I predictably made the mistake again of being too eager; a Playhouse show (for some the main ambition whilst acting at Oxford) and then a two-man play back at the OFS (*The Kiss of the Spider Woman*, by Manuel Puig). *Europe* by David Grieg was first and was my first experience of working with the famous faces of Oxford Drama. I was introduced to the mainstream actors, the nearest thing we have to the Hollywood stars, rather than the independent players. Here were people who had all worked with each other, been on tour to Japan together, lived together, worked on the OUDS committee. Knowing these people does help your recognition, but treating Oxford fame, as it were, like the real thing, means that student theatre here can turn into the clique-y, bitchy, two-faced industry it is in later life. People complain about the incest involved in Oxford theatre, in that friends cast friends, and the same people get all the big roles. It would be a lie to say this doesn't happen, and there isn't a simple solution. Everyone officially does have an equal chance, but the longer you're here the more you begin to admire certain people over others and

**...student theatre here can turn into the clique-y, bitchy, two-faced industry it is in later life. People complain about the incest involved in Oxford theatre ...there isn't a simple solution.**

*Harry Lloyd and Caroline Dyott in Arthur Miller's 'All My Sons' at the Oxford Playhouse.*

naturally you will always have certain people in mind as a director. Many find this frustrating. It leads to resentment and OUDS gets a bad name for itself. I can only say that I knew no-one and still got into a Playhouse production and believe that the whole system is a meritocracy rather than an arena for pats on the back and self-congratulation. These people all know each other because they work together often and because they are the best people for the job.

By this time, after five large parts under my belt, I knew most people working regularly in the theatres and had an idea who I admired. It would be nice to say I still logged on the website and looked at unknown, first-time directors doing obscure plays, but by this time if I was going to do a play I really wasn't ready to take risks just yet, especially since the next Playhouse show had really caught my eye. There was a bid for Prasanna Puwanarajah to direct *All My Sons* by Arthur Miller in Hilary '04. I had never really met the man properly but his *Copenhagen* had been one of the best things I'd seen and I desperately wanted to work with him. His auditions alone were inspiring and he had a calm discipline that was so astute and personal that soon every actor was desperate for a part. Ultimately, three of the nine parts were taken by Christ Church actors, and I landed the part I had prayed for, which was Chris Keller, Joe's son. The production, unsurprisingly I thought, due to the team behind it, was a vast financial and critical success, one of the most popular shows of recent memory. Some shows are brilliantly intimate in the studio, but this ensemble piece still managed to affect its audience which amounted to almost 2,500 over four days. I still feel that if I do nothing else, I will have something I am hugely proud of that I don't feel I need to beat just yet.

After that I decided one a term was more than ample and next term I shied away from two lead parts in larger productions I was offered in favour of a small role in Mamet's *American Buffalo*, a three-hander, again in the OFS, directed by *Spider Woman*'s Ben White, another Christ Church student. After establishing yourself as a 'serious' actor you can perhaps choose the parts you want to do, not in an effort to prove yourself, but to work with the people you enjoy, and to find new challenging roles with which to test yourself.

HARRY LLOYD (2002)

# News from the Steward

## Staff Success in College Awards

Members of the college staff were again successful in the second year of the Oxford ACEs Awards (Awards for College Excellence). This is a recognition scheme for support staff in all of Oxford's colleges, culminating in an Oscars-style awards dinner at which the winners are announced and acknowledged.

A member of the House's kitchen team was again selected: Claire Smith, now in the third year of her apprenticeship, triumphed as Junior Chef of the Year. Stephen Bartlett, who has been Resident Manager at the House's Liddell Building complex on the Iffley Road since it opened in 1991, was recognised for his commitment and professionalism and was chosen as Support Services Employee of the Year. Stephen's prize includes a holiday; Claire is about to be rewarded with an escorted visit to the National Restaurant Show in Chicago.



*Stephen Bartlett, Resident Manager at the Liddell Building was Hospitality Employee of the Year (Support Services).*



*Claire Smith, Apprentice Chef was Junior Chef of the Year.*

## Wartime Vehicle at D-Day Conference

Old member Edward Album (1956) has generously agreed to bring his World War Two AEC Matador medium artillery tractor to decorate the Quad during this year's Conflict Series conference at the House: D-Day: the 60th Anniversary, 5-10 September 2004. This was confirmed after a recent trial run to Oxford and safe access through Canterbury Gate. There will also be a period armoured car for conference guests to admire.

Edward Album, London solicitor, military vehicle enthusiast and former soldier, tells us that his Matador was one of over eight thousand such vehicles in military use between 1939 and the early sixties. This example was completed during the D-Day year of 1944, and served with 287 1st West Lancs Field Regiment. The Lancashire rose and wartime registration number can be seen.

Bookings may still be made for the September D-Day conference, and there is already encouraging support from members of the House from home and overseas. Further information is to be found on the House's website ([www.chch.ox.ac.uk](http://www.chch.ox.ac.uk)) or from Alex Webb, Conference and Events Administrator on 01865 276174 or e-mail at: [alexandra.webb@chch.ox.ac.uk](mailto:alexandra.webb@chch.ox.ac.uk)

## Investors in People award

It has just been announced that Christ Church has been successful in applying for accreditation for the Investor in People award. This national benchmark, awarded for performance standards in staff development, training and recognition, was received by the 150-strong staff team that comprises the college's Steward's Department.

## The Sunday Times Oxford Literary Festival

This expanding event, now in its second year of sponsorship by the Sunday Times, was held in the city between 23 and 28 March. The House was again pleased to be associated with key elements of the programme. Many Sunday Times readers booked accommodation at the House and the Literary Festival Dinner, with guest speakers Andrew Davies and Sir Richard Eyre, was held in Hall.



Third in the Christ Church Series of late summer conferences on the theme of international conflict –

## D-DAY: THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY

SUNDAY 5 SEPTEMBER — FRIDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 2004



A comprehensive and prestigious residential programme at Oxford's premier college conference venue.

This five-day event, in collaboration with the Imperial War Museum, commemorates the 60th Anniversary of Operation OVERLORD – the Allied landings in Normandy on D-Day, June 6th 1944.

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Email: [d-day@chch.ox.ac.uk](mailto:d-day@chch.ox.ac.uk)



## Day School Lecture for Old Members on 25 September

The House will shortly be announcing the full programme for a new Day School on the nautical and imperial themes of Maritime Exploration and Discovery. The programme will be run in collaboration with the Christ Church Association and will include lectures on the eighteenth century maritime achievements of Captain Cook, and the development of the Marine Chronometer.

The first Day School will be held at the House on Saturday 25 September 2004. The full programme will include lunch in Hall and refreshments. Details will be published shortly on the college's website and further information will be available from Alex Webb on 01865 276174 or e-mail at: [alexandra.webb@chch.ox.ac.uk](mailto:alexandra.webb@chch.ox.ac.uk)

The Exploration and Discovery Day School has been designed to give old members a further opportunity to return to Oxford. It will also complement next year's Conflict programme on the theme of War at Sea in the Age of Sail. This, the fourth event in the Conflict Series, will be held in September next year, within days of the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar.

# Christ Church Association News

TRINITY TERM 2004

ISSUE 13

## Editorial

THIS EDITION of *Association News* includes news of old members from very different walks of life. Following last edition's feature on the voluntary/charity sector, Nicholas Mellor (1979) alerted us to the Merlin organisation. This organisation carries out emergency vaccination programmes, runs clinics and works to rebuild the healthcare infrastructure of countries broken by conflict, earthquake or other disasters. Throughout, it has benefited from the support, inspiration and encouragement of a number of people from the House. As such, we have included an article on Merlin and its links with Christ Church.

This edition brings news of four old members who are involved in the automotive industry. This was inspired by reading a newspaper article which highlighted one of the House's engineering students, Jonathan Edolls (1999), who received the Science, Engineering and Technology Student of the Year Award for 2003 and who landed his dream job in Formula One with WilliamsF1. Trawling through our databases, we found three other old members who are involved in the automotive industry and who agreed to share their experiences with us. These are: Jim Cooper (1969), Finance Director for Nationwide Autocentres; Rajan Parmasivum (1994), Engineer for BMW; and John Moore (1983), Head of Sales for Lotus Engineering.

Nick Rankin (1969), summarises some of his research into George Steer (1929), a Houseman he rediscovered while making a BBC World Service radio feature. His book, *Telegram from Guernica*:

*The Extraordinary Life of George Steer, War Correspondent* has just come out in paperback.

Tony Burden (1950) fills us in on the excellent careers programme and vacation job scheme which he runs with Jonathan Heller (1972) and others. They would not mention it, of course, but the Christ Church scheme is widely regarded as one of the best available in Oxford and is the envy of many of the colleges. This is due both to the hard work they have done and the generosity of many old members, who have contributed their time and energy to helping House undergraduates embark on their careers.

Simon Offen (1986) brings us up to date with the exciting new Year Representatives initiative and details the first event, which will be a 1920s themed evening with cocktails and dinner in Hall on June 26th, for anyone matriculating in the 1980s. Writing as an old member from that era, I am certainly looking forward to the evening. We all hope that there will be a strong response to the initiative, so it can lead the way to other events for old members matriculating in different decades.

Along the theme of keeping in touch, we bring you information about a new online networking service for anyone who has ever studied at the universities of Oxford and Cambridge. This initiative has been developed by Oxbridgelifers, who were sponsors of the House 2003 Summer Ball.

I have also included contact details for the Association Committee and identifying any specific

committee roles the members may hold. Please feel free to contact any of the committee if you have comments or questions.

The Association AGM this year will be held on 26th June, followed by a boat trip along the Thames, with a band on board and picnics available. Later, there will be Evensong in the Cathedral and a 1980s Reunion dinner in Hall. We very much hope you will come to support the Association Committee at the AGM and join the afternoon and/or evening activities.

May I take this opportunity to thank all the contributors both for taking the time to write articles and for scouring their homes for suitable photographs.

This newsletter relies on receiving news of old members. I am very keen to hear of anything you do which might be of interest to others. So why not drop me a line with your thoughts or comments and I will try to include as many of them as I can in the next edition. After all, everyone is entitled to at least 15 minutes of fame. However, please bear with me if I do not respond to you immediately. Between writing this editorial and publishing the Association newsletter, I am expecting an editorial assistant to be born. And rather than being the help one would expect from someone in this prestigious role, I suspect the baby may slow me down a little for a few weeks and limit my on-line e-mailing activities.

FIONA HOLDSWORTH (1981)  
fiona.holdsworth@btopenworld.com

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## The Careers Programme & Vacation Job Scheme

OVER THE PAST DECADE we have been holding Careers Evenings twice a year, usually May and November, to offer advice to undergraduates looking for a job or trying to decide what career to pursue. We bring in a number of Christ Church Association members who are now in a variety of jobs/professions so they can talk informally about their work and undergraduates can discuss their ideas and ambitions. These sessions initiate a networking procedure that enables students to subsequently meet old members on a one-to-one basis to discuss their interests. Such networking has proved highly popular.

In conjunction with this, there has been a valuable Vacation Jobs Scheme run by Christ Church Association member, Jonathan Heller, of Heller & Associates Ltd., and our aim is to promote this more extensively. Our plan is to select a number of Sector Coordinators who would be able to surface vacation jobs within the alumnus community in their particular business sector i.e. finance, law, media, consultancy, marketing/advertising, public services, IT, education, etc. Any old member who would be keen to volunteer as a Sector Coordinator will be most welcome.

We wish to express our warmest thanks to all those old members who have attended Careers Sessions in the past. We have just held a Careers Evening on Thursday March 4th where we had 9 old members who came as "Advisers". Fifty-five undergraduates attended. Annabel Charnock, JCR Careers and Development Representative, commented: "The Christ Church Association is an amazingly valuable resource for undergraduates. The careers events provide us with an opportunity to ask those vital questions that you can't ask at company presentations when you are trying to impress. In addition, countless numbers of students have been helped immeasurably by the work experience they have arranged through the vacation placement scheme – both in deciding what exactly they want to do and in gaining the all-important CV points."

Our previous Careers Evening, held in November, was specified as a Media Event and Tony Pastor from ITV arranged an impressive group of visiting speakers from Radio, Television and Newspapers. Tony commented: "All four speakers left Christ Church between 1993 and 1995, so hopefully the students were able to imagine where they might be in the media within ten years. The response since the evening has been very encouraging. A number of students have sought further advice and two have used their new contacts to gain work experience."

In the same month, Michael Davie, a Managing Director with Bankers, J.P. Morgan, hosted a successful dinner at Gee's Restaurant in Oxford, well attended by a number of undergraduates.

TONY BURDEN (1950)

## Book Review

### GEORGE STEER (1929) AT CHRIST CHURCH

HOW OFTEN did I see his name, I wonder? Going from my first year room in Blue Boar, and my second year rooms in Peckwater, to English tutorials with J.I.M. Stewart in Meadow Buildings, and to meals in Hall, how many times between 1969 and 1972 must I have walked past that Cathedral-door memorial, dedicated to the members of the House who died in the Second World War? I don't suppose I ever noticed his name then, but when I come back now, I touch the incisions of George Lowther Steer.

I rediscovered Steer while making a BBC World Service radio feature for the 60th anniversary of Pablo Picasso's *Guernica*. The artist painted his huge black and white anti-war canvas in response to the Nazi bombing of the Basque town Guernica, which Picasso had read all about in the French newspaper translation of George Steer's remarkable report of the atrocity in *The Times* of 28 April 1937. But before Steer was a dashing reporter he had been a Classical Scholar at Christ Church, from January 1929 to July 1932, gaining a Double First in Mods and Greats.

Researching Steer at the House gave me invaluable insights into his mind and character, even though his first 24 years were stripped from the final draft of my book. Everyone was helpful. Doreen Belcher, the Manciple, looked up all Steer's old rooms and made a sign for a Gaudy asking for his cohorts to contact me. My former Anglo-Saxon tutor, Richard Hamer, then Librarian, put me in touch with Judith Curthoys, the Archivist, who showed me the Muniment Room in Blue Boar.

The Collections reports stored there revealed a future journalist: "A first rate mind and an admirable power of selecting relevant facts" wrote TBL Webster. I was intrigued to learn that Steer did philosophy with Gilbert Ryle, and had tutorials with Maurice Bowra, of whom Isaiah Berlin was to say in eulogy:



George Steer with Emperor Haile Selassie.

"He supported all libertarian causes, particularly minorities seeking freedom or independence, the more unpopular the better". I wondered if Steer's support for Ethiopians, Basques, Finns and Burmese owed something to such influence.

With Judith Curthoys' help I also discovered that Steer helped found the Oxford University Africa Society early in 1931, dedicated to "subjects relating to the native peoples of Africa, their present condition and future development." (Steer was himself South African born, and his father managed the East London *Daily Dispatch*, the liberal newspaper that Donald Woods would later make famous). Five of the seven books George Steer wrote before his death as a soldier in West Bengal aged 35 were about Africa. He was indeed "a South African Englishman" as well as a member of the House.

*Telegram from Guernica: The Extraordinary Life of George Steer, War Correspondent* by Nicholas Rankin (1969) is published by Faber. Paperback version came out in March.



**Oxbridgelife** A new online networking service for anyone who has ever studied at the universities of Oxford and Cambridge

### OXBRIDGELIFE WERE SPONSORS OF THE HOUSE 2003 SUMMER BALL

Oxbridgelife is a new online networking service for anyone who has ever studied at the universities of Oxford and Cambridge. It connects both current students and experienced professionals within the Oxbridge community to further their academic, social and business interests.

We launched the site because we wanted to create a service that would bring together students and alumni and allow them to benefit

from one another's knowledge and connections. The Oxbridge community subdivides into many compartments: Oxford and Cambridge; the colleges; students and alumni; academic faculties; student societies and alumni organisations. Oxbridgelife provides a powerful communications tool that facilitates networking across and between these distinct groups, providing a one stop shop that has hitherto been lacking.

Membership numbers are growing rapidly and success stories from the site abound: formal hall swaps, common language speakers contacting each other and meeting, growing the numbers for a particular event – even finding a charming dinner date has become easier! Life just got that little bit more interesting...

View the website and register at [www.oxbridgelife.com](http://www.oxbridgelife.com), or if you have any questions please call Julia Barber on 0845 230 3306.

# *In this issue we hear from four old members involved in the automotive industry as they reflect on their time at the House and their subsequent careers.*

## *John Moore (1983)*

SIX SHINY NEW CHRIST CHURCH Engineers assembled for coffee after matriculation on a wet October day in 1983. Ahead of us were three years of mixed frenetic activity and indolence building towards a crescendo of cramming for Finals. Apart from a couple of papers on our third year engineering special topics, Finals seemed to be mostly maths. I can honestly say that in the subsequent 18 years working in some of the highest technology areas of the automotive industry I have never used any of this again.

During my third year I did the milk round and received a job offer from Ricardo – one of the top automotive engineering consultancies. This was conditional on my getting at least a 2:2

but when I mentioned this to my tutor, Peter Lund, he replied without hesitation, “That’s all right, John. I am very good at writing letters to explain that you must just have had a bad day when you took your finals.” Despite this encouragement and to my great surprise, I managed a 2:1 and was duly installed as a heavy-duty diesel engine development engineer.

From here I progressed through a range of disciplines to end up running the sales group for Ricardo’s vehicle and transmission engineering business. I tried a spell in manufacturing and as a self employed consultant before joining Lotus to provide the commercial lead to their research and technology group. I am now Head of Sales for Lotus Engineering but continue to interfere

in the technical aspects of Lotus work when my colleagues indulge me.

So what use was my time at Christ Church? Although the maths books have remained unopened, in fact I have used much of what I learnt many times over. This has had little to do with the detailed proof for some complex piece of control theory though.

My degree course has stood me in good stead, firstly through the broad content. In my work I need to be able to grasp the important issues in a wide range of technical areas from manufacturing processes to product



issues. Secondly, through the method of providing opportunity for learning rather than teaching, I had to learn how to acquire the essence of a topic rapidly and with limited support. This skill has been used by me and, I am sure, by all six of us who set out together in 1983. I am now the only one of us working in an engineering environment though.

## *Jim Cooper (1969)*

I CAME TO CHRIST CHURCH in October 1969, just a few weeks after Neil Armstrong’s landing on the Moon. It was a time of optimism. We believed we were at the best college at the best University. At registration in the laboratories, the tutor remarked there were two Harris’s from Christ Church – “Christ Church has two of everything, sir”.

We didn’t work particularly hard (although we were sure we worked harder than the non-scientists). We had interesting Chemistry tutors – Drs. Paul Kent, Richard Wayne and Raymond Dwek (from wise advice “a book only to be read in the bath on a wet Saturday afternoon”, to youthful enthusiasm).

Playing hockey on sunny afternoons, table tennis, badminton, squash, darts, dinner in Hall, hours playing bridge, JCR meetings, Monty Python, Bob Dylan, walking to the science labs, lunch at the Lamb and Flag.....

I became an accountant because I thought it would allow me to see all aspects of a business – fortunately I was right. The automotive component industry has provided constant change – buying and selling companies, reorganising to meet the downward pressure on prices, adapting to business conditions in emerging economies. Car manufacturers demand the same components of the same quality anywhere in the world, and suppliers must follow them into local markets. I have travelled extensively whilst helping establish new operations in, for example, Poland, Turkey, Brazil and China. The negatives – as accountants we receive too much criticism for poor financial results and too much praise for good ones. As a new accountant I didn’t know why accountancy was often

described as an art rather than a science – now I understand!

Three years ago I joined the MBI team at Nationwide Autocentres – a move to the “retail” end. The company repairs, MOT’s and services cars through 190 centres across the UK. I have exchanged Istanbul for Widnes and Princeton for Solihull.

As a Finance Director I need “an enquiring mind” - talking and questioning, collecting and analysing information, and contributing to decisions. Four years of Chemistry at Christ Church was an ideal preparation – but it would probably be a good preparation for almost anything.

How do I summarise the last thirty years? I haven’t holidayed on the Moon, I didn’t become an MP (although I only lost after a recount!) but I have a good family and an interesting job. As for failing to achieve all of my ambitions, my advice is to remember how the Italians described the turmoil of their rotating Governments – “the situation is hopeless, but it’s not serious”.



## Jonathan Eddolls (1999)

I CAME UP TO CHRIST CHURCH straight from school in 1999. Having come from a farming background, which naturally exposed me to a wide range of agricultural machinery gave me an interest in engineering from an early age, and there was never much doubt that it would be my preferred choice to read at university.

I was accepted to read Mechanical Engineering at Imperial College, London, but selected Oxford in preference because of the offer of a General Engineering course with the option of specialisation in the final years. At the age of 18, although I was fairly sure that I wanted to work in the automotive industry, I didn't want to commit to studying any particular genre of engineering so early on. The university course was fairly flexible, as I was able to choose from many options and with a fair degree of focus on my future career I effectively tailor-made my degree course to support my future career interests.

While studying, I did flirt with the idea of working in the aviation industry and I was also tempted by the idea of designing passenger cars, but ultimately I was turned off by the slow pace of development that was involved and the long lead times between ideas and reality, that are typical of both industries. A summer placement in

Formula One between my 2nd and 3rd years confirmed my love for the automotive industry, especially motorsport, and since then I haven't looked back. I was planning to read for a PhD at The House but I was lucky enough to land my dream job in Formula One with WilliamsF1 without any further study. I started work last summer, so I am still relatively new to the career, and possibly not yet fully conversant with the business. To the armchair fanatic who watches Formula One every other Sunday, it must seem like an industry built on glamour, but in truth there is plenty of honest commitment and hard work behind the scenes. Time swanning around in Monaco is left to the celebrity guests and in reality, as an engineer, I spend most of my time working well beyond the gaze of the cameras.

In my first two years at WilliamsF1, I am rotating throughout departments within the design office, spending time in the Stress Office, Electronics Research and Development, Vehicle Dynamics, Aerodynamics and the Drawing Office. Some of these placements will involve attendance at races and tests, but I have been assured that it is not as glamorous as it may appear on the television.

My time studying Engineering at Oxford helped immensely in securing

what is in effect, my dream job in Formula One and without the experience I feel I wouldn't be working where I am now. Oxford graduates have the advantage of having been taught to think logically, break complex problems down into smaller more manageable elements and to analyse information quickly, all of which is a perfect grounding for the pressurised engineering demands of Formula One – answers and solutions

must be produced quickly. My only criticism of my academic experience however would be the relative lack of connection between theory and its application to real vocational problems. As a consequence, it is not always easy to connect the principles being taught and its application in the real world. Having said that, my time at the House was something I will never forget, and I wouldn't have missed it for the world.



## Rajan Paramasivum (1994)

I STARTED AT CHRIST CHURCH in 1994 studying the somewhat general Engineering, Economics and Management Course. It was clear to me that I had always wanted to join the automotive industry – a fact driven home by the numerous rejections from management consultancies!

To date, my limited career experience of 6 years has been very much a case of meandering through the easiest options but somehow landing on my feet – I guess, in this sense it much resembles my time at Christ Church! I started at Rover in 1997 as part of a six month placement in my third year. Rover was a good company to join as a student – they had a good emphasis on training, the office atmosphere was very friendly

with some great characters and work almost seemed to take a back seat.

When I graduated from Christ Church the following year the easiest option was to return to Rover as a graduate trainee based in Oxford. I believe the change to BMW ownership in March 2000 happened at a good time for me. I guess I was starting to question the ambition within Rover as well as the professionalism despite the friendly atmosphere. The Oxford site has gone through an amazing amount of change, both physically and culturally. The learning curve that I have been on over the last 4 years has been incredible. Learning from the mistakes made over the last four years will be the biggest advantage – an opportunity that I probably would not have had, if I had

been working for an established car plant. It is only now, with the success of the MINI, that I feel Oxford is being accepted as a BMW plant.

As to whether Christ Church helped or hindered my career – I don't think it has had any effect. It helped that I was based in Oxford and therefore applied to Rover in the first place. However, once through the door, I haven't advertised the fact that I was at Christ Church and nor do I think it would have opened any more doors, had I done so. I feel the biggest help that Christ Church provided was the social element – getting a 2:2 but having a great time has not done my career any harm...obviously getting a first and having a great time wouldn't have done my career any harm either!



## A CHANCE MEETING AT A GAUDY AND ENCOUNTERS IN AFGHANISTAN: THE START OF MERLIN

TODAY FROM AFGHANISTAN TO LIBERIA, Iraq to the Congo, there are Merlin teams working carrying out emergency vaccination programmes, running clinics and working to rebuild the healthcare infrastructure of countries broken by conflict, earthquake or other disasters. It started ten years ago in a spare bedroom in London. From its very beginnings Merlin has benefited from the support, inspiration and encouragement of a number of people from Christ Church.

**Charles Ewald – 1979** helped write the mission statement and remembers the team that had recently returned from a mission to take emergency food supplies into besieged Sarajevo as “a mix of medics, mercenaries and minstrels.” The following mission involved an emergency vaccination in war torn Nagorno Karabakh, an Armenian enclave in a hostile Azerbaijan.

**Toby Porter – 1987** was responsible for logistics in Nagorno Karabakh and later wrote. ‘When I was first asked to join the mission I wasn’t sure where Karabakh was. Before I knew it I was curled up in the hold of a Russian transport plane bound for Erevan with 50 tonnes of equipment and medical supplies.....

....I shall never forget the people of Karabakh. For them, our work (a vaccination programme for children) is important but just as important is the fact that we are here at all. Operating in a war zone, we have seen some terrible things. ....

Despite the great suffering these people have gone through during five years of war, their first thought is not what they can get out of us, but what they can give.....’ Toby Porter is now Director of Emergencies with Save the Children.

The origins of Merlin go back to my time at Christ Church. With encouragement from **Tony Rees**, Tutor of Biochemistry and support from the Exploration Club, I had gone off to India to document how traditional medicine was being used alongside western medicine. I started in Dharamsala, in the foothills of the Himalayas. Here many Tibetan refugees continued to eke out a living having fled into India, the face of the Chinese invasion of Tibet 30 years earlier. Less than a week before, as a result of buying an extremely cheap ticket to India on Afghan Airways, I had stood in the airport of Kabul, witnessing the build up of Russian forces in Afghanistan, and the start of yet

another Central Asian invasion. Afghanistan was to prove to be a great influence.

Four years after that summer spent in Asia, I returned to Afghanistan this time with a French team working on a vaccination programme in the parts of the country controlled by the Mujedhedin. Our base was in Peshawar, in Pakistan where I came across a variety of friends from Christ Church working as relief workers or journalists – **James Reed 1981** and **James Blount 1977**.

The Mujedhedin and villagers helped run secret supply routes into the country and provided protection for the doctors, nurses and others who set off to work for months at a stretch from caves and huts hidden in the mountains. Strangers wherever we worked came to offer us whatever food they had, or the safety of a corner of their mosque to sleep in. It was striking how their concern was



Above: Liza Coghill was the first nurse to embark on a Merlin mission.

Left: Ailsa Denny takes a child in hand in the aftermath of the crisis in Rwanda.

Right: Cim Mellor at the helm.



Dr Clement and his staff bring a patient into the field hospital on a make shift stretcher during the war in Liberia last year.



Above: Nicholas Mellor returns from his first mission in Afghanistan. He is on the far left. Bernard Kouchner who was the founder of Medecins sans Frontieres is in the centre.

Right: Toby Porter drinks a mug of tea whilst sheltering in a cellar during an Azeri bombardment.

Left: Nicholas Mellor investigating an outbreak of Lassa Fever in Sierra Leone.





*Vaccination of children in Afghanistan in 1987.*

not what they could receive from us, but what they could give. With little food, and epidemics normally prevented by vaccination, it was disease that was taking a much greater toll than the trauma of war. The most lasting impression was of the courage, dignity and hospitality of the people we lived amongst, and whose life we shared for a few months, before returning to the peace and stability of the world outside Afghanistan's borders.

The experience raised the question of whether more could be done to help such people in such places. I soon found other people who were keen to do more. Christopher Besse, with whom I set out for Bucharest during the revolution in Christmas of 1989 taking a vanload of surgical supplies, was one of them. It was a project that relied on support of another Christ Church member, **Cim Mellor 1941** who provided the logistics back up in the UK. The mission was arranged on the spur of the moment, lasted just two weeks, but it changed our lives.

Three years later we both found ourselves working in the Azerbaijan Province of Iran during the Kurdish Crisis that followed the first Gulf war. It was here we met Mark Dalton – a logistics expert who had spent much of his life working on relief operations, who also recognised the need. All three of us were humbled and inspired by the courage and resourcefulness of the people we were working with in Kurdistan.

A few years later, at a Gaudy in 1991, Cim Mellor met **Prof. Richard Wilson 1943** at midnight in the SCR. They had not seen each other since 1947.

*A vaccination programme in Northern Afghanistan.*



*Cim Mellor and the First VIII in 1946.*

Richard Wilson had recently returned from Moscow where he had co-chaired the first Andrei Sakharov conference on Human Rights. He had also been on a human rights mission to the Armenian Azerbaijan Border where he had faced down Azeri militia with his co-chair, Baroness Cox. Richard Wilson's enthusiastic support for the embryonic idea of a new emergency relief organisation that would work in such places, and his introduction to Baroness Cox made all the difference. Baroness Cox was to become a founding trustee when the three of us left our jobs to start Merlin in 1993.

Today 700,000 people benefit directly from Merlin's work around the world. The Merlin team spans 30 members of staff in our London HQ, around 100 expatriate workers and close to 1,200 local people who live and work in the 12 different countries where we operate. Since the beginning we have had programmes in more than 30 countries including Afghanistan, Chechnya, DR Congo, Kenya, East Timor, Honduras, Russia, Sierra Leone and Sudan.

We continue to try to provide a lifeline to the most vulnerable whose life may be endangered by conflict, disease or natural disasters; and to reach 'always a little further'.

Thank you to all those who have helped us already and anyone else who would like to provide support of any kind is welcome to contact me at [Nicholasmellor@dial.pipex.com](mailto:Nicholasmellor@dial.pipex.com)

**NICHOLAS MELLOR (1979)**

*An operation carried out in the cave in Afghanistan during the first mission in 1987.*



## *Year Representatives*

IN THE LAST EDITION OF CHRIST CHURCH Association News, Nick Alexander reported on an exciting new initiative launched by the Association, to create year representatives. Schemes like this have been developed most successfully by a number of other colleges. Year representatives are intended to disseminate information to and collate information from a group of their immediate contemporaries.

We contacted a small group of people who matriculated in the 1980s. We initially wanted to assess enthusiasm for the experiment and to ask if they felt it would be a good idea to organise an event for those who matriculated in that decade.

I am delighted to report that we had a reputable response and the first eight year reps are now in place. At the first meeting on 24th January in Christ Church it was agreed that we would organise a 1980s specific, 1920s themed evening with cocktails and dinner in Hall on June 26th. There will be a jazz band and, weather permitting, croquet in the Master's Garden. Please find enclosed booking form and further details.

Christ Church has never hosted a decade specific event like this before and we hope it will enable all those who matriculated during the 1980s to meet again, re-establish friendships and bring back memories of those wonderful undergraduate days in the House. Please support it.

It would be great to hear from you if you matriculated in the 1980s and would like to join the growing circle of year representatives. The more representatives we have, the better the scheme will be and the more we can do for you.

If you matriculated in the 1980s and have not already received a letter from one of the year representatives giving you more information about the event on the 26th June, please contact the Development Office.

We hope that the year representatives' initiative for the 1980s will be successful. In which case, it will be our intention to extend it to cover all years over time. Should you be interested in becoming a year representative, please let me know.

**SIMON OFFEN (1986)**  
[Simon.Offen@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:Simon.Offen@nationaltrust.org.uk)  
 Tel: 01296 653238

# Forthcoming Events

# Notices

## MAY/JUNE TRINITY TERM

25 April – 6 July 2004

23 April-29 July

### SAINTS AND HERMITS

Complementing the exhibition of Clive Hicks-Jenkins *The Temptations of Solitude* the Picture Gallery will show a thematically arranged group of drawings which explore artists' fascination with saints and hermits as well as the public demand for such themes.

5 May-13 June

### CLIVE HICKS-JENKINS – THE TEMPTATIONS OF SOLITUDE

The Welsh artist Clive Hicks-Jenkins was inspired in his new works by the fragments of *Scenes from the Lives of Hermits* (Tuscan School) – some of them housed in Christ Church Picture Gallery. After being exhibited in the Museum of Modern Art, Wales (Machynlleth) they will be shown in Christ Church Picture Gallery.

19 May

4.00 pm – BBC Choral Evensong

21 May

8.00 pm – The Copenhagen Royal Chapel Choir  
Tickets available 0870 750 0659

22 May

Degree Day

26-29 May

Summer Eights

## JUNE

31 May,  
1, 3, 4 & 5 June

7.30 pm – Christ Church Dramatic Society perform *Daisy Pulls It Off* by Denise Deegan in the Master's Garden. Tickets available on the door.

12 June

Degree Day

15 June

6.00 pm – Evensong and 40th Anniversary of Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust

18 June

Boat Club Dinner.

20 June-8 August

### JEFF CLARKE – PAINTINGS, DRAWINGS, ETCHINGS

Christ Church Picture Gallery again welcomes an exhibition of works by Jeff Clarke which focuses predominantly on his recent still-life subjects, drawn from around the artist's Oxford studio.

24 June

Gaudy (for all who matriculated up to and including 1946)

26 June

Christ Church Association AGM and Summer Event  
Christ Church Association – 1980s Reunion – Dinner in Hall (1920s style)

## JULY

12 July

6.00 pm – Visiting Choir – St Hilda's School

16 July

7.30 pm – Concert – English Chamber Orchestra – Mozart Requiem  
(Tickets may be purchased on the door)

19-20 July

6.00 pm – Visiting Choir – St Petri, Hamburg

25 July

6.00 pm – Visiting Choir – St Bartholomew

31 July-7 November

### FACES

The history of Christ Church can be followed through the accumulation of portraits of its great and mighty. However, the permanent collection of drawings is also rich in portraits and faces. The summer show in the Picture Gallery will concentrate on some outstanding drawings of anonymous and idealised, real and fictional faces.

## AUGUST

7 August

8.00 pm – Concert – Cathedral Singers (Tickets may be purchased on the door)

26-29 August

6.00 pm – Visiting Choir – Collegium Vocale

## SEPTEMBER

12 September

6.00 pm – Evensong and Diocesan Pilgrimage

13 September

Historic Churches Cycle Ride

15 Sept-31 October

### JAPANESE ZEN CALLIGRAPHY

The Zen Master Professor Tanchu Terayama presents his private collection of Zen calligraphy at Christ Church Picture Gallery. In the first week of the exhibition Professor Terayama will give workshops in Christ Church as well as in the Ashmolean Museum. The Zen drawings will be counterposed with drawings from the Picture Gallery's collection, to compare the eastern and western art of drawing.

16 September

7.30 pm – Alpha Service

## OCTOBER

1 October

Gaudy (1976-1979)



Albrecht Dürer  
*St Jerome in his study*  
(detail)



Clive Hicks-Jenkins  
*The Temptations of Solitude*



Andrea del Verrocchio  
*Head of a young woman*

### CONTACTS AND OPENING HOURS:

#### Picture Gallery:

1 April – 30 September  
Mon-Sat 10.30am-5.00pm  
Sun 2.00pm-5.00pm

1 Oct – 31 March  
Mon-Sat 10.30am-1.00pm  
2.00pm-4.30 pm

For further information  
please contact:

#### Christ Church Picture Gallery

Christ Church  
Oxford  
OX1 1DP

Tel: 01865 276172  
Fax: 01865 202 429  
Email:  
picturegallery@chch.ox.ac.uk

Chaplain:  
Revd Ralph Williamson  
Tel: 01865 276236

Steward's Office:  
Tel: 01865 276174

Cathedral Office:  
Tel: 01865 276154

Japanese Zen calligraphy

### SISTER BRONWEN HUNTLEY

There is a splendid new bench in the Masters' Garden which is in memory of Sister Bronwen Huntley who died in 1999. She was the first nurse to be appointed to an Oxford college and served as the nursing sister in the House from about 1937 to 1956. Sister Huntley's nephew, John Temple (1955), who arranged the collection for her memorial, would like to thank all who contributed.



### 'LOST OLD MEMBER WIN A BOTTLE OF PORT' COMPETITION

Many thanks to all those who helped us with our search for lost old members in the last edition of Christ Church Matters. The five winners of a bottle of port are: Mary Orr, Fiona Rice, David Leadley, Harriet Spence, David Ricks

### ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 26 June 2004 at 12 noon

The next AGM of the Association will take place at Christ Church at 12 noon on 26 June as part of this year's Christ Church Association Summer Event [see attached information and booking form].

It is hoped that as many members as possible will attend in order to give us your views on what the Association is and should be doing. In particular we welcome your thoughts on the Year Representatives Scheme and whether you believe that it should be extended to cover all years, and not just those who matriculated at Christ Church in the 1980s.

We will also be electing members to the Committee. John Ellison is standing for re-election having already served an initial 3 year term, working closely with Tony Burden on the careers advice front. We are delighted that he is happy to continue his membership of the Committee.

Sadly, this year we say goodbye to James Ross, Jonathan Heller and Peter Bebb, who have provided much support to the Association during their years on the Committee. Jonathan has agreed to continue co-ordinating the summer placement scheme on an ex officio basis.

As a result, there are a number of places available on the Committee and please do let us know if you are interested in joining.

The Agenda for the meeting will be:

- 1 Approval of the Minutes of AGM held on 20 September 2003
- 2 Report on Activity 2003-2004
- 3 Financial Report
- 4 Election of Chairman and Re-election and election of Committee Members
- 5 Open discussion on Year Representatives Scheme
- 6 Development Director's Report
- 7 AOB

We look forward to seeing you there.