

Sundial

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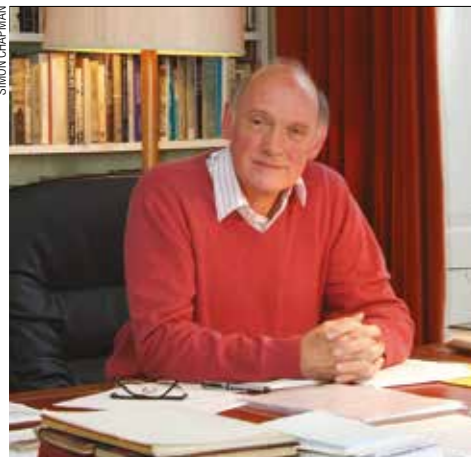
New arrival

Professor
Jeff McMahan

Welcome

From the President

Professor Richard Carwardine FBA



At the end of another Trinity Term I find myself reflecting on the rich diversity of experience that our students successfully squeeze into a mere eight weeks. Old Corpuscles will know at first hand how extra-curricular opportunities, some more physically demanding than lounging with a glass of Pimm's in hand, play a conspicuous part in the rhythm of the summer. But so, too, does the more private intensity of academic work and preparing for end-of-year exams.

This summer has been no different. If our oarswomen and men didn't produce the heady successes of last year, they gave those watching from the Corpus boathouse much to cheer on Eights Week Saturday, as the Women's boat 'bumped up' and the Men's Eight grittily held off the challenge of closing-in crews. Old and current Corpuscles provided their customary entertainment at the annual Clock Match, and our musicians and thespians did their bit for the College's cultural life. In particular, our Choristers served us proud when they performed as the guest choir for a service of Evensong in Christ Church Cathedral. And, unsurprisingly, less energetic students were lured by the long summer evenings into croquet beneath the copper beech.

Then, too, there was the annual Tortoise Fair. The crowds who packed the College grounds could not but notice the swelling of proud Corpus chests – and of the coffers of the JCR's chosen charities – as Fox reclaimed the victor's title that he had been forced to surrender last year (when the President had been impelled to disqualify him for assaulting other contestants). On this occasion, the now muscle-bound and over-trained defending champion – Zoom of Worcester College – proved a mere caricature of his former self, while

the other competitors, representing a dozen or so colleges, simply couldn't master the slippery underfoot conditions with the same panache as our adaptable, cunning and (this time) scrupulously well-behaved Fox. The JCR's Keeper of the Tortoise could be heard cooing with delight.

For most students, of course, these diversions were a mere hinterland to preparing for Preliminary and Final examinations. It is too soon to report on our position in this year's Norrington Table (which, it must be said, is a less significant measure than it once was), but not too early to congratulate all 66 Finalists and make special mention of the 23 who secured Firsts. With 35% in the highest class, this one of the College's best ever outcomes. Within this collective achievement there have been several outstanding individual successes. Corpus students took the Charles Oldham Shakespeare Prize; the Weiskrantz Prize, for outstanding performance in Psychology; the Wronker Prize for Administrative Law; the Law Faculty Prize in Media Law; the Comparative Philology Prize; the Dean Ireland Prize, for the highest overall average mark in Classics; and the Arnold Ancient History Prize. Another won a Gibbs Prize for the best First in Biological Sciences. Two Finalists in English Literature were placed in the top five of that large School. Especially heartening were the results secured by students whose ill health had forced them to interrupt their studies, but who triumphantly overcame that disadvantage to take Firsts.

As I write, this year's Finalists are preparing for one or other of the Graduation Ceremonies in the Sheldonian Theatre. I well know the excitement and pride that charge these occasions, having recently had the pleasure of presiding myself, as a jobbing Pro-Vice-Chancellor. The overdue change in arrangements to give graduands the opportunity to take their degrees within weeks of their exams – the civilized norm in other universities – makes the event all the more special for them and their families. It is (to revert to the sentiment of my opening sentence) yet one more event to be squeezed into the busiest time of year – but much the better for that!

With my best wishes,

Richard Carwardine

Sundial

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Research

Dr Paul Dellar

Fellow and Tutor in Applied Mathematics

Dr Dellar joined the College as a Glasstone Fellow and Junior Research Fellow in 2001, left in 2004 to a lectureship at Imperial College, London and returned as a Fellow and Tutor in Applied Mathematics in 2007.

Dr Paul Dellar primarily works on numerical algorithms for fluid dynamics and other physical systems inspired by the kinetic theory of gases. Fluids are usually described by partial differential equations that treat them as continuous, infinitely divisible media, or by computer programs based on these equations. However, real fluids are made up of molecules, each of which behaves according to Newton's laws of motion. Newton's laws are much simpler than the continuous partial differential equations, but there are so many molecules, roughly 10^{19} in a cubic centimetre of air, that one replaces a handful of complicated equations with an intractably vast number of simple equations.

Kinetic theory describes the passage from Newton's laws to fluid dynamics through a statistical treatment of populations of many interacting particles, commonly idealised as colliding hard spheres or billiard balls. The continuous fluid equations are remarkably insensitive to details of the molecular model, provided it satisfies very reasonable qualitative properties.

Collisions between particles must preserve the number of particles, their total energy, and their total momentum, while causing the statistical distribution of particles to approach a thermodynamic equilibrium. The molecular model must be sufficiently insensitive to rotations or translations in space. Surprisingly, all these conditions are met by a 'cartoon' model in which populations of molecules are confined to move between vertices of a regular cubic lattice like a salt crystal.

Collisions between molecules may be modelled by a linear relaxation of their populations towards a discrete form of thermodynamic equilibrium. The derivation of fluid dynamics from this greatly simplified model follows exactly the same steps, and yields exactly the same end result, as starting from Newton's laws. The simplified model is ideally suited to numerical simulation, especially on modern massively parallel computer hardware.

Paul is most interested in developing this discrete kinetic approach to simulate new physical systems such as magnetic fields in electrically conducting fluids. Maxwell's equations specify that the magnetic field in a small volume of space changes according to the flux of an antisymmetric quantity though the boundary of this volume, while the analogous relation for the change in momentum involves a symmetric quantity. The kinetic theory of spherical particles produces the latter, but cannot produce the former. Instead, Paul introduced a kinetic model for populations of small bar magnets that move, collide, and change orientation on a cubic lattice.

The resulting algorithm has been adopted by the US Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency as a benchmark to stimulate improvements in high performance computing. He has since shown that, although originally designed for fluids moving much more slowly than light, this algorithm in fact encompasses the full set of Maxwell's equations and supports electromagnetic wave propagation. As a result of forming links with the nearby Culham Centre for Fusion Energy, he has also extended it to provide more accurate descriptions of fusion plasmas. The magnetic forces on charged particles in a plasma lead them to trace

out spirals of small radii around magnetic field lines, so sufficiently strong magnetic fields will confine a plasma. However, the same effect also suppresses the transport of momentum across magnetic field lines by collisions between particles, leading to an altered relation between stress and strain rate, and very different behaviour from the standard model of an electrically conducting fluid in which this relation is taken to remain unaffected by the magnetic field.

Paul also works on atmospheric, oceanic, and planetary fluid dynamics. Fluid motions at these large scales are dominated by the Coriolis force due to the planet's rotation, so weather forecasts show the winds flowing along pressure contours instead of from high pressure to low pressure. He has pioneered the full treatment of the Coriolis force in the ubiquitous shallow water models for such flows. With former Corpus DPhil student Dr Andrew Stewart, now an assistant professor at the University of California, Los Angeles, he has shown that the previously neglected part of the Coriolis force interacts with the measured undersea surface topography to enhance the flow across the equator of deep ocean water from Antarctica that later rises in the Caribbean to form the Gulf Stream.



College Faces

► **Our Bursar**
reflects on the challenges
facing Corpus

John Harrison
Bursar

Navigating the future

John Harrison has been Bursar at Corpus for 4 years. We asked him to reflect on the present day challenges which face an Oxford College, and Corpus in particular.

Now that you have been at Corpus for 4 years, what are the things that you have come to value about it?

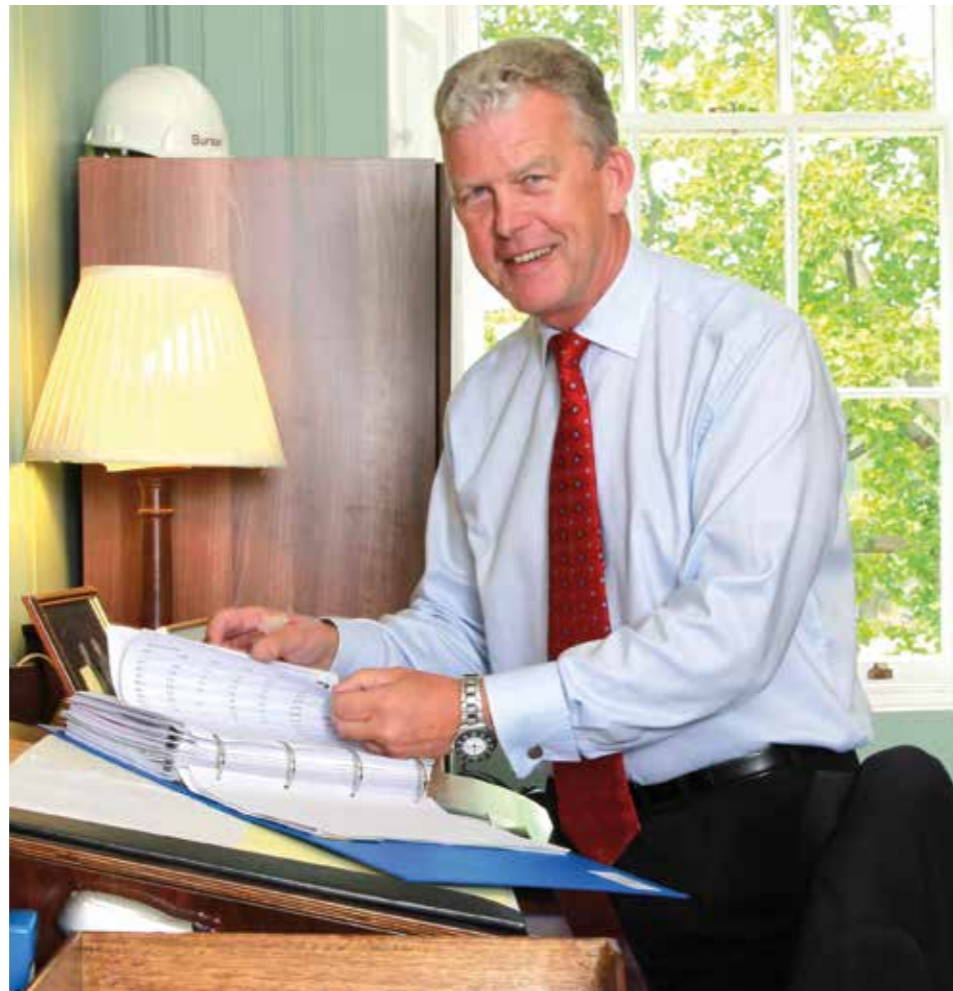
Initially I was attracted to Corpus by its size, the elegant simplicity of its buildings, and its very clear sense of being different. As I have got to know the place, and more importantly its people, my sense of that difference and the extent to which it creates an environment that is at once challenging, inspirational and yet humane, is what remains attractive to me.

What are the challenges you see in the immediate months and years ahead?

Typically, as the Bursar, you would expect me to discuss finances. So in order not to disappoint I will focus upon the shift in government policy in respect of research and higher education funding. Here the changes already in place and proposals for the future of higher education are creating an ever greater reliance on the College endowment to underwrite the way we choose to conduct our research, deliver tutorial based learning, and the added value of a College based community. The great challenge now is to ensure that our husbandry of the endowment to support these high goals is innovative and timely. A failure to respond to the new reality would be a mistake that we, and subsequent generations, cannot afford.

How do you plan to put Corpus on a firm financial footing, in order to protect it from some of the vicissitudes that may be over the horizon?

The answer to this follows on from your previous question. My focus is firmly upon the endowment and its management so that we maximise the performance of all our assets, whether land, buildings, or the fully panoply of contemporary investment asset classes. As a result, Corpus now has a globally diversified portfolio that exploits the full range of investment opportunities. None should doubt that this approach requires much more of our Fellows as trustees as they must now become familiar with an inherently more complex and volatile investment environment. This takes time, effort, and much hard work to diligently and thoughtfully consider opportunities and the risk / reward



INCK/READ

balance that must be struck. In this work we are particularly fortunate in enjoying the selfless assistance of several gifted alumni who bring their commercially honed expertise to our Investment Committee. This spirit of engagement with those Corpuscles who can assist the College in navigating the future is, I believe, an increasingly indispensable reality that we must pay attention to. Their help may be in the form of professional advice, guidance, insight, sponsorship or simply tax efficient giving. Our efforts to bolster the Development team and to launch a comprehensive and ambitious 2017 campaign stand as testimony to this focus, although the intent must now be matched by results.

I should perhaps say a little about the status of the endowment and how it matches the current funding challenge. Firstly, the good news, we have been able to ride out the storm of the recent crash and grow the core of the endowment. In 2008 the endowment had suffered in the crash and stood at circa £58 million, following an

unprecedented period of realignment and activity by the Investment Committee, and some luck, our recent valuations of the endowment sit at £125 million. Whilst this new total demonstrates an impressive growth we must all recognise that routine return levels have now established at well below the double-digit numbers of the last decade. As a result, the revenue return to support our annual operating costs has not been doubled, and in consequence we have been increasing our efforts to control costs. Most significant in this context has been the aggressive programme of reconstruction and acquisition that has enhanced the quality and sustainability of our living accommodation. Completing this work is made all the more challenging, as much of our estate is Grade I listed and was conceived long before carbon taxation or any conceptions of sustainability. The not so good news is that our capacity to match in year costs and aspirations is now being routinely challenged, so that we must approach the planning of each year with care.

“
My role is to do what I can to enable future generations to revel in the opportunities Corpus presents.”

Do you think you would have enjoyed being at Corpus as an undergraduate?

That is a difficult question to answer, not least because I now see the world through optics that I reluctantly have to admit belong to a middle aged man. However, I do see around me people free to engage in a process of thought, discovery, learning and empowerment that is immensely potent and a privilege that I hope they enjoy to the full. My role is to do what I can to enable future generations to revel in the opportunities that Corpus presents, and to take immense satisfaction in seeing how Corpuscles, suitably embellished by their time here, can go out into the world and make a difference. Returning to your question; I was once an undergraduate and fear I enjoyed it a little too much, although that is a retrospective judgement from the middle aged end of the telescope. At the time it seemed perfectly reasonable and fun!

If money were no object, what is the one change or innovation that you would introduce?

If I could wave a magic wand, I would have delivered all of our New Library aspirations and a complete renovation and rejuvenation of College so that it is fully fit to face the challenges of the next 500 years. As far as I can tell, in setting down his aspirations for Corpus, Bishop Fox was an agile thinker who contemplated the future, informed by but not constrained by the past; I think we would do well to imitate his approach as we deal with our present and plan for the future.

How do you see Corpus playing its part as a good citizen in Oxford?

I think Corpus has led the way in many respects, despite its size. We have been very engaged and remain so with the City and across the University. Our initiatives at Hogacre Common Eco Park, our former sports ground, where the community can meet to explore and understand sustainability and ecological issues stand as a fine example of our commitment. We are also contemplating a major initiative in enabling the Oxford flood relief channel, which may transit college land. We have put forward proposals that, if accepted, could very significantly reduce the projected £100 million bill. None can doubt the need to protect this great City and its potential so our work with planners on this project is very exciting.

The Dial

Reunion

Gaudy for 1993-95

Friday 20 March 2015

Eighty-five Old Members, who matriculated between 1993 and 1995, arrived for tea and cake and viewed with interest an exhibition on the progress of the New Library Project and a film entitled *The Treasures of Corpus*, which focuses on a few of our remarkable medieval manuscripts and early printed books. Drinks and dinner were followed by a nostalgic trip to the Beer Cellar with former triumphs relived on the darts board and over table footy.

Oxford University Reunion in Vienna

Friday 24 – Sunday 26 April

A group of seventeen Old Members and their partners, including the President, went to Vienna in April for the Oxford University European Reunion. The weather was glorious and Vienna was welcoming and easy to navigate. The weekend started with a drinks reception on the Friday evening for all attendees in the magnificent 19th-century Rathaus (City Hall). On the Saturday, the University presented an academic programme in the Orangery of the 18th-century Palace of Schönbrunn. This included diverse topics such as the conflict in Ukraine and the music of early 20th-century Vienna. On Saturday night, twelve Old Members and their partners enjoyed a very traditional Viennese dinner at the Zum Weissen Rauchfangkehrer Restaurant (The White Chimney Sweep). This happy event was enhanced by an indefatigable pianist who played charmingly throughout the evening. On Sunday, the Corpus group reassembled at the Kunsthistorisches Museum for a fabulous brunch in the Cupola Hall. In between sampling the delicious food, we were able to explore the superb collections of 16th and 17th-century art and Greek and Roman antiquities.

Gaudy for 1996-98

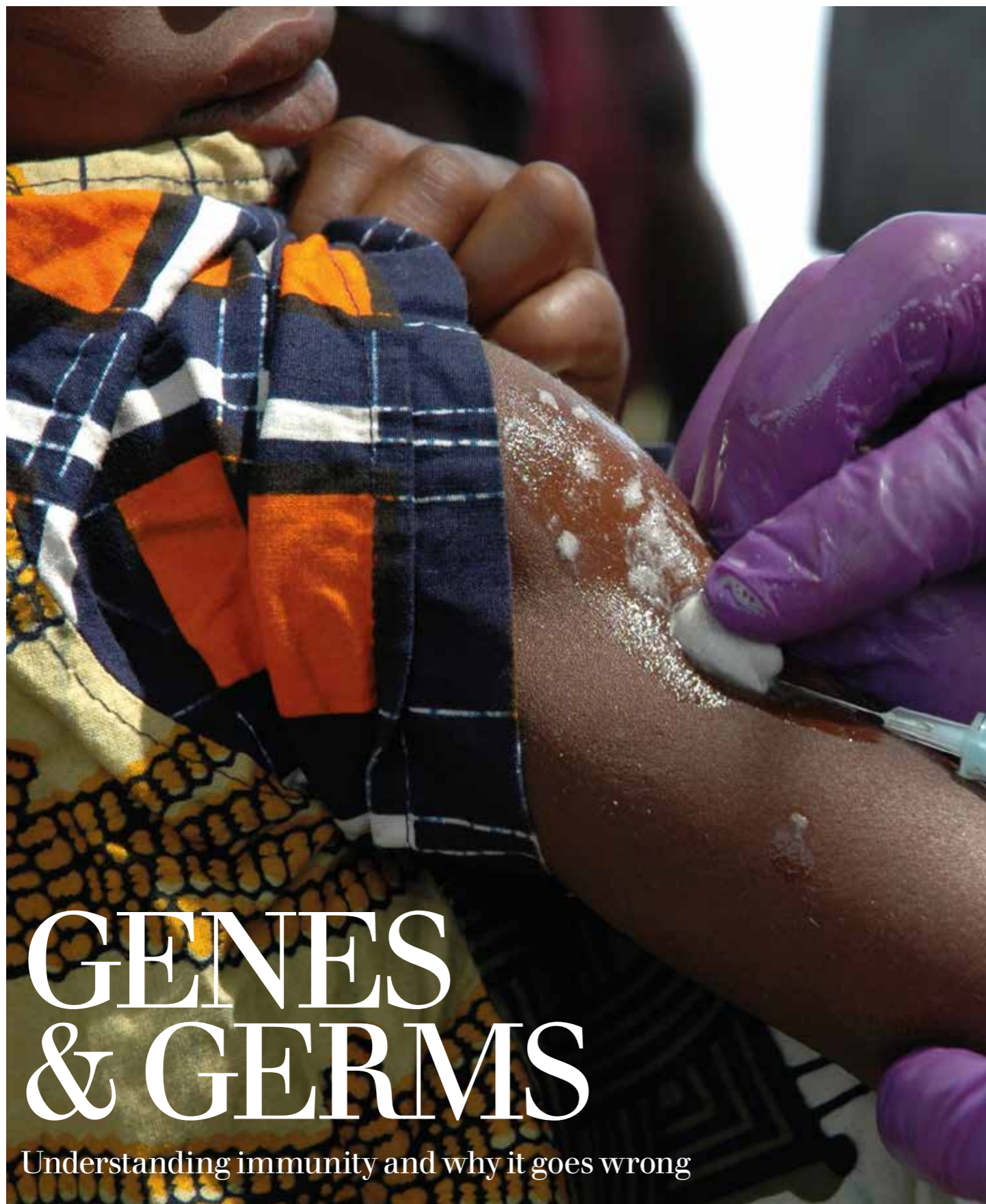
Friday 26 June

Sixty-nine Old Members started their Gaudy with tea and a display of the plans for the New Library. Attendees then viewed an exhibition of paintings of the College by Ceri Allen (former artist in residence at Corpus) in the Auditorium Foyer. Evensong, drinks and dinner ensued and the revelries continued into the small hours.



Research

Richard Cornall
MRC Human Immunology Unit



GENES & GERMS

Understanding immunity and why it goes wrong

Our immune system is made up of billions of immune cells called lymphocytes, whose primary function is to kill pathogens. These cells are continuously being produced in the bone marrow (B lymphocytes) and thymus (T lymphocytes) and circulate through our bodies until most commonly they die after a few weeks from ageing. Each lymphocyte expresses a unique receptor, generated by the rearrangement of DNA, that enables it to detect a specific set of molecules termed antigens. By chance some lymphocytes have receptors for foreign antigens that are unique parts of the molecular makeup of infectious organisms.

When these rare lymphocytes bind a foreign antigen during an infection, they receive a signal to multiply and destroy the infectious agent; and when some of the antigen specific cells persist they provide an 'immunological memory', which is what happens when we are immunised. The generation of different lymphocyte receptors is done at random because otherwise the infectious agents would find a way to develop resistance, just as they do in response to antibiotics. However, because the process is random, it is inevitable that sometimes lymphocytes will develop with receptors for self-antigens – in other words, they will react with molecules in our own bodies.

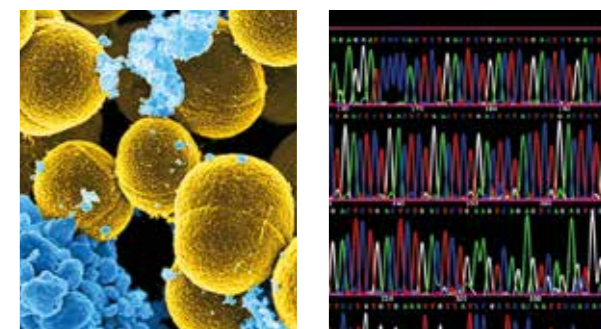
The aims of our research are to understand how lymphocytes are generated and to understand how the process normally prevents the 'friendly fire' caused by self-reactivity. Breakdown in this process leads to 'autoimmune disease', such as insulin dependent diabetes mellitus (caused by lymphocytes attacking the insulin producing cells of the pancreas) or rheumatoid arthritis (caused by lymphocytes attacking the cartilage of the joints). In the lab, we want to understand why some people are more susceptible to autoimmune disease, and conversely why some people are more susceptible to pathogens; and we want to use our knowledge to design new treatments.

The study of people with inherited forms of autoimmune disease or immune deficiency is proving a powerful way to identify the factors that normally prevent disease and new drug targets. Rapid technological advances since 2004, when the complete human genome was published, allow us to decode a person's code quickly and cheaply. This is an exciting area of research with very large contributions within Oxford University. For example, much of the mathematics required to analyse complex DNA codes was developed in the Wellcome Trust Centre for Human Genetics, where we work. The next generation of DNA sequencing devices using nanopore technology is also being pioneered in the Department of Chemistry.

Using this technology, we have been able to identify a series of DNA mutations, which change the code for proteins affecting lymphocyte development and function. For example, in the last year we have been studying one family with mutations in an intracellular metal transporter, which is uniquely important for B lymphocyte development, and another with mutations in DNA-modifying proteins cause inherited autoimmune disease. These studies involve our collaborations



... we want to understand why some people are more susceptible to autoimmune disease, and conversely why some people are more susceptible to pathogens ...



OPPOSITE PAGE: Improving Immunity: better vaccines
The design of more effective vaccines depends upon better understanding of how lymphocytes attack pathogens
THIS PAGE, TOP: Richard Cornall
LEFT: The normal function of the immune system is to provide immunity against infection, illustrated here where lymphocytes (in blue) are attacking bacteria (yellow). Sometimes, however, our immune cells attack our own bodies, causing autoimmune disease
RIGHT: Advances in DNA sequencing are about to drive a revolution in immunology, allowing us to link genes to immune function

with clinicians from around the UK, including major centres for child health in Newcastle and Bristol.

Of course, one of the difficulties in studying the mechanisms of disease in patients is the limited access to tissue samples; and this is coupled to the fact that many of the people we want to help have already received disease-modifying treatments, sometimes including bone transplants. Therefore, we need to use model systems to study how these mutations cause defects. Genetically identical inbred strains of mice are a key tool for understanding how mutations affect lymphocyte regulation. In the case of the metal transporter, for example, the introduction of a single base change identical to the human mutation, recapitulates B cell deficiency in a mouse. This approach makes it possible to study B lymphocyte development and the response to foreign antigens in great detail.

Finally, we are using the information gathered in our study of autoimmune diseases to develop a series of antibody-based therapeutics. These antibodies will reduce the immune response in human disease by activating the inhibitory receptors on lymphocytes. We are pursuing this project with Professor Simon Davis, who is another member of the Corpus SCR.

The Big Picture

A photographic record Refurbishment of the New and Jackson Buildings

The project to refurbish the New and Jackson Buildings has been three years in the making and seeks to match contemporary student expectations with modern levels of sustainable energy use. This will include the provision of en-suite facilities to most rooms and the creation of a new courtyard with an outdoor stage and performance area. Great attention has been lavished upon the selection of materials that honour the vision of Powell and Moya, the original architects, even though the building was not formally listed. Practical work on site started in January this year and remains on time and budget, with completion set for June 2016. The project has been funded by the sale of surplus accommodation across the city that did not meet the modern standards of amenity and energy efficiency set by the College.



NICK READ

Rowing

CORPUS ROWERS PUT ON A DETERMINED SHOWING

Alexandra Smith
President, Corpus Christi College Boat House

Unlike last year's Summer Eights campaign, when we had four boats racing, we struggled to fill our women's first boat this year. We had only a small number of new recruits from the fresher body, while many of our more experienced crew members were involved in Finals. However, after much persuasion, we managed to get a full eight together. The men had less of a struggle owing to a larger intake of freshers, but even so could only field a single crew.

On the Wednesday, M1 fought hard to hold off Somerville who, in turn, were trying to escape a very quick Queen's boat. Two years ago, Corpus M1 had bumped Queen's on the final day of Summer Eights, winning blades (and giving them spoons). Last year Queen's chased Corpus for all four days, until Corpus caught Somerville on the final day. This year, Somerville knew that their only chance of not getting bumped was to catch Corpus first and though they set off quickly they quite suddenly lost energy and slowed right down just out of the gut, allowing M1 a comfortable row over. On Thursday, Queen's unfortunately caught the Corpus boat. Things looked worse still when we were caught again on Friday, this time by St Hugh's. However, on Saturday, M1 managed to dodge a very determined New College II crew, weaving away from their bow right up until the finish line; wonderful coxing meant that our crew was able to deny New II their blades, which was in its own way very satisfying!

Back to Wednesday and W1 were being chased by an incredibly quick Linacre (and indeed Torpids blades-winning) crew, with a couple of substitutions allowed to add in their OUWBC members. Unfortunately, this rather threw us and, even though our boat had caught up to within only a quarter of a length of Wadham II on Thursday, the girls panicked a bit when Brasenose put on a burst of speed behind them and W1 were bumped again. That the steering broke moments before the bump, meaning that we could not dodge out of the way of Brasenose, did not help! On Friday, Corpus held off LMH and rowed over: the feeling of "Yes, no spoons!" was wonderful! Finally and to great satisfaction, on Saturday we managed to finish what we'd started, bumping Wadham II as they came out of the gut. This means that Corpus W1 is now ahead of all the second boats. It was the only bump by a Corpus crew during the whole campaign and thus a cause for celebration, rowing-style, with two bottles of Cava being poured over the women's crew and the stroke and cox both ending up in the river.

Overall, the Summer Eights campaign wasn't quite as successful as our amazing last few years have been but given our limited number of rowers we were happy to avoid spoons and have great hopes of regaining our lost places next year.



Contacts

Golf: Development Office
01865 276738

Upcoming sports events

The Varsity Match – 10 December
The Intercollegiate Golf
Tournament – 15 April

SPORTS SHORTS

Our current Blues talk about their various disciplines and achievements.

Athletics

Imogen Gosling (History)

I have always enjoyed running and started competing in cross country races at the age of ten. I decided to get involved in competitive running at Oxford during Trinity, when the cross country club merges with the athletics club. I therefore began to run on the track for the first time this term. I found running over shorter distances more intense and tactically very different; I have come to enjoy the discipline of track running and find the variety in training sessions stimulating. I was delighted to be selected for the Varsity Seconds for 1500m. University athletics has been a great experience and I am much looking forward to continuing training with the cross country club next term.

Golf

Gustaf Behmer (Materials Science)

It has been an exciting three terms for golf, at both University and College level. Corpus narrowly won coppers with Exeter finishing in second place. Overall the season was successful at University level as well. We played some wonderful courses and the season's matches were useful preparation for the Varsity Match at Hoylake. The conditions were fantastic and Oxford came out ahead by 4-1 after the foursomes. In the end we won with 9-6 making it the sixth year in a row that Oxford have overwhelmed our Fenland foes. In the Trinity term I was elected captain by the golf committee. As far as I am aware it makes me the fifth Blues golf captain from Corpus in the last 50 years, a proud College record.

Pentathlon

Hugo Fleming (Psychology)

Modern Pentathlon has a long and proud Olympic history, having been devised by Pierre de Coubertin shortly before the outbreak of WW1. The five disciplines – running, swimming, target shooting, fencing and show-jumping (on an unfamiliar horse no less) – were intended to test the qualities of an ideal soldier of the day. I first got involved at the age of

nine and now, ten years later, I am proud to have represented Oxford in the 2015 Varsity match, where we won a clean-sweep of all four team events. Even better, having exceeded the requisite standard, I was awarded my first Blue.

Rugby Fives

Henner Petin (Classics)

"It's a bit like squash, only that you don't have the racket, so you have gloves and you have to be pretty much ambidextrous". "Hmm, I've never heard of that before. Is it a solely English sport?" "Yes, that is quite so". This is usually how the conversation goes when I tell my German friends that I play Rugby fives. I myself had never heard about this unique sport before I came to an English school at the age of sixteen. But when I got the chance to play, I came to love it and so I was glad that the Rugby fives club at the University welcomed newcomers at all levels of ability. The 'Beavers' – as the lowest division of players for the University team is called – soon became a good basis for me to continue training. After my first year, which included the annual Varsity match against Cambridge as the highlight, I am now keen to work my way slowly up the ranks of the team.

Tennis

Angus Nicholson (Classics)

Tennis has always been such a big part of my life and I knew I would continue to play, even when I started at Oxford. Throughout the first two terms there are sessions and matches which mean that come the key Trinity term, one's eye is truly in. The teams are extremely close, there is a strong sense of unity and I am quite sure that this increases our success on court. The best evidence of this was that in an almost unprecedented show of dominance, the Tabs were well and truly shoed, with all four men's teams winning their Varsity matches. The Blues team won Varsity for the first time in nine years, and my team, the Seconds, won 17-4, a margin Oxford has not achieved since time immemorial. It is a supremacy which I hope will continue for the years to come!

Golf

ALUMNI GOLF



The annual intercollegiate golf tournament was held on 17 April at Frilford Heath Golf Club, near Abingdon with twenty colleges taking part. The Corpus team was in some disarray because one of our regular players, Simon Morrell (PPE, 1978), had sadly and very unexpectedly died on 4 April at the age of 55. His life was remembered by family and close friends at Corpus on 6 May.

Regrouping to an extent for the next event, the Hardie Golf Tournament against St Edmund Hall at Huntercombe on 16 June, the turnout from Corpus for this annual competition was a little disappointing. However, the weather was perfect and the golf course looked beautiful. Despite some determined and skilful play from Corpus, St Edmund Hall won by a narrow margin.

The Corpus Papers 05

Those familiar with the history of Corpus Library will know of the 1589 catalogue, the earliest inventory of the books, both manuscript and printed, then kept in the Library.

In praise of cataloguing

Julie Blyth, Assistant Librarian, Corpus Christi College

Forthcoming in 2015, *The University and College Libraries of Oxford*, a new volume in the Corpus of British Medieval Library Catalogues, will reveal much about the extent, physical organization and character of each library collection, by identifying the texts listed in each catalogue and relating them where possible to surviving copies. Corpus will be represented by several listings, including the 1589 catalogue (which although not strictly 'medieval', contains a wealth of information about the first decades of the Library's existence). In this article, some books from the era of our earliest surviving catalogue will relate what they can about libraries and readers.

This copy of Chaucer (below left), printed in London in 1561, is one of a handful of London imprints in the 1589 catalogue, and was one of the first vernacular printed works to enter the collection. It was bequeathed by the fifth President Thomas Greneway (1520-1571), who, after the Founder, and the first President John Claymond, is the next largest donor of books listed in the 1589 catalogue. Greneway's bequest of some 70 books was contemporary in character and is significant for including the first works of Reformation theology to come into the Library, as well as literary works such as the Chaucer, which fell outside the academic curriculum. Greneway's generosity as a benefactor has been somewhat overshadowed by his personal reputation; his presidency of 1562-68 was plagued by bitter in-fighting, fuelled by allegations of theft, drunkenness, and immoral dealings with women. He scandalised other college members by reading a 'wicked book' by Boccaccio; perhaps this was the copy of *Genealogia deorum gentilium* (Venice, 1495) given to the Library by John Claymond, rather than the more notorious *Decameron* (if we ever had a copy of the latter, it has not survived). Arguably more interesting however than his taste for wine, women and bawdy song, is his taste in books. Artefacts of a man who demonstrably lived beyond his means, they can also bear witness to the character of the Library in Elizabethan times.

Thomas Greneway wrote his name on the title page of his Chaucer, and on his copy of Aulus Gellius' *Noctes Atticae* (Lyon, 1537; Δ .16.13). This simple act of recording ownership was by no means universal, and implies that an owner cared about their books as material possessions, in a scholarly milieu where the texts were of overriding, if not sole, importance. Somebody, possibly Greneway, also wrote the title across the fore-edge of the textblock, indicating that the book was stored upright, rather than lying flat, and with the spine toward the back of the shelf and the fore-edge facing out. During the first 70 years, the books within Corpus Library were stored flat, chained from their covers to sloping lectern desks. The lack of chain-staple marks at the lower edges of the boards on Δ .16.13 suggests that after the book had passed into institutional ownership in 1571, it was not chained to a lectern desk of the type then in use at Corpus. If the inscription on the fore-edge of the book was made by Greneway himself and was not a later addition by a librarian, it indicates that it was to aid Greneway in locating his books on his own shelves. Furthermore, if we accept that this hand is Greneway's own, it could tell us that other books, lacking clear marks of provenance, may also have belonged to him (see photo opposite).

The *Noctes Atticae* does not appear in the 1589 library catalogue, but was probably one of the *libri distribuendi*, books kept for circulation amongst



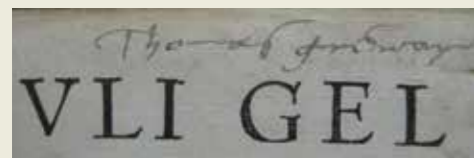
the fellowship and the undergraduate *discipuli*. This lending library was one of the requirements of the Foundation Statutes, in the tradition of medieval collegiate libraries. There is little documentary evidence of the contents of this collection, although it seems apparent that it had been merged with the main collection by 1604. At that time many improvements were made to the Library fabric, including the removal of the lectern desks and installation of the current book-presses providing upright shelving. As noted, the *Noctes Atticae* joined the main library collection after its rearrangement. Once housed on the upright book-presses it was chained from its upper fore-edge (the books were shelved fore-edge out, to enable the chains to hang freely).

The examination of surviving copies from the Tudor-era Library, in order to catalogue them, nudges us closer to its conceptual reconstruction. It provides the opportunity to make comparisons between books that are not usually feasible – the books are no longer on the shelves where they were in the 16th century, but are dispersed throughout the early printed collection. Now housed in twentieth-century strong rooms, they are not arranged by donor.

The work to fully record all the bibliographical details of our early printed books continues. Only about half of the collection is represented on SOLO (the online catalogue for Oxford's libraries). Here each record not only describes the text and provides access points for discovery, but also pays special attention to copy-specific features such as provenance, binding, and manuscript annotations. The theories these books confirm and the further questions they provoke are illustrative of the benefits and uses of library cataloguing, both within the confines of Corpus, and in a wider context. The publication of the 1589 catalogue gives us a valuable snapshot of the Library at a certain point in its history, and a tool for comparison with the library of today, as well as with other Oxford colleges. It also feeds into the richness of the modern electronic catalogue, both of them giving us new ways of discovering interesting things about old books.

For the background on Greneway's fiscal and moral incontinence, see Fowler, *The history of Corpus Christi College, with lists of its members* (Oxford, 1893) p. 110-123. The bindings on the majority of Greneway's surviving books are of distinctively high quality, and we hope to pay them further attention in a forthcoming item on the library webpage: www.ccc.ox.ac.uk/Behind-the-Bookpresses.

ABOVE, LEFT: shelfmarks Δ .16.13, LK.1.16 (item 92 in the 1589 catalogue) and LE.17.b.2 (item 365 in the 1589 catalogue)
 ABOVE, RIGHT: binding on *Noctes Atticae* (shelfmark Δ .16.13); the holes for the chain-plate are visible in the top-right corner
 OPPOSITE PAGE: (above): shelfmark Δ .12.6, item 369 in the 1589 catalogue 'Chaucerus Anglice'
 OPPOSITE PAGE: (below): Greneway's signature on Δ .16.13



Regulars & Fundraising



Library

Library book presses renovated

The College is very grateful to the two Old Members who have generously funded the renovation of two library book presses this summer. Honorary Fellow Professor George Smith, FRS (Materials 1961) has movingly sponsored a press overlooking the garden in the name of his beloved late wife Josie and has chosen a press where he spent much of his undergraduate library days. Mr Stuart Gardner (Maths, 1984) has kindly sponsored one of the presses overlooking the Front Quad. Both their gifts will eventually be recorded on the presses themselves.

Corpus Librarian Joanna Snelling says, "Without such beneficence, this essential renovation programme could not continue. The work is necessary to re-establish the stability of each press, and enable an aesthetic restoration of not just the presses, but also the accompanying 400 year old benches and window sills. The renovation work improves or replaces modern joinery repairs, as well as counteracting the general wear and tear that comes from the old library's popularity with the students." Sponsors are still required to support the work on the remaining eleven presses. Please contact the Development Office, if you would like to find out more about the book press renovation programme, and the cost of sponsoring a book press.

ABOVE: One of the newly renovated Library book presses

Junior Research Fellowship

Second Brock JRF joins Corpus

The College is delighted to announce that the second M.G. Brock History Fellow will be Dr Alex Middleton. Alex's BA, MPhil, and PhD were all earned from Pembroke College, Cambridge; he has been teaching in Oxford since 2012, first at Wadham College, and for the last two years at Lady Margaret Hall. His research deals with the structures of political argument in nineteenth-century Britain, and has focused so far on early Victorian debates about imperial government.

Alex says, "The Brock Fellowship represents a fantastic opportunity to broaden and deepen this work. While at Corpus I plan to complete a series of papers on Victorian political analysis and rhetoric, and to develop a new project on British attitudes towards other European empires during the late-Victorian age of 'high imperialism'. I am also looking forward to teaching Corpus undergraduates across a range of papers in modern British history, imperial history, and historical methodology."

The first Brock Junior Research Fellowship was funded through the generosity of Michael's former pupils and admirers. Donations are being sought to fund the second phase of this post. Details are available from the Development Office.

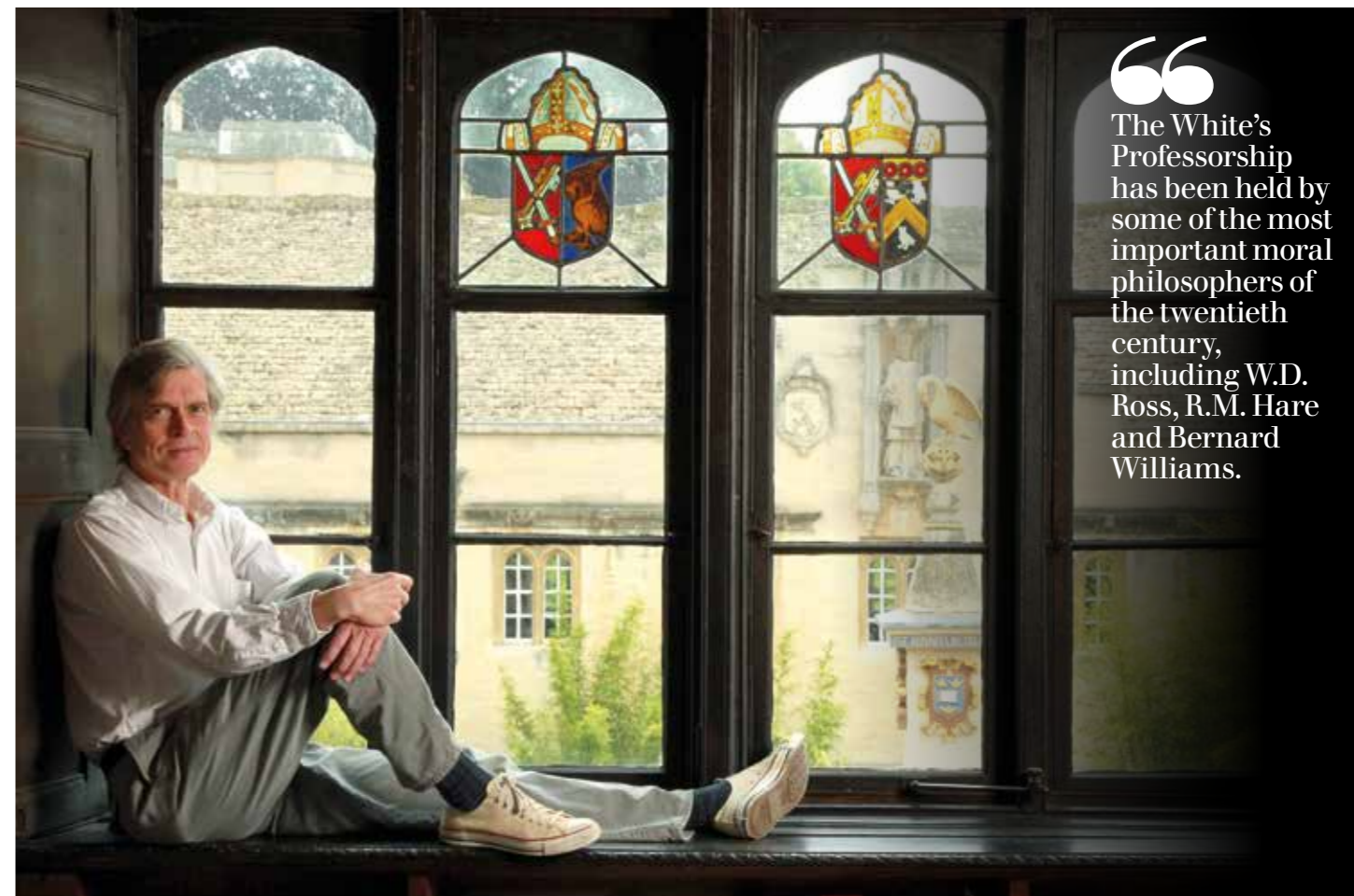
BELOW: Dr Alex Middleton has joined Corpus as the second Michael Brock Junior Research Fellow in Modern British History



New Arrivals

Jeff McMahan

White's Professor of Moral Philosophy



The White's Professorship has been held by some of the most important moral philosophers of the twentieth century, including W.D. Ross, R.M. Hare and Bernard Williams.

The White's Professorship of Moral Philosophy was endowed in 1621 and was the first faculty position in philosophy established at Oxford. Since 1877 it has been linked to a fellowship at Corpus and has been held by some of the most important moral philosophers of the twentieth century, including W.D. Ross, R.M. Hare, and Bernard Williams. Jeff McMahan arrived in Michaelmas term 2014 to replace the retiring holder of the chair, John Broome. The position is, he concedes, an intimidating one. "I cannot claim to have contributed as substantially to moral philosophy as many of my predecessors, but my hope is to get closer to their level of attainment before I retire from the position."

Jeff first came to Corpus in 1976 as a Rhodes Scholar. Because his undergraduate work in the US had been in English literature, he began the study of philosophy by doing a second, two-year BA in PPE. He then started work on the DPhil under the supervision of Jonathan Glover and Derek Parfit but, having exhausted his funding at Oxford,

completed his PhD at Cambridge, where his work was supervised by Bernard Williams. While he was a graduate student at Cambridge, he published two non-philosophical books, one on British nuclear weapons policy, for which Williams wrote the preface, and another on the Reagan administration's foreign policy. After completing his graduate work he returned to the US, where he taught first at the University of Illinois and then at Rutgers University. He has published two books with Oxford University Press – *The Ethics of Killing: Problems at the Margins of Life* (2002) and *Killing in War* (2009) – and coedited two others – *The Morality of Nationalism* (1997) and *Ethics and Humanity: Themes from the Philosophy of Jonathan Glover* (2010). He has several other books forthcoming, including a collection of essays called *The Values of Lives*. As these titles indicate, Jeff's work has focused on issues of life, death, and international politics. He has written on such issues as the metaphysics of personal identity and death, the morality

of causing people to exist, abortion, euthanasia, the moral status of animals, disability, the distinction between killing and letting die, and the moral significance of intention. In recent years his work has concentrated mainly on the justification and limits of defensive harming, both in self-defence and in war.

He is particularly happy to have been able to return to Corpus, of which he has many fond memories. He is also, he reports, excessively enamored with his college room, which is in the tower, sedulously guarded against evil spirits by an array of gargoyles. It is, it has been suggested, the room in which the prophetic books of the Old Testament were translated for the King James Version of the Bible.

Listing

Offers for Alumni

Offer

The Corpus discount offer has now been supplanted by the scheme open to all Old Members via the University's Alumni Card. Among the many offers are substantial discounts at the following establishments in the Oxford area:

- Blackwell's
- OUP Bookshop
- University of Oxford Shop
- Shepherd and Woodward
- The Varsity Shop
- Walters of Oxford
- Gees
- Macdonald Randolph Hotel
- The Old Bank Hotel
- The Old Parsonage
- Quod Brasserie and Bar
- Rewley House
- University Club
- University Rooms Oxford
- Blenheim Palace
- Oxford Philomusica
- Oxford Playhouse
- Sheldonian Theatre
- University Club
- Botanic Garden/Harcourt
- Arboretum

Be sure to order your card before returning to Oxford. For more details www.alumni.ox.ac.uk

Corpus Christi College Alumni events



ABOVE: College crest

November 2015

London Drinks

A date and venue for our London drinks will be announced shortly.

December 2015

Saturday 5 December Alumni College Carol Service

The College Choir leads the singing at this traditional and popular event. Contact Michelle (michelle.laynes@ccc.ox.ac.uk) for details.

Thursday 10 December Varsity Rugby Matches

For the very first time, Twickenham stadium will host the Women's Varsity Match as well as the Men's. Kick off for the Women's Match is at 11.30am, followed by the Men's Match in the afternoon. Contact the Development Office for details.

March 2016

Friday 18 March Gaudy for 2005 to 2007

More details at the end of the year.

April 2016

Friday 8 and Saturday 9 April Oxford University North American Reunion (Washington DC)

We look forward to seeing our North American based friends in Washington DC next year. Details of the University programme and the Corpus-only event will follow in the next few months.

Friday 15 April Intercollegiate Golf Tournament (Frliford Heath Golf Club)

Save the date for this annual event.



The Pelican Record

Now we are firmly in the digital age, we are making *The Pelican Record* available to all in a PDF format on the College Website. Please note, therefore, that if you wish to receive the December 2015 volume by post, you need to let us know by **6 November** either by emailing Sara Watson at sara.watson@ccc.ox.ac.uk or by ticking the box on the enclosed donation form and returning it to the Development Office.