

Sundial

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College Oxford 2017

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Welcome

From the President

Professor Steven Cowley FRS, FREng

NICK READ



At the end of my first year as President of Corpus, as the endless hubbub of academic life moves into a different gear, I have found time to draw breath and to take a moment or two to reflect on what our College means to me now, nearly 40 years after I matriculated as an undergraduate. The most surprising thing is just how many things remain the same. It is still a fiercely intellectual college and it is still a place of close friendships. As I watched the leavers enjoying their final dinner, it was clear that a sense of warm nostalgia had already taken root. Stories of their Corpus exploits were already being embellished in the retelling – not quite as brightly burnished as those of my own generation (but then ours have endured a few more years of careful polishing).

In this past ten months I have made many new memories of my own. One occasion that made a particular impression was when our law students came together on a particularly cold evening in Hilary term, to a legal joust, organised by Law Fellows, Matt Dyson and Liz Fisher. Participants in *Make Your Case Night* attempted to persuade our judge, Corpus alumnus and High Court judge, Sir Christopher Nugee, that their particular case – drawn from reported cases over the last 400 years – was the most interesting. Mixing intellectual firepower with humour, our law students presented cases that covered a remarkable range of subjects, ranging from our constitutional foundations to learner drivers failing to negotiate roundabouts. They debated whether the criminal law is concerned more about bad choices, bad character (or something else) through to environmental protection, consumer protection and protection from cannibalism on the high seas. The winner's explanation of the legal limits of the principle of finders-keepers, as illustrated by the 1722 case

of *Armory v Delamirie*, was sharp and funny. The evening concluded with pancakes for all participants, prepared by our two Law Fellows in Matt's own rooms in Fellows Building.

This is, of course, our 500th year and we have been celebrating with Corpuscles around the world (see pages 5 to 9). In the United States our exhibition of Corpus treasures opened at the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington DC on the 6 February and moved to New York on 15 May. Both opening nights were packed with visitors, all huddled around the objects in their beautifully presented exhibition cases. The Bishop of New York brought his official crozier (a replica of Bishop Fox's) to the New York opening – a lovely gesture of friendship and a marvellous piece of theatre (see the front cover). Thirty thousand people saw the exhibit in Washington and major newspapers have been unanimous in their praise. Nobody, not even Corpus Presidents, have ever seen the Corpus treasures presented like this before – it is a truly stunning exhibition. The credit for the success must go to my predecessor Richard Carwardine, our highly professional library team, our curator Peter Kidd and our indefatigable volunteer, Foundation Fellow David Bloch (ably supported by our small Development Team) – together with the many loyal Corpuscles who, through their generous sponsorship, made the project happen.

These first three terms have given me a terrific appetite for the year ahead. Once our Quincentenary celebrations have been concluded in November (with a spectacular concert at the Sheldonian by our own Ian Bostridge), College life will become slightly less frenetic and I will be able to look forward to starting next Hilary term, having made so many new happy memories with Corpus alumni from across the generations.

Sundial

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COVER: The Rt. Reverend Andrew Dietsche, Episcopal Bishop of New York holding the replica of Bishop Fox's Crozier.
Photograph, Jamie Grafton

Corpus 500

UK events

At the forefront of the Lit Fest

This year's Oxford Literary Festival attracted considerable attention and the sessions featuring our tutors and alumni drew interest from a large number of attendees including a sold-out evening with Vikram Seth (PPE, 1971) at the Sheldonian Theatre. Professor Val Cunningham's advice on how not to win the Booker Prize was met with delighted chuckles as he exposed the intricacies of judging, winning and failing to win one of the world's most prestigious literary prizes. Dr David Russell's talk on John Ruskin, (Honorary Fellow, 1871-1900) explored Ruskin's writings, and Alumna and prize-winning novelist Lucy Atkins (English, 1987) interviewed a series of bestselling authors.

The final event featured the President in conversation with Sir Paul Nurse, the eminent geneticist, joint winner of a Nobel Prize in 2001 for discoveries on cell behaviour, former President of the Royal Society and now Director of the Francis Crick Institute. Their discussion roamed over a host of topics, from the chances of finding alien life, to what it takes to succeed in science. Sir Paul's views on the latter were especially intriguing. He described how scientists are increasingly subject to the tension between maintaining a flow of published findings and the fact that most ideas for research do not work out.

Sir Paul described how the "publish or perish" culture can lead some researchers to cut corners. For example, some years ago, a series of his own lab experiments, intended to confirm a theory, simply refused to give the expected answer. After a day spent



ABOVE: Vikram Seth (PPE, 1971).

wrestling with the problem, he had a dream in which he found himself with a devil sitting on one shoulder, and an angel on the other. The devil told him that as he was the only one who knew the experiments hadn't worked out as expected, he should just ignore it and publish the "right" outcome. But the angel told him to dig deeper and try to understand why the experiments weren't working. He then woke up in a cold sweat, but decided to follow the angel's advice. After two days, he succeeded – and was rewarded with a slew of unexpected insights.

The President rounded off the discussion by asking what advice Sir Paul would give to those hoping to succeed in science. Again, he focused on failure: "Ninety per cent of the time in research you fail, and you need lots of passion to keep going". He observed that many scientists leave research around the age of 40, because of this high failure rate. "Only weird people like me keep going", he said. "I'm pathologically curious – I just *have* to do it".

Following the Founder

Dr Clive Burgess, (Medieval History, 1971) and now Senior Lecturer in History at the Royal Holloway, led a group of 35 Old Members and guests on a day in Winchester, examining Bishop Fox's life and those of other prelates buried close to him in the Cathedral. Having visited the various chantry chapels, each one more splendid than the next, Dr Burgess then gave a fascinating talk about Fox's life and career at the heart of early Tudor England. Politician, diplomat, military man, benefactor, churchman and friend of royalty, Bishop Fox was clearly an extraordinary man and it felt entirely appropriate to visit his final resting place in this 500th year of his College. After lunch, the group visited Winchester College, founded in 1382 by William of Wykeham, another Bishop of Winchester with humble origins, and one who also went on to found a college – in his case, New College.



SARAH SALTER



NICK READ

Corpus past and present

In March, the four living Corpus presidents were on hand formally to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the passing of the College by Bishop Fox into the hands of the first fellows. Spanning 30 years they played host to the College Fellows and supporters and guests. After dinner, Sir Keith Thomas provided a breath-takingly comprehensive history of Corpus in just twenty minutes. A transcript of the speech will appear in the next issue of *The Pelican Record*.

LEFT TO RIGHT: Sir Tim Lankester, Sir Keith Thomas, Professor Steve Cowley, Professor Richard Carwardine.

Corpus 500 *Exhibition*

Transatlantic Treasures

The Corpus Library is a treasure-house of manuscripts (some over 1,000 years old) and very rare early printed books. As part of our 500th celebrations we have brought some of these objects together in two exhibitions in the United States. The object was to bring an awareness of Corpus and its place in the development of humanist education to a completely new audience, one that might be sympathetic to the idea of helping us to conserve these documents for generations to come.

The first exhibition was held at the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington DC (where we had previously been closely involved in curating a 2011 show celebrating the 400th anniversary of the making of the King James Bible). A spectacular opening event, led by Presidents Cowley and Carwardine and our curator, Peter Kidd drew an enthusiastic but thoughtful crowd of nearly 250, including many Old Members.

At the beginning of May the exhibition transferred to the Yeshiva University Museum at the Center for Jewish History in New York. The same Corpus home-team was on hand at the launch where 400 people arrived to get a glimpse of the treasures, which included what has been described as the “most important collection of Anglo-Jewish manuscripts in the world”. Alongside the documents was displayed Bishop Foxe’s crozier on a rare visit from its home in the Ashmolean. Joining us at the launch was the Episcopal Bishop of New York, Andrew Dietsche, who brought with him the replica of the Corpus crozier which is used in all important church occasions in the Diocese of New York. The replica had been presented to a previous bishop in 1922 by the Bishop of London as a mark of Anglo-American friendship (see cover).

The exhibition closes on 6 August



LEFT: The Bishop of New York and the Bishop of Milwaukee capturing the Piers Plowman manuscript. BELOW: Corpus manuscripts never fail to fascinate.



ALL PHOTOS: JAMIE GRAFTON

Corpus 500

Around the world

Corpuscles come together across the Globe



Sydney

Rick Taylor and Benedict Paxton-Crick (both 1992) organized a wonderfully successful Corpus dinner in Sydney for 31 Old Members on Saturday 25 February. It took place in some style at St John's College, where another Corpuscle, Adrian Diethelm (1986) is Rector. Amongst the many stories and reunions, the most touching was of Gillian Fullilove (1997) whose father William Charlton, (1964) had also been at Corpus but had died during Gillian's first week here. However, her father's best friend from Corpus, George Bowen (1964), was also at the dinner and so to her delight and some emotion, Gillian met him for the first time.

Los Angeles & Palo Alto

At the beginning of April, the President attended an Oxford University Alumni Reception in Los Angeles which also gave him the opportunity to meet Old Members in the surrounding area. The President then went on to a University Reception in Palo Alto and completed the evening with a dinner for 15 Old Members and their guests in a lively Greek restaurant.

Hong Kong & Singapore

In March, the President and Sarah Salter, Head of Alumni Relations, spent four days, meeting alumni and attending events in Hong Kong. The President took a leading role in a panel discussion and reception organized by Oxford University Alumni Office on the University's distinctive strengths and its future in an uncertain world. The President emphasized Oxford's success in science and how its structure and history promoted highly successful research. The President and Sarah Salter also attended an elegant dinner for 21 alumni at The China Club, generously hosted by Martin Sabine (1965). Sarah then went on to Singapore to attend Oxford University's Singapore Alumni Weekend as well as hosting two dinners for Corpus alumni. In both Hong Kong and Singapore, the visits were greeted with great enthusiasm by the local alumni with several making long journeys to join the groups, and connections were made between old and new friends and across the generations.

ABOVE: Sarah Salter and Corpus friends in Singapore.

Event shorts

Eights Week Lunch

Over 100 Old Members and their guests attended this year's Eights Week Lunch. In honour of our anniversary, a local jazz trio entertained us over drinks before lunch and Bill Morris (1964) generously presented a ceremonial rudder from the Torpids of 1935 to President of the Boat Club, Sacha Tchen. After lunch, to mark the launch of *The Great Little College*, Stephen Hickey gave a brief talk on his work as editor. As for the actual rowing, this year we entered six crews all rowing on successfully on the final day. Sadly, however, W1, in their brand new shell, the *David Radcliffe*, had the least successful week but showed lots of promise for next year. M3 bumped on the first day and were then unlucky with klaxons, rowing over for the rest of the week, chasing the College's M2 on Saturday! M1 bumped twice, on the Wednesday and Saturday to finish up 2nd in their division. CCCBC are now looking forward to recruiting next year's Freshers.

Hardie Trophy Golf Tournament

On the 2nd May, Corpus golfers celebrated the College's 500th birthday with a closely fought tournament at Huntercombe, near Henley. The Hardie Trophy, named after enthusiastic player of golf, President Frank Hardie, and organised by the Pelicans' president, Bill Morris, was won by Richard Bray, (Classics 1963), with John Drysdale (Classics 1968) and Garth Watson (Modern Languages 1964) coming second and third respectively.

Tortoise Fair

Over 1000 people gathered in the College's sunlit gardens to relax, take in the beautiful surroundings and help raise money for charity. This year, the JCR's chosen charity was Rory's Well, who endeavour to provide clean drinking water to desperate communities in Sierra Leone and the Fair raised a record breaking £5,102 for this worthy cause. Eleven tortoises took part in the all-important race, but the victor was Zoom, representing Worcester. Our own tortoise, Fox, was sadly disqualified owing to unsporting behaviour, but no doubt he will return next year to claim back his laurels (or should that be lettuce?).



Corpus 500

Drama

As You Like It an Owlets triumph

Catriona Bolt

oxfordopeningnight

The Corpus Christi Owlets have wrought a triumph in this promenade production of Shakespeare's quintessential garden play, spearheaded by directors John Retallack and Renata Allen, and producer Frances Livesey. As part of Corpus' 500th anniversary celebrations, I can't think of a fitter way to celebrate the college buildings. The production gave ceaseless attention to its surroundings, right down to awareness of the sunset, with outdoor scenes restricted to daylight. The longest section was located in the auditorium, transformed by set designer Isabel Ion into a delicately rendered Forest of Arden, but around this the actors led us on a frankly lovely tour of the college's highlights. No scene felt out of place, and the actors themselves were beautifully blocked and confident in making the most of the different spaces available to them, from playing in the cloisters to tree-planting in the garden.

The usual pitfalls of promenade, which can cause serious pacing issues, were cleverly incorporated into the production's texture. The play eased into itself across several different locations then settled into the quicker pace of its dense, central Arden section, which remained in a single space until a satisfyingly appropriate move towards the end. The audience was initially split across two simultaneously performed scenes, which meant that we were able to hear the other scene happening a quad over.

Universally strong pace and diction set a high bar for this term's contingent of Shakespeare, and assured projection meant that I didn't miss a word. This assurance extended to the acting, which was of a universally high standard. Seeing a mix of seasoned student actors, fresher faces, and Corpus stalwarts, including former President Richard



Cawardine as an impressive Duke Senior, was a refreshing reminder of the range of talent that makes up the life of the university.

Ben Thorne's lovelorn Silvius was a quiet standout, while Hugh Tappin dispatched Oliver with aplomb and James Bruce as Jaques delivered a considered 'All the world's a stage'. Linda Kirk as Duke Frederick was great fun, matching imposing pomposity with disarmingly comic moments. Beth Evans' Touchstone was an inspired casting that drew by far the most laughs, with a truly winning physical and verbal performance that included characterful improvisation. Completed by the talented Harry Carter, Touchstone and Audrey's cross-gendered pairing was a fabulously camp antidote to some ponderous moments of over-seriousness as the play found its feet. Christopher Page and Molly Willett as Orlando and Celia



respectively hit all the right notes in notably unselfish performances. Both have a knack for bringing out the best in those around them while engaging in sensitive, clever performances themselves.

But the stage, as it should, belonged to Rosalind. Georgie Murphy gave a performance that can only be described as virtuosic. Her hallmark elasticity onstage was controlled perfectly through every turn of plot, emotion, and gender. Comic scenes with Willett and Evans brought a delightful giddiness to proceedings, while her chemistry with Page was immediate, mature, and utterly compelling. Against such a masterclass, it is a remarkable reflection on the rest of the cast that Murphy was framed rather than allowed to dominate.

Final praise must go to the live band, under Katherine Pardee's direction. Howard Goodall's irresistible music was

Corpus 500 Publication

A collection of recollections

Stephen Hickey
*'The Great Little College'.
Corpuscles on Corpus Christi
College, Oxford, 1945-2017*

It is 50 years since I arrived at Corpus – a nervous, callow, eighteen-year-old. But, very quickly, I met wonderful friends, learned the sometimes bizarre language and customs of the natives, and got stuck into a range of academic and social pursuits. For me, like for so many, the Corpus years proved highly formative and influential.

I was therefore honoured to be asked to contribute to the Quincentenary by putting together a volume based on the recollections of fellow students. Former President, Richard Carwardine, invited Old Members to write in with their recollections, and over 150 responded. Using them as the starting point, but drawing too on published materials, *The Great Little College* aims to give a students'-eye view of college life since the post-war years. It includes accounts of applying to Corpus; the place and the people students found when they arrived; experiences of both work and play; relations with senior members; and preparing for life after Corpus.

The slogan '*The Great Little College*' was adopted by Corpuscles in the 1950s from a cigarette advertisement, during a particularly heated sporting rivalry with Teddy Hall. Although a product of a particular moment, it is clear from their reflections that it speaks to Corpuscles from many generations.

Inevitably, the book raises questions about Corpus, its character and how it has changed over the years. Many noted its sense of timelessness. There are also signs of continuity in the Corpus ethos: pride in its intimate and friendly character; respect for and commitment to serious scholarship; and a certain scepticism about ostentation. Corpus was always seen as an 'academic' rather than 'hearty' college, making

its occasional sporting triumphs all the more glorious. But it was never a monochrome community. The recollections show that members came from diverse social and educational backgrounds and had many different interests and aspirations. What emerges is a genuine sense of Corpus as an accepting and friendly community where individuals could come together, be stimulated by and enjoy one another's company and develop deep and lasting friendships.

Despite the continuities, however, there were huge changes. The number of students doubled and their backgrounds changed. Physical amenities were transformed. The number, visibility and importance of postgraduates vastly increased. The single most dramatic change was the arrival of women in an institution which had been all-male for some 460 years. Much less visible have been the changes in the financial support available to students: as one of the radicals of the early '70s observed, 'one issue I don't recall protesting about was our own economic position.' Since then, student finance has become a central issue at Corpus as elsewhere, highlighted by an acrimonious dispute between junior and senior members over rents in the early 1990s.

Corpus today is therefore very different from the College of the post war years. From the evidence of these recollections, much remains recognisably constant. It is wrong to generalise too far – those in this book cannot claim to be 'typical', even of the Corpuscles of their day. I hope their stories give a flavour of life in a unique place and that Corpuscles, both past and present, will find in it echoes of their own experience.



ALL PHOTOS: NICK READ

increasingly, magically interwoven with the action and performed to a professional standard. The songs were seamlessly incorporated, with beautiful vocal performances by Laura Coppinger and Albert McIntosh in particular. Several musicians also played character parts, which along with consistent and charming costumes, supported the play's overall sense of harmony.

It is to be hoped that tonight's high production value expands the horizons of this summer's garden Shakespeare – but regardless of future impact, this was a delightful evening. Joyous at its core, the action was lovingly unfolded by a cast that feels committed and unified. Perhaps it was the free wine, but *As You Like It* left me with that rare combination of smiles and tears that Shakespearean comedy provides at its best.

Corpus 500 Symposium

The appliance of science

Science symposium

Since he took up the presidential reins our theoretical physicist President, Steve Cowley, was determined that science at College was going to get proper recognition during our Quincentenary year. To this end numerous Corpus science alumni, together with current science fellows, were invited back to Corpus for the day to speculate on the future of science in relation to particular subject areas.

The first panel of the day invited

panel and guests to think about '*Medicines of the Future*'. After a brief introduction to the history of medicine at Corpus given by the Chair, the panellists outlined their current scientific work and highlighted some exciting directions in which their research area is taking them. The audience was actively engaged in asking questions about personalised medicines, how decisions on research funding are made, the scientific process of drug discovery in the future and ... the impact the discovery of extra-terrestrial life would have on human health! The shared feeling that medicine will undergo many exciting developments in the future was evident and we are confident in the hope that Corpuscles will be at the forefront of many of these discoveries.

The title of the second panel was '*What's the Matter with Matter?*'. The Panellists addressed some of the challenges and opportunities relating to matter (in the classical sense) across subjects ranging from bio-inspired structures (specifically, geckos' feet!), single molecule quantum computing to nano and bulk materials for next generation applications in the energy and health care sectors. Specific attention was drawn to the need for more funding for blue sky research; diversity in the broadest sense; close collaboration across the disciplines and length scales; and the development of next generation in and ex situ characterisation techniques as a pre-requisite for the success of research on matter in the next 500 years.

After a lovely buffet lunch, the third panel gave the invited audience an extremely interesting session on '*The Future of the Mind*'. Following a summary of their research, the panellists were challenged by questions from the audience ranging from the use of recreational and mood enhancers for mental well-being to the genetic origin and future treatment of neurodegenerative disease.

ALL PHOTOS: NICK READ



Corpus 500

Panel discussion

Predicting the unpredictable

The final panel of the day, for a session entitled '*Frontiers of the Fundamentals*', comprised a chemist, an applied mathematician, a computer scientist and four physicists: The session started with a lively discussion of the importance of fundamental, curiosity-driven research in the physical sciences – research with no immediate economic or social impact; learning for learning's sake; the extraordinary way in which so much is discovered not where the research effort is focused but at its edges – and this was followed by a series of excellent questions from the audience. The discussion ranged from the searches for dark matter and energy, via extra-terrestrial intelligence to the high-profile large-scale projects at the Super-Kamiokande neutrino detector in Japan, the Large Hadron Collider at CERN, the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory in the US and the spallation neutron source in Sweden. It was a marvellous, free-ranging, creative-thinking end to a truly stimulating Corpus Quincentenary event and there was general agreement over dinner in Hall that the whole day had been wonderfully successful both in gathering together so many friends and colleagues who rejoice in the collective title of Corpuscule and then presenting them with a really inspirational series of discussions.

Noemi Csogor (PPE)

Politics Panel

James Duffy (Fellow in Economics)

Economics Panel

As part of our Quincentenary programme we have brought together Alumni and Corpus researchers in a series of early evening panel discussions exploring the current and future shape of the world. These stimulated serious, wide-ranging and thought-provoking discussions. The respective chairs of the first two panels record their impressions.

Politics Panel Discussion

On a sunny afternoon in second week, we convened for the first Corpus Future 500 Panel Discussion. I chaired a formidable (but charming!) politics panel consisting of Sir Tim Lankester, former Corpus President and private secretary to Thatcher and Callaghan; Sir David Normington, a Corpuscule and former permanent secretary to the Home Office; Professor Pepper Culpepper, who researches the interplay between capitalist interest and politics in the West at the Blavatnik School of Government; and Allison Hartnett, a final year DPhil student who writes on authoritarianism and land reform in the Middle East.

With only an hour and fifteen minutes to bring together their wealth of experience and expertise into a cohesive discussion, my plan to focus on particular topics was soon lost in the volley of enthusiastic audience questions. None of us minded at all. The conversation was all the more organic for this and ranged from a discussion of the need for a new British national narrative which would keep us united outside the EU to a frank survey of Labour's prospects after the coming general election.

While this series of events is nominally oriented towards examining prospects for the 'next 500 years', our

real point of agreement was that we barely knew what to expect of the next 500 days in British and world politics. That need not be depressing – it is a reminder of the need to adjust and invent theories to fit reality and to link the study of politics with the business of doing it.

Economics Panel Discussion

The Corpus 500 Economics Panel Discussion was held on Friday 19 May, in an auditorium packed out with old and current members of the college, and members of the wider university community.

The session opened with a discussion of how the teaching of economics needed to be brought up to date, particularly in light of the last financial crisis. Professor Wendy Carlin (UCL) described the work of the CORE project, which has developed an alternative undergraduate economics curriculum, one that places a much greater emphasis on market inefficiencies and failures, and on the role of institutions, than is usual in introductory courses. Professor Brian Nolan (Oxford) connected this with the rising inequality in Europe and the US, and how an understanding of the causes and consequences of this needed to be better integrated within the teaching of undergraduate economics.

The panel then moved on to a consideration of some of the political economic aspects of the financial crisis and widening inequality. Gerard Baker (PPE, 1980) discussed the Trump administration, and expressed considerable scepticism as to whether Trump really would implement the protectionist programme that had been such a dominant theme of his election campaign. Finally, Martin Wolf (Classics and PPE, 1965), gave his account of why the electoral fortunes of centre-left in the US and UK had declined since the financial crisis, despite economic circumstances that would objectively seem so auspicious for its resurgence.

The Big Picture

Celebrating Corpus Women Exhibition

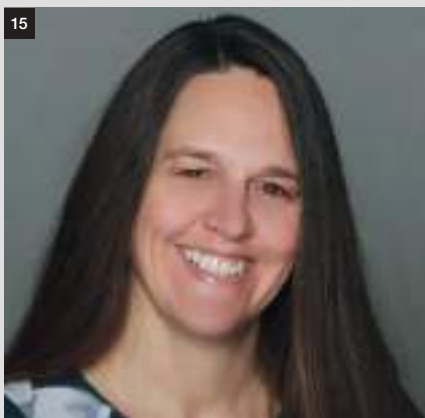
For centuries the walls of Corpus have been decorated by paintings and photographs of men. The student population of Corpus now comprises 42% of women and so the decision was taken that in our Quincentenary year we should commission an exhibition celebrating the part that women play in all aspects of College life. The *Women at Corpus Exhibition* has been assembled and can now be seen lining the walls of Staircase 12.

Photography by

Leon Chew, James Glader Nick Read and Molly Willett

- 1 **Helen Moore**
Constanze Güthenke
Judith Maltby
Ursula Coope
Fellows
- 2 **Beverley Patterson**
Louise Vale
Harriet James
Old Members
- 3 **Penelope Curtis**
Director, Calouste Gulbenkian
Museum, Lisbon
- 4 **Saira Salimi**
Speaker's Counsel,
House of Commons
- 5 **The Women's Boat**
Summer 2016
- 6 **Zdenka Petrasova**
Wioleta Wisniewska
Katarina Petrasova
Amanda Pimm
Buttery and Kitchen Staff
- 7 **Merritt Moore**
Postgraduate
- 8 **Anna Marmodoro**
Anna Blomley
Jemimah Taylor
Master of the SCR
MCR and JCR Presidents
- 9 **Lucia Zedner**
Liz Fisher
Fellows
- 10 **Nicole Grobert**
Fellow
- 11 **Blanche McIntyre**
Theatre Director
- 12 **Iona Todd**
Emily Keen
Ruby Harrison
Amy Shao
Megan Wright
Emily Foster
Hannah Johnson
Celine Mathieu
Kathryn Hoven
Miriam Tomusk
JCR and MCR 2016
Freshers
- 13 **Thérèse Thomas**
Jacquie Brown
Scouts
- 14 **Eleanor Sharpston**
Advocate General,
European Court of Justice
- 15 **Rachel Pearson**
Head of Department
- 16 **Joanna Snelling**
Head of Department





College Faces

Bishop Fox
The Founder

NICK READ

The Founder speaks out

Our Founder, Richard Fox has been presiding in the Hall for the last 500 years, maintaining a dignified silence. He graciously granted an interview to Development Director, Nick Thorn. The Bishop's memory is not as sharp as it once was and so he was assisted by his long-time amanuensis and confidante, Professor Thomas Charles-Edwards.



The plans you had made for Corpus Christi changed as a result of the intervention of your friend Hugh Oldham. Could you say what these were and whether in hindsight you think he was right?

The original plan was for Corpus Christi to be attached to Winchester Cathedral Priory. Students were to be half and half monks and future clerics from the Diocese. My friend Hugh Oldham, who donated £6,000, was Bishop of Exeter and Exeter was not a monastic cathedral. So we had to change the original plan and switch the focus to training secular clergy. His intervention was lucky. When Henry VIII dissolved the monastic colleges in Oxford, Corpus Christi was saved.

You have been present in the Hall for over 500 years now. What are the main changes you have seen over that time?

First, the Reformation – the change of religion in a church in which I was Bishop – fundamentally altered the relationship of the College to church and state. Some Corpuscles met a sticky end during the Reformation. Fortunately I died in time to avoid being executed like my friend John Fisher. Secondly, the mid-nineteenth century university reforms which resulted in the

replacement of my statutes. While the Fellows of the day did their best to pretend that these were a continuation of the previous rule, in reality the College ceased to be essentially for the clergy. Ultimately a secular Corpus was the result, but it took two generations and a World War to work through. The first lay President, Thomas Case, was also the most reactionary in the history of the College (so far), elected in 1904 and continuing until 1924 when, aged eighty, he was finally induced to resign. The big watershed was during his time: namely, the First World War, after which Corpus students ceased going into the Church in large numbers. Finally, the rise of the physical and life sciences, in Corpus almost entirely in the last sixty years. I would also note that my College accommodated its students on the main site. Now they are spread all over Oxford.

Of all the Alumni who have passed through the gate since 1517, who would you say have been the most notable?

Notable is an interesting term. Among those who were not clerics, I would say that Oglethorpe is the most notable, not just for the foundation of an American State – Georgia – but also for prison reform. Cardinal Pole was, of course, Archbishop of Canterbury in the reign

of Mary. At the start of her reign, the College authorities were delighted to restore my statute on worship in Chapel, but it didn't last. John Rainolds was from a solidly Catholic family but became a Puritan and caused trouble for Elizabeth I, and then, in the next reign, initiated the King James Bible translation, and Richard Hooker, who wrote probably the first great work of philosophy and theology to be written in English. In the early nineteenth century two outstanding contemporaries, John Keble and Thomas Arnold, began as College friends but ended by being opposed on most of the great issues of the day. Though not strictly speaking alumni, I shall also mention two Fellows from overseas, who showed the natives what scholarship could be, the Russian, Paul Vinogradoff, and the German, Eduard Fraenkel.

Who in your opinion was the least successful College President?

Without a doubt, Thomas Anyan, President from 1614 to 1628 [*here the Bishop paused to take a restorative draught*]. He was corrupt and immoral and, after much agitation on the part of the Fellows, was finally swapped by the Bishop of Winchester for John Holt, rector of an 'unfortunate' parish.

The Dial

You were a great supporter of Catherine of Aragon. Do you think the College would have been a different place today, if her husband had not met the Boleyn girls?

Henry VIII was utterly impulsive, unless he was paying attention to his advisors (of whom I was one). To think that I baptized him: not one of my successes. I set up the College partly to pray for me. As a result of the King's Great Matter, that stopped and I have spent the last 489 years praying for the College.

Do you regret not being appointed Archbishop of Canterbury?

No, because the Diocese of Winchester was richer than that of Canterbury: so, if I had been, I might not have had the wherewithal to found the College.

What are your views on the admission of women to Corpus in the late 20th century?

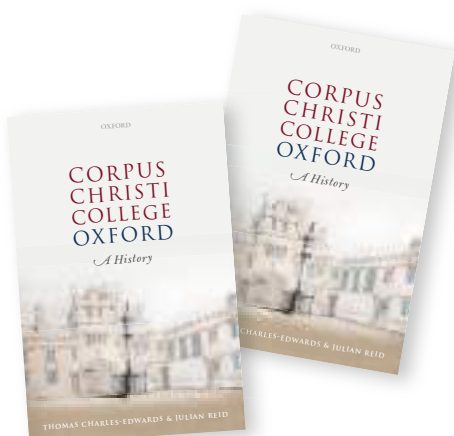
To be totally honest, I never dreamt this would happen. It is so far from the way I was brought up to view the world, it is beyond my imagination.

You must be thinking of retirement. What do you plan to do with your time over the next 500 years?

I am not proposing to retire as Founder. I shall pay close attention and will continue to pray hard for the salvation of the College and its Old Members.



The History of corpus will be arriving on bookshelves in July. Signed copies will be available to Alumni at the reduced price of £50.00 including postage and packing (RRP £80.00).



Collection

COINS COME HOME

Dr Samuel Gartland has overseen the repatriation of a large part of the Corpus Christi coin collection from the Ashmolean, where they have lived for some time on semi-permanent loan. The collection is a result of many benefactions and some chance discoveries, and was moved to the Ashmolean in 1932 under the direction of Corpuscle Joseph G. Milne (Classics, 1886) at the same time as many other colleges offered their collections.

The coins, dating from 500BC to 1600AD include examples from Greece, Turkey, Egypt, Rome, Syria, Byzantium and England. Among the most striking examples are a series of gold coins of Philip II of Macedon and Alexander the Great, as well as an impressive sequence of Ptolemaic kings, Roman and Byzantine emperors, and a good collection of early English coins, including Edmund, Edward the Confessor, and Elizabeth I. There is a fine example of an Angel of Henry VIII which was in circulation at the time of the college's founding, and is particularly pleasing to bring home in the year of the Quincentenary.

The coins are already employed widely in teaching, outreach and research, and are back in College until the end of the year.

ABOVE: Gold Stater of Alexander the Great (330-320BC).
RIGHT: Gold Angel of Henry VIII (1509-1526AD).



Book publication

Late Corpuscle's musical treatise

Professor Richard D. E. Burton (Modern Languages, 1964) will be known to many Corpuscles as a distinguished interpreter of French culture. He suffered an untimely death in 2008, leaving a completed but uncontracted manuscript on the life and work of the composer Olivier Messiaen. Richard's sister, Dorothy Salmon, turned to the College to help in its publication.

Thanks to the enthusiastic support of the renowned concert pianist Peter Hill (Professor of Music Emeritus at Sheffield University) and to the editorial work of another Messiaen scholar, Roger Nichols, the book – *Olivier Messiaen: Text, Contexts, and Intertexts (1937-1948)* – was published by Oxford University Press in September 2016. To mark its launch, members of

the family joined other guests for a piano recital arranged by the Corpus Advisor in Music, Dr Katherine Pardee, and given by Professor Hill, who also accompanied two talented undergraduates, the soprano Alice Harberd and cellist Eliza Millett in a programme that offered a moving tribute to Richard's life and work.



NICK READ

Rededication

Chapel renewal

The College celebrated the reopening of the Chapel after extensive works with a particularly glorious Evensong of Rededication on the Feast of All Souls. The newly installed Bishop of Oxford, the Rt Revd Steven Croft, as is traditional at the start of a service of rededication, knocked on the Chapel door three times with his pastoral staff and was admitted (appropriately) by the Head Porter and greeted by both junior and senior members. The music was selected to emphasize both the joyfulness and the solemnity of the occasion and included Bruckner's setting of 'Locust iste' (*This place is made by God, a thing of inestimable holiness*) and 'O sing joyfully' by the early seventeenth century composer Adrian Batten. The Chapel is now restored to its proper beauty and as noted Corpuscle, Richard Hooker (CCC 1554-1600) remarked 'how can we come to the house of prayer, and not be moved with the very glory of the place itself?'


Research

Dr Daniel Waxman

Junior Research Fellow in Philosophy

IMAGINING THE INFINITE

Dr Waxman did his graduate work in Philosophy at New York University and before that he completed an undergraduate degree in Maths and Philosophy at Worcester College, Oxford.



In 1901, the world of mathematics was left reeling by Bertrand Russell's discovery of a paradox lurking at the heart of set theory. Consider – Russell's argument went – the set R of all sets that do not contain themselves. Is R a member of itself? There is no way to answer this question without contradicting oneself. His reasoning was as follows: if R is a member of itself, then, by its definition as the set of all sets that do not contain themselves, it is not a member of itself. But if R is not a member of itself, then by analogous reasoning R must be a member of itself! It follows that certain appealing-looking mathematical principles governing the existence and behaviour of sets – what has come to be known as naive set theory – are inconsistent: they allow us to prove a claim of the form “ P and not- P ”. Inconsistency is an extremely undesirable property for a mathematical theory to possess. If a theory is inconsistent, then (by standard logical principles) it can be shown that any statement whatsoever can be proven within it – even absurd claims such as $0=1$!

Naturally, the inconsistency of naive set theory spurred the development of alternatives. More than a hundred



**If I am right,
then humans
may well have
the capacity
to imagine
the infinite**

years later, we have a relatively good idea how to formulate versions of set theory that do not rely on the problematic principles used by Russell in order to derive a contradiction. But the question arises: what entitles us to believe that our current mathematical theories are any better than naive set theory? How are we able to know or come to possess any justification to believe that our best mathematical theories are in fact consistent? The space of possible answers here is constrained by another of the landmark results in mathematical logic in the 20th Century: Gödel's Second Incompleteness Theorem. This result tells us that any consistent theory of a certain (technically specified) minimal strength is unable to prove a statement canonically expressing its own consistency. Put somewhat roughly in other words: no consistent mathematical theory can prove its own consistency. In light of Gödel's Theorem, it follows that any justification or knowledge we might possess to the effect that our mathematical theories are consistent must therefore arise in one of two ways: either via a proof within some other mathematical theory or via non-deductive means altogether.

In some recent work, I have been exploring one way of implementing the latter option: in particular, the possibility that we might obtain justification in the consistency of our best theories by conceiving of structures that satisfy their axioms. In one respect, the idea is simple. We have a faculty of sensory imagination. Imagine a cat leaping at a bird, or Bruce Springsteen playing guitar, or driving on a wet road at night. If you have complied, you will have undergone an imaginative episode that involved entertaining, for lack of a better term, 'mental images' of various sorts – pictures in the mind's eye, or sounds in the mind's ear, so to speak. Philosophers have argued for many centuries about what we are entitled to conclude on the basis of undergoing an imaginative episode of this kind. My own view is that, if we are able to clear-headedly imagine a scenario, and have reason to think that certain claims hold in that scenario, we are then entitled to conclude – at least in the absence of any countervailing evidence to the contrary – that those claims are at least possibly true. And (again assuming standard logical principles) it can be shown that if some claims are possibly true in some scenario, then they are jointly consistent. So, if we are able to imagine scenarios in which our mathematical theories hold, then at least the prospect of an explanation of justification of consistency is in view.

There is, however, a major stumbling block. Virtually any serious mathematical theory studied today – at least, any serious theory whose consistency is genuinely in question – is an infinite theory, in the sense that it speaks of a structure with infinitely many components. Take the example of arithmetic, the theory of the natural numbers: in order to imagine a scenario in which all of the axioms of arithmetic are true, we would have to be able to imagine a scenario populated with infinitely many objects: 0, 1, 2, 3... and so on, indefinitely. But how could we ever possibly imagine an infinite scenario in the requisite way? Surely, given the limitations of our finite human minds, this is out of the question?

In fact, I think it's entirely possible – even plausible – that we can imagine infinite scenarios. Drawing on some recent work in the cognitive science of perception and imagination, I argue that we ought to regard our imaginative capacities as being inherently dynamic. Here is a simple example: imagine a perfectly rigid playing-card that is painted entirely red on one side and entirely green on the other. We are all

capable of imagining such an object, I take it. But notice that no single static mental image can possibly display all of the information about the imagined scenario! Any perspective from which we view the card will inevitably capture at most part of one side. The lesson here is that we ought to think of the content of our imagination as extending beyond a single static image, and as including the various ways in which scenarios are dynamically developed or elaborated in the imagination. But once the dynamic character of imagination is recognized, there is nothing stopping us from imagining the infinite. Try to imagine a number line, for example, of the kind used to teach schoolchildren the order-properties of whole numbers. Now consider what happens as you "pan your mental camera right", so to speak: if you are anything like me, you will tend to extend the line so that, no matter how far you go, your image encompasses more strokes/numbers than before. While it is true that at any given time you will be "viewing" a finite image, the crucial point is that you will have an additional disposition to extend that finite image even further, going on in the same way, indefinitely, no matter how far you proceed. In this way, it is entirely reasonable to describe the imagined number line as infinite: not because at any point we have a static image of containing infinitely many objects, but because no matter how far rightward our mental camera pans, at no point will the rightward scanning ever lead to a point at which the number line terminates.

Of course, even if everything I have said is right, we have achieved at best some kind of justification in the consistency of arithmetic – an infinite theory, to be sure, but an extremely small infinity by the standards of mathematicians! If I am right, then humans may well have the capacity to – strictly and literally – imagine the infinite. But much interesting work remains in assessing just how far our imaginative capacities are able to take us.

The Corpus Papers

08

The National Manuscripts Conservation Trust has supported the cost of treating this important collection of 17th century papers collated by the antiquary William Fulman.

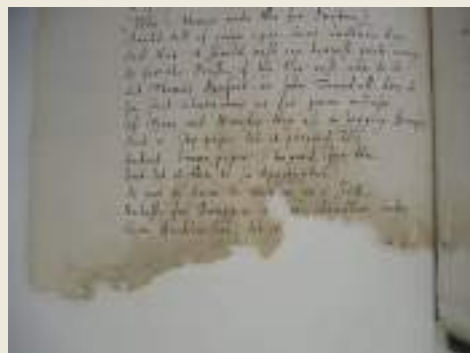
THE CONSERVATION AND PRESERVATION OF THE CORPUS FULMAN MANUSCRIPTS

Corpus Christi College Library and Archives, and Oxford Conservation Consortium

In the summer of 2015 the Library was awarded a grant of just over £7,000 by the National Manuscripts Conservation Trust towards a £10,000 project to clean and repair the manuscripts and working papers of the antiquary William Fulman. The manuscripts came to Corpus after Fulman's death and were rebound on their arrival. They have since suffered from three centuries of handling, resulting in the creasing and tearing of pages and the accretion of surface dirt. The NMCT is the only UK grant-giver that focuses solely on the care and conservation of manuscripts in the UK. A registered charity, it helps to preserve manuscript and archive collections of historic or educational importance. The treatments, repairs and reports funded by the grant were completed by the staff of the Oxford Conservation Consortium between October 2015 and July 2016.

William Fulman (1632-1688) was admitted scholar of Corpus Christi College in January 1648, and expelled by the parliamentary visitors in July 1648. He resumed his scholarship in 1660, graduated M.A. the same year, remaining until his appointment to a college living in 1669. His interests were broad: Fulman published *Academiae Oxoniensis notitia* (1665, revised 1675); and editions of the supposed works of Charles I (1662); five medieval chronicles (1684); and the works of his patron, Henry Hammond (1674-84). His publications do not, however, comprehend the range of his interests, as he left several projects unfinished, including a 'Baronagium' and several biographies, including one of Richard Fox, the founder of Corpus Christi.

Fulman was a collector as well as a historian, and bequeathed to the College his manuscripts of vernacular works, such as a 10th century *Rule of St Benedict*, together with fine Middle English texts of Langland, Chaucer, Gower and Lydgate. Fulman's interests are further reflected in the 26 volumes of *collectanea* that were created from the extensive papers that came to the College after his death. These volumes of "Fulman manuscripts" contain antiquarian and historical material (much of it copied in Fulman's own clear hand) together with original documents he had acquired, plus letters from various correspondents, notably Gilbert Burnet and Anthony Wood. The subjects range through the history of Corpus Christi, the wider University, the English Church, medieval religious houses, theology, and biography. Indicative of their significance is the copy of notes made by John Bois, one of the Cambridge translators of the King James Bible, recording deliberations of the revising committee that met in 1610 (one of only three copies known to exist), and the contemporary copy of a letter from Henry VIII, dated 1527, regarding the validity of his marriage (not known to exist elsewhere).



ABOVE: MS 308, fol. 68v: mould damage before and after treatment.



The Fulman manuscripts are frequently in use by researchers, so the conservation work in stabilizing them has been vital to allow continued safe access and storage. The collection of bound volumes contains manuscripts written on seventeenth-century laid paper and bound in two styles: quarter parchment with marbled paper sides, and full reversed skin with blind-tooling. The items are of different sizes bound together resulting in widespread damage and dirt to projecting edges: tears, losses, folds, and curling, all of which was jeopardising areas of text. The volumes showed damage in keeping with their age, use, and the materials of their construction, with frequent liquid stains, mould staining and softening, pest damage (rodents), iron-gall ink corrosion, and old repairs.

The majority of the work undertaken comprised of surface cleaning, edge tear repair and consolidation of paper damaged by iron gall ink corrosion and mould. Many of the volumes have interesting large, folded folios that had suffered as a result of their format, and these have been repaired to allow for safe handling and use. All volumes were photographed before and after treatment and a brief treatment report was completed for each manuscript.

The huge benefits of this project have had immediate results, as in April 2016 the College was able to lend MS 304, freshly conserved, to the Bodleian Library for their exhibition *Shakespeare's Dead*. On display were Fulman's extracts from a letter originally written in 1610 by the Corpus Fellow Henry Jackson, in which he describes performances of Shakespeare's *Othello* and Jonson's *The Alchemist* in Oxford by the King's Men. The three volumes recording the early history of Corpus Christi College (MSS 303-5), have proved essential to the writing of the new history of the College. In 2011, MS 312 (the compilation including Fulman's copy of notes by the translator John Bois) was loaned to two important exhibitions related to the King James Bible (at the Bodleian Library, Oxford, and the Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington D.C.) Following its conservation treatment, MS 312 is once again in the United States, as part of the Corpus *500 Years of Treasures* exhibition.



ABOVE LEFT:
MS 317: head edge
before and after
treatment, showing
textblock made up
of unevenly sized
manuscript items.
ABOVE: MS 306, fol.86r:
condition before and
after treatment.

ALL PHOTOS: CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE, OXFORD

Fundraising

NICK READ



Gift

A fitting tribute

ABOVE: Gifford Combs Books.

The Library was delighted to benefit from a thoughtful donation given in honour of our former President. Mr Gifford Combs MPhil (Cantab) has kindly provided funds to support the annual acquisition of books to celebrate Professor Richard Carwardine's Presidency and to recognise a lifetime's contribution to the study of American History. In the current academic year, this very generous gift has enabled the purchase of 23 titles.

Fundraising

Michael Brock JRF

Five years ago, in recognition of his enormous contribution to decades of teaching and research at Corpus, former pupils of the late Michael Brock decided to fund a three year Junior Research Fellowship in History. This enabled Dr Ben Mountford to spend three years at Corpus researching on the subject of imperial history. Ben has since gone on to be the David Myers Research Fellow in History at La Trobe University in Australia, where he has just been awarded a prize for his new book *Britain, China and Colonial Australia*, which will receive its UK launch at Corpus in the Autumn.

He was succeeded in 2015 by Dr Alex Middleton, who specialises in the relationship between politics and intellectual life in nineteenth-century Britain. The remainder of Alex's term at Corpus has just been fully funded, thanks to the generosity of our Alumni. We are now planning to appoint our third Brock JRF from 2018 and fundraising for this post has already started. If you would like to contribute you can give at <https://payments.ccc.ox.ac.uk/Donations.html>.

News

A Library for our times

The College has had a major re-think on the delivery of its signature Quincentenary project, the development of a dedicated Special Collections Centre to house its priceless collection of manuscripts and early printed books and the creation of new library space as an extension to the existing building.

In order to press on as quickly as possible with the space that will house the treasures, the development is being spread across two phases. Phase one will see the excavation of the garden area in front of Staircase 6, connecting to the existing space beneath the Fellows Building to create secure storage space and a researchers' reading area. This will also provide the opportunity to vacate the lower reading rooms of the library of their rolling stacks and create a modern communal study area. Funding is available to enable us to embark on this project in 2018, provided that all permissions can be obtained in time.

The second phase will be an ambitious enlargement of the overall library space to deliver much-needed extra study space. Phase 2 will begin once funding is in place.

Commenting on the changes to the College's plan, President Steve Cowley said, "I am eager to get on with this project as soon as we can and the phasing enables us to do that. I am so grateful to all the donors who have underwritten the cost of Phase 1. We are going to build a centre worthy of the remarkable treasures that we have accumulated over the centuries."

BELOW: Current Muniment Rooms.



NICK READ

New Arrivals

James Duffy

Tutorial Fellow and Associate Professor of Economics



The opportunity to teach able and engaged undergraduates in small groups appealed to me, and as it turns out I have enjoyed teaching the Corpus PPE students even more than I had expected.

James Duffy joined Corpus in Michaelmas 2016, as a Tutorial Fellow and Associate Professor of Economics. He had previously been a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Nuffield College. He received his PhD in Economics from Yale in 2014, prior to which he studied economics and mathematics as an undergraduate at the University of Sydney.

“Although I had been at Oxford for two years, until I moved to Corpus I had not had any involvement in the most distinctive feature of the university – the tutorial teaching system. But the opportunity to teach able and engaged undergraduates in small groups appealed to me, and as it turns out I have enjoyed teaching the Corpus PPE students even more than I had expected. I also feel particularly fortunate in having found an academic home at Corpus. The Fellows have been wonderfully supportive; I am especially indebted to Nigel Bowles for the superb direction that he has provided to the PPE School here.”

James’s research is in econometrics, a field which might be said to lie at the intersection of economics and

statistics. Because economic data is generally observational rather than experimental, its use poses particular challenges; and it was the need to address these challenges that has led to emergence of econometrics as a distinct sub-discipline. “There is still a widespread misperception that most academic economists engage in purely theoretical work: but in fact, for the last two decades or so, the overwhelming preponderance of papers published in leading journals have had a major applied statistical component to them. Thus econometric research, being devoted to the development of better methods for handling economic data, has become an increasingly important part of economics.”

James’s current work is concerned with the development of new statistical procedures for estimating long-run equilibrium relationships between macroeconomic variables. This connects with a long and distinguished tradition of empirical time-series modelling at Oxford, the impetus for much of which has come from Sir David Hendry, one of James’s colleagues in the Economics Department.

Listing

► Did you know that we regularly send out College news and invitations to events by email? Please be sure to let us have your current email address if you want to keep in touch.

Quincentenary mementos

To celebrate the College's 500th Anniversary, a series of special products have been commissioned. These are available through our website: https://payments.ccc.ox.ac.uk/Quincentenary_merchandise.html



The Great Little College



Solid Silver Cufflinks



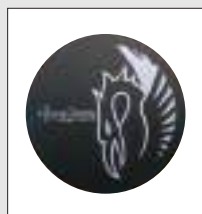
Solid Silver Earrings



Pelican Whisky Glasses



Quincentenary Mugs



Quincentenary Slate Coasters



Treasures from the Corpus Library



2017 Almanack

The Corpus Christi Quincentenary Ball

<https://development.ox.ac.uk/ball.html>

Electric Swing Circus

Hot from the European festival circuit this fusion of saucy 20's swing and stomping electro beats will have your hips shaking to an energetic live performance.

Hackney Colliery Band

A brassy, energetic and completely unique mix of dancefloor-filling contemporary rock, jazz, soul and electronica.

Manière des Bohémiens

Gypsy jazz played with the jaunty abandon of a misspent youth and a broken heart.

Cirque Bijou

Walkabout circus entertainers performing through the evening. Prepare yourselves for a feast of fire eating, slack rope, human pyrotechnics and acrobatics.

Plus further entertainment: DJ Mighty Fine, Passamietto, Joglareza and Griffin Historical.

Celebrate 500 Years of Corpus Christi College

Saturday 23 September

Join Old Members and friends for this once in a lifetime opportunity and celebrate, safe from the elements, under our custom designed covered quad.

Tickets

£250 per person
Formal dining: early and late sittings available. Includes 3 course banquet, free bar, street food, Corpus Vintage Champagne, barbecue and entertainment through the night.

Dress: Black Tie



Act now, don't lose touch

The past few years have been a turbulent time for those of us who operate within a data protection framework. Cyber-attacks and data leaks in the private sector have led to new regulations being drafted, designed to give greater protection to individuals in an ever more interconnected online world. The way the College communicates with you will be affected.

The implications of the new laws around information security and electronic communication are only just becoming clear, but if you have not already given us permission to remain in email contact with you (allowing us to send you invitations to our events and our electronic newsletter) then please fill in our Communications Consent Form at https://oxford.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/corpus_consent.