

Sundial

Corpus Christi
College Oxford



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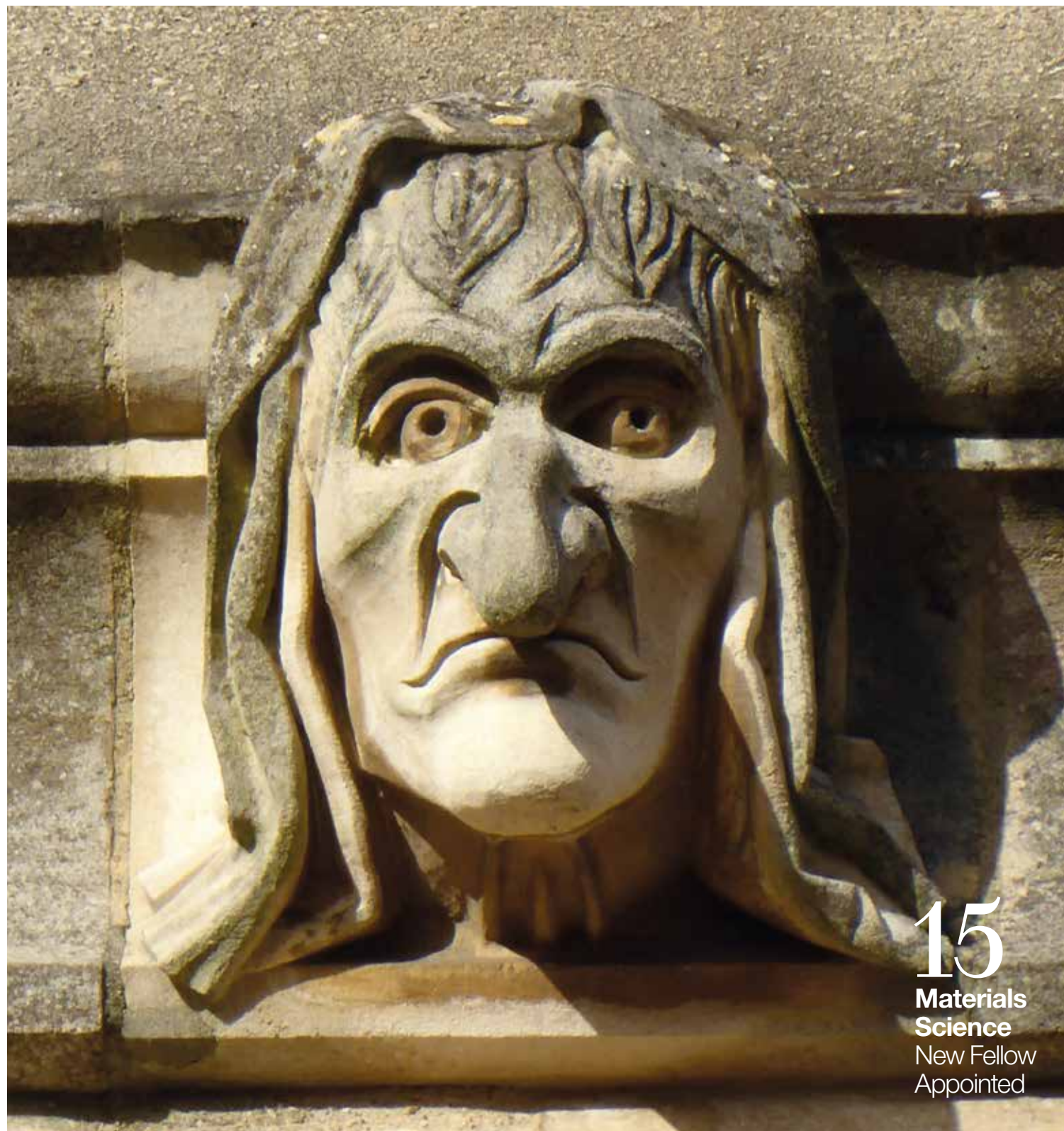
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New Fellow
Appointed

Welcome

From the President
Professor Steven Cowley FRS, FREng



It is thirty years since I last gave a tutorial, so when my first group of Physics Freshers showed up at the beginning of term, I wasn't sure who was feeling more nervous. A few weeks on, having watched them get to grips with divs, grads and curls, we are now comfortable in each other's company and we have all (I think) enjoyed the experience. As you might expect, they are a particularly smart bunch of young people. Tutorials seem to provide the necessary space they need to demonstrate their knowledge and aptitudes in their own individual ways. In this respect much is unchanged, except that now they reflect the much more broad and diverse backgrounds found in the general student body – a wholly good thing and one which drives a much more interesting tutorial experience. Otherwise, the constancy of the system, sustained by a set of truly marvellous tutors, continues to deliver outstanding results. This year our students ended up with twenty university prizes, including six Gibbs Prizes awarded to the top student in each subject.

What a year 2017 was for Corpus – one I will never forget. The celebration of our first 500 years had so many facets. In September, Corpus History Fellow John Watts organised a superb conference, *Renaissance College, Corpus College in Context, c. 1450-1600*, bringing together experts to examine the factors that influenced the foundation of Corpus. It was also wonderful to see so many Old Members returning for *Corpus at Home* (a celebration of College life and history) and to the Benefactors' Garden Party. But my favourite memory is of a packed dance floor in the wee hours of the night of the Quincentenary Ball. Distinguished scholars, award-winning economic journalists, captains of industry, masters of the financial universe, recent

graduates and a President of Corpus dancing like it was the Freshers Bop! It was a magical night.

So much of my Presidential year has been spent travelling to meet our alumni, from Sydney and Hong Kong to various parts of the US (and not forgetting Edinburgh). I have enjoyed meeting Corpuscles and hearing their stories of the surprisingly different and interesting paths that their post-Oxford lives have taken. With this in mind, we asked our Old Members to support our new Expanding Horizons Programme, which aims to expose our students to the wider world (see p6). The beneficiaries have experienced working with a broad range of people in very different settings all around the globe. At a time when the media has spent rather too much time reflecting a highly parochial (not to say xenophobic) agenda, the openness of our students to new ideas and to working collaboratively with people from other cultures is deeply refreshing. I hope this programme will expand over the years ahead and that our students will evolve into good global citizens, whatever the wider geo-political context.

It is hard to believe that two of our most cherished members of College are no longer with us (see p7). Every day I would stop to receive some good cheer and (sometimes) wise counsel from porter, Chris Foster, just visible through plumes of smoke as he puffed away on his pipe standing in the Oxford mizzle outside the front gate. With Chris's sage advice still spinning in my mind, I would enter the SCR for that much-needed first cup of coffee, often encountering Mark Whittow there, lurking behind a copy of *The Times*. He would always break away to offer a breezy commentary on the issues of the day, both in Oxford and the wider world beyond. His conversation would invariably add brightness and colour to the greyest of Oxford autumn days. Our community will be a different place without them. College life has its own natural rhythm that has driven it for five centuries and, of course, we must all carry on doing what we do. However, knowing Corpus, I am sure that the beating of the drum will soften once in a while, affording us a moment to remember just how much we miss Chris and Mark.

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Editors
Sara Watson
above, top
sara.watson@ccc.ox.ac.uk

Sarah Salter
above, bottom
sarah.salter@ccc.ox.ac.uk

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COVER: Grotesque from the Quad
Photograph, Nick Thorn

College Faces

Nick Read
Head Porter



“
We are probably unique in knowing every member of the College community – students, staff and Fellows

As the only 24/7 department, what are the biggest pressures facing your team?
Corpus's smallness makes it easy to develop personal relationships with all members of the community. I would say that the most demanding pressure is the welfare aspect – keeping a low key eye on the students, making sure they are okay, not judging them but being aware of whether a concern should or should not be passed up the ladder.

As Head Porter, you must have seen a lot of traffic during this Quincentenary year. What have been the highlights for you?
It has been a marvellous year. The highlight for me was the Benefactors' Garden Party. There was a great atmosphere; the guests had time to enjoy their surroundings and one another's company. Also it was particularly wonderful to see the entire College being used and admired. The Ball was also enormous fun but in a more structured way.

As well as being Head Porter, you are the College's photographic rapporteur. What makes Corpus such an interesting place to record?
It is the people of Corpus and their attitude that make it a deep pleasure to work here – by people I mean all SCR, MCR, JCR and staff. As a photographer, I have the privilege of documenting the life of the College. I take photographs of the various and numerous College events. During the Quincentenary year I caught all the internal celebrations on camera. I photograph the Fellows, aiming in particular for the photograph to reflect its subject, such as the photograph in this issue of the *Sundial* of Dave Armstrong in his Lab. The greatest joy is the graduation photography. Having watched the students grow from freshers to finalists, this is something I find particularly rewarding.

Life in the Lodge

The team of porters staffing the Lodge at Corpus is led by Head Porter, Nick Read. We asked him about his role in the life of the College.

How long have you been at Corpus, how long as Head Porter and what did you do before entering the world of portering?
I was a busy freelance photographer before giving this up to join Corpus nine years ago as a part-time porter. I worked my way up to Head Porter and took up the appointment in October 2013.

If you had to describe the role to a stranger to Oxford, what would you say?
The Lodge is the doorway, through which everyone – from presidential guest to maintenance contractor – enters an Oxford College. The porters need to be the professional but welcoming face of the College, approachable, unjudgemental and in all cases flexible and ready to help. The Lodge is staffed day and night all year, including over Christmas. Porters work on a rota system and are sometimes expected to work unsocial hours. We look after the security of the buildings and deal with day-to-day practicalities, such as handing out room keys, putting students' work into Fellows' pigeon holes. We are probably unique in knowing every member of the College community – students, staff and Fellows. We also play a part in the pastoral side of the College and the Lodge is often a starting point for student welfare concerns.

Corpus 500

Quincentenary Events

A year of celebrations

Sarah Salter, Head of Alumni Relations, records the sparkling events that brought the Quincentenary year to a close.

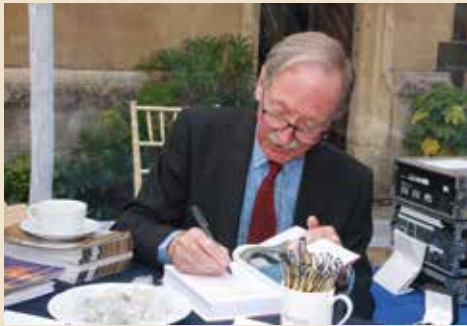
The College’s 500th year was celebrated with over 50 events – which must be a Corpus record. After the alumni reunions abroad earlier in the year, the extremely successful exhibitions in Washington and New York, the Oxford Literary Festival and the triumphant production of *As You Like It* in May, the summer brought a whole new range of events. In June, former choristers came together for the Choir Reunion which naturally included the guests performing Choral Evensong. At the end of August, *Corpus at Home* – a major event held over two days – included talks, wine tasting, a musical entertainment directed by former President, Richard Carwardine, tours of the College and a formal dinner for 150 people under a specially erected transparent marquee in the Front Quad. The following day, the College hosted a Quincentenary Garden Party for benefactors. As a jazz band played in the background, 250 alumni and guests drank tea and champagne in the late summer sunshine. A few days later, a group of 30 alumni and guests enjoyed a fascinating evening at the Ashmolean with Professor Clive Ellory, taking a very close look at the Founder’s silver, including Bishop Fox’s dazzling silver-gilt crozier and his astounding Salt, gilded and liberally decorated with crystal, pearls and enamels.

However, our most spectacular event was the College Quincentenary Ball. Held on a beautiful evening in late September, 500 alumni, Fellows and their guests were treated to an ambitious attempt to capture our entire 500 years. The Ball began with a Tudor theme that included Elizabethan minstrels, a horse ridden down Merton Street by a knight in armour, fire-eaters and tumblers in the gardens, demonstrations of pava

nes and gavottes in the Quad and sword fighting in the Hall. As the evening moved on, the musical offerings gradually came up to date, finishing with the very contemporary *Hackney Colliery Band* and a disco that came to its conclusion in the present decade, having moved through fifty years during the evening, complete with a rolling montage of photographs of Corpus students from all five decades. Guests also enjoyed a three course dinner in an elegant marquee in the grounds of Merton. The Ball was rapturously received, with one of our Old Members commenting: “... the College transformed into a magical world in keeping with the intelligence and style that makes Corpus such a special place.”

In Michaelmas, the College hosted a dinner to celebrate five decades of women teaching and studying at Corpus. Eleanor Sharpston QC, Advocate General at the European Court of Justice, and Camilla Long, columnist for *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*, gave very different talks about their lives and work but both stressed the friendliness and tolerance that they had found at Corpus. At the beginning of November, the President headed north to host a reunion dinner for 27 in Edinburgh.

At the end of November, for our final Quincentenary event, former Corpus Junior Research Fellow and now renowned tenor, Ian Bostridge, accompanied by Sebastian Wybrew, performed Schubert’s song cycle of love and loss, *Die Schöne Müllerin* in the Sheldonian to a very appreciative audience of 400 alumni and the public. Ian Bostridge very kindly donated his services and brought our year’s celebrations to a delightfully poignant conclusion.



Regulars & Fundraising

Gift

Rowers take a bow

Oscar Beighton
(Classical Archeology and Ancient History)

The past year has been an exciting one for CCC Boat Club: it has seen numerous artefacts from the team's history returned, as well as phenomenal successes on the river, inspiring hope for a successful future.

The academic year from 2016 to 2017 saw an enthusiastic revival of Corpus rowing, with the team's ranks doubling as freshers got involved. The commitment was strong as everyone pushed their hardest to make 2017's Torpids a stunning success. Corpus entered an impressive five boats – three men's and two women's – and found success in a strong men's second and a blades-winning men's first.

Summer Eights brought some misfortune, but still gave all six boats – a record number of entries for CCCBC – a chance to show their skill on the water. Amidst klaxons and near-collisions, the women's second and third boats both managed to bump on the first three days, coming close to blades.

Beyond bumps racing, CCCBC has been growing its presence in numerous other competitions. Following success in Nephthys, Autumn Fours, and Cantabs in 2016, CCCBC entered a number of boats again this year, with the men's first taking second in Nephthys and the women's first four taking second

in Autumn Fours. This growing excitement around CCCBC seems to have stirred an interest in the club's history as well. In the past year, a rudder from the 1935 blades-winning Torpids crew, a sculler's silver cup from 1899, and a photo of a Corpus crew found in a charity shop were donated to the boat club. These will sit among our blades in the Boat House, a permanent reminder of our long, great history.

It is with this history in mind that we now look to the future. Headship would be a big ask – though not impossible, as shown by our last headship in Torpids of 1931 and the double headship of 1885. We remain, however, stubbornly optimistic, and as the freshers of 2017 join our ranks we look forward to great achievements in the near future.

Much of our fleet is ageing, and our equipment sometimes fails, but CCCBC is relentlessly persistent. We do have hopes to replace much of our equipment soon to better equip ourselves to chase our dreams of glory, though for this we are dependent on the continued involvement and commitment of former Corpuscles. But if any college has a community small and friendly enough to pull together and make it work, it's Corpus. We hope, therefore, that our alumni will join us and get involved in securing a successful future for CCCBC.



Benefactor

Legge's legacy lives on

An enormously generous benefaction by local art collector, Mr Gordon Aldrick, has allowed us to memorialise James Legge (1815-1897), the University's first Professor of Chinese (who was supported in his pioneering work through an income from a Corpus stipend). Thanks to this act of generosity, the College is able to announce the establishment of the James Legge Memorial Junior

Research Fellowship in Comparative Aesthetics and Art History. The post will have a strong bias towards Chinese art and calligraphy, reflecting the interests of both Professor Legge and the donor. The first holder of this position is expected to be in place in Michalemas Term 2018. Mr Aldrick is not himself an alumnus of the College but his intention is that the post should augment the work of

Professor Jas' Elsner, Humfry Payne Senior Research Fellow in Classical Archaeology and Art at Corpus.



News

Expanding horizons



Last December, to herald the arrival of the College's 500th year, Old Members were asked to support an initiative to enable Corpus undergraduates to take part in learning opportunities in the US and non-OECD countries. Corpuscles responded by offering both funds and placements. Last summer nine lucky students were awarded *Expanding Horizons* scholarships. All of them felt their Corpus lives to have been enriched by the experience and that they had been given a firm footing from which to plan their future careers. With further contributions, this year's *Expanding Horizons* will be announced to students in early 2018.

Alvina Adimoelj (*Biomedical Sciences*) joined the Zanic Lab at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, researching microtubule dynamics.

Joshua Deru (*Materials*) worked for a research lab at MIT on thermal energy storage in phase change materials.

Robbie Fraser (*PPL*) worked with an impact investing company who specialise in funding small and medium sized local agricultural businesses in Uganda.

Jack Holland (*Chemistry*) volunteered at an organisation called Supporting Kids in Peru (SKIP), whose primary goal is to help economically disadvantaged children in the impoverished district of El Porvenir in Trujillo.

Byung Jin Kim (*Medicine*) travelled to Thailand to work at the Ramanthibodi Hospital in the Obstetrics and Gynaecology Department.

Qi-Lin Moores (*Law*) spent time as an intern at the Higher Education Coordinating Commission in Salem, Oregon.

Abi Newton (*English*) worked as an intern for the Emily Dickinson Museum in Amherst, Massachusetts.

Hugo Shipsey (*Classics*) worked for the Ross Yoon Literary Agency in Washington DC.

Adam Steinberg (*Physics*) spent two months at Cornell working on a particle accelerator.

News

1517 donors

To coincide with our celebrations in 2017 we set ourselves the target of attracting 1,517 donations during our 500th year. This extra funding would be used to support projects such as graduate bursaries, the Library, student sports teams and our outreach programme. Many will have seen the campaign promoted through our alumni email newsletter, a postal mailing sent to you in the spring and finally in our President's year-end video, distributed just before Christmas.

Corpus Old Members have always been generous and at the start of 2017 the number of living alumni who had ever given to the College stood at 1,521.

The number of you who rallied to the cause was impressive, with 1,230 people supporting the College during the year. Even though we fell just short of our target, your donations helped us to send a group of students to experience overseas work and culture during the long vacation, fully fund a second Brock JRF post in History, continue our work promoting the opportunities offered by the University to schools in the North West, offer a new graduate scholarship in humanities, renovate a further three presses in the library and buy CCCBC a new boat.

A large number of donors chose to mark the occasion of our Quincentenary with a gift reflecting our anniversary – several alumni donated £1,517 or £500. The impact of this was to further bolster the funds raised in 2017. At the end of December we had received more than double the value of gifts donated in 2016.

Thank you all so much for the support that you have given us in 2017.

Fundraising

Kitted out

Sometimes smaller, timely gifts can make a big difference. Following its promotion in 2017, the College football team has been in desperate need of new kit (the old strip being over four years old). The 'call to arms' was sent out in an e-newsletter from the Development Office and the answer came back from our Old Members overnight, with donations totalling £700 – enough for new shorts, shirts and socks. An enormous thank you to everyone who contributed. We are hopeful (if not expectant) that, suitably equipped, the football team will continue its rise further up the league ladder in 2018.

Other ways of supporting College clubs and societies will appear in the Development Office's e-newsletter during 2018.

Tributes

In Memoriam

Mark Whittow

1957 – 2017



Old Members may have read in the national press of the death in a car accident of Dr Mark Whittow, University Lecturer in Byzantine Studies and Fellow of our College. The gusto for the subject of Byzantine and Medieval history that Mark transmitted to Corpuscles of many 'vintages'; the intellectual spark that he brought to any academic and non-academic conversation of which he was part; the distinction he bestowed upon College with his research and publications are only some of the contributions he made to Corpus life since he joined in 2009. His close colleague and Fellow in Ancient History Dr Neil McLynn has written a moving tribute to Mark which can be seen in full on the College website.

In Memoriam

Chris Foster

1952 – 2017



The College has suffered the loss of a second highly-valued colleague, in porter Chris Foster, who died just before Christmas. Over the past ten years hundreds of Corpus students who passed by the lodge had come to value his friendship and service. Chris had a natural compassion for those he saw as his charges and, as a supporter of every underdog and an irrepressible righter of wrongs, he would try to help all those he saw as being the victims of misfortune or injustice. A memorial bench, purchased with generous donations from present and past students and staff, will sit in the College garden as a permanent memorial to this much-missed member of our Corpus community.

The Big Picture

Donors in view
A party for our most loyal supporters

In the middle of the 2017 festivities the College took a moment to say thank you to those Old Members and friends who had supported us over the past few years. Five generations of Corpuscles and guests gathered in the College garden on a splendid September afternoon over a glass of champagne to hear the President talk about the successes of our anniversary year and our hopes and ambitions for the decades to come.



Research

Dr Alice Kelly
Harmsworth Junior Research Fellow in the History of the United States and World War One



AMERICA'S GREAT WAR?

In his essay ‘The Crack-Up’ published in *Esquire* magazine in early 1936, F. Scott Fitzgerald cited his ‘two juvenile regrets’ as ‘not being big enough (or good enough) to play football in college’ and ‘not getting overseas during the war’. For the celebrated writer, this is an interesting admission. Considering the brevity of American participation in the Great War – just twenty months, compared to its longer and more complex engagements in other major conflicts – it is tempting to dismiss World War One as America’s forgotten war. Yet its political, social, and cultural ramifications were profound and, to paraphrase the historian David Reynolds, would cast a long shadow across the American twentieth century, from the voting rights of women and African Americans, to the ways that America would interact on the international stage in what would become known as the American century.

Although the United States did not officially enter the war until April 1917, the First World War on the American home front was, for the first three years,

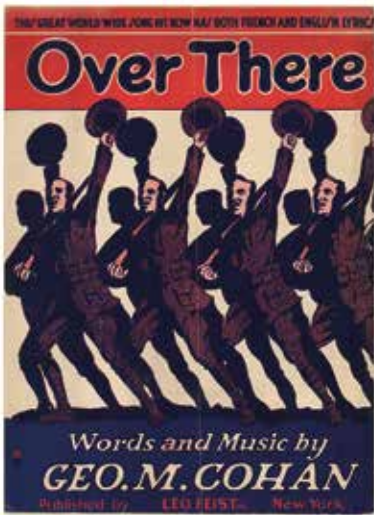
a war of propaganda. It was a fierce war of words for and against America joining the Allied war effort, between those calling for preparedness and later mobilization, to the anti-war movement advocating for staying out of an Old World altercation, not something for this new nation to become entangled within. The discussion, carried out through Congressional debates, newspaper columns, posters, plays, and popular song, divided the American nation over foreign intervention and its growing position on the world stage. Irving Berlin’s pacifist song *Stay Down Here Where You Belong*, penned in 1914, features the devil telling his son to stay down in hell, because the people on earth have ‘all gone to war / And not a one of them knows what they’re fighting for’. Berlin, who would go on to write patriotic songs after America entered the war, later became very embarrassed about this early pacifist song, even offering Groucho Marx \$100 to stop singing it. Some of the more bizarre incarnations of this national debate were the industrialist

Henry Ford’s ‘Peace Ship’, an amateur peace mission on a chartered ocean liner to Europe in 1915, which aimed to prompt a peace conference amongst the belligerent nations and thereby an end to the war: a mission which was unfortunately both unsuccessful and highly mocked in the press.

The sinking of *RMS Lusitania* in May 1915, killing 1198 people including 128 American civilians, prompted Fred Spear’s famous poster *Enlist* depicting the body of a mother cradling her baby as the two drown. The resumption of unrestricted submarine warfare, followed by the decryption of the Zimmermann Telegram in the early months of 1917 and the revelation that the Germans had proposed a pact with Mexico, in order to rally support against the US, fuelled the push towards war. When Woodrow Wilson eventually declared war on 6 April 1917, it was on his own terms – America was an ‘associate’, rather than a formal ally of France and the UK. The day after Wilson declared war on Germany, George M. Cohan wrote *Over There* in just two hours: a catchy, patriotic tune written to encourage young American men to sign up. It would become the most popular song during the war, with over two million copies sold during the war years, its telegram-like wording promising that Americans ‘won’t come back, till it’s over, over there’.

As American soldiers were sent overseas and participated prominently in battles including Cantigny (May 1918), Chateau-Thierry (June 1918), Belleau Wood (June 1918), St. Mihiel (September 1918), and the Meuse-Argonne Offensive (September – November 1918), the war drive developed at home. Charlie Chaplin, the most famous film star in the world in 1918, fooled around on Wall Street with his fellow film star Douglas Fairbanks, in front of a cheering crowd of twenty thousand to promote Liberty Loans during the Third Loan campaign. When peace was declared in November 1918 and troops began to return home, they were greeted by mass celebrations, such as a ticker tape parade on Broadway, as well as some consternation.

Songs such as *How Ya Gonna Keep ‘Em Down on the Farm (After They’ve Seen Paree)?*, written in 1919 by Joe Young and Sam M. Lewis, reflected contemporary concerns that American soldiers returning home after the war would not want to return to their pre-war rural lives after having seen European cities and culture – an early twentieth-century expression of the difficulties of post-war veteran integration into society. The song’s popularity was in part due to its being frequently performed by the band from the celebrated Harlem Hellfighters (the 15th New York National Guard Regiment) consisting mostly of African Americans: a wartime illusion of equality that would vanish almost immediately after the war, and not be realized until the Civil Rights movements fifty years



LEFT: Charlie Chaplin and Douglas Fairbanks at a Liberty Bonds rally on Wall Street, New York City, April 1918.
ABOVE, TOP: George M. Cohan, ‘Over There’ (New York: Leo Feist, 1917).
ABOVE: Z.P. Nikolaki, *Hello! This is Liberty Speaking* (September 15, 1918; Liberty Bonds and Funds).

later. The return of some of the 116,000 war dead to their families and ‘Gold Star Mothers’ marked out the American nation from their counterparts in other nations, whose dead remained predominantly on the battlefields. Memorials, from the Cenotaph centerpiece of the Yale campus in New Haven, Connecticut, to the mock Stonehenge memorial erected by millionaire Sam Hill in rural Washington State, began to appear across the land. Far from being a nation untouched by this distant and foreign war, America was profoundly affected by it.

The sociopolitical importance of the war for the American nation, and the long-term implications for American domestic and foreign policy, have been debated by historians since its conclusion. From David M. Kennedy’s classic 1980 study *Over Here: The First World War and American Society* to more recent texts, historians have examined how America, still a new nation, was remade by the war and how this subsequently remade the world order. New books published during the centenary continue these concerns, such as Michael S. Neiberg’s *The Path to War: How the First World War Created Modern America* (1916), and offer new considerations of American First World War culture, such as Hazel Hutchison’s *The War That Used Up Words: American Literature and the First World War* (2015) and David M. Lubin’s *Grand Illusions: American Art and the First World War* (2016).

My appointment as the Harmsworth Junior Research Fellow in the History of the United States and World War One (itself a First World War memorial to Vere Harmsworth, killed at the Battle of Ancre in November 1916) in July 2016 held in conjunction with the Rothermere American Institute marked the beginning of Oxford’s engagement with the American First World War centenary. We held a major Centenary Lecture Series at the RAI, which reconsidered American involvement and the long-term implications. The film series I organized, entitled *The RAI Goes to the Movies: An American First World War Centenary Series*, featured four American WWI masterpieces: Charlie Chaplin’s comedy *Shoulder Arms* (1918), King Vidor’s *The Big Parade* (1925), William Wellman’s aviation drama *Wings* (1927) and Howard Hawks’ biopic *Sergeant York* (1941). My recent scholarship has considered some of the most interesting cultural aspects of the war, including a *Times Literary Supplement* article on an exciting new archival acquisition of letters by Ellen N. La Motte, an American First World War nurse, and talks at the British Library and British Academy on American First World War culture, from chewing gum to Lady Liberty selling war bonds. This new scholarship, part of a broader reconsideration of the American Great War in light of the centenary, demonstrates the richness of American involvement and the profound implications of this distant European War on the United States.

The Corpus Papers

09

Visiting reader to the Special Collections, Cleo Madeleine, explains how annotations to books like the Corpus copy of Polydore Vergil’s *Anglica historia* can offer insight into the reading practices of the early modern period.



POLYDORE VERGIL’S *ANGLICA HISTORIA* AND MILES WINDSOR

Cleo Madeleine, PhD Researcher, University of East Anglia

Polydore Vergil (c. 1470-1555), an early sixteenth-century historian, remains inexplicably understudied despite his considerable contributions to English historiography. My research explores his work through the annotations of his contemporary readers, of whom the most prolific and interesting by far was Miles Windsor (d. 1622). Windsor studied at Corpus Christi from 1557 and obtained a fellowship in 1560. During his fellowship he was evidently an esteemed figure, known for his interest in College history and part of a select group to entertain Queen Elizabeth during her royal visit. Unfortunately the Windsor family’s fortunes turned in 1566 when their plot to conceal Catholic practices at Corpus was discovered, and Windsor’s fellowship was terminated in 1568. Despite this he, and perhaps his family, appear to have maintained a relationship with the college, as his sizeable book collection was donated to the library on his death.

Among his donation is a heavily annotated 1556 edition of Vergil’s *Anglica historia* (CCC ϕ .F.3.13). This was the first history of England to appear in print or use an index, and Vergil’s critical historiography demonstrates unprecedented attention to the problem of discerning truth in the murky waters of the past. Windsor showed a similar dedication in his meticulous research of Oxonian history. Previous accounts of his life have lamented that many of his documents are lost, but his notes on Vergil can shed some light on the kind of work he was doing, both at Corpus and following his expulsion.

My first encounter with the text was a dizzying experience: As soon as I opened the book, still in its original binding, I was confronted with Windsor’s compact, boxed script filling the page in every direction. His most impressive contribution, and perhaps the key to interpreting his reading of the text, fills the space on the title page verso. He has drawn up a table that, using Vergil’s calculations and some of his own exegesis, attempts to calculate the age of the world by dating its seven eras: From Adam to Noah, Noah to Abraham, from Abraham to the exodus of the Israelites, then to the fall of Babylon, to the construction of the temple of Jerusalem, to the birth of Christ, and from the birth of Christ to the modern day (recorded “x anno” so that the later reader might count to their own year). At the bottom of the table a string of dates have been added that might reflect later readings of the book or births and deaths in the Windsor family. The grand scale of the history of the world combined with the mundane record of family life reflects Windsor’s relationship with the book: at once a formidable tool in exploring the past and a close, personal part of his everyday life.

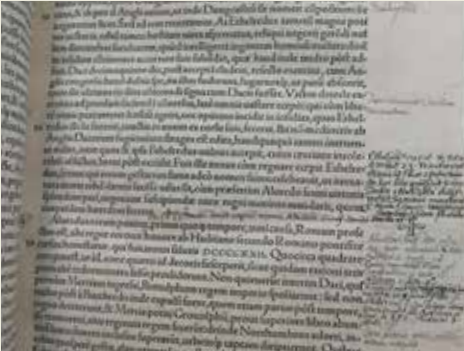
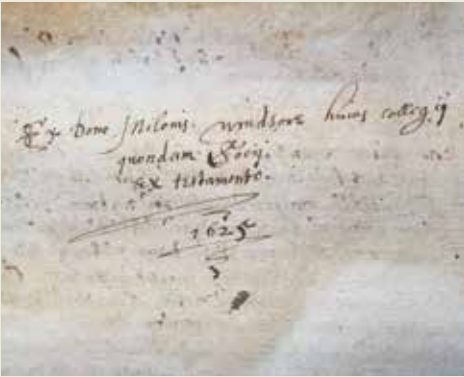
One can imagine how Windsor might have felt a similar relationship, both personal and scholarly, with Vergil. Vergil, a Catholic Italian by birth, came to England in 1502 as a papal subcollector. He initially found favour in the court of Henry VII and was commissioned to produce the *Anglica historia*, but his fortunes waned following the accession of Henry VIII and he was imprisoned in the Tower of London during the latter half of 1515. Although he was released unharmed, the experience clearly affected him: he delayed the publication of the completed manuscript until 1534 and, although he remained a Catholic in name, he did not oppose reform when it came to his seat of Bath and Wells. Windsor might have found

in Vergil a contemporary story of a man struggling to reconcile his religious convictions with the powerful and influential institutions on which he depended.

What is most striking about Vergil’s historiography is both the wealth of its sources and the cautious, comparative approach to them. Notably, he was responsible for rediscovering and printing the sixth-century ecclesiastical historian Gildas (who remains the most contemporary source for subroman British history) and making liberal use of recently-discovered parts of Tacitus. Vergil placed native historians like Gildas and Bede alongside the classical, as well as later medieval chroniclers and his own contemporaries. The result of this is not a synthesis of various sources into a singular historical narrative so much as a jumble of conflicting accounts and mismatched chronologies. Vergil laments that sources he trusts and respects equally can disagree with little effective means of distinguishing the truth, and so prefers to offer multiple versions of history: “I would set it out for my readers’ judgement”.

Windsor’s annotations respond eagerly to this invitation to critically engage with the plurality of history. In the main body of Vergil’s text his contributions present more of a challenge for the transcriber than the clear, tabulated calculations on the title page verso. He writes in a cramped Latin hand squeezed into the margins to make maximum use of the space. At the top of most pages are headings squeezed in around the printed name of the king for that period, usually adding the pope at the time or notable military leaders. He glosses historical events from Vergil with reference to the accounts of classical sources, and often checks Vergil’s chronology against Renaissance humanist favourites like Caesar’s *Commentaries* and Tacitus’ *Annals*. His use of specific references to books and lines conjures an image of Windsor working with several books open in front of him, in the Corpus library of his time or at his home in Oxford, checking the classical greats against Vergil’s own recent work. It should be noted that, of course, Windsor takes particular interest in Vergil’s detailed dating of the foundation of colleges at Oxford and Cambridge – a piece of historiography that was still causing strife in a Commons debate of 1628, when Vergil’s claim that Cambridge was founded first led the Oxonian Edward Littleton to exclaim “One Vergil was a poet, the other a liar!”. Through these notes we can gain an understanding of the research methodology lost with Windsor’s documents: using the sources available to him to refine his historical narrative, judiciously making corrections where a source has erred or offering comparisons where they differ with no clear right answer.

My own research, in which Windsor undoubtedly has a major role to play, investigates how annotations to books like the *Anglica historia* can offer insight into the reading practices of the sixteenth century, and how the advent of the printed book might have shaped readership. What has been most striking so far is the diversity of responses to the text: Alongside Windsor’s diligent attempts to curate history there is the anonymous annotator to Norfolk Heritage Centre DG11 who notes moral lessons that can be learned from the lives of early British kings, or Cambridge University Library Sel.2.21 which contains Thomas Cranmer’s annotations to the partitions of the early English church. What stands to be gained from reading the notes of readers like Miles Windsor is a previously untapped picture of early modern readership, and for this I am deeply indebted to Corpus Christi library and the welcoming and helpful librarians who led me to this book in the first place.



LEFT: Title page of ϕ .F.3.13.
ABOVE, TOP: Miles Windsor’s *ex dono* inscription.
ABOVE, BOTTOM: Some of Windsor’s extensive marginal annotations

News

Fox exhumed

It is said that when the ravens decide to leave the Tower, it portends that the realm is in great peril. Some believe that the fates of our tortoise, Fox, and the College are similarly entwined. So Michaelmas Term was a nervous one for those charged with the task of looking after the redoubtable reptile. As preparations were being made for his transfer to his winter quarters – a cosy wooden box in a shed in the President’s garden – it was realised that our champion testudo was nowhere to be seen. An extensive search was made of the gardens, but without success. Rumours abounded as to what might have befallen him. Could our country cousins from the Fens have taken him – seeking to undermine our morale before next year’s *Corpus Challenge*? Had a jealous rival college made him a substantial transfer-fee to bear their colours at the Tortoise Fair? Was he about to share the miserable fate of Derby-winner, *Shergar*? As December loomed, thoughts turned to how he should be replaced. How could we

ever hope to replace a creature who could mete out a level of violence that had merited the first and only red card in tortoise race history (and whose whereabouts at the time of the death of stable-mate Hugh Oldham remain shrouded in mystery)? If we had at the outset consulted one of our Classicists, we would have learned that the tortoise was believed by the ancients to have emerged from the underworld and the mystery would have been easily solved. As the Mahonia bush started to blossom, from beneath the clods in the presidential flower bed, Richard Fox suddenly emerged. Our champion had been enjoying an Autumn city-break, courtesy of Hades Tours. What secrets were imparted to him during his sojourn we cannot know, but confidence abounds that next year Fox will cement his reputation among his college rivals as ‘the tortoise from hell’.



Exhibition

500 Years of Treasures from Corpus

Following the hugely successful exhibitions in New York and Washington of some of the most important objects in our special library collections, a benefactor has funded the digitisation of the exhibition so that it is available for generations to come. The photographer is one of the foremost practitioners of this kind of digital work and the results can be seen in the news section on the College Website: www.ccc.ox.ac.uk/500-years-of-treasures-Exhibition-virtual-tour.

Rugby

Varsity Match

It was a splendid outing for 20 Corpuscles and friends at the Varsity Rugby Match in December – provided, that is they kept their eyes away from the scoreboard. The conversation in the hospitality area afterwards covered every topic except the match. Both Oxford sides, men and women, lost their games in pretty convincing fashion. We shall return undaunted in 2018 for what is always an excellent day out – whatever might be happening on the pitch.

Music

Quincentenary music

Former Organ Scholar David Moore’s new setting of the *Magnificat* and *Nunc Dimittis* was performed at the Corpus Christi Day Service on Wednesday 1 November. David writes: I remember very fondly my three years at Corpus as Organ Scholar (Music, 2003). The choir grew in size and confidence and I remember some really wonderful services of Choral Evensong in the Chapel. I was lucky to have the support of the other organ scholars at this time: Julian MacBride (Materials Science, 2002), Tom West (Law, 2000) and Ben Woodgates (Music 2005) along with Judith Maltby and Acting Chaplain Vincent Strudwick. They were most certainly happy times and we were lucky enough to be able to record the choir’s first CD in 2005 and undertake an ambitious tour of Canada in the summer of 2006. I graduated in 2006, headed to Truro Cathedral as Organ Scholar and then onwards to London to

work for Hampstead Parish Church. Imagine my delight, some ten years later, when Judith phoned one Friday morning and asked if I would write some music for Corpus in its Quincentenary year. Thus the Corpus Christi Day Service (*Magnificat* and *Nunc Dimittis*) was born and came to fruition at Evensong in the Chapel on Wednesday 1 November 2017, sung by the College Choir. Senior Organ Scholar, Matthew Murphy, conducted with me playing the organ! I wanted the piece to be something that would become standard Corpus repertoire (of course!), the mood of the *Magnificat* to be electric and the *Nunc Dimittis* to be soothing. Both texts are in English but a little sneaky bit of Latin crops up here and there in the *Magnificat*! The premiere was splendid and I’m so grateful to Judith, Matthew, the current organ scholars and the Choir of course, for helping to make it a wonderful occasion!



New Arrivals

David Armstrong
Fellow and Tutor in Materials

“By bringing aspects of his research activities into lectures and tutorials he aims to emphasise the real world applications of materials science and to ensure the undergraduates are exposed to the latest findings and theories



David Armstrong joined Corpus in Michaelmas 2016, as a Tutorial Fellow and Associate Professor of Materials Science. Since 2015 he has held a Royal Academy of Engineering Research Fellowship in the Department of Materials at Oxford. Prior to this he held a Culham Centre for Fusion Energy (CCFE) Junior Research Fellowship at St Edmund Hall, where he undertook research into the effects of radiation damage on materials for nuclear fusion. He studied for his DPhil at Corpus Christi between 2005 and 2009 and before this read for a MEng in Materials Science at St Anne’s College.

His research group, comprising three Post Docs, fourteen DPhil students and two Masters students, works on a wide range of materials engineering challenges with the common theme of understanding the behaviour of materials in extreme environments, at elevated temperatures, under high stresses or after radiation damage in nuclear environments. In all cases the physical properties of the materials will be significantly altered during use and understanding how is key for safe engineering design as well as for the development of more effective new materials.

David’s current areas of focus include understanding the effect of radiation damage on the advanced tungsten and steel alloys being developed for use in nuclear fusion devices. This work is in collaboration with CCFE and the EPSRC Centre for Doctoral Training in

the Science and Technology of Nuclear Fusion, for which he is the Materials lead on the management board. To realise nuclear fusion as a viable energy source developing suitable materials for the containment vessel is one of the greatest challenges. His group works to both understand the fundamental science of these alloys after irradiation as well as to develop new tungsten alloys which can withstand the high temperatures generated during the fusion reaction.

It is also working on several projects with collaborators at the Universities of Berkeley, CA and Wisconsin-Madison to develop accident tolerant fuel cladding for nuclear fission reactors. The fuel cladding is the ‘container’ which must protect the fuel from the coolant in the reactor. Ensuring the integrity of this container is key to the safe operating of the nuclear plant. David’s group is working with leading industrial and academic groups in the USA to develop new cladding materials which can be used at higher temperatures and for longer time periods. This will allow future nuclear reactors to be both more efficient and safer.

David’s research has also recently moved into ceramic composites for nuclear and aerospace applications. Whilst ceramics are inherently brittle they can be used at much higher operating temperatures than most metals and are less dense which can allow jet engines to be more efficient. By forming composite structures of

ceramic fibres in a ceramic matrix (similar to the carbon fibre composites used in F1 cars) the brittleness can be overcome and a material which can withstand high stresses and temperatures without breaking can be created. These materials are complex, however, and their mechanical behaviour from the nanometer to millimetre length scale needs to be explored before they can be utilised. This work is in conjunction potential end users including, General Atomics (USA), UKAEA (UK) and Rolls-Royce (UK).

David teaches a wide range of courses for the undergraduates at Corpus, from mechanical behaviour to microscopy and polymer synthesis to powder processing. Within the department he lectures on nuclear materials for graduates and advanced engineering materials for undergraduates. By bringing aspects of his research activities into lectures and tutorials he aims to emphasise the real world applications of materials science and to ensure the undergraduates are exposed to the latest findings and theories.

Having met his wife (Dr Helena Kelly, 1999) at Corpus whilst serving on the MCR committee in 2007, David is delighted to be back at the College. He is looking forward to taking a full part in College life and to working with Professor Pete Nellist to grow Materials Science at both undergraduate and graduate level.

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.

Merchandise

These products are available through our website:

www.ccc.ox.ac.uk/Merchandise/



Corpus Christi College – A History



The Great Little College



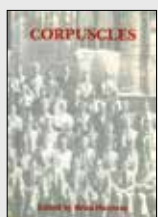
Treasures from the Corpus Library



2017 University Almanack



Corpus Christi College – A History



The Great Little College



Stylus Pen



Key Ring



Earrings



Whisky Glasses



Boxed Placemat Set



Photographs of the College

Corpus Christi College Alumni events

For more information on all these events and to book please go to: www.ccc.ox.ac.uk/Events-Calendar

March 2018

Friday 16 to Sunday 18 March University Reunion in Rome

Explore the Eternal City led by experts, enjoy a programme of talks on the latest Oxford research and gather for convivial and stylish social events organised both by Corpus and by the University. To book, go to www.alumni.ox.ac.uk/Rome2018.

Saturday 17 March to Sunday 25 March Oxford Literary Festival

Corpus will once again support the 2018 Literary Festival. Members of Corpus taking part include former President, Richard Carwardine, on *Lincoln's Sense of Humour*, Professor Jas Elsner on the Ashmolean exhibition *Imagining the Divine* and Professor Thomas Charles-Edwards discussing *Corpus Christi College, Oxford – A History*.

Friday 23 March Gaudy for 1965-1970

Traditional Black Tie Dinner – fully booked.

April 2018

Friday 6 April and Saturday 7 April University Reunion in San Francisco

On Friday, there is a reception at the Westin St Francis Hotel with its spectacular views and a Gala Dinner at the iconic Ferry Building. An academic programme, including highlights from the Bodleian's summer exhibition *Tolkien: maker of Middle-earth* on Saturday will be followed by a Corpus Reunion in the evening. To book the University events, please go to

www.oxfordna.org/events/alumni-weekend-in-north-america. More details will follow about the Corpus Reunion.

Friday 13 April Intercollegiate Golf Tournament & Corpus Dinner

This year's tournament will be followed by dinner in Corpus.

May 2018

Friday 11 May Corpus in Toronto

Dinner in the University of Toronto Faculty Club.

Saturday 26 May Eights Week Lunch

More details of the annual riverside celebrations to follow.

June 2018

Saturday 23 June Gaudy for 1975-78

Black tie nostalgia.

September 2018

Tuesday 18 September Royal Wimbledon Golf Match & BBQ

St Edmund Hall join Corpus golfers for 12 holes followed by a BBQ on the terrace. Non-golfers very welcome on the Putting Green and at the evening BBQ.

Saturday 29 September Alumni Biennial Dinner

NICK READ



Choir tour to Rome

In 10th week of Trinity term, a cohort of 26 Corpus choir members headed to Rome for a week's tour of the city. The visit involved giving three concerts, singing Evensong at All Saint's – Rome's one Anglican church, and

singing Mass at all four Papal Basilicas, including St. Peter's on a Sunday morning for a congregation of over 300 people. The Choir was conducted by Peter Ladd, former Organ Scholar.