

# Sundial

50  
Corpus Christi  
College Oxford 2017

03

**Profile**

Robin Murphy discusses  
Experimental Psychology

05

**Looking back**

20 years at  
Corpus

06

**Research**

Unravelling Cryptography  
with Dr Louis Aslett

12

**Corpus Papers**

Corpus manuscript in major  
British Library exhibition



14

**Studentships**

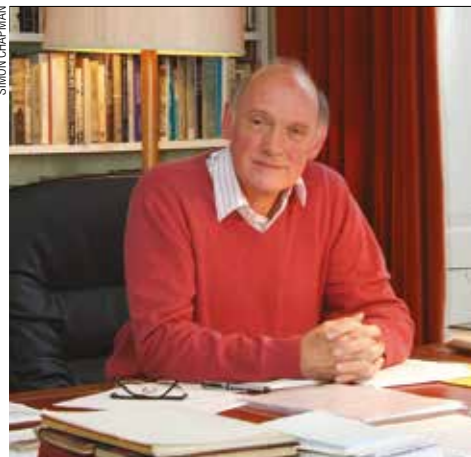
Jonathan Wolf  
celebrates  
his father



# Welcome

## From the President

Professor Richard Carwardine FBA



The countdown to 2017 has begun. Enclosed with this issue of *The Sundial* you will find a brochure – *The Corpus 500 Campaign* – that launches our fundraising appeal in support of the College's ambitious projects to mark our Quincentenary. Let me tell you about the thinking that has shaped the plans to mark this momentous year in our history.

On 5 March 1517 our founder, Richard Fox, placed his new College into the hands of a president, twenty fellows, and twenty scholars. This was the culmination of some six years' work. Corpus was to be a pioneering and unequivocally humanist college to train secular priests. Thanks to Fox, Renaissance learning took its place for the first time in Oxford.

We are now just two years away from our 500th anniversary, and the steady pulse of routine business in Corpus cannot conceal the quickening of excitement. Equally, as I talk to Old Corpuscles, I am greatly encouraged by your eagerness to see us inaugurate our next half-millennium with bold ambition. It is not unreasonable to assert that the Quincentenary projects, fully realised, will constitute a Second Renaissance.

Renaissance humanists sought to nurture intelligent, prudent citizens capable of engaging in civic life and promoting public virtue. Theirs is an enduring ambition. Our objects at Corpus are to advance scholarly research and foster students' intellects, alert of course to the demands of a rapidly changing economy, while preparing them, like their predecessors, to engage in civic life and promote public virtue.

For Corpus to continue to provide a liberal, humane education, independent of the political weather, requires financial independence. During the initial quiet phase of our

500 Campaign – since 2010 – we have made significant progress. Thanks to a University matched-funding scheme, but even more to our Old Members, the College has endowed in perpetuity four Tutorial Fellowships: in Philosophy, English, Latin and History. This is an outstanding expression of Old Corpuscles' generosity for which the College is profoundly grateful.

Building on these recent achievements, the Campaign is focused on raising funds to provide graduate studentships and more support for undergraduates and to extend the Michael Brock Junior Research Fellowship in Modern History. We also want to resource a programme to encourage girls from state schools to read science subjects at university. We aim to improve the facilities for College rowing and music, and enhance the cultural and sporting lives of our students in other ways, too.

Above all, we have ambitious plans for a New Library. They include:

- Bringing into the light of the 21st century a treasury of rare manuscripts and early books, currently held in a College basement. These include a spectacular set of medieval Anglo-Jewish texts, early Greek and Latin manuscripts, and letters of Sir Isaac Newton. Our 20,000 early printed books constitute one of the most important collections in Oxford or Cambridge.
- Providing areas for study groups and more space for readers.
- Providing a good working environment for scholars, archivists and librarians.
- Liberating once-beautiful ground-floor space in the main quad, currently housing book stacks, to become much-needed public rooms.
- Improving the College's architectural aesthetic.

The plans for the New Library are currently the subject of public consultation. In their final, approved form we shall post them on the Corpus website for you to consider.

I hope you will agree that this project and our other schemes collectively offer a fitting programme for our 500th anniversary. To realise these goals the College depends, as it has throughout its history, on its members' generous giving. I very much hope we can count on your support.

With my best wishes,

Richard Carwardine

## Sundial

Issue 4  
April 2015



### Editors

**Nick Thorn**  
above, top  
nick.thorn@ccc.ox.ac.uk

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

**Sara Watson**  
above, bottom  
sara.watson@ccc.ox.ac.uk

**©Corpus Christi College**  
Oxford, 2015  
www.ccc.ox.ac.uk

**Designed by**  
www.pelotondesign.co.uk

**Printed by**  
Taylor Brothers Bristol Ltd

All details are correct at the time of going to press.

**COVER: Cloisters**  
Photography by  
Patrick Meyer Higgins

## Profile

### Professor Robin Murphy

Fellow in Experimental Psychology

Professor Murphy joined the College in 2009. He has been Welfare Tutor for Men and since 2011 has been Dean at Corpus.

Professor Robin Murphy's lab investigates the neurobiological computational and behavioural consequences of learning. Noncontroversially, the experimental study of learning believes that an enduring effect of our experiences is a change to the physical brain and our subsequent behaviour. He uses both rodent and human-based models of how experience is translated into these changes in behaviour and thinking. A goal of this type of behavioural and cognitive neuroscience research is to use the findings to develop our

understanding of debilitating and destructive psychopathologies such as depression and psychopathy. Robin's lab has close ties with researchers in Australia, Canada, Ireland and the UK as well as with university spin out companies involved in software development and the search for a cure for Alzheimers.

The study of learning assumes that underlying our behaviour and thoughts are the connected activities of neurons. Neurons are complex biological entities with interesting and varied electrical and chemical function, but ultimately their physical action reduces to a binary event – either the neuron is active or inactive. The search for an explanation for how neurons can collectively produce complex thought and behaviours requires theories that consider how excitatory and inhibitory processes can combine in complex organised systems.

Robin uses computational theories of stimulus association to describe these complex interactions. The human-based work studies people while they engage in computer-based tasks. Participants come into

these tasks relatively naïve about the nature of the task and are required to learn a statistical or causal relation. Using a combination of observation, recordings and variation to brain action the experiments are designed to understand how learning comes about, its content and ultimately how to support learning where biases emerge. Associative learning attempts to describe how connections can produce the thoughts that allow us to pick up a cup of coffee or to imagine a cure for cancer. The theories are instantiated in computer simulations from which we can generate predictions about how particular experiences that we might present to our laboratory participants or subjects will be learnt.

One example of recent advances in the lab is the use of these associative models to understand how people learn that they are causal agents – how they can cause things to happen and how the neurotransmitter serotonin might be crucial in feeding human perceptions of agency. It is well known that one of the symptoms of depression is a loss of agency and instrumental control. When we press a door bell, steer the wheel of car or send our CV to a potential employer we are using our memory of learned contingencies to guide our behaviour, but in depression the perception of instrumentality diminishes. Another symptom of depression is altered neurotransmitter action. Neurotransmitters are the chemicals that carry signals between neurons. Robin has been studying the involvement of the brain network involving the neurotransmitter serotonin and its role in instrumental action.

The research in Robin's lab has been funded over the years by the UK research councils Biotechnology and Biological Sciences (BBSRC), Economic and Social (ESRC), Medical Research Council (MRC) and the Wellcome Foundation. He sits on international journal editorial boards and has advised the Canadian and British governments' research councils.

For the interested reader a collection edited by Professor Murphy on associative learning and its application is freely available as an ebook download at: [www.frontiersin.org/books/Individual\\_differences\\_in\\_associative\\_learning/315](http://www.frontiersin.org/books/Individual_differences_in_associative_learning/315) and in 2015 the Wiley/Blackwells *Handbook of the Cognitive Neuroscience of Learning* will be released.





# The Dial

► Our Academic Registrar  
looks back over 20 years at Corpus

ISTOCK



## Reunion

### Corpus in Rome 2014

Friday 26- Sunday 28 September

When Dr Anna Marmodoro announced that she was holding a Philosophy Summer School at the British School in Rome in September, it seemed only sensible to hold an Alumni weekend that would tailgate the Summer School but would also explore some of the beauties of Rome. A group of twenty, including the President, began their visit with an illuminating lecture from Dr Marmodoro at the British School, entitled 'What the Roman Philosophers, philosophically, did for us'. The group then headed off for a guided tour of the Galleria Borghese with its breathtaking interiors and sculpture. A walking tour of some of the highlights of the city was followed by a convivial dinner in a restaurant built over the 1st century Theatre of Pompey. On Saturday, the group enjoyed a spectacular visit to Hadrian's Villa, a fine lunch under a pergola of wisteria and the extraordinary Villa d'Este with its entrancing fountains. The weekend came to an end on Sunday with a farewell brunch at the elegant Caffé Greco, Rome's oldest café.

## Theatre Trip

### Blanche McIntyre at The Globe

Tuesday 9 September 2014

Last September, Blanche McIntyre (Classics, 1999), directed Shakespeare's *The Comedy of Errors* at The Globe to wide critical acclaim and on 9 September thirty Old Members and guests enjoyed the performance immensely. Before the performance, over a pizza supper, Blanche gave a very well-received talk to the group about her production and its classical connections. Blanche is at The Globe again this summer directing *As You Like It*. A Corpus theatre trip has been booked for Tuesday 1 September and details will be available shortly.

## Biennial Dinner

### Corpus Association Biennial Dinner 2014

Saturday 4 October 2014

Ninety-five people, a third of whom were guests, attended this successful event, with matriculation years ranging from 1949 to 2003. Before the Dinner, the Bursar Mr John Harrison and Professor Helen Moore, Fellow and Tutor in English, gave a presentation about the New Library Project. Professor Stephen Harrison, Mynors and Charles Oldham Fellow, proposed the Toast to the Association and Mr Bill Morris, (Engineering, 1964 and President of the Association) made the Reply.

## Reunion

### New York 2015

Saturday 14 February

The President was in town on Valentine's Day to host a tour for Old Members of an exhibition on the life of Abraham Lincoln which he had helped to curate at the Morgan Library. It draws heavily on the Library's renowned collection of American historical documents, including a collection of Lincoln manuscripts and letters, together with photographic portraits and books owned and used by the President.

Later that evening, on one of the coldest nights New Yorkers could remember (with thick ice rapidly forming on the River Hudson) sixteen hardy Corpus souls gathered at the Harvard Club for the annual Reunion Dinner. The Sunday Times's US



Editor Toby Harnden (Modern History, 1985), gave a superb talk, based on his Orwell Prize-winning book *Dead Men Risen* – a moving account of the experiences of the Welsh Guards, led by the late Lieutenant Colonel Rupert Thorneloe who was killed in action during their 2009 tour of Afghanistan. Toby fielded a flurry of questions before the company finally broke up and spilled out onto the frozen streets, fortified by the warm glow of Corpuscular camaraderie.

# College Faces

Rachel Pearson  
Academic Registrar

## Changing times

This is Rachel Pearson's 21st year at Corpus. During that time her job has changed considerably. We asked her to reflect on how it has evolved.

### What attracted you to the post at Corpus?

I had worked for the university for six years and I thought it might be challenging and interesting to work for a College.

### What major changes have you seen in your time here?

There has been a huge change in the Fellowship. I have worked for three Presidents, nine Senior Tutors and four Tutors for Graduates. Technology has transformed the job. When I started at Corpus we were still using typewriters! The biggest change has been the introduction of email. It has been both good and bad. It makes communication quicker and easier but reduces the time I spend talking to people and everyone expects an immediate response. Personally, my role has changed a lot; I started as the Senior Tutor's Secretary, then in 1997 I became College Secretary. I took on the administration of graduates in 2001 and more recently my title has changed to Academic Registrar.



**I enjoy the interaction with so many different people; I don't think I would get to meet such a variety of people in any other job.**

### Are students today very different from the ones you met in 1994?

What I have noticed is that over the years students have gradually become more anxious and less resilient to pressure.

### What single piece of advice would you give to a newly arrived undergraduate?

Don't stress, don't panic, work hard, enjoy yourself and, if in doubt, ask for help.



### If there is anything you could change about the job what would it be?

There is nothing significant I would change. I don't think I would have stayed at Corpus for so long if there was. My job is constantly evolving. I would, though, love to be able to reduce my email traffic.

### What do you enjoy about working here?

I enjoy the interaction with so many different people; I don't think I would get to meet such a variety of people in any other job. Being able to help facilitate the smooth running of the College by working with all of the College Officers is very satisfying. I like the sense of community

and the support the College provides to not only its students but also to its staff. Last year I completed an Open University degree (a BA in History with Religious Studies); I greatly appreciated the support of many of the Fellows during the six years I was studying.



# Research

**Dr Louis Aslett**

Junior Research Fellow, Corpus Christi College  
Postdoctoral Researcher, Department of Statistics, University of Oxford

## DOING SCIENCE BLINDFOLD

Recent developments in cryptography combined with new statistical models offer the prospect of privacy preserving scientific research.

The problem of ensuring the privacy of sensitive information is as old as civilisation itself. One classic context for this concern is the need to send a private message via an untrusted medium of communication, be that via a human messenger in ancient times or across the public internet in the modern day. The method of choice commonly used to achieve such privacy is called *cryptography*.

Cryptography is, in fact, an umbrella term, loosely encompassing any method which involves mathematically transforming (*encrypting*) your message in such a way as to render a *cipher text*, from which it is practically impossible to recover the original message (*decrypt*) without knowledge of some secret, akin to a password. The cipher text can therefore be openly and publicly disclosed (for example, to an untrusted messenger boy or to the world at large on the internet) and only an adversary with tremendous computational power, or one who identifies a flaw in the method itself, can recover the message.



“An exciting new area of research at the interface between cryptography and statistics which has potential for significant impact in both enabling research and ensuring data privacy.”

Although the origins of cryptography lie in this secret communication problem, there are manifold uses, for example simply long term storage of sensitive information: once encrypted there is no need to store it in a safe or bank vault, since the cipher text is itself a mathematical vault. However, this secret storage problem raises an interesting additional question: what if one wishes to manipulate the information stored therein?

To make this concrete with an everyday example, imagine one encrypts the deposits and expenditures on a bank account and after some time the balance is required. The crux of the problem is that all the different approaches to cryptography have shared the common trait of being ‘brittle’ in the sense that the information within a cipher text cannot be manipulated without first decrypting. Broadly speaking, any attempt to modify, combine or transform cipher texts usually renders nonsense upon decryption – one can only recover exactly what was put into the mathematical vault in the first place.

Returning to the fictional bank account problem, the brittleness of cryptographic methods seem to imply one must first decrypt all of the information on the account and risk disclosure in order to simply ascertain the balance. It would be gratifying if one could instead add up the balance by combining the cipher texts directly and simply decrypt the final result.

In 1978 it was postulated that it may be possible to develop methods of cryptography whereby it was indeed possible to manipulate the information held within a cipher text without compromising privacy. More specifically, the postulate was that arbitrary addition and multiplication of numbers held in the cipher text may be possible so that one ends up with an encrypted version of the answer. In other words, the fictional bank balance could be computed without having to decrypt all the transactions: we simply perform special operations on the cipher text which correspond to performing addition of the information held within.

Quite literally, if one were to encrypt the numbers 2 and 3, then take these two cipher texts and perform a special ‘addition’ operation on them, then decryption of the result would render 5. We have computed the sum blindfold because when operating on the cipher texts we had no idea of their true secret values.

It was not until 2009 in a remarkable PhD thesis by Craig Gentry at Stanford University that the 1978 postulate was proved true and a method developed. Any cryptography algorithm which can achieve this (and several now exist since 2009) is called a *fully homomorphic encryption* scheme.

### Statistics and homomorphic encryption

Of course, computing bank account balances is a rather mundane and over simplified use for such a remarkable result (and technically can be achieved without *full* homomorphism). However, there are in fact many limitations, some of them rather technical. Applied cryptographers have started publishing applications of these schemes to scientific models where the limitations permit



ABOVE: Dr Louis Aslett

computation, but this restricts the field of use substantially. As a statistician, I am interested in coming from the opposite direction and developing new models which are explicitly designed with the limitations of homomorphic encryption in mind and quantifying the uncertainty in these more approximate methods: statistics is essentially the mathematics of uncertainty.

One example area is of importance to both academics and industry. The extensive use of private and personally identifiable information in biomedical applications can make the general public reticent to contribute their data and so impede medical research: a 2009 study found 90% of people were uneasy about so-called ‘biobanks’ which seek to amass patient data. However, if cryptographically strong guarantees can be provided that their data will not be seen – only the results of models fitted, with the data remaining encrypted throughout – then people may be more willing to engage with researchers and more data will be available. But we need new models which work within the confines of these homomorphic schemes. Our research has already shown that even some very approximate models which are amenable to homomorphic encryption will outperform the traditional models when they have more data available.

Indeed it is not just in academia: industry itself is on the brink of embarking on biomedical applications on a mind-boggling scale never before witnessed as a result of the impending wave of ‘wearable devices’ such as smart watches, which present serious privacy concerns. Companies hope to market the ability to monitor and track vital health signs round the clock, perhaps fitting biomedical models to alert on different health concerns. However, they will almost certainly leverage ‘cloud’ services, uploading reams of private health diagnostics to corporate servers. Statistical methods developed for homomorphic encryption could allow individual privacy to be preserved, whilst still enabling industry to incorporate such data into statistical analyses.

This represents an exciting new area of research at the interface between cryptography and statistics which has potential for significant impact in both enabling research and ensuring data privacy.



# The Big Picture

---

## The New Library Project

### An Artist's Impression

---

The project will deliver much needed improvements to our Library facilities, it will enhance the security and accessibility of our special collections and flexibly match the future study needs of a networked generation. In addition, the project will rationalise the use of space across the entire site.

Architect's Drawing by kind permission of Berman Guedes Stretton



BERMAN GUEDES STRETTON



**Contacts**  
Golf Development Office  
01865 276738

► **Upcoming sports events**  
Intercollegiate Golf Match – 17 April  
Hardie Golf Tournament – 16 June



## Dance

# Physicist dances to success

Merritt Moore

**When I first came to Oxford to pursue a DPhil in Atomic and Laser Physics, I mentally 'retired' from my dancing career and decided to focus exclusively on physics. However, I have 'retired' from dancing so many times that I should have known not to throw away all my pointe shoes.**

I am now in the third year of my DPhil, and I work daily on building large quantum optics experiments to find an experimental platform that would assist new quantum technologies implement faster algorithms, allow more secure transmission of information, and perform more accurate measurements.

However, during my free time I have gradually found myself taking more and more dance classes in London and striving again to pursue a professional standard. I took time off while I was at University in the States to dance professionally with the Zurich Ballet and Boston Ballet Company and I thought at the time that I had had enough dancing, but the dance scene in London pulled me back in. I performed at the Barbican, some galas in the countryside with principals from the English National Ballet and Royal Ballet, and then was asked to join the English National Ballet this Fall for their winter season.

It was a dream come true but also very difficult. I was given two weeks to learn all the choreography and rehearse with the company before jumping into 33 Nutcracker and 16 Swan Lake performances. I would wake up before 8am to be at the theatre, warmed up to take a ballet class with the company on stage, perform two shows a day, then exit the theatre around 10.45pm at night to get home, eat, shower and ice my feet, before passing out from exhaustion. I'm not sure whether I will be able to continue pursuing both physics and dance. For the time being, I have turned down an extended contract with English National Ballet to pursue exciting experiments at my lab, but at heart I'm a serial dancer – next time, I may say yes.

ABOVE: Dance rehearsal on the roof terrace

## Rowing

# Corpus holds its own in Torpids

**Guy Ward**  
President, Corpus Christi College Boat Club

**This year's Torpids was always going to be an eventful one. The cancellation of last year's racing meant that the crews fielded this year were radically different from the ones that raced two years ago – I was the only member of M1 who had actually competed in Torpids!**

The result of the gap in racing was that many crews either flew up the rankings or dropped a long way. The Corpus crews held their own, with M1 finishing in the same place in Division Three and W1 going up two places in Division Two.

M1 appeared to be in a precarious position at the start of the term, having lost a number of senior rowers to finals revision. However, a number of novices have taken to the sport remarkably quickly. On Wednesday we were chased by an incredibly fast Mansfield. While they managed to bump us, we pressed on and had overlap on St Peter's. For some reason we were not given a bump but we had our revenge on Thursday bumping them with ease. On Friday, we were chased by Keble, but managed to bump St Hugh's before we were caught. We were hoping to do the same the following day, chasing Exeter, but unfortunately Keble caught us first.

W1, were short on rowers but their first boat consisted entirely of seniors, aided by an exchange student from Stanford. Unfortunately, on Wednesday, they were bumped by Trinity. The next three days, however, were far more successful. On Thursday, despite starting four boats behind them, they gained a triple over-bump on Queen's, making up one and a half boat-lengths over the length of Boathouse Island alone. This was followed by a bump on Somerville on Friday and a bump on Jesus on Saturday, directly in front of the thrilled Corpus boathouse – a fantastic way to finish the week. At the start of this term, the Corpus rowers were concerned that, following the rapid rise in the rankings of recent years and the departure of a number of seniors, Torpids could have signalled the beginning of a decline in our fortunes. This has certainly not been the case. The crews this year have proved that where a crew trains hard and shows spirit, it can hold its own. Once again Corpus has outperformed expectations and, shown how a small college can outperform far bigger ones.



**I am now in the third year of my DPhil, and I work daily on building large quantum optics experiments.**



## Golf

# Golf Blue for Corpus fresher

**Gustaf Behmer**

My grandfather introduced me to golf at the tender age of two; he hardly would have believed it if someone told him that eighteen years later I would be about to play in the oldest amateur event in the history of golf. I never set out to be good at golf. There were many other sports I found more intriguing. I continued to play from habit rather than pure enjoyment and I am very glad that I did. The University Golf Match, or Varsity Golf Match as it is more commonly known, will be the pinnacle of my golf career so far. It is not just about winning against Cambridge; it is about carrying on a tradition and living up to the legacy of some fantastic players who have played in years gone by. I would like to take the opportunity to thank the boys on the OUGC committee for a great job this year, the OCGS itself, which allows this tradition to carry on, and all members of the fantastic Golf Clubs that we have played at throughout the season for their generous hospitality. The 126th University Golf Match will be played at Royal Liverpool and happens to coincide with an eclipse so it will really be a special one. I can only do my best to make sure that my first shot in the match, which makes me a blue, is a memorable one as this is surely going to be an experience for life.



# The Corpus Papers

04

Corpus manuscript 157 will be on loan to the British Library, from March 13 until September 1, 2015, for the exhibition 'Magna Carta: law, liberty, legacy'. The opening showing the dreams of Henry I will be on display.

## The illustrations in John of Worcester's *Chronicle of England* (CCC MS 157)

Julie Blyth, Assistant Librarian, Corpus Christi College

A major source for the history of England from the death of Bede (734) until the reign of King Stephen, the *Chronicle* is one of the most famous and important manuscripts in the Corpus collection. The manuscript was written at Worcester Cathedral Priory over a period of time, terminating in 1140. Compiled from earlier sources, it was revised and elaborated upon by the monk and chronicler, John. Written in the hands of at least three Worcester scribes, one of which has been identified as that of John of Worcester himself, its complex structure betrays several alterations to its content. The manuscript, now known as MS 157, was given to Corpus in 1618 by Henry Parry (b. 1594?; CCC 1607), son of the bishop of Worcester of the same name.

As narrative illustration of chronicles only became common in the fourteenth century, illustrated historical works from the twelfth century are rare, and MS 157 is one of the earliest known examples. There are five drawings, in two recognisably different styles, indicating that two artists were responsible. The images are unique, and their particular innovation has been the subject of much analysis by art historians, whilst their contextual meaning remains relatively little studied. Recent scholarship points to a greater cohesion between text and image in MS 157 than has previously been accounted for.

### The crucifixion

This line drawing tinted in pale red and green is reminiscent of Anglo-Saxon art. Art historians have noted that it is an extremely unusual typological composition, featuring two figures whose identity continues to be the subject of some debate. Their motifs suggest that the female figure is either a Sybil, or the Widow of Sarepta (III Kings 17), whilst the male could be Job, Tobias, or Jonah. They reference the suffering of Christ, his crucifixion, and the promise of the Resurrection. By the middle of the twelfth century crucifixion scenes became standardised, depicting the Virgin Mary and St. John the Evangelist in recognisable, stylised postures.

### The earliest known drawing of sunspots

John of Worcester chose to illustrate as well as to describe his witnessing the appearance of two black spheres against the sun in 1128. John was obviously a keen observer of natural phenomena, as he also recorded in some detail (but did not illustrate) a solar eclipse that took place in 1130. Recent scholarship has drawn attention to the influence of Arabic science on the *Chronicle*. John's references to the Arabic calendar and his use of planetary tables are proof that he had access to, and a rare understanding of, specialised astronomical and mathematical texts.

### The dreams of Henry I

The visions or nightmares of Henry I are some of the best-known images from any of the Corpus manuscripts, and amongst the most frequently-requested for publication. This year, MS 157 will be on loan to the British Library, for an exhibition commemorating the Magna Carta. In his coronation charter of 1100, Henry I anticipated the Magna Carta by promising to do away with the corruption and abuses that had oppressed

the people during the reign of William II. Henry ignored his own pledge, and by the 1130s, all sectors of society were disenchanted with Henry's harsh policies and his abuse of power. The British Library curators were keen to display these images from MS 157, as they illustrate the consequences for a king of England who has failed to rule justly.

The pictures illustrating Henry's dreams or visions appear in the section for 1131, although the text was composed retrospectively and subsequently revised around 1140-1. Judging by how tightly the text is arranged around the images, it's likely that the drawings were completed first. In these pages, John records that he met the royal physician Grimbald at Winchcombe, and heard from him about Henry I's dreams. Very unusually, Grimbald appears in the first three drawings, seated on the left. He holds representative objects, and uses gestures associated with the rhetorical *declamatio*. Thus Grimbald becomes the narrator, a trusted witness and both visual and textual interpreter of the king's dreams. This device lends authenticity to John of Worcester's retelling of an episode in the king's private life, and this visual representation of an authority figure appears to be a unique occurrence in the illumination of English historical manuscripts.

In three of the images, the sleeping king is confronted by representatives of each order of society, the *rustici*, *milites* and *clerici*. In the first, angry peasants present the king with a petition; this may be the first representation of 'revolting peasants' in western art. The second image finds Henry terrorised by four bloodthirsty knights, and in the third he is challenged by a group of bishops and monks who are enraged by his plundering of their churches. The text relates how Henry woke in dread and cried out after each dream, reaching for his weapons to defend himself. It describes his fear for his own safety in the face of his illusory attackers, and Grimbald's proposal that Henry do penance to bring an end to his nightmares. The final image depicts the king in a stormy sea-crossing, where in fear of death he finally vows to suspend the land tax known as Danegeld (a promise later broken by King Stephen), to undertake a pilgrimage to Bury St Edmund's, and to reinstate good government throughout the realm.

John himself does not provide a direct interpretation of the dreams, thus avoiding the trap of prophesying. He does not state openly that an eclipse could be read as a portent or an omen, though the chronological positioning of events may intimate as much. Nevertheless, the illuminations can be read on more than one level, and the final image in the series is reminiscent of an earlier event in Henry's life. In 1120 his son and heir William Atheling was drowned at sea, along with several other young noblemen, when their vessel the *White Ship* capsized whilst crossing the English Channel. This personal and national tragedy caused the succession crisis that would become known as the Anarchy, and on a personal level the loss would have preyed on the king's mind for many years to come.

A version of this article, with bibliographical references, is also available on the Library pages of the College website: [www.ccc.ox.ac.uk/Behind-the-Bookpresses/](http://www.ccc.ox.ac.uk/Behind-the-Bookpresses/) MS 157 can be viewed in full at the Early Manuscripts at Oxford University website: <http://image.ox.ac.uk/list?collection=corpus>



ABOVE: John of Worcester, *Chronicle* (CCC MS 157), Dreams of Henry I, p. 382.  
OPPOSITE PAGE, TOP: John of Worcester, *Chronicle* (CCC MS 157), Crucifixion, p. 77b.  
OPPOSITE PAGE, BOTTOM: John of Worcester, *Chronicle* (CCC MS 157), Sunspots, p. 380.





# Regulars & Fundraising



## Fundraising

# The Corpus Telethon 2014

This year's telephone campaign to raise funds to support teaching and research at Corpus took place from 20 September to 5 October.

A target of £175,000 was set, an increase of 44% over the previous year's achievement (£124,000), and calling took place in the Red House Common Room at the Liddell Building. In the past we have normally used six to eight callers. However, this year we decided to 'up our game' and took on thirteen. We managed to recruit an outstanding group of undergraduates.

The 2014 Telethon turned out to be the most successful to date. 240 gifts were made and the total, including pledges and Gift Aid came to £202,000. Our figures suggest that of those successfully contacted, 55% agreed to make a donation (against an Oxford norm of about 45%) giving on average £300.

This is a hugely encouraging result and the College would like to express its very warm thanks to the hard working and engaging team of students, the professional and dedicated consultants and, of course, those very generous and communicative Old Members who made all this possible.

ABOVE: Student callers Katherine Backler and Vicki Halsall

## Studentship

# New funds for graduate economists



The name of Martin Wolf CBE (PPE 1965) is one of the best known in financial journalism. His connection to the College is to be marked by the creation of the *Martin Wolf Graduate Studentship in Economics*, an award open to brilliant young Economists wanting to pursue their post graduate studies at Corpus. This was made possible through a generous benefaction from Martin's son Jonathan, who was himself an undergraduate at Corpus (Physics, 1993).

Commenting on the creation of the Studentship, Tutor for Graduates Lucia Zedner said, "Providing graduate studentships is a high academic priority at Corpus and I am delighted that we will be able to support graduate research in Economics in this way. The Martin Wolf Graduate Studentship will carry the added distinction of being named after one of the College's most distinguished PPE graduates. The association of the studentship with such an eminent economist will certainly attract talented graduate students."

ABOVE: Martin Wolf CBE  
BELOW: Jonathan Wolf



**Jonathan Wolf names studentship in honour of his father.**

# New Arrivals

## Constanze Güthenke

*E.P. Warren Praelector and Tutorial Fellow in Greek Language and Literature*



The E.P. Warren Praelectorship for Classical Greek Literature, established sixty years ago through the bequest of the American art collector Edward Perry Warren, has been a cornerstone in the teaching of Classics at Corpus. In September 2014, the College welcomed Constanze Güthenke to succeed Tim Whitmarsh in this role. She is also a Tutorial Fellow and Associate Professor in the Faculty of Classics.

Constanze returned to Oxford after twelve years as Assistant and then Associate Professor at Princeton University, where she taught in the Department of Classics and the interdisciplinary Program in Hellenic Studies. She received her DPhil from Oxford in 2002, after undergraduate education and a Masters degree at Cambridge. Her research focuses particularly on antiquity after antiquity, and on the history of the discipline: why, and how, have classicists defined themselves, their subject matter, and asked the questions they ask? She has published extensively on European

Hellenism and on the history of classical scholarship since the eighteenth century, and she intends to continue work on the question of what happens to classical knowledge when it migrates between places and contexts. She researches and teaches a wide range of topics and genres in classical Greek literature (tragedy, comedy, epic, philosophical dialogue, ancient biography) and their afterlife, as well as Modern Greek literature and culture.

Classics is a particularly vibrant field in Corpus. "I am very excited", she says, "to join a College that has as long and as deep a tradition of teaching and learning Classics as Corpus does, and not least to do so as the first woman to be the E.P. Warren Praelector. What makes Corpus special is the sense of collaboration, collegiality, and shared endeavour that links students and fellows across all the parts that make up Classics as a field".



What makes Corpus special is the sense of collaboration, collegiality, and shared endeavour that links students and fellows across all the parts that make up Classics as a field.



# Listing

## Offers for Alumni

### Offer

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

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

Be sure to order your card before returning to Oxford. For more details [www.alumni.ox.ac.uk](http://www.alumni.ox.ac.uk)

## Corpus Christi College Alumni events



PATRICK MEYER HIGGINS

ABOVE: Main Quad after the rain

### April 2015

**Friday 17 April**

#### **Oxford University Intercollegiate Golf Match**

Please get in touch quickly if you are interested in playing. Could Corpus win this year?

#### **Friday 24 – Sunday 26 April Oxford University Reunion in Vienna**

Corpus is holding a private dinner at a traditional Viennese restaurant on Saturday 25 April and a Corpus only brunch in the glorious surroundings of the Kunsthistorisches Museum on Sunday 26th. Please contact [sarah.salter@ccc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:sarah.salter@ccc.ox.ac.uk) for details as soon as possible.

### May 2015

#### **Saturday 30 May Eights Week Lunch**

Another opportunity for lunch in Hall and an afternoon by the river, cheering on the rowers from the Boathouse. Further details available soon.

### June 2015

**Tuesday 16 June**

#### **Hardie Golf Tournament**

Once again we will be competing against St Edmund Hall. Last year, we won – just. Please get in touch if you would like to play.

**Friday 26 June**

#### **Gaudy for 1996-8 Matriculands**

Please note the date. Invitations will be sent out in April.

### September 2015

**Tuesday 1 September**

#### **As You Like It – The Globe**

Blanche McIntyre is directing at The Globe again. Details of another Corpus theatre trip will be circulated by email.

**Saturday 26 September**

#### **Decade Dinner for 1980-1989**

Details for this dinner will follow in May.