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College Oxford 2017

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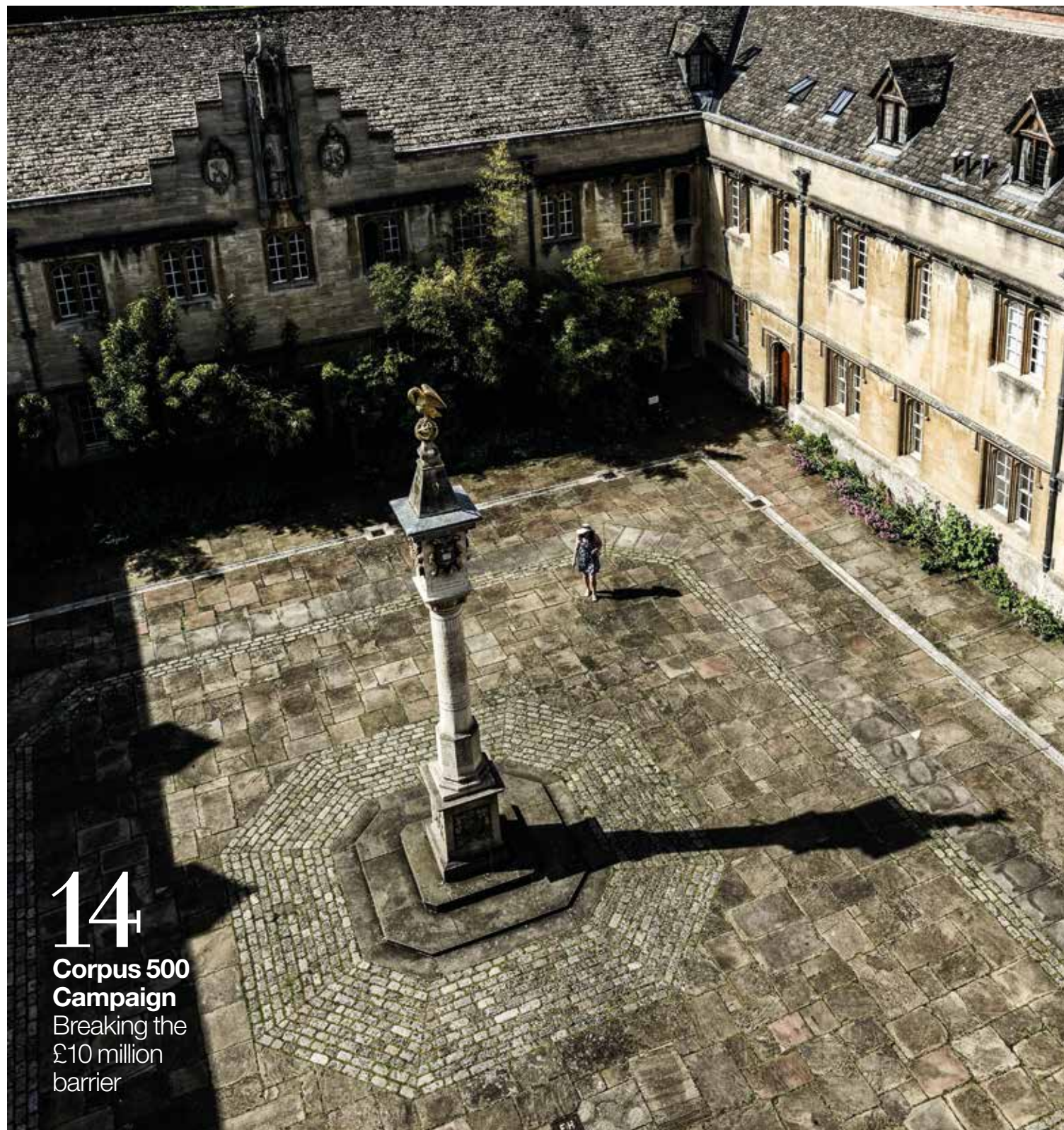
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Welcome

From the President
Professor Richard Carwardine FBA



I have just returned from the University’s North American Reunion. This year we met in Washington DC, where I much enjoyed meeting a good number of Old Corpuses at our College drinks reception and brunch. The Oxford event overall was particularly well attended (the numbers rather caught the North American Office on the hop) and gave alumni the chance to meet the new Vice-Chancellor, Louise Richardson.

Professor Richardson reflected on what had struck her most forcefully during her first three months in office. Amongst other observations, she had been surprised not that Oxford attracts press scrutiny, but at just *how much* attention there is. I can second that. A daily digest of Oxford-related media reports reaches my inbox every morning and it’s striking just what a broad range of subjects they cover. Of late the policy over a particular statue has generated more heat than light. Matters more fundamental to the life of a leading global university draw rather less animated coverage: scientific and medical breakthroughs, the applications of social science research, literary and historical discoveries, and similar academic topics. None of these, however, draws such persisting attention as the question of Oxford’s social and ethnic diversity.

In recent decades the University has become more inclusive in its admissions: there have been large steps towards gender equality, while the internationalising of the student body has taken us one step towards greater ethnic diversity. But Oxford has continued to struggle to attract undergraduate applicants from ethnic minorities and disadvantaged areas. This is not for want of effort, appetite, or expenditure. The collegiate university spends more than any other in the UK on outreach and access initiatives (£18 million last year). Attentive readers

of the *Sundial* and *Pelican Record* will know just how much Corpus puts into school visits and related activities, as a means of raising aspirations and challenging false and often mischievous representations of Oxford. In fact, we do more – absolutely, not just relatively – than most other colleges, thanks to the support we have enjoyed from the Sutton Trust and generous Old Corpuses.

I recently held a lunch to celebrate a unique expression of the College’s socially inclusive and meritocratic ethos. During the 1960s and 1970s Corpus admitted more undergraduates from a particular state secondary school in the mining community of the Rhondda Valley than from any other. This was Porth County, whose headmaster, Owen Vernon Jones, was determined to raise the aspirations of his pupils, most of them from humble families. In 1963 one his brightest, Kelvin Roberts, came to Oxford for interview and, thanks to the enterprise of the Tutorial Fellow in Chemistry at Corpus (Robert Gasser), he won a scholarship and went on to get a First. His experience, and easy integration into what he considered a “classless” JCR, made him a powerful ambassador for Corpus back home in the Rhondda. Over the next decade or so, twenty-three others came from Porth, to read a wide range of subjects: Chemistry, Medicine, Law, English, Modern History, Modern Languages, Physics and Maths.

Ten of their number came to Corpus for lunch in March. They were joined by Cheryl Hill, OV’s daughter; Dr Ken Donovan, the Classics master who taught them the O-Level Latin essential for Oxford entry; and Norman Doe, an Old Porthian and a Visiting Scholar at Corpus in Michaelmas Term last year. You will find a photograph of the gathering, sporting Old Boys’ ties, elsewhere in this issue. It was an occasion to pay tribute to the role of educational leadership, but also to lament that communities like Porth no longer have the sense that Oxford is within realistic reach. Corpus will not let up with its access work, now primarily centred on the North West. But without reciprocity, without teachers like Orville Vernon Jones and state schools that encourage their bright pupils to apply – whatever their class, race or ethnicity – we shall continue to struggle against the tide.

Richard Carwardine

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COVER: Quad
Photograph
Patrick Meyer Higgins

Profile

Professor Lucia Zedner
Fellow and Tutor in Law and Tutor for Graduates

Professor Zedner joined the College in 1994. She was Tutor for Women for many years and has been Tutor for Graduates at Corpus since 2014.

Lucia Zedner works on criminal law and criminal justice. She is particularly interested in the ways in which demands for public protection and the pursuit of security have led states to expand the scope of criminal law and policing powers. Her recent research has focused on security-driven laws and measures that permit state action ahead of any wrongdoing. New hotly-debated laws extend liability back in time to make crimes of: preparatory conduct, possession of innocent objects, encouragement, assistance and association with outlawed groups. Controversial preventive measures include ‘suspicionless’ police stops, arrest and detention powers, civil preventive orders (like the former ASBO), and indefinite detention of ‘dangerous’ offenders.

Of course, there are good reasons for the state to intervene early to protect the public from harm. Paradoxically, however, although such laws and measures are justified in the name of security, they tend to undermine the security of the individual from the state itself. So a central objective of Lucia’s recent work has been to develop an account of principles and values to guide the growing number of coercive preventive laws. It is one thing to say that the state has a duty to protect people, but quite another to accept the eminent eighteenth century jurist Sir William Blackstone’s claim that ‘preventive justice is, upon every principle of reason, of humanity, and of sound policy, preferable in all respects to punishing justice.’ In an increasingly insecure world in which the boundaries between policing and counter-terrorism are blurred and governments face overbearing pressure to prevent serious crimes and avert terrorist attacks, criminal laws risk becoming overly extensive and state measures unduly intrusive.

One recent reform strikes particularly close to home. Since 2015, universities,



schools and even nurseries are subject to a legal duty ‘to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.’ The ‘Prevent’ duty responds to real problems. Some universities host speakers who promote extremist views or express religious or racial hatred. Young people are especially vulnerable to recruitment by terrorist groups and are disproportionately convicted of terrorism-related offences. Under the new law, all educational establishments must introduce risk assessment tools, robust speaker protocols to prevent expression of extremist views, action plans to prevent radicalisation and ensure close co-operation with police and other security organisations. All Oxford colleges, including Corpus, are required to provide ‘detailed information to show that they have established appropriate arrangements to implement the Prevent duty’. The chief challenge now facing the College is how to balance these requirements with equally important duties to promote freedom of speech and

academic freedom, while also protecting student and staff welfare. Lucia Zedner is currently Tutor for Graduates at Corpus, responsible for the academic welfare of all the graduate students in college, so the Prevent duty potentially weighs heavily upon her. All those who hold college office are instructed, ‘if you have concerns that a student or member of staff is being drawn into terrorism, please contact the appropriate University officer.’ Yet research furnishes overwhelming evidence that such reporting requirements fall disproportionately and unwarrantedly on already ‘suspect’ minorities; that they operate in potentially discriminatory ways, risk alienation and, ironically, may exacerbate rather than diminish the risks of terrorism. The clash of ideas lies at the heart of all academic endeavour, teaching and learning. If it is not to be silenced in the name of security, the legitimate scope of preventive laws and measures requires urgent debate.

Brendan Shepherd
Outreach Officer and Admissions Administrator

Reaching out

Brendan Shepherd has been Outreach Officer and Admissions Administrator at Corpus for two years. We asked him describe his role and the challenges he faces in his outreach work.

What is Outreach?
Outreach is the umbrella term used by the Colleges to describe their student recruitment, in particular, open days, access work (and especially encouraging students from non-traditional backgrounds to consider Oxford), and working to widen participation more generally by speaking about higher education with students, teachers and parents.

Can you describe the Corpus outreach programme?
In addition to the University Open Days, the programme at Corpus is dominated by interaction with schools in our regional link areas of Derbyshire and Greater Manchester (the University having divided England and Wales into such areas and shared them between the colleges). This splits my work into two parts. The first involves school groups visiting Corpus, and the second involves my visits to schools; both see me engaging with groups of students from Year 9 upwards and often their teachers and parents too. Through workshops on higher education, I aim to address preconceptions – which can often be misconceptions – students may have about just how accessible Oxford now is. I aim to encourage all students who fulfil our academic and admissions criteria to consider applying to Oxford and, ideally, to Corpus.

To support a continuation of the themes of our work beyond events directly involving Corpus, I also run an annual conference for secondary school teachers. This conference takes the staff who will have most to do with prospective applicants through the university application process and ensures that they are sufficiently well informed to be able to support their students effectively.

Finally, three years ago, Professor Pete Nellist, Materials Science Tutor, initiated the North West Science Network (NWSN), offering students in the North West opportunities to attend lectures, taster sessions, lab sessions and master classes in a range of sciences here in Oxford. Two specific areas we aim to address

» Our Outreach Officer and Admissions Administrator describes the challenges he faces in his outreach work



“My biggest challenge is breaking down preconceptions.”



What challenges face an outreach officer?
My biggest challenge is breaking down preconceptions. Students from underrepresented groups, areas and regions are often put off applying to Oxford because they think it is posh and expensive, or too academic and elite. I attempt to encourage them to aim high and to seek to take advantage of the education opportunities Oxford, and Corpus specifically, have to offer. I aim to increase our number of well-qualified applicants and to do so from a broad range of education backgrounds.

What impact does outreach have?
Impact can be measured in two ways: applications to the university and qualitative feedback from schools. A number of schools with which I have worked are starting to see an increase in Oxbridge applications and this has translated into students with whom we have made early contact coming to Oxford as undergraduates. It is encouraging

to hear from teachers that a visit to Oxford, with the opportunity to meet and talk to our current undergraduates, does dispel many preconceptions. Praise for our outreach work more generally reflects an appreciation of the effort and commitment we make in relation to it.

What are the attractions of Corpus?
Corpus is attractive because of its welcoming atmosphere, its lack of pretension, its strong sense of community and its attention to pastoral care, seen particularly in the supportive relationships that the students have with their tutors. All of these things make the transition from school to university a far less daunting prospect for young people most of whom have spent very little time away from home; this is great for all prospective students but particularly for those who might otherwise find an application to Oxford a daunting idea. The door is open; my role – and that of my fellow outreach officers – is to make this as widely known as we possibly can.

ABOVE: Brendan Shepherd addresses a school group
LEFT: Subject Ambassador Chloe Duncan (History) on the left shows a school group around Corpus

Reunion

The return of the County set

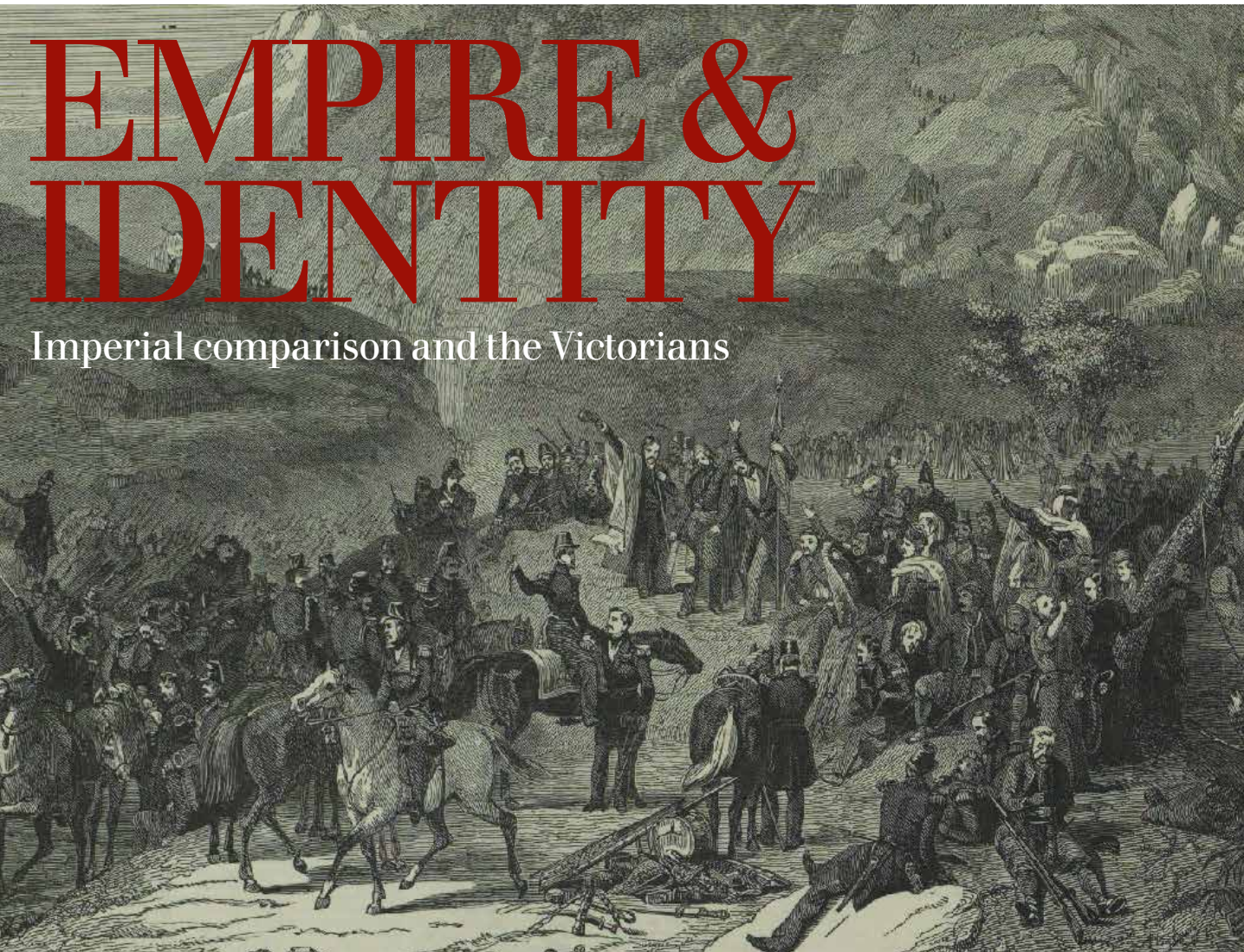
Professor Norman Doe
Visiting Scholar, Michaelmas 2015

On the mountain-side at Porth – gateway to the Rhondda valleys in south Wales – stood the Rhondda County Grammar School for Boys, or ‘Porth County’, opened in 1896. On Tuesday 15 March, Professor Richard Carwardine, the President, hosted a reunion lunch at Corpus Christi for Old Members of the College who had attended the School. From 1963 to 1975, twenty-four boys from Porth County studied at Corpus. This is perhaps the highest number of pupils admitted to Corpus, in recent times, from any school in the span of just over a single decade. It was due in no small measure to the hard work and dedication of Owen Vernon Jones, Headmaster at the School 1961-1984 (who also presided just before retirement over the School’s re-constitution as Porth County Community School). Ten County boys attended the lunch: Dr Kelvin Roberts (Chemistry, 1963), Professor Laurence Eaves (Physics, 1966), Dr Howard Evans (Medicine, 1967), Mr Garwyn Phillips (Chemistry, 1967), Mr Peter Hopkins (History, 1969), Dr Peter Kiff (Medicine, 1970), Sir Wyn Williams (Law, 1970), Mr Michael Tudball (Mathematics, 1971), Dr John Geraint Roberts (English, 1975) and Professor Norman Doe. The lunch was also attended by Dr Robert Gasser (who interviewed Kelvin Roberts for admission in 1963), Dr Ken Donovan (retired Latin Master at the School), and Mrs Cheryl Hill (daughter of O.V. Jones) who recited (in embellished form) a poem written by her father entitled *County Tie*. The President, resplendent in a green and gold County tie to mark the occasion, spoke of the County-Corpus-Connection, and of reconnecting with those who were at Corpus during his own time as a student in the College from 1965-1971. The group is very grateful to Mr Nicholas Read, Head Porter, for photographing the event, and to Sara Watson, the President’s PA, for enabling this celebration of the contribution of the School to the College, as it moves to its own 500th birthday in 2017.



Research

Dr Alex Middleton
Michael Brock Junior Research Fellow in Modern British History



Until the 1980s the history of modern Britain, and the history of the British empire, were generally treated as separate entities. Insofar as connections were identified, these lay in how Britain projected its language, institutions, and ideologies outward towards its colonies. But in the last few decades historians have become intensely interested in how the Empire affected domestic politics, society, and culture. We now have studies of the impact of the Empire on nearly every aspect of modern British life: from the space it occupied in mainstream cultural forms like museums, music hall, and literature, to its influence in less familiar areas like botanic gardens, advertising, eating habits, and Scottish jute production.

Historians of nineteenth-century political ideas have gained much from this trend. Where the history of Victorian politics used to be written in an insular fashion – not looking any further afield than Europe – we now have a much more complete picture of how Victorian politicians and intellectuals thought about the extension,

administration, and future of their empire, and particularly about the ways in which British imperial enterprise was criticised. A significant part of this picture has to do with how the Victorians imagined themselves in relation to the empires of antiquity. Proponents and opponents of the British empire were both deeply interested in the imperial practices of classical Greece and Rome; recent work has shown that Victorian imperial identity, as such, was closely linked to conceptions of the ancient world.

We know that comparisons were fundamental to how the Victorians saw themselves as an imperial nation. Yet remarkably little work has been done on how the nineteenth-century British political classes thought about other European empires. Even scratching the surface of contemporary debate in the age of ‘high’ or ‘new’ imperialism after about 1870, it becomes evident that the Victorians were fascinated by the extension and recasting of French, German, Dutch, and Belgian colonial rule. Reflection on these alternative models of empire

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These reflections on French failure helped throw into relief what it was that made British efforts at empire-building so much more successful (at least supposedly).”

was integral to how the British saw their place in the world, and in history, at a time when relative cultural self-confidence was declining, and when empire was a political issue of the first rank.

Comparison with other European empires was important to British imperial identity in the mid-Victorian era too – but it was rather more selective. In the period 1830-1870, the only competing European empire which really interested the British was that of France; and the French colony which most interested them was Algeria. From the time of its conquest in 1830, France’s efforts to render Algeria a successful and profitable colony was a subject of extensive comment among British politicians, journalists, and travel writers. Britons produced serious poems, plays, and paintings about the country, while images of Algerian landscapes, costumes, architecture, and battles were common sights in illustrated periodicals.

Some of this was purely picturesque, but much of it dealt with a more serious question; why was Algeria such an abysmal failure as a colony? The notion quickly took hold among British commentators that Algeria was an immense drain on the financial and military resources of the French state, without being productive of any political or economic advantage either to the mother country or to the natives. A series of explanations for this state of affairs was proposed. Very often these related to the excessive violence and cruelty of the French conquest and regime. Unjustified imperial violence, British writers argued, generated mistrust between colonial administrators and the natives. Furthermore, the French obsession with centralisation, was generally thought to render successful colonisation all but impossible. To British observers it seemed that France’s passion for political uniformity, and the pursuit of this uniformity through excessive state supervision, was a recipe for disaster when it came to the highly sensitive task of governing conquered peoples. Underlying all this was a conviction that the French national character,

which lacked humility and enterprise, was simply unsuited to the complex demands of modern colonization.

These reflections on French failure helped throw into relief what it was that (supposedly) made British efforts at empire-building so much more successful. The suffocating role assumed by the French state in the government of Algeria was contrasted with the British government’s relatively hands-off approach, which commentators claimed encouraged the British colonies to be more self-reliant; the hardness and perseverance of British colonists was contrasted with the enervation and short-sightedness of their French counterparts. More specific comparisons were drawn with India, where the success of the British regime was put down to the fact that it had not sought a social revolution, instead protecting important elements of native society and declining to interfere with religious customs – this marking a sharp contrast with a regime which blindly sought to impose French laws and institutions.

All these arguments about French Algeria were based on limited information, were highly coloured by more general assumptions about French character and politics, and were in some cases straightforwardly inaccurate. But their significance lies in showing us that the Victorians’ conceptions of themselves as an imperial people were not formed only through responding to events in their own empire, and by reading about those which had taken place in the empires of ancient Greece and Rome. Nineteenth-century commentators, in fact, were fully aware that the contemporary world was a domain of empires plural, many of which faced similar problems and possibilities to Britain’s own. Analysis of other empires was not always about pointing out why British practices were superior (though it very often was); even in the Algerian case, some writers found ways in which Britain could learn from France, or used analogies with Algeria as a means of criticising British colonial policy. But this only serves to reinforce the central point; in order fully to understand the place and significance of empire in nineteenth-century British politics and constructions of national identity, we need to pay more attention to the comparisons the Victorians drew with contemporary empires.



OPPOSITE PAGE:
An image of French troops in Algeria, from a London newspaper
ABOVE: Punch (1844) satirises French efforts at colonization: the ‘model farm’ is ringed with gun emplacements

The Big Picture

The Proctor's Progress
The Corpus Fellows process
to the Sheldonian

The Proctors are the two most ancient offices in the University, dating from at least the early thirteenth century. Like the consuls of ancient Rome, new Proctors are elected each year, following a cycle that means a Corpus Proctor emerges about once every twelve years. Traditionally entrusted with representing the University on formal occasions and maintaining discipline (two Proctors have been killed in the course of duty), that is still part of the role. More importantly, they act as a combination of ombudsmen and tribunes of the people. Liaising closely with the Vice-Chancellor and sitting on all important committees, the Proctors act as a crucial link between the central university and the academics in colleges, faculties and departments who actually do the teaching and research.

LEFT TO RIGHT: Pro-Proctor Professor Robin Murphy, Senior Proctor Dr Mark Whittow and Pro-Proctor Dr Anna Marmodoro



TITUS ANDRONICUS

The Owlets production
27-30 October 2015

Drama

Francesca Baretta

First appeared in the Oxford Culture Review on 28 October 2015

Shakespeare's *Titus Andronicus* can be hard to render on stage without slipping into pantomime. Thankfully, the production currently running at Corpus Christi College manages to avoid this pitfall, creating a dark, gory, and gruesome atmosphere in an utterly compelling way. Minimal stage and costume designs are effectively contrasted with sinister splashes of red: blood on black and white clothes, red fabric in Tamora's Empress costume, and red lighting that bathes the entirety of the stage at the play's climax. The relentless deluge of violence and murder was helplessly captivating, despite – or perhaps partly because of – the disturbing content of some scenes.

Despite a shaky start (probably due partly to the plainly dialogic character of the first scenes, and partly to the time it took for the cast to warm up), this is a powerful production of *Titus*. Mia Smith's portrayal of Lavinia is certainly the most mesmerizing performance of the first half, succeeding in expressing the innocence and purity of this character. After she has been raped and mutilated – her hands and tongue are cut off so that she cannot tell what has been done to her – by Tamora's sons, Demetrius and Chiron, her expressivity becomes even more transfixing: humming, sobbing, and crying are the only sounds she is now able to produce, and Smith's performance is moving and full of pathos. Titus and Aaron – played by Joseph Stephenson and Gerard Krasnopolski – are similarly enthralling, especially in the second part of the play. Titus's contradictory lucid madness was successfully conveyed by Stephenson, particularly in his vengeful acts against Tamora and her sons. The combination of a Tarantino-like violence (the play never slipped into parody, but it definitely did not try to tone down the goriness) and Titus's madness created a black humour to which the audience seemed to respond very actively, with Alex Hill's

Marcus providing a foil for Titus's madness. Krasnopolski's powerful portrayal of the devilish Aaron would be fit for a Mephistopheles in *Dr Faustus*, articulating the contradiction between his utter evilness and his love for the illegitimate child he has with Tamora (Jessica Elizabeth). The performance of the latter started promisingly, but did not succeed in conveying Tamora's darkest and most evil traits, with the exception of the compelling love scene with Aaron.

The stark simplicity of the set and costumes were reflected in the staging. The space – Corpus Christi's Auditorium – was left quite bare, but the stone architecture serving as the backdrop provided ample decoration. In combination with the relatively small size of the venue it gave the effect of a medieval prison, particularly as the stage cover was slowly bleached crimson.

Shakespeare's text is slightly altered – without giving spoilers, the play ends on an unexpected note. The curtain falls on a final, murderous scene bathed in red light, the epitome of utter despair and hopelessness. The cast did not come out to bow for the final applause which, through leaving something of a void, amplified the desolation of the final scene. The actors themselves seemed transformed by the experience of acting, emphasising the human impact of the tragic tale. This production is powerful and disturbingly enticing, much like a horror movie that – despite its goriness – we cannot help but watch.

www.theoxfordculturereview.com

Choir

SOUNDS DIVINE

Peter Ladd

Senior Organ Scholar

Funded through private donations by Corpuscles, next Christmas, the Corpus Christi Chapel Choir will be releasing its third CD, commemorating the College's 500th anniversary with a wide range of festive music. The Choir had a successful day's recording last December in Exeter Chapel, and the CD is currently at the editing stage. Music will be drawn from both of the last two years' successful Carol Services, and will include carols from throughout the five hundred years of the College's existence, including a new arrangement of the Corpus Christi Carol by the Senior Organ Scholar. With traditional favourites and modern luscious harmonies, this is one CD not to be missed!



Cappella

STUDIES IN HARMONY

Jemimah Taylor

Biomedical Sciences

I have always enjoyed singing, especially trying out new genres and singing with different people. Coming from a mostly Musical Theatre background, getting involved in Oxford's choral music scene in First Year was a bit of a shock to the system. This year I've managed to find a fusion of the two with the Oxford Gargoyles, a black-tie jazz a cappella group, which combines tight vocal harmonies with showmanship and the occasional bit of choreography (one of our pieces even incorporates kazoos!). Founded in 1988, the group has won multiple competitions and travelled around the world on several successful tours. I am looking forward to our trip to Scandinavia this year, as well as a run at the Edinburgh Fringe and competing in Choir of the Year 2016.



Concert

STRINGS ATTACHED

Dr Katherine Pardee

Lecturer in Music and Chapel Music Advisor

On the evening of Wednesday 27 January, members of the College were invited to attend the first President's Concert in recent memory. The Concert took place after dinner in the Auditorium, and featured Corpus musicians from all three Common Rooms, playing to an enthusiastic and well-fed audience. While works of Mozart featured prominently in the programme, composers from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries were also well-represented.

Former President Sir Tim Lankester (clarinet) began the evening, accompanied by pianist Xin Hui Chan, with a delightful performance of the first movement from Saint-Saens' *Clarinet Sonata, Op. 167*. Soprano Alice Harberd (Classics) was next, accompanied by Eric Foster, one of our three Corpus organ scholars, in a selection of works from Mozart's *Così fan Tutte*. Alice thrilled the audience with her beautiful voice and witty presentation. Michael Nelson (Physics) took the stage next, with Peter Ladd (Classics, Senior Organ Scholar) accompanying, in a moving interpretation of Vaughan Williams' *The Call*, from his *Five Mystical Songs*. The intensity of this music was complemented by the next work excerpts from the exquisite *Fantasia in F Minor, D. 940* by



Franz Schubert for piano-four-hands. Patrick Meyer Higgins (Biochemistry) and Patrik Gerber (Mathematics) were the performers, and their playing was most affecting. From there we moved on to the chamber and orchestral music part of the programme: a quintet of JCR and MCR students played excerpts from the first movement of Mozart's *Clarinet Quintet*, and the programme ended with the Orchestra playing the *Allegro Moderato* from Mozart's *Symphony 29 in A* with Eric Foster conducting.

The concert was a splendid opportunity for members of all three Common Rooms to make music. The next President's Concert, this time with a jazz emphasis, will take place during Trinity.

The Corpus

Papers

06

Corpus recently published the first catalogue of its Hebrew Manuscripts, arguably the most important collection of medieval Anglo-Jewish manuscripts in the world. Peter E Pormann tells their story.

Studying Hebrew in medieval and early modern England
Peter E Pormann, Director of the John Rylands Research Institute and Professor of Graeco-Arabic Studies, University of Manchester



At first glance, it is hard to imagine a college less likely to be intimately connected with Jews and Jewish learning than the college devoted to the Body of Christ, *Collegium Corporis Christi* or Corpus Christi College. And yet, Corpus (as well as the University of Oxford more generally) has been closely linked to Hebrew and Jewish studies since its inception. For both the Founder Fox and the first President John Claymond had an acute interest in what was then called ‘the third language’. During the Renaissance and the Reformation, scholars propagated a return to the sources which, for many, included the Hebrew Bible. Likewise, Jewish traditional learning seemed to hold the key for the understanding of the universe, and Pico de la Mirandola and others eagerly studied the Talmud and the Kabbala. It is in this climate that Corpus was founded, and it therefore comes as no surprise that Erasmus, himself a competent Hebraist, complimented the Founder for his foresight and extolled Corpus’ trilingual library (*trilinguis istius bibliothecae spectaculum*).

This early interest in Hebrew is well reflected in the manuscript holdings of the Library, for Corpus has the most important collection of medieval Anglo-Jewish manuscripts in the world. Like the College itself, it is small, but of breath-taking quality and interest. It also reflects the early history of the Jews in these Isles better than any other collection. Its core consists of seven Biblical manuscripts (MSS 5-11), given to the College by Claymond, which all share one characteristic: in a collaborative effort, Jewish and Christian scribes produced them in the thirteenth century in order to provide tools for non-Jews to learn Hebrew. One technique used in these manuscript to facilitate the study of Hebrew is to provide a literal ‘superscript’ (interlineary) translation.

One example can illustrate the richness, importance and beauty of Corpus’ Hebrew collection. Above, you see MS 10. It is a psalter, produced in the second quarter of the thirteenth century. Apart from some prefatory material, it contains the text of the psalms in three columns (from left to right): the Latin translation by St Jerome according to the Greek Septuagint; the Latin translation by St Jerome that he revised according to the Hebrew original; and the Hebrew text itself with an interlineary Latin translation.

This manuscript, as well as others in the collection, was produced in collaboration between Christian and Jewish scribes. One can clearly see how the two Latin versions were written first by a Christian scribe, and then a Jewish scribe went to great length to align the Hebrew original with the Latin. In fact, he used a sort of chess board pattern to fill the space. Then, in a final step, a Christian Hebraist offers word-for-word translations of the Hebrew. For instance, the opening of the first psalm (אשר ראש), the interlinear translation renders אשר (‘ašrei, blessed’) as ‘beatus (blessed)’, ה (ha, the) as ‘ar[ticulus] (article)’ and אש (‘iš, man) as ‘uir (man)’.

MS 133 (top right) contains the only extant Judaeo-Arabic document (that is Arabic written in Hebrew characters) written in England before the expulsion of the Jews in 1290. And finally, Corpus’ collection of Hebrew manuscripts boasts an early modern commentary on the book of Job, written by Robert Burhill, a fellow of Corpus Christi celebrated for his Greek and Hebrew learning. This is MSS 34-5 (middle right), a momentous commentary – even monstrous in its size, one might say, comprising more than 750 pages – that brims with philological and theological learning. Finally, the Corpus (‘Corpus’ or ‘the College’?) has an item from the so-called European Geniza, namely the fragments of a Florentine pawnbroker’s account book in Hebrew, dating to the early fifteenth century.

Burhill’s commentary is just one of many items that attest to the study of Hebrew at Corpus from the mid-sixteenth century onwards. Yet, although many Corpus men studied Hebrew and excelled in this area throughout the early modern period, it is probably fair to say that this subject became less and less important over the last two centuries or so. And yet, Corpus welcomed Jewish students and scholars at a time when antisemitism flourished not only in Germany and on the continent, but also in Britain. Our most famous Jewish alumnus was arguably Sir Isaiah Berlin (1909-97), the great philosopher and historian of ideas. But Corpus also gave shelter to a significant number of German academics fleeing Nazi persecution. They include Eduard Fraenkel (1888-1970), who had to leave the University of Tübingen and found refuge at Corpus in 1934, later becoming Corpus Professor of Latin. Rudolf Pfeiffer (1889-1979), another German classicist, received support from the College, notably as a member of the Senior Common Room from 1938 onwards. Heinz Cassirer (1903-79), the son of the famous German Neo-Kantian philosopher Ernst Cassirer (1874-1945), had to flee to England with his father in 1934, and came to Corpus in 1937, where he stayed until 1946, lecturing in philosophy. The Cassirers had to escape from Germany, owing to their Jewish origin; Ernst Cassirer is closely connected to the Warburg Institute, which like himself, had to move from Hamburg to England in order to be rescued. And one could name others such as the art historian Paul Jacobsthal (1880-1957) and the classical philologist Kurt von Fritz (1900-1985), whom the College assisted, if modestly, after they had to leave Germany.

I sincerely hope that the publication of the Hebrew catalogue will galvanise our energy to revive the study of Hebrew at Corpus. It should not just have a ‘trilingual library’, with holdings in Greek, Latin and Hebrew, but also be a ‘trilingual college’, where Hebrew takes its pride of place among the classical languages.

The new catalogue was published by Boydell and Brewer for the College and is available at a discount to Old Members. Please email Sara Watson at sara.watson@ccc.ox.ac.uk for more information. A Descriptive Catalogue of the Hebrew Manuscripts of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, ed. Peter E. Pormann (Cambridge: D.S. Brewer, 2015).



OPPOSITE PAGE: MS 35, p. 351 (illustration in catalogue no. 27); ABOVE, TOP: MS 133, fol. 350r (illustration in catalogue no. 6); ABOVE, BOTTOM: MS 10, fol. 2r (illustration in catalogue no. 22)



Fundraising

Nick Thorn
Development Director

Campaign

Corpus 500 campaign

Breaking the
£10 million barrier

The Corpus 500 Campaign, to raise £30 million, broke through the £10 million barrier in March. The wide-ranging campaign which aims to provide funding for a new library and special collections centre, the endowment of academic posts and support for undergraduate and graduate needs, began at the end of 2010 with a “quiet phase” of campaigning. Since then many hundreds of Corpuscles have played their part with gifts ranging from regular monthly donations of a few pounds to major gifts in seven figures.

So far the campaign has been able to:

- Endow tutorial fellowships in Philosophy, English, History and Latin,
- Fund a new Junior Research Fellowship in History in memory of the late Michael Brock,
- Endow research studentships in Policy Studies and Economics,
- Provide bursaries for students from the least advantaged backgrounds,
- Restore several of the ancient book presses in the library,
- Fund an outreach project in Manchester to encourage more young women to read science subjects,
- Provide coaching for the college choir and record a new CD.

The big challenge remains to raise the £18 million necessary for the College to be able to start building its new library and special collections centre, but it has teams of volunteers working on this in London and New York. Their endeavours have so far produced £1.8 million, meaning that we are 10% towards our goal.

On the £10 million raised so far, Development Director Nick Thorn commented “This is a terrific achievement – more than the College has ever raised in a single campaign. It has been made possible by all those Corpuscles who have decided to give something back to their alma mater. We are immensely grateful to every single one of them.”

TOP: Nick Thorn
RIGHT, TOP: Professor Stephen Harrison, Nisbet Fellow in Latin
RIGHT, BOTTOM: Professor Jay Sexton, Field Fellow in American History



NICK READ

“It has been made possible by all those Corpuscles ... we are immensely grateful to every single one of them.”

Tutorial Fellowships

Thanks to the generous legacy of the late Professor Robin Nisbet, we have secured the Latin tutorial fellowship in perpetuity. As we enter the next hundred years, we look forward to developing the teaching of the Latin language and Roman culture that have remained a constant throughout the College’s history. SJH



ROBIN NISBET

In a global age in which we compete with universities around the world to attract the very best students, researchers and faculty, the generosity of alumni and supporters is more important to Corpus than in any time in living memory. JS



NICK READ

New Arrivals

Professor David Russell
Fellow and Tutor in English



NICK READ

“You can tell immediately that Corpus is a rare and wonderful place, from the vibrancy of its plant life to the quality of its library.”

David Russell arrived in Michaelmas term 2015 as Tutorial Fellow in English and Associate Professor in the English faculty. He has previously held a lectureship at King’s College London, and postdoctoral fellowships at Columbia University’s Society of Fellows in the Humanities, and the Humanities Center at Harvard University. He completed his PhD at Princeton University. David is an alumnus of Oxford, where he read Modern History and English at Merton College, and he is very happy to return to the university with a post at Corpus. “You can tell immediately that Corpus is a rare and wonderful place, from the vibrancy of its plant life to the quality of its library; and that the college and its members deeply value thinking and education. It is as if its values are in the stones (as one of Corpus’ former fellows, John Ruskin, might have said) – but also in the humane and friendly culture of the community, which makes the best environment for learning”.

David’s research is concerned with the relationship of literature to the ways we live our lives. Specifically, he has just completed a book on tact and the essay form, to be published with Princeton University Press next year, about the reflections of nineteenth-century essayists on how people handle one another and form commitments to their worlds. He is currently working on a project called *Learning from Experience*, about education, the history of literary and cultural criticism, and how writers like John Ruskin, Alfred Tennyson and George Eliot sought to change their readers through essays, poems and novels. As part of this project he recently published an essay on how Tennyson’s 1850 poem, *In Memoriam*, explores the experience of feeling stupefied. David teaches widely at Corpus, on British and US literature from 1800 to the present day. He is very pleased to be able to collaborate in teaching with Helen Moore, and, following Val Cunningham, to have joined a college with an excellent tradition of writing and thinking about literature.

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.

Offers for Alumni

Offer

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

Blackwell's

OUP Bookshop

University of Oxford Shop

Shepherd and Woodward

The Varsity Shop

Walters of Oxford

Gees

Macdonald Randolph Hotel

The Old Bank Hotel

The Old Parsonage

Quod Brasserie and Bar

Rewley House

University Club

University Rooms Oxford

Blenheim Palace

Oxford Philomusica

Oxford Playhouse

Sheldonian Theatre

University Club

Botanic Garden/Harcourt

Arboretum

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

Corpus Christi College Alumni events

May 2016

Saturday 28 May Eights Week Lunch

Bring the family and enjoy lunch at Corpus. President Hardie's new portrait will also be unveiled. Then, down to the Boathouse and watch the Colleges battle for Head of the River. Please book through the Development Office.

June 2016

Thursday 23 June The Hardie Golf Tournament

The annual competition against St Edmund Hall at Huntercombe, near Henley. All golfers – whatever your standard – are very welcome. Please contact the Development Office

Friday 24 June Gaudy for 1935-1958

Invitations are on their way.

September 2016

Friday 30 September The Biennial Alumni Dinner

This popular event is open to all alumni and their partners. Invitations and further information will be sent out in July. Save the date for this annual event.

Careers Connect Calling Old Members

Sarah Clarence-Smith (PPE)

Last September, I took part in the Corpus annual Telethon Campaign and spent a thoroughly enjoyable two weeks chatting to Corpus Alumni, many of whom were willing to offer me careers advice. I received multiple offers of work-shadowing days, of help with CVs and cover letters and one alumnus even took the time to conduct a mock interview over the phone with me. There are so many alumni in such a wide range of careers, with a wealth of experience, seemingly ready to advise and help, and I know that so many of my fellow students would find this invaluable. It made me think that there must be a way of creating these links within the Corpus community.

With this in mind, I spoke to the University Careers Service and it appears that such a system already exists on Careers Connect, the Oxford University Careers Service website. Alumni of Oxford University can register online at the www.careers.ox.ac.uk/join-the-oxford-careers-network. The website offers a brief description of their sector and advice for students going into it, indicating whether they are happy to be contacted by students and whether they are happy to be a mentor. Currently, there are fewer than twenty active Old Members and it would be great if more were willing to sign up. I hope this would be of help and value to students who find themselves in the position I was in last summer, slightly overwhelmed by the idea of their time at Corpus ending and unsure as to what might follow!

A portrait of President Hardie

Bill Morris (1964) writes: Prior to the Biennial Dinner of 2014, I was with Brian Sedgemoor (1958), admiring the portrait of Val Cunningham by Colleen Quill. Brian, who sadly died in 2015, remarked to me that the college lacked a portrait of President Hardie (1950-69) and that it would be fitting if we could commission one by the same artist. This was not going to be an easy task, because Frank Hardie was a famously shy man and there is only one black and white photograph in the College's possession. Nonetheless, we managed to secure donations from a number of our Corpus contemporaries and Colleen Quill rose to the challenge magnificently and produced a very convincing rendering of

the photograph in oils. The finished portrait now hangs beside that of Bishop Fox in The Hall. I would like to thank all those who have so far contributed to the cost of this work. It is a wonderful likeness, which also captures the thoughtful character of this much loved and respected President and I do hope that many of you will be able to appreciate it when you come to our Eights Week Lunch in May.



NICK READ