From the President
Professor Steven Cowley FRS, FREng

On Friday 50 September at 5.00pm, I left my office at the UK Atomic Energy Authority for the last time. I changed into black tie and hurried ten miles north to Corpus to host the Corpus Association Biennial Dinner – my first act as College President. The atmosphere in the packed hall was wonderfully convivial and the warmth of the welcome I received helped to smooth any feelings of disquiet engendered by so rapid a transition. It was a memorable evening and I look forward to spending many more in the company of friends old and new.

Three days later I was leading the main Quad on my way from the Lodgings, and encountered the sight of the College’s iconic Pelican sundial, swarmed by itinerant, newly-arrived freshers. They were being welcomed by teams of all knowing second and third year students, eager to introduce them to spending many more in the company of friends old and new.

Now, barely three weeks on, those same newly-arrived freshers. They were being welcomed by teams of second year students, keen to introduce them to the warm of the welcome I received helped to smooth any feelings of disquiet engendered by so rapid a transition. It was a memorable evening and I look forward to spending many more in the company of friends old and new.

For much of his career at Corpus he has also been Visiting Professor of Art History and latterly of Art and Religion in the University of Chicago, and since 2015 has run a large research project with the British Museum, funded by the Leverhulme Trust.

Jas Elsner’s expertise is within a diverse field; the history of late antiquity, and the rise of Christian and Byzantine art in late antiquity, as well as the long history of the reception of this range of material (both pagan and Christian) in the European tradition including in texts, poetry and travel writing, in the history of museums and other kinds of collections such as churches, monasteries, and libraries, and in the creation of the academic disciplines that were forged to understand that history. His work has included editorships and anthologies, and within this field and writing the history of religions. He has worked on objects, sites and maps of art across the Mediterranean and the Near East.

Corpus is the beating heart and centre of Classics within Oxford, which is certainly the largest and most vibrant faculty in the world in this field. “The great joy of being here is about bringing the contributions of the study of art and material culture into a conversation that includes such a wide range of topics – Classics but also anthropology, archaeology, art history and the history of religions. He has worked on objects, sites and maps of art across the Mediterranean and the Near East. The group will be writing a number of collective books and articles, as well as mounting a major exhibition at the Ashmolean – whose title is yet to be decided – on the theme of art and encounter in the religions of late antiquity from Ireland to Asia. This will take place from October 2017 to January 2018 and will include loans from museums across the United Kingdom but particularly from the collections of the British Museum and the Ashmolean.
The return of our Old(er) Members

In June we held a very special Gaudy for those Old Members who had matriculated before 1959. Eighty of our more senior alumni made their way back to Corpus for a splendid dinner in Hall where the responses to the Gaudy was given by Malcolm Hewitt (Mathe., 1958). Earlier in the day our guests were treated to a wonderful preview by Dr Stephen Hickey of some of the reminiscences of Corpus life which will feature in a new book he is editing to mark the Quincentenary next year.

Keeping calm

Rev’d Dr Judith Maltby
Chaplain, Fellow and Dean of Welfare

The Chaplain has always been a key provider of welfare support in the College community. What changes have you seen over the years that you have been at Corpus?

My role is long-term in that the Chaplain has always been a key provider of welfare support in the College community. What changes have you seen over the years that you have been at Corpus?

All welfare providers are commenting on the reduced resilience of current students compared to their predecessors. The effect is increased demand on welfare resources in the Colleges and the University. There is now greater understanding of the Counselling Service and the College of Colleagues recently created a forum to improve communication between collegiate welfare providers so we are better placed to learn from each other and share best practice. While there are real concerns about levels of resilience, I’ve noticed that recent generations of students are not only supportive of diversity but positively celebrate it. For someone like me, who has worked for over 30 years to promote equality and diversity in higher education and in the Church of England, their commitment really gladdens the heart.

Do you think that the pressures that students are under now are greater than they were ten years ago?

No, not academically though some might say that they are less well prepared for University than they were previously. As long as I have been in Oxford, it has always stunned me that our students face an uncertain world and that just being at Oxford is not ‘the ticket’ that it was once was. One of the pressures is that the 2:1 has become such a load bearing degree classification. There is more pressure to get a First to stand out from your cohort.

Students now make a greater financial contribution towards their education. Has this changed the way that they look at their experience and what support do they expect?

There is a general shift in higher education towards a more consumerist attitude which, I think, is unfortunate. A short termist approach has been created by the barometers of satisfaction registered in the league tables. There is a kind of ‘instant gratification’ factor creeping in which results in the loss of the idea that the fruits of an education might only be realised a few years down the line.

In your busy week engaging with Junior Members in a variety of ways, how do you find time to continue with your research?

In term time it is almost impossible so the vacations and having research leave is essential. I am currently co-editing a collection of essays for Bloomsbury on Anglican women novelists, covering from Charlotte Brontë to P.D. James. My own chapter is on the author of The Towers of Babel by Dame Rose Macaulay, who died in 1958. The project is proving to be a lot of fun.

How do you see the role of the College Chapel in the life of the College?

Open and hospitable. The Chapel needs to be authentic to what it is – a place of Christian worship – but it also needs to be open to all and over my years as Chaplain one of the things that has given me greatest pleasure is that the Choir and congregation comprises Christians of all denominations, people of other faiths and no faith and they all feel equally welcomed. I am extraordinary proud of the quality of Chapel music we have been able to achieve on a modest budget, with the help of our organ scholars and Dr Katie Pardee, and am looking forward hugely to the forthcoming Choir CD.

Parents are sometimes anxious when their children leave for university. What is your advice to them?

Firstly, I would want to reassure them that the collegiate system provides well-rounded support, both academic and pastoral, including for students with special needs and disabilities. Their children are adults when they arrive here and my advice is to stand back a bit and let them spread their wings.
Nanomaterials are in the news these days. With the discovery of Carbon 60 (C60) - also known as Buckminster Fullerite - in the mid 1980s (for which the Nobel Prize in Chemistry was awarded in 1996), Carbon Nanotubes and Graphene in the early 2000s, Graphene in 2004 and the 2010 Nobel Prize in Physics for “groundbreaking experiments regarding two-dimensional material graphene”, research on carbon and non-carbon based nanomaterials increased exponentially. Exploratory research in the area of nanostructured materials is quickly evolving worldwide and new nanomaterials discoveries are frequently reported across a wide range of applications including nanoelectronics, sensor technologies, drug delivery, robotics, as well as applications in the energy and materials sectors. The exceptional variety of nanomaterials applications beg the question: ‘What are nanomaterials?’

Nanomaterials possess building blocks of the order of a billionth of a metre (i.e. 0.000000001 m) in size. To get a better idea of the size of the building blocks, think of the relative size of the earth compared with a football. One finds the same size relationship when comparing the football with a single nanoparticle, such as C60. Nanomaterials are truly exceptionally small, hard, ductile at high temperatures (i.e. they are easily bent before they break), wear-resistant, Design-resistant, and corrosion resistant. The word ‘Nano’ refers to the size of materials and is not limited to certain elements, and therefore, the range of nanomaterials applications is so broad and not limited to only one subject.

Nanoparticles are different from larger particles. Nanstructured materials can exhibit exceptionally strong, hard, ductile at high temperatures (i.e. they are easily bent before they break), wear-resistant, Design-resistant, and corrosion resistant. Nanoparticles possess an enormous surface area. This fact means that the number of atoms on the surface of a nanoparticle than it is the case for larger particles or bulk materials made up of the same element. The atoms at the surface are able to interact with the environment more than the atoms in the centre of a particle. Hence, due to the increased number of atoms in the surface of a nanoparticle, the properties of nanoparticles in the atomic scale on the atomic level, and the type of catalyst used. An essential step towards the controlled growth processes and reaction conditions have allowed us to estimate how the catalyst particles and reaction conditions have to be modified in order to enhance or to suppress certain products. For example, within limitations it is simply the catalyst particle size that governs the diameter of CNTs, i.e., larger catalyst particles lead to CNTs with larger diameters.

Although it is difficult to fully control the formation of nanomaterials, we have recently shown that it is indeed possible to achieve structural control of nanomaterials, which requires a detailed understanding of the functioning of the catalyst which together with state-of-the-art situ diagnostics which we developed as part of an ERC Proof of Concept grant has allowed us to estimate how the catalyst particles and reaction conditions have to be modified in order to enhance or to suppress certain products. For example, within limitations it is simply the catalyst particle size that governs the diameter of CNTs, i.e., larger catalyst particles lead to CNTs with larger diameters.

For example, the conductivity of carbon nanotubes (CNTs) is large, and they are small enough for them to be rolled up into individual nanotubes. However, to date, no one is able to produce CNTs with a given structure, and the properties of these nanomaterials are strongly dependent on the type of production method employed. This has limited many potential applications of CNTs, e.g., as structural materials in bulletproof vests, as transistors in nanoelectronics or in circuits for quantum computers.

Outstanding inventors/material scientists have inspired me since the early days of nanomaterials. My interest became practical during my DPhil under Prof Sir Harry Kroto FRS and his research into Fullerenes in 1985. My curiosity of the extraordinary and unexpected behaviour of common materials, e.g., carbon at the nanometre scale lead me to create new nanomaterials previously only predicted by theorists.

After I completed my DPhil at Sussex, I was awarded a Royal Society Dorothy Hodgkin Fellowship followed by a Royal Society University Fellowship, and an ERC Starting Grant. This long term funding was also crucial for us to be able to fully concentrate on the tedious and very challenging goal namely the controlled production of new carbon and non-carbon-based nanomaterials with focused achieving structural control of the nanomaterials. This aim is a very difficult challenge because the chemical reactions that are used to create the nanoparticles are sensitive to temperature, concentrations of the reactant or starting material, and the type of catalyst used. An essential step towards the controlled growth processes and reaction conditions have allowed us to estimate how the catalyst particles and reaction conditions have to be modified in order to enhance or to suppress certain products. For example, within limitations it is simply the catalyst particle size that governs the diameter of CNTs, i.e., larger catalyst particles lead to CNTs with larger diameters.

Early on, I realised that the potential and ideal properties of graphene were far beyond the vision of many other scientists. Using state-of-the-art electron microscopy in order to reveal the particle structures and their chemical compositions with atomic resolution, we have provided with information on how the nanomaterials may have been formed. Such information has been crucial for an improved understanding of the functioning of the catalyst which together with state-of-the-art situ diagnostics which we developed as part of an ERC Proof of Concept grant has allowed us to estimate how the catalyst particles and reaction conditions have to be modified in order to enhance or to suppress certain products. For example, within limitations it is simply the catalyst particle size that governs the diameter of CNTs, i.e., larger catalyst particles lead to CNTs with larger diameters.

In recent years, we have made much progress on establishing growth systems for nanostructured materials, which requires a detailed understanding of the functioning of the catalyst which together with state-of-the-art situ diagnostics which we developed as part of an ERC Proof of Concept grant has allowed us to estimate how the catalyst particles and reaction conditions have to be modified in order to enhance or to suppress certain products. For example, within limitations it is simply the catalyst particle size that governs the diameter of CNTs, i.e., larger catalyst particles lead to CNTs with larger diameters.

The word ‘Nano’ refers to the size of materials and is not limited to certain elements, and therefore, the range of nanomaterials applications is so broad and not limited to only one subject.

It is very exciting to work in a field where the possibilities are limitless. The nanomaterials market is valued at US$5.8bn (2014) with a predicted CAGR of 23.1% the market is expected to reach US$60.8bn in 2020 [Mordor Int. LLP], e.g., the market for heat exchangers worldwide is valued at US$4bn, and there exists potential to bring ‘Williams Advanced Engineering Nanotechnology to this market’.

My expertise of 20 years in designing and creating tailor-made nanomaterials pushes us internationally in a position to exploit these materials. We are currently working with Williams Advanced Engineering and creating tailored nanomaterials for leading-edge aerospace applications where the possibilities are limitless. In the broadest sense it is similar to the role and impact in our everyday life and how the world changed since they were first synthesised only a few decades ago. Nanomaterials already play an important role in research and in designing new materials and new processes, new materials are used to create the nanoparticles are sensitive to temperature, concentrations of the reactant or starting material, and the type of catalyst used. An essential step towards the controlled growth processes and reaction conditions have allowed us to estimate how the catalyst particles and reaction conditions have to be modified in order to enhance or to suppress certain products. For example, within limitations it is simply the catalyst particle size that governs the diameter of CNTs, i.e., larger catalyst particles lead to CNTs with larger diameters.

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I am a self-taught painter. Everything I know about painting, I have learned by working and by looking at the work of other artists. I live and work in Llanfihangel-yng-Ngwynfa, Montgomeryshire, where I have my studio. Richard first came here in the summer of 2013. He and his wife stayed at a nearby farmhouse B&B, and we worked over about fifteen days in July and September for five or six hours each day: with camera, pencil and watercolour, before moving on to the final canvas in oils. We got on well, talked a lot, learned a little, and made good progress on the portrait. Our sittings were halted rather abruptly in September when I fell off my mountain bike and concussed myself. Richard was born and brought up in Wales, and I think his visits to Llanfihangel were a good chance for him to re-connect with the country of his birth. Our final sittings were in August 2015 and the painting was unveiled at the College on 11 May 2016.

The background of Richard’s portrait is made up of two entwined texts: a section from the Gettysburg Address, reflecting his career as a Lincoln Scholar, and a few lines from Shakespeare’s King Lear (“I am bound upon a wheel of fire”), which refers to a role he has played and a career that, in another life, he might have pursued.

Keith Breeden, Artist

Keith Breeden was elected to the Royal Society of Portrait Painters in 2000.
Let’s make a bigger splash

Cameron McGarry
President, Corpus Christi Boat House

Summer Eights this year was an eventful one for Corpus with four boats in the Regatta.

W1 was mainly filled with novices, the majority of the women’s crew of last year having moved on. However, M1 maintained some of the strength of previous years while gaining new members, both novice and more experienced. M2 was a novice crew and M3 was a school’s eight because many of the familiar faces could not commit to training in their final year. Corpus lived up to its reputation as the plucky underdog of Oxford college rowing: our first boat positions (all near the top of division three) find us repeatedly coming up against colleges with more students and better resources. Despite this, we have more or less held our current positions for the past thirty or so years, with a notable excursion into division two by the women’s crew—as well as occasionally celebrating the achievements of blade-winning crews.

The challenge facing us as a club is to maintain our standards while gaining new members. We can do this by phasing in a rolling boat-buying plan. The details have yet to be finalised but it is clear that we will need to raise tens of thousands of pounds in order to meet our targets.

We hope to raise funds by a combination of finding sponsorship and hosting events including a special alumni rowing day. If you would be interested in spending time rowing with us, or if you might be able to help us find potential sponsors, it would be wonderful to hear from you.

PHOTOGRAPHS: Molly Wiltt

Perhaps the most crucial asset for any boat club which wants to be successful is its fleet.

“Perhaps the most crucial asset for any boat club which wants to be successful is its fleet. That the natural fluctuations in ability that come with any college sport will be averaged out over time.”

In recent years we have been given a new men’s first boat, the Spirit of 1963, which is a wonderful donation to us by the crew of 1963, it has seen us through several bumps campaigns and is still going strong. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said of the women’s first boat, the Leo Sharpston, which is no longer comparable to the boats of our opposition. Likewise both second crew boats are reaching retirement age too.

CCCBC aims to raise enough money to sustain itself for the foreseeable future, including phasing in a rolling boat-buying plan. The details have yet to be finalised but it is clear that we will need to raise tens of thousands of pounds in order to meet our targets.

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PHOTOGRAPHS: Molly Wiltt

The challenge facing us as a club is to make progress up the river and the first step is to cross the gap between the divisions. The changes we have to make must be lasting, so

Ice Hockey

Jenn Lawrence
Romanist-History

The past two years have been unprecedented in the history of Oxford University Ice Hockey.

In the 2014-15 season, our women’s team broke countless British University Ice Hockey Association records: we played a men’s league (Tier 1 Non-Checking), one of our players led the league in scoring and we came in third at Nationals in an all-men’s division. Our team then went on to defeat Cambridge a whopping 25-0 at Varsity. Meanwhile, the men’s team had been through the process of restructuring and worked hard to build a strong foundation for the 2015-16 season. In recognition of the success of both our women’s and men’s teams, the Oxford University Ice Hockey Club received the prestigious Oxford University ‘Sports Club of the Year’ award for the first time.

For the 2015-16 season, I received the honour of being elected Captain, which resulted in Corpus Christi briefly becoming the home of many ice hockey meetings and team dinners! Once again we defeated Cambridge decisively at Varsity, 18-1 this time. Two Corpuscles played in our team this year: Emma Walker-Silverman (and your own correspondent!) Overall, it has been a two-year period of fantastic achievements, made sweeter by the bonds of camaraderie between teammates and friends that strengthened along the way. My heart goes out to Corpus for supporting us over the past six years: we couldn’t have asked for a better home base. Go Dark Blues!

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The Women’s Football Team enjoyed a superb 2015-16 season coming runners up in the league and beating our namesake rivals Corpus Christi Cambridge 3-1 at the Corpus Challenge. However, the highlight of the season was playing in the Cuppers Final at the Iffley Road Stadium. In the knockout rounds, our joint team with Pembroke easily saw off Wadham (6-0), Queens (4-0) and Christ Church-Oriel joint (5-1) with several goals from striker Shona McNab and Captain Bethan Murray. Going into the final against New College we were the definite underdogs with only the one university player but we were extremely proud and excited to play at the stadium in front of the President and a few hundred rowdy supporters. The match was tough and we battled hard with excellent defending from Miriam Lee backed up by several impressive saves from goalkeeper Sarah Richardson. The match ended in a no score draw … and then we unfortunately lost on penalties. However, team spirit remained high throughout and we all had amazing fun despite the unlucky defeat!
The Corpus Papers

The College's quincentenary in 2017 will be celebrated in many ways in the UK, but will also be marked in the USA by a major exhibition of items from the Library, 500 Years of Treasures from Oxford, which will be held in Washington, D.C. from February to April and in New York from May until August.

CORPUS LIBRARY TREASURES GOING TO AMERICA

Peter Kidd, Curator of the ‘500 Years of Treasures from Oxford’ Exhibitions

The main theme of the exhibition is the foundation of the Library and its development during the first hundred years of its existence, as a reflection of the intellectual life and ambitions of the College. This date-span covers the period from the earliest recorded gifts made by the Founder, to the College’s involvement with the translation of the “Authorized”, or “King James” version of the Bible. It encompasses the gifts of both the Founder and the first President, in particular the latter’s bequest of an incalculably important group of Anglo-Hebrew manuscripts (MSS 5–11, described by Peter Pormann in the previous issue of The Sundial). The earliest Library Catalogue was compiled in 1589 and is also included: remarkably, more than 80% of the books recorded in 1589 are still in the Library today.

Even within the limits of this hundred-year range, it was very difficult to create a short-list of only 50 items, the target size for the show, but eventually a long list of Library riches was whittled down to a manageable size. A first group of exhibits introduces the Founder, and to add visual variety he will be represented not only by books, but also by some of his spectacular episcopal gilt-silverware, temporarily withdrawn from display at the Ashmolean. The Founder’s famous vision of a trilingual library will be represented by a series of exhibition cases devoted to books in Latin, Greek, and Hebrew; they will also exemplify the shift from medieval manuscripts to humanistic ones, and from these to printed editions.

Among the Latin books given by the Founder is a copy of the Letters of St Jerome (see right), which opens with the earliest woodcut designed by Dürer, nicely encapsulating the trilingual theme: behind Jerome are three open books, in which can be read the first words of Genesis in Greek, Hebrew, and Latin respectively. Among the Greek books are a manuscript of Proclus’s introduction to Euclid’s Elements, and the first edition of the same text, printed from that very manuscript. Among the Hebrew books are all those given by the first President.

One of the main purposes of the original trilingual curriculum was to equip students to study the scriptures not only in Latin, as was normal, but also in their original languages. Another group of books has therefore been chosen to extend this theme further, including the Oglethorpe Bible (in medieval French); Erasmus’s revision of the Latin New Testament; and one of only three surviving records of the deliberations of the revising committee of the King James Bible. Continuing the run of language-based selections will be a group of some of the College’s Early and Middle English manuscripts, including Chaucer’s Canterbury Tales, Langland’s Piers Plowman, and a vast copy of yet another translation of the Bible, the so-called Wycliffite version.

Extending beyond the College’s first hundred years, and reflecting a general move away from purely biblical authority towards first-hand observation of the natural world, aided by newly invented instruments including the microscope and the telescope, are a series of books relating to science, especially astronomy. Here visitors to the exhibition will be able to examine, for example, hand-drawn observations of the moon’s surface, as seen for the first time and subsequently published by Galileo in 1610, compared with a vastly more detailed map of the lunar landscape published a few decades later by Hevelius; and a letter from Isaac Newton to the Astronomer Royal in which they discuss the orbital path of Halley’s Comet in 1680.
Nurturing the estate

Conscious that a vast amount of work has been undertaken and indeed is planned for the coming years, Fellows wanted to communicate to Corpuscles and others how we continue to nurture and care for our estate.

The website www.ccc.ox.ac.uk has been created to meet this need, with the deliberately image-centric format seeking to illustrate and permanently place on record the challenges, travails, successes and failures of our work. Like preceding generations, we find ourselves, the guardians of a proud history, in one of the most inspirational settings in the world. The fact that we continue in the traditions of our founder, Bishop Fox, as an institution of learning and research is not surprising, however the realisation that the deliberate image-centric format has been created to meet this need, with the deliberately image-centric format seeking to illustrate and permanently place on record the challenges, travails, successes and failures of our work.

The costs involved in this ceaseless endeavour are significant and our continued enjoyment of our historic setting can only be made affordable through the support of our endowment and the selfless generosity of alumni and others who are willing to underwrite our past and our future.

Should readers have any comments upon the site, its content, intent, format or accessibility please do contact John Harrison, the Bursar, at john.harrison@ccc.ox.ac.uk.uk.

ABOVE: Removing years of encrusted dirt from the Chapel ceiling panelling.

NEW BEGINNINGS

24 June 2016

On 24 June, eighteen months on from the start of their fundamental redesign and refurbishment, the buildings known to generations of Corpuscles as The Annesse, and the New Building were ceremoniously reopened as The Jackson Building and The Oldham Building. Honouring respectively Oxford’s greatest Victorian architect and the College's most munificent founding benefactor, these residential improvements give Corpus very high quality student and conference accommodation on the doorstep of the ancient College.

An appreciative gathering in the new inner courtyard raised their glasses to acknowledge the contributions of the team that brought the project in on time and on budget.

In October 2015, the College welcomed Geoff Higgins and Sarosh Irani as Medical Research Fellows.

Geoff Higgins is an Associate Professor and Honorary Consultant Clinical Oncologist specialising in the management of lung cancer. He received his medical degree from Edinburgh, where he remained for much of his clinical post-graduate training. He subsequently obtained his D.Phil in Cancer Biology from Oxford University and has worked in the Department of Oncology as a Clinician Scientist since 2011.

He leads laboratory and clinical research groups that are aiming to develop new treatments to increase the efficacy of radiotherapy treatment without exacerbating side effects. Geoff has so far taken two of these treatments into clinical trials in lung cancer patients.

Geoff is delighted to have joined Corpus with its close medical science community, striking both in terms of academic diversity and excellence.

Sarosh Irani is an Associate Professor, Wellcome Trust Intermediate Clinical Fellow and Honorary Consultant Neurologist with clinical and research interests in the mechanisms of autoimmune neurological diseases. He completed his undergraduate degree at Corpus and since has stayed in touch with teaching and other commitments. So he is very familiar with the College and delighted to return to this environment. He completed his DPhil in Clinical Neurology in Oxford and has also trained in London, Nottingham and San Francisco.

The autoimmune diseases in neurology have captured the interest of many physicians, including general medics, neurologists and psychiatrists, as they present with multifocal features and are often treatable with immunosuppressive agents. His laboratory focuses on developing new diagnostic tests to diagnose the conditions, optimising treatments using in vitro assays, and his clinical work continues to be focussed around looking after patients with autoimmune neurological conditions, and observing novel phenotypes and symptoms. This combined clinico-scientific approach aims to optimise the care of patients with these diseases, and extend their relevance to other neurological conditions.

Dr Geoff Higgins and Dr Sarosh Irani
Medical Research Fellows

NEW ARRIVALS

Dr Nic Read
Medical Research Fellow

NEW BEGINNINGS

24 June 2016

Dr Nick Read is a Research Fellow in Neuroimmunology and is focusing on autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders. He studied Medical Sciences at Cambridge and then undertook an MSc in Immunology. Having been awarded a DPhil at Oxford University in 2014 for his work on multiple sclerosis, he moved to Corpus Christi College in 2015 and has been a Research Fellow in the Department of Neurology since then.

Dr Read is interested in the aetiology of autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders and how they interact with each other. He is working on developing novel biomarkers that will allow us to understand the nature of these disorders and how they can be treated. He recently published a paper on the role of inflammation in the brain in multiple sclerosis and is currently investigating how this process can be regulated.

Dr Read is grateful for the support of Corpus Christi College and is looking forward to building on his research here.
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.

Corpus Christi College
Alumni events

November 2016

Monday 21 November
New York Winter Drinks with Hertford College
Join Corpus and Hertford Old Members for drinks in a private area at the 48 Lounge, 1221 6th Ave, New York. Bookings and more information on the Corpus website.

December 2016

Saturday 3 December
Carol Service for Old Members
This is now fully booked but please contact Sarah in the Development Office (sarah.salter@ccc.ox.ac.uk) if you would like to join the waiting list.

Thursday 8 December
Varsity Rugby Match
Come and support Oxford’s men and women at Twickenham. Tickets including entry to the Blues Village available through our website.

Friday 16 December
London Drinks
This year’s eagerly anticipated event will be at the Oxford and Cambridge Club. Please book through the Corpus website.

Just for starters

Nikhil Venkatesh
PPE

This year, for the first time since 2009, Corpus’s team for the BBC quiz programme University Challenge had their knowledge put to the test on national television. (Some alumni might remember that the 2009 team, led by Gail Trimble, became series champions, before being controversially disqualified.)

This year’s team featured Tom Fleet (English Literature), Emma Johnson (Medicine), Nikhil Venkatesh (PPE) and Adam Wright (DPhil candidate in Physics). The team was selected following two rounds of trials in College, in which over forty Corpuscles tried out, many showing great promise for future series. After auditioning for the show’s producers in Michaelmas Term, we got the call in January to let us know we had been one of the twenty-four teams that would be featured in the 2016/17 series. Given that over one hundred teams enter the process every year, this in itself was an achievement. For two of us, it was our third attempt to make it onto the show.

University Challenge is pre-recorded in MediaCity UK, Salford, in the spring. Our first round match, against Jesus College, Cambridge, was broadcast on 18 July. It was a close game, with an entertaining (and nerve-wracking!) ebb and flow. After a slow start, we had a fine run of questions which gave us a lead at halfway, which was eroded and then reversed by Jesus. Towards the end of the match, however, we picked up again and ended up securing victory by 200 points to 175. This sent us through to the second round of the series.

You can expect our second round to be shown towards the end of the autumn. Whilst we are not allowed to give anything away about the results of shows yet to be broadcast, we can say that we found representing the College very exciting and a great privilege. We hope you will enjoy watching us as much as we enjoyed competing!

The College was saddened to learn of the death of Professor Jingnian Yang at the age of 107. Just two months prior to his death, Professor Yang had been elected to an Honorary Fellowship in recognition of a lifetime’s achievement in teaching and research in China – latterly at the University of Nankai. Professor Yang was born in Miyang, Hunan Province of China. He came up in 1945 to read for a DPhil in Economics, before returning to a very different China under Mao Tse Tung. In the 1960s, Professor Yang endured great hardships during the Cultural Revolution but continued to research and write. At the age of 90, he finished translating Adam Smith’s The Wealth of Nations into Chinese, and at the age of 100, he wrote an autobiography, looking back on his 100 years of life. We believe that Professor Yang was the oldest ever recipient of an honorary fellowship at CCC.