

# Sundial

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Corpus Christi  
College Oxford 2017

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Empires of Faith

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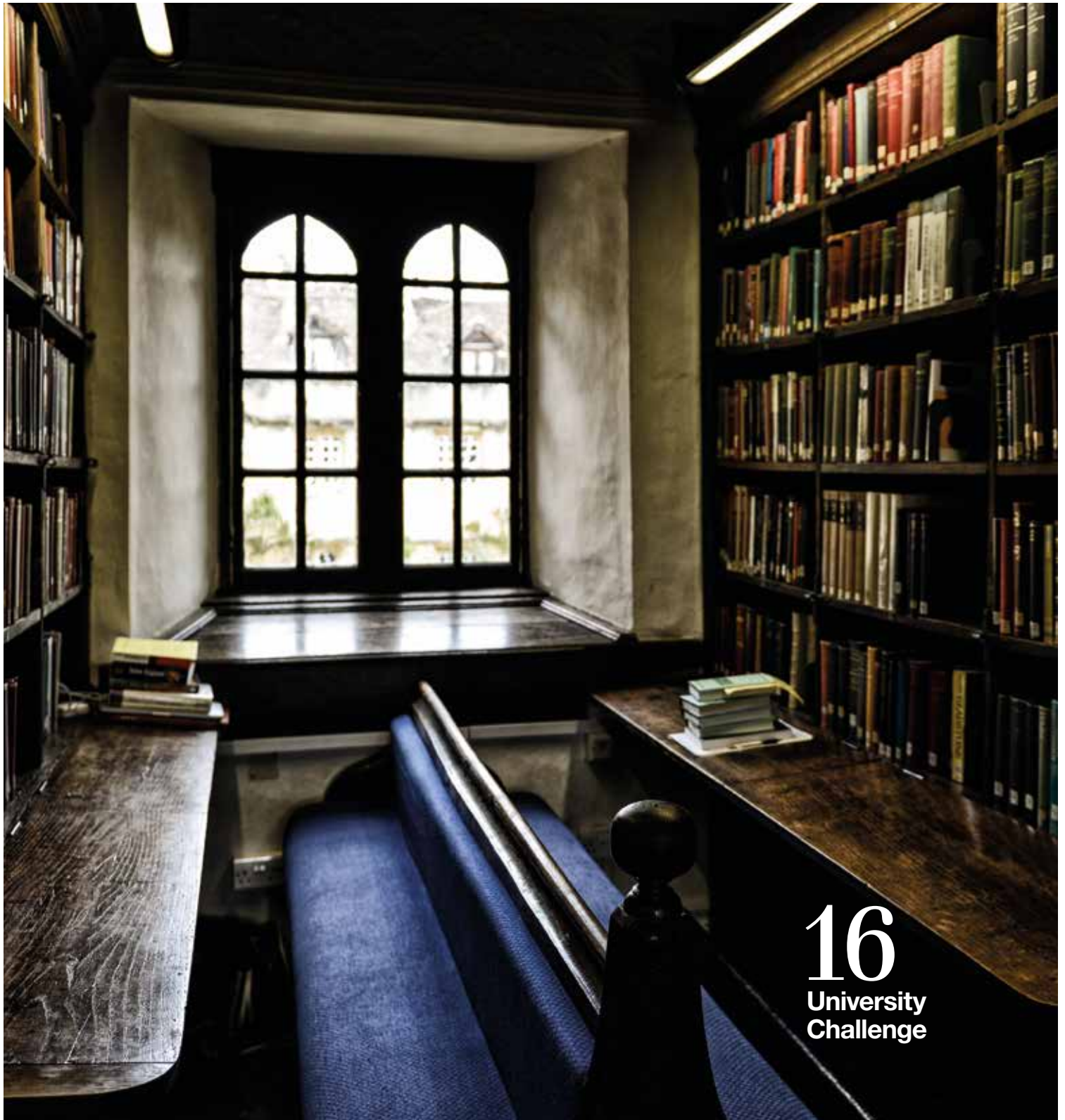
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# Welcome

## From the President

Professor Steven Cowley FRS, FREng



On Friday 30 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 disjuncture engendered by so rapid a transition. It was a memorable evening and I look forward to spending many more in the company of friends both old and new.

Three days later, I entered the main Quad on my way from the Lodgings, and encountered the sight of the College's iconic Pelican sundial, swarmed by jittery, newly-arrived freshers. They were being welcomed by teams of all-knowing second and third years, eager to introduce them to the non-academic pleasures of College and help them settle into their new lives. Now, barely three weeks on, those same freshers already appear relaxed and at home – as if they own Corpus.

The world these students now inhabit presents great challenges - from climate change, technological innovation and economic uncertainty to religious extremism, political polarisation, rapidly shifting social norms, and more. Will Corpus prepare them for this uncertain world? Will their experience of Corpus strengthen them as it has strengthened so many others, including me? In my view, the most certain way of ensuring it does, is to guide our students towards the development of the kind of independent and flexible thinking that has characterised Corpuscles for nearly five hundred years. I see this as the primary challenge of my new presidency.

For the past three years, Professor Pete Nellist, Tutor and Fellow in Materials Science, has been running our very successful North West Science Network with the help of Brendan Shepherd, our able and energetic Outreach Officer. The network engages school level students from around Greater Manchester and Cheshire, with support from South Cheshire College (Crewe) and Xaverian College (Manchester). These teenagers,

who are largely from backgrounds where little encouragement is given to apply to top universities, are introduced to research-level science in order to raise their aspirations and are offered all the support and information they will need when they make their university applications.

Professor Nellist invited me to give the 2016 North West Science Network launch lecture on *Fusion Energy* at South Cheshire College at the beginning of this academic year. I was profoundly impressed by their enthusiasm. Our Q&A session lasted for well over an hour and rarely have I faced a more stimulating audience. The culmination of the North West Science Network's year is a June Summer School, held at Corpus. Presiding at my first Freshers' Dinner last week, I sat next to a first-year Physics student who had attended the same Summer School and been inspired to apply to Corpus – one of two who had arrived here via this route. Pete and Brendan's work represents one of several crucial initiatives that we will build on to ensure that bright students from all ethnic, religious, social and economic groups perceive Corpus as a desirable and attainable goal.

These last few months, since the Brexit vote on the 23 June, have been anxious times for the University and especially for UK science. Professor Louise Richardson, our Vice Chancellor, has proved a powerful articulator of the dangers to research and to the free movement of academics and students that we now face. Last year the University attracted £67 million in European Research Council funding and my own research interests at UKAEA Culham received nearly £62 million in EU support. However, young researchers are already opting to pursue their careers elsewhere. This comes at a time when Oxford's reputation in science is at an all-time high. The quality of Oxford science lifts and inspires students and professors (me included). We cannot let that quality drop – we must continue to attract the brightest scientists from around the world to Oxford and to Corpus.

Our five hundredth year is almost upon us and, as you can see from the insert, we have a large number of celebratory events which reflect different aspects of College life and scholarship. As a fellow Corpuscle, it will give me a particular satisfaction to be able to welcome you all to these events.

## Sundial

Issue 7  
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## Profile

### Professor Jaś Elsner

*Humfry Payne Senior Research Fellow  
in Classical Art and Archaeology*

Professor Elsner has been Humfry Payne Senior Research Fellow in Classical Art and Archaeology at the College since 1999, and Professor of Late Antique Art in the University from 2014.

For much of his time 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.

Jaś Elsner's expertise is within a diverse field: the history of Greek and Roman art, and the rise of Christian and Byzantine art in late antiquity, as well as the long history of the receptions 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 church treasuries, in pilgrimage and ritual, in the creation of the academic disciplines that were forged to understand this sort of evidence from the past – not just Classics but also anthropology, archaeology, art history and the history of religions. He has worked on objects, sites and works 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 wonderful group of fellows, postdocs and students at both undergraduate and graduate level in all areas of the subject."

The Empires of Faith Project, which Professor Elsner runs between Oxford University and the British Museum, has extended his range of interests into what might be called the global late antiquity. The project attempts to explore the ways in which the visual and material cultures of all the major world religions were created through encounter, appropriation, mutual dialogue, conflict and self-differentiation during the first millennium AD. The religions being explored include Buddhism, Hinduism, Judaism, Christianity and Islam – as well as the pagan polytheistic cults of the ancient Mediterranean, and other religions including Zoroastrianism, Manichaeism and Jainism. In this period, across Eurasia,

all these religions either developed anew or created new iconographies and visual means for affirming their identities through art and symbolism. The project includes three doctoral students, four postdoctoral research fellows, two British Museum curators on secondment and a number of other participants – mainly based in Wolfson College in Oxford. For someone trained in the humanities, not used to the scientific enterprise of running a lab, having to be in charge of a large group working on both individual and

collective projects has been an interesting challenge. 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 India. 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 Dial

# College Faces

► **Our Chaplain and Dean of Welfare** describes her role in the life of the College

**Revd Canon Dr Judith Maltby**  
*Chaplain, Fellow and Dean of Welfare*

Reunion

## WASHINGTON REUNION

This year the biennial Oxford University Reunion moved from New York to Washington DC and Corpus played its part with a drinks reception at the offices of PwC courtesy of Chan Harjivan (1999). An unseasonably cold April evening forced the assembled Corpuses inside for most of the evening, but they did venture onto the terrace briefly for the traditional team-photograph, against the spectacular backdrop of the White House, with the Washington Monument in the background.



Reunion

## 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 response to the Gaudy was given by Malcolm Hewitt (Maths, 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.



NICK READ

# Keeping calm

Revd Canon Dr Judith Maltby is Reader in Church History in the Theology Faculty and has been Chaplain, Fellow and Dean of Welfare at Corpus since 1993. She holds the position of longest serving Chaplain in Oxford. We asked her about her role in the life of the College.



**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 resourcing of the Counselling Service and the Conference of Colleges 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 struck 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 Trebizond* by Dame Rose Macauley, 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 extraordinarily 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.

# Research

**Professor Nicole Grobert**  
*Official Fellow in Materials*

## PAVING THE WAY FOR REAL LIFE NANOMATERIALS APPLICATIONS

### Challenges and opportunities

Nanomaterials are in the news these days. With the discovery of Carbon 60 ( $C_{60}$  - also known as Buckminster Fullerene) in the mid 1980s (for which the Nobel Prize in Chemistry was awarded in 1996), Carbon Nanotubes in the early 1990s, 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 healthcare sectors. This exceptional variety of nanomaterials applications begs 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  $C_{60}$ .

In relation to their volume, nanoparticles possess an enormous surface area. This fact means that relatively more atoms are located 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 their surroundings far better 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



NICK READ

nanoparticles are different from larger particles. Nanostructured materials can be exceptionally strong, hard, ductile at high temperatures (i.e. they are easily bent before they break), wear-resistant, erosion-resistant, or 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 can be chemically very active (for example, this property is used to design more efficient catalysts) or have extraordinary optical or electrical properties (for example, these properties are used to build smaller and more powerful lasers). Nanoparticles contain only relatively few atoms (hundreds to hundreds of millions) and therefore the properties of nanomaterials are highly dependent on how the atoms are arranged in each particle. In general, different structures exhibit different properties. Hence the ability to reproduce the structure of a nanoparticle on the atomic level is crucial for technological applications.

“  
It is very  
exciting to  
work in a field  
where the  
possibilities  
are limitless.”

For instance, the conductivity of carbon nanotubes (CNTs: CNTs are small graphene cylinders, which are closed at each end) depends on their chirality, i.e. the way individual graphenes are rolled up). To date, no one is able to produce CNTs with a given structure, and the quality of these structures is strongly depend on the type of production method employed. This has limited many potential applications of CNTs, e.g., as structural materials in bulletproof jackets, 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 1996. 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 absolutely 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 the focus on achieving structural control of the nanomaterials at the atomic level. 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 generation of new carbon and non-carbon based nanomaterials is therefore a comprehensive understanding of nanomaterial growth reactions and the role of the metal catalyst involved in the synthesis process.

The importance of this is threefold: first, a better understanding of the growth mechanisms leads the way to new structures and materials; second, engineering growth processes improves uniformity of nanostructures on the atomic scale; and third, the controlled production, manipulation and functionalisation of novel nanoscale materials form the basis for further processing and future technological applications.

In recent years, we have made much progress on establishing growth systematics for nanostructured materials, which requires a detailed understanding of the chemical reactions at the atomic level, especially a detailed understanding of the role of the catalyst. Using state-of-the-art electron microscopy in order to reveal the particle structures and their chemical compositions with atomic resolution has provided us with information on how the nanostructures may have formed. Such information has been crucial for an improved understanding of the functioning of the catalyst which together with state-of-the-art in 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.

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 allows us to tailor their properties, too. This structural control paved the way to the next phase of exploring potential applications of in-house produced nanomaterials with dedicated properties. For example, using spray deposition techniques provide a promising approach for the fabrication of industrial scale composite films with well-controlled dielectric properties for micro-electronic and high temperature and thermal management applications.

Early on, I realised that exploitation of nanomaterials could only be achieved following a multi-pronged approach by designing new, controlled production routes and combining these with novel nanomaterials and classical materials with end-use properties in mind. More recently, we migrated to research into ambitious and desirable engineering solutions that conventional engineering cannot provide. Tailored nanomaterials engineering is the approach to exploitation of my research into CNTs, graphene and other non-carbon nanomaterials. By working closely with industrial partners, such as Williams Advanced Engineering, we are able to access and help shape technical developments in companies pioneering various stages of design and

manufacture of industrial products. With the award of a second ERC Proof of Concept grant and with the award of the Royal Society Industry Fellowship (RSIF) this year, I intent to make an impact as the nanomaterials technology provider within Williams Advanced Engineering in areas of societal need.

Williams Advanced Engineering inspired me to apply for the RSIF with their vision of making an impact with their innovation strategy: Identified as one of the eight GREAT tech areas by the UK government, advanced materials combine our science and business strengths, with UK material-related industries having a yearly turnover of £197bn. Markets in all sectors want superior, stronger, lighter materials driven by downstream engineering and the desire to continually push technological performance boundaries.

The nanomaterials market is valued at US\$5.4bn (2014) with a predicted CAGR of 23.1% the market is expected to reach US\$10.8bn in 2020 [Mordor Int. LLP] e.g., the market for heat exchangers worldwide is valued at US\$14bn, and there exists potential to bring ‘Williams Advanced Engineering nanotechnology’ to this market.

My expertise of 20 years in designing and creating tailored nanomaterials puts us internationally in a lead position to exploit these materials. We are currently working with Williams Advanced Engineering on two EPSRC Proof of Concept projects and the Royal Society Industry Fellowship will be instrumental to take this work to the end-user level.

Designing novel nanomaterials exhibiting desired properties with end-user needs in mind will help us to identify potential applications and benefits that have not occurred to us yet. It is very exciting to work in a field where the possibilities are limitless. In the broadest sense it is similar to the role and importance of plastics in our every day 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 first applications. In a few decades, nanostructured materials could easily exceed the importance that plastics have in our lives today.

# The Big Picture

## In the frame

Keith Breeden talks about capturing our previous President in oils

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.*



# Sports

## Rowing

# 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 schools' 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 blades-winning crews.

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

that the natural fluctuations in ability that come with any college sport will be averaged out over time.

Perhaps the most crucial asset for any boat club which wants to be successful is its fleet. In recent years we have been given a new men's first boat, the Spirit of 1963, which is wonderful: donated 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.

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 Willett

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



## Ice Hockey

# COOL AS ICE

**Jenn Lawrence**  
Roman History

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



JENN LAWRENCE

In the 2014-15 season, our women's team broke countless British University Ice Hockey Association records: we played in 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 substantial restructuring and worked hard to build a strong foundation for the 2016-16 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 on 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 terms: we couldn't have asked for a better home base. Go Dark Blues!

## Hardie Portrait unveiled at Eights Week Lunch

Corpus's great golfing enthusiast President Frank Hardie has been honoured by the hanging of a new portrait in Hall. It was unveiled on the occasion of the Eights Week Lunch by his niece Dr Alison Hardie.



NECK READ

LEFT TO RIGHT: Dr Alison Hardie, Artist Colleen Quill and the previous President

## Football

# WOMEN'S FOOTBALL REBOOTED

**Bethan Murray**  
Materials Science



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!

ABOVE: left to right Bethan Murray, Sarah Richardson, Miriam Lee

# 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* 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.

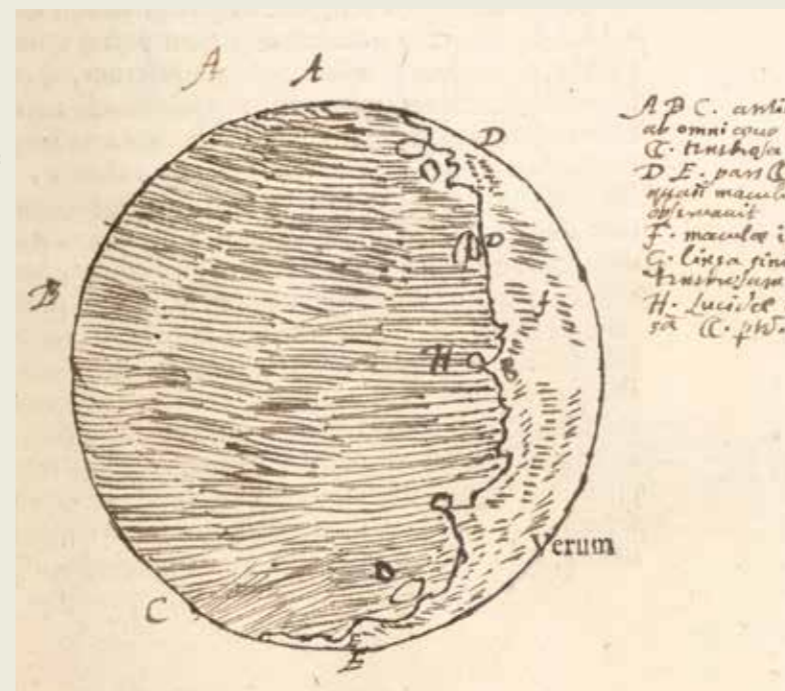
Among the Latin books given by the Founder is a copy of the Letters of St Jerome (see right), which opens with the earliest woodcut designed by Dürer, nicely encapsulating the trilingual theme: behind Jerome are three open books, in which can be read the first words of Genesis in Greek, Hebrew, and Latin 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.

OPPOSITE PAGE: Fox's silver-gilt and enamel crozier (London, c. 1501)

THIS PAGE, RIGHT clockwise: Galileo, *Sidereus Nuncius* (Venice, 1610); *The Oglethorpe Bible* (early 16th century); Langland, *Piers Plowman* (late 14th century); Jerome, *Liber epistolarum* (Basel, 1497)



*500 Years of Treasures from Oxford* will be open to the public at the Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington, D.C. from 4 February to 30 April and at the Center for Jewish History, New York from 14 May to 6 August. At each venue there will be a series of public events as well as private views for alumni. Please contact the College for details.

Anyone not fortunate enough to see either exhibition in person may wish to note that the College is publishing a 64-page full-colour catalogue featuring about half of the items in

the exhibition. This will be available from the College from February.

**Peter Kidd has worked at the Bodleian and British Libraries, but is now a freelance researcher, working mainly on medieval manuscripts. His catalogue of the medieval and Renaissance manuscripts of The Queen's College is due for publication by the Oxford Bibliographical Society before the end of the year.**



# Onsite



The Estate

## 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.ccctheestate.com](http://www.ccctheestate.com) 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 we do so within the site and buildings that would still be recognisable to him is remarkable.

On the linked pages of the site you will see our major projects illustrated to record existing structures, the progression of work, and the final

outcome achieved in our efforts to sustain a working environment that can still deliver on our founder's goals. We have also sought to record the many specialists and trades folk who have made the work possible. Whilst seemingly mundane contemporary events these images will we hope, in time, become a valuable resource.

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](mailto:john.harrison@ccc.ox.ac.uk).

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

### News

## 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 Annexe 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.



# New Arrivals

## Dr Geoff Higgins and Dr Sarosh Irani Medical Research Fellows



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



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.



# 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.

## Corpus Christi College Alumni events

### November 2016

#### Monday 21 November New York Winter Drinks with Hertford Colege

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!



## Oldest Old Member passes away at 107

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 life-time'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.