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This edition of the Sundial wings its way to you from an Oxford bathed in sunshine that has seen, at long last, the return of many of the sights and events that make it the most charming period of the Oxford year. Even the exam season this term had an air of relief as well as expectation, with the reinstatement of in-person exams for many Finalists and others. Those graduating from three-year courses this summer are the generation who were locked down in March of their first year, an experience that seems both so long ago and only yesterday. We are all delighted for them that in their final term they were free of restrictions and able to socialise and work without the burden of pandemic regulations. While being grateful for the convenience offered by technology over the past two years, and the way in which it helped us to continue much of our academic activity, tutors and students are all agreed that there is no substitute for in-person learning and the dynamic conversations that characterise life in Oxford. As you will see from our ‘College Faces’ feature on pp. 4-5, a new arrival in Susanna Dunachie, Professor of Infectious Diseases, whom we are delighted to welcome – fresh from her experiences advising the University on its response to Covid-19 – as the latest addition to our strong tradition of medical research and teaching at Corpus. A medical theme is also taken up in the latest instalment of the ‘Corpus Papers’ on pp. 12-13, as Huntington Library’s Ex-Officio Dr Megan S. Allen explores some of the diverse range of uses to which alchemy was put as revealed by items from our significant holdings of medieval alchemical manuscripts originally from the collection of Dr John Dee (1527-1608), astrologer to Elizabeth I.

Little did I think when writing the introduction to last January’s Sundial that war in Europe would have returned by the next issue. But so it has, with all its attendant griefs and anxieties. As a diverse and international community committed to the values of freedom and peace, we deplore the Russian aggression perpetrated in Ukraine and stand with our colleagues and friends across Europe in supporting those who suffer and reiterating our collective determination as universities to uphold peaceful debate, democratic values, the rule of law and human rights.

Liz Lyle
Development Director
It’s a privilege to lead the Development Team, having joined Corpus last year as Development Director. My focus is primarily on major gifts within the strategic direction for all activity undertaken by the Team. My career has spanned both the private and voluntary sectors and I have an MSc in Development Management from the Open University, as well as a Professional Postgraduate Diploma in Marketing from the Chartered Institute of Marketing. After six years at American Express, in 2007 I took my marketing expertise to a local charitable organisation in Mumbai, India, spending two years working with Voluntary Service Overseas. Since returning to the UK in 2009, I have worked in high-value fundraising at both Oxfam and more recently Marie Curie. I’m thrilled that I now have the opportunity to bring that experience to Corpus.

Begina Cox
Development Executive
I joined Corpus a year ago as Development Executive. I play an integral role in the strategic planning and execution of regular and major fundraising campaigns. I oversee legacies fundraising, create fundraising materials, prepare content for the College’s social media channels, develop and create the College branded designs. My career has centred around connecting people and building relationships, spanning sixteen years of working with members of the academic and non-academic HE community. Before joining Corpus, I worked in the University’s Development Office, initially as a Project Officer within the International and Principal Gifts Team and subsequently as a Development Officer and then Acting Development Executive. On a personal note, I recently founded a start-up which focuses on social media empowerment and offering a consulting service supporting female-led transformative projects.

Martha Baskerville
Donor Relations and Events Executive
I joined as Donor Relations and Events Executive in January. I have over seven years’ experience working for the University. My interest in building relationships with alumni was kindled as a schoolgirl on a visit to the University. After graduating with a degree in Theology, I began my career as an Outreach Officer at St Hilda’s, seeing at first hand the powerful impact that alumni donations make in improving access to the University. I then trained as an Event Manager at the Ashmolean before re-joining my alma mater to be Development Executive. My primary role was to project manage the College’s 150th anniversary events programme. This had been due to take place in 2020 but was sadly cancelled owing to the pandemic. I am thrilled to have been granted a year at an educational social enterprise leading its People Success Strategy, but my heart was in Oxford so I was delighted when I was invited to join Corpus this year.
The Wars of the Roses

As a number of historians have noted, late medieval England was governed by a political system, which combined the authority of a king with the social power of lords and communities, with an extensive system of representation – through parliament, manor courts, advice and petitioning, demonstrations and so on – and with the relatively routine operation of laws and institutions. It was a system that delivered remarkably effective governance when all parts were in harmony, but which blew apart when the royal regime lost public confidence. Government that did not plausibly promote the common weal – defend the realm, protect justice and order, maintain a reasonable burden of taxation – provoked public reaction, from MPs, popular rebels and ultimately magnates. But reactions of this kind could all too easily destroy the authority through which the realm was governed, creating a near-unmanageable ‘collective action problem’ as weakened kings and usurpers, on the one hand, and critics compromised by allegations of treason, on the other, struggled to create sufficiently powerful coalitions to be able to rule effectively. These were the basic conditions of the Wars of the Roses – not a struggle of contending dynasties (in fact, the Wars of the Roses – not a struggle of contending dynasties (in fact, the Wars of the Roses is a classic example of the gap between the way the period has been seen and the way it is coming to be understood. When we hear about the Wars of the Roses, we think of Shakespeare, Machiavelli, and Game of Thrones (all closely related, in fact) – of Richard III and the Princes in the Tower, of Warwick the Kingmaker switching sites to attack his one-time Yorkist allies, of Henry Tudor struggling against pretenders cynically launched into England by the nation’s enemies. So far back do these stories and images stretch that they have the ring of truth about them, but in fact the chronicle writers of the 1470s and 80s, who laid the foundations for the works of Polydore Vergil, Thomas More, Holinshed and Shakespeare, and for much modern historiography, borrowed much of their interpretation of events from the desparing narratives of the fall of the Roman Republic. The tales of ambition, trickery and intrigue that colour our sense of the fifteenth-century civil wars were derived from an utterly different time – and indeed from the moral and political anxieties and educational programmes of that different time – and if we want to understand the Wars, we need to start in a completely different place.
We develop these graduates into headteachers who originally qualified to teach through Teach First.

Sharing that I studied at Oxford can help show students that their teachers are experts in their subjects and genuinely want to be there teaching them. I chose to become a teacher from a range of options, and it sometimes shocks students that being there with them is the thing I most want to do! When students apply to teach through Teach First:

Joe McCrudden (English, 2010) is Assistant Principal in charge of Teaching and Learning at Yewlands Academy Sheffield. He trained to teach through Teach First:

Why teaching?

Manny Botwe (PPE, 1999) is now in his seventh year as Headteacher at Tytherington School, which is a comprehensive 11-18 school in Macclesfield, Cheshire. Prior to this, he served as a Deputy Headteacher in South Oxfordshire.

Sam (PPE, 2009) was a Teach Firster for two years in east London, teaching Maths to 11 to 18-year-olds.

“You were an awful General Studies teacher, but if you hadn’t taught me, I wouldn’t be here,” said Matt, a few weeks ago – eight years after he was his sixth form tutor. Teach First was the only job I applied for while at Corpus. I wanted to do something socially valuable, that would give me some life experience and skills, and take me out of the comfortable bubble I’d always lived in. Teach First felt like the obvious option. I knew I would be given six weeks intensive training in the summer holidays before being sent to teach in a school with a high number of pupils from low-income backgrounds. I’d be paid as a full-time teacher in my first year, alongside completing a fully funded PGCE. In my second year, I would be a qualified Maths teacher and would continue teaching at the same school. The goal of Teach First was to address educational inequality and I believed in that. I finished my Finals on a Thursday, had a week off, and started the Teach First Summer Institute the next Monday. It was exhausting but I learnt an incredible amount about leadership, pedagogy, psychology, Maths and how to present, to put it mildly, to challenging audiences. These skills have stayed with me and made me better at what I have gone on to do since, in investment management and diplomacy. As we queued up for our coffee, Matt added, “I hope you were a better Maths teacher.” I tried to reassure Matt that I was, but I’m not sure he believed me. After making a staff referral to the recruitment team, Matt joined the FDO in 2019 and we’ve now been working together for three years. Seeing him walk into the building on his first day was one of the most rewarding moments of my career. It was a powerful conclusion to my Teach First journey and, if I am honest, I am not sure I’ll have such a significant professional impact again. I asked what difference having a Teach First teacher at his school had made. He said that having a teacher from a totally different background, one that went to Oxford, who believed in his ability and encouraged him, opened his mind to options he hadn’t considered, and gave him the confidence to pursue them. “I mean it – I wouldn’t have considered applying to Imperial, and I definitely wouldn’t have been, if you hadn’t been my tutor. I think I could have done without the General Studies though.”

I only spent two years as a teacher, but those years were the most formative, impactful and memorable of my working life. If you want to make a real difference, learn valuable skills that will stay with you, and amass a goldenmine of hilarious, self-deprecating anecdotes, I don’t think you can do better than Teach First.

Emma Holmes (PPE, 2018) will start teaching Philosophy at a school in London this September.

I had a few reasons for deciding to pursue teaching. For one thing, I think (most of) it will be really fun! Thinking about and discussing Philosophy is just about my favourite thing to do. After being tucked away in quiet libraries reading old books for a while, I’m looking forward to spending my days with others. Teaching also accords well with my values: it’s good for people to think critically and creatively about the world and what matters. I hope it will be fulfilling to help people understand things better. Equally, I hope that hearing the students’ fresh perspectives on these issues will allow me to continue learning with them. I am so grateful for the teachers I’ve had (at Corpus and beyond); if I can do for even one student what they have done for me, I will be happy. Finally, when teaching, it is important to bear in mind the role poverty and privilege play in the experiences of pupils. I intend to advocate for educational equality in whatever way I can.
The war in Ukraine

To express Corpus’s solidarity with the people of Ukraine, the South Range of the Front Quad was lit up with the colours of the Ukrainian flag and the flag itself has flown over the Corpus tower for the past few months. We are supporting those impacted through the Disasters Emergency Committee.

The Corpus Auditorium has been a venue for panel discussions and a seminar on topics related to the war. On 6 March, a group of philosophers convened to discuss the moral implications of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, an account of which can be read on pages 10 and 11. On 11 May, BBC reporter John Simpson gave a seminar on the war’s cruel realities and its politics. And on 12 May, the Oxford International Relations Society held a Ukraine-Russia panel discussion, which featured Vadym Prystaiko, Ukrainian Ambassador to the United Kingdom, and Laurie Bristow, former British Ambassador to Russia from 2016 to 2020.

The Governing Body statement in response to the war in Ukraine can be read on the Corpus website: www.ccc.ox.ac.uk.
PHILOSOPHICAL INQUIRY

Dr Elad Uzan joined the College in October as a Junior Research Fellow in Philosophy. He talked to us about his work and the attractions of being a philosopher at Corpus.

What sparked your interest in Philosophy?
Three convictions shaped me in my youth: a dedication to knowledge – loving it and seeking it out; the imperative to care for the weak, especially animals; and a strong sense of opposition to injustice. All of these led to and are reflected in my interest in philosophy, in particular the role of morality as a guide to behaviour and the importance of congruence between law and morality. Moral principles, discerned by philosophical analysis, should direct us in establishing legal prescriptions, and this motivates me to do the best work I can. And as a musician, I find Corpus appealing for another reason: I can take a break from writing and play the fine organ or piano in the Chapel.

What challenges face the young academics of today?
I would point to two distinct but related challenges. First is the unreasonable demand on us to produce an enormous quantity of “research outputs” – a horrendous phrase, in my view – in order to find an academic job. Young scholars experience enormous anxiety as a result, leading to degraded quality of life and causing many promising people to leave their fields. Second, meeting this demand for quantity comes at the expense of originality and insight. Ideas develop slowly, and good writing needs time. Consider the aforementioned Corpus alumnus Thomas Nagel. Sixteen years passed between the publication of his two most celebrated books, The Possibility of Altruism (1970) and The View from Nowhere (1986). Today, junior academics are rushing to publish their dissertations as a book and then to immediately develop a second book for tenure. A deep, original work cannot be achieved in short order.

What are your aims and ambitions?
I believe that philosophy and law can contribute solutions to current social and political disputes. Indeed, I know they can because they have before. During the period of widespread demonstrations against the Vietnam War, philosophers turned their attention to issues of civil disobedience and the morality of war, helping to inspire students to take up effective, ethical forms of protest and influencing reforms in government. There is no lack of opportunities for philosophers to become involved in serious problems today. Russia’s invasion of Ukraine has shown how precarious the moral, political, and legal foundations of the world order are, and how necessary it is for philosophers to be engaged with and to help solve these problems.

On your JRF at Corpus?
Corpus is the centre of philosophical inquiry at Oxford. Luminaries who shaped moral and political thought in the second half of the twentieth century – Isaiah Berlin, Bernard Williams, Thomas Nagel, Jonathan Glover, John Broome and Jeff McMahan – all studied or were Fellows at Corpus. Another advantage is the small size of the College, which allows for close relationships with senior Fellows. The Fellows at Corpus are leaders in their fields, and this motivates me to do the best work I can. And as a musician, I find Corpus appealing for another reason: I can take a break from writing and play the fine organ or piano in the Chapel.

What are the attractions of being a JRF at Corpus?
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What is your field of research?
I work on a range of issues in moral, legal, and political philosophy. My current project deals with the moral constraints upon, and legal limits of, self-defence and war. Unusually for a philosopher working in these areas, I use techniques from mathematics and economics in order to formalise and refine moral claims. This kind of inquiry brings precision to otherwise murky problems of war, by unfusing and quantifying diverse arguments and principles concerning permissible harm. This approach, I believe, will produce better moral theorising, providing guidance for real-world, ethical decision-making.

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On 6 March, a group of philosophers convened at Corpus to discuss the moral implications of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Their discussion addressed a range of issues including Russia’s conduct, the role of NATO, duties to refugees and the use of economic sanctions.

Professor Jeff McMahan, Sikelya and White’s Professor of Moral Philosophy, framed the discussion by explaining how the war in Ukraine illustrates the error of traditional just war theory: This theory only condemns governments who initiate unjust wars and not the soldiers who fight them, as long as their conduct conforms to the laws of war. He argued that Russian soldiers are committing moral wrongs when they kill Ukrainian soldiers in combat, because the war is unjust.

Helen Frowe, Janina Dil, Zosia Stempolska and Massimo Renzo addressed wider issues raised by and related to the war. They discussed the claim that the killing of Ukrainian soldiers is not only wrong but also as morally bad as the killing of Ukrainian civilians; the claim that the West deserves blame for Putin’s invasion, due to NATO’s eastward expansion; Poland’s duties to accommodate refugees fleeing Ukraine; and the role of social media as a battleground in the so-called information war. Lastly, JRF Elad Uzan argued that the West has imposed such sanctions on Russia so readily, instead of taking direct military action, because sanctions involve less uncertainty. This is morally puzzling because sanctions invert the conventional ethics of war by targeting civilians instead of soldiers, who are the only actors morally liable to harm.

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The Corpus Library is home to approximately 240 Medieval Latin manuscripts, covering a diverse range of topics, including theology, philosophy, astronomy, medicine, literature, and grammar—fields that one may expect to find in any college’s archives. However, the Corpus Library holds a hidden gem: a significant collection of alchemical manuscripts.

There are 11 medieval manuscripts entirely dedicated to the science of alchemy in the Corpus Library, plus an additional seven manuscripts that contain fragments of alchemical works. Though the term ‘alchemy’ may conjure up images of wizards and gold, alchemy in the Middle Ages was a serious scientific pursuit. At its core, alchemy was the study of how things in nature are created. Medieval scholastics believed that everything in the world was made from a combination of the four elements: air, earth, water, and fire. Alchemists sought to understand how these elements joined together to create things. By understanding how the elements interacted, one could try to manipulate the elements to perfect materials—and even turn lead into gold. As the science of the generation of all things, however, alchemy was engaged with many disciplines besides metallurgy. Some alchemists were interested in medicines, some in astronomy, and some even in agriculture!

Over one third of the alchemical manuscripts in the Corpus collection were at some point attributed to the Franciscan polymath Roger Bacon (1220-1292), who is the subject of my research. Bacon was born to a wealthy family in Somerset around 1212 and was educated at the University of Oxford. Interested in natural philosophy, Bacon took up a position lecturing on Aristotle’s Libri naturales at the University of Paris in the 1240s and 1250s. Although the exact circumstances are unclear, around 1257 Bacon decided to leave teaching, and returned to Oxford to join the Franciscan Order there.

Despite changing vocations, Bacon continued to have a significant interest in natural philosophy, and authored many works on various subjects related to it over the next 35 years. His most famous works, the Opus minus, Opus minus, and Opus tertium, were written for Pope Clement IV as a plea to reform scientific education among the Christian faithful. One such area that Bacon was particularly interested in was the extreme prolongation of human life to its natural limits, which the Bible taught was close to 1,000 years. Bacon wrote several works arguing that sciences like alchemy could create medicines that would extend human life. Using the knowledge of the elements gained from alchemy, Bacon thought it was possible to fix human bodies, which were also made from the four elements. Bacon died in 1292, and was buried at the old Friary in Oxford. Though he did not receive much recognition during his life, by the 16th and 17th centuries he was often considered a pillar of English alchemical thought. Many works became attached to his name—possibly a basilisk. The term ‘alchemical’ is derived from ‘basilisk’ which was a beast with a man’s head, a bird’s body, and a serpent’s tail.

At its core, alchemy was the study of how things in nature are created. Medieval alchemists were interested in medicines, some in astronomy, and some even in agriculture!

How these manuscripts came to be housed at Corpus is itself an interesting story, and one that demonstrates the exchange of knowledge in early modern England. Many of these manuscripts were at one point owned by the renaissance mathematician John Dee (1527-1608). Educated at St. John’s College, Cambridge, Dee would eventually become attached to the royal court, serving as court astrologer to Elizabeth I, as well as advising her on scientific and medical matters.

His private library at Mortlake was rumored to have more than 4,000 works, including a number of mathematical, alchemical, and medical works by Bacon and other medieval authors. Dee was particularly interested in ‘occult’ subjects, such as alchemy and astrology, and considered Bacon to be an exemplar of medieval English thought. A great supporter of Bacon, Dee had several of his works translated into English—the originals being in Latin—and produced several apologies for Bacon.

After Dee’s death, the contents of his library were sold, and a fair number were purchased by one Brian Twyne (1581-1644). Twyne was educated at Corpus and became a Fellow in 1606, finally assuming the role of Greek Lecturer from 1614 to 1623. Under the leadership of William Laud, Corpus and the University of Oxford and Archbishop of Canterbury, Twyne helped revise the University statutes. In recognition of his service, he was made the University’s first Keeper of the Archives in 1654. He also wrote the Antiquitatis academiae Oroniensis apologia (published 1608), the first printed history of the University of Oxford, and was single-handedly responsible for preserving much of the city’s medieval records. Many records were lost in the 17th century, and are only known through Twyne’s copies. On 4 July 1644, Twyne wrote a will, splitting his collection of manuscripts and books between Corpus and the University. He died that same day, and his body was buried in the Corpus chapel, near the current organ.

In his survey of the manuscripts of Corpus, Professor Rod Thomson estimates that Twyne left the College 57 manuscripts from Dee’s collection. Along with the Dee manuscripts purchased later, this made Corpus the largest single repository of Dee manuscripts.
The 2021 Telethon Campaign raised over £110,000 for a variety of initiatives, including academic posts, graduate scholarships and outreach and access projects. Thank you for your support.

A NEW ERA FOR THE CORPUS TELETHON CAMPAIGN

The annual Telethon Campaign plays an important role in the Development Office calendar. It is the time of the year when old and new generations of Corpus can connect with one another. The forthcoming 2022 Telethon promises to bring new and exciting opportunities.

This year, nine students will play their part in making calls to Old Members, asking them to support a range of initiatives, including academic posts, graduate scholarships and outreach and access projects. We will also be raising funds for one of the most transformative projects at Corpus for centuries. The strength of our fundraising campaign is that so many alumni choose to take part. Our callers are looking forward to speaking to you and learning about your time at Corpus. Thank you to all of you who gave for the first time or increased your existing donation as a result of a telephone call with a student during last year’s Telethon.

Our student callers come from a variety of backgrounds and study a range of subjects. There is no typical telethon caller. However, the one thing they all have in common is a love of the College. This year’s Telethon begins on 23 September. For the first time, our student callers will be contacting you from the Junior Common Room. Also for the first time, the Corpus website will feature a Telethon webpage, comprising videos of student callers, interviews with Corpus Fellows, descriptions of the Campaign’s fundraising priorities, daily updates of income raised and much more. The page will launch on 23 September. Please look out for more information later this summer.

If you did not receive a call from us in 2021 and would like us to contact you this September, please email development@ccc.ox.ac.uk with your contact details and preferences.

We asked last year’s callers for their reflections.

"The Telethon made me realise how rewarding it is to be a finalist at Corpus. It showed me that I will never really leave and that I will still be a part of the College community after graduating."

"Conversations I had with alumni really moved me and I was given great advice for the future."

"He really appreciated the call and being addressed as professor in his retirement. Feels he is very much indebted to Corpus, really enjoyed speaking to a student."

"Brilliant call. We talked about how the History course has changed. We discussed life at Corpus during the pandemic."

In Michaelmas 2021, the College welcomed Susanna Dunachie, who joined as Clinical Teaching Fellow in Medicine. She is also Professor of Infectious Diseases in the Department of Tropical Medicine, holds a National Institute of Health and Care Research Global Research Professorship, and is a consultant in Infectious Diseases at the Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

New Arrivals

Professor Susanna Dunachie
Clinical Teaching Fellow in Medicine and Professor of Infectious Diseases

Professor Susanna Dunachie was conferred the title of Professor of Infectious Diseases in the University’s Recognition of Distinction Awards 2021.

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O riginally from Glasgow, Susanna did her undergraduate and clinical medical training at New College, and has worked as a doctor in Paisley, Newcastle and Oxford. She undertook a PhD with Adrian Hill at the Nuffield Department of Medicine in Oxford, where she conducted clinical trials for new vaccines for malaria and researched the T cell immunology of protection against malaria in the laboratory. From 2011 to 2015 she lived in Bangkok, Thailand with her family where she worked at the Mahidol-Oxford Tropical Medicine Unit and researched the immunology of neglected tropical diseases including melioidosis and scrub typhus. She returned to Oxford as an Associate Professor and Fellow of Kellogg College, and established a research laboratory at the Peter Medawar Building for Pathogen Research in South Parks Road. She will be conducting the world’s first clinical trial of a vaccine for melioidosis next year, and co-leads the national PITCH Study defining the T cell response to COVID-19. She played a key role advising the University on COVID-19 and is now a Scientific Advisor to the Scottish Parliament on COVID-19 as well as sitting on a number of national and international committees. She also runs the University’s Travel Clinic.

Susanna has always enjoyed teaching and is delighted to move to Corpus Christi to play a key role in guiding clinical medical students. She says: “I am excited to join the intellectual community of Corpus and enjoy inter-disciplinary discussions important to global health. Alongside the friendliness of the college, Corpus is able to attract some of the University’s best medical students and I look forward to supporting them on their journey to becoming doctors.”

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New Arrivals

Professor Susanna Dunachie
Clinical Teaching Fellow in Medicine and Professor of Infectious Diseases

Professor Susanna Dunachie was conferred the title of Professor of Infectious Diseases in the University’s Recognition of Distinction Awards 2021.

In Michaelmas 2021, the College welcomed Susanna Dunachie, who joined as Clinical Teaching Fellow in Medicine. She is also Professor of Infectious Diseases in the Department of Tropical Medicine, holds a National Institute of Health and Care Research Global Research Professorship, and is a consultant in Infectious Diseases at the Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

O riginally from Glasgow, Susanna did her undergraduate and clinical medical training at New College, and has worked as a doctor in Paisley, Newcastle and Oxford. She undertook a PhD with Adrian Hill at the Nuffield Department of Medicine in Oxford, where she conducted clinical trials for new vaccines for malaria and researched the T cell immunology of protection against malaria in the laboratory. From 2011 to 2015 she lived in Bangkok, Thailand with her family where she worked at the Mahidol-Oxford Tropical Medicine Unit and researched the immunology of neglected tropical diseases including melioidosis and scrub typhus.

She returned to Oxford as an Associate Professor and Fellow of Kellogg College, and established a research laboratory at the Peter Medawar Building for Pathogen Research in South Parks Road. She will be conducting the world’s first clinical trial of a vaccine for melioidosis next year, and co-leads the national PITCH Study defining the T cell response to COVID-19. She played a key role advising the University on COVID-19 and is now a Scientific Advisor to the Scottish Parliament on COVID-19 as well as sitting on a number of national and international committees. She also runs the University’s Travel Clinic.

Susanna has always enjoyed teaching and is delighted to move to Corpus Christi to play a key role in guiding clinical medical students. She says: “I am excited to join the intellectual community of Corpus and enjoy inter-disciplinary discussions important to global health. Alongside the friendliness of the college, Corpus is able to attract some of the University’s best medical students and I look forward to supporting them on their journey to becoming doctors.”

"The Telethon made me realise how rewarding it is to be a finalist at Corpus. It showed me that I will never really leave and that I will still be a part of the College community after graduating."

"Conversations I had with alumni really moved me and I was given great advice for the future."

"He really appreciated the call and being addressed as professor in his retirement. Feels he is very much indebted to Corpus, really enjoyed speaking to a student."

"Brilliant call. We talked about how the History course has changed. We discussed life at Corpus during the pandemic."

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Corpus Christi College Alumni events 2022
For more information on all these events please go to: www.ccc.ox.ac.uk/alumni/events-and-reunions

September 2022

16 – 18 September
Meeting Minds Oxford
A variety of talks, panels and tours across Oxford, plus networking opportunities. Tickets available via the University website.

Saturday 17 September
Benefactors’ Garden Party
A family-friendly event to thank our generous benefactors. By invitation only.

23 September – 2 October
Annual Telethon
An opportunity to bring our community together, calling for the first time from Oxford, plus networking opportunities.

November 2022

Sunday 27 November
Christ Church Regatta
More information to follow.

December 2022

Thursday 1 December
College Carol Service
Livestream
More information to follow.

Saturday 3 December
Carol Service for Alumni and Parents
More information to follow.

Did you know that we regularly send out College news and invitations to events by email? Please email development@ccc.ox.ac.uk if your contact details have changed and you would like to keep in touch. More information about the Development Team can be found on the College website www.ccc.ox.ac.uk/alumni.

Richard O’Brien

Painting the Pelican Sundial

My mother, Gwyolydd O’Brien, née Rhyys, had a keen eye for colour, shape, and overall form – all of which she worked into her painting of the Sundial in the Quad. As soon as I saw the image on the cover of the Sundial, a tribute which would have delighted her, I was immediately struck (for the first time) how the work draws upon all the colours of the Corpus crest – azure, or, argent, gules, sable, and vert – there on the top-right corner of the magazine. In this night time picture the light shines brightly on the golden stones of Corpus, as the two Corpuscles debate their latest theories, or where to spend the rest of the evening, perhaps to take the stairway on the right, venture through the open arch to the outside world, or to take a look at the newly decorated lodge. An amateur artist, Gwyolydd the Welsh for Violet, rarely adopted in that form as a Christian name – Fioled being more likely had formal training in her school and student years and, after a gap of half a century, took up her brushes again in retirement. She revealed in creating a collage of images, experimenting in acrylic, oils, watercolours, etchings, in all shapes and sizes, on card, board, and sandpaper. Taking her sketchbook to France and Italy, to the West Country, Wales, Yorkshire and Scotland, to India, to New York and to Washington, she exhibited with her fellow enthusiasts around the country and in London. Her painting of Corpus was completed in 1992.

Hidden mural

Demolition work for The Spencer Building project has revealed a hidden mural, commissioned by President Frank Hardie in 1967 to serve as a memorial of the celebrations to mark the 450th anniversary of the College in 1967. The 450th anniversary was celebrated as the College was unable to celebrate its 400th anniversary in 1917. The inscription was composed by Robin Nisbet, Fellow and Tutor in Classics and, from 1970, Corpus Professor of Latin. It was painted by a student, Richard Alexander (Alec) Cobbe (Medicine, 1963), who went on to a career as an artist and picture conservator. The inscription and its translation read as follows:

In the 450th year after the college was founded Its members celebrated its festal day in the gardens. They danced [even] more eagerly all night. Frank Lepper wrote a tale of a beehive; The company of Owlets performed it. President Frank Hardie took pains to have this wall painted In the month of June 1967

Anno CCCCLX post Collegium conditum Festum diem in hortulis alumni celebravert Alacriores totam noctem saltaverunt Apiarium fabulam Franciscus Lepper scripsit Ulularum grex egit Hunc murum pingendum curavit Franciscus Hardie Praeses Mense Junio MCMLXVII

Leaving a gift in your will
Through the centuries, legacies and bequests have played a vital part in Corpus’ success. Legacies have enabled us to endow Fellowships, establish bursaries and scholarships, renovate buildings and create new teaching spaces. Your support makes a real difference. Whether large or small, every gift is valued and appreciated. And if your intention is to leave a legacy, you are entitled to join the Frost Society, whose Virtual Luncheon, held on 19 May, was a huge success. Members enjoyed scones and jam sent to them in the post while listening to a presentation by the Librarian Joanna Snelling. Next year’s luncheon will be in person at Corpus. For more details please contact Begina Cox at begina.cox@ccc.ox.ac.uk.