

The Big Picture

► The first edition of *Experiencing Oxford* by Ian Davis has sold out and a second edition is in preparation.

Painting in watercolour

Ian Davis

These watercolours span thirty years and I have been pondering why Corpus Christi College is such a delightful place to paint. Having trained as an architect, I have always enjoyed painting fine buildings in their settings and the process is just as important as the product. Time spent selecting what to paint and looking hard at a building, door, window or drain-pipe in ever-changing light or weather conditions while drawing with pencil and brush can be wonderfully rewarding, but also frustrating. So often, the developing image fails to do justice to the subject. Corpus contains such a diversity of spaces and, unlike its vast neighbour Christ Church, the buildings, quad and gardens retain an intimate human scale. I also value the rich sensory appeal: smells of cooking or newly mown grass, echoing sounds of distant music or loud student voices calling each other, tactile doorknobs or handrails, rich associations, and the world's greatest sundial.



These watercolours together with the image on the front cover complete a set of five greeting cards and five postcards to be sold from September on the College's website ccc.ox.ac.uk/alumni/merchandise.



IAN DAVIS