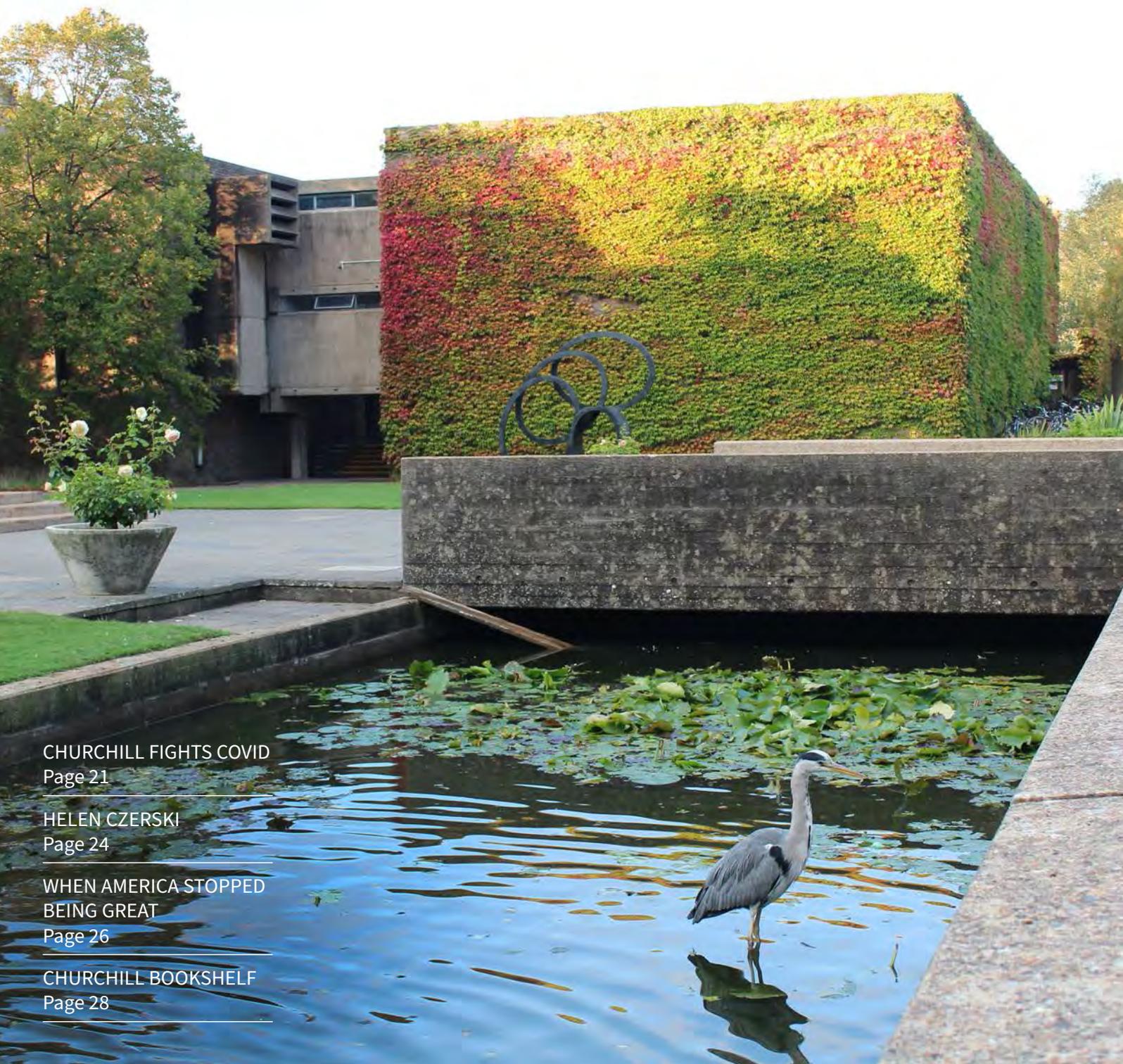




CHURCHILL NEWS

DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNI NEWSLETTER OF CHURCHILL COLLEGE, 2020–21



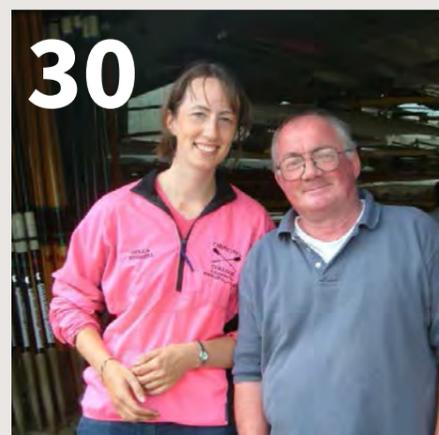
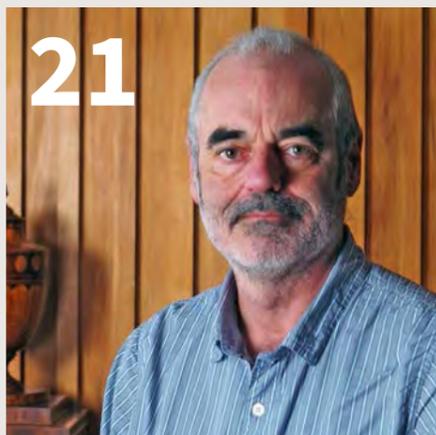
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Master's Welcome

Welcome to this year's edition of the Alumni and Development Newsletter. It feels incredibly odd to think that it is now a whole year since the Covid-19 crisis first hit Cambridge, and that we are now in our third lockdown here in the UK.

As most of you will know, last year we had planned to celebrate our 60th anniversary with a series of live events. These events have had to be postponed, but happily our anniversary is somewhat moveable! The College has the milestone year of 2021–22 being the 60th anniversary of undergraduates being admitted but also 1972 was the first year that women were admitted to the College. There are many things to celebrate.

I have written before about how well our community responded to the immediate effects of Covid-19. Back in October, it was a delight to welcome the students back in the autumn after six months of a sadly quiet site. Most international students arrived well before the start of term for two weeks of quarantine – when, of course, the College did all it could to support them, including with food deliveries. We welcomed a larger-than-usual Freshers' intake, because of the fall-out from the A-Level results (without impacting on our excellent widening participation statistics), but were, nevertheless, able to make sure they all had accommodation on site. As well as 74% of the intake attending a state school, 17.5% were from areas with lowest progression to HE in the UK (POLAR quintiles 1 and 2). We are also

delighted that for the first time in the College's history the gender split is 50:50.

The JCR and MCR did a great job of setting up a virtual Freshers' week and provided either socially distanced or virtual events in that period. Let me take this opportunity to say how grateful I am to them for their help and wisdom in trying to provide the best environment we can for all the students, and the support they gave to the College with the difficult decisions we had to make. The College was able to provide catering in Hall for those who wanted it, as well as take-away food from the buttery. We created study spaces that were socially distanced, and outdoors we erected marquees where students were able to meet according to existing guidelines. Each student was assigned a household, in which they could socially mix at will – these are groups that share kitchens and/or bathrooms, typically groups of 6–9.

The University and Colleges worked together to set up pooled asymptomatic testing during the Michaelmas term – a pilot scheme which is proving of great interest to the Government coupled with producing a wealth of research data – a process which has continued for those students who have been in Cambridge during Lent term. Infections in College have been very low, which has helped to give confidence to the entire College community, as well as the wider city community.

Now of course, we are in our third lockdown, with just over 200 students on site, and no mixing allowed outside households. The

College is very quiet again and the fellowship are almost all working from home. But we continue to provide support for all those who need it, whether they are on site or far away. Our Tutorial team keep in regular touch with the students, counselling continues to be available for those who need it, and by this point I hope we have all mastered the vagaries of Zoom and its relations.

The College is incredibly grateful to all the alumni and Fellows who contributed to our Covid-19 contingency fund in 2020, which helped us to provide some of these extra levels of support, when College lost its rental income for Easter term. The fund raised over £300,000 including matching funds, and helped ensure we could continue providing help, for example for students who found themselves stranded, or in terms of hardship funds where families saw a drop in income or loss of employment. Thanks to the buffer provided by this fund, we were also able to ensure that staff in the College were supported.

Although we have not been able to celebrate 60 years since we received our Royal Charter in 1960, we did nevertheless launch our Think Forward campaign through our telephone campaign, which elicited a great response – more about this later in this Newsletter. Thanks to this and other magnificent support, we have already raised £4million for this campaign within its first year. The key areas of support are for the endowment and endowed funds to support students and teaching – we aim to try to raise £6million per year once the pandemic crisis is over.

POINTS OF CONTACT

Accommodation

Alumni and Past Fellows may book accommodation in College via the website: www.chu.cam.ac.uk/conferences/services/bandb/

Alternatively please telephone the Conference Office on +44 (0)1223 336164 or email: accommodation@chu.cam.ac.uk

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High Table Bookings

As we go to print, High Table is currently not available and we do not know when it will be reinstated. When we are able to offer High Table dining again, it can be booked at www.chu.cam.ac.uk/alumni/high-table/. Please email alumni@chu.cam.ac.uk if you have any queries about this.

Porters' Lodge

+44 (0)1223 336000

Møller Centre

Accommodation at the Møller Centre may be booked directly by telephone on +44 (0)1223 465500 or email at reception.moller@chu.cam.ac.uk

Shopping at Amazon

You can easily support the College when shopping at Amazon through Amazon Smile. Every time you shop with Amazon (on a browser rather than app), please navigate to smile.amazon.co.uk. The first time you do this you can select Churchill College from the list of charities. This will remain selected each time you log in to smile.amazon.co.uk and for every item that is purchased by you, Amazon will make a donation to the College at no additional expense.

Find us on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Twitter and YouTube.

Help us stay in contact with you and keep your details up to date at: www.chu.cam.ac.uk/alumni/update-your-contact-details

If anything, the current crisis has showed us that long-term funding, in terms of endowment, is more important than ever. As both our conference income and the income from the Møller Institute has disappeared, the income from the endowment, generating £3-4million per year, has become more essential than ever, as have funds that are donated directly towards student support. If we are able to increase our long-term investment funds, we will be in a much stronger position to weather a future pandemic, or any other crises, by being less reliant on conference and rental income.

Given the importance of endowment, it was fitting that one of our few live events in 2020 was to recognise the immense contribution one alumnus has made to the College's endowment in terms of his own philanthropy, as well as in giving his time to our Investment Advisory Committee. In October 2020, on a rather wet day, I was pleased to admit Michael Cowan (U70) as a Winston Churchill Benefactor Fellow of the College. Michael planted a *Metasequoia glyptostroboides* by the Archives Centre, and his wife Hilary, a *Cercis reniformis* 'Texan White' by Cowan Court.

Another major global event was the wave of protest against racism in society, sparked by the tragic death of George Floyd in police custody

in the USA, though the Black Lives Matter movement has been around for much longer than this. The College is examining its own links with the Empire and we are conscious that we are very much a product of the UK's imperial past (as was our Founder). We have started a series of events examining the legacy of empire and Sir Winston's own views on the Empire and those countries that Britain colonised. This is not about trashing reputations. It is about looking at things objectively, admitting that Churchill, like all of us, was a complex character. Churchill College was founded to advance education and learning. It can only do that by encouraging diversity, responding to new research and acknowledging different perspectives and difficult truths.

Furthermore, we wish to celebrate this diversity in our community, as it is now and has always been. Indeed, as part of this legacy we have had students from Commonwealth countries from our earliest years. We are currently curating many initiatives on this theme involving personal accounts of our Black alumni and current students. We are also launching a fund specifically to support Black British students at Master's and undergraduate level. The Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee is examining all aspects of the collegiate life and community. We all look forward to the end of this global

crisis, but to paraphrase the founder, it may be too early even to call this 'the beginning of the end, or even the end of the beginning'. Science, through the development of vaccines, diagnostics, treatments and an understanding of the immunological response, has much to offer. But it isn't simply about the science: all the other disciplines too, have vital contributions to make, in understanding the effects of the pandemic upon our society, how to mitigate these and what future policy should look like. Our fellows have been playing their part, as the e-Newsletters have been making clear over the past months: we include a few highlights in this newsletter. I look forward to welcoming you back to College in due course, as we (finally) can get our Think Forward Campaign live events underway, to celebrate our 60+ years, and for regular alumni events. In the meantime, I hope all in our community of alumni and supporters keep safe and well. Thank you for your support and encouragement.

Professor Dame Athene Donald DBE, FRS
Master

Think *Forward* Campaign

So far the campaign that was launched in September 2020 online and during our telethon has raised over £4million. Our aspiration is to raise at least £30million in the next six years, for a variety of projects which support the long-term future of the College and its students. We plan to continue with a series of events to promote Think Forward around the world, when it becomes possible to gather alumni together again.

Think *Forward* for student access:

The average debt after a three-year undergraduate degree for a UK student at Cambridge is now an estimated £55,380. While our poorest students can borrow much of the money they need, this can act as a deterrent to considering a university education. Churchill has a long tradition of welcoming students from non-traditional Oxbridge schools and regions. Bursaries and hardship grants make a significant difference in encouraging students to apply to Churchill who otherwise might fear getting into debt, and to their educational outcomes once here. We are also facing increased demand for undergraduate bursaries this year as families across the UK and the globe are hit by the economic consequences of the pandemic.

Once here, even with a Cambridge Bursary, students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds still face the acute need to secure paid work during vacations with the knock-on effect that opportunities available to their more privileged peers – such as unpaid or expenses only internships, overseas travel or further study – are constrained. This is why students in the greatest need at Churchill are also awarded a top-up bursary of up to £2,000 per year.

All of our bursaries have only been made possible because of generous alumni support. It is vital that the College continues to have at its disposal the funds needed to support our package of bursaries, to build on our success and help ensure that the best young minds, from all backgrounds are encouraged to apply to Churchill and can thrive here, regardless of their financial circumstances.

In these uncertain times we are grateful for the ongoing support of all our alumni and friends. Their long-term support has given Churchill College a sound financial basis to help us weather the current storm. Launched in Churchill College's 60th year, our Think Forward campaign aims to boost our long-term financial sustainability so that we have additional capacity to face the challenges the future may bring and to ensure future generations of students can thrive

Professor Dame Athene Donald DBE, FRS (Master of Churchill College)

Increased impact

As has been widely publicised, the University has set up a matched funding programme called the Harding Challenge. Qualifying gifts are matched and used to provide financial support for students. Churchill is set to benefit significantly from this fund as we are a College with a large number of students in receipt of bursary funding. This means that if you make a qualifying gift, your donation will be topped up and bring even more benefit to needy students at Churchill and across collegiate Cambridge.

Student Support facts:

- 100 undergraduates received a means-tested Cambridge Bursary in the last academic year.
- 68% received the maximum annual Cambridge Bursary of £3,500, awarded to those with family incomes lower than £25,000.
- 77% of offers to UK students in 2020 were to state school pupils – significantly above the Office for Students (OfS) target of 65%.
- The total expenditure for UGs on bursaries, grants & awards in 2019/20 is £462k.

- Support for student welfare has increased significantly – the cost for confidential counselling has risen from £36k in 2017/18 to over £50k in 2019/20.

The College has just launched two new funds to increase access in specific areas. The Black Students' Support Fund will be dedicated to providing bursary and MPhil funding to UK registered Black African and African-Caribbean students.

We have also started a Student Wellbeing Fund to help to cover the increased expenditure the College has dedicated to support its counselling service.

Think *Forward* for future academic leaders

With over 400 postgraduates from all over the world, Churchill's thriving cohort of graduate students form a vital part of the College's diverse academic community and are conducting groundbreaking research to address global



Emma Rocheteau

social and scientific challenges. However, the rising cost of postgraduate education and cuts in available funding exacerbated by the pandemic are causing a major barrier to entry. The estimated annual cost for a Home or EU student studying for an MPhil ranges from £23,000 to £26,000, rising to as high as £43,000 for an overseas student for some science subjects. A recently introduced Government Postgraduate Masters Loan of up to £10,000 does not even cover tuition fees. We are now faced with the very real fact that postgraduate study is becoming unaffordable for all but the most privileged.

The College is committed to supporting graduate studentships, but funds are limited. Building a Graduate Studentship Endowment Fund that will address challenges the world now faces, is a major priority. We want to keep

Looking ahead I see opportunities to apply my skills in nanofabrication industries in the UK and the US, and eventually hope to lead research into new applications and pioneer exciting industrial projects. This has only been possible because of the generous funding I have received.

Jake Meeth (G14 – MPhil & current PhD Engineering student)



Jasmine Stone

our doors open to the world's best minds and talents, enabling them to benefit from what Churchill has to offer, and for us to benefit from their rich range of insights in return. We can only do this with your support.

The College has several funded studentships for postgraduates. One of these, the Southern African studentship fund was started in the apartheid era and has supported many students over the years, including Professor Njabulo Ndebele (G73), now a professor at the University of Cape Town.

Initially the fund was started in the 1970s by students of the College jointly with Sidney Sussex, supported by members of the Colleges and their fellowships. It is now supported by alumni, Fellows and current students, and the two Colleges now run their own schemes separately. We are delighted to include an interview with the current Southern African studentship holder, Ayanda Mhlongo, who is studying for a MPhil in multi-disciplinary gender studies, on p. 10.

We have also launched a studentship fundraising campaign for a fund in memory of Dr Stuart Warren, our Fellow who sadly died last year. The fund aims to raise enough funding for a PhD student in chemistry from a SADEC country. There is more about the fund on p. 11.

Think Forward for financial sustainability

The College's endowment currently stands at just over £100 million. This is invested capital which helps us to fund many core costs, such as teaching, pastoral costs, and operational costs such as building maintenance. The College



Ramit Debnath

endowment generates around £3 million per year, depending on investment performance. However, in a usual year the expenditure on these costs is well over £12 million.

Last year, the College received just over £4 million in fees and academic charges. It spent over £5.7 million in delivery of education including tutorial and teaching support and awards, leaving a funding gap of £2.5 million. The shortfall in funding is usually made up of a mix of donations expendable in the year, endowment income, and conference revenue. Therefore, given the uncertain nature of the revenue from conferences in future, and other events that may affect fee income, the College aims to build up its endowment to generate at least £5 million per year, this would require at least another £37.5 million of endowment.

The more endowment funding the College can accrue, the more secure its future, and less subject to circumstance, which as we have seen with Covid-19 can greatly affect our income streams in other areas. In this campaign we aim to raise at least another £3-6 million every year to add to the College's endowment – either for unrestricted purposes, undergraduate or postgraduate support.

The financial information below shows how essential donation, and ultimately endowed income is to the long-term future of Churchill College.



College Finances 2019-20

The College performed well academically and financially even during the pandemic crisis. Academic performance remained strong, though not all students were examined because of the pandemic. All graduating students were guaranteed a grade equivalent to Tripos performance the previous year due to the difficulties in setting exams remotely at short notice.

The accounts below show a surplus, only after donations and endowment income has been factored in. Donations contributed over £3million to the College in the last financial year, not inclusive of endowment income,

which was another £3million. Because of the loss in endowment valuation (due to a volatile stock market in 2020), the College made a small deficit as the endowment valuation declined by £3million, however it has since recovered substantially. This current financial year, 2020-21 is likely to be more challenging as there is no conference income at all from summer 2020 and no rental income from the Lent term 2021.

The education account table shows the College's expenditure on teaching, research, student support and awards and pastoral care against its income from academic fees. In most years the funding gap between academic income and providing the high standard of education for which we are renowned is

over £1.5million (last year it was £1.7million). This gap can only be funded by income from donations or from the endowment (and conference income, when this recovers). As well as funding the educational needs of the College donation and endowment income is also needed to fund any expenditure on maintaining our site and buildings.

The table below shows the income and expenditure of Churchill College in the year ending 2019 and 2020. The College financial year runs from 1 July-30 June, and the audited accounts and annual report of the College are available online at www.chu.cam.ac.uk/about/official-documents

As ever, we are incredibly grateful to all our donors in ensuring we are able to provide the high standard of education for all our students, support them pastorally, further research and maintain Churchill's substantial grounds and buildings.

Consolidated accounts for 2019 and 2020

	2020 Total £'000	2019 Total £'000
INCOME		
Academic fees and charges	£4,058	£4,134
Accommodation, catering and conferences	£6,544	£7,611
Investment income	£1,848	£1,717
TOTAL income before donations and endowments	£12,450	£13,462
Donations	£2,707	£2,491
New endowments	£593	£986
Other capital donations	£673	£502
TOTAL income (including donations)	£16,423	£17,441
EXPENDITURE		
Education	£5,779	£6,567
Accommodation, catering and conferences	£7,727	£7,770
Investment management	£71	£69
Other expenditure	£1,648	£1,563
Contribution under statute G, II*	£39	£40
TOTAL expenditure	£15,264	£16,009
Surplus/deficit before donations	-£2,814	-£2,547
<i>Surplus/deficit after donations</i>	<i>£1,159</i>	<i>£1,432</i>

Educational income and expenditure	2020 £'000	2019 £'000
Teaching	£2,151	£2,535
Tutorial	£787	£937
Admissions	£1,209	£1,338
Research	£559	£679
Scholarships and Awards	£606	£597
Other educational facilities	£467	£481
Total expenditure	£5,779	£6,567
Income from academic fees (as above)	£4,058	£4,134
Deficit in education account	-£1,721	-£2,433

* redistribution fund to poorer Colleges within Cambridge University

Support in Unprecedented Times

When the College first went into lockdown in March 2020, all teaching and exams were delivered online and the Tutorial team continued to support our students wherever they were in the world. Although students were able to return for the Michaelmas term, this respite was short-lived and students were once again asked not to return to College during lockdown 3, unless they were unable to study from home.

Throughout this period the College has maintained support for the students left here and its staff, with many furloughed on full pay. The loss of almost all rental and conference income from March to June alone, triggered a 30% drop in income in the 2019/20 academic year.

It was in response to this financial crisis that the College launched a Covid-19 contingency fund in April 2020, to support core College costs such as teaching and pastoral care and to provide urgent support for students facing hardship. The fund raised £300,000 (including matching) over the summer and has now raised almost £400,000. The impact of having this extra funding has been significant in terms of giving the College capacity to fund more student hardship grants, as well as meeting the increased demand for student bursaries as more families face financial uncertainty. It also meant that the College could continue to fund its staff on full pay throughout the government's employment retention scheme.

Examples of student hardship during the pandemic:

- Students needing to buy equipment such as laptops to access their remote learning and buy flights at unprecedented high prices in order to travel home safely;
- The loss of summer work and internships restricting or preventing the accumulation of financial funds that students would usually expect to be able to use in the next academic year.



Sarah Dawoodbhoy (U18), student caller



Student callers outside Cowan Court

2020 Think Forward Campaign – supporting our key funding priorities

2020 marked the 60th anniversary of the College receiving its Royal Charter and we chose to mark the occasion by launching our 'Think Forward' campaign both to celebrate the achievements of the past and to secure our future, by raising funds for student support and the College's endowment. We were still able to pick up the phones and connect with our alumni community, and raising money for our key Think Forward funding priorities was the aim of the Telephone Campaign in 2020.

The summer campaign was re-scheduled to run from the 16 September to 4 October, and thirteen Churchill students took to the phones in a socially distanced call room. It was a wonderful opportunity for the students to return to the College site after many months away and share their stories and experiences with a record-breaking 785 alumni, almost half

of whom decided to make a gift in support of the campaign. A fantastic £200,000 was pledged over three years – rising to well over £400,000 when longer-term pledges are taken into account. However, thanks to the incredible generosity of our Telephone campaign match donors the final total raised exceeded £700,000.

The matching pot comprised over £260,000 from an anonymous alumnus for any gift made during the Telethon to a student-related fund, i.e. the Student Support Fund, Graduate Studentship Endowment Fund, Winston Churchill Top-Up Bursary Fund and Covid Fund, whilst a further £30,000 in matching pledged from an alumni couple for gifts made to the Winston Churchill Top-Up Bursary Fund ensured the Think Forward Campaign got off to a fantastic start.

Find out more about the campaign projects: www.thinkforward.chu.cam.ac.uk



Metasequoia Glyptostrobooides 'Gold Rush' planted by Michael Cowan (right)



Michael Cowan becomes first Winston Churchill Fellow

The College was delighted to mark a new milestone when it admitted Michael Cowan (U70) as a Winston Churchill Fellow on Friday 23 October.

In keeping with the coronavirus restrictions at that time, there was a small group of six present to mark the occasion. Michael and Hilary both planted trees, Hilary a *Cercis reniformis* at Cowan Court, Michael a *Metasequoia* near the Archives centre, in the 60th anniversary year of the foundation of the College, 61 years after Sir Winston planted an oak tree, before the buildings went up.

In her speech marking the occasion, the Master quoted Sir Winston, who said when he planted the tree:

'I trust and believe that this College, this seed that we have sown, will grow to shelter and nurture generations who may add most notably to the strength and happiness of our people, and to the knowledge and peaceful progress of the world. "The mighty oak from an acorn towers; A tiny seed can fill a field with flowers."'

She noted that since then the College has grown into a vibrant scholarly community and flourished, hosting in our time many notable academics who have gone on to win the Nobel prize, adding

many researchers, teachers in all subjects, artists and skilled people to the world – this would not have been possible without the support of many significant donors, of which Michael is a prime example and has given financially and given time to support the College.

In response, Michael noted that it was 50 years in October 2020 since he had come up as an undergraduate to read engineering, adding:

'Hilary planted a *Cercis reniformis* 'Texan White' at Cowan Court... This is *Metasequoia Glyptostrobooides* 'Gold Rush'. Is this a hint?!

'We are both very honoured to do this, sixty years after the foundation of Churchill College with the motto FORWARD... I was a Fresher here this month fifty years ago. There was a Hall, Offices and some Courtyards, but very few trees and little foliage. No Archives Centre...

'College is now altogether a better environment and has gained some back gardens along Storey's Way,

beautified them and so we make our contribution towards net zero carbon aspirations.'

Michael Cowan came up to Churchill in 1970, and got his taste for investing whilst at College. After working at Rothschild's, Lazard's and Morgan Stanley, Michael was a founder of Silchester International Investors in London in 1995. His primary role is to manage international equity portfolios for large US endowments, foundations, pension funds and private family offices. He is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute for Securities & Investment.

He has been the College's most generous benefactor since Mr AP Møller, and has donated over £5million to the College since an initial gift of £2,000 in 2007. His most recent gift was for the College endowment. Added to this he has generously given time and non-financial support to the College for many years, having served on its Investment Advisory Committee for over 20 years and is still a member of the Investment Committee.

Making a Lasting Difference

Ayanda Mhlongo (G20) is from Kwazulu Natal in South Africa and is studying for a one-year MPhil in Multi-disciplinary Gender Studies at Churchill. She is the current holder of the Cambridge Trust and Churchill South African Bursary. The Studentship is joint-funded by the Cambridge Trust and Churchill College and covers course fees and an annual maintenance grant for living expenses. Almost half of Churchill's contribution to the scholarship is funded by students and Fellows through an £11 annual voluntary donation which was supported by 88% of current students in 2019/20.

Ayanda was named after the Zulu word meaning 'abundance and fruitfulness'. She was born at a time when University was not an option for her parents who were both involved in the fight against apartheid. Very sadly, Ayanda's father died when she was just two years old and her mother was left alone to raise a family of four. Ayanda credits her drive, resilience and faith to her mother who forfeited her own dreams to take care of her children.

Although Ayanda's three older brothers all graduated from College and one went on to University, she is the first person in her family to pursue postgraduate studies. She attended a government high school with forty in each class, with very limited resources, and it was often a struggle to pay the fees. Ayanda excelled in her studies and when her mother was no longer able to afford the fees she was able to obtain a scholarship, but she vividly recalls going to school hungry and learnt how to fast to concentrate when she experienced hunger.

Driven by a deep motivation to escape poverty Ayanda decided to pursue a career in law as this was a route that she thought would best enable her to support her mother. She won a prestigious scholarship to attend the University of Cape Town but quickly discovered she didn't have a passion for law. With huge expectations on her shoulders to succeed and a growing clarity that law was not for her, depression kicked in. It was only when she undertook some electives in social sciences, including gender studies, that she rediscovered her passion for learning. However, this was just a short respite and by her second year she was really unhappy, and after failing her law exams was excluded from the Law Faculty and lost her scholarship.

She was given permission to switch courses and managed to secure some funding from the National Student Funding body from South Africa. Social Sciences were not considered to be as prestigious as studying law or medicine but she stayed focused, worked hard and went on to achieve a distinction for her BA in Social Sciences, majoring in Social Development, Organisational Psychology and Gender Studies (Triple major) and an MA in Social Development.

Seeking to develop her knowledge and skills further, Ayanda successfully applied for the South African Bursary and arrived at Churchill in October 2020. Her MPhil course has a taught element which spans disciplines including languages, AI, law and history but it is through her research focus of understanding menstrual management and period poverty within the refugee population that Ayanda plans to make a lasting difference. Her research aims to shine a light on the problems these women are facing, seeking solutions and shaping policy to help ensure future generations don't face the same struggle. Ayanda's own personal experience has driven her desire for advocacy and she is hugely grateful for what she views as both the immediate and long-term positive impacts of receiving the studentship funding:

Firstly, this studentship will not only be helpful for me – it will also benefit other women whose voices are not heard. Secondly, it will provide me with the opportunity to sharpen my skills and knowledge and meet people who can help me be the ground breaker and leader that I aspire to be.

Although Ayanda has not been at Churchill for long, she already feels at home despite the tumultuous changes wrought by the pandemic.



She loves the peace and calm of the College site and the people she has met thus far. She can't wait to explore Cambridge more widely and very much hopes to continue on with a PhD at College in the future. Looking further ahead to beyond her studies, she is passionate about broadcasting and sees herself as the Executive Director of the United Nations, President of South Africa, and a ground-breaking scholar. Above all, she is driven to succeed by the trauma of not wanting to experience deprivation and a strong desire to help others.

Driven by a deep motivation to escape poverty Ayanda decided to pursue a career in law as this was a route that she thought would best enable her to support her mother.



The Stuart Warren Studentship fund

The College last year launched a fundraising drive in memory of Stuart Warren (1938–2020), one of our longstanding fellows in Chemistry who sadly died in 2020. Alongside the Chemistry department we wish to provide an opportunity for an outstanding PhD student from sub-Saharan Africa to undertake research in chemistry at Churchill College.

Stuart was a leader in his field and passionate about his subject – he taught generations of Churchill chemistry undergraduates. He was a supervisor and mentor to outstanding academics including Professor Varinder Aggarwal FRS, Professor Jonathan Clayden and Professor Kelly Chibale. Now we, his colleagues at Churchill and the Cambridge University Department of Chemistry, aim to honour Stuart's memory to enable a student from the South African development area countries to come to study for a research degree in organic or physical chemistry at Cambridge.

The Stuart Warren PhD Studentship would fully fund a student from Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, eSwatini (formerly Swaziland), Zambia or Zimbabwe, which constitute the Southern African development region. This requires approximately £50,000 per year: £29,000 to cover the annual fee for an overseas PhD student, and £21,000 to cover living costs. We aim to raise at least £25,000 per year, or £100,000 over four years for one student to be fully funded, with matching funding from the Cambridge trust to make up the difference. Were this initial fundraising to overreach its target, we could be even more ambitious: the endowment required to generate

£25,000 annually is at least £625,000 (based on a 4% drawdown), so if we could reach this higher target we could hope to endow the studentship in perpetuity.

So far over £50,000 has been pledged or donated to this cause thanks to support from alumni and friends and colleagues of Stuart's from the University Chemistry department. We require another £40,000 minimum to be raised in order to fund a PhD student for four years, with matching funding from the Cambridge Trust. Please contact fran.malaree@chu.cam.ac.uk if you are interested in finding out more.

One of Stuart's former students, Professor Kelly Chibale, of the University of Cape Town says:

'This opportunity is one that holds unquantifiable benefits for young Africans who are historically disadvantaged and under-represented in organic chemistry. Born and brought up in impoverished rural areas and townships of Zambia, I was given the rare opportunity through a scholarship to study at Cambridge. The high quality academic training I received from Stuart was the foundation for who I have become.'

Amongst many notable achievements, Kelly founded Africa's first and only integrated drug discovery centre, H3D.

With your help we aim to fund a future academic and broaden access to this University from an under-represented region. We hope this will also encourage others in African countries to consider degrees in sciences at all levels. We appreciate that there are huge obstacles to overcome for such students including a lack of teachers and resources for education in scientific fields. With your help we can commemorate one of our members who was a stellar teacher and researcher himself with a lasting legacy.

An interview with Adrian Hobden (U72)

Adrian Hobden read Natural Sciences (Biochemistry) then obtained a PhD from the University of Leicester focused on epoxytricothecene fungal toxins. After post-doctoral studies on Vitamin D with the UK Medical Research Council in Cambridge, Adrian was recruited to Glaxo (now GSK), working on pharmaceuticals for disease treatment. In 1996, Adrian moved to RTP, North Carolina to manage all of Glaxo's biotechnology industry interactions and in 1998, established Myriad Pharmaceuticals in Salt Lake City. This was the first company to attempt to treat Alzheimer's disease by inhibiting beta amyloid production. Subsequently he became CEO of Myrexia, a public biotechnology company, and is now CEO of Cerespir Inc. – a company dedicated to finding treatments for neurodegenerative diseases.

How did you come to be a student at Churchill?

I was recommended for the sixth form visitor scheme by my grammar school, which was more orientated to science, which may have been why. But to my knowledge there wasn't a direct connection to Dick Tizard, who ran the scheme. Slightly scarily, I was summoned to the headmaster's office and told I was to go to visit Churchill College on the scheme.

Neither of my parents went to University, their education was interrupted by the Second World War. My father went from school to be an apprentice engineer in Kent. He and a fellow employee went to sign up in 1939 for the RAF and were only able to do so because they didn't mention they were engineers. My father spent over two years in a POW camp (having had to parachute out of his plane) but on release his time in the camp didn't count towards his five-year contract – so he wasn't demobbed until late 1947, when he went to teacher training College.

My father was a maths teacher in my school but never taught me. Coming back from my interview with Ken McQuillen and reporting that I had been offered a place, my chemistry teacher said 'thank god for that, it will stop your

father worrying all the time!' I chose Churchill because of its modern outlook and because it wasn't stuffy.

What did you most enjoy about studying at the College?

Being a geek-like scientist, the nice thing about the College is it puts you together with people from other disciplines, so I rubbed shoulders with people who read French and English, geography and history. If I had just been doing science in a faculty it would have been a much less rounded university experience. They encouraged me to read books which I had never read up to then. I think that is one of the most valuable aspects of the College system in Cambridge.

My perception had been that Cambridge was full of exceptionally intelligent people and that I would be out of place but then you get here and everyone else IS kind of like you – there are some intellectual giants who are harder to socialise with, but most people are smart, and you can get on with them.

Studying elsewhere as a postgraduate you begin to appreciate the amazing facilities that had been available – the incredible libraries that Churchill and the biochemistry department had – but also sporting facilities. It never struck me at the time, but Churchill's sporting facilities are right there; everyone else has to get on their bike and cycle off to the sports field. Churchill has always had one of the best cricket pitches – one of the best wickets in Cambridge.

And the worst thing?

I have very fond memories but the worst thing I can remember is Saturday morning lectures, cycling sometimes in terrible weather. It was just that distance was sometimes an issue!

What did you do on graduating?

One of my supervisors was Eric Cundliffe who had been a student of Ken McQuillen. I was inspired by him to do a PhD, and got a grant from the MRC. Eric was, at the time, at the Pharmacology Department, then he got a



lectureship at Leicester after my first year, so I had to move or find a new supervisor.

At that stage I had been in the University for four years, so a move seemed like a good idea, and it was a good experience as I met my wife, Jane, in Leicester! It also made me appreciate quite how wonderful Cambridge is as a city and a University; Leicester had a good reputation in biochemistry but I didn't spend a lot of time in the University, as I shared a house with other students.

After my PhD, I accepted a postdoc with the MRC Dunn nutrition labs back in Cambridge working on vitamin D. I think we were the only group in the lab doing anything remotely resembling molecular science – nutrition studies on humans are notoriously difficult because people are not compliant. It was there I first started doing molecular biology and gene cloning. I was tempted by a junior lectureship after that, but one of my fellow grad students from Leicester told me Glaxo were setting up a Genetics department and were looking for someone with expertise. So I applied and my first job was to set up a Genetics Department and set up gene cloning in drug discovery. I was therefore employee number one in gene cloning in 1981 for Glaxo!

It was a perfect match as I knew nothing about the pharma industry, and they knew nothing about gene cloning. My new boss, a microbiologist, said 'we are convinced it will be important, but we have no idea what it can

do!' I had to go and speak to everyone using gene cloning, and find out what could be done differently, at first it was me and one technician.

How did you come to be in the US?

I worked for Glaxo for fourteen years, from being just me to 40 people. Initially we did everything for the company, like making genetically manipulated mice for oncology etc. However, it became obvious that you didn't need the expertise of having a centralised genetics department, so instead of genetics, I ran programmes focused on disease areas: e.g., ones that focused on HIV drug discovery, cardiovascular disease, oncology, and on Central Nervous system (CNS) diseases, which was really fascinating. I was really happy doing that but then Glaxo bought Burroughs Wellcome, and when you have two organizations merging it is a miserable experience: everyone knew you could not have two virology departments. It was going to be highly political, not about who was best, and management consultants were brought in to tell the employees that their departments were being shut down.

I could see the writing on the wall, as they took out a layer of middle management. I had a job offer in Sweden with Pharmacia (who after various iterations eventually became part of Pfizer) and it was a bigger role managing 150 people. Then the head of research at Glaxo called me and said you can stay with us if you move to North Carolina.

So I had a choice between leaving research and going into business development but moving to NC, or staying in research but moving to a different company in Stockholm. Sweden was attractive as I had Swedish relatives and had spent many idyllic summers in Sweden. I had also been to Stockholm quite a few times and had dreamed of living in Sweden. I opened it to the family as a democratic vote and the kids said NC, so that is where we went, because they had the mistaken belief that in the US they would be speaking the same language!

The thing about big companies is that you are in a small part of it. I barely knew anyone in the clinical area, for example, it was the classic corporate silo. Rather than finding a compound and throwing it over the fence to whoever is going to develop it or do something useful with

it, business development is completely different to that. You find a new compound, you need the approval of the research division, the toxicology division, sales, legal, finance etc. I had to go to all the different parts of the organization – that is how to find out how a company really works.

It was fantastic training on how to run my own company. After two years in 1998 I went to the established Myriad Genetics in Salt Lake City, Utah. They wanted to set up a pharmaceutical organization (they originally were diagnostics) so I went to being one employee again.

We bit off something larger than we could possibly chew trying to find a treatment for Alzheimer's and we failed, as everyone has. The company CEO decided he wanted to go back to what he knew, so we were spun out as our own company, Myrexia, and I was the CEO of a publicly traded company, for two uncomfortable years – the regulation is horrendous and the shareholders are even worse! How to be hated by everyone! I had to go to NYC at least once a month to speak to our investors.

With a few honorable exceptions, very few mutual fund managers are scientists, but they are all supremely confident about their own ability. It is very difficult to keep a straight face when someone with an MBA from Stanford is lecturing you on how to do drug discovery with absolutely no knowledge or experience of it or any other type of science. But I had to be nice to them because they were investors – it was very frustrating! I had a board to keep happy as well (you aren't ever really the boss!) and I had a huge amount of responsibility to employees as well.

Utah has fantastic scenery, a great climate and world beating skiing but if you aren't part of the religious culture it is difficult, so we moved to the Seattle area because it feels more European than any other parts of the US I have lived in. I took on the role of a CEO of a small start-up, Cerespir Inc. If I could contribute to a cure for neurodegenerative diseases it would be great, but I am trying to make a difference in that area – prevention or treatment.

Now I feel stable financially and I break down my giving into different areas. We live on a very middle-class island, which probably isn't

representative in some ways of the US. There are charitable needs like kids' education, there are homeless people so we give some each year to charities here. I have two areas of scientific interest: one is neurodegenerative diseases and the other medical area is in cancer research. I am on the board of a small cancer charity which spends its money wisely. It is always an area that needs more attention (though treatments have come on immensely since I first started working in drug discovery). We also support Seattle opera – it cannot just be science, art is important.

I owe a lot of my success to Churchill and Cambridge University, not only in terms of the education I got but because of the whole experience, and social interactions. It's also beneficial to say you went to Cambridge – this country is very sensitive to academic qualifications, and to which institutions you went. Everyone knows Cambridge, especially those who mattered in terms of my career, and the English accent doesn't hinder you either! I was memorably told by one of my senior colleagues in the USA, 'Every time I hear an English accent I add 30 points to someone's IQ'. So I benefited from this.

How did you first get involved with donating/volunteering by being on the Board of Cambridge in America?

Through Churchill – John Pennant [the former Development Director] persuaded me to start donating, and then I joined the Cambridge in America board. I am on my second three-year term (the limit is two terms) and am helping with plans to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Gates scholarship.

You have kindly decided to support the endowment fund of the College as part of the Think forward campaign, why have you chosen to support the endowment?

I feel a great debt of gratitude to Churchill College and to the University and so it was a case of what was very important and how can I help? I would rather do it this way rather than in my Will, as that, hopefully, is a long time away. Developing people's potential is important, as is keeping the cricket pitch in perfect condition so that it can be enjoyed by future generations.



Events 2019–20

Hard as it is to remember what the world was like pre-pandemic, back in 2019 and at the beginning of 2020, before we'd even heard of social distancing, the Alumni and Development Office organised a number of enjoyable, well-attended events. Here we take a look back at those events from the summer vacation in 2019 into 2020.

In early July 2019 we held two reunion dinners: the first of which in the Fellows' Dining Room to celebrate the 50th anniversary of matriculation for our 1969 alumni; and the second one of our traditional large black tie dinners, this one for those who matriculated from 1977 to 1981. The latter of these was hugely popular, with around 300 people dining in total (and a few back on the river the next morning!). Writing this in January 2021, having been unable to hold a reunion dinner in 2020, is a reminder of how much we miss them in the Alumni Office. Once we are able to hold large gatherings in College again, do try to come to your next reunion dinner, it is so lovely to be back in Hall, hearing it alive with chatter and laughter between people who might not have seen each other for decades!



THIS PAGE
1969 50th Anniversary Dinner

TOP THREE **Reunion Dinner 2019 (1977-81)**

In September of that year, the Master visited New York and Toronto, enjoying a series of alumni events. In New York these comprised a brunch at the Morgan Dining Room, organised by alumna Dr Kit Cheung (G00), and an event organised by Cambridge in America featuring a talk on leadership and women in science by alumna Dr Liz O'Day (U06), followed by a dinner at the Harvard Club. In Toronto, the Master and alumnus Bruce Simpson (U80) of McKinsey Canada discussed the challenges of leadership at an event at the University Club of Toronto. Whilst we can't hold physical events such as these in the UK or abroad at the time of writing, Kit regularly organises brunches for Churchillians to get-together and these have currently been moved online. If you would like the opportunity to join a virtual meet-up (primarily aimed at those in the Tri-State region of New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey, but open to all), do contact the Alumni Office who will put you in touch with Kit.



Later that month we held our annual and popular Association Weekend, which in 2019 we coincided with the official opening of our amazing new graduate housing. The Weekend began as donors to the project were invited to an opening ceremony on the morning of 27 September performed by the University Vice-Chancellor, in addition to guided tours of the new accommodation, followed by lunch in Hall.

The official Weekend programme commenced that evening by revisiting the new housing as its architects, alumni Simon Tucker (U&G86) and Priscilla Fernandes (U04), reflected on the design process in their talk 'Designing from Memory', a fascinating insight into the process of how they fed their experiences of life at College in its original rooms into the new buildings. The talk, with Q&A chaired by current Architecture Director of Studies, Dr Minna Sunikka-Blank, was followed by a choice of High Table or our ever-popular and over-subscribed wine-tasting event. The latter was chaired by Fellows' Steward, Professor Christopher Tout, and the Alumni Officer can confirm on visiting



BOTTOM THREE
Alumni rowers (1977-81): (top) Coxed by Susannah Clements (née Burton) (U81); (bottom) outside the boathouse, crew coxed by Peter Mitchell (U&G77)

the Fellows' Dining Room after High Table, that spirits were very high indeed and a good time was clearly being had by all!

On Saturday morning the College continued in the reflective mode set by Friday evening's talk, hosting a panel consultation to explore how emerging technologies are leading to a new industrial revolution. Leaders in their fields looked at the implications, and we asked how does the College respond? That afternoon we welcomed Professor Bjarne Stroustrup (G75 and past Overseas Fellow) to give us 'A Personal View of the Evolution of C++', in which he discussed the creation and development of a programming language. Following the lecture, alumni still had time to squeeze in a tour of CamFM's new studios at Fitz to mark the 40th anniversary of the radio station that used to be housed in the basement of a College property on Storey's Way, or a tour of the Møller Centre, prior to our ever-enjoyable, annual drinks reception and dinner – this year with Sir Christopher Frayling (U&G65, Fellow) as our after-dinner speaker, discussing 'the two cultures'.

The following month was also a busy one for events, with 2 lectures at the Oxford and Cambridge Club in London: the first by Fellow Professor Sir David Spiegelhalter, and the second by Dr Antonio Weiss (U05). It is hard to imagine Sir David talking about anything except Covid as this Newsletter goes to press, but back in the autumn of 2019, before we had heard of the virus, his talk based on his book *The Art of Statistics* saw all tickets go within hours of their release. Later in the month, Dr Antonio Weiss discussed his book focusing on the history of management consultants in government since 1960. Back at College, the Master invited Professor Dame Nancy Rothwell, President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Manchester, to join her in conversation as part of the regular series of Paradigm Shift discussions with leading female academics.

In November we were incredibly excited to welcome to College, Adelina Chalmers, also known as the Geek Whisperer. Adelina is an expert in transforming communication skills into formulas that engineers and scientists understand, helping them learn how to transform research into business, and launch their innovative technology



by partnering with industry. She led a two-hour workshop with practical, hands-on advice for students and alumni.

As we approached the holidays, we partnered with other Colleges for two events in London. The first aimed specifically at 'young alumni' (the somewhat arbitrary distinction of being 35 or under!), which we hosted with Darwin, Emmanuel and Pembroke. The Underdog was a much more informal venue than others we use, such as the Oxford and Cambridge Club, so it made for a fun, relaxed evening. The following evening we invited alumni of any age to join us at the Cittie of Yorke pub, along with Corpus. These pub meets have proved really popular with those who have come along and we look forward to offering these again once we are able to do safely.

The following week was the annual Varsity Rugby matches at Twickenham, and for the second year running we took two adjoining boxes so alumni could warm up and eat lunch between the games. An added bonus was seeing Churchill student Jenni Shuttleworth (U&G15) play in the

Storey's Way official opening: (top) guests in the garden of the new building; (bottom left) Michael Cowan (U70), Professor Stephen Toope (Vice-Chancellor) and Professor Dame Athene Donald FRS; (bottom right) view from one of the stairwells

women's game. It's a really fantastic day out and we can't wait to be able to return!

At the beginning of 2020 we squeezed in a few more gatherings before events caught up with us and the country went into the first lockdown. These began in January with our Pitch to Win Enterprise Competition, enabling students and alumni to put into practice what they had learned from Adelina Chalmers at the pitching workshop in front of a friendly and supportive community, for the chance to win small monetary prizes.

February was a really busy month for College events, with the virus not yet having made its impact felt in the UK. We began with a drinks reception at the Oxford and Cambridge Club for those matriculating 1988–92 who were looking forward to their July reunion dinner (that has since been postponed twice). Only a couple of



Association Weekend 2019

days' later we invited alumni to a dinner at the House of Lords hosted by former Master Lord Broers. All tickets sold out and it was a lovely occasion in a really special setting.

Later in the month, back at College, we held another Conversation event between the Master and Angela Saini, award-winning writer of *Inferior and Superior*. Then it was back to London for not one, but two, Business Network



(left) Antonio Weiss (U05) pictured on far right of group; (right) giving lecture at the Oxford and Cambridge Club



events in quick succession. The first of these a panel event around Investment Management and the second in early March around the aero-engineering industry. We are planning more Business Network events for 2021 (initially online). Do email the Alumni Office if you would like to be added to the mailing list for these.

We concluded our in-person events for 2020 in March with two of our annual College-based events before it became clear that it was no longer safe to continue to hold these, just ahead of the lockdown. These were our lunch for the Winston S. Churchill 1958 Society, those alumni and friends of College who have chosen to leave



Churchill Enterprise 'Pitch to Win' Competition January 2019

a gift in Will, followed by the Computer Science lecture, this time given by William Tunstall-Pedoe (U88), an entrepreneur focused on Artificial Intelligence and Deep Tech.

We were saddened not to be able to go ahead with the many events we had planned for the rest of 2020 due to Covid, especially because it was the College's 60th anniversary year and we had exciting plans to celebrate that. That said, circumstances forced us to recreate discussion/lecture events as online ones, which has meant that many more people have had access to these than would have done had they had to travel to Cambridge or London.

We began this move online to replace events that would have taken place during this year's Association Weekend. The first of these featured

The scientist who launched a comic and flew the flag for Black History Month

Self-confessed comic addict Osarenkhoe Ogbeide (G18) sees beyond the superhero to the scientist. When he's not developing printable gas sensors, he's passionate about celebrating the contributions of Black scientists throughout history.

Marvel films and comics sparked my interest in science subjects. I realised that lots of the best superheroes had a background in science – Ironman was a genius engineer and Spiderman studied as a biochemist – and they would often use this knowledge to solve problems.

Today I'm a PhD student at the Cambridge Graphene Centre, working on developing the next generation of gas sensors using 2D materials, such as graphene. The real-life applications of the technology include monitoring CO2 in the home and ammonia in industrial settings, but it also has the potential to be used as a medical diagnostic tool. Last year our group published a paper that explored using gas sensors for personal healthcare monitoring. I helped to develop a tiny sensor to test for ammonia gas concentrations in exhaled breath, as it is an indicator of kidney or bowel disease.

While I've been in Cambridge I've also been involved in an inspiring initiative called Africans in STEM, which promotes and celebrates the contributions of Black individuals to science, technology, engineering and medicine. Greater visibility gives Black researchers a chance to network and share ideas, but equally as important, it means that a career in STEM feels more attainable for other young people of African descent.

Many people are unaware of the contributions to society of Black scientists and engineers throughout history. For example, did you know that a technology you hold in your hand every day, GPS, was developed from the mathematical modelling of the Earth, programmed by Gladys West?

I would like to see a world where young Black students who want to pursue a career in STEM or academia are empowered in the mindset to know they can. I want them to have a free choice in what career path they choose – rather than thinking that people like them don't do STEM.

I suggested flying the pan-African flag to mark Black History Month as a prominent reminder of my College's pledge to tackle racism. To my knowledge, up until this month, the pan-African flag has never been flown by a Cambridge College. The flag was designed by Marcus Garvey, who is regarded as one of the greatest Black leaders, and it represents unity of African nations and celebrates African people.

My initial reaction on the day the flag was raised by Churchill College was relief – that it was sunny, and we had just the right amount of breeze! But on a more serious note, seeing the flag flying made me feel really welcomed and gave me a sense of pride. It felt like a really significant moment in time.

My love of comics has continued to this day, and during lockdown I launched my own business, New Africa Comics, based on African mythology, culture and people. Working with a writer and an artist, we have now launched the first comic, Shango. It's been fascinating looking into mythology from both my own ancestry and other ancestries. There is such a rich culture and a wealth of stories that have never been told in this way before.

The comics also serve a deeper purpose – my aim is for them to be a vehicle for tackling tough social-political issues that affect our community, from government corruption on



the African continent to colourism – all while entertaining the reader with amazing art and commentary of course!

The success of the film Black Panther shows that there is a real desire to see more narratives that represent African people and celebrate African culture. From a business perspective New Africa Comics taps into that gap in the market. I hope in time it will become for Africa what Marvel and DC are for America.

Alongside developing New Africa Comics, I am looking to stay in academia and one day hope to start my own world-leading lab in Nigeria or another African nation. I'd love to set up a lab which is like SpaceX or Tesla, where I can push the industry forward while creating usable products, and at the same time bring an African nation to the forefront of research.

This article previously appeared on the Cambridge University website. Words by Charis Goodyear, photography by Lloyd Mann.



1988-92 Reunion Drinks Reception, February 2020

Professor Tim Minshall discussing ways in which Cambridge engineers responded to the pandemic. This was followed by By-Fellow Bhanu Kapil giving a funny and moving reading of her poetry from her new publication, *How to Wash a Heart* (for which she has since won the prestigious T.S. Eliot Poetry Prize). In addition, the Master, Bursar and Acting Senior Tutor gave an update on how the College was managing the Covid crisis, just ahead of the start of Michaelmas term, and Allen Packwood gave a virtual tour of the Archives Centre for the University's online Alumni Festival. A discussion with Professor Dame Anne Glover in our regular Paradigm Shift series of conversations between the Master and prominent female academics transferred very well to the online format, with the audience able to ask questions over Zoom afterwards, as with the other talks. We rounded September off with something a little different: a performance of Beethoven's Opus 132 performed live by The Revolutionary Drawing Room – a string quartet featuring By-Fellow, Rachel Stott (U87).

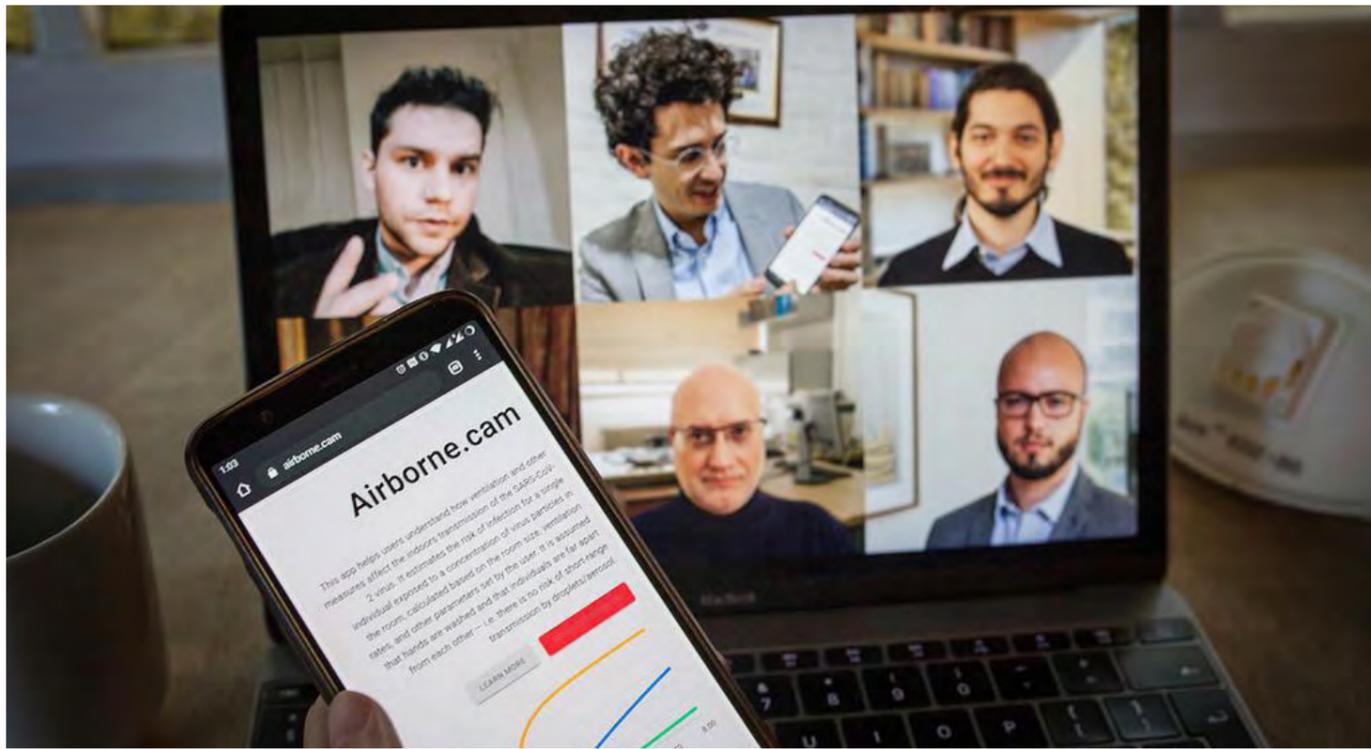
In our next Newsletter in 2022 we look forward to reporting back on the online events we have offered since October 2020, as well as (hopefully!) a return to our traditional dinners and in-person networking events later this year. One of the things we will take away from this time, however, is to include online events into our event programming even once the pandemic is over, in order to be more inclusive.



Masters' Dinner at the House of Lords



Churchill Business Network: Investment Management



How Airborne.cam was Born

Before Covid-19, we wouldn't have thought twice about the air we were breathing when spending an hour or more in a meeting room with a group of colleagues. But now, alongside mask wearing and vigorous hand-washing, we are far more aware of our actions and the ways in which this virus is transmitted.

Savvas Gkantonas is a fourth year PhD Engineering student at Churchill, and like many of our members, he has found his everyday focus shifted to tackle the pandemic. Whilst he was previously looking at particulate matter emissions from engines, when he saw the news saying that transmission of Covid-19 by aerosols wasn't likely, he knew that the research was showing the opposite and felt compelled to start working on the project.

In order to safely protect their staff, businesses need to understand the risk their premises pose when it comes to spreading Covid-19. Using their understanding of how air flow transports particles, Savvas and his co-author of the original paper, Dr Pedro de Oliveira, developed Airborne.cam, a free-to-use website which looks at how Covid-19 spreads in indoor spaces through aerosols. Their research is startling, and shows that social distancing measures alone do

not provide adequate protection from the virus in particular situations. Using mathematical models, the research showed that if two people are not wearing masks in a poorly ventilated room, prolonged talking is far more likely to spread the virus than a cough, due to the size of the droplets exhaled. Time is also key, looking at the risk of infection during, say, a 30-minute meeting compared to an hour. The key results have then been consolidated into the website, where more parameters can be changed such as size, occupancy, and ventilation in a room, and whether masks are being worn.

Airborne.cam has since reached 20,000 users in a single day. It is already being used across Cambridge University, including here at College. Our Head of Estates, Tom Boden said, 'Airborne.cam is a sophisticated but user friendly tool that allows us to plan how we safely use our buildings and spaces. It is easy to change

different variants such as number of occupants or ventilation to understand better the risks associated with the spread of the virus and take appropriate mitigatory measures.'

So what next for Airborne.cam? The team want to ensure that it remains free for users, so they are hoping to receive more support in addition to a donation already made by the College in order to develop the site further, and to provide educational resources such as instructional videos for their users. Plus there is no doubt that this system will have an application beyond that of Covid-19. Making sure users have access to fresh air has always been important, and Airborne.cam will hopefully become an essential tool for all businesses using risk assessments to ensure that their buildings minimise the risk of all airborne infections to their users.

How Our Community Fought Covid

In addition to the recent successes of Airborne.cam, many Fellows, students and alumni have played their part in the fight against Covid. We have been publicizing their efforts in our regular community updates, which we have shared on our website, and some of them in our E-bulletins. Here are just a few stories from those updates, sharing some of that critical work.

Postgraduate student and Churchill Scholar **Anita Qualls** (G19) set up an organisation called Feed the Frontlines GA, to help those doctors, nurses, and support staff working on the frontlines in her native Georgia to make sure they get a hot meal. Anita explained, 'These hospital workers a lot of times are just so slammed and so stressed out that they are not even able to get a hot meal during their shift at all. And a lot of the cafeterias in the hospital are actually shutting down because of the Coronavirus.'

Churchill staff member, **Chris Reitter**, joined the new testing laboratory set up by AstraZeneca GSK and the University of Cambridge at the University's Anne McLaren Building. This facility is being used for high throughput screening for COVID-19 testing and to explore the use of alternative chemical reagents for test kits in order to help overcome current supply shortages. Chris also works at the Department of Pathology as a research technician in a molecular biology lab, so is able to use the same techniques that he uses daily.

Tom Willers, one of our Hospitality Porters, has gone beyond the call of duty to support the Churchill Community during this extraordinary time. During the current crisis Tom has been staying on site as our resident caretaker, assisting all of the operational departments, keeping an eye on security and responding to the needs of the residents, all in addition to undertaking his usual role. Tom's work on site includes the critical task of clearing the rubbish, and in doing so ensuring that we don't have a second public health crisis. Tom volunteered for this role as he wanted to keep busy, fit and motivated. Speaking of his adapted working life, Tom said, 'it's a joy to be working with the rest of the minimal workforce, and I'm enjoying getting

to know my colleagues in other departments and improving my knowledge of the site.'

Tanya Mulaka, one of our College Bedders, has been busy sewing 400 protective masks from fabric we had at the College.

Alumnus **Charlie Wartnaby** (U88) has been doing part-time software development for ProjectRED who are developing a low-cost emergency ventilator called the 'Respiratory Emergency Device', or RED. His team is the only non-profit design team founded and led by engineers with ventilator design experience.

Alumna **Lizzie Elgar** (U16), along with her brother James, has co-founded an app intent on changing the world. The app, called 'now-u', aims to educate, inspire and empower people to tackle the most pressing problems today. Their first campaigns are focused on issues exacerbated by the pandemic: domestic abuse in the UK, refugee welfare and resettlement in Europe and water, sanitation and hygiene in low- and middle-income countries.

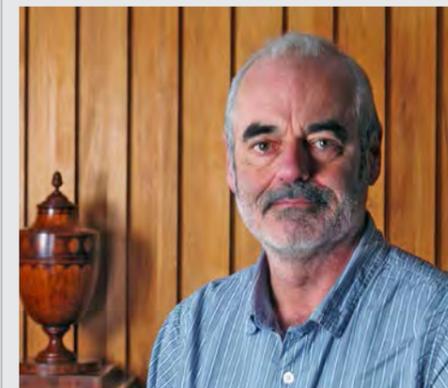
Fellow and head of the Fluids in Advanced Manufacturing group, **Dr Ronan Daly**, is the co-lead in the IfM and Papworth trial of a ventilator sharing device, which it's hoped could halve the number of ventilators needed during another pandemic. Testing of the new device showed that it is possible to split the air flow from one ventilator to mechanically support the breathing of two sedated patients with different lung capacity and changing breathing needs. This system could be adapted to for longer-term use in countries that have ongoing ventilator capacity shortages post-Covid.

Alumnus **Dr Antonio D'Ammaro** (G11) was part of the team that received the President's Special Award for Pandemic Service from the Royal Academy of Engineering for their work making cost-efficient ventilators. Employed by consumer goods manufacturer, Antonio has been working on a new drying system with Cambridge Aerothermal. But a large call to arms to engineering companies in March saw Antonio suddenly turn to making ventilators.

While it might not be an obvious transition from domestic appliances to life-saving equipment, the technology is largely the same. They both have pipes, compressors and valves, and are required to deliver a specific quantity of air.

While most ventilators cost anywhere from £5000-£10,000 each, for many countries, this is an insurmountable cost. Antonio and his colleagues needed a ventilator that would cost significantly less, and be portable for use in countries that don't have a strong hospital infrastructure. They also needed to ensure that they could continue to be used beyond the pandemic in countries where conditions such as pneumonia are prevalent. The performance of the ventilator was assessed by the National Physics Laboratory in London, who told the team that their ventilator was by far the most advanced that they had seen. Antonio credits this with the fact that the design was driven by clinicians, not by engineers. Working with doctors from South Africa and Italy, Antonio and the rest of the team were able to understand which specifications were essential and which they could compromise on.

Finally, most of our updates have included a mention of Fellow and statistician, **Professor Sir David Spiegelhalter**, who has been kept extremely busy over the last year with his many media appearances commenting on the use and abuse of statistics, more than we have room to summarise here! We are delighted that he was awarded the President's Medal at the annual Market Research Society Awards in December for informing public discourse with data-driven insight.



Professor Sir David Spiegelhalter

An interview with Dr Susan Lim (G85)

Susan graduated in medicine (Hons I) from Monash University in Melbourne, Australia, and obtained her Fellowship in Surgery from the Royal College of Surgeons (Edinburgh) with a Gold Medal for being the most outstanding candidate (1984).

Dr Lim came to Churchill in 1985, with a research scholarship from the Gulbenkian Foundation, to undertake a PhD in transplant immunology, in the relatively new research area of organ transplantation. She completed her PhD in 1988 and went on to perform the first successful cadaveric liver transplant in Asia and Singapore in 1990. Susan and her husband Deepak Sharma support the Dr Susan Lim bursary fund at Churchill College for students in STEM subjects. Susan's maiden orchestral piece, the 'Lim Fantasy of Companionship for Piano and Orchestra' which she co-created with her daughter Christina Teenz MD, a neuroscience researcher at Stanford University, composed by

Manu Martin of Bordeaux, France, was released in April 2021.

What are your fondest memories of your time at the College?

What I remember well are the wide open green spaces which provided me with the inspiration for creative thinking, shaped by the rich diversity of views at the College. It was like a breath of fresh air, after having been immersed for a year in full-time general surgery in the operating theatres of Singapore's busiest public hospital. I loved that the College was not isolating for graduate students, but that we were part of the greater community of

undergraduates as well. I had arrived in the autumn, and found that it was wonderful to relax and unwind on the College lawns with friends, after being in the research labs and hospital wards at the Addenbrooke's.

Did you join any societies?

I joined the Boat Club, but unfortunately I was pretty quickly under pressure from my research and clinical duties, because I was in the transplant team at Addenbrooke's and had to often travel in a helicopter at the weekends, which didn't fit in with rowing. The helicopter was to go and pick up organs for transplants, which, at that time in the 1980s, was incredibly time-sensitive, such that we had police escorts to ensure our speedy journeys en route to and from the hospitals to the helipad. The closest I came to the river was not in a row boat, but in fact, on a helipad in the river Thames!

When you left Churchill what did you do?

I had chosen to go to Churchill and Cambridge (with a Gulbenkian scholarship) though I also had applied for the Rhodes scholarship at Oxford. The reason I went to Churchill was that Sir Roy Calne was willing to mentor me and said I could do clinical work in surgery and my PhD at the same time. This was a degree of flexibility that Oxford didn't offer. When I completed my PhD (in transplant immunology) in three and a half years, I returned to Singapore. I conducted the first cadaveric liver transplant in Asia and 30 years later, the patient is still with us and I am the godmother to her child, so I was and am incredibly grateful for the scholarship I received.

This really launched my clinical career as a surgeon but I was always so grateful that I had done a research degree and could think differently – while I loved the technical and precision aspects of surgeries, the PhD taught me to think about, and question the science underlying the innumerable surgical procedures that I performed in my career. It also cultivated my love for writing.

Over weekends, and whenever I had some spare time to relax, I would take to pen and paper and write or sketch short stories. The ability to be creative and to let my imagination steer my writing, was a necessary complement to the rigours and discipline of scientific writing, of papers and publications for the many International surgical and transplant meetings I participated at.

What is the inspiration behind *Alan the Musical*, and the *Lim Fantasy of Companionship*?

I have been concerned that the artificially intelligent, embodied robots and other companions that will take their place alongside humans are currently perceived by many in society, as a threat, and with some degree of fear and hostility. On the other hand, one of the biggest challenges facing us in society today, longevity coupled with loneliness, has presented an urgent need for these artificially intelligent inanimates, such as robot nursing assistants, and robot companions as examples.

This, and the fast growing pace of disruptive technology has inspired me to create a fictional story about a future companionship between a human and an inanimate, that is positive, thought-provoking and portrays this future with optimism.

I have also derived inspiration from my first hand experience of partnering a robot, first the Zeus (Computer Motion Industries), and then the *da Vinci* (Intuitive Surgical) in my surgeries. I firmly believe that the partnership of man and machine performs a task better than either can do alone. This personal experience as a robotic surgeon, has driven my passion forward in creating, together with Christina Teenz, who has also worked on the *da Vinci*, the storyline for a future companionship between human and inanimate. We have chosen to tell this story, in

the first instance, through music, as a medium of communication, as it reaches beyond the confines of medicine, into the different sectors of society, the different geographies, and beyond.

What was it like recording your *Fantasy at Abbey Road Studios*?

It started as a birthday wish, which my husband Deepak surprised me with, a recording session at Abbey Road studios, and a dream come true! Though I am not a player of any musical instrument, I am an avid consumer of music across genres, and always have been. This orchestral piece, the *Lim Fantasy of Companionship*, is cross-genre, which we recorded with the 78-member London Symphony Orchestra conducted by Arthur Fagen, and features the acclaimed Tedd Joselson on piano, as well as pop instruments, the electric guitar, bass and drums, together with a choral ensemble of London Voices, and a solo voice as the climax, which pleads teleportation.

The *Lim Fantasy* comprises six ACTs, which together unfolds the fictional story of a companionship between a human and an inanimate, and the journey of a soul, twice teleported, from animate to inanimate, and to human.

What would your advice be to today's medical students?

My advice is to read widely and beyond the curriculum, and try to keep pace with the incredibly fast-evolving and disruptive technologies that complement and have application in medicine – 3D printing, artificial organs, augmented and virtual reality in surgical procedures and in teaching, AI, machine learning and big data, robotics, synthetic DNA, CRISPR technologies for gene editing, cancer immunotherapy, and, relevant to our push toward commercial space travel, astrovirology, as examples. Do also find the time to be culturally enriched, as the practice of Medicine is as much an Art, as it is based on Science.

I hope that the *Lim Fantasy of Companionship* may inspire positive thoughts about a future with the new, artificially intelligent, embodied companions, set to take their place alongside humans in most industries, music included, with a robot orchestral conductor having shared

What I remember well are the wide open green spaces which provided me with the inspiration for creative thinking, shaped by the rich diversity of views at the College

the stage with Andrea Bocelli in the Tuscan theatre in Pisa.

Let it inspire a discussion about what is life and what is non-life, a topic which no longer just belongs to the confines of medicine, but needs and invites the participation of artists, musicians, psychologists, sociologists, philosophers, physicists, engineers, politicians, and more.

I hope that you may find the time to listen to the *Lim Fantasy of Companionship*, and allow the deft fingerwork of pianist Tedd Joselson, and the symphonic sounds of the 78-member London Symphony Orchestra, awaken your senses, take you on a journey of a soul, from wild, to captive, and then with the help of disruptive technologies, communicated through the strings of the electric guitar, with the words 'Synthetic DNA' sung by the London Voices, transform and lead on to an ultimate deliverance for the inanimate, that of quantum teleportation, as it pleads, through a solo voice, for its soul to be entangled with that of a human; this is after all, a fantasy.

You can buy Dr Lim's *Fantasy* in various formats at signumrecords.com/product/the-lim-fantasy/SIGCD670/.



An interview with Dr Helen Czerski (U&G97)

Helen Czerski (U&G97) read Natural Sciences (Physics) at Churchill, returning a year later to study for a PhD in experimental explosives physics, motivated by the opportunity to use high-speed photography to explore the physical world further.

After her PhD, Helen looked around for another subject that would allow her to continue to build that sort of experiment, but with an application in the natural world. This led to researching bubbles and oceans at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in San Diego, followed by a postdoc at the Graduate School of Oceanography in Rhode Island. On returning to the UK, she started her own research programme on the physics of oceanic bubbles, first at the University of Southampton and then at her current academic home, University College London.

Just as Helen moved back to the UK from Rhode Island, she was asked by the BBC to audition for a presenting role, and this opened up a whole new way of sharing her enthusiasm for science. Since then, she has presented documentaries on a wide range of subjects relating to physics in general, and also atmospheric and ocean science. She is passionate about conveying the beauty and ingenuity of the physical world around us, and the perspective on the world that science provides.

Helen has recently been made an Honorary Fellow at Churchill, so we interrupted her incredibly busy schedule to ask her a few questions.

What are your fondest memories of your time at Churchill?

There's a lot to choose from, because I did a four-year degree, spent a year working overseas and then came back for a PhD. Mostly, I remember the strong sense of community. Back then, Churchill was unusual among Cambridge Colleges in actually listening to and working



with its students, and it really connected us to the College. If you needed help, friends (and Porters) were always there for you. One day I was greeted in the Porters Lodge with, 'ah, we've got something for you'. They took me to the car park and presented me with a wheelie bin that someone had thrown in the College pond and they'd then fished out. 'We saw this and thought of you.' I was the Environment officer, and I was always looking for things to re-use as recycling bins. I pressure-washed it and put it to use. They were right, but it said a lot about how they thought of me! There was also the memorable year when the College Architect decided that the ponds (which had originally been designed

as mirror ponds) should have the fish cleared out and dark dye put in, to make them mirrors again. The problem was that no-one told the ducks, so when they introduced their ducklings to the pond and then took them for walks around college, there were a few weeks when all the yellow ducklings were dyed blue from the mid-line downwards.

Did you manage to introduce any initiatives in the role of JCR Environment Officer?

Well, I tried. But these things take a long time and it takes steps from many people to get things done. I did introduce recycling boxes into all the College kitchens and pushed and

pushed for more of that. Years later, I sat in on an Estates Committee meeting as a PhD student and I was sitting opposite the Bursar when she announced that College was going to formally run proper recycling. And she looked straight at me, because she knew how hard I'd fought for that seven years earlier. I almost cried. I also organised an organic formal hall (a first, I think), and everyone was amazed that the food wasn't just brown mush.

What did you have on the walls of your College room?

I can't remember, but it certainly wasn't music or film posters. I did have a large Galileo thermometer and a plasma ball which were 18th birthday presents from my parents.

Did you join any College/University societies as a student in Cambridge?

Lots! I was on the University teams for gymnastics and badminton throughout, and I also represented the University once or twice at squash and triathlon. I did a lot of College sport as well. I'm pretty sure the reasons I chose Churchill were the big playing fields and the staircase kitchens (which some colleges didn't have at the time). I was interested in so many things, and I did my best to explore as much as possible. Back then (only 20 years ago), the attitude was that the living was just as important as studying, and it was clear to everyone that they supported each other. My Dad said to me beforehand, 'if you go to university and all you come away with is a degree, you've wasted half your time'. That was very much the attitude we had – we worked hard, but we also explored everything else.

Did you have a firm idea of what you wanted to do when you left Churchill?

No. I just wanted to do interesting things that were constructive in society. I've never seen much point in having a long term plan – I've just taken the attitude that you work hard and do your best, and do what interests you. And then you see where that takes you. As long as it's constructive in some way for others, that's enough. There's this myth that you plan a career or a massive achievement, and that's not how it works. Big things are just made up of lots of little things, so you do the little things well and then sometimes someone looks back and says you

were doing a big thing. But you usually weren't – you are just doing the right thing, in lots of small ways. That's how the world changes.

Is there anything you regret in your studies or career path?

I don't regret anything. I don't think of myself as having a career – the word 'career' is just the story told in hindsight. Humans are very keen to see narratives in things, and it's how we make sense of the world. But it's not how things actually happen. The world is far messier than that. So I did lots of interesting things, and I did my best to contribute in lots of ways (I didn't always succeed), and that's enough.

Did you have to do any training for TV appearances, it can't be easy going from academia to TV presenter?

Here's the thing about being on TV – the people who actually want to do it are terrible at it, because they're thinking about themselves and not the subject. I didn't ask to do it. I was just very enthusiastic about science and they saw me doing that and offered me a chance to share the same enthusiasm in a different way. I never cared about it being me. I cared about the best possible job being done to share the science. And I think that's why I'm good at it – I know it's not about me and that's fine – it's the science that matters. So training isn't the point. Sure, you can be trained and it helps a bit, but it doesn't matter nearly as much as having something to say and caring about that thing. What you need is to be absolutely robust in understanding the science, poetic, creative and accurate in how you express it, and vulnerable enough to be human and let it show. None of that is about formal training, or about TV. It's about who you are as a human, and your expertise in your subject. People always worry about the superficial stuff without asking, 'am I doing my best to be a good scientist and a good human?'. It's the second one that counts.

What are you working on right now?

Well, at the moment, like most university academics, all I've done for the past year is Covid-related teaching admin. It has completely stopped almost all other activity. But when I've moved past that, I will get back to writing my next book (on the ocean and its connections to humanity) and working on how to get more

Back then, Churchill was unusual among Cambridge Colleges in actually listening to and working with its students, and it really connected us to the College.

discussion of critical thinking in science and society. We need a culture change away from the tribal nature of current debate. It doesn't matter which tribe you're in – if you're in a tribe with unquestioning loyalty to that tribe whatever it says, you need to re-examine how you do things. Everyone needs to be able to answer the question, 'what would it take to convince me that I'm wrong?'. Both sides of almost all debates at the moment have loyalists who are convinced that they can't be wrong and that there's no nuance. That in itself is the most dangerous thing that society faces – not the actual issues being debated or argued about. Bad decisions follow, but the root cause is demagoguery, on either side of the argument.

Finally, what are you looking forward to most post-Covid?

Being able to paddle outrigger canoes on the ocean again, and being able to actually think about writing about the ocean. It's been very frustrating to have to put my passion for that subject on hold this year, although I entirely accept that it's a very small problem to have in the world today. But I have so much to contribute on how we see the ocean, and how it links to climate and society, and I really want to make that contribution. These are urgent questions. Also being able to hug people, and do things that don't involve a laptop screen.

Follow Helen on Twitter: @helenczerski
Helen's 2020 Royal Institution Christmas Lecture (episode 2 of 3) is available on BBC iPlayer

When America Stopped Being Great

Nick Bryant (U86), Churchill alumnus and the BBC's New York correspondent has just published a book, *When America Stopped being Great*, both a lament and a love letter to America. His first experience of visiting the country was during the 1984 Olympics, when the US was in a completely different place – this visit had changed his life and led him to think about applying to Cambridge and Churchill, which was not a common path from his comprehensive school in Bristol.

We were delighted to host Nick in conversation with Professor David Reynolds in an online event hosted by the College in March, with an introduction by Richard Partington, Senior Tutor and history Fellow. Professor David Reynolds is a member of the Churchill Archives Committee and was the Roskill lecturer in 2020.

David noted that Obama ensured his place in history on day one, as the first Black president of the USA. He asked Bryant if there was a sense if Obama's presidency was a disappointment, after the optimism of his election and inauguration.

Nick replied that the mood in DC was amazing after the election: the White House, which was built by slaves, now had a Black president within it, promising to change so much. There was hope that he would bring about a post-partisan and post-racial society. American renewal and rebirth and fixing the US economy were the other hopes. Obama didn't want his presidency to be seen as about his racial profile, and he downplayed it. Nick felt that this may have been a missed opportunity.

Obama accepted his approval ratings went down when he spoke about race, so he didn't do that enough, in Nick's view. He wanted to unite the country but had a wall of opposition – a group of Republicans got together on the election night, including Newt Gingrich and Mitch McConnell, who wanted to make Obama a one-term president. US politics was already very polarised by this stage. The problem for Obama was that he didn't manage to fix the US

economy or structural imbalance with a massive disparity in wealth in the USA: too much of it in the 1% or 5% of the population.

David asked if Obama was more cautious than he needed to be; Nick thought that he was, and also gave up on being bipartisan. Between 2010 and 2014 Obama got a 'shellacking' in mid-term elections and it cowed him, then in final two years he was re-energised. In a wide-ranging discussion about this issue, David asserted that Obama's political capital was expended on Obamacare, and the financial crisis. His greatest and most consequential achievement was undoubtedly the Affordable Care Act, a feat that even Trump couldn't roll back. He also drew attention to Obama's saving the US economy in his early days as another overlooked achievement.

The talk turned to the rise of Trump. David said that he had, like many, underestimated Donald Trump, and asked what should we have understood about the Trump presidency and candidacy? He noted that Nick says in his book that Trump is 'a one-man media conglomerate and vigilante candidate', but what did he mean by this?

Nick explained that Trump, '...wasn't only promising to throw a lifeline to the post-industrial landscape of the rustbelt...but he understood that he would be the ultimate clickbait candidate.' He knew that traditional gatekeepers of news didn't exert the same influence; Trump understood that direct talk to the audience works and realised the reach

of social media pretty quickly, that '...he was the Ringmaster of this media circus', who could speak directly to people.

He further noted that Trump realised he could gain billions of dollars' worth of free media airtime thanks to twitter. Since he was deplatformed from social media, the US feels like a different place. David suggested that news now may be generated by aggression, hostility and tantrums?

Nick contended that people were fed up people in the traditional Republican Party, figures such as John McCain, they wanted change. Both agreed that had it not been for Covid, Trump might have won. Republicans controlled more state delegations, and Trump came close to winning, even with 500,000 people in the US dead from Covid.

David observed that here was a man saying things that were crazy: building a wall on day one. He assumed Trump's credibility would be broken when he didn't build the wall, but to quote Selena Zito, 'the press take him literally but not seriously, his supporters take him seriously but not literally'. (*Atlantic magazine*)

Nick had also felt Hilary Clinton might win during his visits to the rustbelt, but the 'blue wall' didn't vote for her: Trump the billionaire became a working class hero, and negative partisanship was the winner. The 2016 election took the commentariat in Washington DC by surprise – they had misread the mood.



Both speakers also touched on the US constitution being flawed in its use of the Electoral College, a significant factor in Trump's victory. Nick observed that this wasn't the best design by the Founding Fathers, since some votes count more than others, leading David to observe that the US is not then, in a strict sense, a democracy. This particular dysfunction might be the price of protection of the Union, to hold together a country the size of a continent: the protection of the rights of a minority (for example, slave owners). Most countries have issues with their history, asserted Reynolds, and these issues can be time bombs waiting for a particular event to trigger them.

David wondered if the preceding decades of politics caused the rise of Trump, or was it individual actions; a question that often comes up in history, for example on the origins of World War I. Donald Trump was clearly the trigger for Nick's book, but how do we explain Trump: do we go back over 30–40 years of history, or was he a one-man phenomenon? David reiterated Nick's views in his book that Trump was a political genius: 'twitter in the morning, a major TV appearance in the afternoon, making the news, making the noise...he is the oxygen, he sucks it all in...'. Political operators can, after all, make history, as we saw with Milosevic. David asked Nick if, with

Trump now removed from the current situation, was he hopeful for the future or not?

In reply Nick said that Trump, to a great extent, personified the decades, as a 'spirit of the times'. In the 80s as a personification of Reaganism; in the 90s, the decade of tabloid scandals, Trump was a fixture. In the noughties, with reality TV, he became a star. After the financial crisis he was a cipher for grievance and fear. There is a chance of union, and that Biden can bring the bipartisan politics. He wryly noted that Biden after Trump was 'like being at an all night rave for four years and coming home and turning on classic FM'.

Where is the hope in the US now? To Nick it rests in the fact that the 9/11 generation are coming of political age. The wartime generation were keen not to fight political wars, because they experienced real war, whereas baby boomers had not to the same extent (and resisted fighting in Vietnam). Perhaps the 9/11 generation will bring the same attitude with more dialogue in Washington. However, Covid has unfortunately accelerated division and polarisation in the US and all over the world, rather than united people.

David drew to a close by asking what Nick means by 'greatness' in his book title. The latter

Where is the hope in the US now?
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pointed out that Trump never specified when the US was great, so being great was whatever and whenever people wanted it to be, and this could disguise his failures too.

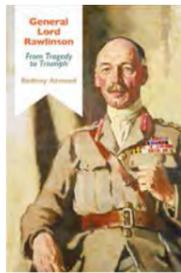
The full talk is available online on our YouTube channel. Nick Bryant's book, *When America Stopped Being Great: A history of the present* is published by Bloomsbury. David Reynolds' book *America, Empire of Liberty*, is reissued this year by Basic Books.



Sara Rawlinson, 2017/18

Churchill Bookshelf

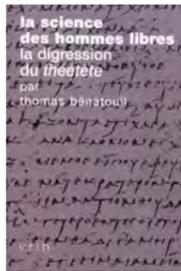
A selection of books by Churchillians published in the last year



Dr Rodney Atwood (G74)
General Lord Rawlinson: From Tragedy to Triumph
 Bloomsbury Academic
 2020 (paperback)

In this biography, Rodney Atwood details the life of General Lord Rawlinson

of Trent (1864–1925), a distinguished British soldier whose career culminated in decisive victories on the Western Front in 1918 and command of the Indian Army in the early 1920s. He served his soldier's apprenticeship in the Victorian colonial wars in Burma, the Sudan and South Africa. His career provides a lens through which to examine the British Army in the late-19th and early-20th century.



Professor Thomas Bénatouïl (Past Overseas Fellow)
La science des hommes libres: La digression du Théétète de Platon
 Vrin 2020

Former Overseas Fellow Thomas Bénatouïl considers the time and freedom required by the search for truth according to Plato. Would this search involve a different kind of life for

the philosopher than from that of ordinary people? Based on a deep reading of the role that digression plays at the heart of the Théétète, this work explores the different contexts in which it fits. He thus traces the birth and development of the thesis, so influential in Western history and so debated today, of rational, autonomous and universal law knowledge, but doomed to be misunderstood by most.



Jeremy Burton (U61)
We Never Sleep - Who Does in Economy Class?
 Austin Macauley Publishers
 2020

Jeremy Burton did not set out to write a travel book. Instead he started, many

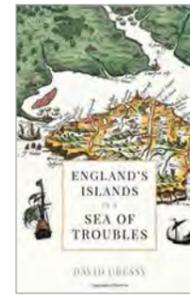
years ago, to blog daily his idiocentric observations to a small dedicated group of online readers while travelling the equivalent of 100 times around the globe on business and at leisure. A selection of these daily travel blogs has been put together as the basis of this publication, written in rough and ready format while on the road, commenting on the comic, the absurd, the thought-provoking and the downright surprising aspects of exploring more than 130 countries around the world.



Dr Kit Cheung (G00) and Dr Lorna Ayton (U&G07, Past Fellow)
The Birth of Monkey King, Sun Wu Kong / El Nacimiento Del Rey Mono, Sun Wukong

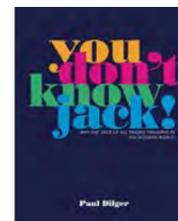
Cambridge Mathstories Inc. 2020

The Birth of Monkey King was adapted from *The Journey to the West*. Colourful pictures, easy to read comic strips, exciting epic adventures with Monkey King, fun maths games for children to play, and comes with answers and abundant parents' teaching notes. All games and teaching notes are designed and written by Mathematician Dr Lorna Ayton and reviewed by early learning psychologist, Dr David Whitebread. There are 8 mathematics games and puzzles in Monkey King's early adventure, and they involve the children in counting numbers of different objects in the mountain, recognizing different shapes, using numbers that are multiples of 2 to reach the top of the mountain, and allocating fruits to monkeys equally and formulating a correct equation. Each CAMathories™ book and app contains a series of teaching notes to help parents to teach their children mathematics based on the content of the games as well as real-life situations. Aimed at 5–6 year olds.



David Cressy (Past Overseas Fellow)
England's Islands in a Sea of Troubles
 Oxford University Press
 2020

In this book David Cressy connects the history of England and its islands to broader debates in legal, political and military history. It includes the neglected island focus to one of the most hotly debated periods in British history, allowing a de-centred view of England's troubles and is based on original research in under-used sources.

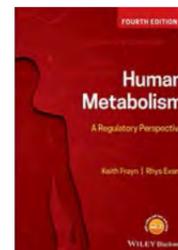


Paul Dilger (U83)
You Don't Know Jack!
 Paperback/Kindle 2020

Ever wondered why the phrase 'Jack of All Trades, Master of None' is always used as a negative and

never a positive? It's as if being pretty good at a good few things is some kind of burden! It applies to a staggering 99% of us, yet almost nothing is written on this overwhelmingly large part of the human race that will probably never be a leader in its field.

You Don't Know Jack! is the first book to explain the vital role the Jack of All Trades, or JOAT for short, fulfils in society. It tells us why it's OK not to get into the 1% and how our thirst for variety and ability to adapt give us the perfect platform for us to live richly, generously and happily. Paul Dilger, a dyed-in-the-wool JOAT, threads his own experiences through this thoughtful and original publication.



Professor Keith Frayn (U65)
Human Metabolism: A Regulatory Perspective, 4th Edition
 Wiley-Blackwell 2019

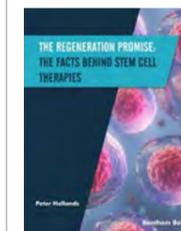
The revised and updated new edition of *Human Metabolism* (formerly *Metabolic Regulation – A Human Perspective*) offers a current, integrated review of metabolism and metabolic regulation. The authors explain difficult concepts in clear and concise terms to provide an accessible and essential guide. This comprehensive text covers a wide range of topics such

as energy balance, body weight regulation, exercise, and how the body copes with extreme situations, illustrating how metabolic regulation allows us to adapt to different conditions. This fourth edition has been revised with a new full colour text design and illustrations to illuminate the regulatory mechanisms by which all cells control the metabolic processes necessary for life.



Dr Beth Hardie (U&G00)
Studying Situational Interaction: Explaining Behaviour By Analysing Person-Environment Convergence
 Springer International Publishing 2020

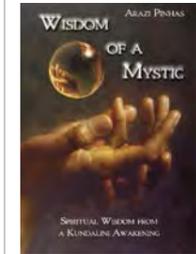
In response to misconceptions and sub-optimal assessment of situational interaction in the criminological literature, this volume is a comprehensive resource for researchers of person-environment interaction in human behavioural outcomes, with a focus on acts of crime. It provides a bridge between strong complex theory about causal situational interaction in crime and the appropriate methods for empirically testing proposed situational mechanisms. It is underwritten by the principle that research should be driven by theory and served by method.



Professor Peter Hollands (G83)
The Regeneration Promise: The Facts behind Stem Cell Therapies
 Bentham Books 2020

The Regeneration Promise is a reader-friendly guide to the world of regenerative medicine and stem cell technology. It is a history of and general introduction to the subject, describing the many known types of stem cells and how these can potentially be used to treat disease. The author explains the pros and cons of using stem cell technology to treat patients in simple, factual terms throughout the book while clarifying many myths. There is valuable advice for people considering stem cell therapy or considering stem cell storage such as umbilical cord blood storage at the birth of a baby. The book covers current research, as well as promising regenerative medicine treatments emerging in the near future. The clear language and explanation of scientific terms makes the book an accessible source

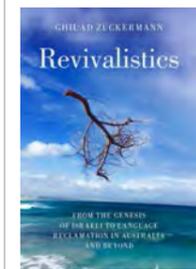
of information for anyone wanting to understand the debate surrounding stem cell technology and its use in disease therapy.



Dr Arazi Pinhas (G14)
Wisdom of a Mystic: Spiritual Wisdom from a Kundalini Awakening
 Mystic Wisdom Press 2020

Informed by the mysteries of the Universe and an intense spiritual experience while

at Cambridge, Arazi Pinhas presents a book on Bhakti Yoga, spirituality, and mysticism, telling the intimate tale of heartbreaks and hardships that ultimately led to his spiritual awakening. Inspired by this experience, his book extends an invitation to look inward, to the depths of consciousness, as a way to connect with the richness of our own being. The wisdom we seek is hidden in plain sight and that spirituality can – and should – be informed by our most mundane experiences. Our darkest hours can spark our most meaningful transformations.



Professor Ghil'ad Zuckermann (Past Fellow 2000)
Revivalistics: From the Genesis of Israeli to Language Reclamation in Australia and Beyond
 Oxford University Press 2020

Ghil'ad Zuckermann's seminal book introduces a linguistic game-changer: revivalistics, a trans-disciplinary field of enquiry surrounding language reclamation, revitalization and reinvigoration. Revivalist-linguist Zuckermann makes a strong case for a clear distinction between revivalistics and documentary linguistics, the latter being the established field recording endangered languages before they fall asleep. Whilst documentary linguistics puts the language at the centre, revivalistics puts the language custodians at the centre. The book reflects Zuckermann's fascinating and multifaceted journey into language revival, from analysing critically his Israeli mother tongue to reclaiming what he calls 'dreaming, sleeping beauties' in Australia and globally.

Readers can buy the book with a 30% discount using code AAFLYG6.

CCBC News

The Club was very sad to hear of the passing of Jim Cameron in summer 2020. Jim was the boatman for Churchill College Boat Club for 30 years, and a legend for generations of alumni rowers. He was a master craftsman and could repair all manner of broken boats and blades. Ross Tooley, the current CCBC Overall Captain has written:

‘Of all the anecdotes I have been told, my favourite is one from around 1990: Churchill were entering the Free Press Head Race and had the idea to row in a 12+! When Jim heard, he threw himself into helping them build it. He took the hulls of two old 8s and spliced them together! As the story goes, the Churchill 12 won the head race against the top college 8s, although I have no idea how they managed to turn the boat around at the start line!’

As senior treasurer I have a collection of memories of Jim Cameron which I can forward to any alumni who are interested. A full obituary was published 2020’s Churchill Review but we may have to wait a few more months before a memorial gathering can go ahead, due to Covid-19 restrictions.

The boat club managed to squeeze in only four weeks of activity in Michaelmas before the start of November’s lockdown. Over 50 novices joined the club and rowing was one

of the few ways for students to meet people from different households.

The women’s side of the club is progressing well, possibly reflecting a large intake of women students (for the first time, 50% of Churchill’s first years are women). W1 won Christmas Head against a field of top crews including Jesus and Queens’.

The CCBC OC also writes, regarding Covid-19 rowing:

‘Unsurprisingly, there were plenty of new restrictions to get used to. For example, all ergs had to be done outdoors, and I can report that a cold, autumnal evening is a great incentive to pull a little harder. The coxes also had to wear a visor during outings, which was great until a rainy morning rendered all coxes half-blind! So, we invested in some water-repellent spray after that. A lot of club members started to learn to scull and row in small boats this term, so we made good use of our new pair and owe thanks to the Leys school for allowing us to use so many of their small boats.’

Additionally, thanks in part to a good start due to a legacy being received from Timothy P F Drake (U71), we have now set up an endowed fund to support rowing, and will try and grow it every year. Our aim is to reach at least £250,000



Jim Cameron pictured with Helen Attwood (née Russell) (U06)



A socially distanced crew photo, Michaelmas 2020

of endowment which would generate £8,000 per year when invested. The fund will be formally launched this year, which is also the 60th Anniversary since the founding of CCBC. We sincerely thank all our donors who enable enjoyment of rowing to continue!

Fran Malarée

CAM – BRIDGE

Cam,
The River which
Never stopped flowing
full of Wisdom’s
Sound and Fury:
A bugle
which never stopped
blowing
beckoning the best
to come and
test their skills
without favor or frills.
A Bridge to
Cross over
to Pure Reason
To become
scholars
for all Seasons.
In the
Natural and
Social Sciences.
In History and
Philosophy
Literature
and
Theology
A chance to
Excel
At every level
from Graduates
to Doctorates
from
Dresses
to
Tresses
from
Mud Pie
to
Black Tie
from
Dry Wine
to
Ice Wine
from
Bag Pipes
to
Silver Stripes.
Is there
a Shire
so Global
as
Cambridgeshire
where
seekers of
Truth
never tire
where
Whizzing Minds
are always
on Fire.
A Beacon
for
the World
which evermore
will be
True
to its
Calling
of
Endless Learning
without
faltering
or
falling.

Shri Prakash (G97, Past Fellow)

Churchill Teaser

Can you guess who these chair inscriptions in the dining hall refer to?

1878-1968
Physicist
α β γ n
Rays

CCBC
1961-2007
**** *****
PUSHER OUT
FOR MANY
BUMPS

Strong
Material
**** *****
1929-2014
Founding
Fellow

Master
1968-1983
Sir *****

Turbo-Jet
Magic

Inscriptions can be as cryptic as you wish and can represent you, a loved one or someone influential.

To find out how to sponsor your own chair visit www.chu.cam.ac.uk/alumni/giving-college/current-appeals/take-seat/

Churchill alumni around the world



	Total	%
UK	6,489	62.6%
Europe	947	9.1%
North America	1,757	17.0%
Asia & Middle East	801	7.7%
Oceania	234	2.3%
Africa	67	0.6%
South & Central America	64	0.6%
	10,359	



The Development Team at home

Top left: Sharon Brownlow looks after our database. She loves clean data and a good natter.

Top right: Elizabeth McWilliams looks after alumni. She doesn't love postponing dinners she wants to attend.

Bottom left: Fran Malarée is Development Director. She's in charge and rocks Orla Kiely.

Bottom centre: Annabel Busher looks after our annual telethon and fundraising campaigns. She really loves planning.

Bottom right: Hilary Stimpson looks after our donors. She really loves tea.

Bottom right (inset): that's Lauren Thomas, our Communications Manager. She runs faster than you.

DIARY OF EVENTS

Please keep an eye on our website for forthcoming events, as due to the ongoing pandemic and restrictions, dates for events such as reunion dinners are still undergoing revision.

Events are listed on our website at www.chu.cam.ac/events



CHURCHILL COLLEGE