



CHURCHILL NEWS

DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNI NEWSLETTER OF CHURCHILL COLLEGE, 2021-22

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Editors

Francisca Malarée, Elizabeth McWilliams and Hilary Stimpson

Published by

Churchill College, Storey's Way, Cambridge CB3 0DS

Tel. 01223 336083

Newsletter.Editor@chu.cam.ac.uk

Design & layout: cantellday.co.uk

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Cover image: Annabel Busher

p. 5 photo and Think Forward event photos on p. 21, Oh Brother Creative

Master's Welcome

I am pleased to say that College life has mostly returned to normal in the 2021/22 academic year – and this past year has been a tribute to the College community at all levels.

When I first arrived in the College, Cowan Court as a project was well in hand, and 2016 saw its formal opening by the Duke of Gloucester. The key achievement of its construction was that the College can now offer every undergraduate who wants it, accommodation on site for the full three or four years of their course. Most UGs are very enthusiastic about this, and only a handful live out, mainly in their final year. It is something that we believe makes the College very attractive to potential applicants.

In the same spirit, the construction of the three new graduate houses that opened in 2019, provides additional rooms for postgraduates and these were largely funded by alumni and donors – these were named Boyd and Wallace houses, at 36 Storey's Way. This now means that our postgraduates can obtain accommodation for up to two years here if they wish (with the Wolfson Flats additionally providing, as it always has, accommodation for families, including emergency housing for Ukrainian families). Those houses have recently won a RIBA East of England award.

Staying with the student population, widening participation, ensuring our student body comes from all sections of society, has always sat at the heart of the College's ethos. A message I hear regularly from alumni is just how much

difference the College made to them individually, given their background from state schools. That work continues, and the composition of our home entrants is typically in the range 75–80% from state schools, amongst the highest across Oxbridge. However, one of the more remarkable turn-arounds in the student body – one which is visible at every large dinner – has been the approach to gender balance. At the Matriculation Dinner in 2015, I was struck by the low number of women in the Hall (it turned out to be 28% that year). Following that observation, sterling work by the Admissions team has meant by 2020 we had reached essentially a 50:50 split in our new matriculating class, which has continued in 2021 and 2022.

This, it should be noted, has been done with no reduction in academic standards. Analysis suggests our UK women students do better than the men. Here is probably a good moment to celebrate the particularly stellar results within College this year: amongst the finalists no fewer than six came top in their Triposes across the entire University, and another four came second. I believe those are truly remarkable results for a cohort of students whose education has been completely upended during the pandemic. In other years, there were similar exceptional results.

Gender diversity in the postgraduate population has improved, but there is still work to be done here, although it is less under the College's control than for undergraduates. Diversity on fronts other than gender is a work in progress. Right from the anti-Apartheid era the College

has supported a Southern African postgraduate student. We welcomed the first holder of this award, Professor Njabulo Ndebele (U73), back to the College to give the Roskill Lecture in the summer. Ayanda Mhlongo (G20), the current South African Studentship recipient joined us in 2020 for a Master's Degree, and thanks to support from alumni and also Fellows and students, she is now continuing her PhD in Gender studies. She was named on the list of the 2022 Mail and Guardian's 200 Young South Africans, a real tribute to her.

Furthermore, Development have been raising funds, jointly with the Chemistry Department, to fund a PhD student from South Africa in Chemistry, in memory of the late Churchill Fellow Stuart Warren. At undergraduate level, a new studentship for a Southern African with a widening participation background in STEM has been endowed by an alumnus; links are being built up with key schools in order to help identify candidates who could benefit from this. The Archives are also building links with Fort Hare University (South Africa) which has an active Archives programme, to bring a student and faculty member over to spend time learning from a team working in a cutting-edge Archives. These are all small steps, which will be supplemented by outreach work, currently focusing on areas of South London (one of our so-called 'link' areas) with a high black population. There is much more to do.

Finally, I should mention the Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion committee, which has completed its second year. We have explored what areas

POINTS OF CONTACT

Accommodation

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

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

Alumni Relations Office

alumni@chu.cam.ac.uk
Alumni Officer: +44 (0)1223 336083

Development Director

Francisca Malarée
dev.director@chu.cam.ac.uk
+44 (0)1223 336197

Churchill Review Editor

review.editor@chu.cam.ac.uk

Development Office

development@chu.cam.ac.uk
Development Officer: +44 (0)1223 331660

High Table Bookings

High Table dining can be booked at www.chu.cam.ac.uk/alumni/benefits/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.

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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

around inclusion might be suitable targets for Development to seek to raise further funds. We are exploring how we can recruit staff from more diverse backgrounds: there are sections of the local community who we are clearly not reaching. The JCR and MCR have highlighted some of their own impressive activities in this area and concern remains amongst all of us that the Fellowship is not representative of the population, although the postdoctoral Fellows are notably from a wider range of backgrounds and ethnicities. There are many issues the College needs to address and the work will continue.

If I turn to our estates, much of the work that is done is pretty visible: removing the raised area and putting in a ramp in the Buttery to improve accessibility, for instance. However, other strands are less so, not least around sustainability. Our operations overall have, for the fourth year running, received a Platinum Award in the University's Green Impact Award, a tribute to the hard work of many members of the Community. Work around biodiversity continues, ranging from bulb planting (with the enthusiastic support of the student community), to reaching our target of 1,000 trees on site, with more to come, to making our site more hedgehog-friendly. We know the animal population is thriving, with foxes and badgers regularly seen, muntjac from time to time, as well as grass snakes and a wide variety of birds. Our Rosa 'Sir Winston Churchill' jointly won the public vote in Plant Heritage's Threatened Plant of the Year competition. You can read about how Head Gardener John Moore managed to bring this very rare rose back to the UK in the book *Portrait of a Landscape*, written by Paula Laycock and John Moore.

You can read more in this Newsletter about the work the Maintenance team is doing around reducing our total energy use – mainly through greatly improved insulation – and cutting back on gas specifically, with 70 and 72 Storey's Way both being taken completely off gas via the installation of air source heat pumps and solar panels. The use of ground source heat pumps is also being explored and all refurbishments are focused on moving to higher environmental standards. Solar panels were installed on West Court last summer and similar work on North Court has been completed over the summer.



What strikes me as fantastic about this, is that several of the team have been trained to do the installation; the cost is therefore simply the cost of the panels themselves, meaning the payback time is much shorter. It provides a real source of pride to the team that they can do this.

The final issue around sustainability within the College, regards the fact that we are a college with a strong STEM focus and we should make sure these strengths are utilised in our work. On this front, Dr Anna-Maria Kypraiou, from the Fellowship, has designed sensors (currently being revised) for use around the College, in public spaces and in student rooms so that we can monitor the environment and work out what changes might lead to improvements. This is an exciting project still in its early stages, marrying research and sustainability, and involving the student body. Before the pandemic we were exploring possible options connecting to cutting-edge work in the University and elsewhere around novel approaches to electricity storage. However, given the financial challenges presented by the pandemic, this work has been put on hold since there would have been significant financial implications. I hope we will be able to pick it up again in due course.

We are of course in the middle of the Think Forward Campaign, celebrating 60 years of the College and aimed at increasing our endowment

by £6M pa over each of the next five years.

I am delighted to write that thanks to amazing support in the last year, this year we have raised over £6million. I hope we can continue in this pattern to grow our endowment and sustain the College's teaching and research for the future.

Building up our endowment is something we think is crucial if we are to weather the next, inevitable (at some point) financial storm, as we have been weathering the financial stresses the pandemic has provoked. Academic year 2022–3 also sees the 50th anniversary of the first women being admitted to the College. At the recent reunion for 1972 matriculants, I spoke to some of the first cohort of women, who were almost incredulous, in a very positive way, that we had reached gender parity. Even those women who came in the 1990s (another recent Reunion dinner I attended) recalled their years had only around 25–30% women and were equally delighted by the news. We will be holding various events to mark this Golden Anniversary, the first of which was a panel discussion held at Association Weekend comparing what it was like for the first women with now.

Now that we can be back meeting In Real Life, I look forward to welcoming many alumni back to College in the next year.

Professor Dame Athene Donald DBE, FRS
Master

Think Forward Campaign

In 2020, though the College faced enormous challenges, we persevered in launching the Think Forward Campaign. We are pleased to report that to date the campaign is on target with £12million raised in the last two years for the College, mainly for the endowment. Below you can read about the campaign launch event, held in November 2021 at the Churchill War Rooms.

Aims

The aim of the Think Forward campaign is to place Churchill College on a sounder financial footing by increasing our endowment income. As many will know, the endowment is the College's invested funds. Most of these are invested in the stock market, so only the income from the invested funds is spent every year. The College's endowment currently stands at £110million (after long-term borrowing) and has grown substantially in the last two years thanks to donations and good returns. The long-term aim is to raise £6million a year and grow it closer to £200million during the campaign, thereby doubling the return from investments that the College can spend on education.

Think Forward for research

We received a generous donation from a US-based alumnus to fund a research student in organ transplantation. The Chinese Studentship fund will fund a researcher to develop new methods to try to achieve a greater degree of success in this field, including using new stem cell techniques.

We also received a generous degree of support for postgraduates through our annual telethon and in our first Giving Day. This year over £1.2million was donated to support postgraduate students.

Think Forward for creativity

Thanks to a wonderful pledge from the Bill Brown Charitable Trust, we are well under way to funding the Creative Workshops (formerly Creative hub) at Churchill College. The trust made a challenge pledge of £750,000 in



summer 2021, as long as this could be matched by Churchill alumni. Thanks to a matching fund of £375,000 and support of many alumni, we raised the other £750,000 by the end of April 2022 and now building work is ongoing at the front of College.

The workshops feature both analogue and digital design spaces, an exhibition area, and will have support staff on hand. Although the building work is funded and activities are funded for the next five years, we still seek a further £2million of endowment funding to fund roles and activity in perpetuity.

The architect Assemble have now produced more detailed designs for the workshops, some images are on p. 6.

Think Forward for Access

We are pleased that we now have over twenty endowed bursaries, helping over thirty students per year, and we have many more that are funded thanks to the Winston Churchill Top-Up Bursaries and our endowed Student Support fund. Churchill students whose parental income is under £62,000 per year are eligible to apply for means-tested bursary support under the Cambridge Bursary Scheme. The majority of the funding goes to students whose parents are in the income bracket under £40,000 per year. Those whose parental income is under £25,000 receive a full Cambridge Bursary of £3,500 to offset some of the £9,250 all UK undergraduates must pay for tuition each year. Although students can apply for loans, the debts accrued over three or four years will deter some lower-income students from applying, therefore

the bursaries lessen the debt burden. In addition, Churchill offers an extra £2,000 per year for those on the lowest incomes, so they can receive nearly £6,000 per year to help fund their undergraduate studies.

Our Think Forward Campaign aims to raise at least £2million per year for undergraduate student support, as to endow all the student funding needs in the College would require an endowment of at least £25million.

Think Forward for the future

During the campaign we aim to grow our endowment for unrestricted purposes, which will enable the College to fund teaching and research and support its students for the future, and in a flexible way. The College was better able to weather the challenges of the recent pandemic thanks to sound financial management and having a reasonable endowment fund to fall back on. Investing more in the longer term will enable us to meet future challenges, and, for example, invest in schemes such as making the site more sustainable.

Think Forward Launch, Churchill War Rooms, November 2021

We were delighted to welcome over 130 alumni and supporters of the College at an event to mark the in-person launch of the College's Development Campaign, Think Forward on Tuesday, 9 November. Hosted by the Master and the Churchill College Development Board, the event took place at the Churchill War Rooms in central London. The Churchill War Rooms is part

of the Imperial War Museum and was the site of WW2 government operations, it was essentially a bunker and had a bedroom for Winston Churchill to sleep in during air raids.

The event at the War Rooms was generously supported by Michael Cowan (U70), who is Winston Churchill Fellow and Chair of the Development Board.

Speaking at the event, Michael Cowan said:

Our Founder never saw the College built and opened but he did plant two trees on the site in October 1959. He noted that, 'with neither a massive population, nor the raw materials nor adequate agricultural land, then we must depend for survival on our brains and skilled minds.'

His stated aim was 'to grow to shelter and nurture generations' and to 'add to the strength and happiness of our people'. Finally, and after the destruction of two World Wars he asked for the 'peaceful progress of the World.'

Also speaking at the event, the JCR President, Amy Rees (U20) said the following about the College's response to the pandemic:

The College repeatedly looked for solutions to events which could not run in their usual format, including hosting matriculation dinner in households across the hall and buttery and putting up marquees outside so we could still see each other. The College worked tirelessly to ensure that the student experience, in a

year which could have been devastating, was continued to the absolute best of their ability and on behalf of the entire student body, I cannot thank them – and all of you – enough for that.

There were many different years represented at the launch. These matriculation years ranged from a 2018 matriculant to those from 1961, when the College first opened its doors to undergraduate students. We also were well-represented by members of the Fellowship including Sir Mike Gregory, Allen Packwood, and Sir John Gurdon.

The event was a celebration of the last sixty years of the College and its achievements, whilst also looking to the future and what philanthropy can contribute to the College's future success. We're pleased with the response so far and hope you will continue supporting Churchill in the years to come.



College Finances 2019-21

The College performed well academically and financially even during the pandemic crisis. Academic performance remained strong, with particularly good results this year. Six Churchill students came top of their Tripos with four more coming second, which is an incredible achievement for one College.

The accounts below show a surplus, only after donations and endowment income has been factored in. The financial year was challenging as there was a drop in conference and accommodation income due to remote learning and little conference income. One brighter indicator was that endowment return income

was strong, as the stock market performed well, showing how important it is for the College to invest and have a variety of income streams. Donations fell in the year 2020-21 but then have recovered since the Think Forward campaign launch, with over £5million being contributed in the campaign's first year. This is not reflected in the figures below as these are the last set of audited accounts, to June 2021. There is more on the campaign elsewhere in this Newsletter.

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 at least £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 years ending 2020 and 2021. 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 2020 and 2021

	2021 Total £'000	2020 Total £'000
INCOME		
Academic fees and charges	£4,227	£4,058
Accommodation, catering and conferences	£4,301	£6,544
Investment income	£4,200	£1,848
TOTAL income before donations and endowments	£12,728	£12,450
Donations	£1,226	£2,707
New endowments	£560	£593
Other capital donations		£673
TOTAL income (including donations)	£14,514	£16,423
EXPENDITURE		
Education	£5,533	£5,779
Accommodation, catering and conferences	£6,837	£7,727
Investment management	£9	£71
Other expenditure	£1,495	£1,648
Contribution under statute G, II*	£27	£39
TOTAL expenditure	£13,901	£15,264
Surplus/deficit before donations	-£1,173	-£2,814
<i>Surplus/deficit after donations</i>	<i>£613</i>	<i>£1,159</i>

Educational income and expenditure

	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Teaching	£2,218	£2,151
Tutorial	£766	£787
Admissions	£1,084	£1,209
Research	£453	£559
Scholarships and Awards	£563	£606
Other educational facilities	£449	£467
Total expenditure	£5,533	£5,779
Income from academic fees (as above)	£4,227	£4,058
Deficit in education account	-1,306	-£1,721

* redistribution fund to poorer Colleges within Cambridge University

Rachel Thorley

Rachel Thorley joined us as the new CORE Fellow in 2022. This Fellowship has kindly been supported by Greg Lock (U66) to promote and enhance links in engineering between students, Fellowship, alumni, industry and the local community. The 'CORE' stands for Community, Outreach and Recruitment in Engineering.

Summarise what you did before coming to Churchill

Hello everyone! I'm so excited to be a part of Churchill and to return to Cambridge after a ten-year break. I first moved to the city as an undergraduate studying Natural Sciences at Newnham College (2008), then travelled to Sheffield for my PhD studies in energy sustainability. There I researched carbon capture in forest soils. I'd call myself a biogeochemist – which is perfect if you love lots of different aspects of science and find it difficult to choose!

Following this I worked as both a secondary school physics teacher, and, more recently, as a teaching-only lecturer at the University of Sheffield. There, I helped engineering students develop awareness of sustainability, cultural agility, and professional skills.

What's the best thing about the College? And the worst?

I'll start with the easy one. The best thing about College? Lunch! I'm really enjoying eating in Hall. It's the perfect way to meet new people, have conversations and make connections that you might not anywhere else. Churchill has been so welcoming and I'm already feeling that it's a really special place.

The worst thing? I'm a pretty hands-on person and love making and designing things. So, I'm missing spending time in my miniature ceramics studio up in Sheffield (aka the potting shed!). Looking forwards to finding some new creative activities in Cambridge – suggestions welcome!

The CORE Fellowship is a new role – what is it about?

I've started at Churchill as the CORE Fellow. This is a new role, generously funded by donors Greg and Rosie Lock, and stands for Community, Outreach and Recruitment in Engineering.



For this I'll be building on and developing Churchill's Engineering community: creating strong and effective links between the College and schools, further education colleges, the alumni network and industrial partnerships.

What are your top three goals for the first couple of years?

Tough one! There are so many exciting ways this role could evolve, so I've picked my top three, one for each: C, O and R.

The last few years through the pandemic have been pretty tough, especially on our recent undergraduates who may have had very few classes and meet-ups in person! This gives a big opportunity to revitalise the College's engineering community. My first goal is to bring together Churchill's undergraduates, postgraduates, Fellows and alumni. Keep your eyes open for ways you can get involved, connect and support as alumni!

My second goal is in outreach: to raise awareness of the profession with young

people. Particularly with those from diverse backgrounds and under-represented groups in engineering such as women.

The third goal is for recruitment: to make sure Churchill encourages and supports the most talented applicants for engineering from undergraduate students through to researchers and Fellows.

How can alumni get involved/help?

We'd love for you to be a part of the community here at Churchill! In 2023, the Bill Brown Creative Workshops are going to open.

This is an exciting new interdisciplinary venture which will have space for design, manufacture and exhibitions. We're looking for projects that could be run when this launches. So if you or your company has ideas and/or would like to support some talented students to help make them a reality, please get in touch at rachel.thorley@chu.cam.ac.uk.

Our new sustainability By-Fellow

You will have read elsewhere about the College's plans to make its estate more environmentally sustainable (see p. 10). One of our initiatives has also been to appoint a Fellow focusing on sustainability issues. We are pleased that Ramit Debnath, who did his PhD at Churchill is the first sustainability By-Fellow. He has also recently been awarded the inaugural Cambridge Zero Fellowship and is a visiting Faculty member at Caltech.

Ramit's PhD focused on energy justice issues, particularly examining how people living in slums in Nigeria, Brazil, and India access energy. He did extensive interviews with local people to assess how they use energy services and how they manage to live in slums – in these countries the population often gets relocated into social housing eventually but aren't empowered to influence how it is set up. Ramit developed a novel method of using natural language processing and grounded interviews to support policymaking.

His work is interdisciplinary, merging his first degree in Engineering with examination of social issues through the lens of computational social science. Ramit's use of computational social science enables him to test just transition theories using big data. He was a Gates Scholar and originally an electrical engineer, studying energy demand modelling approaches: this interest led him to look at the social issues linked to energy demand in poverty and to a course in Engineering for Sustainable Development at Cambridge. He then was awarded a Gates Scholarship for his PhD. Most recently, Ramit has been awarded the first Cambridge Zero Fellowship recognising the importance of this research.

With the help of this Cambridge Zero Fellowship, Ramit aims to uncover the institutional structure of climate change misinformation and the role of digital economy in such agenda-setting. The broader goal is to improve the public understanding of climate change by building a defence against rampant misinformation campaigns at an organisational scale. To do this, Ramit will leverage his existing collaborations to develop novel computational social science methodologies using machine learning and AI. As a Cambridge Zero Fellow, Ramit envisages



developing and delivering a one-of-a-kind teaching course on Climate Action for the newly launched Design Tripos course which aims to bridge the gap between arts, humanities, and engineering. This new course will introduce Cambridge undergraduate students to the current challenges of climate change and the role of human-centric design in solving it.

Ramit has previously worked with Cambridge Zero on a flagship project for the UN Climate Change Conference COP26 called the Futures We Want. This work motivated him immensely to engage with citizens and utilise citizen science to collectively develop emissions reduction pathways for enabling a just net-zero transition. He firmly believes that social media big data can provide valuable insight into how people perceive climate action towards reducing carbon emissions, and we can use these new digital data streams to place people at the heart of the net-zero transition.

Ramit says: 'In my ongoing research, I am evaluating whether public engagement on Twitter about climate action, over time (2009–2022), impacted social and environmental justice. This is a critical policy question as it can demonstrate the effectiveness of such platforms

in leveraging the collective wisdom of people towards a common goal of achieving a just net-zero transition.'

His research has already shown the importance of understanding the issues around the spread of misinformation, the bias of social media debate due to user demographics and the need for greater transparency. Working with Twitter's sustainability team, Ramit is creating public-facing content to debunk climate misinformation. At the same time leveraging Churchill Fellowship's network to collaborate with leading experts like Professor Sander van der Linden to design countermeasures for misinformation.

As a sustainability fellow, Ramit has teamed up with Barry Phipps, Director of Bill Brown Creative Workshops to deliver an innovative climate action program called 'Climate Studio'. The goal of this studio is to provide a unique transdisciplinary space for both science and arts students to explore ideas of effective climate communication. The first project is a thermal imaging-based exploring of Churchill College to visualize and illustrate the invisible heat loss. The ultimate goal of this studio is to sensitise the next-generation of Churchill college students for the climate emergency.

Sustainability on Campus

Among rising concerns for the environment, over the past several years the College has been making enormous efforts to make the College more sustainable. We have progressed by leaps and bounds and are currently focusing on making our buildings more green and less fossil fuel reliant and improving biodiversity in our grounds and gardens.

The College is undertaking an extensive programme of retrofitting and insulating works as part of its carbon reduction target and long-term plans to remove natural gas from the site. Refurbishments are taking place at 72 Storey's Way, in part with the aim of taking the building completely off natural gas. A 10kw solar panel system is being installed, as well as a 21kw air source heat pump. A similar project is underway at 36A/B Storey's Way, where our goals include improving circulation space and making thermal improvements.

North Court is now in the final phase of roofing works. We have increased the insulation, which will save us an average of 11kw of heat loss per day, which will have a big impact in energy savings, especially in the winter. Installation of a 101.7KW solar array is almost complete, which will be the largest solar installation completed in house to date. We have several other solar panel arrays across the site, with the largest currently at 30KW. Uniquely among the Cambridge Colleges, all of our solar arrays have been designed and installed in-house. These provide solar hot water as well as electricity and allow us to have minimal gas usage in the summer months.

Improvements are also taking place in the main College kitchen, where we are planning the replacement of one bay of equipment, as well as a general upgrade of electrical services and the removal of gas appliances. We are also planning an upgrade of the ventilation system to a state-of-the-art system with self-modulating fans. This new system will allow us to save energy by automatically adjusting to different levels of use. A similar system is being installed in the boiler house, which will allow us to save

an incredible £16,000 per year in electricity. And finally, we have been working with Churchill Fellow Dr Anna-Maria Kypraiou and Dr Tashiv Sander to install sensors in our buildings. These sensors can monitor temperature, solar gain, electric usage, CO2 levels and air flow, giving us a better understanding our buildings. This will then enable better design in the future and help us towards our sustainability goals.

All of these projects have helped us to make our buildings greener, and we have made enormous strides towards meeting our sustainability goals. Another element to our ongoing efforts to make our campus more sustainable is our work in our grounds and gardens to improve biodiversity. As part of this, over the past year we have been installing green roofs on various buildings around campus. These do a variety of useful things, including improving water run-off from roofs, enhancing biodiversity, and creating pollinators for bees.

This last element is particularly important since we have created a now established apiary area with four beehives in a sheltered, quiet area of the College grounds. The hives are set behind a living willow hedge created by the team in a corner of one of the hostel gardens encircled by established fruit trees. So far, the hives look to be doing well and have already produced their first batch of delicious Churchill College Grounds and Gardens honey.

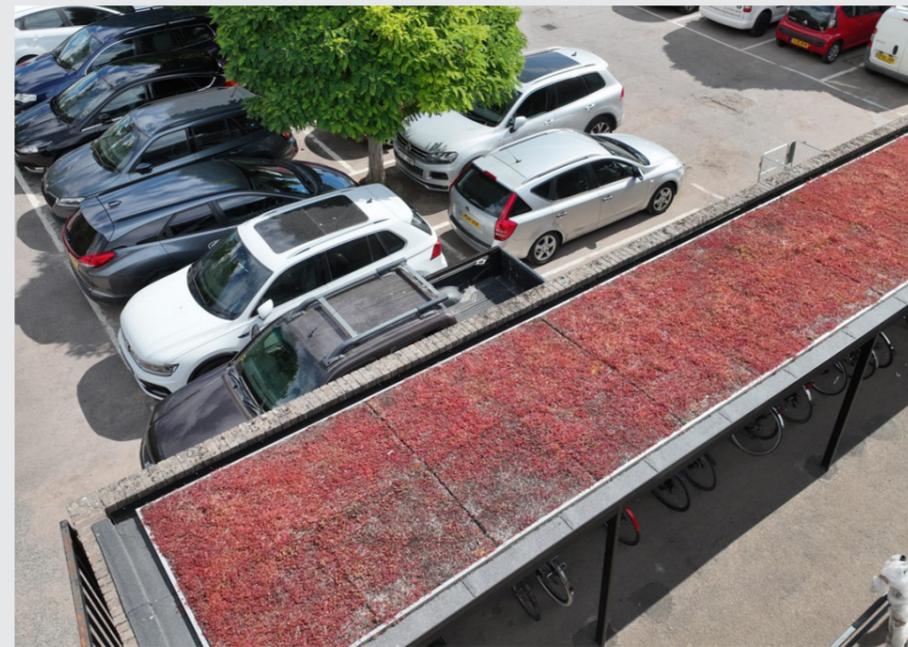
Another project currently underway in Grounds and Gardens aims to encourage hedgehogs to be able to thrive in the College grounds. The project involves both students and staff and the newly formed project team is working towards gaining bronze status in December from the



hedgehog charity. They recently organised a litter pick-up on campus and going forwards they will be carrying out hedgehog surveys, building hedgehog houses, and providing free resources on hedgehog care and conservation.

We have also been working on increasing the variety of wildflowers on campus. With the help of our students, in the spring we planted just over 7000 small wildflower plants around the perimeter path, including ox-eye daisies, ragged robin, red and white campions, and yellow rattle. In other areas we have sown wildflower seed directly into the ground. We

The College is undertaking an extensive programme of retrofitting and insulating works as part of its carbon reduction target and long-term plans to remove natural gas from the site.



have also been letting our grass grow a little longer in places to see what plants appear and recently we've been excited to see bee orchids and pyramidal orchids in the long grass under the plane trees along Madingley Road. These flowers are beautiful and have never been seen before on campus.

We also planted 24,000 spring flowering native bulbs in Autumn 2021, again with the help of some of our students. It's been a joy to see the Tenby Daffodils, Snakeshead Fritillaries, Bluebells and Snowdrops flowering this

year. As a result of these projects, in recent months we have been visited by an amazingly knowledgeable person who is cataloguing all our different grasses and wildflowers over the course of the year. Nothing rare has popped up so far, but we have been told we have a vast diversity of plants growing on site.

Our trees are also increasing in number year on year, with a target of one thousand trees by the end of 2023. We recently planted over fifty crab apple trees using ten different varieties and at the top of the field near the Chapel, three different

cedars have been added to the existing ones to make a collection of six. In the near future we are hoping to extend the crab apple walk along the perimeter path and to create a small grove of giant redwoods at the back of the sports fields. We are also excited to be adding more wildflowers and spring bulbs to our long grass areas in the coming years, all as part of our commitment to improving biodiversity on campus.

Churchill Music

Marrying modernity with legacy

Dr Ewan Campbell, Director of Music

Cambridge University is known as a leading institution of music performance, and there have been choirs singing Anglican choral music in College chapels since at least 1441. This venerable weight of over 500 years of musical history and its close association with Christianity can make it difficult for the newer Colleges to find their own musical identity.

Should we follow this 'Cambridge' blueprint, or is it fundamentally at odds with the modern world and contemporary academia? One need only look to the founding of the Chapel at Churchill and objections of Francis Crick to know that this is a hotly debated topic. Churchill College, along with many of the musical institutions in Cambridge, are looking to find ways to marry our College's cultural history with the diverse musical interests of the modern College and its student, Fellow, and alumni members.



Churchill College, of course, has its own 62-year musical legacy. Indeed, alumnus Michael Hudson (U64), who was involved in founding the Churchill College Music Society, recently contacted the College informing us about the hugely ambitious concerts that were put on in the early years of the College's history, such as the programme featuring two Bach cantatas performed to inaugurate the Wolfson Hall in 1965.

One consistent feature of Churchill's cultural identity is the embrace of modernity. This is famously exemplified by the College's brutalist architecture, and in musical terms was personified by Hugh Wood (1932–2021) the Churchill Director of Studies in Music for 22 years until his retirement in 1999. Hugh had an illustrious composing career with works published across almost six decades, featuring several Proms performances and other high-profile commissions. Throughout his career, from his earliest published work for viola and piano in 1959, Hugh's music displays a consistent harmonic and melodic expressivity influenced by the atonal and early twelve-

tone style of the Second Viennese School. His writing, though careful to avoid implications of tonal solidity, always has a fluent sense of expressive voice-leading, which was recently described by pianist Joanna MacGregor as 'atonal jazz'. Joanna, a former student of Hugh's, commissioned and premiered a number of his works, as did another of his former students, cellist Adrian Bradbury (U85, past By-Fellow).

The College was deeply saddened to hear the news of Hugh's passing in August 2021. However, we were pleased to join forces with the Faculty of Music to give him a fitting tribute with a memorial concert in the Chapel in December. The event featured chamber music from across his long oeuvre, performed by many of his most illustrious former pupils including Lynsey Marsh (U88), Rachel Stott (U87 and past By-Fellow), Ileana Ruhemann (Girton, 1979), along with Joanna and Adrian.

As a composer myself, I am naturally comfortable maintaining the focus of College music on contemporary culture. My musical output, which is certainly more stylistically eclectic than Hugh's, aligns with the diverse cultural interests of a modern College. My classical composing includes a commission from the London Symphony Orchestra (*Frail Skies*, 2017), but a 10-year composing and conducting relationship with the Wilderness Festival has given me opportunities to work regularly with contemporary popular and jazz artists. Furthermore, my unusual habit of writing music on maps has led to collaborations with cartographers at Ordnance Survey and the British Antarctic Survey. Many of these works bring a contemporary spin on the legacy of classical music, such as my *Glynde* (2018) which sets Henry Purcell's famous *Dido's Lament* onto the topographical map of a chalk hill near the Glyndebourne opera house.



Within College this eclectic musical interest is apparent by the mixed programming of our recital series. Amongst the high-quality presentations of classical music by our students and visiting artists, recent recitals have featured Ottoman *Makams*; new student compositions; musical theatre performances; open mic nights; jazz jams; computer game music performed by recorders; and a termly performance of funk and swing classics by the Churchill Big Band. Programming with this sort of diversity brings a wider spread of performers and their affiliated audiences.

The activities of the Inter Alios choir are also emblematic of the balancing act between tradition and innovation. With the membership drawn from Murray Edwards and Churchill Colleges, the weekly performances alternate between the two colleges. In Churchill we participate with the Anglican choral tradition delivering a choral evensong in the suitably resonant acoustic of the Chapel at Churchill. We are grateful to the Chapel Trust for their support,

especially as this has allowed us to offer Choral Awards to our students and to embark on a programme of purchasing new music to allow us to present works by female and/or black composers whose music has enjoyed less exposure than it deserves. Discovering this new repertoire, even within such a venerable choral tradition, has been exciting and fulfilling for both the choir and me.

In our fortnightly Murray Edwards performances, the journey of discovery is even more pronounced. Here Inter Alios present an entirely unique series of Music & Words, mirroring the structure of a church service to combine choral music, poetry readings, and a short 'thought-for-the-day' style address given by one of our many academics. Recent events have been themed around the climate crisis; the untranslated history of Ukrainian poetry; and the experience of displacement and homecoming discussed by our recent Artist By-Fellow in poetry Professor Bhanu Kapil. The choral music presented at these events need not be drawn from a religious tradition but enjoys an

inter-style, interfaith, and international remit. This international perspective on music is part of the College's legacy too. Churchill College has played host to the Centre for Intercultural Musicology since it was established in 2005 by Professor Akin Euba, following his 1999 status as an Overseas Fellow, and the Centre remains very active to this day through their director Professor Valerie Ross.

Music at Churchill will continue to find ways of marrying the cultural legacy of Cambridge University with the cultural modernity of the College and its innovative academic community. Indeed, it is becoming increasingly clear that we are building a legacy of musical and cultural innovation.

A new fund to support College musicians

Churchill College is pleased to announce a new fund, the Remenikova and Braginsky Fund in support of College musicians and music-making. This has been generously supported by our former artist By-Fellow, Dr Noah Rogoff, who is a cellist and music professor, and his wife Dr Wonkyung Byon.

The purpose of the fund is to support a bursary for an undergraduate at Churchill College studying music, as part of the Cambridge Bursary Scheme. If there is no eligible candidate within an academic year, the funds can be used to help fund instrumental music awards, hardship awards for music students at any level at the College or for other means of supporting the study and performance of music at Churchill College.

Professors Remenikova and Braginsky were important mentors to Dr Rogoff during his graduate studies at the University of Minnesota. During his sabbatical from the University of Nebraska at Kearney in 2017–18, he was a Visiting Scholar with the University of Cambridge Faculty of Music. Dr Rogoff was inspired to endow the fund by the dynamic atmosphere and the desire for music-making to be a perennial medium at Churchill for future connections, both artistic and personal.

The Bursary will be offered on a means-tested basis, as for other Cambridge Bursaries, and has been named in honour of Alexander Braginsky and Tatiana (Tanya) Remenikova.

Alex Braginsky and Tanya Remenikova were the first music By-Fellows (Artist By-Fellows) at Churchill, and they were first introduced to the College in 1974 by Professor Edward Craig.



Alex is a pianist and Tanya is a cellist, and they are both music professors at the University of Minnesota School of Music, as well as being acclaimed performers.

They left the Soviet Union in 1972 as refugees. An invitation to join the College as By-Fellows came in 1981, they played a concert at Churchill but initially there was no piano. A Yamaha was donated and so Alexander started playing that.

Alex said, 'our experience was wonderful, unforgettable, we loved Cambridge, we loved Churchill'.

They also recalled that the atmosphere in Cambridge was completely different to a US University, it was like a parallel universe. They noticed that there were people in the College that didn't speak to each other were entirely

comfortable speaking with them because they were like visitors from outer space.

The experience was special and there were some eccentricities, but Churchill was always very welcoming as a community of scholars.

Initially in the 70s they had been introduced to Cambridge by Duncan Wilson, who at that time was Master of Corpus Christi College and a former diplomat. They retain incredibly fond memories of their time in Cambridge.

The College is pleased to be able to offer more support to music students and to the musical life at Churchill for the enjoyment of the whole College community.

CAMathories

Two Mathematics students at Churchill have each been awarded \$250 book prizes by CAMathories Company. The Company has also donated a further \$700 to Churchill to support students who study Mathematics and/or Mathematics education. This is the second donation the company has made to Churchill within four years, and it is something they plan to do on a regular basis. CEO and co-founder, alumna Kit Cheung (G00), tells us about CAMathories.

The CAMathories Book Prizes reward students who chose Mathematics or Education as their course of study and have performed well in the discipline, helping awardees purchase books that they need. CAMathories encourages mathematics education from as early as three years old (in age-appropriate language) encouraging students to grow to love mathematics and feel proud of being good at it.

CAMathories Company was founded in 2018 by a group of like-minded Cambridge University alumni and faculty members who have expertise in early childhood education, mathematics, science, and advanced technologies. More than half of our co-founders Churchill alumni. Our main objective is to produce educational products and services which make mathematics meaningful to young children and help them to love and understand it in all its forms.

Our wide range of products – including interactive animated stories and games, animated mathsongs, Ebooks, and paperback mathstory books, as well as stationery embedded with mathematics games – are inspired by three decades' of early childhood learning research works. These are designed, written, and peer-reviewed by our Education Team at Cambridge, including, education researchers, mathematicians, and scientists. Each CAMathories mathstory book and game also contains a series of teaching notes to help parents to teach their children mathematics. Most of the products are available across the globe and are free for download.

All our 'mathstories' are based on cultural stories from different parts of the world. Through the teaching of mathematics, we help children to build the foundation for reasoning and analytical skills. Through our global

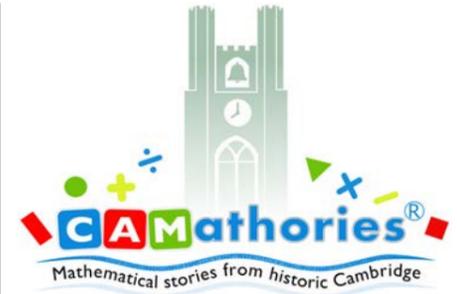
folk stories, we aim to nurture and promote understanding of different cultures, empathy, and mutual respect to our next generation. Our mission is to enhance diversity, inclusion, and belonging to one world through our teaching of mathematics. Ultimately, we hope to see and help build a better and peaceful world.

The CAMathories International MathArt Contest encourages children to express their feelings on issues that concern them through art. This year, the theme of our MathArt Contest was 'Climate Change. Draw Your Stories with Shapes'. Primary school children were asked to draw with 3 geometric shapes in the context of climate change, while secondary school students were asked to draw 5 geometric shapes. We received over a hundred of artworks from different parts of the world, including, the USA, India and China.

One mother (from India) wrote to us with her daughter's artwork,

We were super delighted to participate in such a unique drawing competition. And to explain my child the changes cause and effects of climate and its changes made him aware of so many new concepts. Heartful thank you for this beautiful opportunity.

A father from California submitted his secondary school student's that depicted a dark sky with a broken Golden Gate Bridge, which forcefully reminded us of the Dixie wildfire in California in 2021 that destroyed many houses and posed a substantial environmental threat to the entire San Francisco area. An Indian primary school student even attached a photo of Kerala Floods (2018) to her 'impressionist' drawing that replicated the photo. The winning artworks will be published in our MathArt free Ebook. We are very glad that our MathArt Contest can inspire



schools, teachers, parents, and students, to think about global issues, and to express them in an artistic, fun, and mathematical way.

We also welcome the opportunities to work with any social enterprises and NGOs that share similar missions, goals, and values as ours. We hope that we will be able to share our knowledge with diverse racial, social, and economic groups so that we can learn and grow together.

We are currently growing and recruiting. Many of our current Product Development Team members are also Cantabrigians: either research fellows, undergraduate or postgraduate students, or alumni. We are now actively recruiting freelance IT personnel and math stories writers who can help to enrich our cultural stories' contents. For Math-stories writers, we welcome any disciplines and nationalities. For IT personnel, we are looking for a website administrator and a Unity programmer. All works are remote with flexible working hours.

If anyone is interested in joining our dynamic product development team, please do not hesitate to contact Kit Cheung at kit@camathories.com. If you or your organisations share our values and wish to support us financially or are interested in partnering with us or knowing more about CAMathories, please feel free to email Kit.

Widening Participation at Churchill

Churchill is dedicated to continuing and improving our work on widening access and participation at the College, ensuring talented students from non-traditional backgrounds are provided with information and resources that make attending Cambridge a possibility.

Our Admissions Tutor, Jonathan Padley, leads this outreach work at the College, and in the last year Jonathan has been joined by Sandy Mill, Churchill's Widening Participation Officer. Sandy, a Cambridge alumnus who himself was state-school educated and the first in his family to go to university, joined Churchill in June 2021, after building five years of experience as a teacher followed by six years of experience working in Cambridge outreach.

Sandy has continued the access work the College was already conducting, working with 496 secondary schools – the largest number of schools of any Cambridge college – in the university-assigned geographic areas of South and Mid-Wales, Sussex, Surrey, Croydon, Merton, and Sutton.

However, Sandy and Jonathan have seen an opportunity to expand upon the College's previous work. This year, in addition to the College's existing outreach work, Sandy has partnered with Cambridge's STEMSMART project to provide mentoring to potential applicants in STEM subjects, worked in collaboration with Croydon Council to relaunch Churchill's flagship outreach project in Croydon, pioneered a brand new, multi-year outreach project with Melbourne Village College, and hosted a visit from the Welsh Minister for Education to discuss and develop our outreach work in Wales – and this is all just the beginning. In just the first four months of 2022, Sandy and Jonathan working together have interacted with over 5,000 students across the country, when previously the total for an entire year was closer to 2,500.

Sandy has also taken his outreach work a step further: while in his position at Churchill,



Sandy Mill [back row, left] and Jonathan Padley [back row, centre] welcome the Welsh Minister for Education, Jeremy Miles [front], as part of a Cambridge University event.

he is now studying for a part-time doctorate in Education at Cambridge, and his doctoral research is helping the College enhance our future outreach. Sandy is aiming to transform widening participation outcomes by working with teachers, rather than directly with students. He is working collaboratively with teachers to design and develop professional teacher training programs in access and outreach, and is delivering these sessions across Wales in the first instance.

The aim is to embed experience and knowledge of widening participation in local teachers, who have more contact with students and a much greater influence in their own communities. This innovative program has the potential to

impact far more students than any one College or university is able to reach alone in any given year – and it maintains this impact for the long term, as teachers interact with year after year of promising students full of potential who might not otherwise consider a future at Cambridge.

We look forward to seeing the fruits of the team's work resulting in a diverse and exceptional student community here at Churchill.



The Bed Race

The Market Square, a cold Saturday evening in Spring 1971. The more literal-minded of you will have spotted from the photograph that the Churchill 'bed' hardly warrants that description as it races away at an unsustainable pace powered by three first year students (I confess to being the one in the ridiculous balaclava). The eager driver is Ann Dowling of Girton – less concerned then by issues of health and safety than she would be now as Emeritus Professor of Engineering, Dame Ann Dowling! The destination is Hampstead Heath, around 55 miles away via the A10.

Whose idea was it to enter a Churchill bed in this event, part of Rag Week? Almost certainly an engineer, who persuaded the less practical

mathematicians over a pint or two in the Buttery that the enterprise would be (a) fun and (b) not too demanding. (Only one of these statements proved true). The 'bed' was built by the engineers, while the mathematicians calculated too late that, with three teams, they would each cover around 18 miles...

The three teams, of three pushers and one driver (Ann, Janet Hague and Honora Chapman, all from Girton) took turns on the route. At the end of each section the replacement team was waiting at the side of the road, having been dropped from a rented van. The exhausted team climbed in the van, behind those who were to be dropped at the next stop, and so on. I recall drinks and chocolate bars also being in the

van, though this might be retrospective wishful thinking. There was certainly a compulsory pit-stop at a services near Ware.

We arrived at Hampstead Heath in the early hours. It would be poetic to say that we exulted in the sunrise and the magnificent views over London; poetic but untrue. I expect that there were timings and awards from marshals, but by then all I cared about was sleeping in the van on the drive back to College.

Ian Wilson (U70)



Events 2020–22

Our last Newsletter gave a round-up of alumni and supporter events that began pre-pandemic and took us through the first Covid lockdown, where all our events had to move online. In this edition, we pick up by looking at the events we were able to offer from October 2020, up to the end of July 2022 as we were finally able to welcome guests back to College for in-person events.

By October 2020, England had long moved out of the first Covid lockdown, but cases were starting to spike in the UK to a worrying degree. Limitations were starting to be applied regionally to mixing indoors, and it was under these conditions that a very small tree-planting ceremony was held to mark the admission of our first Winston Churchill Fellow: our most generous benefactor and alumnus, Michael Cowan (U70), who has donated over £5m. For more details of this event, see the article in last year's Newsletter.

By the beginning of November, England had entered its second lockdown, so rather than opening up the College as we had hoped, we were forced to take our events online once

again. This included what would have been a dinner to thank the generous donors of our Oak Circle – those who have given over £10,000 in the last 5 years and the 1960 Club who support the Winston Churchill Top Up Bursaries. Instead, we offered a Zoom talk with an introduction from the Master with an update on the College and then Rebecca Heath (G19) gave an enlightening talk into her current research as part of her PhD in Economics.

Later that month, in another Zoom webinar, the Master was in conversation with Honorary Fellow, Professor Dame Janet Thornton, Director

of the European Bioinformatics Institute until 2015, where she was a pioneer of structural bioinformatics, using computational methods to understand protein structure and form. She was the first female Fellow of Churchill to hold a Fellowship of the Royal Society. Having stepped down as Director, she now leads a small research group at the Institute. In the talk, the two physicists discuss their similar beginnings in life and Dame Janet expands upon her career path, in which she eschewed the standard options for girls in her youth of teaching or nursing. The talk, along with our other online talks that follow, is available on the College YouTube site.



THIS PAGE
1988–92 Reunion Dinner

TOP THREE
1960–65 Reunion Dinner

On 9 December we hosted another online talk by our unofficial College historian and popular speaker, Professor Mark Goldie. Mark gave a very well-received presentation entitled 'Churchill College: Origins and Contexts', in which he discussed how the vision for a new College at Cambridge was shaped at the end of the 1950s, and the key people bringing that vision to become reality. In the talk, Mark stresses that the College was borne out of two entirely different schemes that were not connected with the University of Cambridge in any way, and yet came together to form the College we know now, incubated by six different contexts of the 1950s.

Going into 2021, the shadow of Covid was not lifting, the Country entered its third lockdown, and we continued to run all our events online. We began in February with another popular talk, despite what might seem a niche subject. Another Honorary Fellow, Professor Jenny Nelson (U80), discussed 'Modelling solar energy systems for energy access and emissions mitigation', and it is perhaps testament to how our community are keen to explore future solutions to the climate emergency. Professor Nelson's research is devoted to the materials used to build and improve photovoltaic devices, which convert energy from the Sun into electricity. She applies a range of tools that include physical models, simulation and experiments to optimise the performance of such devices through their composite materials. She is Professor of Physics in the Blackett Laboratory and Head of the Climate change mitigation team at the Grantham Institute - Climate Change and Environment at Imperial College London.

In March we held another two talks over Zoom. The first, another Conversation between the Master and Churchill Fellow and Bennett Professor of Public Policy, as well as Co-Director of the Bennett Institute for Public Policy, Diane Coyle. Professor Coyle began by telling us that her father had worked in the cotton mills of Ramsbottom in Lancashire, and that her mother held aspirations beyond such a future for their four children. It was at Oxford, which came as a complete culture



BOTTOM THREE
Association Weekend 2021

shock for a working-class northerner studying PPE, where an economics teacher inspired her to see a future in that subject. Less than a week later, we hosted one of our most well-attended online talks to date: alumnus and BBC correspondent Nick Bryant (U86), considering 'When America Stopped Being Great' – the title of his popular book based on his view of the Trump years as a journalist reporting on politics there during the Presidency. Using his book as a springboard for discussion, Nick was questioned by historian Professor David Reynolds. Nick described the book as both a lament and a love letter to America.

In April we turned to something a little different (for the Alumni Office!) online. We had been looking forward to celebrating the College's 60th anniversary by inviting our 1960–65 year groups back for a special Reunion Dinner. Yet these first groups of our alumni had seen that event postponed and rescheduled three times. In recompense whilst they waited to be able to return, we offered them an exclusive online event. They were the first to be able to watch a film created by the Archives Department about the conservation work done there, including about the extraordinary restoration work that is done to damaged papers and other archive materials. It was a fascinating film shedding light on incredible technical processes that few of us knew about. This was followed by a live Q&A over Zoom with the Director, Allen Packwood, and then presentation of some of the College Archives' collection relating to this period in the College's history. After this webinar segment we invited all alumni from those years to join an interactive Zoom meeting using breakout rooms for the different year groups. One participant joined from New Zealand, having got up at 4am to chat to his old friends!

May was a busy month with three Zoom webinars available to all. First up, another Conversation between the Master and Professor Lucie Green, Professor of Physics and a Royal Society University Research Fellow at the Mullard Space Science Laboratory, and the first ever female presenter of The Sky at Night. In our second online event that month we adapted our popular Churchill Business Network events to take place online. Focused on fintech and other technologies, we invited three Churchill alumni to speak: Ben Chisell (U02), Ruth Barnett (U02)



50th Anniversary Dinner: 1970–71

and Mandeep Singh (U03) – all of whom have been involved variously in start-up and enterprise businesses. The speakers gave a fascinating insight into the mindset of those prepared to take risks with a non-standard career path, where outcomes are not guaranteed! The month closed with yet another fascinating Conversation event: this time the Master in Conversation with Chi Onwurah MP, Shadow Minister for Science, Research and Digital. Onwurah's professional background prior to politics is in engineering and in 2020 she was made an Honorary Fellow of the British Science Association.

In June, a little later in the year than usual, we held our annual Computer Science Lecture online. The talk, entitled The RSA public-key cryptosystem, was delivered by Turing award winner Ronald L. Rivest of MIT.

After a pause from events over the long vac, we were thrilled, finally, to be able to open up the College for in-person events in September. Chairs in the Dining Hall were slightly more spaced out than previously, and mask-wearing

was advised, but we were able to start catching up on some of the postponed Reunions events. In an extraordinarily busy month, we hosted 2 Reunion Dinners (1988–92 and 1960–65), as well as a dinner for the donors in our Oak and Master's Circles, in addition to our annual Association Weekend, along with our postponed Winston S. Churchill Society lunch (for those leaving a gift in Will to College).

Although it was a busy time for the Development Team, it was wonderful to welcome our alumni back! For the 1988–92 dinner we were almost 200 dining, and the 1960–65 one on Friday 24th attracted almost 150, with another 120 (with some overlaps) the following evening for Association Dinner. In addition to these events, we held a series of hybrid talks which attendees could watch live in the Wolfson Theatre, or join online, including a talk by alumnus and Honorary Fellow, Professor Sir Colin Humphreys (G63) around the groundbreaking work that a team he leads are doing with scaling up commercial applications for the world's thinnest material: graphene; as well as a talk by Professors Mark Goldie and Marcial



Think Forward launch events

Echenique considering the College's architecture. We were also proud to host an online-only talk as part of the wider University Alumni Festival, in which a film was played looking at the amazing sustainability work being undertaken by our Grounds and Garden team, led by John Moore, who held a live Q&A afterwards.

In October, still playing catch-up, we hosted the years 1970 and 71 for their Golden reunions (these should have been in the summers of 2020 and 2021). We hosted over 100 alumni and their guests and again there was a display of materials from the College archives.

We hosted the Think Forward launch in early November 2021, you can read a full account of this on page 5.

The Omicron variant having put paid to any more large-scale events in late 2021, we resumed with a dinner for the 1960 Club in February 2022, and our biennial Bursary donors' dinner later that month. Those who have supported the top-up bursaries were invited back to the 1960 Club dinner and met some of the students in receipt of their support.

In April we hosted the Enterprise competition and the annual Computer Science lecture.



50th Anniversary Dinner: 1972

We were delighted that this was given by Lord Broers, our former Master and former Vice-Chancellor and was kindly sponsored by Cryptomathic. Lord Broers spoke on '100 years of electronic devices', a fascinating history of the development of modern computers.

The Enterprise competition, kindly sponsored by the Shenzhen Federation of Chambers of Commerce also returned after a long absence because of the pandemic. Capturing the spirit of Churchill's intent to produce the leaders of the future, this competition seeks to identify the best business ideas of current Churchill students and alumni.

There were some excellent entries, the winner eventually being ETA (Entrepreneurial team analytics) led by Churchill PhD student Eva Benyei (G20). Their product is an innovative platform for use by Venture Capitalists and investors to assess accurately team dynamics to predict success of entrepreneurial teams.



1995–99 Reunion Dinner and Alumni Rowing

CBBC 60th Anniversary Dinner



The Trinity College dinner in Oxford also returned with 15 alumni attending. Our thanks to Cathy Elliott (U73) for helping us make the arrangements for the event. In May, we also kicked off fundraising for the 1995–99 Bursary fund, with a drinks reception at the Oxford and Cambridge Club. This was in preparation for the 95–99 reunion in July.

to past Presidents, including the Club's founder, Canon Noel Duckworth.

highlighted changes that have taken place in the College, notably the opening of the new graduate housing and Cowan Court since the turn of the Century.

It's perhaps a fitting way to end the round-up of events by noting the very large number of donors who were able to attend, over 200. We hope that we can look forward to welcoming more alumni and friends of the College back in a more regular pattern in the years to come, without the disruption we have experienced recently.



In June, we were pleased to mark the 60th Anniversary of Churchill College Boat Club, albeit slightly delayed, again due to the pandemic. Over 80 alumni, students and their guests enjoyed a splendid meal in Hall and heard a speech by outgoing Overall Captain Kieran Heal (U16) and outgoing President Sue Brown (G83). We are incredibly grateful to Sue for all her guidance to the Club for the last nearly twenty years since she took over from Dr Jack Miller. She retires this year and will be replaced by alumnus David Sampson (G96). We also were delighted that there were some of the very first Churchill rowers in attendance at the dinner who enjoyed drinking various toasts

At the beginning of July we welcomed back the 1972 year for their 50th anniversary dinner. This year is special to the College as it is the first that was co-educational. The Master, who hosted the event, noted that the course of progress in Cambridge could be rather slow – it has taken almost fifty years for the College to reach gender parity amongst its undergraduate intake at least, a milestone that was achieved in 2020. Still, this begins a whole year of celebrations of a pioneering decision taken by Churchill back in 1969, as we mark the fiftieth anniversary during the course of this academic year 2022–23.

The day after, despite a late night for some, we were pleased to host reunion rowing, including a four and an eight in very warm weather. Alumni were very pleased to see the new boathouse, which was opened in 2015 and we are grateful to all the students who helped with the rowing outing.

The same weekend we welcomed donors back (after a long pause) to the Garden Party to thank them. Due to Covid, and its being a biennial event, the last Garden Party was hosted way back in 2018. It was an incredibly warm day, just prior to one of the highest temperatures ever recorded in the UK. We are grateful to Dr Alessandro Rossi (G06), a UKRI Future Leaders Fellow for his lively talk on Quantum Mechanics – greatly simplifying the concepts for non-physicists – which was hugely entertaining.

The same weekend in July we hosted the 1995–99 reunion, which was attended by over 200 alumni and guests. The Master gave a speech focusing on the changes to Higher Education since the late 90s: that the current generation are incurring debts to fund their education, unlike previous years of Churchillians. She also

Sport

Football News

A bright and sunny Saturday in March saw the welcome return of the Churchill alumni v current students football match. The current team were on a high, having reached the final of Cuppers for only the third time in the history of the College.

The game began as a tense affair with not much between the teams, then a classic goal from Jocelino Rodrigues (G16), cutting in from the right for the umpteenth time this season to curl one into the right corner from his right but, breaking the deadlock. After this the game opened up, with some uncanny substitutions from the 1st XI and a change in formation meant everyone got to play and have some fun, whilst still maintaining that competitive edge. Notable returns from the old boys include Matthew Beazley (U17), who managed to come in for a characteristic thwack at goal from close range, thwarted by great play from goalkeeper and captain Agrawal (U19). There was some outstanding play from Athi Chellappa (U17) who scored the only goal for the Old Boys. To seal the victory, some good play from Churchill's current 1st team put the ball at the feet of Sam Ernest (U18), who fired in a well-guided half volley off the inside of the right post to seal a comfortable 4-1 victory, making up for the loss the year before.

After the game, everyone gathered in the buttery for a pint or two before heading off for a great curry night, which even turned out to be an excellent networking opportunity for some! If you are a former player and would like to join the alumni mailing list for future matches, please contact the Alumni Office. The College is grateful to Sagar Agrawal (current captain) and Matt Haslett (U04) for their organisation of the fixture and co-writing this report.

2022 Football Cuppers' Final

The team went through to the Cuppers' final against local rivals Fitzwilliam at the end of April. A crowd of at least 250 Churchillians were



Our student and alumni football teams in March

there to watch, where Churchill College battled valiantly against a Fitz team that had won all five previous Cuppers' finals. Churchill definitely won in terms of support, with Varsity journalist Ben Conway writing that in an exceedingly scrappy first half,

Most of the half's best entertainment, certainly as a neutral, was the Churchill congregation, who stood up in large numbers to the tune of 'stand up if you hate the Fitz'. The Fitz fans responded with some barely intelligible singing, which only made the Churchill fans louder.

Sadly, Churchill were unable to fend off Fitz and despite some great saves from our captain Agrawal, Fitz scored just before half-time. The second half, Fitz probably had more chances, and converted one to win the match 2-0. Churchill hope to avenge this defeat in coming years and that it is less than twenty years before another Cuppers final is reached.



at Training Camp with W1, M2, W2 and M3 all being incredibly well represented. And Easter term started with a bang with Pots at Cambridge Sprint Regatta and Bedford Regatta for the club – we really hit the ground running [or should that be 'river'?! – Ed].

That's not to say we don't battle our own challenges as a club: as we've started to get to grips with our equipment and depreciation to plan and fundraise for the club's long-term future – we face the continued impact of Covid that's hit the bumps and Head Race campaigns of M1 and W1 so hard. As we face the continued challenges of the increasing academic workload and the push for more study, in a background where more than half of Churchill's societies have been lost, we've also managed to successfully pass the challenge of reaching a better than 50:50 Men's and Women's split alongside the College.

However, despite the challenges we've always faced we have much to celebrate this year. W2's bumps results over the last two terms are a testament to their hard work and dedication. Every crew this term has shown commitment on and off the water. M2 managing to pull off the switch from Super spoons to a significantly positive result this term. M1 showed true sportsmanship on taking the effect of Covid on the chin, battling each day and taking the bumps without complaints giving it their all knowing the cards dealt were unfairly against



them. W1 showing the club how it's done no matter the challenge and fighting to stay in the top 10. In the lower boats, they've also stepped up this term with W3 knocking over a minute off their Lent's Getting on Race time and M3 managing to fight on to avoid spoons this term.

The amount of time I've seen go into this club from our coaches, the committee and our crews over the last year is staggering. I'm immensely proud of the work the club has done this year and all it has achieved – I'm also glad that we achieved the main goal of trying to have some fun along the way.

Kieran Heal
Overall Captain 2021-22

The New Boats

This year saw the addition of a new women's boat, the Robert Fulton, to the CCBC fleet. Robert Fulton (U70) generously donated to CCBC to help fund a new eight for the second women, alongside several other donors who responded to a call – we needed a new women's boat due to the increased number of women undergraduates at Churchill.

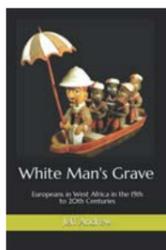
We were delighted to host a boat-naming for Robert in April this year, shortly after the boat had had a great performance in the Lent Bumps. Robert tried out sitting in the cox's seat, as he mostly coxed whilst at College. He remarked at

the microphones and speakers of modern boats, saying 'we just used to shout loudly in my day'. The Club's president, Sue Brown (U83) and current members, and particularly those from the second women's VIII, were present for the ceremony which took place on 6 March. Lent bumps took place in the preceding week, so it was a matter of great pride that the Robert Fulton was the only boat in CCBC which didn't get bumped by another College, and which went up two places.

The College has also recently purchased a new IV to be named after Lorna Montgomerie (U72), one of the first female students at the College, the first women's Boat captain and a member of the CUWBC crew that beat Oxford in 1974. Sadly, Lorna died in December 2019. The new boat has been generously supported by her friends and family and also with general Boat Club funds.

Churchill Bookshelf

A selection of books by Churchillians published in the last year



Jeff Andrew (U&G67)
White Man's Grave: Europeans in West Africa in the 15th to 20th Centuries
Red Llama Books 2021

The European invasion of West Africa began with the

Portuguese traders who arrived at the coast in the middle of the 15th century. What followed were five centuries of exploitation and occupation by the major European nations, most shamefully during the era of the Atlantic Slave Trade. This is the compelling story of the European men and women who became active participants. What was it that motivated them to risk travelling to the region infamously known as the 'White Man's Grave'? There was one quality they had in common, and that was a single-minded determination to follow their star, whether it be in pursuit of geographical knowledge, religious conversion, national reputation, social status, or simply commercial profit.



Dr Fred Furniss (U73)
Self-Injurious Behavior in Individuals with Neurodevelopmental Conditions
Springer 2020

This book addresses self-injurious behaviour (SIB) in individuals with various neurodevelopmental conditions (NDCs). It takes a cross-NDC perspective that synthesizes recent research on variability in incidence and presentation across NDCs and the natural history and neurobiology of SIB. Chapters examine implications for biobehavioural definitions of subtypes of SIB and provide a detailed guide to assessment and intervention using an integrated research-based model for individualised treatment. In addition, chapters present a practice-focused structure using case studies to illustrate clinical implications of research findings. The book concludes with a discussion of current directions in research and their potential to guide innovation in prevention and treatment of SIB. Featured topics include assessment and management of short-term effects, reducing the risk of relapse and the ethical issues associated in working with those engaging in SIB.

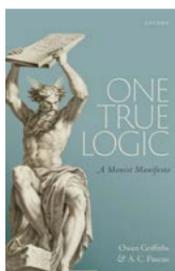


Clement Goldstone KC (U67)
Understanding ballistics: a primer for courts
The Royal Society 2021

The judicial primers project is a unique collaboration

between members of the judiciary, the Royal Society and the Royal Society of Edinburgh. The primers have been created under the direction of a Steering Group and are designed to assist the judiciary when handling scientific evidence in the courtroom. They have been written by leading scientists and members of the judiciary, peer reviewed by practitioners and approved by the Councils of the Royal Society and the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

Each primer presents an easily understood, accurate position on the scientific topic in question, and considers the limitations of the science and the challenges associated with its application. The primers are intended to help understand and assess scientific evidence, by providing a basic, and so far as possible uncontroversial, statement of the underlying science.



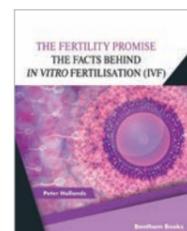
Dr Owen Griffiths (Current By-Fellow)
One True Logic: A Monist Manifesto
Oxford University Press 2022

Logical monism is the claim that there is a single correct logic, the 'one true logic' of

our title. The view has evident appeal, as it reflects assumptions made in ordinary reasoning as well as in mathematics, the sciences, and the law. In all these spheres, we tend to believe that there are determinate facts about the validity of arguments. Despite its evident appeal, however, logical monism must meet two challenges. The first is the challenge from logical pluralism, according to which there is more than one correct logic. The second challenge is to determine which form of logical monism is the correct one.

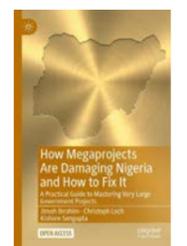
One True Logic is the first monograph to explicitly articulate a version of logical monism and defend

it against the first challenge. It provides a critical overview of the monism vs pluralism debate and argues for the former. It also responds to the second challenge by defending a particular monism, based on a highly infinitary logic. It breaks new ground on a number of fronts and unifies disparate discussions in the philosophical and logical literature.



Professor Peter Hollands (G83)
The Fertility Promise: The Facts Behind in vitro Fertilisation (IVF)
Bentham Science 2022

The Fertility Promise is a complete guide to the often emotional, expensive and confusing process of fertility treatment. The book offers clear explanations and advice to anyone undergoing fertility treatment (such as in vitro fertilization) or anyone seeking information about relevant treatment options. The information includes advice to both male and female patients, LGBT patients, IVF clinics, the IVF treatment process, the issues surrounding IVF and what it is really like to go through fertility treatment, and what the future of IVF might look like. Covering every aspect of the topic, the book is an extremely important point of reference for all fertility patients as well as individuals who wish to broaden their perspective on fertility medicine and clinics. The Fertility Promise informs both general readers and empowers fertility patients who are looking for the correct treatment, enabling them to clearly understand the fertility treatment process and to ask appropriate and often revealing questions on the subject.



Ibrahim Jimoh (G15)
How Megaprojects Are Damaging Nigeria and How to Fix It: A Practical Guide to Mastering Very Large Government Projects
Palgrave Macmillan 2022

Since 1960, two-thirds of very large governmental projects in Nigeria have not only failed, but been abandoned. This presents a bigger failure rate than mega projects elsewhere, and yet there is no

available data or analysis to help us understand the reasons why. This book provides an authoritative examination into why very large projects in Nigeria have failed so badly, and provides practical recommendations on how the Nigerian government can improve its project performance.

Drawing on data from 38 very large projects (19 completed and 19 abandoned) with a total budget of over \$25B, the authors have identified a small number of key success drivers, and argue that making moderate improvements on any of them would, on average, save hundreds of millions of dollars on one large project alone. This open access book is a game-changer in the management of government mega projects in Nigeria. With clear implications for other developing economies, this is a vital resource for project management practitioners, executives and civil servants

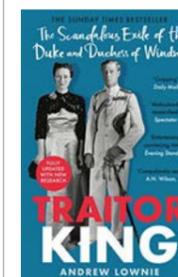


Dr Oliver Inderwildi, Professor Markus Kraft (Current Fellow)
Intelligent Decarbonisation: Can Artificial Intelligence and Cyber-Physical Systems Help Achieve Climate Mitigation Targets?
Springer 2022

Intelligent Decarbonisation comprehensively assesses the current and future impact of digital technologies and artificial intelligence (AI) on the decarbonisation of key economic sectors. While digital solutions are already being utilised as cost-saving mechanisms, research into AI-powered solutions are showing additional environmental benefit by further optimising and reducing energy use. Dr Oliver Inderwildi points to a key example of Google reducing their energy usage for server cooling by 30% in a year by deploying DeepMind AI. What if these optimisation mechanisms were deployed throughout the economy? What are the possibilities for net-zero emissions? If this was an intelligence system akin to a human brain, could there be security implications?

The co-authors answer these questions by drawing from their collective experience in using computational methods, chemical engineering, and sustainability research and consultancy. In addition, they collaborated with top universities such as Princeton, ETH Zurich, Nanyang Technological University, and National University of Singapore; private sectors include companies such as Arup,

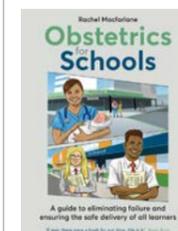
JTC, Siemens and BASF; and NGO partners and government agencies.



Andrew Lownie (Past Archives By-Fellow)
Traitor King: The Scandalous Exile of the Duke and Duchess of Windsor
Blink Publishing 2021

11 December 1936. The King of England, Edward VIII, has given up his Crown, foregoing his duty for the love of Wallis Simpson, an American divorcée. Their courtship has been dogged by controversy and scandal, but with Edward's abdication, they can live happily ever after. But do they? Bestselling historian Andrew Lownie reveals the dramatic lives of the Windsors post-abdication. This is a story of a Royal shut out by his family and forced into exile; of a couple obsessed with their status, financially exploiting their position, and manipulating the media to portray themselves as victims.

The Windsors were, in their day, the most glamorous exiles in the world, flitting from sumptuously appointed mansions in the south of France to luxurious residences in Palm Beach. But they were spoiled, selfish people. Drawing upon hitherto unexplored archives, Lownie shows how their glittering, brittle world was riddled with treachery and betrayal, and why the Royal family never forgave the Duke for choosing love over duty.



Rachel Macfarlane (U85)
Obstetrics for Schools: A guide to eliminating failure and ensuring the safe delivery of all learners
Crown House Publishing 2021

Obstetrics for Schools presents a powerful manifesto for school leaders and teachers on how they can bridge the advantage gap and deliver positive outcomes for all pupils. In most parts of the world, the death of a baby in childbirth is now a rare tragedy – and it would be considered shocking for medical staff to accept a significant infant fatality rate. It's also inconceivable that a hospital would have a successful delivery target much below 100%.

Yet there is an expectation, and acceptance, of 'baked in' educational failure for around a third of 16-year-olds in UK schools each year. Rachel Macfarlane draws on

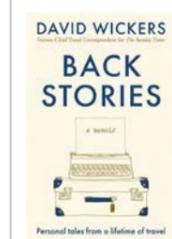
her experience as a head teacher and system leader to share a multitude of practical strategies for overcoming potential barriers to success, presenting case studies and examples of effective practice from schools across the country. It offers sage guidance on how schools can do more for every student, providing a range of fresh approaches proven to have an impact in a variety of challenging contexts. Suitable for school leaders and teachers in all phases, from early years to sixth form, in both mainstream and special education.



David Nye (Past By-Fellow)
Seven Sublimes
MIT Press 2022

We experience the sublime – overwhelming amazement and exhilaration – in at least seven different forms. Gazing

from the top of a mountain at a majestic vista is not the same thing as looking at a city from the observation deck of a skyscraper; looking at images constructed from Hubble Space Telescope data is not the same as living through a powerful earthquake. The varieties of sublime experience have increased during the last two centuries, and we need an expanded terminology to distinguish between them. In this book, David Nye delineates seven forms of the sublime: natural, technological, disastrous, martial, intangible, digital, and environmental, which express seven different relationships to space, time, and identity.



David Wickers (U63)
Back Stories: Personal tales from a lifetime of travel
The Book Guild Publishing 2021

Back Stories is a collection of more than thirty, highly personal traveller's tales, embracing

adventure, comedy, disaster, romance, stupidity and a miscellany of mishaps, spanning more than five decades on the road. From low budget journeys as a student, to longer intervals living in Italy, Switzerland, Vermont and New York, David Wickers has spent much of his life travelling. In his mid-thirties he discovered that, as a professional travel writer, he could be paid for his passion. For 17 years he was Chief Travel Correspondent on The Sunday Times and is currently Travel Editor for Good Housekeeping. He has received numerous awards, including being selected on four occasions as Travel Writer of the Year. David is married with three children, and lives in North London.

Churchill College – Here’s Why & So What!

By Dr Jeevan Sellappah (G81)

Here’s Why ...

Churchill College taught me to build bridges to different people from different cultures living in different worlds. My Churchill experiences showed me that with open eyes, an open heart, and an open mind, I would *learn* from others, *care for* others, and *share* with others. I have immensely benefited from my Churchill College lessons and experiences.

My partner, Ju Shen Lee, and I both graduated from the United World College of South-East Asia (UWCSEA) in Singapore, and the United World College movement shares similar learning, caring, and sharing values as Churchill. Driven by her passion for ‘Real.Life. Photos’, I leverage these invaluable lessons and experiences when we undertake our annual, one-month long photo-expeditions: Bhutan (2013 & 2014), Cambodia (2015), Laos (2016, 2017 & 2018), and Myanmar (2019). I have come to appreciate that I did not graduate from Churchill College but, instead, I graduated *with* Churchill College. Here’s why ...

Merak (Bhutan)

We were marooned in Merak (3,520m), a Brokpa village nestled in the Himalayan range in remote eastern Bhutan. During our trek through the Sakteng Wildlife Sanctuary, we learnt that the Nakchungla pass (4,153m) and the Labtsekha pass (3,300m) were all but closed by heavy snowfall. Our guide decided that it would be dangerous to continue on to our destination.

The Brokpas are a semi-nomadic yak-herding tribe, ethnically and culturally distinct from the Bhutanese. After spending the summer in the high alpine pastures with their herds, they return to their homes in Merak and Sakteng for the winters. Unlike the rest of Bhutan, which is Buddhist, the Brokpa are animists, and few speak Bhutan’s national language, Dzongkha.



With incredible generosity, the village headman opened his home and his village to us for three remarkable days. To dissolve the multiple language barriers, Ju Shen whipped out her mobile phone and showed them our family photos. This created an immediate bond because, no matter where you are, families are important. Mothers cooed adoringly at baby photos, whilst the children laughed hysterically!

During our stay we were treated to a special performance of the traditional summer yak dance, and shown the new village community centre the villagers were building. We were offered endless cups of tea and snacks, though we politely declined the potent traditional fermented grain liquor, *ara*! Ju Shen would show the villagers all the photos she had taken in their village. This brought much joy although as we walked through the village, I would be comically bent over carrying the heavy camera pack, trudging several metres behind Ju Shen in abject servility. This made the women smile in solidarity with Ju Shen, whilst the men would nod in resignation with me!



Postscript: Following our recommendation, Kesang Tshering and his company, Bhutan Wilderness Travel, were appointed to provide the logistics and guiding services for UWCSEA’s Outdoor Education expeditions to Bhutan. Ju Shen returned to Bhutan to create pro bono a tourism promotion video with her ‘Real.Life.Photos’, titled ‘Flavours of Bhutan’. I also returned to work pro bono for a year with Bhutan’s sovereign wealth fund, Druk Holding & Investments.

Phoumieng (Laos)

We were invited to attend a traditional Hmong festival in Phoumieng, a village in the Laotian Highlands west of Luang Prabang. We set off at dawn in a van packed with our host’s family and supplies for his parents for two hours driving over unpaved and pot-holed roads then an open tractor for an hour on hard laterite tracks that climbed high into the hills.

The Hmong are an ethnically and culturally distinct group, who live in small remote villages in the highlands. They farm hill rice and cash crops, and rear cattle, buffaloes, and pigs for



consumption and sale. They have a unique language and are animists, unlike the rest of Laos, which is predominantly Buddhist.

Having hired the tractor for our day-trip, we offered a lift to everyone trudging up the hills with their heavy loads. The tractor became a community bus, with precious cargo in the centre and the passengers hung off the side. It was a happy mob, laughing and smiling, and exchanging news and gossip, as we dropped off and picked up along the way!

The village headman, proudly showed us around the village, farms, and schoolhouse. Like all remote villages, they have to do everything themselves, from digging their wells to building their homes, and their total self-reliance is incredible!

A shaman conducted the traditional animist rituals in the headman’s home. We participated in the solemn rituals and mimicked, sometimes imprecisely, what the others did with the various religious items and food in order to dissolve cultural barriers. After the rituals, the village feast began in earnest. As the adults



constantly filled our bowls with pork and rice, the children ran around dangerously close to the open fires, and the village dogs waited patiently for their bones!

Postscript: Following this trip to his village, our host sought our advice on how to manage his resources and prioritize his various farming projects. To this day, we continue to advise him by asking him the right questions in the right way at the right times. We returned to Luang Prabang for Ju Shen to take more ‘Real.Life. Photos’ for her photo-book *Luang Prabang – Life & Prayer*, which was published in 2018.

Nyaung Won (Myanmar)

We were slowly rowing along the waterways as Ju Shen took photos of Nyaung Won, one of the many Intha villages built on stilts over Inle Lake in eastern Myanmar. Our boat zigzagged along the waterways, trying to find the perfect spot, the perfect angle, and the perfect light for the photos. It clearly looked exhausting as one Intha family kindly invited us to their home for tea!

The Intha are the indigenous people of Inle Lake, which was declared a UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves site in 2015. They are fishermen and farmers who have developed ingenious fishing techniques and floating farms. The Intha also have a variety of cottage industries, including lotus-silk weaving, textile dyeing, and manufacturing snacks and confectionery. They have a distinct language and are predominantly Buddhist, like the rest of Myanmar.

We were invited to participate in their young son’s Buddhist novitiation ceremony, a coming-of-age ceremony for young Buddhist boys preparing them to enter the monastery as novice monks for a week. It is a lavish ceremony and social occasion, and our hosts had joined two other families to share the costs of the three-day event.

For three long days, starting at 4 in the morning and continuing until the early evening, the boys performed multiple rituals on their path to becoming novice: dressing like princes, depicting the princely life that Buddha had relinquished, having their heads shaved, and reciting Buddhist prayers from memory to the abbot of the monastery.



Villagers joined in the prayer sessions and cooked vast amounts of food for the gathering. Although calm inside the temple, it was hectic outside as boats arrived laden with food, visitors from other villages, and monks from other monasteries. We became a part of the fabric of Nyaung Won's community for three wonderful days; fed, watered, and cared for like everyone else!

Postscript: Since this expedition to Inle Lake, we have been advising our guide, Naing Moe, on simple methods to efficiently manage, economically develop, and effectively market his travel guide business. Ju Shen taught him to take well-composed photos on his mobile phone for upload onto the various social-media marketing platforms. With our support, Naing Moe is supplementing his income by teaching English to high school and university students, and white-collar workers. Ju Shen's 'Real.Life. Photos' from this expedition are presented in *Inle Lake – Ingenious Lives*, which was published in 2020.

Luang Prabang (Laos)

Ju Shen was photographing a regional Buddhist festival at Wat Xiengthong that was attended by hundreds of monks, from elderly abbots to junior young novices. One group of young monks was struggling to take a group photo with a small mobile phone held at arm's length so Ju Shen stepped in with her camera to take their group photos. Later that day Ju Shen sent them to the young group leader via Facebook. We later discovered from hotel staff that the

young group leader was Satou Thongkhao, the esteemed abbot of Wat Nong Sikhounmuang, who is widely regarded as a leading authority on Laotian Buddhism.

Luang Prabang is nestled in the verdant hills and mountains of the Laotian Highlands in northern Laos. The town is centred on a peninsula at the confluence of the famous Nam Kong (Mekong) River and its tributary, the Nam Khan River. It was a former royal capital and was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1995. It is also the historical centre and spiritual heart of Laotian Buddhism. Indeed, the Heritage Site alone is home to over twenty active temples.

The monks live, work, study, and pray in these temples. Their spiritual life, enshrined in their serene religious ceremonies and silent alms taking, is readily seen. However, their secular life, centred around their strenuous chores, demanding school studies, and well-earned recreation, is rarely seen.

Satou Thongkhao introduced us to his cohort of young abbots in Luang Prabang, all of whom speak English, who are being groomed to revitalize the reach of Laotian Buddhism. They are often seen explaining the tenets of Buddhism, and the iconography and artifacts in their temples, to foreign visitors.

We visited their temples regularly, often helping the young novice monks with their English, mathematics, and science homework. We were invited to photograph their recreational, and

building maintenance and construction activities. Occasionally, we were asked to translate for them, whenever the foreign visitors did not speak English. We became such a feature that the youngest novice monks would break ranks during the silent alms taking to greet us. The abbots would nod appreciatively as we shooed the young novices back into the line!

Postscript: Our friendship with Satou Thongkhao continues to this day as he shares his plans for his novice monks, his temple, and his lay community. Inspired by him and encouraged by the access he had provided, we returned to Luang Prabang and Ju Shen photographed the rarely seen daily lives of the monks there. The 'Real.Life.Photos' from this expedition are presented in her photo-book, *Luang Prabang – The Monks*, which was published in 2019.

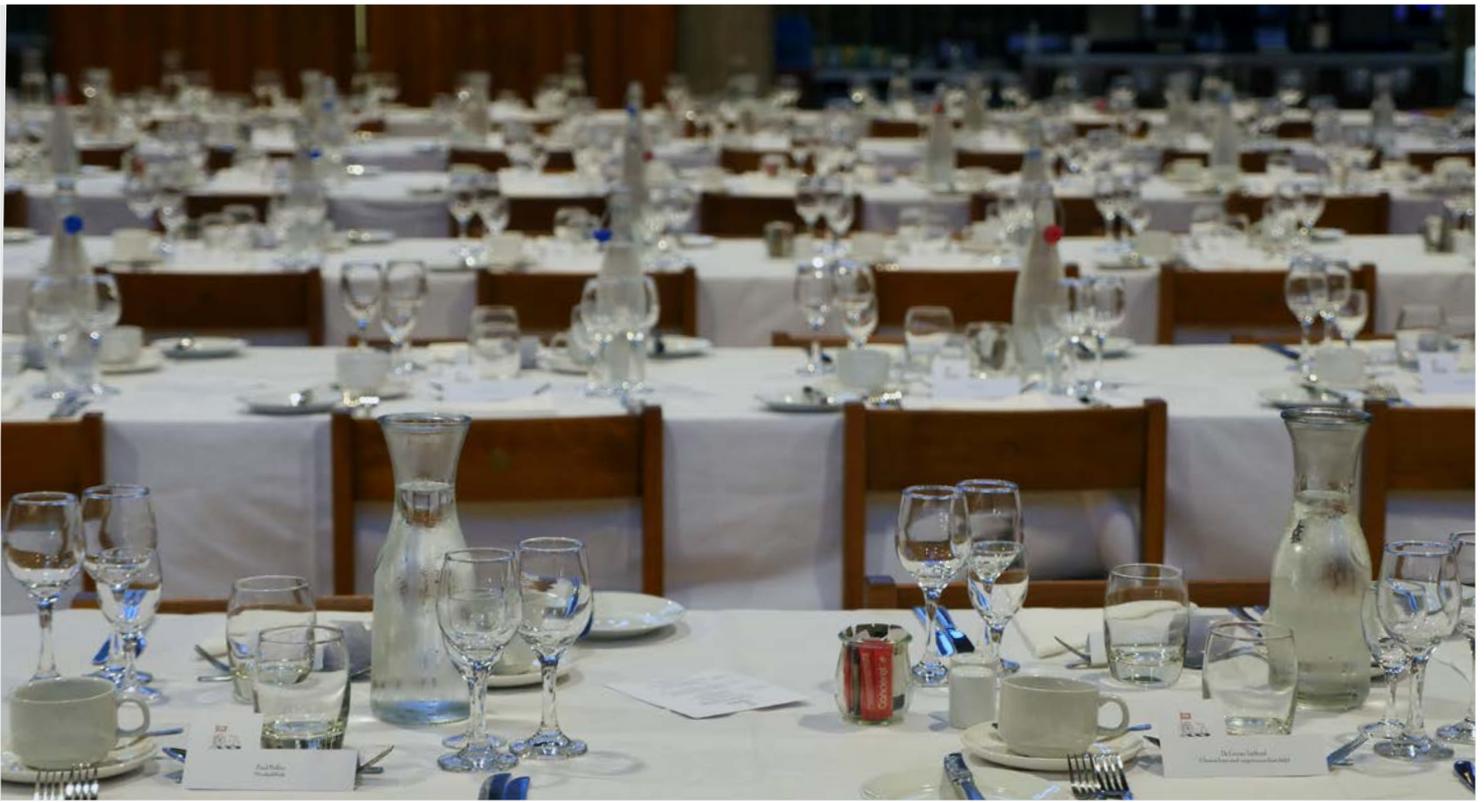
... So What?

My Churchill College lessons and experiences have provided me with a solid and sustainable foundation that continues to add fresh colour and vitality to my adventures in life. From our serendipitous encounters with the people met on our travels, I learnt three important lessons. First: whilst not everyone can be a hero to the world, everyone can be a hero to their family and community. Second: whilst not everyone can be the best, everyone can be their best. Third: whilst not everyone can donate money, everyone can donate their time to inspire and encourage others.

As Churchill College alumni, you already know that this is simply all about learning from others, caring for others, and sharing with others. So, please join me to celebrate where our adventures in life all started: Churchill College!

See Ju Shen Lee's photography on Instagram @jushenlee





DIARY OF EVENTS

2022

Give me Inspiration! The Paradigm Shift with Anne-Marie Imafidon

Thursday 17 November

'Work in Progress': A panel event in London and online celebrating 50 years of women at Churchill

Thursday 8 December

2023

Giving Day

Wednesday 8 – Thursday 9 March

Reunion dinner 1972–77

Friday 31 March

MA Dinner

Friday 28 April

Give me Inspiration! The Paradigm Shift with Minouche Shafik

Thursday 25 May

50th Anniversary Dinner: 1973

Friday 7 July

Reunion Dinner 2004–8

Saturday 8 July

Association Weekend

Friday 22 – Sunday 24 September

See all our events at
www.chu.cam.ac.uk/events



CHURCHILL COLLEGE