



CHURCHILL NEWS

DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNI NEWSLETTER OF CHURCHILL COLLEGE, 2024–25

SUMMER PROJECTS FOR
CHURCHILL STUDENTS

Page 5

INNOVATIVE AI ASSISTANT
PROTOTYPE

Page 22

THE BIRTH OF WOMEN'S
FOOTBALL AT CHURCHILL

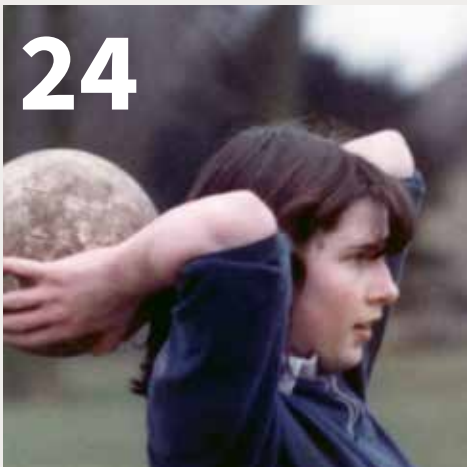
Page 24

CHURCHILL BOOKSHELF

Page 26



IN THIS ISSUE



Editors
Francisca Malarée and Elizabeth McWilliams

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

Tel. 01223 336083

Newsletter.Editor@chu.cam.ac.uk

Design & layout: cantellday.co.uk

All texts, photographs and illustrative material, except where acknowledged otherwise, are © Churchill College 2025. We are grateful to contributors for permission to reproduce illustrations and photographs.

Cover image: Jonathan Woolf

POINTS OF CONTACT

Accommodation
Alumni and Past Fellows may book accommodation in College by emailing 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 336163

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.

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 reception.moller@chu.cam.ac.uk

Find us on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and YouTube.

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

Master’s Welcome



Welcome to this Churchill College Development Newsletter. It’s one of the great pleasures of my role to connect with our Alumni through written communications such as these or during in-person events. These help us share our latest news as well as providing moments when I can listen to your feedback and views.

One of the recent highlights of the academic year was the degree ceremony for our undergraduate finalists in July. The evening before the ceremony, 450 people – graduands and their family and friends – came together in our wonderful dining hall to share a celebratory dinner. The next morning saw our students walk in the sunshine to Senate House for the ceremony, its choreographed nature and spoken Latin reminding us that this has been replicated over hundreds of years. Being able to congratulate each student on their success and wishing them good luck as they left the College for the next stage in their life was a poignant moment.

Our graduates have been equally busy. To name just one example, the MCR Conference on Everything held in March and fully organised by students was well attended and included a poster competition, a series of flash talks, featured student talks, podcast interviews and a keynote lecture from Churchill Fellow Professor Sir David Spiegelhalter, entitled ‘Can we trust academics? Trustworthy communication of evidence in a polarised world’.

Sir David was back on the stage in a completely packed Wolfson Hall in June for the Master’s Book Club when he spoke about his latest book, *The Art of Uncertainty*. This book series is just one way we can highlight the academic excellence and impact of our Fellows – do look out for future speakers we have already lined up.

This year has also seen our students undertake a wide array of activities beyond their studies. I was delighted to see that five Churchill College students were recognised for their outstanding contributions to University and community life at this year’s Student Union Cambridge Students’ Awards, with two taking home top prizes www.chu.cam.ac.uk/news-and-events/churchill-students-excel-at-cambridge-students-awards-2025/.

Music is a strength here and I aim to attend the weekly recitals during term time whenever I can. But there is plenty going on beyond this – two of our undergraduates took centre stage at Cambridge’s most prestigious band competition in March, performing with their band Hot Content in the grand finale of Take it to the Bridge 2025. www.chu.cam.ac.uk/news-and-events/from-churchill-to-the-spotlight-ellen-susannas-musical-journey/. One of our students also gained first prize in the Jesus College, Cambridge Hook, Line and Lyric competition.

Students have also participated in a wide range of sports throughout the year. Taking part at all levels of competition – from beginner to elite – is important for health and welfare, and it’s always

a joy to see our students out on the playing fields or tennis courts together having fun. Many of our students participated in the Bumps, a noisy and exciting event – I wonder if I am the only person who is still learning the rules... I was delighted by the news that the Churchill College Boat Club had acquired a new boat, funded by an alumnus. And it was great to see one of our students rowing in the winning Lightweight Boat Race in April.

Events that give everyone in our community the chance to get involved are important, and I was so pleased to see that students, staff and Fellows entered the Master’s photographic competition this year. There were three categories (My Churchill, Light, and Angles). There was also a People’s Choice winner. This is a moment in time when we can come together in celebration of the environment in which we live, as well as capturing snapshots of our history for future generations. Look out for the photos, which will be used in our College calendar and our College festive greetings card.

There has been a wonderful variety of Alumni events, including Reunion Dinners for students who matriculated in 2012–2017 and in 1985–1990, and a 50th Anniversary event for people who matriculated in 1975. There have been many dinners and chances to meet, and I valued the chance to invite our Year Group Reps to dinner recently. They help us in a variety of ways, and their input is hugely valued.

Finally, I wanted to talk about our future plans. Since I began as Master, the College has gone

through a process to develop and ratify a 10-year Strategy. In brief, we have three pillars of activity centred on student support, improving our estates, and sustainability.

An important part of our Strategy is a commitment to growing the endowed funds we hold for student support (bursaries, hardship funds and studentships). This in turn will support the outreach work we are doing to attract the most able students, regardless of their financial situation. This helps us maintain our long-term tradition of admitting a diverse community of students each year.

We are also committed to improving the condition of our buildings and estates. This

has been kick-started by a comprehensive survey to establish their condition and to plan a 10-year programme of building works and refurbishment. This will ensure that we can offer students and Fellows high-quality accommodation and study space that adds to wellbeing and comfort. This is also taking account of how we make our buildings more energy efficient and how we decarbonise our estate. Our programme starts with refurbishment of the Sheppard Flats.

To close, I am ever grateful for your support, which takes many forms; from helping us remember our past and honour the impact our students and Fellows have made, to joining us at reunion events, and by supporting the

College more broadly. I am extremely grateful for financial contributions from those alumni who can afford to do so. Donors have been very generous over the last year, and we know that the ambitions expressed in our Strategy have a critical dependency on this.

Very best wishes

Sharon Peacock
Master



Summer projects for Churchill students

For the third year running, Churchill College offered a number of ‘Summer Opportunities Bursaries’ to support Churchill undergraduates pursuing a summer project outside of their academic course. These sought-after bursaries cover a period of up to 8 weeks, during which bursary holders are also entitled to subsidised College Accommodation.

The scheme, which was first conceived and launched by the College’s Senior Tutor Dr Rita Monson, is open to any Churchill College undergraduate student who is not a finalist. Project ideas can span any area of interest, from working in a historical archive or exploring an artist’s catalogue to developing robotics in an engineering lab or working on comparative bioinformatics in a research group.



Jake Rees (U21) was awarded a Summer Opportunity Bursary to fund a summer internship with the Wellcome Foundation in the Sanger labs on the Genome Campus, Cambridge. Jake worked as part of the PaM (Parasites and Microbes) Core Team and the opportunity not only developed invaluable skills and cemented his career direction but also led to an exciting invitation to speak at a national academic conference.

‘Completing this project has confirmed for me that a career in scientific research is something that I would very much enjoy and has further cemented my enthusiasm for the subject. I learnt a great deal about the way a laboratory functions, the realities surrounding certain techniques including their pitfalls, and gained experience writing detailed reports in a publishable format and producing slides to present to my co-workers. I also significantly changed the way in which I think about science, how I ask questions inside and outside of the lab, and how to thoroughly convince myself through good experimental design that what I believe has happened has indeed happened. I am delighted to have been accepted to present

Completing this project has confirmed for me that a career in scientific research is something that I would very much enjoy and has further cemented my enthusiasm for the subject.

my work at the Microbiology Annual Conference in Edinburgh. This opportunity has the potential to shift the entire trajectory of my future career and is extremely challenging to land.’



Third year medic **Emily Chong** spent last summer gaining invaluable experience as part of the Applied Social Science Group at Cambridge thanks to funding received through a Churchill College Summer Opportunities Bursary.

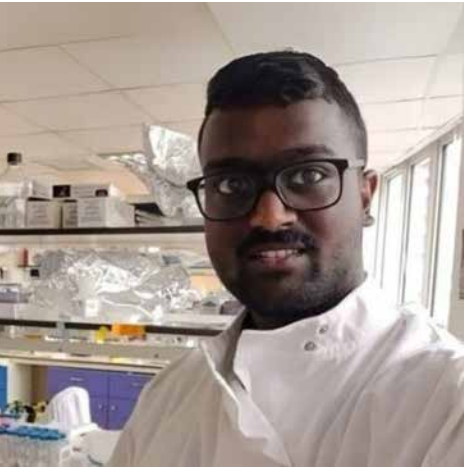
The Applied Social Science Group at Cambridge researches the social context of patient experiences and health behaviours.

As a medical student, Emily plans on becoming a doctor but this experience in the world of research, has encouraged her to consider doing some research in the future as well. ‘I’d like to explore research further to find out more about the different types and how doctors balance research alongside other work!’

Emily is also clear about the importance of providing funding of this kind to support

Churchill students hoping to undertake summer projects. Remarking how expensive it is to live in Cambridge, she notes that many students tend to get summer jobs to help fund their next year in College and they can't balance this need with funding a summer research project.

‘Without this funding, I would never have been able to do this research project. Getting the funding to take part in this opportunity has been invaluable in furthering my future plans, and I am very grateful.’



Third-year Churchill medical student **Joshua Sebastine** embarked on a research internship funded by Churchill College’s Summer Opportunities Bursary Scheme.

Joshua joined the MacDonald Lab at the UCL Institute of Ophthalmology – a world-leading centre for eye research – and took part in a unique project investigating retinal degeneration. His experience in the lab not only deepened his understanding of cutting-edge science and research careers, but it also highlights how the scheme is helping students bridge the gap between academic learning and real-world application.

Through this work, Joshua developed technical skills crucial for lab-based research, such as handling specimens, using confocal microscopes, and performing RNA and protein visualization techniques.

However, the internship wasn’t solely about technical skills – it was also an opportunity to engage with the lab’s collaborative culture. ‘The team was incredibly welcoming and supportive. Although everyone worked on individual projects, we frequently exchanged advice and techniques. Participating in journal clubs improved my ability to critically read scientific papers, and the experience broadened my understanding of what it means to be part of a research team.’

Joshua is hugely thankful to the Churchill’s Summer Opportunities Bursary for making the experience possible. Reflecting on the overall experience, Joshua emphasised the broader impact of such opportunities. ‘Not only did I gain technical and interpersonal skills, but I also gained insight into what a career in research may look like.’

Not only did I gain technical and interpersonal skills, but I also gained insight into what a career in research may look like.

College Societies of the Past

If we say, ‘College society’, many will think of CCBC, one of the College’s excellent other sports clubs or perhaps GODS (the long-running amateur dramatics society), but these are only a few of the extraordinary societies that College members have established over the years. Sadly, many of these societies have left little (or no) trace in the College Archive.

Hannah James, College Archivist, is appealing for information about and photographs of some of the more unusual College societies. The College Archive contains a single photograph of Peter Bullock, then Head Porter, about to jump into the Cam in the 1982 RAG week on

behalf of the College’s Lemming Society (CCPH 3/3/14). There is no further information about this society or what it got up to apart from convincing authority figures to jump into the Cam for good causes. . . Similarly, at reunion archive displays, Hannah has heard of other less traditional societies such as a Tea and Biscuit Society and a Folk Music Society, of which there are no archival traces apart from the CCRFC budget allocations.

If you established or joined a College society and have information or records that you’d like to deposit with the College Archive, please contact Hannah on college.archivist@chu.cam.ac.uk.



College Finances 2024

The College’s audited accounts up to 30 June 2024 are shown below.

The accounts below show a surplus only after donations and endowment income has been factored in. The financial year has shown a recovery from the effects of covid, with greater income from rents and conferences. After donations, the College made a surplus of £4.6million. However, without the donations added, there would have been a deficit of nearly £2million.

Donations, including pledges (over multiple years), have increased since the launch of the Think Forward campaign. This is partially

reflected in the accounts, though pledges made over several years are not in the accounts, only actual income from gifts received is recorded.

The education account table shows the College’s expenditure on teaching, research, student support including 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 £3.3million). This gap can only be funded by income from donations or from the endowment and conference income. 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.

Any work to maintain the fabric of the College’s estate and grounds as well as accommodation and teaching infrastructure, receives no government funding:- expenditure in order to stay still is well over £2million per year, as buildings age.

The tuition fee, of which the College only receives about half (the University receives the other half for department and faculty teaching), has not increased much since 2012, and given inflation has at times run at over 10% per year, the real-terms reduction in the value of tuition fees to UK educational institutions, including the College, has been over 33%. The College is also faced with rising costs due to inflation, whereas fees have only increased by £250 in thirteen years.

The table below shows the income and expenditure of Churchill College in the financial years ending June 2023 and June 2024. 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/governance

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, to support them pastorally, and can support research and maintain Churchill’s substantial grounds and buildings.

Consolidated accounts for 2022–2024	2023–24 Total £’000	2022–23 Total £’000
INCOME		
Academic fees and charges	£4,708	£4,485
Accommodation, catering and conferences	£9,788	£8,084
Investment income	£2,514	£2,212
 TOTAL income before donations and endowments	 £17,009	 £14,781
 Donations	 £2,405	 £1,951
New endowments	£4,058	£2,247
Other capital donations		£461
TOTAL income (including donations)	£23,472	£19,439
 EXPENDITURE		
Education	£7,873	£6,853
Accommodation. Catering and conferences	£10,974	£9,066
Other expenditure	£2,196	£19,90
Change in USS pensions	£(2048)	£(226)
Contribution under statute G, II*	£44	£32
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£18,859	£17,714
surplus/deficit before donations	-£1,850	-£2,933
 surplus/deficit after donations	 £4,631	 £1,725

Educational income and expenditure	2024 £’000	2023 £’000
Teaching	£2,944	£2,628
Tutorial	£1,180	£976
Admissions	£1,434	£1,451
Research	£605	£391
Scholarships and Awards	£1,029	£845
Other educational facilities	£681	£526
Total expenditure	£7,843	£6,853
Income from academic fees (as above)	£4,708	£4,485
Deficit in education account	-£3,315	-£2,368

* redistribution fund to poorer Colleges within Cambridge University

Meet the Churchill College student helping the NHS

Kanders Churchill Scholar Maddie McCarthy is putting her academic skills to practical use in a collaboration with Addenbrooke's Hospital, working to tackle one of the NHS's most pressing challenges – A&E waiting times. As part of her MPhil in Public Policy, Maddie has joined the hospital's strategy team to develop policy that aims to increase options for urgent and emergent care in the community. The initiative has multiple goals: reducing pressure on A&E departments, minimising hospital-related adverse outcomes for vulnerable populations, and expanding specialist care availability within community settings.

'The project focuses on creating sustainable solutions that benefit both patients and healthcare providers,' explains Maddie, who is also helping to establish clinical quality metrics for the hospital's long-term strategic planning. This includes developing evaluation frameworks to track the effectiveness of community-based care initiatives.

For Maddie, this placement has been far more than just an academic requirement.

'My work at CUH has felt more like a daily trip to an intellectual playground rather than a requirement for my course. When I came to the UK, I had very little knowledge of the National Health Service, which has made for a simultaneously steep learning curve and exciting educational experience.'

She feels fortunate to be contributing to what she describes as 'one of Britain's most beloved institutions'.

While such research projects are a requirement of her degree programme, Maddie secured this specific opportunity through Churchill College's robust network. Former Churchill Scholar Dr Joseph Kannarkat facilitated the initial connection, with additional support from her College tutor, Dr Clare Sander, a Churchill Fellow who introduced Maddie to the current and



former executive leadership at Addenbrooke's Hospital where she is a Consultant Respiratory Physician. The collaboration exemplifies Churchill College's commitment to supporting its postgraduate students in finding meaningful research opportunities that address real-world challenges. Life as a postgraduate student at Churchill College has provided Maddie with a rich balance of academic and social experiences. When not on her work placement, her typical day might include lectures, catching up on work in the College Buttery (café), chatting with College staff, enjoying a run around the grounds, and meeting friends for dinner in Hall. Maddie has also been able to maintain her connection to clinical practice, seeing patients at Addenbrooke's once a week. 'Given that I plan on becoming a physician, I try to see patients at Addenbrooke's on a weekly basis, which allows me to keep my clinical knowledge fresh while understanding the ways policy impacts individual patients and their care. I especially enjoy seeing patients with my tutor, a Respiratory Consultant at Addenbrooke's, who I adore and has become a terrific mentor to me.' It's been a remarkably productive year for Maddie both academically and personally. Beyond her coursework and

hospital placement, she has completed and submitted six publications to peer-reviewed health policy and medical journals, some co-authored with Cambridge professors. She has also managed to visit ten different countries with friends from Churchill and spent quality time with family members who have visited from America. When asked what she values most about life at Churchill College, Maddie's answer reflects her professional interests. 'Given my longstanding interest in creating policy that is designed to better serve communities, it's probably unsurprising that I most value our community. The College has terrific leadership, which lays the foundation for a terrific culture of care and collaboration. No student is anonymous at Churchill – a rarity for higher education, and a large part of what I believe makes the College so special.' Her experience at Churchill has clearly made a lasting impression. 'I wouldn't want to be a member of any other College, and I plan to give back to and support Churchill for many years to come', she affirms. The Kanders Churchill Scholarship, which supports Maddie's studies, provides full funding for two talented American students to attend one year of Master's study in science policy at Churchill College.

A warm welcome to Sam Venn...

I am delighted to have recently joined Churchill College in a new role working across both the College Development Office and the Churchill Archives Centre. My work is focused on strengthening philanthropic support for the College with a particular emphasis on legacies, while also helping the Archives Centre explore new opportunities to grow its engagement and fundraising potential.

Within the Development Team, I will be working closely on legacy giving. A legacy is one of the most meaningful and enduring ways for supporters to make a mark on the College. Gifts left in Wills have funded fellowships, scholarships, bursaries, buildings and many other initiatives that enable our students and academics to thrive. These forward-looking commitments ensure that Churchill can continue to flourish, broaden access, and move confidently *forward*.

My role includes helping alumni and friends explore the different ways a legacy gift can be structured, including options that may offer tax

advantages. Just as importantly, I will be sharing the stories behind these gifts: the motivations of those who choose to give, and the transformative impact felt by those who benefit. If you would like to have a confidential conversation about leaving a legacy to Churchill, please do get in touch. Those who pledge a legacy are invited to join the Winston S. Churchill 1958 Society, and each year the Master hosts an event in College for legacy donors in appreciation of their commitment.


At the same time, I am delighted to be working with colleagues at the Churchill Archives Centre, a unique institution that safeguards the papers of Sir Winston Churchill and many other significant figures of modern history. As we work to expand philanthropic support for the Archives, we aim to ensure the long-term preservation of these extraordinary collections while increasing access for researchers, students and the wider public. There is enormous potential to develop new opportunities that connect donors with the Archives' work, from conservation projects to digital initiatives.



I look forward to meeting many of you in the months ahead and to working together to support the College's strong and ambitious future.

Samuel Venn
Samuel.venn@chu.cam.ac.uk

Churchill Facts Quiz

Find the results here: 

- 1. In what year was the College founded?
- 2. Who was the architect for the original building of Churchill College?
- 3. What was the first building on site?
- 4. Who was the first Master of Churchill College and which Nobel Prize did he receive in 1951?
- 5. Where is the stone pictured located in College?



- 6. Why did Francis Crick resign as a fellow and how were his objections overcome?
- 7. What is the College motto and where does it originate?
- 8. Why are the College colours chocolate and pink?
- 9. What is the sculpture in this photo called?



- 10. What percentage of Churchill College students study STEM subjects?
- 11. In what year were female students first admitted?
- 12. In what year was the Churchill Archives Centre opened?
- 13. How many members of the College are Nobel Laureates? Members of the College include alumni and Fellows, both past and present.
- 14. Since the founding of the College, how many Masters has the College had?
- 15. One of the College's great strengths is the size of its site. How many acres is the College campus?

Navigare a vista!

The College was delighted to see that one of our alumnae, Jessica Uguccioni (U99), received an MBE in the New Year’s Honours for services to the Regulation of Self-Driving Vehicles. We were intrigued by an alumna who took a non-scientific educational pathway through studying and then teaching Law, yet has ended up with expertise in a very scientific field that is at the cutting edge of technology (albeit through the legal side rather than an engineering one). We caught up with Jess and asked her a few questions!

What are you favourite memories of Churchill?

I’ll never forget the first time I saw Churchill College – the duck pond, amazing sculptures, the p’lodge, and green open space. So expansive compared to the Colleges in town. I also remember how special it was when it got to feeling so familiar, like home. The novelty of messaging friends on laptops (cutting-edge technology back then!), popping by each other’s rooms to head to hall for meals, and, of course, our signature bops defined those early days. The sense of being looked after really stuck with me too – the porters were always there with their no-nonsense help, and the cleaners doing their magic in the background.

We were a tiny cohort of four Churchill lawyers in my year, spearheaded by our formidable director of studies, Professor Matthew Kramer, a leading light of legal theory and philosophy. We didn’t have many legal supervisors in College so in our first year for example, we were dashing from Caius for Roman law, to Queens for constitutional, and Pembroke for torts. This was a great way to meet students from other Colleges as well as feel more embedded in the University as a whole. But our anchor remained firmly at Churchill. Professor Kramer organised workshops and tests, also bringing Churchill students from different years together, building a strong sense of community and friendship, and igniting conversations that pushed us to dig deeper and aim higher.

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

I didn’t have a clear idea of what I wanted to do next upon leaving Churchill, but I was keen to continue learning, and to embrace new experiences. My dad has a saying, ‘navigare a vista’, which boils down to taking one step at a time. It’s great advice, but as someone with a fervid imagination and a tendency to over-think it’s not been easy for me to follow.

Overall, my career path has been more opportunity-led than pre-planned. For example, my first teaching gig was supervising students at Emmanuel College thanks to Dr Rosy Thornton trusting me to cover her equity teaching during her sabbatical, right after I graduated. Balancing this role with work at a law firm was demanding but rewarding, and paved the way for full-time teaching at Durham University. While I adored teaching, I missed practising law – and the vibrancy of London! Joining the civil service through the Law Commission blended academia with practical legal policy, and was in many ways a natural next step.

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

I don’t tend to think in terms of regrets as so often the hardest knocks are the most formative. But if I had to pick something to do differently, it’d be to spend less energy early in my career worrying about trying to figure out

I’ll never forget the first time I saw Churchill College – the duck pond, amazing sculptures, the p’lodge, and green open space. So expansive compared to the Colleges in town.

what I should specialise in. Whereas having a broad foundation is often encouraged at the start of our working lives, this is soon replaced with pressure to decide on a specialism.

My mindset and interest didn’t fit this neat pattern of refinement as I progressed. I could never have predicted that self-driving technologies would become such a defining – and rewarding – part of my journey. The path was incremental. Work in transport is often interdisciplinary and incredibly varied. It was a revelation to discover that specialism could arise from a field of application rather than cultivating knowledge in a specific discipline.



Through my work on self-driving I’ve gotten to work on UN expert advisory groups and support the passage of legislation in parliament, and become conversant with a multitude of technical terms and acronyms that were totally alien just a few years ago. And in a full-circle moment, I now find myself spending lots of time with engineers – just like at Churchill (minus the part where we discuss international vehicle standards!)

What’s next for autonomous vehicles?

The potential of self-driving technologies is immense. In cities like San Francisco, trials are already underway with passenger services operating without safety drivers. This hasn’t been smooth sailing, but showcases the capability of the technology in providing real commercial services, not just trials. We also

have impressive trials happening here in the UK, with companies like Wayve, Oxa and Aurigo running trials of increasing complexity on public roads.

In the near term, we can expect more commercial trials and significant progress in regulatory frameworks worldwide. A key milestone is the UN regulation on performance standards for automated driving systems, anticipated by 2027. This can promote significant scaling of the technology internationally. On the flip side, however, many car manufacturers are putting more effort into improving driver assistance systems rather than going fully autonomous, aiming to make driving easier instead of phasing it out completely. It’ll be interesting to follow how these two trends interact.

Given the number of variables, long-term predictions for self-driving vehicles are notoriously tricky. There’s a history of inflated promises in this field. For me, the focus should remain on ensuring that the technology is inclusive, safe, and aligned with societal needs. Over the next two years government will be consulting on how to implement the Automated Vehicles Act passed in 2024. How we build these self-driving regulations will help shape the trajectory for self-driving for decades to come. Through my work at the Centre for Connected and Autonomous Vehicles and collaboration with wider government on the AI strategy, I remain committed to supporting this transformative effort. Alongside my engineering colleagues, and as ever... ‘navigando a vista’!

WALTER, WINSTON & EDDIE

A story of Painting, Friendship & Patronage

Winston Churchill and his Private Secretary, Edward (Eddie) Marsh, were the best of friends. Churchill wrote to him: 'Few people have been so lucky as me to find in the dull and grimy recesses of the Colonial Office a friend who I shall cherish & hold to all my life.' [1] In 1910, early on in their working relationship, Marsh had been offered the position of Private Secretary and Master of Ceremonies to Herbert Gladstone [2], but he declined on the basis that 'It would mean chucking Winston for good, and that would simply be too great a wrench. We have got peculiarly attached to one another in the four years we have been together, and I do want to stay with him so long as he is in office.' [3] They were immortalised working together in two cartoons by Max Beerbohm (*see opposite*).

They shared an avid interest in painting: Marsh was a passionate collector of contemporary art and Churchill was a keen amateur painter, but they did not always see eye to eye. Diana Mosley remembered 'Winston Churchill inveighing against a large picture by Stanley Spencer of Cookham war memorial which hung on the staircase [at 96 Cheyne Walk], and Eddie Marsh defending it against his onslaught'. [4] They did, however,

agree upon the merits of the painter Walter Sickert (1860–1942), who was recognised as an important artist in his own lifetime and, since his death, has been acknowledged as one of the most influential figures in twentieth-century British art.

Marsh thrilled at the prospect of visiting artists' studios and purchasing paintings 'wet from the brush' in order to encourage and help 'a man of talent, perhaps of genius'. [5] He first visited Sickert's studio in 1892 and he owned two of Sickert's pictures which he lovingly described: 'The New Bedford, a masterpiece of his early period' and 'Her Majesty's, a heavenly vision of sky-blue and honey-colour'. [6]

Churchill first encountered Sickert when the artist reconnected with Clementine, who had lived with her mother, Lady Blanche Hozier, in Dieppe where they had been neighbours. Sickert and Churchill became firm friends and Sickert was a regular visitor to Chartwell where he gave Churchill painting lessons. In 1927 Sickert painted Churchill's portrait which won praise from the critics, (but unfortunately not from Churchill or Marsh), when it was displayed at the Savile Gallery, London in 1928.

[1] Churchill to Marsh, 20 Aug. 1908; University of Cambridge, Churchill Archives Centre, Papers of Sir Edward Marsh, GBR/0014/EMAR/ 2.

[2] Herbert Gladstone, 1st Viscount Gladstone (1854 – 1930), Governor-General of the Union of South Africa 1910 – 1914.

[3] Hassall, Edward Marsh, Patron of the Arts, p. 151.

[4] Mosley, A Life of Contrasts, p. 89. The conversation took place in 1932 at Diana Mosley's twenty-second birthday party.

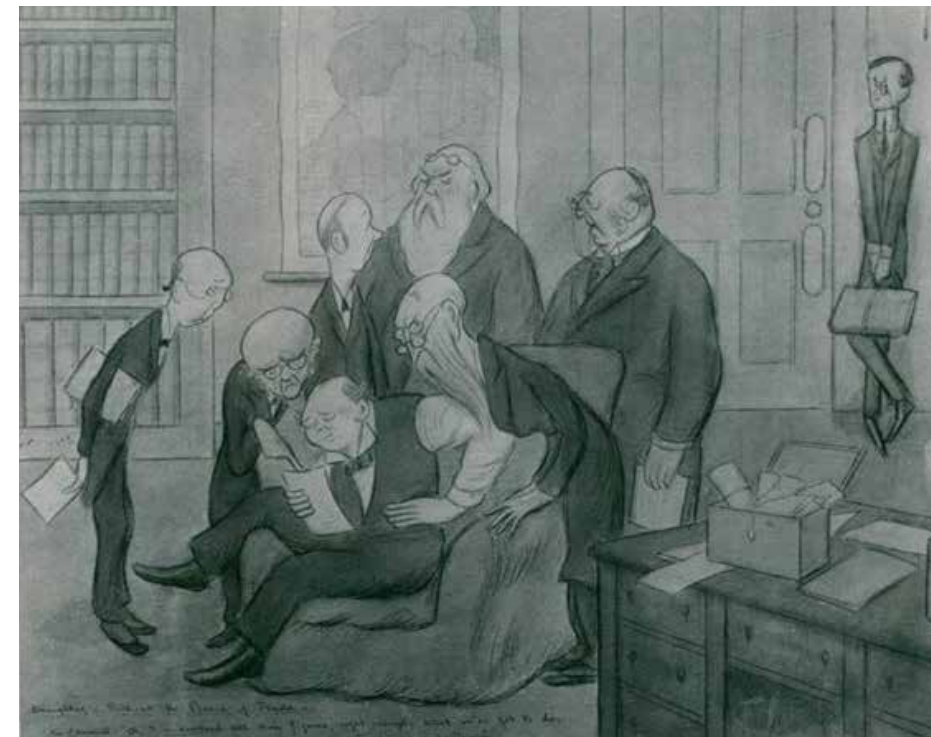
[5] Marsh, A Number of People, p. 355.

[6] Marsh, 'Patronage in Art To-day III', p. 487.

[7] Sir Alec Martin to Marsh, 14 May 1934; University of Cambridge, Churchill Archives Centre, CHAR 2/575 A-B/83.

[8] Marsh to Churchill, 15 May 1934; University of Cambridge, Churchill Archives Centre, CHAR 2/575 A-B/82.

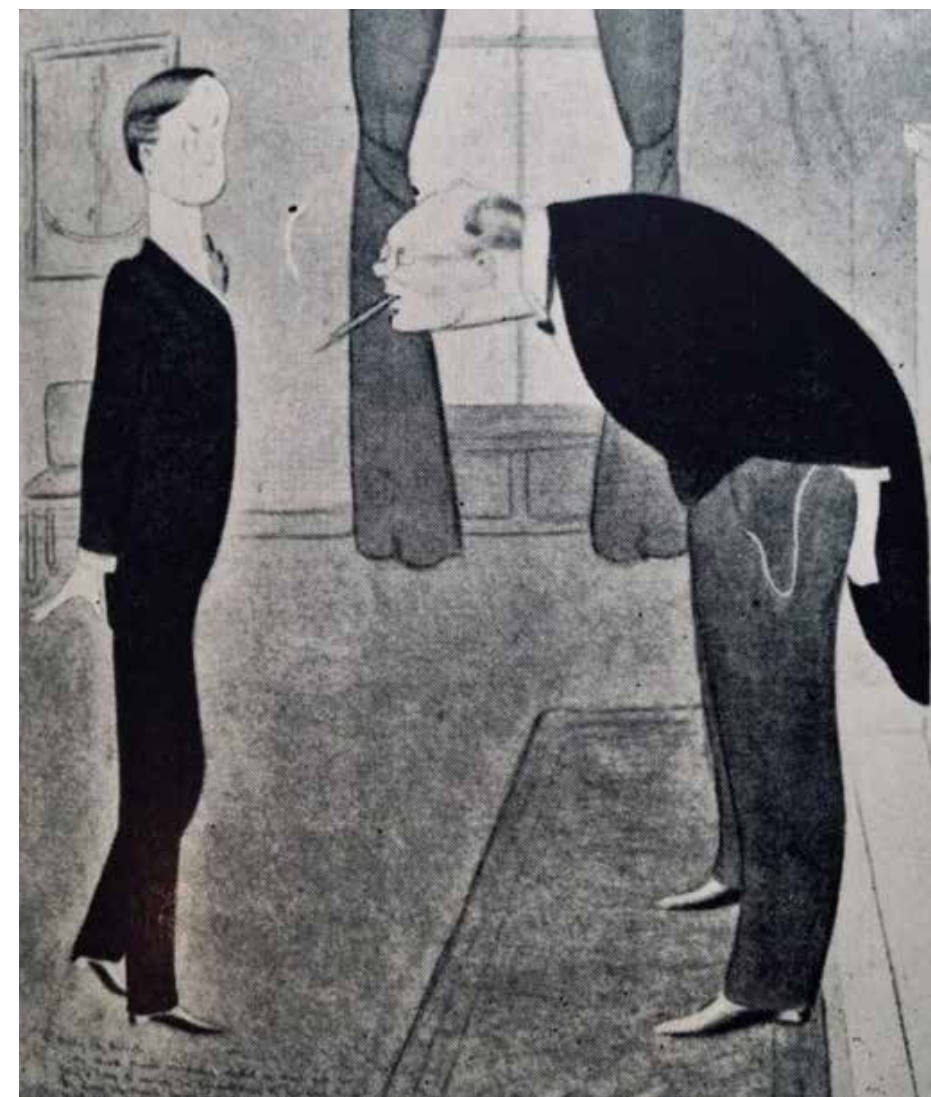
[9] Churchill to Marsh, 16 May 1934; University of Cambridge, Churchill Archives Centre, CHAR 2/575 A-B/84.



Draughting a Bill at the Board of Trade (1909)



Churchill by Walter Sickert, 1927(NPG 4438)



A Study in Dubiety (c. 1913)

Sharon Mather

Sharon Mather had a successful career in fundraising for the Arts and Higher Education sectors including the Fitzwilliam Museum, the Royal Academy of Arts and Churchill College, Cambridge, where she was a Fellow from 2006 until 2014, before achieving a Distinction in M.A. Biography with the University of Buckingham in 2020. She was also awarded the University Prize for the Best Performance in Biography. In 2021 she was short-listed for the Tony Lothian Prize for, Edward Marsh: A Life of Poets, Painters & Players which was published by Unicorn Publishing in October 2023.



CHURCHILL COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE



YOUR CONTRIBUTION CAN MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE

DONATION FORM

The Bill Brown Creative Workshops

Embedded within Churchill College, for the benefit of its community, The Bill Brown Creative Workshops are a student-driven space for creativity and innovation.

We are delighted to announce the eagerly anticipated opening of The Bill Brown Creative Workshops (BBCW) in October 2024. Near the front (Storey's Way) entrance to the College, it is providing all skill levels and disciplines with the opportunity to create, develop, and implement projects according to both their ideas and the latest technology.

The project was funded thanks to a major gift from the Bill Brown Charitable Trust, as well as donations from many other supporters and alumni. The workshops provide a 'maker space' for all skill levels and disciplines to create and develop ideas using leading technologies. With equipment such as 3D printing, laser cutters and computer-aided-design sitting within workshopping spaces, students can test and explore projects. The exhibition space within the Bill Brown Creative Workshops provides a means to showcase resulting work.

BBCW Technician Jonathan Woolf joined the College from the community workshop Makerspace Cambridge. He is on hand to show students how to use the facilities, to help them create and innovate, and to support their work. Students are also supported by College Fellows specialising in subjects including Architecture, History of Art, Biochemistry, Computer Science, Engineering, Mathematics, and Plant Sciences.

'The Bill Brown Creative Workshops are a unique facility within Oxbridge colleges, designed to encourage collaboration, creativity, interdisciplinary thinking in keeping with the College's founding principles. We're delighted to be able to offer this to our students, and grateful to everyone who has supported this remarkable project.'

Founding Director of the BBCW, Barry Phipps

"Absolutely stunning—so inspiring!"

Miaomiao Zou G21

Thank you to the Bill Brown Charitable Trust and all those who have generously donated to bring this vision to reality. We look forward to keeping you in touch with exciting student innovations emerging from The Bill Brown Creative Workshops in the years ahead.



Photo by Jane Liechty
Photography

There’s multiple ways to help

Donate online via our website

You can make a one-off gift using a credit card or debit card via www.chu.cam.ac.uk/donate. We accept Mastercard and Visa cards. If you have a UK bank account you can also set up a regular gift online (monthly, quarterly or annually).

Donate via telephone or by post

We are pleased to accept gifts made using a credit card or debit card by telephone. Call +44 (0)1223 331660. We can also accept gifts by post. You can pay by credit card, UK debit card, cheque or direct debit. Please complete and return the enclosed gift form to accompany your instruction. Cheques should be made payable to ‘Churchill College’.

Donate via bank transfer

Please notify the Development Office by email: development@chu.cam.ac.uk if you choose this option please ensure that the bank quotes your Surname and preferred fund to support as the reference for the transfer.

- Bank: Lloyds Bank, 3 Sidney Street, Cambridge, CB2 3HG
- Sort Code: 30-91-56
- Account number: 03114294
- Account Name: Churchill College Bursar’s Account
- IBAN: GB72 LOYD 3091 5603 114294
- SWIFTCODE: LOYDGB2L
- BIC NUMBER: LOYDGB21018

Payroll giving

Under the Payroll Giving Scheme, employees can authorise their employer to deduct charitable donations from their gross pay before calculating Pay As You Earn Tax. This means that the employee automatically gets tax relief on donations at his or her top rate of tax. There is no limit on the amount that can be given under the scheme. To find out more about Payroll Giving and whether your company operates the scheme, please contact your Human Resources or Personnel Department.

Donate from the USA

Tax-deductible contributions can be made via Cambridge in America which is a 501c(3) tax-exempt organisation. You can find out more and donate online at www.cantab.org. When making your donation, you should recommend the allocation of your gift to Churchill College and you may find that your company offers a matched giving programme.

Donate from Overseas (non USA)

You can make a one-off gift online by visiting www.chu.cam.ac.uk/donate or set up a bank transfer or complete and return the enclosed gift form using a debit or credit card or cheque. **Gifts from Canadian taxpayers:** The University of Cambridge is recognised by the Canadian Revenue Agency as a prescribed institution under Section 3503 of the Canadian Income Tax Regulations. We can therefore provide you with a receipt for Canadian tax purposes on receipt of your donation, if requested.

Gifts from European taxpayers: If you are a European resident you may be able to maximise your gift through Transnational Giving Europe (TGE). To find out more please visit www.donate.transnationalgiving.eu/landing/ChurchillCollege, or contact the Development Office to find out more about the scheme.

Donate non-cash assets

We welcome gifts of listed shares and securities which attract relief from Capital Gains Tax and Income Tax. Gifts of land or property made during a donor’s lifetime attract the same tax incentives as gifts of shares, and other forms of non-cash gift (such as works of art, books, manuscripts and equipment) may also be considered as gifts to Cambridge. For further information please contact the Development Office.

For more information

Visit: <https://www.chu.cam.ac.uk/giving-to-the-college/#waystodonate>
Email us: development@chu.cam.ac.uk
Call us: +44(0) 1223 331660
Churchill College Development Office, Storey’s Way
Cambridge, CB3 0DS, UK

Your details:

Full name:

Email address:

Stay up to date with all of Churchill College news. By submitting your email address you indicate consent to receiving email marketing messages from us, including but not limited to event invitations and our E-bulletin. You can withdraw this permission at any time.

Phone:

Address:

I would like to make my gift to support:

☐ Think Forward Fund (Unrestricted)

☐ Graduate Studentship Endowment Fund

☐ Student Support Fund

☐ Black Students' Support Fund

☐ Winston Churchill Top-Up Bursary Fund

☐ Student Wellbeing & Mental Health Fund

Other (please state)

Please tick if you would prefer your donation to remain anonymous

Please tick if you would like to receive information about leaving a donation to Churchill in your Will

How would you like to donate?

☐ One-off gift by card

☐ Direct Debit (please turn over)

☐ One-off donation by cheque (cheques should be made payable to Churchill College)

One-off gifts by card:

Name on card:

Amount (£):

Type of card:

Card number:

Expiry date:

CCV no:

Issue no:

Registered card address:

If different

I would like to boost my donation with Gift Aid:

I am a UK tax payer and I would like to allow Churchill College to reclaim the tax on this and every other donation I have made over the last four years, and all future donations, until I notify you otherwise. I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/ or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand that Churchill College will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give.

☐ I want to Gift Aid my donation to Churchill College

Gift Aid notes: Please remember to notify Churchill College if you:
(1) want to cancel this declaration, (2) change your name or home address, (3) no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains.
If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.

Date:

Signature:

Regular donation by Direct Debit:

UK bank accounts only

I intend to make a gift of £ for year(s). (Please leave blank if no end date applies)

Every month on 15th 22nd

Quarterly on 22nd Mar, Jun, Sep & Dec

Annually on 15th Mar, Jun, Sep or Dec (Earliest date after receipt of form will be used.)

Instruction to your Bank or Building Society to pay by Direct Debit:

Name(s) of account holder(s):

Account no: Sort code:

Bank name:

Bank address:

Date: Signature:

Service User Number: 277937

Please pay Churchill College Direct Debits from the account detailed in this Instruction subject to the safe-guards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain with Churchill College and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my Bank/Building Society.

Direct Debit Guarantee:

This Guarantee is offered by all banks and building societies that accept instructions to pay Direct Debits. If there are any changes to the amount, date or frequency of your Direct Debit, CTT Charity Payments Ltd will notify you 10 working days in advance of your account being debited, or as otherwise agreed. If you request CTT Charity Payments to collect a payment, confirmation of the amount and date will be given to you at the time of the request. If an error is made in the payment of your Direct Debit, by CTT Charity Payments Ltd or your bank or building society, you are entitled to a full and immediate refund of the amount paid from your bank or building society. If you receive a refund you are not entitled to, you must pay it back when CTT Charity Payments Ltd asks you to. You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by simply contacting your bank or building society. Written confirmation may be required. Please also notify us.



I would like to boost my donation with Gift Aid:

giftaid it

I am a UK tax payer and I would like to allow Churchill College to reclaim the tax on this and every other donation I have made over the last four years, and all future donations, until I notify you otherwise. I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/ or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand that Churchill College will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give.

I want to Gift Aid my donation to Churchill College

Date: Signature:

News from Riverside

Fairbairn Cup 2023

Four crews braved the chilly weather on the Cam for The Fairbairn Cup, with NW1 finishing third and NM1 twelfth. Michaelmas Term also saw some strong results on and off-Cam, including NW1 winning their division in Winter Head and Christmas Head – a promising set of results for the year ahead!

Lent Bumps 2024

Unfortunately, heavy rain in Lent Term led to a lot of cancelled outings and river closures, and ultimately the Getting on Race was cancelled, which meant that our Lower Boats missed out on competing this year.

Nevertheless, M1, W1, and M2 valiantly battled through the poor conditions for a hard-fought Lent Bumps. It was a tough but rewarding week of racing for the crews, with an impressive show of grit for W1 holding off Pembroke at two whistles for almost the entire course on the final day.

Overall Results:

W1 got 0
M1 got -1
M2 got -1

May Bumps 2024

It was a successful May Bumps campaign for the Boat Club, highlighted by M1 finishing the week +4 and getting blades. W1 started and finished their campaign at sixth in the river, maintaining their strong place in the first division. W2 repeated their 2023 result by finishing the week +2, while W3 had another excellent year finishing on +3 with a double bump on day 3 as they moved up an entire division. M2 and M3 battled valiantly, but ended the week -2 and -1 respectively, despite M3 starting off with a bump on day one!



Overall Results:

M1 got +4, getting blades!
W1 got 0
M2 got -2
W2 got +2
M3 got -1
W3 got +3

CCBC News

The College was very proud to have five students who took part in the trials process to earn a spot in The Gemini Boat Race 2024. Iris Powell (U20) represented CUBC in the winning Women's Blue Boat, and Thomas Connor (U21) represented CUBC in the victorious Goldie crew. Congratulations to Seth Delap (U22), Molly Cushing (U21), and Chris Hughes (G19) who all took part in the trials process and showcased the strength of CCBC.

Sadly, Robert Fulton (U70), one of the major donors to CCBC, passed away in May 2024. Robert was Overall Captain of CCBC when women were admitted to the College in 1972,



and was instrumental in encouraging that intake of women to try rowing. Robert studied Modern Languages at Churchill and then went on to work in the Civil Service until his retirement. In 2021 Robert funded a new women's VIII, which is named after him, and continues to be used by the Boat Club during our Bumps campaigns.



Your gift can support our students
Donate online at: www.chu.cam.ac.uk/donate or call +44 (0) 1223 331660

Churchill College, Cambridge, CB3 0DS
Registered Charity Number 1137476



Dr Nitin Shah (U&G76)

Perpetual Reminders of Missed Opportunities

Imagine the moon in the year 2050: habitats for humans and plants, scientific research employing vehicles, robots and sensors, commercial manufacturing and mining, and sustainable production of electricity and water. The initial version of this article was to describe my role in orchestrating a mission to deploy the first cellular network in support of this vision of connected people and machines on the moon.

However, the mission failed to meet its objectives, demonstrating the realities and risks of innovation. Reflecting on this, I was reminded of my role in other partially successful ventures closer to home: the invention of airplane mode, and construction of a pedestrian ramp at Churchill College, and the lessons learned.

Cellular Communications on the Moon

My colleagues at Nokia Bell Labs had miniaturised and adapted a commercial LTE network to withstand the gravitational forces of a spacecraft launch, the harsh radiation during transit through the Van Allen belts, and to operate in the vacuum and temperatures of the lunar surface. I was asked to orchestrate the funding, logistics and mission planning to deliver a 4G LTE network to the lunar surface. I took on the challenge to secure passage on a lunar mission to take our payload with a mixture of excitement and some trepidation, as a prior attempt had failed to launch.

The motivation was clear: numerous scientific and commercial moon missions have been

planned over the next few decades, but there was no coordinated plan for wireless communications systems and use of radio spectrum on the lunar surface. On the current trajectory we would accumulate multiple dissimilar wireless systems on the moon, resulting in unnecessary costs and the potential for radio interference. Having deployed wireless networks across the world, our solution was to provide uniformly compatible communications services to all visitors to the moon, and to take advantage of the economies of scale and proven performance of the very same cellular technology used by billions on earth.

After exploring alternatives, we submitted a proposal to NASA's Tipping Point program, that evaluates competitive ideas for innovative solutions for the moon. Even though we were an outsider to the space industry, our partners and we were selected for an award to fund our mission, embracing our vision. The objective was not only a pioneering engineering feat, but as a scientific mission to measure radio propagation and bandwidth performance

across the rocks and soil and craters on the moon.

It took several years of technical work and meticulous planning leading to the spacecraft launch. Our mission partner's lunar lander arrived on the moon's South Pole as planned, however, after a flawless journey, the spacecraft landed on its side in a crater, at a distance of 384,400 km from home. This meant that the solar panels could not capture enough energy, and that the robotic vehicles that would have travelled over the terrain, connected to the network, and measured the bandwidth of the signals, never deployed. The 4G LTE network had enough power to start working, and we verified that all the software and hardware was fully functional, having survived the journey to the moon. But after 25 minutes of operation, we ran out of power and the mission was over.

Looking up at the moon I am reminded of the ambition, the possibilities, and the crushing disappointment. Having the moon as a perpetual (and unavoidable) reminder triggered

recollections of my role in two other partially successful ventures, many decades apart.

The Invention of Airplane (Flight) Mode

In the early 2000s, there was concern that cellphones could cause interference with the navigation and communications systems of aircraft, and medical equipment including hearing aids. The telecommunications and the aircraft industries were at loggerheads, with anecdotal but inconclusive data on potential interference. The working agreement was that travellers on airplanes were instructed to completely switch off their mobile devices.

On a flight across the Pacific Ocean at an altitude of 39,000 feet, anger and panic set in as I realised that my meeting preparation notes were stored on my smartphone which was switched off, in compliance with the air crew's instructions. In response, with pen and paper, I wrote a patent application on the flight entitled 'radio mute', which was issued as 'Method and apparatus for disabling the RF functionality of a multi-function wireless communication device while maintaining local functionality'. Even though airplane mode has been implemented in over 100 billion devices, and cumulatively will reach over a trillion devices in coming years, the core intent of the invention was never fulfilled, which was to make use of airplane mode assured and easy for the consumer.



I am grateful for my experience at Churchill College, and many adventures since, to learn to observe, understand problems and barriers, to work with others to imagine and develop novel solutions.

The full invention considered the case where, based on the environment and with mutual consent, (for example when you are on an aircraft, or at a concert theater, or in a medical facility with sensitive equipment), the local cellular network would have the ability to automatically put all mobile devices in the vicinity into 'radio mute' mode, and without the need for the individual user to act. Whenever I fly, I am reminded not only of the invention, but disappointed that a key part of the patent has not been implemented.

The Ramp at Staircase 56 of Churchill College

In the mid-1970's I was an undergraduate representative on the Buildings Committee at Churchill College, where the most contentious issue was heating of the residential rooms during the winter – the setting for the heating systems was determined by the threshold for the number of complaints from students to the Porters about unacceptably cold rooms.

As I struggled with assignments, I used to sit in my bay window and stare out across the College buildings. I noticed that a student in a wheelchair (I never met or knew him) could go down the ramp from the library toward the fields, but could not go up the steps that led to staircase 56. He had to navigate the long way

from the library to the Porters' Lodge through the courtyards, while some of his companions would take the shorter path down the ramp and up the steps.

I petitioned the Buildings Committee for the construction of a ramp to replace the steps, and was grateful that the proposal was accepted, and a ramp was constructed and exists to this day. Looking back, I wish I had the confidence, communications tools, and the imagination, to do more at the time to build wider awareness of the barriers people face.

Innovation does not happen in Isolation

I am grateful for my experience at Churchill College, and many adventures since, to learn to observe, understand problems and barriers, to work with others to imagine and develop novel solutions. And not be deterred even if the outcome is a partial success that informs others to innovate further.

A look back on events

We always enjoy opportunities to welcome alumni back to College or to host events away from Cambridge, whether of a business networking nature, or in tandem with a visit by our Master or other member of our Fellowship.

Alumni Weekend (open to all alumni and their guests), our biennial Donor Garden Party, our termly Business Network events and our annual visit to Trinity, our sister College in Oxford (to name just a few!)

On top of ad-hoc speaker events, our regular calendar of events comprises: Reunion Dinners, a 50th anniversary of matriculation dinner, our

If you haven't come along to anything, do keep an eye on our website (www.chu.cam.ac.uk/events/) to see if anything appeals. And

if you are too far from Cambridge but would like an opportunity to get together with other Churchillians in your area, do let us know, and if we can find an opportunity to host something, we'll certainly look into it!

Here's a selection of photos from some of our events over the past year or so:



Our inaugural YGR meeting



Professor Cath Green (U93) speaking at an alumni event at the Royal Society



Alumni Golf tournament (from left: runner-up Peter Crutchet (U70); winner Tony Feltbower (U&G72); nearest pin winner Gavin Bateman (former staff member); with Elizabeth McWilliams (U92, Alumni and Events Officer):



Drinks reception for the 2006-11 Reunion Dinner



Guests at our 1979-84 Reunion Dinner at a memorabilia exhibition in the Archives Centre



In the buttry following our 1979-84 Reunion Dinner



Drinks reception prior to Association Dinner 2024



A gentle return to the water for some of our rowing veterans



Reunion Dinners are great, but England winning a Euros semi-final whist there is even better



San Francisco Olympic Club Alumni Reception 2025



Performance of Dr Susan Lim's (G85) *Fantasy of Companionship Suite for Piano, Flute and Strings* with multi-media collaboration with artist Xavier Bou at Association Weekend 2024



2012-17 alumni enjoy an exhibition of memorabilia in the Archives Centre Reading Room prior to dinner



2006-11 alumni enjoying a pre-dinner drink



All Engineers' Dinner with students, alumni and Fellows in November 2024



1974 50th Anniversary Dinner



Drinks reception prior to the 1974 50th Anniversary Dinner



Out 1975 alumni celebrate 50 years since matriculation



Our Donor Garden Party, inside thanks to inclement weather



Churchill Fellow Dr Ramit Debnath speaking at our Donor Garden Party



Drinks reception prior to Association Dinner 2024



2012-17 alumni at their Reunion ahead of dinner

Churchill College students develop innovative AI assistant prototype

In a groundbreaking project, three of the College’s undergraduate Natural Science students developed an innovative AI assistant that could transform how information is accessed and shared within the College environment in future. Led by a recent Churchill graduate with expertise in digital technologies, the project represents an exciting exploration of artificial intelligence’s potential in an academic setting.

The AI assistant, currently a prototype housed in the Bill Brown Creative Workshop (BBCW), integrated advanced language model technology with voice generation capabilities. Developed by students Victor Coldea (U22), Mridul Shrestha (U22), and Damien Dooley (U20), the project aims to create an interactive information point that can respond to queries about College facilities, events, and resources.

‘What makes this unique is how we’ve put different pieces of technology together,’ explained the project lead, alumnus Dr Bang Ming Yong (G15), who volunteered his time and expertise to bring the project to life. The assistant runs on a customised GPT-4 model that has been specifically trained on College website information, allowing it to provide tailored responses to student and visitor queries.

The project’s potential applications are wide-ranging. Initially conceived as a guide for the Bill



Brown Creative Workshops, future deployments could also extend to locations like the Porter’s Lodge or Buttery, where the AI could provide real-time information about facility availability, menu options or campus events.

Inspiration and Collaboration: bringing the project to life

For Bang, the project provided the perfect opportunity to use his growing expertise in the field of AI.

Bang, a past winner of the Churchill Enterprise Competition in 2019, is currently running a technology startup based in Cambridge, Bang Technologies. His startup is currently developing new methods to engage students to learn STEM and history using a combination of technologies such as virtual reality VR and AI.

The main motivation for Bang’s involvement was to work on a fun side project largely inspired by Jarvis, the AI assistant featured in

The project serves as a testament to Churchill College’s commitment to providing students with opportunities to explore cutting-edge technologies and develop skills beyond traditional academic boundaries.

Tony Stark’s 2008 superhero film, Iron Man. He feels that Churchill College’s innovation-friendly environment was instrumental in attracting bright, motivated students to the project. ‘Everyone, from the Master of the College to the Fellows and students, was supportive of the project! Churchill really is the perfect place for anyone passionate about building and creating cool things!’

For the student developers, the project was more than just a technical challenge. Victor Coldea highlighted the collaborative learning experience, explaining, ‘I learnt how to code as part of a team – sharing code snippets with collaborators who were working on different parts of the project allowed us all to make good progress.’

Mridul pointed to the project’s broader educational value. ‘The project forced me to problem solve and step out of my comfort zone, learning about new Python modules,’ he said. ‘But just as important were the teamwork skills I developed, communicating progress, responding to feedback, and meeting deadlines.’

The collaboration started with a day-long computer building workshop led by Bang, where two of the student developers, Damien and Victor. Their experience sparked interest in Bang’s AI assistant project, and they

volunteered their evenings and weekends to bring the concept to life, alongside fellow student Mridul.

Learning, growth, and future possibilities

For the students, the project offered more than just technical skills. As Damien reflected, ‘Study can get intense and all-consuming, and I found having this little project helped me remember that I do enjoy challenging myself and learning new skills.’ For him, the opportunity was about more than future career prospects – it was about personal growth and enjoying the process of learning.

While current limitations mean the assistant doesn’t yet have a visual interface, the team’s long-term vision is ambitious. Future iterations could potentially include features like sustainability data analysis, voice-activated information retrieval, and even personalized interactions with alumni using voice recreation technologies.

As artificial intelligence continues to reshape various sectors, this student-led project offers a glimpse into how emerging technologies might transform educational experiences.

The project serves as a testament to Churchill College’s commitment to providing students



with opportunities to explore cutting-edge technologies and develop skills beyond traditional academic boundaries.



The birth of women’s football at Churchill

by Mary Mahon (U&G83)

When I came up to Churchill in 1983, I knew I wanted to play sports. I signed up for a novice boat and for the recently formed Churchill ladies hockey team, but had time and energy for more. One evening after dinner my new friends and I were hanging out in the buttery over our halves of orange and lemonade (our usual weeknight tippie) and shooting Smartie tops across the room when the conversation turned to women’s sports. Heather McKinlay (U83), an avid Charlton fan, wanted to start a ladies football team. I wanted to start a ladies rugby team. (I’d played rugby – alongside the boys – for my school First XV in 6th form.) We compromised and made a notice asking interested girls to sign up to play football or rugby. We figured if we got over 15 players we could try rugby; if we got 11, we could play football. We managed enough for a football team. Our friend David Schofield (U83) volunteered to coach us. We chose Heather

as our first captain, and the Churchill Ladies Association Football Club was born.

We started by playing informal mixed games involving the boys from Churchill. Then a chance encounter with a player from Jesus College led Heather to organise our first official match. A few days later Churchill and Jesus played out a 0–0 draw: women’s football had kicked off in earnest at Cambridge. Newnham College had also just started a team and the three team captains made and distributed flyers to other Colleges encouraging them to start women’s teams too. By the Lent term, five or six Colleges were up and running and Heather became the secretary of the newly formed Cambridge University Women’s Association Football League. We realised we had to register as players with the Football Association in order to take part in organised competitions. When we filled out our registration forms we were shocked to discover

ABOVE
Mary Mahon (U&G83)

that our earlier kickabouts with the boys could have resulted in us all being sanctioned – it stated in no uncertain terms that adults must not play in mixed matches. I don’t think we realised at the time just how pioneering we were nor that the FA had banned women outright from playing football until 1971.

For our first year when just playing friendlies we bought ourselves pink sweatshirts printed with chocolate brown Churchill crests. By our second year more teams had started up. We had an official league competition in the Michaelmas term and Cuppers in the Lent term. It felt like the time to get proper team shirts. We were looking forward to showing our College pride in pink

We compromised and made a notice asking interested girls to sign up to play football or rugby. We figured if we got over 15 players we could try rugby; if we got 11, we could play football. We managed enough for a football team.

and chocolate kit, but first we had to secure funding. We went to see the bursar, Hywel George, to ask for money for shirts. The ladies hockey team did the same. Being a practical man the bursar agreed to the purchase of the shirts on two conditions – the women’s hockey and football teams had to share them, and they had to be blue and white quartered. This was apparently the design of the men’s Thirds. The bursar reasoned that if both women’s teams folded then the shirts could go to the men’s team. We were a bit miffed at the assumption that our teams wouldn’t go the distance, but happy to have some real kit. Sharing the shirts wasn’t as big an obstacle as it might seem: the ladies hockey and football teams never played at the same time because about half of the players were on both teams! As it turned out the Thirds never got the shirts as both the hockey and football teams thrived and grew.

Two years later, we applied again for new shirts and this time both teams were allowed to have their own. We chose pink and chocolate quarters for the football team and pink and chocolate halves for the hockey team. Before then the rowers were the only Churchill teams to sport our College colours, but I’m happy to say we sparked a trend. Soon the men’s football, hockey and rugby teams were all proudly wearing pink and chocolate strips.

As a vet student I was at Churchill for longer than most of my friends, and played football for Churchill ladies all six years. In those early days Churchill was one of the top teams, alongside St John’s and Girton. We were runners up in the inaugural Cuppers, losing on penalties in the final. We went on to win Cuppers 1986–7 and



Top (L-R):D.Schofield (coach), W Edwards, P Troll, R.Stratford, H.James, C.Gough, A.Sweeney, Middle: G. Jones, G. Schofield, M. Mahon, H. McKinlay (Captain), L. Henry, H. Reid, J.Tyrer, Bottom: J.Sleeman, A. McBean, S.A. Bennett, K. Turfrey, M. Mackay

1987–8. Despite losing only one league game from 1986–1989 we never won the league title during my time, regularly being runners up (usually to St John’s).

Once we had an inter-college women’s football league and cup established, it was time for a University team. After trials in Michaelmas term 1985 Churchill’s goalkeeper Alison Sweeney (U84) and I were among those chosen to represent the Light Blues. The highlight of that first year was the inaugural Ladies Football Varsity match. Although the men’s Varsity match was played at Wembley, ours graced a college playing field in Oxford. Getting there presented a slight problem as none of us had a car. After trying many places I found a small local firm willing to rent us a 12-seater minibus for the day – on the strict condition that I was the sole driver. So I undertook dual duty as player and team driver for the match. Unfortunately, we lost 4–3 in a tightly fought battle. Hardly a surprise when our team tired towards the end on a hot day: we only had one substitute as we couldn’t fit any more players in the minibus!

Like the Churchill team, the Varsity team had no budget that first year, but by luck I managed to find our first sponsor. Alison McBean, Tim Evison, Paul McCunn, Paul Brittain and I made

up one of two Churchill teams that made it to the final of the British Oxygen Company (BOC) Undergraduate Challenge in our third year. We spent the weekend at the Heathrow Penta Hotel battling it out with the other finalists. The winners were to be announced at a celebration dinner that evening. On the way to dinner we got stuck for a while in a lift between floors. A BOC executive was trapped with us. I took the opportunity to tell him about the women’s Varsity football team and how we were looking for a sponsor. He told me to ‘talk to me again if you win’. We did indeed win – gaining travel grants for ourselves, glory and a cash prize for Churchill. True to their word, BOC became the first sponsors of CUWAF. A few weeks’ later we received a bunch of BOC goodies including kit bags and polo shirts and a £500 cheque which covered the van rental for the Varsity match and purchase of the team’s first real strip. And no, we didn’t have to share that one with the Varsity hockey team!

Note: Mary and Heather would both love to hear from any other Churchill Ladies footballers who would like to contact them at mary@abrash.info and Heathermckinlay@btinternet.com.

Churchill Bookshelf

A selection of books by Churchillians published recently



Dr Alfredo Behrens (G79)

Love and Loss in the Amazon

Editorial Novembro 2024

Two true stories, and that of the author, are intertwined in this novel, in which in the mid-nineteenth century, with only

a guess and a modest scholarship from Trinity College Cambridge, Edward Gibbon Swann set out for the Amazon to beat Darwin on the subject of evolution.

We follow Edward’s tumultuous journey – from intrepid explorer to ardent lover, from smuggler to disillusioned husband, and ultimately to a scientist seeking redemption and a father lost in distance. As the narrative unfolds, it lays bare the greed and corruption at the heart of colonial expansion, revealing the moral compromises made in the relentless pursuit of power and fortune.



Richard Blurton (G79 and Past Fellow)

India: A History in Objects

Thames & Hudson 2022

This illustrated introduction to the rich material culture of India, Pakistan,

Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka traces its history through a huge variety of art and artefacts, both religious and secular.

Arranged chronologically, and abundantly illustrated with expertly selected objects, this superb new overview connects today’s South Asia with its past. The narrative begins 1.5 million years ago, examines artefacts from the Indus Civilization, and follows the emergence of Buddhism, Jainism, Hinduism and Sikhism, as well as the arrival and flourishing of Islam and Christianity. The important history of textiles is traced from prehistory until today. This compelling visual history will inspire and inform everyone interested in the material culture of South Asia.



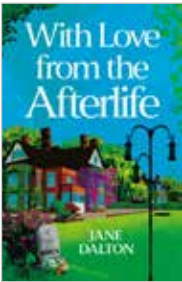
Charles Claoue (U&G75) [Editor] with Steve A. Arshinoff,

Charles Claoue, Bjorn Johansson, David Perez-Silguero, Susan Ruyu Qi, Mike Yuan Chen, Melanie Hebert

Immediately Sequential Bilateral Cataract Surgery (ISBCS): Global History and Methodology
Elsevier 2022

This book is a comprehensive guide for the safe and efficient performance of ISBCS. It provides an overview of the history, recommended protocols, necessary precautions, exclusion criteria, benefits and risks associated with this procedure, organizational standards, ethics and medico-legal issues and more.

Written by the most prominent ISBCS surgeons in the world, chapters recount the arguments for and against bilateral surgery that have been made throughout the ages, up to the present, and deliver achieved and proposed resolutions to all problems discussed.



Jane Dalton (U83)

With Love from the Afterlife
Neem Tree Press 2025

In this poignant tale of loss, love, and the supernatural, a grieving widower contemplates life beyond the grave after he receives

emails from his wife months after her death.

Former actor-turned-financial adviser Anthony Bothwell is shaken to his core when his flamboyant wife, Maggie, starts emailing him – from beyond the grave. The vortex of nightmarish events that suck Anthony in make him re-evaluate his scepticism, turning upside down everything he thought he knew about life, death and himself. Are the emails real or a product of his desperate grief?

Bittersweet and unconventional, this is a literary page-turner that will make readers laugh, cry and ask questions.



Professor John Foot (Past Fellow 1992) & Stephen Gundle [Editors]

Paul Ginsborg and the Historiography of Modern Italy: Revolutions, Revolt and Resistance

Palgrave Macmillian 2024

This book brings together a group of British and Italian scholars who have made significant contributions to the historiography of modern Italy over the last three decades, dedicated to the influence of (Past Fellow at Churchill) Paul Ginsborg. Reflecting Ginsborg’s interest in the encounter of social and political history in modern Italy, contributions explore the varied forms taken by activism in civil society. Rather than just treating activism and engagement as limited, circumscribed phenomena within a political system, the essays consider these as interventions in the social. Taken together, the contributions gathered here highlight Ginsborg’s contributions to scholarship and activism, as well as advancing our understanding of cultural change, institutional reform and the renewal of community in modern Italian history.



Dr Katja Haustein-Corcoran (Past Fellow 2008)

Alone with Others

Cambridge University Press 2023

Alone with Others looks at tact as an intuitive

and creative mode of negotiating the appropriate distance between people. It shows how tact becomes significant in times of crisis, when established codes of sociability disintegrate, and new modes of communication have to be found. Drawing on a wide range of continental European literature and thought, it reconstructs tact’s conceptual history from the late eighteenth century to the present, to then focus on three periods of socio-political upheaval that have marked the twentieth century: the First World War, the Second World War and – different, but equally significant

in terms of disrupting traditional ways of living together – the student revolution of 1968. In a series of reading encounters with Marcel Proust, Helmuth Plessner, Theodor Adorno, François Truffaut, and Roland Barthes, *Alone with Others* reconsiders how we engage with other people, images, and texts, and gauges the significance of tact in our time.



Rosie Johnston (U73)

Safe Ground

Mica Press 2025

Safe Ground traces Rosie Johnston’s search for safety from a tricky upbringing in Troubles Belfast to peace and a sense of home near Margate where T. S. Eliot wrote part of ‘The Waste Land’.

Her previous book, *Six-Count Jive* (Lapwing Publications 2019) described the inner landscape of complex post-traumatic stress disorder and her recovery in seventeen-syllable stanzas. In *Safe Ground* Rosie expands into longer forms of poetry to explore her parents’ choppy marriage, her own capacity for stability and whether she can bring her children up to live even-keel lives in high winds.

Rosie facilitates writing groups at Churchill and in Margate, and has reviewed poetry for London Grip since 2014.



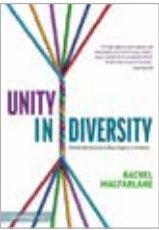
Professor Vladimir Karpenko (Past By-Fellow 1982), with Dr Ivo Purs

The Alchemical Laboratory in Visual and Written Sources

Academia 2024

Alchemy was an experimental laboratory activity that involved numerous disciplines. It was practised over time and among various strata of society, ranging from artisans and burghers, physicians and clergy, to nobility and rulers. It was part of the natural sciences, but also included medicine, religion and the fine arts, which is why the study of its history requires an interdisciplinary approach. This book analyses images of alchemical laboratories, and their textual sources, as they appeared in manuscripts and printed alchemical treatises, especially during the Early Modern Period. The book includes illustrations from treatises on

mining and metallurgy, and seventeenth-century Dutch and Flemish genre painting as well as depictions of alchemists at work.



Rachel Macfarlane (U85)

Unity in Diversity: Achieving Structural Race Equity in Schools

Routledge 2023

A third of all children in our schools are from racially

minoritised backgrounds. Yet the data on attainment, exclusion, progression and representation indicates that our education system is structurally racist. *Unity in Diversity* explores the unconscious biases at play in our schools and demonstrates how educators can address this by improving representation in the curriculum, staffroom and on the governing/trust board. Drawing on case studies from leaders, this book demonstrates what schools are already doing to create an impactful anti-racist ethos and how these strategies may be applied in practice.

Written by an experienced headteacher who has supported a diverse range of schools in improving their race equity, each chapter addresses a different aspect of race inequality and provides practical strategies for overcoming it. This book is an essential read for any teacher, leader, governor or trustee who is restless to address race inequity in our education system, creating a more equal and represented school community.



Sharon Mather (By-Fellow and Past Development Director)

Edward Marsh: A Life of Poets, Painters and Players

Unicorn 2023

Sir Edward ‘Eddie’ Marsh was an ornament of early twentieth-century society; a respected civil servant, polymath and scholar who led a remarkable life. Always at the heart of the establishment, he was Winston Churchill’s longest serving Private Secretary and close friend.

Marsh harboured a passion for young men - poets, painters and actors - to whom he devoted his money, time and connections. His numerous protégés included luminaries such as Rupert Brooke, Robert Graves, Mark Gertler, Stanley Spencer, and Ivor Novello to name but a few.

Sharon Mather’s biography of Edward Marsh is set against the backdrop of the extraordinary events of the first half of the twentieth century, and is seen through the prism of his illustrious friendships.



Professor Alan Riach (U76)

The MacDiarmid Memorandum

Scotland Street Press 2023

A work of epic, category-defying scope; blending

biography and national history, poetry and prose; an intimate portrait of an old friend and mentor, Scotland’s greatest modern poet, and a political manifesto calling for revolution.

Riach’s poems begin with MacDiarmid’s childhood in Langholm and his first attempts to navigate the Scottish landscape. There is confrontation on various fronts. MacDiarmid experienced trauma, divorce, breakdown, wildness and later, domestic affection. At the same time, Scotland endured two world wars, each triggering a continuing renaissance of Scottish artists and intellectuals, struggling to regenerate international recognition and self-determination.

Alongside Riach’s poems, the book includes reproductions of paintings by the artists Alexander Moffat and Ruth Nicol, focusing on some of the landscapes, friends and associates MacDiarmid knew most closely through his long life, plus a frontispiece portrait by William Johnstone and a song-setting by Ronald Stevenson.



DIARY OF EVENTS

2026

Reunion Dinner for 1991–96 matriculation

Saturday 11 April

MA Dinner

Friday 1 May

Reunion Dinner for 1960–70 matriculation

Saturday 11 July

Donor Garden Party

Sunday 12 July

50th Anniversary Dinner: 1976 matriculation

Friday 17 July

Alumni Weekend

Friday 18 – Sunday 20 September

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



Scan this QR code for the link to add yourself to the mailing list for our monthly E-bulletin, in order to keep up to date with news and events from Churchill.



CHURCHILL COLLEGE