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Welcome to our 2015 50th Anniversary edition. We have had a full year of activity so far leading up to our 50th Anniversary Gaudy in October.

I am looking forward to seeing St Cross Alumni from the four corners of the world at this event, including our Alumnus of the Year 2015, the first St Cross matriculand Roger Kitching (DPhil Zoology, 1966) from Australia. With the Director of Development Susan Berrington, we have met alumni in Switzerland, the USA, Canada, India, China, Hong Kong, Taiwan and the United Arab Emirates. Next year we will be visiting destinations in Europe, New Zealand, Japan and Australia and I look forward to meeting more of our alumni then.

St Cross has come a long way in its first 50 years. Founded to provide a college for those doing research and teaching in fields not yet part of the undergraduate curriculum, it has become one of the largest graduate colleges, with around 600 students from all around the world. Well known for its friendliness and informality it enjoys a vigorous social and sporting life and an opportunity for those from widely different disciplines and cultures to get to know each other and exchange ideas. Having started in a ‘wooden hut’, before moving to the beautiful buildings on St Giles, designed by Temple Moore for Pusey House, it is now completing a second quad. Designed by Niall McLaughlin the new building will bring the number of students housed on site to over 70 and will provide the College with a new, and much needed library, a lecture hall and two seminar rooms, all opening out onto our beautiful garden.

The 50th Anniversary Campaign for the West Quad is going well, with nearly £6m raised towards the total building cost of £10.5m, including gifts from more than 200 members of our small community. I hope you will enjoy this special 50th Anniversary edition of Crossword and that you will come and see the new building when it is finished next year.

Mark Jones
It would be impossible to miss the West Quad construction site at St Cross. On Friday 27 February Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Education Professor Sally Mapstone, alumna (DPhil English, 1982) hammered in the first pile to mark the official project groundbreaking. For this special day we were joined by Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Planning and Resources Professor William James, Director of Estates Paul Goffin, Principal of Regent’s Park College Dr Robert Ellis, members of the Student Representative Committee and College fellows. Professor Mapstone fondly remembered her time at St Cross as a student and acknowledged everyone’s hard work along with the Master to bring the project to this point.

The College hosted the project’s first open day of the site on Friday 6 March. The building boundaries were marked out in tape enabling College members to get a sense of the scale of the building and its internal layout. A second open day took place on Wednesday 10 June once the foundations were complete and the basement was undergoing excavation. Two full-size mock-up bedrooms were built in a corner of the Radcliffe Observatory Quarter building site off Walton Street, giving members a chance to see the size of the bedrooms and en-suite bathrooms, windows and proposed furnishings. More open days are planned in the coming months.

Milestones achieved for the building include the basement walls and core completion, and the concrete frame is well under way and should be completed in December. All this is possible to view by visiting the College webcam accessible from the front page of the College website.

Nearly £6m has been raised towards the £10.5m cost of the building so far. This is a significant achievement from a comparatively small and relatively young college at Oxford. During the forthcoming 50th Anniversary Gaudy Weekend on 2-4 October, tours around the site will be possible. Individuals who are interested in supporting the project are very welcome to visit the site. Please contact the Director of Development if you wish to discuss this.
On Saturday 11 April two St Cross students, Jamie Cook and Shelley Pearson took to the river for the 161st Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race, a historic occasion as the women raced over the same course and on the same day as the men for the first time.

Shelley and Jamie were also responsible for two other Boat Race firsts: it was the first time that St Cross had two students in the Blue boats, and Shelley Pearson had the distinction of being the first Bermudian to take part in the event.

Both Jamie and Shelley were making their Boat Race debuts, Jamie having previously rowed for Britain at junior, under-23 and senior levels, winning the Prince Albert Challenge Cup in 2012, and Shelley previously winning gold at both the World Rowing Junior Championships in 2009 and the Ivy League Championships in 2012. Both Oxford boats were favourites to lift the trophy for the third consecutive time. In spectacular finishes, the Oxford women trounced Cambridge by six and a half lengths and the Oxford men won by five.

Some 60 St Crossers, including members of the Wolfson/St Cross Boat Club, travelled down to London to cheer on Jamie and Shelley from the riverside, and celebrated the College’s fantastic results in its 50th year.

In June we were delighted to welcome back alumnus Tim Foster (Dip Social Studies, 1996) to dinner in College. Tim won gold at the 2000 Sydney Olympics and rowed for Oxford in the 1997 Boat Race, and took the opportunity to congratulate Jamie and Shelley on their recent success and share sporting stories over dinner.
Archaeological investigations undertaken by Oxford Archaeology ahead of the construction of the College’s new West Quad revealed the remains of 18th-19th century buildings, boundary walls, wells and garden features, including the listed medieval wall of Beaumont Palace and its associated boundary ditch. Many of these structures, including a former Quaker meeting house and garden features, were traceable through historical map regression. During the excavation, archaeologists discovered a grave dating to the time of the English Civil War (1642-1651) which contained a skeleton of a young woman.

Removal of the garden soil from the site exposed the grave, which unusually had not been placed in consecrated ground or other church land. Excavation revealed the skeleton of a carefully placed individual, who had been wrapped in a shroud fastened by pins. The contorted position of the burial may also suggest that the lady had been buried while still in rigor mortis, possibly indicating she died while sleeping or in her bed.

A Charles I silver shilling dating to 1640 or 1641 and silver half Groat dating to 1635 or 1636 were found by the individual’s head, possibly having been placed over her eyes or mouth. The tradition of placing coins over the eyes of the deceased dates back to the ancient Greek and Roman periods, when the inclusion of coins was believed to be payment for the ferryman who would take a person’s soul to the afterlife. This was not a universal practice among Christian burials and seems to be a local and cultural custom rather than a religious one. In Britain, the closing of the eyes is thought to have been a guard against rigor mortis setting in while they were still open, the eyelids being one of the first parts affected. This was often combined with a superstition that being looked at by a corpse could be a bad omen. To aid this, pennies were sometimes placed on eyelids to keep them shut.

The value of the coins found at the St Cross burial indicate that this person was from a reasonably wealthy background.
The burial was found amongst 18th to 19th Century rubbish pits, garden features and animal burials. Loggan’s map of Oxford in 1675 indicates the area was the back garden of a large tenement that fronted onto St Giles. With the exception of the medieval boundary wall and ditch no other features from the 17th century were identified during the excavation.

The discovery gave rise to much speculation in the local press, appearing on the front page of the Oxford Mail, as to who she was and why she had been buried in a garden during the 17th century. Wild theories developed in the press including suggestions of modern foul play, witches being buried alive or the murder of a Civil War prostitute. However the care taken over the burial suggests that the woman was neither considered an outcast nor had been buried in haste. It is possible, however, that her death may coincide with a series of outbreaks of typhus or plague, when more formal burial would have been difficult. A typhus epidemic, called ‘morbus campestris’, (camp fever), was recorded in 1643 and plagues were recorded in 1644-45 during the siege of Oxford by parliamentary forces. The overcrowding and insanitary conditions recorded in the town during this period were a result of the billeting of royalist officers, soldiers and their families.

Thomas Willis, a physician who treated the Oxford victims of the outbreak, described its effect on the garrison “….. his [the King’s] Foot being a great many together in straightened lodgings when they had filled all places with nastiness and filth, and stinking odours…fell sick many of them together, as it were in files; at length the fever reaching farther than the soldiery…..”

Edward Greaves, another Oxford army physician, published a leaflet entitled ‘Morbis Epidemius’ in which he described the disease as “a malignant and contagious fever”. The first sign of this disease was “a great weakness without any manifest cause”, strong men in a short time were rendered unable to walk, could hardly stand unaided and frequently fainted. The second sign was “a quick weak, creeping pulse, sometimes intermittent” and other symptoms included fever, vertigo, vomiting or severe chills. Purple spots appeared on at least half of those affected.

Not all people that caught the disease died from the condition, however it was highly contagious and appeared to have spread quickly throughout the town. Greave’s leaflet suggests that most people recovered from the disease, possibly to help reassure the population. However, parliamentary spies reported that as many as c.40 died in one week in July 1643 within the town. The burial records for the local parish church (St Mary Magdalen) indicate that over 200 individuals were buried during the typhus outbreak, overwhelming the church graveyard. During many of these outbreaks the local parish churches were closed in order to help prevent the spread of the disease.

The post-excavation work is just starting and the remains will be analysed further by Oxford Archaeology’s Heritage Burial Service team and the context of the burial investigated through historical records. It is also hoped that the results of pioneering pathogen DNA analysis on the bones may be able to shed light on whether this burial was an unfortunate victim of one of these outbreaks. We hope to uncover a sufficiently interesting story in order to publish the results of this work with the Oxfordshire Architectural and Historical Society Journal, Oxoniensia. Ultimately our aim is to try to identify who the lady of St Cross College was and why she was buried within the garden.
The St Cross 50th Anniversary Lecture Series

This series of termly lectures brought three eminent speakers to Oxford to celebrate the College’s 50th Anniversary.

Hilary Term

On Thursday 19 March, Dr Susan Weber, Honorary Fellow and Director of the Bard Graduate Centre for Decorative Arts in New York City, spoke at the Ashmolean Museum on ‘John Lockwood Kipling: Exploring Art and Design from Bombay to the Punjab.’

This presentation is available on our YouTube channel:
www.youtube.com/stxCollege

Trinity Term

Renowned British designer Thomas Heatherwick presented the Trinity Term Lecture on Tuesday 16 June, entitled ‘Heatherwick on Heatherwick Studio’ and fittingly held in the Ashmolean’s beautiful Randolph Sculpture Gallery. Thomas discussed his studio’s past and present projects, including the Garden Bridge, the 2012 Olympic Cauldron and Shanghai’s ‘Seed Cathedral.’

Michaelmas Term

The final lecture in the series will see Professor Dame Marina Warner, Honorary Fellow and award-winning novelist, present ‘Saint Helena Dreams of the Cross: Mapping Stories, Sowing Relics’ in Pusey Chapel at 6pm on Wednesday 28 October.

If you would like to book a place you may do so by visiting our website:
www.stx.ox.ac.uk/marinawarner

The 2015 St Cross Science Lecture: ‘A Beautiful Question’

The 2015 St Cross Science Lecture took place on Tuesday 7 July in the Examination Schools. Frank Wilczek, Nobel Laureate and Professor of Physics at MIT, delivered his lecture ‘A Beautiful Question: Finding Nature’s Deep Design’ to an enthralled audience. Professor Wilczek’s lecture considered the beauty at the heart of the logic of the universe, a principle that has guided his pioneering work in quantum mechanics, and discussed the intertwining ideas of beauty, art, and the scientific understanding of the cosmos.

His lecture is available to view on the St Cross website.
St Cross Merchandise

The College Shop is the perfect place to find a special item to remember St Cross wherever you are in the world. This year we mark 50 years with a range of commemorative merchandise, including elegant decanters, the original College tie, a new scarf design and men’s and women’s accessories. In keeping with our motto, international shipping is available. Visit www.stx.ox.ac.uk/shop.

St Cross College at Fifty

The commemorative volume *St Cross College at Fifty* has been delighting College members with its informative and engaging account of the College’s first 50 years. Written by three St Cross fellows and historians, Jan-Georg Deutsch, Diarmaid MacCulloch and Tim Pound, and edited by College Archivist and Fellow Emilie Savage-Smith, *St Cross College at Fifty* is beautifully illustrated and composed by renowned book designer Isobel Gillan.

Almanack

The College is the subject of the University of Oxford Almanack for 2015, commemorating the 50th Anniversary. The Almanack has been published annually since 1676 recording developments for posterity, and includes important information and dates from the University’s calendar. This year, the illustration is taken from an original reduction linocut by Robin Wilson, and provides a wonderful remembrance of 2015 in the history of the College and the wider University.

Please contact the Development Office for information on the College shop or to purchase merchandise, including the Almanack and *St Cross College at Fifty*.

The 50th Anniversary Celebratory Gaudy

The 2015 St Cross Gaudy rounded off our year of anniversary celebrations in style, with talks, exhibitions, dinners, drinks and plenty of opportunity to meet members old and new over the weekend. We were delighted to welcome so many of our alumni and friends from all corners of the globe to celebrate this landmark occasion with us. Please visit the website for news and photos from our celebratory weekend.
The human brain is not much bigger than that of a chimpanzee. And yet those extra neurons account for the difference of outcomes between the two species: between a population of a few hundred thousand and basic wooden tools, versus a population of several billion and heavy industry. The human brain has allowed us to spread across the surface of the world, land on the moon, develop nuclear weapons, and coordinate to form effective groups with millions of members. It has granted us such power over the natural world that the survival of many other species is no longer determined by their own efforts, but by preservation decisions made by humans.

In the last 60 years, human intelligence has been further augmented by automation: by computers and programmes of steadily increasing ability. These have taken over tasks formerly performed by the human brain, from multiplication through weather modelling to driving cars. The powers and abilities of our species have increased steadily as computers have extended our intelligence in this way. There are great uncertainties over the timeline, but future AIs could reach human intelligence and beyond. If so, should we expect their power to follow the same trend? When the AI’s intelligence is as far beyond us as we are beyond chimpanzees, would it dominate us as thoroughly as we dominate the great apes?

There are more direct reasons to suspect that a true AI would be both smart and powerful. When computers gain the ability to perform tasks at the human level, they tend to become much better than us very quickly. No one today would think it sensible to pit the best human mind against a cheap pocket calculator in a contest of long division. Human versus computer chess matches ceased to be interesting a decade ago. Computers bring relentless focus, patience, processing speed, and memory: once their software becomes advanced enough to compete equally with humans, these features often ensure that they swiftly become much better than any human, with increasing computer power further widening the gap.

The AI could also make use of its unique, non-human architecture. If it existed as pure software, it could copy itself many times, training each copy at accelerated computer speed, and network those copies together (creating a kind of “super-committee” of the AI equivalents of, say, Edison, Bill Clinton, Plato, Einstein, Caesar, Spielberg, Ford, Steve Jobs, Buddha, Napoleon and other humans superlative in their respective skill-sets). It could continue copying itself without limit, creating millions or billions of copies, if it needed large numbers of brains to brute-force a solution to any particular problem.

Our society is set up to magnify the potential of such an entity, providing many routes to great power. If it could predict the stock market efficiently, it could accumulate vast wealth. If it was efficient at advice and social manipulation, it could create a personal assistant for every human being, manipulating the planet one human at a time. It could also replace almost every worker in the service sector. If it was efficient at running economies, it could offer its services doing so, gradually making us
completely dependent on it. If it was skilled at hacking, it could take over most of the world’s computers and copy itself into them, using them to continue further hacking and computer takeover (and, incidentally, making itself almost impossible to destroy). The paths from AI intelligence to great AI power are many and varied, and it isn’t hard to imagine new ones.

Of course, simply because an AI could be extremely powerful, does not mean that it need be dangerous: its goals need not be negative. But most goals become dangerous when an AI becomes powerful. Consider a spam filter that became intelligent. Its task is to cut down on the number of spam messages that people receive. With great power, one solution to this requirement is to arrange to have all spammers killed. Or to shut down the internet. Or to have everyone killed. Or imagine an AI dedicated to increasing human happiness, as measured by the results of surveys, or by some biochemical marker in their brain. The most efficient way of doing this is to publicly execute anyone who marks themselves as unhappy on their survey or to forcibly inject everyone with that biochemical marker.

This is a general feature of AI motivations: goals that seem safe for a weak or controlled AI can lead to extremely pathological behaviour if the AI becomes powerful. As the AI gains power, it becomes more and more important that its goals be fully compatible with human flourishing, or the AI could enact a pathological solution rather than one that we intended. Humans don’t expect this kind of behaviour because our goals include a lot of implicit information: we take “filter out the spam” to include “and don’t kill everyone in the world”, without having to articulate it. But the AI might be an extremely alien mind: we cannot anthropomorphise it or expect it to interpret things the way we would. We have to articulate all the implicit limitations. Which may mean coming up with a solution to, say, human value and flourishing – a task philosophers have been failing at for millennia – and cast it unambiguously and without error into computer code.

Note that the AI may have a perfect understanding that when we programmed in “filter out the spam”, we implicitly meant “don’t kill everyone in the world”. But the AI has no motivation to go along with the spirit of the law: its goals are the letter only, the bit we actually programmed into it. Another worrying feature is that the AI would be motivated to hide its pathological tendencies as long as it is weak and assure us that all was well through anything it says or does. This is because it will never be able to achieve its goals if it is turned off, so it must lie and play nice to get anywhere. Only when we can no longer control it, would it be willing to act openly on its true goals – we can but hope these turn out to be safe.

It is not certain that AIs could become so powerful, nor is it certain that a powerful AI would become dangerous. Nevertheless, the probabilities of both are high enough that the risk cannot be dismissed. The main focus of AI research today is creating an AI; much more work needs to be done on creating it safely. Some are already working on this problem (such as the Future of Humanity Institute and the Machine Intelligence Research Institute), but a lot remains to be done, both at the design and at the policy level.
Students’ News

St Cross Family Events

The College’s Student Community Representative organises family events in College for members to enjoy, offering a different sort of event for those with little ones. Most recently, guests and their children enjoyed pizza-making, balloons and face-painting in the Hall at a party held in May. If you would like to know more about family events, please contact: student.community.rep@stx.ox.ac.uk

Karolina Korzycka Receives Royal Society of Chemistry Prize

Karolina Korzycka, a third-year DPhil student at the Department of Chemistry, has been awarded a Chemical Science Poster Prize by the Royal Society of Chemistry. The award was given to Karolina at the Society’s International Symposium on Advancing the Chemical Sciences held in Shanghai in 2014.

The Student Switch Off

St Cross students have achieved success in the 2014/15 Oxford Student Switch Off intercollegiate energy-saving competition, placing 6th out of 29 participating colleges. Points were awarded for challenges such as photo competitions, quizzes and attendance at ambassadorial training sessions. Students were encouraged to promote climate change action through energy-saving techniques including switching off lights and appliances while not in use, putting lids on saucepans to reduce energy consumption, not overfilling kettles, and wearing warm clothing instead of overusing heaters and central heating. St Cross members are to be commended for their efforts and we look forward to the energy challenges next year.

Imaobong Umoren Receives Fulbright Award

St Cross student Imaobong Umoren, currently reading for a DPhil in History, has received a Fulbright Award that will enable her to continue her research at Harvard University. The award is part of the US-UK Fulbright Commission, and scholars are considered not only for their academic excellence but ambassadorial skills, community activities and a desire to ‘give back’ to their home country. Imaobong goes to the US as a Visiting Fellow with a view to continuing her research on twentieth century Caribbean and African American women intellectuals.

Hanh Ha Nguyen Receives 2015 Inez Oliver Prize

The first Inez Oliver Essay Prize was given to MPhil Development Studies student Hanh Ha Nguyen, for her essay entitled “Behind the poverty-environment nexus: Western-style development as a misguided course to sustainability”. Hanh was presented with the award by the Master at the Encaenia Garden Party celebrations. If you would like to read Hanh’s prizewinning essay, please contact the Development Office.

Modern Law Review Scholarship for Camilla Barker

Camilla R Barker FRSA AHEA (DPhil Law) has been awarded a Modern Law Review Scholarship to support her doctoral research on humanitarian access in natural disasters. This award comes at a time when Camilla is also generously supported by a grant from the Oxford Global Justice Internship Programme, allowing her to undertake a three-month stint at the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA) in New York City.

St Cross Feminist Society

The St Cross Feminist Society brings together anyone who identifies as an intersectional feminist or ally to reflect on feminism in society. The society meets every week in College during Michaelmas and Hilary and on an ad hoc basis in Trinity and out of term. To date, the society has discussed cultural appropriation, gender equality, relationships and other aspects of daily life in College and at the University. The aim of the meetings is to create a safe space for feminists and allies to come together in St Cross, discuss ideas and work together, where appropriate, to effect change. The society is very much in its early days and hopes to consolidate its work in months to come. If you would like to know more, please contact: yunqi.shi@stx.ox.ac.uk
The idea for a poetry competition as part of the celebrations for the College’s 50th anniversary in 2015 came up in conversation one evening when I happened to be seated near to the Master at dinner. In a previous role, he had organised a display of poem posters on the walls and hoardings of Edinburgh whereas I had had a recent minor success in a poetry competition. And the College motto ‘ad quattuor cardines mundi’ was perfect as a theme which could be interpreted broadly by entrants with and without any connection to the College or University.

The organisers of three recent poetry competitions were generous in sharing guidelines and advice: poet Kathryn Simmonds (Charles Causley prize), Donald Singer (Hippocrates prize), and Ceri Lloyd (Parallel Universe competition hosted by the Radcliffe Science Library). Oxford poet and tutor Jenny Lewis introduced me to Mimi Khalvati, who became our lead judge, while poet and lexicographer Giles Goodland agreed to work with me on the short-listing. Ella Bedrock in the College’s Development Office set up our web page and submissions process. Pamphlets published by independent presses, including Helena Nelson’s Happenstance, as well as others from commercial publishers, were the models for ours.

And then there was the publicity: Ella mounted an assault by social media on our own students and alumni, and I tackled local and national poetry groups and individuals. Poetry listing organisations are generous and most took our announcement for no fee, the Poetry Library even editing it to make it more appealing. The barter principle was the way forward for some: one listed our competition in exchange for a couple of hours of my time distributing their flyers in Oxford.

And – amazingly – the poems came in. Almost 300 were entered, by 147 poets. Gratifyingly, they came from all four corners of the world, and had addressed the theme in a wide variety of ways. On behalf of the College and judges, I am grateful to all the poets who submitted their work and who have made this anthology so varied and interesting. I also thank all the many named and unnamed individuals who made the competition work and the publication of the anthology such a smooth process.

I hope the St Cross community will enjoy reading the poems collected in the pamphlet as much as I have enjoyed producing it.
This year’s photography competition, entitled ‘Contradictions and Contrasts’, invited St Cross members to submit their most imaginative interpretation of the theme to be judged by the Arts Committee. The winning entry was ‘1915’ by student Anthony Cheung, who was awarded a bottle of Champagne.

WINNER
Anthony Cheung
‘1915’, George Street, Oxford
"After 8 years and a passport – the way back home," Kirkuk, Iraq

Highly commended

Anthony Cheung

‘The Five in Snow’, Broad Street, Oxford

Highly commended

Kitty Wheater

‘The Resident of the Atomic Bomb Dome, Hiroshima, Japan, 2014’

Highly commended

Anthony Cheung

‘Man in Brasenose Lane’, Oxford

Highly commended

Kitty Wheater

‘Fir Tree On A Spider Thread. Kyoto, Japan, 2014’

Highly commended

Laura Haapio-Kirk

‘Architectural Contradictions’ Tokyo

Highly commended

Kitty Wheater

‘Fir Tree On A Spider Thread. Kyoto, Japan, 2014’
**SPORSTM News**

**Rugby**

The 35th Annual Rugby League Varsity Match between Oxford and Cambridge was played on Friday 6 March at the Honourable Artillery Company in the heart of central London.

Oxford went into the match leading the series 17-16 (with one draw) and on the back of 5 consecutive wins, was looking to make history with an unprecedented sixth consecutive win in a row. Oxford fielded a relatively inexperienced side with only 4 returning Blues making the match-day squad. The match proved a little one-sided, with Oxford emerging comfortable winners 42-0, scoring 8 tries including one from St Cross student Josh Marshall (BCL, 2014), and keeping the Cambridge side scoreless. The record-breaking sixth consecutive victory was the longest winning sequence since the inauguration of this Varsity Match in 1981.

**Powerlifting**

Andrew Choi (MSc Financial Economics, 2014) took part in the Varsity Powerlifting Match against Cambridge in March, and was awarded a half-Blue, finishing 5th for Oxford.

Powerlifting involves squads of 12 members doing three different lifts (squats, bench presses and deadlifts), with three attempts at each lift to put up as much weight as possible. This year’s match was Oxford’s best performance to date, only narrowly defeated by Cambridge.

**Summer Eights**

The St Cross/Wolfson M3 and W3 boats both won blades in this year’s Summer Eights after bumping every day of competition. In the W3 boat were St Cross students Stefanie Zekoll, Irene Milana, Stefany Wragg and Prachi Naik, and in the M3 boat were Brian Chu, Alexander Edwards, Morgan Di Rodi, Giovanni Mezzano, Tomás Quesada and cox Sofia Hauck. Coaching the M3 boat were student Rebecca Love and alumnus Gregers Bangert (MPhil Theology, 2010).

**Torpids**

March’s annual Torpids event saw St Cross women rowing to victory as three Wolfson/St Cross boats won blades.

- W1 - Annie Bochu, Jessica Dunham and Sofia Hauck (cox)
- W2 - Irene Milana, Olena Seminog, Abigail Killen and Sofia Hauck
- W3 - Veronica Walker Vadillo, Mariana Cruz, Mathura Ravishankar, Stefanie Zekoll, Amelie Hartmann and Sophia de Wijer.

We are delighted that with the generous support of members, the College has been able, together with the Student Representative Committee, to purchase and inscribe the five blades won this year.

www.wolfsonrowing.org
Cricket

2014 was a vintage year for the College cricket team, who have been able to draw on a large pool of committed players and transfer this enthusiasm into on-field success.

The team had a run of good form, winning the 2nd XI premier division, with wins against Keble and Balliol leading to a deciding match against a strong Worcester College side. With strong batting and tight bowling, victory was secured by just 17 runs.

The following week St Peter’s College conceded to hand Wolfson-St Cross the title.

Football

Foxes Women’s Football team, incorporating students from St Cross, St Antony’s, Wolfson and Nuffield, won Cuppers on Saturday 28 February, a first time for the graduate team.

The final score was 3-2 against Pembroke/Corpus Christi. St Cross student Hannah Ringheim scored an amazing goal off a corner kick that curved beautifully into the upper corner of the goal.

The team, featuring three other St Cross students in co-captain Kyle Edwards, Anne-Marie Sim and Brittany Bear, had an excellent season, winning 12 games with only one loss.
Members’ News

Recognition of Distinction 2014: Success for Five St Cross Fellows

The following St Cross Fellows have been successful in the Recognition of Distinction Exercise 2014 and had the title of Professor conferred on them:
- Amy Bogaard, Professor of Neolithic and Bronze Age Archaeology
- Mary Bosworth, Professor of Criminology
- Matthew Jarvis, Professor of Astrophysics
- Marina Jirotka, Professor of Human-Centred Computing
- Lee Sweetlove, Professor of Plant Sciences

British Academy Appointment for Diarmaid MacCulloch

Professor Diarmaid MacCulloch has been nominated as the British Academy’s Vice President, Public Engagement, to take office from July 2016. Professor MacCulloch also gave the 2015 British Academy Hay Lecture, on the topic of ‘Sex and the West’, linked to his recent BBC Two television series ‘Sex and the Church’ (see page 37).

Sir Mark Receives Honorary Fellowship

The Master Sir Mark Jones has received an Honorary Fellowship from Worcester College, which he attended as an undergraduate reading PPE. Sir Mark was recognised for his outstanding contribution to the arts.

Henrietta Harrison elected Fellow of the British Academy

Professor of Modern Chinese Studies and Fellow Henrietta Harrison has been elected a Fellow of the British Academy. Fellows are elected for their distinction in the humanities and social sciences.

Norwegian Honour and Damehood for Marina

Dame Professor Marina Warner has been named as the 2015 Holberg Laureate. The Holberg Prize, established by the Norwegian Parliament in 2003, is the largest annual international prize awarded to outstanding researchers in the arts and humanities, social science, law or theology, and was given to Marina in recognition of her work on the analysis of stories and myths and how they reflect their time and place. Marina was also made a Dame in the 2015 New Year Honours List for her services to higher education and literary scholarship, and will give the St Cross 50th Anniversary Michaelmas Term Lecture on Wednesday 28 October 2015.

Knighthood for John Pethica

John Pethica, Honorary Fellow and Professor of Physics at Trinity College Dublin, has been made a Knight Bachelor for his services to science, particularly atomic-scale mechanics, in the Queen’s 2014 Birthday Honours. Sir John is Chief Scientific Adviser at the National Physical Laboratory and Visiting Professor at the Department of Materials, University of Oxford.
Plutarch Award for Hermione Lee

Professor Dame Hermione Lee, Honorary Fellow and alumna of St Cross and President of Wolfson College, has received the prestigious Plutarch Award for her biography of the British novelist and essayist Penelope Fitzgerald. The award is the only literary honour given to biography by biographers. Hermione was the guest speaker at the 50th Anniversary Celebratory Dinner that took place on Saturday 3 October, during the Gaudy weekend.

Luciano Floridi is the 2015 ‘Copernicus Scientist’

Fellow and Professor of Philosophy and Ethics of Information Luciano Floridi has received the Copernicus Scientist award for his work on the foundations of the philosophy of information. The award is given by the Institute for Higher Studies within the University of Ferrara in recognition of academic excellence, and Professor Floridi will deliver the Copernicus Lectures in the next academic year.

Failla Award for Peter O’Neill

Fellow by Special Election Professor Peter O’Neill has been given the 2014 Failla Award from the Radiation Research Society. The award is given in recognition of outstanding contributions to radiation research.

Institute of Physics Award for Ramin Golestanian

Professor of Theoretical Condensed Matter Physics and Fellow Ramin Golestanian has received the 2014 Holweck Medal, jointly awarded by the Société Française de Physique and the Institute of Physics. The award is given to an individual considered to have produced distinguished work in any aspect of physics, and in this instance was awarded for Professor Golestanian’s ‘pioneering contributions to the field of active soft matter, particularly microscopic swimmers and active colloids’. Previous recipients of the award include Honorary Fellow Sir John Pethica.

Rana Mitter Receives Top Military Literature Award

Vice-Master of St Cross and Professor of Modern Chinese Studies Rana Mitter has received the 2014 Duke of Westminster Medal for his book “China’s War with Japan 1937-1945: The Struggle for Survival”. The Medal is given each year by the Royal United Services Institute for a work of military literature considered by the Awarding Board to be “a notable and original contribution to the study of international or national security, or the military professions”.

Honorary Doctorate for Professor Savage-Smith

Professor Emilie Savage-Smith, College Fellow and Archivist, has been awarded an honorary Doctor of Letters degree by her alma mater DePauw University, Indiana, in acknowledgement of her significant contribution to the study of Islamic Science and Medicine.

St Cross Fellow is Psychiatrist of the Year

Michael Sharpe, Professor of Psychological Medicine and Fellow, has been named Psychiatrist of the Year 2014 by the Royal College of Psychiatrists for his work in research and clinical service development to integrate psychiatry into medicine. Professor Sharpe also leads the Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust’s innovative Psychological Medicine Service which has been awarded ‘Team of the Year – Gold’ in the Trust’s Staff Recognition Awards 2014.

Martin Vessey

St Cross Emeritus Fellow and Emeritus Professor of Public Health has received the 2013-14 Daniel R Mishell Outstanding Award for his Article “Oral contraceptive use and cancer: final report from the Oxford Family Planning Association contraceptive study” published in the international journal ‘Contraception’.

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These photographs have been reproduced by kind permission of Gillman & Scame Photographers. Photographs can be reordered by visiting www.gsarchive.co.uk or calling 01869 328200.
In March this year, nine students took to the phones for the College’s most successful telephone campaign to date, meeting our target of raising £50,000 for the 50th Anniversary. Making almost a thousand calls over a fortnight, the callers were fantastic St Cross ambassadors, reconnecting with members from all four corners of the world. We are exceptionally grateful to all those who gave, and who took the time to speak to our students. Caller Alfie Tiley talks about his experiences taking part in this year’s campaign.

Tell us a little about yourself
I am currently finishing my 2nd year of a DPhil in astrophysics. I study galaxy evolution. In particular I look at how galaxies have evolved from 8 billion years ago until the present day. This is with an aim to uncover the driving forces and mechanisms that shape their evolution and to shed light on the history of the Universe itself.

What is your favourite thing about St Cross?
My favourite thing about St Cross is that it is a young college. In its first 50 years St Cross has transformed from a wooden hut on St Cross road with only a handful of graduate students to one of the largest graduate colleges in Oxford, situated in the much more befitting Pusey House on St Giles. It now has over 500 students and a thriving, egalitarian academic environment. It’s exciting to be part of a college that has been so successful in such a short space of time and to be able to contribute individually to a college that will surely only continue to thrive and grow in the future.

Why did you decide to take part in the Telethon?
I decided to take part in the telethon for two reasons: firstly, it was a chance to put myself out of my comfort zone in a role I had never experienced before. I was able to further develop my communication capabilities and gained valuable experience in building rapport and finding interests in common with complete strangers without the usual visual tools, such as body language, that we use in our daily lives. Secondly, it was an opportunity to get to know my college better. During my first 1.5 years at St Cross I hadn’t really spent much time on site. The telethon was a chance for me to really get involved with the College and to contribute something concrete to its growth and development. I had some great chats with alumni and it really changed how I perceive St Cross for the better.

What did you enjoy most about this year’s Telephone Campaign?
It was great to have some really interesting chats with alumni who were very happy to talk about their fond memories of the College (I also got lots of great career advice!). However the conversations I enjoyed most were with those few alumni that had not enjoyed their time at St Cross. The most rewarding instances were those in which I had an opportunity to encourage alumni to reconnect with St Cross and to come and see for themselves how much it has progressed since they completed their studies at Oxford.

Did you learn anything new from taking part?
Taking part in the telethon definitely strengthened my affinity for St Cross. I learnt a lot about the fascinating history of the College and that really put St Cross in a new light for me.

Any unexpected conversations?
Not unexpected as such, but I did speak to one gentleman who took the opportunity to put his shopping away while I read the direct debit guarantee. Good time management!

Any particularly interesting stories from alumni that stand out?
I spoke to a gentleman who had studied at St Cross while it was still a wooden hut on St Cross Road. That was a great conversation. Hearing about the first years of the College really drove home its success in the last 50 years.

What was the most challenging thing about taking part?
It was a very tiring two weeks of talking to people I’d never met before. Having said that, the support team were very enthusiastic, which rubs off on you!

Any advice for future callers?
My advice to future callers is to not be apologetic on the phone. If you are apologetic from the start of a conversation then you are removing the potential for a great conversation. St Cross in particular as a College relies heavily on the involvement and support of its alumni so it’s a really good cause and there’s no need to feel apologetic. They are expecting the call and, in the majority of cases, are happy to chat!

Thank you to our fantastic 2015 Telethon Team: Marzia d’Amico, Rishan de Silva, Max Howells, Trisha Islam, Milosz Klosowski, Prachi Naik, Ilja Rasovic, Chi Chi Shi, Alfie Tiley and student assistant Morgan di Rodi.
The Four Corners of the World

The international spirit of St Cross is one of our best assets, as is the College’s diversity across our student body.

The Armillary Sundial then, currently located in the Blackwell Quad during building work, seems to encompass these aspects perfectly. It has stood in pride of place in one quad or the other since 1999 and is instantly recognised by our members as a small piece of St Cross. It was donated by the family of Ronald Hurst, a former student.

Ronald was a mature student; he came to St Cross at the age of 71 in 1993 to read for his DPhil in History. Before deciding to continue with his studies, Ronald lived a varied life. He completed not only one tour of duty with the RAF during the Second World War, but also volunteered for a second. Against all odds he survived and was recognised as having flown the largest number of sorties during the period. His interest in aviation continued after the War, and he went on to make his name by pioneering research into air accidents caused by pilot error. He married and had children, and many years later decided to renew his passion for History and began his graduate studies. He matriculated in Michaelmas 1993 and was a familiar face to all in College during the mid-1990s; it was clear he had an incredible energy and charm. Sadly Ronald passed away in August 1997, before he could complete his thesis and be awarded his doctorate.

His obituary first appeared in Edition 15 of The Record; his former supervisor wrote, “…there was a perpetual youthfulness, the uncontrollable sense of fun, the delight in discovery” when remembering Ronald.

The installation of the Sundial given in his memory by his family helped to eventually establish the College motto: *ad quattuor cardines mundi* or “to the four corners of the world”. Ronald’s legacy certainly lives on in St Cross, and throughout the four corners.

The inscription is based on a poem by British writer James Elroy Flecker, and reads:

“We travel not for trafficking alone,  
By hotter winds our fiery hearts are fanned.  
For lust for knowing what should not be known,  
We take the Golden Road to Samarkand.”

If you are interested in leaving a legacy to St Cross, please contact the Development Office for more information.
There were just five of us: it was September 1966 and St Cross had added its first students to its distinguished common room. All prospered subsequently. John Cunningham was a virologist specialising in insect pathogens. He died in Ontario in 2008 after a long and distinguished career working for the Canadian Forest Service. Among other distinctions he was among the first to use insect pathogens for the biological control of forest pests. John Wheldrake is a biochemist, now Emeritus Professor of Flinders University in Adelaide. He concluded his career as Executive Dean of Science and Engineering at that university. The two non-scientist foundation students also followed distinguished academic careers. The late Andrew Drummond was a classicist and numismatist who completed his career as Senior Lecturer in Classics at the University of Nottingham and was the author or editor of a number of scholarly and popular historical works. Jennifer Baines (nee Smith), a Slavic linguist and literature specialist, lives and works in the Oxford area where she is or has been lecturer and tutor in languages at a number of colleges. In my case, after a couple of years in Canada as a research fellow at the University of British Colombia, I was recruited by the CSIRO, the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (initially while still in Oxford) and moved to Australia. I worked for the CSIRO as a research scientist for five years and then moved back to academia to the then, brand new Griffith University in Brisbane. Apart from a stint as Professor of Ecosystem Management at the University of New England in New South Wales from 1986-92, I have been there ever since and am now approaching retirement as Professor of Ecology. I remain, as in Oxford, an ecologist interested in animals (especially insects, what else is there?) in forests, working actively in Australia, South America, China and Southeast Asia.

Among those first five students back in 1966 I was the only one who had not transferred from another Oxford college. I came to Oxford from Imperial to do my DPhil under the supervision of H. N. (‘Mick’) Southern, a fellow of the newly-minted St Cross College. It was he who drew my attention to the availability of the graduate scholarships (all of £100 a year but that was a 20% supplement to the postgraduate award – then at £500 p.a.). I applied and was duly called to the wooden hut for an interview with the student committee. I had no idea what to expect – the arcana of Oxford life, the rôle of the College (any college) and the short history of St Cross were all closed books to me at that stage. The mundane meritocracy that I had experienced (and enjoyed immensely) in London was no preparation. The opening question at the interview was, of course, from the Master: “so, Mr Kitching, I understand you are going to study life in water-filled tree-holes for your DPhil work: tell me what do you expect to find in the way of philosophy in your tree-holes?” This was not one of the standard questions for which I had prepared an answer. I stuttered “I … I thought the whole idea was to look to see if there was any philosophy there” – “Oh, good answer” I heard muttered, I know not from whom, around the table. The rest of the interview was less demanding and when it turned out that two of the last three books I had read were Russian classics (which was actually, but entirely coincidentally, true) and that one of the, up to that moment, silent members of the panel was Nicolas Zernov, a specialist in Russian culture, things looked promising.

So it was, a few months later, I turned up for my first term at St Cross. As an outsider’ I had to be matriculated so Dean of Students George Antill and I gownned up and traipsed across to the Radcliffe Camera to be so inducted. The St Cross session included small groups from most of the smaller colleges and in due course their deans rose and intoned something about haec mei scolastici to which the Vice-Chancellor replied equally in the plural. I always admired the fact that both speakers, when my turn came, moved smoothly into the singular with, in agricultural economist Antill’s case, hoc meus scolasticus, without missing a beat. History does not record how much careful preparation may have been involved.

I realise now, of course, what a huge privilege it was to become a member of such an elite band. Then, as now, common rooms were not separated so we lunched each day with a different set of fellows (who outnumbered us 10:1). It was customary then to fill the six-person dining tables sequentially so that one actually lunched with a different set of people, from disparate disciplines, almost every day. For a new DPhil student working in a small and science-focused institute this was true education on a Platonic scale. And there were many revelations that I remember. Eric Whittaker, then Reader in Geology, calmly revealed that his hobby was ancient Egyptian language and writing. I recall Ian Gilbert, Bodley’s Deputy Librarian, being asked (by one of the fellows, I hasten to add), “Did the Bodleian, as a depository of all works in English, have works of...
pornography?” The answer was immediate and enthusiastic: “my dear chap, we have the finest collection of pornography in the world – available to bona fide scholars of course”. Other revelations were more routine: George Antill introduced me to multivariate statistics; Johannes Mulder to the astonishing range of languages with which he was conversant; Kenneth Knowles to Madeira; Kits van Heyningen to the etchings of Piranesi; and, Kenelm Burridge to the anthropology of indigenous Australia (which turned out to be very useful later on).

My time at St Cross concluded in mid-1969 but, shortly before that, my wife, Beverley, and I were married in St Cross Church by the College chaplain, the Reverend (later Canon) Philip Martin, on 12 April of that year. This was not, indeed, the first fully St Cross wedding (see St Cross College at Fifty, p74) but it was the first College-associated wedding of any sort. A number of the fellows attended and the reception was in the wooden hut prepared and overseen by the redoubtable Mr and Mrs Collins. The Piranesi etching which hangs, currently, in pride of place in my library, was the gift of the Master and Ruth van Heyningen on that occasion.

Finally, I record a later santacrucian encounter. In about 1993, I was carrying out field work in the forests of northern Papua New Guinea. On one of my rest days I was taken to a small, beautiful, uninhabited, offshore island and basically marooned there for a few hours of bird-watching and general relaxing. It turned out that a couple of other people had been similarly marooned there, albeit from a different hotel. A Livingstone/Stanley moment ensued as we encountered each other in the forest. One of my fellow maroonees (is that a word? If not, it clearly should be), a medical scientist from the Madang Institute for Medical Research, turned out to be a St Cross alumnus. I have been searching my notes and early issues of the College Record but, sadly cannot identify him, nevertheless it was an astonishing coincidence and underlined the ‘four corners of the globe’ element of our banner.

If that was you in Papua New Guinea do get in touch with the Alumni Office, we would love to hear from you.

BOOK REVIEW

Reviewed by Brian E Woolnough, Emeritus Fellow

“Constellation Analysis: A methodology for comparing syllabus topics across educational contexts”


Jason Nicholls was a teacher and academic who received his DPhil from St Cross College in 2006. Jason passed away in 2011. This book, based on Jason’s DPhil thesis, was published posthumously, and edited by his close friend and former tutor, Bryan Cunningham, Senior Lecturer at the University of London.

History is what is taught in history lessons in schools, and for the majority of us that is defined by the history textbooks, and media presentations, we learnt our history from. But such historical stories are dependent on the context, the country, and the period, in which they were written. In St Cross, with its varied and international membership, the histories of many periods of history that we ‘know’ vary considerably dependent on our backgrounds.

How appropriate, therefore that Jason Nicholls, an alumnus of St Cross, (see St Cross Record, No 28), chose to do his doctoral research in investigating such questions and developed a philosophical thesis attempting to make sense of such perspectives. He chose as his case study World War II (1939-45) as told in the history textbooks of the UK, of Japan, and of Sweden. A topic guaranteed to demonstrate different perspectives!

In much popular and political debate, comparative studies, and comparisons between practice in different countries, are trivial and used purely to ‘demonstrate’ the truth of an argument - correlations are assumed to equate with causations. This study, based posthumously on his DPhil thesis, avoids such superficial traps and builds up a philosophical framework, based largely on Hegel, which helps to make sense of the different interpretations of history.

It is not an easy bedtime read, evidently his examiners described his dissertation as “an exhausting but rewarding read”, though this may say as much about the irritability of his examiners faced with a dense, 115,000 word thesis (and a warning to all future PhD writers not to tax their examiners’ patience by overlong dissertations!). It does, however, present a serious and important argument well worth studying. I commend it to you (available in the College library).
Crossing Paths


Two alumni, Maximilien von Berg and Eero Wahlstedt talk about their development and research consultancy work in Somalia, and tell the story of two St Crossers meeting in a far corner of the world.

After graduating in July 2013, I embarked on the life of a consultant in the financial services in London. Originally interested in public debt and financial regulation, I rapidly came to the conclusion that the impact I could have on the City’s investment banks would be marginal and fall short of fulfilling my inspirations. I found out about Altai Consulting on the internet, over Christmas, whilst researching firms operating in Afghanistan. I practically wrote the cover letter in one go. The rest is history: less than two months later I was landing in the Somali desert on Hargeisa’s empty runway to first assist, then gradually take the lead on projects across the Horn of Africa.

Three Frenchmen created Altai after crossing paths in Lhasa, Tibet, whilst travelling across Asia. They had been feeling the limits of Paris’s corporate world and resolutely looking beyond the boundaries of the old continent. Altai Consulting formally took off in mid-1990s in the midst of the Somali civil war by fighters taking off from the city’s own airport, and a stark contrast to Mogadishu where leaving the airport area still requires multiple armoured vehicles and cars.

We shared our stories – Eero had been in Somalia for over a year – and I was eager to hit the ground running. Four months later, I feel I am contributing to a company with a deep sense of purpose, focused on advising leaders in international development on making the right decisions in some of the most unstable and inaccessible regions of the world whilst also building the capacity of local actors. I have found more opportunities amid security restrictions and so-called harsh conditions in Somalia than working in Europe’s corporate world. Tasks are at times very challenging, yet always rewarding, and the freedom to act I have been entrusted with is empowering. Eero and I sometimes meet on a rooftop to pay tribute to a beautiful view of the Somali desert.

On Boxing Day 2013, I woke up to see an email in my inbox. It was from my would-be employer who had offered me an internship in Juba, South Sudan, only two weeks previously. In mid-December of 2013, the fighting between the supporters of President Salva Kiir and Vice-President Riek Machar had thrown the fledgling state into chaos. I feared this would lead to the offer being rescinded, but instead I was offered a place in the company’s Somalia office, placed in Hargeisa, Somaliland (a self-declared and de facto independent state with no international recognition). This must constitute the first and only time in the past two and a half decades that someone was offered a transfer to Somalia for “security reasons”.

Somaliland and its capital Hargeisa turned out to defy international perceptions of what is supposed to be – a part of the world’s ultimate failed state. Far from it, Somaliland has governance structures in place, based on consent, that have withstood more than one democratic election. It has development, evident in new multi-storey glass buildings in the Hargeisa “high street”, the number and quality of cars, shopping malls, and restaurants. But most importantly, aside from some of the Eastern border regions, it has peace and stability. It is possible for a Westerner to drive around in a taxi, walk and shop around the market, eat in restaurants, and be welcomed by a friendly population. This is all the more impressive considering that the entire city was completely destroyed in the late 1980s in the midst of the Somali civil war by fighters taking off from the city’s own airport, and a stark contrast to Mogadishu where leaving the airport area still requires multiple armoured vehicles and cars.

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I would learn all this and more after joining the few-month-old office of Forcier Consulting about 10 days after being offered the position, in January 2014. The company was started in South Sudan in 2011, which remains the company’s largest office, and specialises in conducting high quality research in some of the world’s most difficult regions. Our model is based on the presence of permanent offices and full-time staff in all the countries where operations are present, currently in four of the five most unstable countries in the world, giving unparalleled contextual knowledge, access, and experience to service clients.

Since joining, I have personally been able to contribute to and oversee the office’s growth from two full-time employees to almost 30, including both local and international staff, first as an intern and then as the person managing research activities of the entire office. The skills learned in my MSc in Sociology in research design and methods have been invaluable with the main tasks of the work including the design of evaluation or research methodologies and data collection tools for clients including multiple UN agencies, numerous large international NGOs, private sector actors, and donors. One of the biggest highlights was managing the first ever nationally representative World Poll conducted in Somalia, the global yearly survey by the prestigious US research firm Gallup.

Africa is the continent of opportunities and I would urge all St Crossers to broaden their horizons and think of what exciting possibilities may lie for them overseas.

Maximilien von Berg
MPhil Politics: Comparative government, 2011
Eero Wahlstedt
MSc Politics: Sociology, 2011

Laas Geel

Crossing Paths: Crossword 2016
Tell your “Crossing Paths” stories in Crossword 2016 – chance encounters with other St Cross members across the world – *ad quattuor cardines mundi.*

communications@stx.ox.ac.uk
Derek Roe’s remarkable achievements in a career that took him from his 1965 appointment as University Lecturer in Oxford (before he had even completed his doctoral work in Cambridge) to Professor of Palaeolithic Archaeology in 1997, have been well documented in the recent edition of the College Record.

He was no less active in St Cross. Derek’s sudden death in September 2014 meant the loss of one of the mainstays of College life, particularly its artistic life.

Derek was elected to a Fellowship at St Cross in 1970 at a time when the College was housed in a wooden hut next to St Cross Church and cemetery and adjacent to Magdalen deer park. At that time the College admitted five or six graduate students each year. During his time as a Fellow and latterly an Emeritus Fellow Derek saw the College move to St Giles and grow to nearly six hundred graduate students and over one hundred Fellows.

In his speech at a farewell dinner for our retiring Master, Godfrey Stafford, in 1987, Derek went into whimsically archaeological mode to describe the move from wooden hut to the St Giles site:

“I can’t resist a brief speculation as to how future archaeologists might see the same event based doubtless on excavation. The College’s first site was a light and simple rectangular structure of wood not far from a river, and separated only by a single wall from wild country where deer roamed. The inhabitants presumably lived on hunted meat and fish and also apparently on mulberries; that this diet did them no good is clear from the large adjacent cemetery…”

He continued in the same vein…

As a Fellow he streamlined the rather cumbersome and fragmented committee structure of the College, becoming College Treasurer and later Vice-Master.

Like Kits van Heyningen, our first Master, Derek believed that a college was not fully a college in the Oxford tradition until it had some art and, perhaps above all, some silver.

He played a significant role in securing one major donation to the College which was to help fund the building of the South Wing on the St Giles site and he was very active in the planning process.

Derek was a College stalwart and loyally supportive of five successive Masters. He was generous of his time and talents particularly in relation to the arts. He chaired the College Art Committee curating the College’s growing collections of ceramics, glass, silver and paintings. He could invariably bring the committee’s members, in characteristically urbane and civilised manner, to share his point of view. He was a persuasive committee man and noted, when presenting Governing Body with the Committee’s choice of painter for the outgoing Master’s portrait, that this “created a surge of genuine enthusiasm (if that is not too strong language to apply to a St Cross Governing Body decision).”
He himself donated several fine antique pieces to the College and was responsible for the College commissioning two equally fine modern examples.

Derek cared greatly for the Blackman Collection of watercolours which graces the College walls. He brought this fine bequest from Boars Hill to St Giles in his own car, conscious as he braked and negotiated roundabouts that his cargo was worth far more than the vehicle in which he transported it. He subsequently oversaw the collection reframed, reglazed and titled. Not everyone realises that every picture in the College’s Blackman Gallery and beyond was sited by Derek personally, who might often be seen at weekends up a stepladder, tape measure in hand.

Derek was himself a keen collector of English silver, watercolours and antique glass. Part of the appeal was perhaps not just the hunt for specimens of fine silver, painting, or glass but the pleasure of classifying and cataloguing his collections. I suspect that the desire to catalogue and to order finds as an archaeologist may have, in part, informed his delight in collecting. All of us in College will ultimately be the beneficiaries of his endeavours for, with characteristic generosity, he has left St Cross both his watercolour and antique glass collections.

Artwork images: watercolours bequeathed by Derek to the College. Courtesy of Mallams Auctioneers
Thanks to the generosity of College members and friends we have had an exceptional year of fundraising in the run up to our 50th Anniversary. Every donation makes a difference to the College and the experience we can give our students today and in the future. This list of names reflects donations made between 1 August 2013 and 31 July 2014.

Individual Donors
Dr Susan Allen, Former Fellow
Ms Jamie B Aller, MSc Comparative Social Policy, 2002
Miss Noura S Alturki, MSc Nature, Society and Environmental Policy, 2005
Mr Antonio Alvarez Tapia & Dr Catelijne Coopmans, DPhil Economics, 2000, MSc Social and Economic History, 2000
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Ms Cliona Dando, PGCE, 1988
Professor Dame Kay Davies DBE CBE FRS
Mr Edward Davies, MSc Agriculture and Forest Sciences, 1984
Mr Michael Day, MPhil Literae Humaniores, 2004
Dr Theresa De La Fuente, MSc Geology, 1987
Professor Caroline Dean OBE FRS
Professor Peter Donnelly FRS
Professor Ann Dowling
Dr Michael K Durkin, DPhil Earth Sciences, 1988
Dr Paul Dyer
Professor Daniel Ebbole
Professor Dianne Edwards
Ms Daria Eggers, MSc Material Anthropology and Museum Ethnography, 2008
Professor Sir Roger Elliott FRS
Professor Reginald J Ellis FRS
Mr Michael Ellison
Professor Jane A Endicott, Emeritus Fellow
Lady Judith English
Dr Maria G Enriquez-Harris, DPhil Biochemistry, 1988
Dr Bronwen Everill, MST Archaeological Science, 2005
Professor Pedro Ferreira
Professor Roderick Flower FRS
Miss Lesley Forbes, Fellow by Special Election
Dr Dan & Dr Jane Forbes-Ford, DPhil Clinical Medicine, 1996, DPhil Pharmacology, 1996
Dr Margret Frenz, Member of Common Room
Professor Sir Richard Friend
Professor Dame Uta Frith
Dr Edward Furgol, DPhil Modern History, 1977
Professor Graham Furniss OBE
Dr John Galaty, Former Fellow
Professor Stefan Gaubatz
Dr Katharine L Gearing, MSc Biological Sciences, 1986
Professor David Geiser
Professor John Glavin
Rebecca Golbert, DPhil Social and Cultural Anthropology, 1996
Professor Bertie Gottgens
Professor Andrew Goudie, Honorary Fellow
Professor Neil Gow
Professor Sir Brian Greenwood CBE FRS FMedSci
Dr David Gregg, MPhil Archaeology, 1987
Dr Mary Gregory
Professor T Gwynfor Griffith, Founding Fellow
Professor Keith Gull CBE DSc (Hon) FRS FMedSci
Professor Sunetra Gupta
Dr Pär L Gustafsson, DPhil Sociology, 2001
Professor J D Haigh CBE FRS
Professor Emily Hannum
Professor Ann Harris, Emeritus Fellow
Mr Derek Harrison, MSt European Archaeology, 1987
Mr Tom Hassall, Emeritus Fellow
Professor Sir Brian Heap CBE FRS
Mr John Hendry, PGCE, 1990
Ms Hilary Henson, MLitt Social and Cultural Anthropology, 1968
Dame Julia Higgins DBE CBE FRS
Mr Toshiharu Hishinuma, Dip British Studies, 2010
Professor Nigel J Hitchin
Mr Kiam Ho, MSc Computer Science, 2004
Professor Susan Hockey, Emeritus Fellow
Mr Fred Hodcroft, Founding Fellow
Ms Suzy Hodge, Domestic Bursar
Professor Andrew B Holmes
Ms Catherine Horney, MST Classical Archaeology, 2008
Mr Maksym Honcharenko, MSc Computer Science, 2010
Professor Yoichi Honda
Professor Judith Howard CBE FRS
Ms Caroline Howard Jones
Professor Barbara Howlett
Ms Laura Hurst, MPhil Modern Languages, 2009
Dr Robert Hyland
Dr Raphael Ingelbien, MPhil English Studies, 1994
Dr Robert Jackson
Professor Wendy James, Emeritus Fellow
Ms Patricia Jayne, Friend
Professor Martin Jones, DPhil Archaeology, 1979
Mr Mark Jones, DPhil Mathematics, 1990
Dr Mark R Jones, DPhil Mathematics, 1990
Professor Alan Jones, Founding Fellow
Sir Mark Jones, Master
Dr Hazel Jones
Professor Regine Kahmann
Professor Takashi Kamada
Dr Janet Keene, DPhil Psychiatry, 1991
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Mr Anupum Khaitan, MSc Computer Science, 2001
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Professor Ursula Kues
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Mr Yuxuan Li, MSc Biomedical Engineering, 2007
Ms Xiaolan Liu, MSc General Linguistics, 2010
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Dr Mary Lloyd, DPhil Biochemistry, 1971
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Mr Manuel Mannrique Gil, MSc African Studies, 2008
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Mr Peter Mathias, MSt US History, 2010
Mr Panos Mavrokostantis, MSc Economics for Development, 2010
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Professor Nicholas Mayhew, Emeritus Fellow
Mr Bob C Mclatchie, Emeritus Fellow
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Professor John McWhirter FRS
Dr Jane Mellanby
Mr Richard Middleton, DPhil French, 1969
Mr Michael Miller, MSc Latin American Studies, 2008
Mr Robin Millhouse, Visiting Fellow
Dr Michael Milner
Professor Ron Morris
Professor Vivian Moses
Dr Charles Mould, Emeritus Fellow
Mr Vladimir Mukanaev, MSc Financial Economics, 2009
Mr Ryan Murray, MPhil Modern Chinese Studies, 2001
Miss Chilombo Musa, MPhil Development Studies, 2011
Professor Steve Ngo
Miss Lucile Nicot, PGCE, 2012
Mr Michael Noone, PGCE, 2001
Mr M Frank and Mrs Sandra A Norman, Former Visiting Fellow
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Miss Aoife O’Higgins, MSc Evidence-based Social Intervention, 2011
Mrs Ann Oldfield
Dr Joseph Olliver, Emeritus Fellow
Ms Ailbhe O’Loughlin, MSc Criminology and Criminal Justice, 2010
Professor Timothy R Orchard, Former Fellow
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Mrs Margaret Owen
Professor Ian Page, Former Fellow
Dr Aristides Panayotou, DPhil Sociology, 2000
Professor Barry Parsons, Fellow
Mr Yogesh Patel, MPhil Economics, 1998
Professor Teresa Pawlowska
Professor Sir John Pethica, Former Fellow
Professor James Pettifer, Member of Common Room
Professor John A Pickett CBE DSc FRS
The St Cross College 50th Anniversary Medal

The Master Sir Mark Jones talks about the commemorative medal struck to celebrate 50 years of St Cross.

Ever since the Italian Renaissance medals have been used to celebrate and commemorate important occasions. The great painter Pisanello made a medal for the visit of the Emperor John VIII Palaeologus to Italy in 1438 and his example was followed by many others, including the condottiere Sigismondo Malatesta who buried medals of himself and his mistress Isotta degli Atti in the foundations of the Tempio Malatestiano, a church designed by Alberti, in 1450. Much knowledge about the ancient world was gleaned by early modern scholars from Roman and Greek coins, known as ‘medals’. They had a reputation for endurance, for defeating the ravages of time, and so modern medals were often used to ensure that a person or event would be remembered by posterity.

The 50th anniversary of St Cross College is an event worth commemorating, so the College has had a medal made by Felicity Powell (1961-2015). The winner of the Royal Mint’s competition for a Millennium medal, with an elegant and elegiac representation of a dandelion head blown away, Powell was one of Britain’s best known medallists. She created medals for Mo Ibrahim’s Award for Excellence in African Governance, the Linnean Society, the Goldsmiths’ Company, the British Museum, the V&A and many others. Her practice spanned many media. Her installation ‘Drawn from the Well’ at the V&A inspired new enjoyment of the renaissance sculpture gallery through mirrors placed within wellheads which bore her own drawings while at the same time recalling the wells’ function and creating new views of the gallery and its contents. ‘Charmed Life’, an exhibition drawn from the amulet collections of the Pitt Rivers Museum and shown at the Wellcome Collection was a powerful meditation on the hopes and beliefs enshrined in charms. ‘Medals of Dishonour’, shown at the British Museum and the Hermitage, engaged a wide range of artists including Cornelia Parker, Michael Landy, Grayson Perry, Richard Hamilton, William Kentridge, Ilya and Emilia Kabakov, Mona Hatoum, Jake and Dinos Chapman and Steve Bell in the making of subversive medals. More than most Powell enjoyed the complex and demanding conventions that govern the medallic tradition, which combines representation and allegory; text and image; past, present and future: all within a small circumference and in low relief.

The medal which she made for our anniversary has on its reverse a literal representation of the cross inherited by the College from the vicarage of St Cross Church on its original site, superimposed on the cross which the College uses as its symbol today, neatly conveying the passage of time, recorded in the dates MCMXCV-MMXV (1965-2015), beneath the College’s motto AD QUATTUOR CARDINES MUNDI (to the four corners of the world). On the obverse Powell symbolises the purpose of the College, to enable its members to forge intellectually creative links across disciplines and cultures, through representation of neurons linked by synapses and fired by ideas, above a pair of raised hands representing the gift and transmission of knowledge.

Struck in silver from dies created from Powell’s plaster models by the long established firm Thomas Fattorini, a firm run by the same family for six generations, each medal bears Felicity Powell’s own Goldsmiths’ Company hallmark on the rim and has been carefully finished by hand to bring out the contrast between fore and background (do not polish).
It would be heartening indeed to believe that in 50 years’ time – by 2065 – the so-called ‘Irish Question’ might be resolved definitively once and for all.

Looking back in the other direction for a moment – 50 years ago to 1965 - Northern Ireland was languishing somewhat complacently in the conviction of its Unionist majority and its British identity. These certainties however were protected and bolstered by a regime that sanctioned Gerrymandering and abused the civil liberties and freedoms of its minority Roman Catholic community, much in the manner that the regime in the Republic of Ireland sought to institutionalise a vision of Roman Catholic ‘Irishness’ through a symbiotic relationship of Church and state.

And the popular protests of the late 1960s sweeping through Europe and America were just around the corner. Newly radicalised community activists – and the authoritarian suppression of their demands - were to ensure that nothing in the province would ever be the same again.

I lived through the subsequent travails of ‘the troubles’ and like many others, marvel at the changes for the better that have taken place in Northern Ireland following ‘The Good Friday Agreement’ of 1998 and subsequent policy negotiations thereafter.

Unquestionably, Belfast has been transformed and the wider province has flourished since the peace.

But 50 years is a laughably short time in the panoply of Irish-British politics and we would do well to temper our predictions or aspirations with caution.

Whilst a pragmatic power-sharing arrangement has emerged, the two party nature of governance in Northern Ireland reinforces the dichotomy of old, tribal sectarian and political enmities.

And the absence of war on the streets does not by definition guarantee an enduring peace.

We are still reduced to a zero-sum game of mutually exclusive identities. Despite provision to the contrary being made in The Good Friday Agreement, identifications of Irishness and Britishness remain diametrically opposed.

Preoccupations of this nature may seem spurious to those who have always felt safely ensconced in their uncontested nation state and at ease with their place within it. But the citizens of communities defined by the defence of their heritage, culture and distinctiveness when under threat by a usurper, see things very differently. Just ask any resident of Port Stanley on the Falkland Islands or of Palestine or Israel for that matter. Flags, emblems, language, freedom to worship and to celebrate the historic associations that define communities, become day-to-day issues of paramount importance.

And so it remains with Northern Ireland.

But of course, to some degree this is to over-simplify the status quo. And to paraphrase a famous Ulster maxim; “If you’re not confused…you haven’t understood the situation.”

The tendency for commentators and observers to lazily group the two main traditions in Northern Ireland into convenient, homogenous blocs, not only sells this complexity short, it also contributes to the impasse by reinforcing the stereotypes.

Not all Protestants are Unionist in their political outlook and Loyalist in their Monarchist support. Similarly, not all Catholics are Republican or have Nationalist aspirations.

This is particularly personified in the post-conflict generations - and it is in their rejection of the historical straitjacket that they have inherited - that I believe the genesis of a shared future resides.

In 2012, a young, mild-mannered, lower middle class, Controlled Grammar school-educated County Down man, (Roman Catholic by religion for those interested in such matters) inadvertently reminded us of the depth of significance that the two jurisdictions on the island of Ireland still place on national and cultural allegiance. In a wide-ranging interview with Sportsmail, the then 23-year-old - whose Northern Irish roots made him eligible for both British and Irish representation - had spoken candidly about this dilemma.

Revising Conflicting Identities: Pathways to an Enduring Peace

Dr Thomas Paul Burgess MSc Educational Studies, 1989

Alumnus Thomas Paul Burgess is Senior Lecturer at the School of Applied Social Studies, University College Cork. His new novel ‘White Church, Black Mountain’ (Matador) is now available. He is also the co-author of ‘The Contested Identities of Ulster Protestants’. (Palgrave Macmillan)
REVISING CONFLICTING IDENTITIES

PEACE CANNOT BE KEPT BY FORCE
IT CAN ONLY BE ACHIEVED BY UNDERSTANDING

TERRORISM CONFLICT IMPRISONMENT
CULTURE EMPOWERMENT HUMAN RIGHTS
VIOLENCE

LOOKING TO A BETTER FUTURE
“Maybe it was the way I was brought up, I don’t know, but I have always felt more of a connection with the UK than with Ireland. And so I have to weigh that up against the fact that I’ve always played for Ireland and so it is tough. Whatever I do, I know my decision is going to upset some people but I just hope the vast majority will understand.”

Whether his aspiration to empathy was realised is a matter for conjecture. However, for a significant number of opinion formers in the media and on social networking sites, they most assuredly did not understand. And golfing superstar Rory McIlroy learned a salutary lesson in regard to the place that sports and cultural allegiance hold in the collective national psyches of both traditions in Ireland, North and South and within Great Britain.

What was perhaps most depressing about the subsequent outpouring of vitriolic, jingoistic tub-thumping and rash editorial comment, was the unforgivably thoughtless filicide of a new and emerging post-conflict generation in Northern Ireland. One uncomfortable with the traditional religiopolitical stereotypes foisted upon them and refreshingly honest in their opinions based on their own lived experiences.

McIlroy enjoyed a largely middle-class upbringing, provided by the herculean efforts of his working class parents, who sought to create a non-sectarian environment for themselves and their son. Enjoying a religiously mixed social and educational setting and growing up in an area relatively free from social unrest ensured that young Rory was able to take pleasure in the interests and enthusiasm of his peers.

Supporting the Ulster Rugby team, following Manchester United, representing Ireland in his chosen field - whilst declaring for team GB in the golfing Olympics - were all passions that he pursued without the encumbrance of believing that he had to belong to one side or the other.

Rather than lamenting him for his political naïveté, the popular and sporting press should have been lauding him as the successful face of an emerging, post-conflict Northern Ireland. Someone who fought shy of the minefield of nation statehood and undoubtedly saw himself as first and foremost, Northern Irish.

But this is not a designation that is easily accepted by Nationalists/Republicans, refusing as they do to recognise what they describe as the artificially constructed ‘statelet’ of Northern Ireland. (Despite accepting political office in its governmental institutions).

Living and working in the Irish Republic for some twenty plus years now, I was appalled at the irresponsibility of journalists, broadcasters, social commentators and casual acquaintances alike, who decried McIlroy for daring to describe himself as ‘British’ and declaring for ‘them’.

The incident was a timely reminder of how the whole panoply of representative life on this island remains mired within the history and perceived culture of the two main traditions. And how ownership of successful high profile individuals and their achievements can be used as a celebration or affirmation of national and community identity.

So policy makers, commentators and academics continue to wrestle with this fundamental contradiction of identity and allegiance.

However, it is my belief that there does indeed exist an analysis or position that would reconfigure this impasse and provide optimism for a stable, more collaborative Northern Ireland by 2065.

Next year, 2016, The Republic of Ireland celebrates the centenary of the Easter Rising, an event that predicated Irish independence. There will no doubt be a swelling of nationalist sentiment both North and South of the border and the ‘inevitability’ of a United Ireland will again be mooted.

However, if the Orange segment of the Republic’s national flag is truly to symbolise a recognition of another valid Irish tradition within the state (and the island as a whole), then perhaps the most immediate and far-reaching developments to acknowledge this might take the form of real and pragmatic changes and reforms to further secularise the Irish national identity, the constitution and the institutions of that state.2

As previously discussed, whilst identity in Ireland is often by definition adversarial, it should nevertheless be possible to create more meaningful cross-border ‘national’ allegiances or forums where both traditions are accommodated and respected in a common cause.

Similarly, Loyalist/Protestant/Unionist communities should be able to meaningfully reengage with those unique characteristics that previously identified them as different and distinctive within their shared British family; namely, their ‘Irishness’.

From a policy-making perspective, we cannot underestimate the potency of partitionist/separatist opinion from within the ROI itself in this regard. And at the sharper end of things, from those Northern Nationalists who relentlessly seek cultural domination and the eradication of British culture from Northern Ireland.

In order for this to succeed, Irish cultural identity must be seen to denote more than simply the ‘Catholic/Nationalist/Republican’ monolithic tradition. I myself hail from the Loyalist heartland of the Shankill Road. My grandmother was from Co. Donegal, in ROI. It is my contention that I am just as Irish as Gerry Adams or Enda Kenny, the current Taoiseach. That I choose to see my Irishness in the context of my Britishness (i.e., Scots/Welsh/English) does not in my eyes dilute this. (And as such, I legitimately hold two passports).

Politics in these British Isles are already undergoing a fundamental rethink and with regional autonomy to the fore, it can only be a matter of time before a federal model emerges, inviting serious consideration.

The post-conflict generations of both states in Ireland, North and South, are the young voters of today and the future policymakers of tomorrow. Yes they still associate themselves with Britain and/or Ireland. But thanks to modern communications technologies and easy access to travel, they are also truly citizens of the world. They are already redefining their distinctiveness and adherences in the context of a 21st century island.

Their elders must do all in their power to make this transition a painless and productive one. ■

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1 He famously revised this decision and declared for Ireland at a later stage and no doubt in deference to the furore that had emerged.

2 And it would be disingenuous not to acknowledge the progress that has been made in this respect.
Sometimes it seems as if Christians can talk about nothing but sex, and they’re against it. And such Christians talk as if two thousand years of unchanging certainties have been drowned in a tide of filth just in the last half-century. Christians who call themselves traditionalists have been having a rough time in the Western World in the 21st century. It’s entered an age of unprecedented sexual tolerance and equality. Women have swept into the workplace and positions of power. Fewer than 50 per cent of British couples who live together get married, least of all in Church; gay people are getting equal rights in country after country. Again and again, most Christian Churches seem out of step. They mostly ban equal marriage; they have been very slow to let women take top leadership roles. Catholics and Evangelical Protestants alike have raged about abortion: Catholic leaders add a ban on contraception and compulsorily celibate clergy to the wishlist. Wandering past the witch hunts of the 16th century, the drag queens of 18th century London and the Free Love of the 1960s, Mormons, Methodists and missionaries, we hoped to show viewers what an illusion it is to think that Christian views on sex and gender have ever been fixed – they have been in flux right from the start. And I hope that that will be a comforting, not a frightening thought.

As we developed our argument and the programmes that you can still see, we were always conscious of what an explosive and difficult subject sex is. Sex is a problem, even for sophisticates and ultra-moderns, and it always will be. I did my best to tell the story with an even hand, without strident proclamation or condemnation, and with a light touch which nevertheless sought to avoid mocking human beings who long ago passionately held convictions which are not ours. The series unashamedly has a purpose; it is aimed at bringing sanity and clarity to debates which often seem deliberately to avoid both.

In a topsy-turvy way, Western Christianity created this problem for itself. It has always talked about sex, in a mostly negative way; and its reward over the last two centuries or so is that the deafening chatter about sex has continued in Western society, even though Christianity has become powerless to contain it. Talking about sex has become almost the defining characteristic of ‘the West’, which is no longer a place but a state of mind: you can find ‘the West’ in every shopping mall and on every beach throughout the world. Other cultures hate this. Human beings all think a lot about sex, but in most cultures, it is bad manners to discuss it. Western openness in sexual chatter outrages millions; the resulting anger is one of the forces which fuels attacks on ‘the West’ which now span very different conflicts from Moscow to Lagos, via the Middle East. We need to understand how modern terrorism relates to culture wars which the West itself has provoked.

It was urgent issues like these that spurred me to develop the TV series which went out on BBC2 from 10 April. In it, we reach back into the ancient world to uncover the complex, explosive and divisive history of the Christian Church and the unexpected ways that it has reached today’s battles about sex, marriage and gender. From bible lands and Ancient Greece to our own time, we revisit the individuals and events that have shaped and shaken the Christian Church and the Western World. The fascination of the story is that it’s not just the Word of the Lord or popes and kings we need to consult, but a babble of competing voices: Greek philosophers Plato and Aristotle, forgotten Syrian traders who imported the idea of monasticism into Christianity (for monasteries were invented by Hindus and Buddhists). We meet shaggy hermits crouching in the desert caves of Egypt, and early Irish monks who catalogued sexual sin with the enthusiasm of stamp-collectors. Wandering past the witch hunts of the 16th century, the drag queens of 18th century London and the Free Love of the 1960s, Mormons, Methodists and missionaries, we hoped to show viewers what an illusion it is to think that Christian views on sex and gender have ever been fixed – they have been in flux right from the start. And I hope that that will be a comforting, not a frightening thought.
Pitt Rivers AD 2065: the future of museums, past and present

Dr Dan Hicks, Associate Professor and Curator, School of Archaeology and Pitt Rivers Museum; Fellow

“What will the Pitt Rivers Museum look like in 50 years’ time?” I’m probably the wrong person to ask. I’m an archaeologist, so my academic discipline is usually concerned with thinking about the past not the future. And I’m a museum curator, so my institution is normally concerned with keeping things stable, preventing decay, loss or change. Museum vitrines are designed to create a kind of artificially endless present tense. Each glass-fronted case is a stopped watch. Everyone (even the Curator-Archaeologist) quickens their pace as they pass the fossils and the dodo, skip down the steps, and walk back out into the fresh air and the sunlight to resume the normal passage of time. A museum like the Pitt Rivers is more time capsule than time machine, built to bring objects to a standstill. Archaeology simply puts this capsule into reverse, focusing only on the detritus of the human past. So let’s get the old archaeological joke out of the way at the outset: The Future’s Not My Period.

This is not to say that Archaeologist-Curators never think about the future. In the history of the Pitt Rivers one example of such thinking springs immediately to mind, and it is one that came about around the same time as the founding of St Cross College in 1965.1

In October 1964, a year before Kits van Heyningen took up the first Mastership of St Cross, the Pitt Rivers Museum appointed a new Curator (its third since 1891). Bernard Fagg, a distinguished archaeologist and curator, had been the Director of the National Museum in Nigeria, where he had rebuilt the museum. From the moment of his appointment Fagg began work on a plan for a new Pitt Rivers Museum. Patrons including the French anthropologist Claude Lévi-Strauss and the premiers of Ethiopia, Senegal and Malaysia were gathered. A decree authorising the purchase of a new site in North Oxford from St John’s College was adopted by Congregation. And in 1966, a design for the new museum was commissioned from Italian architect Pier Luigi Nervi and London architects Powell and Moya.

Nervi’s proposed concrete and glass rotunda was 92 metres in diameter, providing 28,400 square metres of interior space across four storeys (two of which were underground). It brought together the full range of archaeological and anthropological activities of the University at one site: the collections of the Pitt Rivers and the Balfour Library, the Institute of Archaeology, the Institute of Social Anthropology, the Laboratories for Physical Anthropology, Environmental Archaeology, and the Research Laboratory for Archaeology and the History of Art. There would be three lecture rooms; a Centre for Musicology with a recording studio; a range of museum laboratories and workshops; a Photographic Department with darkroom, studio and print library; a suite of workrooms for post-excavation research; and a coffee bar and a restaurant. An enormous glass dome enclosed a special tropical and subtropical ‘Climatron’, inspired by the iconic domed planthouse built at the Missouri Botanical Garden in St Louis in 1960. The circular galleries allowed for the anthropological and archaeological collections to be arranged both geographically (by circumference), and typologically or temporally (radially). The proposed museum would have looked quite in character among the buildings of Tracy Island – the secret South Pacific base of the International Rescue organisation in the animated children’s television programme Thunderbirds (first broadcast 1965).

Fagg’s plans to leave the Victorian building behind were unsuccessful for a number of reasons. There were protests from the residents of Bradmore Road, and problems in reaching the fundraising targets. But the project also suffered from a flawed vision of the future. It was, to borrow a term coined by composer Leonard B. Meyer, a ‘chronocentric’ plan.2 Anthropological museums have often been charged with ethnocentrism, but this archaeological chronocentrism was driven by his own immediate modern intellectual concerns. In Fagg’s vision of the future, temporal, geographical and typological arrangements were resolved in a single display regime, and the full range of archaeological and anthropological endeavour was brought together at a single location for the study of world culture, past and present. This finality of vision moved away from the spirit of Augustus Pitt-Rivers’ own more open-ended vision of the future of typological museums which, writing in 1891, he imagined ‘would require constant rearrangement,’ to the extent that ‘the cases might, perhaps, be put on wheels to facilitate their readjustment’.3

AD 2065 will be a full century after Fagg’s unsuccessful scheme. How else might we think about the future of the Pitt Rivers Museum? We might start with thinking about the present day in a different way. Today we are living through a period of rapid technological changes comparable with those of Victorian Britain. The Victorian Museum Age, and the evolutionary thinking...
that accompanied it, was to a large extent a response to the technological and social changes – changes in transportation, empire, the measurement of time and space, urban form, and material culture.

The digital transformation of knowledge and culture is just getting underway, but there are already strong indications that it will bring in its wake a second Museum Age. The sheer numbers of museum visitors alone tell us much. To take some examples from the UK, during 2013-14 there were 6.7 million visitors to the British Museum and 6.4 million to the National Gallery. The University of Oxford’s four museums – the Ashmolean, Pitt Rivers, Oxford University Museum of Natural History and Museum of the History of Science – received more than 2.1 million visitors. As visitor numbers have grown, construction and expansion has transformed museums around the world. In 2013, reporting on the re-opening of the Rijksmuseum, the Van Gogh Museum and the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam, the New York Times announced ‘a golden age of museum renovation’. In China, the 25 museums that existed in 1949 had grown to more than 3,500 by 2013. In the universities, interdisciplinary interest in museum collections and material culture is burgeoning. The economic and social impacts of museums are now widely recognised, from tourism to the quality of...
life and wellbeing that people gain from living alongside culture. Perhaps even the longstanding decline in individual giving to museums – the tradition of philanthropy to which the Pitt Rivers owes its beginning – may be starting very slowly to abate.

But signs of a new Museum Age are clearest in digital culture itself. The hundreds of millions of online visitors to museum websites and open access resources are one small part of this. Many more billions of everyday curatorial acts are constantly going on around us. Walk through the centre of any historic city, or pause to observe museum visitors in the galleries, and you see people documenting, cataloguing and sharing what they see, where they are, who they are with, what they are thinking or feeling, through an ever-widening array of apps and devices. Some lament the second-handedness of visitor experience refracted through screens, but engagements with museum objects have always been mediated and mimetic. The screens of their devices simply develop new kinds of engagement with collections from older technologies – the glass case, the cast, the photograph.

In long-term perspective, the University of Oxford’s collections have developed over six centuries, punctuated roughly once every 200 years by new benefactions and institutions. The opening in 1488 of Duke Humphrey’s Library, housing the manuscripts donated by Humphrey of Lancaster, 1st Duke of Gloucester, was followed in 1683 by the benefaction of Elias Ashmole that formed the basis of the Ashmolean Museum; and in 1884 by the donation of the Pitt Rivers collection. Each of these moments – 1480s, 1680, 1880s – was intimately related to new kinds of knowledge: Renaissance, Empiricist, Evolutionary.

Next, Digital. The Museum Age of the 19th century was focused on exhibitionary practices, where a curatorial vision precisely shaped what was selected and presented – an approach that continued into Fagg’s grand 1960s scheme. By AD 2065 a Digital Museum Age (DMA) will have unfolded those practices. Museums will remain public institutions, but digitalism will have transformed the public realm. Open methods will replace exhibitionary practices. DMA will happen not just in the galleries, but mainly in the storerooms. Connections between objects in different repositories, and with people, places and communities far beyond the museum, will be ignited and reignited. DMA will require us to build not new galleries, but new research centres where objects are freed from cardboard boxes and Ziploc bags. DMA will serve to re-humanise museum objects. Historic collections will no longer gather dust, and undoubtedly new forms of contemporary collecting will emerge. DMA will not diminish the museum as an institution, but will strengthen it by unlocking the cabinets.

The first step in the process will be to recognise that museums are places not just for the display of information, but for the co-production of knowledge. Museums, in other words, are not collections of objects, but collections of ideas. ■

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St Cross Alumni Representatives

Once a member – always a member

The St Cross network of alumni representatives is a vitally important part of College life, in celebrating and commemorating our anniversary across the four corners, and offering support in creating a global community for St Cross alumni. Representatives serve as advocates for engagement in their local area, enhancing the exciting programme of formal reunions around the world with more informal gatherings and providing points of contact for students and recent graduates. All representatives offer their considerable support and free time on a voluntary basis, something we are extremely grateful for.

Our anniversary year has seen alumni coming together all over the world to toast 50 years:

- In November 2014, our alumni representative for Hong Kong Dr Flora Lau (DPhil Sociology, 2002) hosted an informal reunion dinner in Causeway Bay. Alumni and their guests enjoyed dinner and drinks as conversation flowed and new connections were forged.

- In July 2015, alumni representative for Washington D.C., Dr Ed Furgol (DPhil Modern History, 1997) hosted an afternoon tea in celebration of the College’s 50th Anniversary, and was joined by Dr Linda Arthur (DPhil Educational Studies, 1997), Radhika Wikramanayake (MSc Global Health Science, 2011) and Brooks Zitzmann (MSt Study of Religion, 2004).

We look forward to hearing how you have celebrated 50 years in your part of the world; please get in touch with the Alumni Office if you would like to become an alumni representative.

Lorna Casselton Memorial Lecture and Memorial Scholarship

Honours for services to fungal genetics and international science. As Foreign Secretary of the Royal Society from 2006-2011, Professor Casselton was a vibrant ambassador for British science, travelling the globe to promote science and assist with the establishment of scientific academies in a number of developing countries.

The Memorial Fund has been created by St Cross in order to establish an annual lecture in Professor Casselton’s name and a memorial scholarship for a graduate student in the plant sciences. The Lorna Casselton Memorial Lecture will bring an eminent scientist to Oxford each year to give a keynote address and present groundbreaking research in a biological area. Full details of how to contribute to the Memorial Fund are available from the Development Office at St Cross.

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Following the passing in 2014 of Professor Lorna Casselton CBE FRS, Emeritus Professor of Fungal Genetics and Honorary Fellow of St Cross, the College has established the Lorna Casselton Memorial Lecture and Memorial Scholarship.

Professor Casselton was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1999 and was appointed CBE in the 2012 Birthday Honours for services to fungal genetics and international science. As Foreign Secretary of the Royal Society from 2006-2011, Professor Casselton was a vibrant ambassador for British science, travelling the globe to promote science and assist with the establishment of scientific academies in a number of developing countries.

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There was, tucked somewhere in collective memory, a sense the buildings currently housing Pusey House and part of St Cross were completed during the First World War. It was only last year, during some deep burrowing into the House archives that the exact date of the consecration of the chapel was discovered - 10 October 1914. Therefore a number of events were organised across this centenary year to celebrate the buildings in which we live, work and worship. An undoubted highlight of this programme was the event of the 30 May, a colloquium focusing on the unique architecture of the buildings, and in particular the chapel, and their architect, Temple Moore (1856-1920), followed by a full choral evensong. The programme began with a paper by the Rev’d Professor William Whyte, Dean of St John’s College, with the broad title of Oxford, Gothic and Education. Professor Whyte put forward a convincing and interesting argument for the buildings of Pusey House being deliberately counter-cultural in style, with the Gothic Revival not actually in fashion when the site was designed and built. The architecture of Pusey, he argued, instead harked back to an earlier association between Gothic and buildings of education, thus staking Pusey’s claim to be a house of both piety and learning. He contrasted the neo-Gothic design of New College and other medieval Oxford Colleges, the same tradition which Moore’s design of Pusey embodies, with the English Renaissance Revival style of Jackson which the rest of Oxford was enthusiastically embracing. The decision to embrace a deliberately archaic style demonstrated a commitment to a particular form of Anglo-Catholicism by the then Principal and Chapter, and it also mirrored the fact that the institution did not quite conform with the normal model of the undergraduate colleges of the University - a fact, Dr Whyte pointed out, that remains true of both Pusey and St Cross to this day. After Professor Whyte, we heard a paper by Dr Ayla Lepine, Lecturer in Architectural History at the University of Essex, entitled Towards a New Gothic Revival: Temple Moore’s Sacred Medievalism at Pusey House. Dr Lepine gave details of alternative designs submitted for the new Pusey House buildings in 1912, including a design by Gilbert Scott. She mentioned the inevitable financial constraints faced by the Chapter in commissioning the
new buildings as well as the painfully slow
process of confirming who had won the
commission. Among other archival gems she
produced a note from then Principal Darwell
Stone reminding himself to apologise to the
would-be architects for the long delay! Her
detailed exposition and explanation of the
unusual ordering of the interior – in particular,
the substantial rood screen and its carvings,
the original sketches for which are still in the
Pusey House archive – drove home the point
that the design of the Chapel and buildings
was interwoven with the religion, politics and
philosophy of the Puseyite school in Oxford,
whilst emphasising the absolute purity of
Temple Moore’s form of Gothic. Central to
Moore’s vision was that the design of the
chapel, from its arches to the carved figures of
the angels on the rood screen, should have one
purpose - to draw the eyes, the mind and the
heart of the worshipper heavenward.

A lively panel discussion followed these
two addresses, when the speakers were joined
by John Goom, current architect to Pusey
House, and Geoff Brandwood, author of an
acclaimed biography of Temple Moore. The
questions ranged from those relating to the
use of material in the building process to the
extent to which the architecture represented
an attempt to create a quasi-monastic
atmosphere mirroring the then pattern of
community life at Pusey House. John Goom
clarified a recurring question about the
material used in the ceiling. Despite how it
appears, the vaulting is not made of concrete.
Rather, the chapel has a classic Gothic ceiling
constructed with stone arches and ribs in-filled
with brick vaulting. It is the thin-rendering
which covers the brick which gives the
impression of concrete.

Finally Mr Geoff Brandwood gave an
address at the end of Evensong, focusing on
the personality and career of the architect
himself, Temple Moore. Mr Brandwood
provided the colloquium with an insight
into the respect in which Moore was held
as an architect and explained how his early
death in 1920 (Pusey was one of his final
projects) prevented Gothic Revival from being
effectively carried forward into the inter-war
period. The figure of Moore that emerged from
this address and from the previous two papers
was of a humble and deeply pious man,
genuinely touched with a genius for designing
buildings. The day finished, appropriately, with
a solemn choral Te Deum ascending up into
the glorious Gothic vaulting and beyond.
Alumnus of the Year 2015

The College has named Professor Roger Kitching (DPhil Zoology, 1966) as Alumnus of the Year 2015. Professor Kitching was a foundation scholar of St Cross (1966-69), and has the honour of being the very first matriculand of the College (the other four foundation scholars having transferred from other colleges in Oxford). Professor Kitching and his wife Beverley also had the very first wedding to be held in the College in April 1969. Now Professor of Ecology at Griffith University in Brisbane, Professor Kitching has a firm stake in the College’s early years and is a fitting recipient of Alumnus of the Year as the College turns 50.

Ruthe Farmer (MBA, 2007) has won the British Council’s Social Impact Award in the first ever ‘Education UK Alumni Awards 2015’, recognising American graduates of British universities achieving success upon their return to the United States. Ruthe is currently Chief Strategy and Growth Officer for the National Centre for Women and Information Technology, and was recognised for her dedication to increasing women’s participation in technology and STEM subjects. Ruthe’s award was announced and presented in a gala ceremony in New York on 21 March.

Dr Steven Galbraith (DPhil Mathematics, 1992) has been selected by the London Mathematical Society and New Zealand Mathematical Society to be the Aitken Lecturer for 2015. The Aitken Lectureship occurs every two years when a mathematician from New Zealand is invited to give lectures at different British universities.

Dr Alan Grainger (DPhil Agriculture and Forest Sciences, 1981) is one of ten scientists elected on an Open Call to serve for four years on the new Science-Policy interface of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification.

Professor Charles Tung (MPhil English, 1992; Alumni Representative for Seattle) has been appointed to a Chair of Seattle University’s English Department, where he is Associate Professor.

Professor Fiona Moore (DPhil Social and Cultural Anthropology, 1997) has been given a Chair and is now Professor of Business Anthropology at Royal Holloway, University of London.

Births

Alison Eves (née O’Mara; DPhil Education, 2006), Elizabeth Marie Eves, 22 June 2014.


Bethan Thomas (MPhil Modern Chinese Studies, 2005) and Jacob McKnight (MSc African Studies, 2006) Cerys Helen McKnight, 1 March 2015.

Engagements

Rebecca Schneider (MPhil Politics: European Politics and Society, 2009; Alumni Representative for Oxford) is to be married to Josh Anderson, an alumnus of Wolfson College. Rebecca and Josh met while both rowing for the St Cross/Wolfson Boat Club in 2011. They are to be married 12 June 2016 in Seattle, Washington.

Professor Roger Kitching

Photo credit: Griffith University

Births

Births

Births

Births
Books

Alumna and Honorary Fellow Professor Dame Hermione Lee (MPhil English, 1968) President of Wolfson College, has published a biography of the British author Penelope Fitzgerald. *Penelope Fitzgerald: A Life* has been chosen by the New York Times as one of its ’10 Best Books of 2014’ and received the 2015 Plutarch Award.

Dr Thomas Paul Burgess (MSc Educational Studies, 1989) seeks to explore the legacy of conflict in Northern Ireland in his debut novel, political thriller *White Church, Black Mountain*. Burgess draws from both his personal experience as a community relations worker and his academic experience as Senior Lecturer in Applied Social Studies at University College, Cork, and the novel can be read in conjunction with his latest academic work, *The Contested Identities of Ulster Protestants*.

China’s War With Japan, 1937-1945: the Struggle for Survival by Vice-Master Professor Rana Mitter pulls together diplomatic, political and military history to re-examine China’s experience of the destructive eight-year war with Japan, and looks at the conflict’s shaping of the Second World War and post-war development. Mitter’s book was awarded the 2014 Duke of Westminster Medal for Military Literature by the Royal United Services Institute.

In Farthest Field: An Indian Story of the Second World War, Raghu Karnad (MSc Contemporary India, 2008) discovers the story of a single family – his own – and the journey that 2.5 million Indian men took from their homes to distant battlefields as they fought for Britain in ‘the forgotten army’.
This year St Cross celebrates 50 years since its founding, and in the international spirit of the College we have been reconnecting with as many of our alumni as possible to mark this wonderful anniversary, and travelling to the four corners to do so!

Back in September, the Director of Development Susan Berrington travelled to Switzerland and hosted a relaxed weekend lunch. Seven alumni and their guests joined Susan, as well an incoming student for Michaelmas term who brought along his family. The afternoon was arranged with the help of our alumni representative in Switzerland, Evelyn Kuhn, who suggested a beautiful walk around the local area following lunch; the event proved a wonderful opportunity to network as well as explore the city.

Closer to home there was the Oxford Reunion, held every September in conjunction with the wider University’s Alumni Weekend. A packed common room enjoyed a Champagne Afternoon Tea and the late summer sun in the front quad. Cakes aplenty were provided by the wonderful kitchen staff.

October saw the College buzzing as we welcomed the new intake of students; this year there were 236. Freshers’ fortnight was the usual mix of Pimm’s and croquet, punting, and of course whiskey tasting in the bar. A great fortnight was had by all.

In November, Susan and the Master travelled to San Francisco with Susan then travelling on to Washington State before hosting a reunion in Seattle. Our group of alumni and their families and friends enjoyed an exclusive curatorial tour of the Seattle Art Museum’s Pop Departures Exhibition, which showcased some of the greatest Pop Art from the Sixties, looking at how the era has since influenced art and culture to the present day. Following the tour, a buffet and drinks reception provided a great opportunity to mingle with new friends.
The Winter Drinks in London came around in early December and we were grateful to Archivist and Editor of St Cross College at Fifty Professor Emilie Savage-Smith, who spoke to the audience about the challenging but rewarding process of compiling the commemorative volume. Copies of the volume are available to purchase from the College so do get in touch if you would like to find out more.

The start of 2015 saw the College’s first reunion in India in late January and early February we were delighted to welcome so many alumni to our reunions in New Delhi and Bangalore. Across the two cities, the Master and Director of Development met alumni who were joined by family and friends. The reunions also proved a wonderful opportunity to meet with some parents of current students who joined the relaxed dinners. There was a quick stop in Dubai to see alumni and friends in the UAE before heading back home.

Back in College, the annual and much-loved Fred’s Lunch took place in March. Conversation was flowing as we saw alumni and members from across the 50 years connecting with each other and sharing stories on how times at St Cross have changed.

April saw St Cross join the University’s European ‘Meeting Minds’ Weekend in Vienna. Along with the other graduate colleges of Nuffield, Wolfson, Green Templeton and Kellogg, we organised a joint dinner to start the main weekend of events. We were most grateful to Vice-Master Rana Mitter for presenting a lecture in the evening, ‘China 2022: Where China is going and why it matters’. All 60 alumni and guests from the five colleges enjoyed the evening greatly.

As you will have read earlier, we were very excited to have two St Cross students representing both the men’s and women’s boats in this year’s Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race. A packed coach of proud St Cross members headed to Craven Cottage, the Fulham Football Club’s home ground, and lined the river to cheer on the Dark Blues.
Another **USA reunion** was hosted in May, this time on the East Coast. The Director of Development Susan Berrington was joined by Emma Farrant, Alumni Relations Administrator, alumni and their guests in **Boston**. Food and drink was of course available plentifully and a wonderful evening was had by all. The following day we were incredibly grateful to Alex Zhurakovskiyi (DPhil Organic Chemistry, 2010), who showed those unfamiliar with the area around the Harvard campus, where he is currently carrying out research work.

Back in Oxford, June saw the **Encaenia Garden Party** take place in the Quad, providing the opportunity for the Master to award the first Inez Oliver Prize to student Hanh Ha Nguyen. The prize, given for an outstanding essay, was donated by friend of St Cross Paul Oliver and named for his wife to celebrate their 30th wedding anniversary.

**The College Ball** followed later in the month, with a fantastical and fairytale theme “Once Upon a Dream”. College members also enjoyed a visit to Wadham College for a performance of ‘**Twelfth Night**’ by the Oxford Shakespeare Company; three fantastic events to welcome the summer and say goodbye to Trinity term.

In July, the Master and Susan Berrington rounded off the academic year with reunions in **Beijing, Taipei** and **Hong Kong**. In Beijing, alumni and their guests were joined by members of the Beijing Oxbridge Club and enjoyed a talk from local writer James Palmer on social mobility in China. A drinks reception and buffet lunch followed in Taipei in the lovely surroundings of Le Méridien Hotel, and the Master concluded the trip by hosting an informal lunch for alumni and their guests at the Pottinger Hotel in Hong Kong.

Our full events schedule is set to continue for the second half of 2015 and will carry on into 2016. All our forthcoming reunions can be found on the back page; we will be hosting further reunions in the US and Europe, as well as inaugural events in Japan, Australia and New Zealand. It would be wonderful if you could join us at one, close to Oxford or close to home. Please do contact the Alumni Office to book your places.
The Summer Ball

Photo credit: Barry King www.photokingphotography.co.uk and St Cross student Anthony Cheung
THE SUMMER BALL
Dates for your Diary

2015 50th Anniversary Michaelmas Term Lecture “Saint Helena Dreams of the Cross: Mapping Stories, Sowing Relics”
Wednesday 28 October 2015
Presented by Professor Dame Marina Warner

USA Founders’ Feast, Chicago
Saturday 7 November 2015

Carol Service
Tuesday 8 December 2015

London Winter Drinks
Tuesday 15 December 2015

Amsterdam Reunion
Saturday 30 January 2016

Berlin Reunion
Saturday 6 February 2016

Fred’s Lunch
Saturday 19 March 2016

Washington D.C. Reunion
Saturday 9 April 2016

Tokyo Reunion
Saturday 21 May 2016

Sydney Reunion
Saturday 4 June 2016

Auckland Reunion
Saturday 11 June 2016

Encaenia
Wednesday 22 June 2016

In addition, a range of informal reunion events take place throughout the year in College and at various locations throughout the world. You can keep updated on events near you through our social media streams, College website and email communications.

To book a place for any of the above events, please contact the Alumni Relations Office:

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