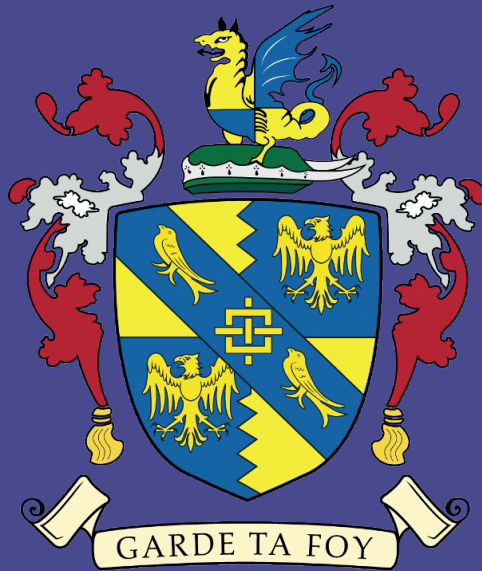


# MAGDALENE COLLEGE MAGAZINE



No 66

2021-22

# MAGDALENE COLLEGE

## The Fellowship, October 2022

### THE GOVERNING BODY

- 2020 MASTER: Sir Christopher Greenwood, GBE, CMG, QC, MA, LLB  
(1978: Fellow)
- 1990 PRESIDENT: B J Burchell, MA and PhD (Warwick), *Joint Director of Studies in Human, Social and Political Science and Professor of the Social Sciences*
- 1984 J R Patterson, MA, PhD, *Praelector, Director of Studies in Classics and Associate Professor in Ancient History*
- 1987 M E J Hughes, MA, PhD, *Pepys Librarian, Director of Studies and University Affiliated Lecturer in English*
- 1990 S Martin, MA, PhD, *Senior Tutor, Admissions Tutor (Undergraduates), Joint Director of Studies and University Affiliated Lecturer in Mathematics*
- 1993 T N Harper, MA, PhD, *College Lecturer in History and Professor of Southeast Asian History (1990: Research Fellow)*
- 1994 N G Jones, MA, LLM, PhD, *Director of Studies in Law (Tripos) and Professor of English Legal History*
- 1995 H Babinsky, MA and PhD (Cranfield), *Tutorial Advisor (Undergraduates), Joint Director of Studies in Engineering and Professor of Aerodynamics*
- 1996 P Dupree, MA, PhD, *Tutor for Postgraduate Students, Joint Director of Studies in Natural Sciences and Professor of Biochemistry*
- 1998 S K F Stoddart, MA, PhD, *Director of Studies in Archaeology and Professor of Prehistory (1986: Research Fellow)*
- 2000 T A Coombs, MA, PhD, *Joint Director of Studies and Associate Professor in Electrical Engineering*
- 2001 H Azérad, MA, PhD, *Joint Director of Studies in MML and Associate Professor in French*
- 2003 A L Hadida, MA, PhD, *Director of Studies and Associate Professor in Management Strategy*
- 2004 C S Watkins, MA, MPhil, PhD, *Tutor, College Lecturer and Professor of British History (1998: Research Fellow)*
- 2004 A L Du Bois-Pedain, MJur (Oxford), Dr Jur (Humboldt, Berlin), *Dean, Director of Studies for the LLM & MCL and Professor of Criminal Law and Philosophy*
- 2005 S C Mentchen, MA, *Tutor, Joint Director of Studies in MML and Associate Professor in German*

- 2007 S J Morris, BA (Newcastle), *Senior Bursar and Steward*
- 2007 R M Burnstein, MB, BS (Sydney), PhD, *Assistant Tutor for Postgraduate Students, Joint Director of Studies in Clinical Medicine and Head of School of Anaesthesia, Addenbrooke's Hospital*
- 2008 G P Pearce, BVSc (Bristol), MA, PhD (Leeds), *Director of Studies in Veterinary Medicine and Associate Professor in Farm Animal Health and Production*
- 2009 C Brassett, MA, MChir, *Deputy Senior Tutor, Joint Director of Studies in Pre-clinical Medicine, Teaching Professor of Human Anatomy and University Clinical Anatomist*
- 2010 M J Waithe, MA (Leeds), PhD (London), *College Librarian, College Lecturer and Associate Professor in English*
- 2010 C D Lloyd, MA (Kent), *Development Director*
- 2010 R L Roebuck, BA, MEng, PhD, *Joint Director of Studies in Engineering and University Senior Design Engineer (Teaching)*
- 2010 A K Bennison, BA, MA (Harvard) and PhD (London), *Director of Studies in Asian and Middle Eastern Studies and Professor of the History and Culture of the Maghrib*
- 2011 L C Skinner, BSc (Queen's University, Canada), MPhil, PhD, *Tutorial Advisor (Postgraduates), Joint Director of Studies in Natural Sciences and Professor of Earth Sciences*
- 2012 E K M So, MA, PhD, *Director of Studies and Professor of Architectural Engineering*
- 2014 W Khaled, MSc (London), PhD, *Director of Studies in Natural Sciences (Biological) and Associate Professor in Pharmacology*
- 2014 A Ercole, MA, PhD, MB, BChir, *Joint Director of Studies in Pre-clinical Medicine*
- 2015 T Euser, MSc, PhD (Twente), *Joint Director of Studies in Natural Sciences (Physical) and Associate Professor in Applied Physics*
- 2015 J M Munns, MA, MPhil, PhD, FSA, *Tutor, Admissions Tutor (Undergraduates), University Affiliated Lecturer in History and History of Art*
- 2016 S A Bacallado, BSc (MIT), PhD (Stanford), *Admissions Tutor (Access), College Lecturer in Pure Mathematics and Assistant Professor in Pure Mathematics and Mathematical Statistics*
- 2017 S Dubow, DPhil, *Smuts Professor of Commonwealth History*
- 2017 S J Eglen, BSc (Nottingham), DPhil (Sussex), *Joint Director of Studies in Applied Mathematics and Professor of Computational Neuroscience*
- 2017 N Carroll, MA, MB, BChir, *Joint Director of Studies in Clinical Medicine and Consultant Radiologist in the Department of Gastroenterology*

- 2018 J Orr, MEng, *College Lecturer in Engineering and Assistant Professor in Concrete Structures*
- 2018 S Atkins, MA, *Dean of Chapel*
- 2018 P Lane, MA, PhD, *Professor of African Archaeology*
- 2019 A Meghji, MA, MPhil, PhD, *Joint Director of Studies in Human, Social and Political Science and Associate Professor in Social Inequalities*
- 2021 S Ravenscroft, PhD, *Director of Studies and College Lecture in Theology (2019: Fellow-Commoner)*
- 2021 A E J Mills, MA, BCL (Oxon), *College Lecturer in Law*
- 2021 Gallo E, AB (Harvard), MPhil, DPhil (Oxford) *Director of Studies in Economics*
- 2022 J Patterson, BA, MA (London), PhD (Manchester), *College Lecturer and Director of Studies in History*
- 2022 K Okkenhaug, BSc (Victoria B C, Canada), PhD (Toronto), *Professor of Immunology*
- 2022 L Fisher, MA (St Andrews), MBA (Leicester), PhD, *Director of Studies in Education and Professor of Languages Education*

#### EMERITUS FELLOWS

- 1960 P J Grubb, ScD, *Emeritus Professor of Investigative Plant Ecology*
- 1962 R Hyam, LittD, *Emeritus Professor of British Imperial History; Archivist Emeritus*
- 1964 P E Reynolds, ScD
- 1968 His Honour C F Kolbert, MA, PhD
- 1968 N Boyle, LittD, FBA, *Emeritus Schröder Professor of German*
- 1971 R J S Spence, MA, PhD, *Emeritus Professor of Architectural Engineering*
- 1979 E Duffy, KSG, DD, FBA, FSA, *Emeritus Professor of the History of Christianity*
- 1984 N Rushton, MD, *Emeritus Professor of Orthopaedics*
- 1984 H A Chase, ScD, FREng, *Emeritus Professor of Biochemical Engineering*
- 1981 M A Carpenter, ScD, *Emeritus Professor of Mineralogy and Mineral Physics*
- 1989 T Spencer, MA, PhD, *Emeritus Professor of Coastal Dynamics*
- 1992 K Patel, MA, MSc and PhD (Essex)

#### LIFE FELLOWS

- 1996 T H Clutton-Brock, ScD, FRS, *Emeritus Prince Philip Professor of Ecology And Evolutionary Biology*
- 2001 A R Thompson, MBE, MA, MPhil
- 2001 S Halper, BA (Stanford), PhD

- 2004 E H Cooper, LittD, FBA, *Emeritus Professor of Medieval and Renaissance English*
- 2008 T A J Cockerill, BA, MPhil (Leeds), PhD (Manchester)
- 2010 J R Raven, LittD, FBA, FSA (1990: Fellow), *University Affiliated Lecturer in History*
- 2010 E Rothschild, CMG, MA, *Honorary Professor of History*
- 2019 M C Skott, PhD

#### RESEARCH FELLOWS

- 2010 P M Steele, BA, MPhil, PhD, *Lumley Senior Research Fellow in Classics*
- 2017 A Neumann, MA, PhD (London), *Senior Research Fellow in German*
- 2017 A P Coutts, MSc, PhD, *Senior Research Fellow in Sociology, Social Policy and Public Health*
- 2019 S Caputo, MSc (Edinburgh), PhD, *Lumley Research Fellow in History*
- 2020 A Baez-Ortega, MSc (La Laguna, Spain), PhD, *Nevile Research Fellow in Biological Science*
- 2020 Y Glazer-Eytan, MA (Tel Aviv), PhD (Johns Hopkins), *Lumley Research Fellow in the Humanities*
- 2020 F I Aigbirhio, MA, DPhil (Sussex), *Senior Research Fellow in Biomedical Imaging and Professor of Molecular Imaging Chemistry*
- 2021 D L Dunkelman, MSc (Zurich), PhD, *Nevile Research Fellow in Biology*
- 2021 P Asimov, AB (Brown University, USA), MSt (Oxford), PhD, *Lumley Research Fellow in Music*
- 2022 His Excellency D Mulhall, BA, MA (University College Cork), *Parnell Visiting Fellow in Irish Studies*
- 2022 D A S Fergusson, OBE, DD, FRSE, FBA, *Senior Research Fellow in Theology and Regius Professor of Divinity*
- 2022 T Licence, MA, MPhil, PhD, *Senior Research Fellow in Medieval History (2006: Research Fellow)*
- 2022 H J Marshall, BA, MA (Brown University, USA), PhD, *Lumley Research Fellow in Criminology*
- 2022 B Peng, BSc, MSc (Fudan University), *Nevile Research Fellow in Physics*
- 2022 A Lefauve, MSc (Université de Technologie de Compiègne), MSc (Ecole Polytechnique, France) PhD, *Senior Research Fellow in Mathematics*

#### BYE-FELLOWS

- 2021 V Vitaliev, Diploma of Translator, Philologist, and Teacher of English (Kharkov), Diploma of Patentologist (Moscow), *Royal Literary Fund Teaching Bye-Fellow*

- 2022 M Hrebeniak, PhD, *Teaching Bye-Fellow in English, Director of Studies and College Lecturer in English*
- 2022 R Hall Maudslay, BA, MEng, *Bye-Fellow in Computer Science*
- 2022 R Newis, BA, MPhil, *Bye-Fellow in English*
- 2022 C MacKenzie, MA (Oxon), MEd (Sydney), PhD (ANU), *Teaching Bye-Fellow in Land Economy*
- 2022 Z Bond, BA, MEng, PhD, *Teaching Bye-Fellow and Director of Studies in Chemical Engineering*
- 2022 J Hauge, BSc (Trondheim), MSc (SOAS), PhD, *Teaching Bye-Fellow and Assistant Professor in Political Economy*

#### FELLOW-COMMONERS

- 1990 R L Skelton, MA
- 1997 A I J Valluy-Fitzsimons, Diplômée de l'ISIT (Paris)
- 2002 J J Hellyer Jones, MA, FRCO, *Honorary Assistant Organist*
- 2010 Sir B Fried, MBA (Pennsylvania)
- 2011 C N Spottiswoode, BSc, PhD, *Senior Research Fellow in Biological Sciences*
- 2011 M R W Rands, BSc, DPhil (Oxford), *Master of Darwin College*
- 2012 P J Marsh, MPhil
- 2014 C H Foord, *Assistant Bursar*
- 2014 R V Chartener, AB (Princeton), MPhil, MBA (Harvard), *Chairman of the Magdalene Foundation*
- 2015 A Ritchie, QC, MA, *College Advocate*
- 2015 C V S Brasted-Pike, MSc, PhD, *Joint Director of Studies in Natural Sciences*
- 2017 H Critchlow, PhD, *Outreach Fellow*
- 2020 L Masuda-Nakagawa, PhD (Tokyo), *Teaching Fellow in Neurobiology (2018: Bye-Fellow)*
- 2020 F Schuery, MA (Clermont-Ferrand), *Teaching Fellow in Portuguese (2018: Bye-Fellow)*
- 2020 A J W Thom, MA, MSci, PhD, *Joint Director of Studies in Natural Sciences and UL in Chemistry (2011: Bye-Fellow; 2012: Fellow)*
- 2022 J M Potter, MA (Oxon), *Director of Music and Precentor*

#### HONORARY FELLOWS

- 1984 HRH the Duke of Gloucester, KG, GCVO, MA
- 1984 Professor Sir John Boardman, MA, FBA, Hon RA
- 1992 Professor Sir David Hopwood, MA, PhD, and DSc (Glasgow), FRS
- 1997 Professor H H Vendler, AB, PhD (Harvard), Hon LittD
- 1999 J C F-Simpson, CBE, MA, FRGS

- 2001 Sir Colin Corness, MA
- 2001 Professor Sir Richard Jolly, KCMG, MA, and PhD (Yale)
- 2002 Professor Sir John Gurdon, PhD, Hon ScD, Hon DSc (Oxford), FRS
- 2005 D J H Murphy, MA, *Bursar Emeritus*
- 2005 Professor Sir David C Clary, ScD, FRS
- 2005 The Rt Hon Lord Malloch-Brown, KCMG, PC, MA
- 2005 R W H Cripps
- 2008 The Rt Hon Lord (Igor) Judge, PC, MA, Hon LLD
- 2009 The Rt Hon Sir Andrew Morritt, PC, CVO, MA
- 2009 R H Vignoles, BA, BMus, ARCM
- 2009 The Hon Wong Yan-lung, SC, MA, JP
- 2012 Khoon Hong Kuok, BA (Singapore), *Pepys Benefactor Fellow*
- 2012 D D Robinson, CBE, MA and MA (Yale), FSA
- 2015 Professor Dame S M Springman, DBE, PhD, FREng
- 2015 C I von Christierson, B Com (Rhodes), MA
- 2015 HRH, Sultan Nazrin Shah, BA (Oxford), PhD (Harvard)
- 2015 L L Cardozo-Kindersley, MBE
- 2015 Dame Carol A Duffy, DBE, BA (Liverpool)
- 2018 A Tennent, BA, MIB
- 2018 T Cripps, BA, MBA
- 2020 The Rt Revd & Rt Hon the Lord Williams of Oystermouth, PC, DD,  
Hon DCL (Oxford), FBA
- 2020 Professor the Lady Williams of Oystermouth, MA
- 2020 The Rt Hon the Baroness Hale of Richmond, DBE, LLB, FBA
- 2020 M C Newell, BA
- 2020 The Very Revd Dr D M Hoyle, MBE, MA, PhD, FSA
- 2020 C B M Derham, MA
- 2021 M D Moorman, BA (Bucknell), MA (St John's College, Annapolis), MA  
(Georgetown), MPhil, *Pepys Benefactor Fellow*
- 2021 A P Schultz, MA, MSci, *Pepys Benefactor Fellow*

#### HONORARY MEMBERS

- |                                |                           |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1999 Anthony Bloom             | 2007 Dato Isa Bin Ibrahim |
| 1999 Sir Anthony O'Reilly      | 2009 Colin Day            |
| 1999 Lady O'Reilly             | 2010 Margaret Higgs       |
| 2000 Thomas Monaghan           | 2011 Lady Braybrooke      |
| 2000 Christopher Smart         | 2015 Allen Zimbler        |
| 2003 Claire Tomalin, Hon LittD | 2019 David Fyfe           |
| 2003 Dr Helen Lee              | 2022 Yen How Tai          |
| 2003 Jack Vettriano            |                           |



*The New Library across the Fellows' Garden*



# MAGDALENE COLLEGE MAGAZINE

NEW SERIES No 66: 2021–22

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*HRH The Duke of Gloucester at the opening of the New Library on 2 July 2022  
(Photo: Matt Moon)*

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This issue is edited by Professor Raven, assisted by Mrs Fitzsimons, Jo Hornsby,  
and Ishbel Bruce.

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## FROM THE MASTER

As my second year as Master draws to a close, I am struck by how different this year has been from my first, which was dominated by COVID and the successive lockdowns. While the shadow (particularly the financial shadow) of COVID has not yet lifted, it has been a delight to see the resumption of so many of those aspects of College life which had to be put on hold in 2020–21. Teaching has again been in person, the library (of which more below) has been full, and there has been a perceptibly happier atmosphere, obvious every time I wander round College.

That atmosphere has been apparent in the many events which mark our collegiate life. At the start of the year we were able to hold the Matriculation Dinner, something which had been impossible last year. Social distancing protocols which were then still in force dictated that there could be fewer people at any one dinner than had been customary. That restraint, and the need to provide a catch-up Matriculation Dinner for those who had in fact matriculated last year, meant that we ended up with eight dinners, rather than the two which would normally have been held. This stretched the catering team (as well as the Master's dinner jacket) but they responded wonderfully (far better than the dinner jacket), as they have done all year. We also had Matriculation photographs for both the 2021 and the 2020 intake, and it was a mark of the spirit of the College that several post-graduates who had taken one year degrees in 2020–21, and thus already left the College, returned for the photograph. Those who missed out on the Macfarlane-Grieve Dinner in June 2021 are being invited back for a catch-up dinner in September this year.

During the course of the year restrictions eased further. We were able to celebrate Samuel Pepys's 389th birthday in traditional fashion. The annual sports day with Magdalen College Oxford returned, a cheerful and (except in the mixed netball) a friendly occasion in which resulted Magdalene triumphed over Magdalen for the first time in several years. College won the cycling cuppers. Although the May Bumps saw the men's first boat drop from second to third place this was still an excellent result especially given how many of our most experienced oarsmen had graduated in 2021. Moreover, the women's

first boat won through to the first division, so that – for the first time – both first boats are in the top division.

Particularly cheering was that General Admissions reverted to its traditional form for the first time since 2019, with the Senate House packed with family and supporters and a party back in College for graduates and their guests in which celebration and joy mixed with sadness at saying farewell. There was much to celebrate with 105 first class results in Tripos and examined Masters' degrees, the largest number of firsts the College has ever achieved, although not quite as high a percentage of the number of candidates as in 2017 and our *annus mirabilis*, 2015. Magdalene students also won eight University prizes in Engineering, English, Law, Natural Sciences and Theology.

There can be little doubt that one factor which contributed to this success was the New Library, which has proved immensely popular with the whole College ever since it opened to students in March 2021. Niall McLaughlin's building has won the remarkable distinction of being praised both by the architectural profession and by its users from the moment that it opened. As I write, our New Library has just been included as one of the six buildings shortlisted for RIBA's Stirling Prize, as well as winning several other accolades. Though relying on natural ventilation rather than air conditioning, it remained at a reasonable temperature when the rest of Cambridge reached a record breaking forty degrees (104 Fahrenheit for those of us who still prefer older measurements). One student, who has just graduated with a First, said of 'our amazing new library' that 'studying with my friends in the library is without question the most precious memory of the past three years#.

The official opening of the New Library by HRH the Duke of Gloucester took place on 2 July at a garden party attended by several hundred people – those who had contributed to the library and their guests. This event also marked the end of the enormously successful Future Foundations Campaign which not only raised the funds needed for the Library but also for a major expansion of bursary provision for our students and resources for College teaching. I am enormously grateful to all those who contributed funds and those, especially on the Campaign Board and in the Development Office, whose tireless work made it possible for the College not just to meet an ambitious target but to exceed it by a significant amount. I would also like to pay tribute to

my two predecessors, Duncan Robinson and Rowan Williams, whose vision and fund-raising skills made all of this possible.

Universities in general – and Cambridge in particular – have been much in the press this year and, as is all too often the case, much of that coverage has been remote from reality. The College remains firmly committed to selection on the basis of ability, academic freedom and freedom of speech. We do not engage in ‘cancel culture’ but nor has there been any pressure within College for us to do so. Anyone who had actually spent time here during the last two years would have found no sign of the ‘woke tyranny’ beloved of some writers. What they would have found was a community where students, staff and Fellows have been incredibly supportive of one another in the most difficult times the College has faced for decades. That has enabled us to come through COVID as a thriving college community. It does not, of course, make for eye-catching headlines but a strong community has no need of such headlines and Magdalene is a very strong community.

Sir Christopher Greenwood



*The Head Gardener, Mark Scott, watering the Master's Lodge Garden*

## IN MEMORIAM

WILLIAM RODOLPH CORNISH

Life Fellow, President 1998–2001



*William Rodolph Cornish, CMG, QC (Hon), FBA, LL.D. (Cantab), LL.B. (Adelaide), BCL (Oxon). Born 9 August 1937. Educated St Peter's College, Adelaide, University of Adelaide, and Wadham College, Oxford. Assistant Lecturer in Law, London School of Economics 1962–68; Reader in Law, Queen Mary College, London, 1969–70; Professor of English Law, London School of Economics, 1970–90; Professor of Law (1973), Cambridge, 1990–95; Herchel Smith Professor of Intellectual Property Law, Cambridge, 1995–2004. Honorary Fellow, London School of Economics, 1997; Bencher of Gray's Inn, 1998. Hon LLD, University of Edinburgh, 2004, University of Adelaide, 2018, Hon Dr, Sofia University St Kliment Ohridski, 2018. Fellow 1990–2004; Life Fellow 2004–22. President 1998–2001. Married Lovedy Moule 1964, two daughters, one son. Died 8 January 2022, aged 84.*

Behind the Ypres Salient in 1915 the Revd P T B (Tubby) Clayton founded Talbot House (Toc H), as a place of rest and recreation for troops on the Western front. The growing Toc H organisation survived both world wars, and as he became busier, Tubby Clayton recruited young men to act as his ADCs. Among them in 1955–56, was a South Australian, William Rodolph Cornish – known as Bill – 10,000 miles from home on a gap year following his schooling at St Peter’s College, Adelaide.

Arriving at Liverpool Street station from Tilbury docks, Bill, fresh from South Australia, had his ‘first big shock’: ‘it was still just bomb devastation wherever you looked’. This early taste of England, and, in the same gap year, time spent cycling and camping in France, cast a die, as Bill put it, for his future career. But it was then back, for the time being, to South Australia, to read law at the University of Adelaide. His father was a practising solicitor, and not yet having a clear idea as to his future, Bill ‘slipped into doing a law degree somehow’. Bill found the quality of law teaching at Adelaide distinctly mixed, though, as he put it, there were ‘some very learned people who talked to us’, among them Leo Blair, father of the future British Prime Minister, who taught Roman law.

By the end of his course, Bill ‘couldn’t wait to get to a better law school’. The nineteenth-century arrogation of conveyancing to land agents, rather than solicitors, in South Australia had reduced the size and importance of the legal profession there in comparison with those on the eastern seaboard, despite which Bill’s contemporaries ‘only thought in Australian terms’. But Bill had been overseas, which ‘made all the difference’, and the opportunity of a British Commonwealth Scholarship brought him again to England in 1960 – ‘longing to get back to see what had happened ... in four years’ – to read for the degree of Bachelor of Civil Law (despite the name a postgraduate qualification) at Wadham College, Oxford.

The two years of the BCL proved a stimulating experience for the Adelaide graduate, not least in hearing Professor H L A Hart deliver the material which became his great book *The Concept of Law* (1961), ‘as he had written it out in his bed in pencil that morning’. It was clear to Bill both that he wanted to remain in Europe, and that he wanted to be a law teacher rather than having ‘a life of dealing with clients and trying to think out what the other side was going to say’. An application in 1962 for an assistant lectureship at the London School of Economics followed. Notwithstanding his perception of the interview as ‘terrible’, Bill was

appointed, from which, as he put it, he 'didn't look back', remaining at LSE – a brief readership at Queen Mary College, London, aside – and holding from 1970 the Chair of English Law until his move to Cambridge.

LSE was formative for Bill's academic career. He found there 'a lot of like-minded people', who were putting energy into newly-emerging academic fields, among them the labour lawyer Bill Wedderburn (afterwards Lord Wedderburn of Charlton), the company lawyer L C B (Jim) Gower and the public lawyer Stanley de Smith, not to mention the legal historian S F C (Toby) Milsom. LSE, as Bill put it, 'was looking to do new things in legal education to make it more socially aware; to make it more easily criticised', seeking to show that there are 'many ways to recategorise legal solutions more meaningfully'.

From this context emerged Bill's first book, *The Jury*, published in 1968 in a distinguished Penguin series which included Harry Street's *Freedom, the Individual and the Law* (1963) and Bill Wedderburn's *The Worker and the Law* (1965). Empirical study of criminal trial juries posed significant challenges, and while glad to have undertaken it, Bill was to look back on the work as 'interesting rather than wholly convincing'. Two other lines of enquiry which grew from Bill's time at LSE were, however, to make a deeper mark, both upon Bill's career and upon legal teaching and scholarship.

One line of enquiry – conceived on a shared car journey to Manchester for the annual meeting of the Society of Public Teachers of Law (now the Society of Legal Scholars) – began as a collaboration with Geoffrey Clark, also of LSE. Both believed that there was room 'for a book which attempted in one volume to give students, in particular law students, some grasp of the history of the system they were studying'. As Bill put it, 'Geoffrey and I didn't think legal education should just be about training for a profession', and an appreciation of the history of the law 'might well lead [students] to doubt the certainties of what they are told is a legal principle'. The project was much altered by Clark's early death within a few years of its commencement, but Bill carried on alone, publishing *Law and Society 1750-1950* in 1989, shortly before his move to Cambridge.

The other line of enquiry concerned not legal history, but a subject – intellectual property, broadly conceived – which had in England no academic tradition to speak of before Bill began to teach and write on it. In this respect England was behind continental European countries,



notably Germany, where intellectual property was taken seriously by law professors, not least at the Max Planck Institute for Intellectual Property and Competition Law in Munich (now the Max Planck Institute for Innovation and Competition), with which Bill forged close links, being appointed an External Scientific Member in 1989. At LSE Otto Kahn-Freund, seeing the need to develop the academic study of intellectual property in England, 'thought something should be done', and 'looked around for some suspect in the teaching staff who could take it up as a subject'. The 'suspect' turned out to be Bill, who prepared himself by doing a pupillage at the Bar with Thomas Blanco White QC of 8 New Square, Lincoln's Inn, one of the few people at that time in England writing critically about the evolution of intellectual property rights. Courses in intellectual property soon appeared in the postgraduate and undergraduate law offerings at LSE, but for the subject to take root more widely in universities required a student textbook, which Bill published in 1981 as *Intellectual Property: Patents, Copyright, Trademarks and Allied Rights*, now in its ninth edition (2019). The seed sown by Bill has borne much fruit: the academic study of intellectual property at all levels is now well established in academia, in Britain and elsewhere.

In 1990 the legal historian Toby Milsom, Bill's erstwhile colleague at LSE, retired from the Cambridge Professorship of Law (1973). Bill was elected to succeed Milsom, moving with Lovedy his wife, whom he married in 1964, to a house in Storey's Way and a Professorial Fellowship at Magdalene. Their three children, Peter, Anna and Cecilia, being now in their twenties, Bill and Lovedy found it 'a good moment to move'.

Bill's innovation did not cease with the move to Cambridge. His gap year visit to France, short courses in the 1960s in Luxembourg and Strasbourg, and his connections with the German intellectual property tradition had given Bill a strong interest in Britain's relationship with Europe more widely, and shortly after arriving in Cambridge he became the founding director of the Faculty of Law's new Centre for European Legal Studies (CELS), holding office until Alan Dashwood was appointed as the first Professor of European Law in 1995. From Bill's directorship of CELS came the establishment, with Judge George Dobry, of the British Law Centre in Warsaw, designed to give continental European law students an understanding of English common law and its approaches. For his work with the British Law Centre Bill was appointed a Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George (CMG) in 2013.



*Bill in 1990*

A final academic move came in 1995 with the endowment of the Herchel Smith Chair of Intellectual Property Law at Cambridge, to which Bill was elected. But there was a major research project yet to come, tracing its roots to Bill's earlier legal historical work: the writing, with a number of collaborators, of the three volumes of the *Oxford History of the Laws of England* covering the period 1820 to 1914. The work was published in 2010, six years after Bill's retirement in 2004.

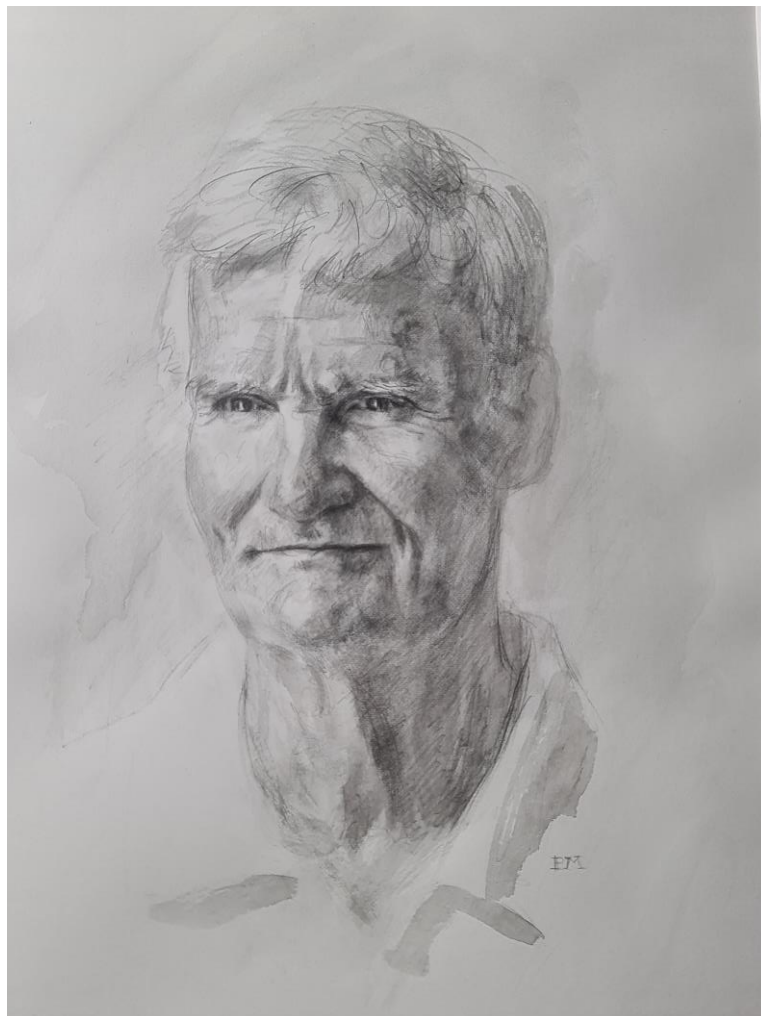
Aside from his research and teaching, Bill was also a Fellow of Magdalene, and between 1998 and 2001, President. Bill described the role of President as 'a job that becomes a sort of social secretary to the Fellows', a view which did not entirely encompass his leading role in the visit to the College in 2001 of Nelson Mandela to be admitted to an honorary fellowship, a South Australian greeting a South African as Mandela descended from his helicopter in the Fellows' Garden.



Bill was many things. An accomplished classical pianist, a husband and father, a President of Magdalene, the founder of British academic study of intellectual property, an eminent English legal historian, a European and a South Australian, a President of the International Association for Teaching and Research in Intellectual

Property, a Fellow of the British Academy, a Master of the Bench of Gray's Inn, an honorary fellow of LSE, a Cambridge doctor of law. The College's official drawing of Bill by Peter Mennim is severe, missing the mischievous sparkle, the energy, kindness, thoughtfulness and humour. Such things are perhaps difficult to capture on paper, but will remain long in memory.

N G Jones



*Pencil drawing by Peter Mennim*

This obituary is indebted to Bill's entry in the Squire Law Library's *Eminent Scholars Archive* compiled by Lesley Dingle and Daniel Bates.

## IN MEMORIAM

### BAMBER GASGOIGNE

#### Honorary Fellow



*Arthur Bamber Gascoigne, CBE, MA, FRSL. Born 24 January 1935. Educated at Sunningdale Preparatory School, Eton College (Scholar), and Magdalene College (1955, Scholar), English Literature Tripos. Yale University (1958). National Service (Grenadier Guards), 1954–5. Presenter University Challenge, ITV, 1962–87. Sandars Lecturer in Bibliography, University of Cambridge, 1993–4. Trustee, National Gallery, the Tate Gallery, the Royal Opera House, the National Trust. Patron, Cambridge Project for the Book Trust, 1997. FRSL 1976; CBE 2018. Honorary Fellow 1996. Married Christina Ditchburn 1965. Died 8 February 2022, aged 87.*

Bamber Gascoigne was born in London, the son of the Hon Mary Louisa Hermione ('Midi') O'Neill and Lieutenant Colonel Derrick Ernest Frederick Orby Gascoigne, later a city businessman. Descended from a military family owning land in Yorkshire since the fourteenth century, Bamber (he never used the Arthur) was named after an Irish ancestral family one of whose members, Margaret, married Sir Crisp Gascoyne (as then usually spelled), Lord Mayor of London and father and grandfather of two subsequent Bamber Gascoynes, both English members of

Parliament and one, later uncle to the British prime minister Lord Salisbury. In the 1960s, Bamber's own uncle, Terence O'Neill, Baron O'Neill of the Maine, served as the fourth prime minister of Northern Ireland.

After Sunningdale Preparatory School in Berkshire, Bamber won a scholarship to Eton and then in 1954 entered National Service in his father's regiment, the Grenadier Guards, initially spending most of his time as a guard at Buckingham Palace. The following year, he arrived to read English as a Scholar at Magdalene where he took a First and gained prominence in the University as a young critic and playwright. He reviewed plays for *Granta* and aimed to become an actor. Auditioning for the Marlowe Society with Julian Pettifer the future television reporter and with whom Bamber had served in the Guards, proved a turning point. As he recalled, 'Julian was immediately cast as Troilus... I barely made the crowd'. Within days of the opening, he declared that 'standing around on stage while people spoke' bored him so much that he abandoned all ideas of treading the boards. Instead, he focused on his writing and directing, with an early sketch accepted for the Footlights and directed by Jonathan Miller who asked for a dozen more. With the permission of both his tutor Dennis Babbage and his director of studies, John Stevens, Bamber was allowed a term off from essay writing. His Magdalene friend Peter Durlacher hired the ADC theatre in Cambridge for £125 (about £3,700 today) and a 'diversion with music' was constructed. *Share My Lettuce*, as it was bizarrely titled, eventually comprised nineteen sketches and musical numbers, the cast being five men from Magdalene and two women from Newnham. The original opening song was 'Dagdalene with Magdalene'. Seen by the producer Michael Codron, the revue was moved to the Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith, where it opened with Kenneth Williams and a then unknown Maggie Smith. Transferring to the Comedy Theatre and then to the Garrick Theatre in the West End, the show ran during the last nine months of Bamber's undergraduate years at Cambridge earning him £25 a week in royalties. 'I thought I was made' he wrote.

In an affectionate article for this magazine (*Coll Mag* 38, 1993–94, pp 35-8), Bamber recalled his undergraduate days at Magdalene, his membership of the weekly Writers Circle run by the students and of the less intellectual Kingsley Club run by a Fellow, Francis Turner. He also admitted his antipathy to F R Leavis and C S Lewis (a junior's

counterpoint to the reminiscence published below pp 118-24). Instead, he wrote 'Arthur Sale, as so many Magdalene English students since my time have discovered, was the glorious opposite of both Lewis and Leavis – someone generous enough to interpret each fumbling idea as the possible beginning of an original thought, yet sufficiently well-read to be able to suggest the next step to nurture a good notion or knock on the head a bad one. My memories of Magdalene bear a profound debt of gratitude to Stevens and Sale, the fruitful partnership formed in the 1950s'.

Bamber left Cambridge for Yale on a Commonwealth Fund Fellowship to study play-writing, but he soon became disillusioned with the course and returned to Cambridge in 1959 to pursue a year of postgraduate research. The result was a book on the history of twentieth-century drama and work as theatre critic of *The Observer* and *The Spectator* with Bernard Levin. And it was now, while at Magdalene again, that Bamber met Christina Ditchburn, photographer and ceramicist. They married in 1965: a joyful and supportive partnership of more than fifty-six years and where latterly in particular, the couple became regular and much loved attendees at College events.



On such occasions – Bamber was elected to an Honorary Fellowship in 1996 – he was an instantly recognisable figure to the students as the founding and long-serving quizmaster of ITV's *University Challenge*. For twenty-five years, from 1961 until 1987, and over 913 episodes, he became one of the most popular personalities on British

television. At its height, the quiz attracted more than 12 million viewers, much of its popularity derived from Bamber's urbane and genial lightness of touch, his ineluctable politeness (in contrast to his successor when the programme was later revived by the BBC) and endearing – and long enduring – catchphrases ('fingers on buzzers', 'I'll have to hurry you', 'your starter for ten, no conferring'). He was generously tolerant of later parodies which sometimes suggested style over substance. In fact, and again in contrast to modern times, in the early days Bamber wrote all the questions himself. The job also offered enviable time to pursue his other interests: a season of recordings took only forty days a year.



These other interests were significant, if too often overshadowed by his *University Challenge* fame. In 1964 when also working as a book reviewer for *The Sunday Telegraph*, he wrote his first full length play *Leda Had a Little Swan*, but, even though previewed in New York in 1968, it was never to be performed in Britain. Its exploration of a small boy's unnatural passion for a mechanical duck proved too much for the sensitivities of the Lord Chamberlain who banned it. His next plays also failed. His tale of a utopian community in the Scottish Highlands demanded a cast of nearly sixty, and his satire about an entrepreneur who traded arms for treasure on an island inhabited by forty pygmies was also abandoned (although later published as a novel, *Murgatread's Empire*, 1972 – 'a chance at last' he wrote, 'to have an unlimited cast and to kill off as many characters as I wanted').

Far more substantial and much more successful was his major thirteen-hour documentary series for Granada Television, *The Christians*. After three years' research, the £500,000 series was filmed by three crews



in thirty countries and aired in 1977. In writing and presenting the series, Bamber said that his aim was for Christians to assume he was a believer and for non-Christians to assume he was not. A best-selling companion volume featured photographs by Christina. Further documentaries included *Victorian Values* in 1987 and *The Great Moghuls* in 1990, based on his 1971 book of the same name, and the result of nine months' intrepid travelling around India in a battered Peugeot 404 with Christina and her camera.

Buoyed by this success, Bamber had also returned (somewhat disastrously) to play-writing (*The Feydeau Farce Festival* of 1909 closed before the end of its run at the Greenwich Theatre in 1972) and (with critical if not popular acclaim) to novel writing (his second novel, *The Heydey*, 1973, won rapturous reviews but was quickly remaindered). Nonfiction maintained his reputation and his mammoth *The Treasures and Dynasties of China*, also 1973, brought both acclaim and rapid sales. Numerous other books followed, including a captivating series of children's books with pictures by Christina. He even revived his 1972 play under the new title *Big in Brazil* which ran at the Old Vic for two months in 1984 and starred Prunella Scales and Timothy West.

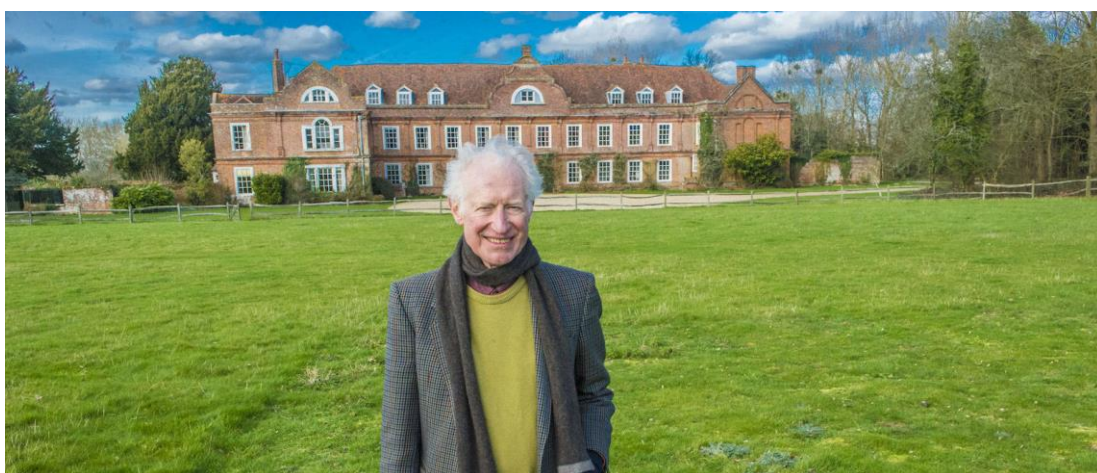
In 1980, Bamber established his own publishing house, the Saint Helena Press, which produced editions of rare prints of his home neighbourhood of Richmond and then of Chelsea, Twickenham, and Brighton. Two years later, he merged his press with Ackerman Publishing, becoming its chairman and enjoying the life of a publisher. In particular, he gained distinction as the author of *How to Identify Prints: A Complete Guide to Manual and Mechanical Processes from Woodcut to Inkjet*, published in 1986, and as an authority on colour printing, writing a history of its development in England between 1830 and 1890. He gave many lectures on the subject, including to the Bibliographical Society, and he was elected Sandars Reader in Bibliography at Cambridge for 1993–4, giving the Sandars lectures later published as *Milestones in Colour Printing 1457-1858* in 1997. He also served as a much loved and valued patron of the (still continuing) Cambridge Project for the Book Trust founded in 1990 at Magdalene and in whose cause he was a memorable after-dinner speaker.

In 1993 he wrote *An Encyclopaedia of Britain* and in 2000 became editor-in-chief of HistoryWorld.net as he described in 'In Praise of Digitalia (*Coll Mag* 50, 2005–06, pp 83-90). By then he was serving in a

succession of major trusteeships: at the National Gallery, the Tate Gallery, the Royal Opera House and the National Trust (among others). He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature in 1976 and appointed CBE in 2018.

Yet his aristocratic lineage was to deal one last trick. In 2014 when he was almost 80, Bamber's great aunt, the Duchess of Roxburgh, unexpectedly bequeathed him her sixteenth-century stately home West Horsley Place near Guildford. Once owned by Henry VIII, the 50-room house set in 380 acres of grounds, was in a desperate condition but rather than sell it Bamber and Christina decided upon renovation and its conversion into a community arts centre. Nearly £9 million was raised by selling much of its contents including paintings by Edward Burne Jones and a pencil and chalk study of Sir Frederic Leighton's 'Flaming June' which was discovered hanging on the back of a bedroom door. In 2015, the Gascoignes transferred ownership of the house and estate to the new West Horsley Place Trust. In the grounds, a completed 700-seat opera house, modelled on La Scala and championed by Christina, became home to Grange Park Opera, opening in June 2017 with a gala performance of Tosca. The delights and travails of this project occupied Bamber in his final years and its recounting both captivated and astonished his many friends and colleagues - and especially those at Magdalene.

J R Raven



*West Horsley Place*

# THE COLLEGE RECORD

## I FELLOWSHIP ELECTIONS

### Official Fellows



JESSICA PATTERSON has been elected to an Official Fellowship. Jessica is a historian, specialising in the intellectual history of the eighteenth century. Her most recent work considers the politics of the East India Company and European approaches to religion and philosophy in India. Her book, *Religion, Enlightenment and Empire: British Interpretations of Hinduism in the Eighteenth Century* was published last year with Cambridge University Press. She joins Magdalene as College Lecturer in History, having held a temporary lectureship in the History of Political Thought in the Faculty of History at Cambridge. Jessica is from Stockport and although she misses the varied landscape of the North West, she prefers the weather in Cambridge. She first moved here to study history as an undergraduate at Homerton College. After several moves for further degrees and academic posts she returns to Cambridge with her partner, Tom Scriven, who is also a historian.



KLAUS OKKENHAUG has been elected to an Official Fellowship. He joined the Department of Pathology as its Professor of Immunology and the Head of the Division of Immunology in 2017. Since 2022 he has also been Deputy Head of the Department of Pathology (Research). He obtained his BSc in Biochemistry from the University of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, followed by a PhD in Immunology from the University of Toronto. In 1999, he moved to London, UK, where he joined the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research (UCL) as a Postdoctoral Fellow. Klaus joined the Immunology programme at the Babraham Institute as a BBSRC David Phillips Fellow and Group Leader in 2003. In 2011 he was among the first cohort to be

awarded a Wellcome Trust New Investigator Award. His group investigates the role of cell signalling pathways in the immune system, with particular focus on the PI3K family of enzymes which transmit signals that instruct the response of immune cells to infections and cancer. In recent years, he has contributed to the description of a new primary immunodeficiency syndrome caused by activated PI3K $\delta$  mutations (APDS) and his group demonstrated that the inhibition of PI3K $\delta$  paradoxically unleashes a potent anti-tumour response. His research has also contributed to the development of drugs now used to treat leukaemia and lymphoma. He has published more than 100 peer-reviewed research articles and reviews in leading journals and is an internationally-leading authority on the role of PI3Ks in immunity, infection and cancer. Klaus has two teenage sons studying for GCSEs and A levels. He rowed at university, but is now a keen runner and has recently also taken up cycling (and some attempts at swimming). His first introduction to Magdalene College was as a temporary rowing coach for the women's team in 2003.



LINDA FISHER has been elected to an Official Fellowship. Professor of Languages Education in the Faculty of Education, and a graduate of St Andrews University, Linda taught modern languages in secondary schools before finishing her Cambridge PhD on metaphor and students' beliefs. Her research focuses on multilingual identity, creativity, metaphor in relation to belief schemata, motivation, and the academic and social integration of English as an Additional Language. She led on the Multilingual Identity in Language Learning research strand of the Multilingualism: Empowering Individuals, Transforming Societies project (AHRC, 2016–20) and was Co-Investigator on an Oxford-led second AHRC project, Creative Multilingualism. Recent books include *Language Development and Social Integration of Students with English as an Additional Language* (CUP, 2020) and *Multilingual Identity: Interdisciplinary Perspectives* (CUP, 2022). She has enjoyed being Director of Studies in Education for Magdalene since 2003. Diversions include reading, writing, music and muddy walks with partner Alex and son Jack. At some point she'll finish knitting the jumper started in lockdown.

## Parnell Fellow



DANIEL MULHALL was born in Waterford, Ireland and graduated from University College Cork with an MA in history. He has spent more than four decades in Ireland's diplomatic service, latterly as Ambassador in Berlin (2009–13), London (2013–17) and Washington (2017–22). He has maintained a lifelong interest in Irish history and literature, and has published widely in those fields. His latest publication is *Ulysses: A Reader's Odyssey* (Dublin: New Island Books, 2022). He retired from the diplomatic service in September 2022 to become a Global Distinguished Professor of Irish Studies at New York University and the Parnell Fellow at Magdalene College Cambridge.

## Research Fellows



DAVID FERGUSSON has been elected to a Senior Research Fellowship in Theology. He was appointed Regius Professor of Divinity in 2021. He studied philosophy and theology in Glasgow, Edinburgh, and Oxford prior to ordination as a minister of the Church of Scotland. After several years in parish work, he returned to academic life and held chair appointments in Aberdeen (1990–2000) and Edinburgh (2000–21). His research interests are broadly situated in Christian doctrine and philosophical theology. Although now resident in Cambridge, he continues to serve as Dean of the Chapel of Royal in Scotland and Dean of the Order of the Thistle. He plays golf with increasing frustration. He is married to Margot who recently retired as a community pharmacist and is enjoying new pursuits in Cambridge. Their two sons live and work in Scotland.



TOM LICENCE has been elected to a Senior Research Fellowship in History. He was an undergraduate, postgraduate and Junior Research Fellow at Magdalene from 1999 to 2009. In 2009, he was appointed Lecturer in Medieval History at the University of East Anglia, rising to Professor in 2019. His publications include *England's Hermits and Recluses, 970–1220* (Oxford University Press, 2011), the edition and translation of the *Latin Miracles of St Edmund* (Oxford Medieval Texts, 2014), and *Edward the Confessor: Last of the Royal Blood*, for the Yale English Monarchs series (2020). A Fellow of the Royal Historical Society (2011) and of the Society of Antiquaries (2011), Tom was awarded a Leverhulme Major Research Fellowship in 2021 to write the Yale English Monarchs biography of Harold Godwinson (d 1066). For a hobby, Tom digs up Victorian rubbish and publishes on the origins of the throwaway society, appearing in TV documentaries such as 'The Secret Life of Landfill' (BBC, 2018). He lives in Essex with his husband Ben Ross (Sidney Sussex, 1999), whom he met as an undergraduate in 2000. He is delighted to be returning to Magdalene to write his biography of Harold, renew old friendships, and resume the life of the College.



HANNAH MARSHALL has been elected to a Junior Research Fellowship in Criminology. Hannah has roots in Aylesbury, Southeast England and Kenfig, South Wales – meaning that rugby is always a source of familial tension. She originally came to Newnham College, Cambridge to study English Literature, before realising that what she liked most about reading was the opportunity to hear people's stories. Transitioning to the sociology undergraduate programme, and then completing an MA in Social Anthropology at Brown University, has afforded the privilege of listening to research participants' experiences and views of topics relating to criminal justice around the world. Hannah completed her PhD at the Institute of Criminology, University of Cambridge, working with young people and youth offending workers to explore issues of child criminal exploitation and victim identification.

After work, Hannah explores the Cambridgeshire countryside on her bike (and probably getting quite lost). She also works on the local LGBTQ+ oral histories project that she co-runs.



BO PENG has been elected to a Junior Research Fellowship in Physics. He has a MSc and BSc from Fudan University, China where he explored different research topics in computational condensed matter physics such as heat transport, thermoelectricity and light-induced dynamics. As a graduate, Bo visited the Institute of Physics of Chinese Academy of Sciences for one year, working on searching for material candidates with topological features in their band structures. He started his PhD in 2019 and worked on topological aspects of vibrational properties of solids, especially non-Abelian braiding of phonons, which has the potential to form the basis for quantum computation. Having established phonons as a viable platform for non-Abelian braiding, he hopes to identify key materials to provide a viable technology solution to topological quantum computation.



ADRIEN LEFAUVE has been elected to a Senior Research Fellowship in Mathematics. He studied Mechanical Engineering and Fluid Mechanics in France, obtaining a Diplôme d'Ingénieur from UT Compiègne in 2013 and an MSc from École Polytechnique in 2014. During this time, he took every opportunity to go abroad, spending a total of two years studying in Austria, Germany and the United States, before coming to Churchill College to complete (in 2018) his PhD in the Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics. His research focuses on the turbulence and mixing of stratified flows, typically between salt and fresh water, with applications to environmental problems such as how ocean currents respond to global warming. He combines 'hands on' experiments in fluid dynamics with numerical analysis of large datasets, and mathematical modelling. In 2023 he will start a five-year Natural Environmental Research Council (NERC) Independent Research Fellowship. A Research Associate and College Lecturer at Magdalene since 2019, he has much

enjoying supervising students and the intellectual life of the College. In his (decreasing) free time he enjoys wildlife and trekking, snorkelling and scuba diving, also travelling in Indonesia, where his other half is from.

## Bye-Fellows



MICHAEL HREBENIAK, a College Lecturer in English since 2007, has been elected to a Teaching Bye-Fellowship in English. Former Fellow, Lecturer and Director of Studies in English at Wolfson College, his picaresque life has taken in lectureships in Humanities and Jazz History at the Royal Academy of Music and Metropolitan Studies at NYU-London, spells as a jazz journalist and musician, arts documentaries for Channel 4, and a futile post at Cranfield School of Management researching the uses of the arts in fostering organisational creativity. Following studies of cinema, Beat-writing, ecopoetics, and the 1968 uprisings, his first feature-length film, *Stirbitch: An Imaginary*, was premiered at the Heong Gallery in 2019. Convenor of the New School of the Anthropocene, and with a Leverhulme Trust Research Fellowship, he is currently writing a book for the BFI on the documentary poetics of BBC Arena. He lives rurally, tends an allotment, and is found on alternate Saturdays behind goal at the Abbey Stadium, sharing his footballing knowledge with match officials from some distance but at tremendous volume.



ROWAN HALL MAUDSLAY has been elected to a Bye-Fellowship in Computational Linguistics. He holds a BA (2019) and MEng (2020) in Computer Science, both from the University of Cambridge; in his final year he topped tripos and was awarded the Examiners' Price for the best Part III student. After a short research assistantship at ETH Zürich, he started his PhD, which concerns people's ability to perceive abstract similarities shared by disparate things. This ability manifests in metaphor and analogy. More specifically, he is studying 'conventional metaphors'. These are metaphors that are widely used by a language



community, which can be found in dictionaries (and indeed throughout this paragraph). This research is supported by the Leslie Wilson Vice-Chancellor's Scholarship, and an Enrichment Award from the Turing Institute. Previously, he has published on mitigating gender bias in machine-learned models, and the interpretability of neural networks. He is a keen filmmaker, who has collaborated with the Cambridge Footlights, and whose work has won awards at festivals, including the Ivy Film Festival and Watersprite.



MILLICENT-ROSE NEWIS has been elected to a Bye-Fellowship in English. Millie studied for her BA in English at Magdalene (2016–19) before completing an MPhil at Pembroke (2020) and returning to Magdalene to start a PhD later that year. Her MPhil, which focussed on medieval prison writing, was funded by the Cambridge Trust and received the Maule Memorial Prize for the highest marks in the cohort. Millie's doctoral thesis explores how different forms of enclosure – willed, unwilling, spiritual and secular – are linked in medieval literature. In the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, her research also considers how people cope with the difficulties of confinement such as uninterrupted time, enclosed space and a lack of company. Millie teaches the Late Medieval Literature paper (1300–1550) at Magdalene. A former member of the MCR committee, she enjoys running, playing music and Jack's Gelato.



CATHERINE MACKENZIE has been elected to a Teaching Bye-Fellowship in Land Economy. She read Theology and History at Oxford, then practised at the English Bar and at the World Bank and Asian Development Bank. A Commonwealth Scholar, she took an MA at Sydney University and a PhD in International Environmental Law at the Australian National University. Admitted to the Australian Bar, she served with the UN in peace-keeping in West Africa. After a return to Oxford, she established the LLM course in International Environmental Law at Cambridge and was elected Chair of

the University Board of Scrutiny. Catherine is also Chairman of the Plant Varieties and Seeds Tribunal, a member of the Agricultural and Horticultural Development Board, the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management and the Architects' Registration Board Prescription Committee, a UK Commonwealth Scholarship Commissioner, and a Bencher of Inner Temple.



ZACHARIAH BOND has been elected as a Teaching Bye-Fellow in Chemical Engineering. A Magdalene undergraduate (2012), he completed a PhD at Trinity Hall on the behaviour of gas emitting particles in fluidised beds. Keen to maintain his association with Magdalene he has supervised the College's chemical engineering and engineering undergraduates since 2016 and served as Director of Studies for Chemical Engineering since October 2018. In April 2022 he became a teaching associate at the Department of Chemical Engineering, assisting with the transition to the new first-year entry, Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology Tripos. When not teaching, Zach enjoys model engineering, driving and firing steam locomotives, singing comedy songs, growing vegetables and playing tiddlywinks, but rarely all at the same time.



JOSTEIN K HAUGE has been elected to a Teaching Bye-Fellowship in Political Economy. He is Assistant Professor in Development Studies, based at the Department of Politics and International Studies. His research straddles the intersection between political economy and development economics, with a particular focus on economic development and industrialization in the Global South. Prior to his post at the University of Cambridge, Jostein was an LSE Fellow in International Political Economy at the London School of Economics and Political Science. He has also worked as a Research Associate at the Centre for Science, Technology, and Innovation Policy at the University of Cambridge.

## Fellow-Commoner



JAMES POTTER has been appointed Director of Music and Precentor, and elected a Fellow-Commoner. He holds a BA (2010) in Music from The Queen's College, University of Oxford, as well as diplomas in organ and choral direction from the Royal College of Organists. He studied conducting with Paul Brough, and enjoys a varied portfolio of work with choirs of all sizes, from choral societies to chamber and church choirs, both professional and amateur. He is particularly interested in new and under-explored choral music, and has commissioned and premiered numerous pieces by contemporary composers. As a singer, he has appeared on recordings, radio broadcasts and (briefly) ITV's *Lewis*. He comes to Magdalene from positions at Christ Church Cathedral and Hertford College, Oxford. He lives with his partner Alice and their two cats.

## Honorary Fellows



MARK MOORMAN graduated in Philosophy from Bucknell University and took an MA in Liberal Arts at St John's College, Annapolis and an MA with distinction at Georgetown University before arriving at Magdalene to complete an MPhil. His interests in philosophy are wide ranging, spanning Lucretius to Anglo-American Idealism and twentieth-century philosophy. In the tradition of many Magdalene alumni, he has been passionate about combatting nationalism, racism, xenophobia and war, whether through financial contributions or by protesting on the street. His remarkable generosity and vision has led to exceptional support for the New Library and the endowment of the Mark Moorman Scholarship for an outstanding postgraduate student reading for an MPhil or PhD in the humanities, with a preference for those of Caribbean, African-American, or Anglo-African origin working in philosophy, philosophy of science, or the history of science. With his Guyanese wife Cameil and three adult children, Mark splits his time between the eastern shore of Maryland and the Scottish Borders.



ALEXANDER SCHULTZ was an undergraduate at Magdalene, studying Natural Sciences where he stayed through Part III in Experimental and Theoretical Physics. He was Captain of MBC and selected for CULRC's Granta although he was injured before the Henley boat race. The friends he made at Magdalene have been friends for life.

While at college he built what was claimed to be the largest paper airplane site in the world. These talents and his computer skills from NatSci parlayed into a job at eBay, transferring to the US in 2005 to work on internet marketing. In 2007 he joined a small start-up called Facebook (now Meta) and has held various roles there over 15 years, culminating in chief marketing officer and VP, analytics (leading data science and data engineering for the company). He also serves on the board of Lindblad Expeditions. Alex is gay, single and moved back to the UK in 2022 after 17 years in California to spend more time with his beloved mother and father.

### Visiting Fellows

During 2021-22, we were pleased to have with us:

Professor Cynthia Brokaw, American Yip Fellow, who is a historian of early modern China, specializing in social history and the history of the book. Her current projects include a study of elite reading practices and their impact on political discourse in the nineteenth century. Her ongoing research is on the expansion of commercial publishing and on a popular book market in the Qing.

Colonel Hamish de Bretton-Gordon who is a chemical weapons expert and was a director of SecureBio Limited until its dissolution on 17 August 2017. He was formerly a British Army officer for 23 years and commanding officer of the UK's Joint Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Regiment and NATO's Rapid Reaction CBRN Battalion.

Professor Barbara Brents, American Yip Fellow, from the Department of Sociology at the University of Nevada in Las Vegas, who specializes in political sociology, gender and sexuality. Her research uses a political economy lens to study sex and gender in neoliberal market culture.

## II THE MASTER AND FELLOWS

Professor Hyam has written and privately published *Mallory: from Magdalene to the Mountain*. At the Mary Magdalene feast on 22 July 2022 the Master proposed a toast to Professor Hyam in celebration of his 60 years of Fellowship and extraordinary and hugely appreciated service to Magdalene, becoming only the third Fellow to attain such distinction in the long history of the College.

Professor Spence and Professor So have published *Why do Buildings Collapse in Earthquakes? Building for Safety in Seismic Areas* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2021), reviewed below (pp 130-33).

Professor Babinsky has been elected Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering.

Professor Spencer has been transferred into an Emeritus Fellowship.

Professor Dupree has been awarded an Advanced Grant by the European Research Council (ERC).

Professor Stoddart has co-edited *Gardening Time, Monuments and landscapes from Sardinia, Scotland and Central Europe in the very long Iron Age* with E Aines and C Malone (Cambridge, 2021).

Dr Hadida received a Cambridge Judge Excellence in Teaching Award.

Professor Raven gave his Presidential Lecture for the Bibliographical Society in London in April 2022. In March he organised the 2022 Lindemann Science day in Cripps Court for Year 6 primary school pupils, with Dr Baez-Ortega and Dr Critchlow among the speakers (see below, p 66). He has been appointed Professor in the Faculty of Humanities at NTNU, Trondheim, Norway, and elected President of the Cambridge Bibliographical Society.

Professor Bennison has given the keynote address at the British Society for Middle Eastern Studies (BRISMES) Annual Conference at St Andrews, and featured on the Sitwan Project podcast on the history of Muslim Iberia.

Dr Orr has published *Design for Zero* (IStructE, 2021), reviewed below (pp 129-30) and has won the Alliance for Sustainable Building Products (ASPB) 'Initiative Category People's Prize for his work with the Institution of Structural Engineers (IStructE) based on guidance he co-authored and published in *How to Calculate Embodied Carbon* (2020). In

2021 he was the winner of the 'Best Presentation – Scottish region of IStructE' for the seminar Sustainability in Structural Engineering.

The Revd Sarah Atkins has been appointed Dean of Chapel.

Dr Meghji has published *The Racialized Social System: Critical Race Theory as Social Theory* (Polity, 2022), reviewed below (pp 127-9).

Dr Skott has been transferred into a Life Fellowship.

Mr Mills has published and updated the 4th edition of *A Practical Guide to Permitted Changes of Use* (Bath Publishing, 2022) with D Evans and M Goodall.

Dr Steele has been awarded a €2 million grant to run a five-year project: Views Interactions in Early Writing Systems (VIEWS). She has



co-edited *The Early Greek Alphabets: Origin, Diffusion, Uses* with R Parker (Oxford, 2021), and *The Social and Cultural Contexts of Historical Writing Practices*, with P J Boyes and N Elvira (Oxford, 2021). She has been nominated and inaugurated in the Lego Classicists Hall of Fame in recognition of her research on ancient writing systems and her wide ranging outreach work.

Dr Caddy has been appointed Assistant Professor at Cornell University.

Dr Exeler has published *Ghosts of War. Nazi Occupation and Its Aftermath in Soviet Belarus* (Cornell UP, 2022), winner of the Ernst Fraenkel Prize awarded by the Wiener Holocaust Library in London.

Dr Neumann co-created and co-directed the FAUST SHOP, a series of events which are part of her performance-based research project on the Re-Staging of Public Spaces.

Dr Caputo has been awarded a 2022 Vandervort Prize of the Society for Military History, for her *Social History of Medicine* article 'Treating, Preventing, Feigning, Concealing Sickness, Agency and the Medical Culture of the British Naval Seaman at the End of the Long Eighteenth Century'.

Dr Baez-Ortega has been awarded the 2021 Science & SCiLifeLab Prize for Young Scientist for his PhD 'As Cancer Grows Old'.

Mr Dunkelman has been approved for the degree of PhD.

Mr Walker has been appointed Director of Music at Emmanuel College from September 2022.

Dr Brasted-Pike was the lead organiser of the national conference for the Heads of University Centres of Biomedical Sciences in September 2021.

Dr Critchlow has been awarded an Honorary Degree by Brunel University in recognition of outstanding work as a neuroscientist and in science communication. In April she delivered an afternoon of neuroscience outreach activities to UK and Swiss A 'Level students in Roche, Welwyn Garden City, and presented a five-part series on the brain on the South Korean educational programme TV channel (EBS).

### Honorary Fellows

Professor Clary has published *Schrodinger in Oxford* (WSPC, 2022), reviewed below (pp 125-7).

Mr Robinson has written the foreword in *Fragile Planet: Watercolour journeys into wild places*, exhibition catalogue (Royal Cornwall Museum, Truro, and Robert Crisp Gallery, Magdalene College, Cambridge, 2021–22, pp 2-7), and 'An introduction to the work of John Golding; in *John Golding Remembered* (in an edition of 250 copies for private circulation, John Golding Artistic Trust, 2021).

Professor Springman has been appointed DBE for services to engineering and international sports administration.

Dr Williams has published *Collected Poems* (Carcenet Press Ltd, 2022).

Baroness Hale received the Hibernian Medal from the Law Society of Ireland in May 2022 for outstanding contributions to the advancement of justice, integrity of the rule of law, independence of the judiciary and the legal professions, and/or public access to and understanding of the legal system. She has published *Spider Woman: A Life* (Bodley Head, 2021).

### III ACADEMIC REPORTS

#### 1 UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS RESULTS, 2022.

371 students took preliminary and Tripos examinations. The numbers in each class were as follows: Class 1: 105; Class 2.i: 186; Class 2: 13; Class 2.ii: 32; Class 3: 13; Pass: 17; Ordinary/Fail: 5. The number of Firsts awarded by subject were: Archaeology: 1; Asian and Middle Eastern Studies: 1; Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic: 1; Chemical Engineering: 1; Classics: 3; Computer Science: 4; Economics: 4; Engineering: 12; English: 8; History: 7; History and Modern Languages: 1; History and Politics: 1; History of Art: 2; Human, Social, and Political Sciences: 5; Land Economy: 2; Law: 9; Linguistics: 2; Mathematics: 8; Medical Sciences: 5; Modern and Medieval Languages: 6; Music: 1; Natural Sciences: 15; Psychological and Behavioural Sciences: 3; Philosophy: 1; Theology, Religion, & Philosophy of Religion: 1; Veterinary Sciences: 1.

University Prizes were awarded as follows:

A G J Froud (Theology, Religion, & Philosophy of Religion Part IIB): *Burney Prize, Teape Prize*; W Gelley (Law Part II): *C.J. Hamson Prize for Aspects of Obligations, Littleton Chambers Prize for Labour Law*; A S Hamerton (English Part II): *Quiller Couch Prize*; C W Lam (Engineering Part IB): *Rex Moir Prize*; O Shelton (Archaeology): *Anglia Television Prize*; A Shtyrov (Natural Sciences Part III Biochemistry): *Alkis Seraphim Prize*; M Tapia Costa (Engineering Part IIB): *AT&T Prize*.

#### Senior Tutor's Report

After all we have endured in the last couple of years, it was refreshing and exhilarating for all of us to go through a near normal examination season in the Easter Term. It was doubly satisfying that Magdalene students rose to the occasion to record the numerically largest number (105) of Firsts in living memory. This represents 28.3% of our students attaining Firsts, only slightly below our all-time percentage high recorded in 2015.

Additionally, we saw 50.1% attaining a 2.1 across all the years. Focusing solely on those in their third and fourth years, at General



Admission we celebrated by waving off a graduating cohort, 85% of whom attained at least a 2.1. Finally, we took a glittering haul of nine University prizes in six subjects. Fellows, Directors of Studies and all Magdalene supervisors congratulate the entire student body for coming through often difficult circumstances to distinguish themselves in Tripos.

The following elections were made by the Governing Body:

*Senior Scholarship:* A Shtyrov.

*Bundy Scholarships:* K M Ahuja, E Antoniou, J M Byrne, S K J H Campbell, T H J Carlton, X W Chua, C J Corrin\*, S E Craddock, A D W Cross, A W Davies, C de Leyser, E V Ekon, A Fang, H L Fong, T L Fong, C J Foreman, A G J Froud\*, W Gelley, A M Hallsworth, A S Hamerton, C Hart, D J M Hart, H Hawkes, R J Highnam, S D Hill\*, A I Humphreys, A Jain, F C Jiang, A Konshin, G A Miller\*, C C Reilly, A Roberts, O Shelton\*, A Sizer, Y Sun, M Tapia Costa, J Walker, X Wang, W Wattanawanitchakorn, E M Weatherup, H R White, D J Yates.

\* *in residence*

*Scholarships:* L W S Andrews, N Baid, J A K Barrett, M J Bryan, L Carretero Lopez, Y H M Cheung, Y Y B Chan, Q Chen, M C F Choy, E R Chuan, S S Cowley, J R Dalton, J Evans, Q Fan, J D Fitzpatrick, P Gamble\*, I M Gianfrancesco\*, C Gommichon\*, D Goyal, T M Gray\*, J Gueli, J D Hardwick, O C Hepworth, S M Hinton, K Hosker, S Ihenacho\*, J R Jing, M E Joll, A E Knight\*, C W Lam, A P Lambe, H Q Le, K C Li, S Liu, L M McLean, T Morris, E J Murray, B Niranjana\*, T Panton, E L Pengelly, A Rew, T Rizou, M Roy Prabhakaran, I C C L Romeo, F M Rubuano\*, E J Shuker, H R Swann, Y W J Tang\*, Y Tayyebi, B J H Teh, Y X Teoh\*, B J Thompson\*, E Thompson, A Trifanov, J Tu, O J Tych\*, A Williams\*, A Yang, Y Ye, Y Yuan.

\* *re-election*

*Exhibitions:* C G A ap Tomos, E M Fisher, A N W Gardiner, A Maheshwari, E Masters-Oca, V T Samedjeu, E E G Styles.

College Prizes for excellence in examinations were awarded as follows:

Anglo-Saxon, Norse, and Celtic: T Panton

Archaeology: O Shelton (*James Torre Prize*)

Asian and Middle Eastern Studies: T M Gray

Chemical Engineering: M E Joll

Classics: E Antoniou (*Davison Prize*), C de Leyser (*Davison Prize*), D J Yates (*Davison Prize*)

Computer Science: K M Ahuja (*Andrew Clarke Memorial Prize*), Y Sun (*Andrew Clarke Memorial Prize*), S Liu, A Trifanov

Economics: W Wattanawanitchakorn (*Brian Deakin Prize*), D Goyal (*Schoschana Wrobel Prize*), L M McLean (*Schoschana Wrobel Prize*), E L Pengelly (*Schoschana Wrobel Prize*)

Engineering: M J Bryan, Q Chen, S Cowley, J D Hardwick, R J Highnam (*Christopherson Prize*), C W Lam, K C Li, M Roy Prabhakaran, M Tapia Costa (*Christopherson Prize*), J Tu, X Wang (*Christopherson Prize*), Y Ye

English: L W S Andrews, Y Y B Chan, A Hamerton (*Davison Prize*), A Humphreys (*Davison Prize*), G Miller (*Davison Prize*), C C Reilly (*Davison Prize*), H R Swann, A Williams

History: T H J Carlton (*Dunster Prize*), J R Dalton (*Leman Prize*), E V Ekon (*Dunster Prize*), C Hart (*Adeane Prize*), S M Hinton, E J Murray (*Leman Prize*), J Walker (*Adeane Prize*)

History and Modern Languages: K Hosker (*Richard Carne Prize*)

History and Politics: J D Fitzpatrick (*Richard Carne Prize*)

History of Art: A M Hallsworth (*Duncan Robinson Prize*), S Ihenacho

Human, Social, and Political Sciences: C Gommichon, D J M Hart, F M Rubuano, O J Tych, H R White

Land Economy: A Konshin, B Niranjana

Law: J A K Barrett, M C F Choy, E R Chuan (*Orlando Bridgman Prize*), W Gelley (*Thomas Audley Prize*), J Gueli, J R Jing, H Hawkes (*Thomas Audley Prize*), Y X Teoh (*Orlando Bridgman Prize*)

Master of Law: T Rizou

Linguistics: O C Hepworth, A Sizer

Mathematics: J M Byrne (*Edward Waring Prize*), H Y M Cheung (*Davison Prize*), H L Fong (*Edward Waring Prize*), T L Fong (*Edward Waring Prize*), P Gamble (*Dennis Babbage Prize*), Y W J Tang (*Dennis Babbage Prize*), B J H Teh (*Davison Prize*)

Medicine: I M Gianfrancesco (*Iris Rushton Prize*), A P Lambe, T Morris, E J Shucker, Y Tayyebi

Modern and Medieval Languages: A D W Cross (*Peskett Prize*), A W Davies (*Peskett Prize*), C J Foreman (*Peskett Prize*), F C Jiang (*Peskett Prize*), A E Knight, E M Weatherup (*Peskett Prize*)

Music: A Fang (*Lincoln Prize*)

Natural Sciences (Physical): N Baid, L Carretero Lopez, X W Chua, Q Fan (*Maurice Goldhaber Prize*), A Jain (*P M S Blackett Prize*), E Thompson, Y Yuan

Natural Sciences (Biological): C J Corrin (*Newton Prize*), H Q Le, A Roberts, I C C L Romeo, A Shtyrov (*Keilin Prize*), B J Thompson, A N Yang

Philosophy: S Hill

Psychological and Behavioural Sciences: S K J H Campbell, S E Craddock, J Evans

Theology, Religion and Philosophy of Religion: A Froud (*Michael Ramsey Prize*)

Veterinary Sciences: A Rew

Other Prizes were awarded as follows:

*Davison Essay Prize*: A Williams

*Dorothy Kolbert Prize*: T Tian

*Foo-Sun Lau Prize (jointly awarded)*: S Cowley, J Lai

*Garrett Prize*: M Bryan

*Gill Prize*: H Hawkes, S M Hinton

*Hart Prize*: C W Lam

*Jim Ede Prize*: D J Lawson

*Macfarlane-Grieve Prize*: C Johal

*Mallory Prize*: A Konshin, M Solovyeva, H R Swann, G H Y Tam, J Walker

*Master's Reading Prize (jointly awarded)*: A Russell, M Solovyeva

*Mynors Bright Prize*: J M Byrne

*Newton Essay Prize*: B Hansen

*Nicholas St John Whitworth Prize*: J Hardy

*Sarah Springman Prize*: S Hill, C Reilly, B Teh

*Winter-Warmington Prize*: H Sawnn.

## 2 GRADUATES

The following elections were made by the Governing Body:

*Donner Scholarship*: K Lacroix; *Goulandris Scholarship*: M Gerogianni;

*Moorman Scholarship*: A Alexis; *Cambridge Masters & Magdalene College*

*Studentship*: S Allen & J Nicholls; *Standard Bank Africa Chairman's*

*Scholarships*: C Obetta, B Oladele & Shotunde; *Mandela Magdalene*

*Cambridge Scholarship*: R Farquharson.

The following research degrees (PhD) were conferred in 2021–22:  
W Bashari (Clinical Biochemistry); K N Baumann (Chemistry); S E Brown (History), Chang, L Ya (Law); J Coghen-Brewster (Engineering); H E Danielsen (English); P Gehlert (Engineering); M P Gutierrez (Architecture); T Heuer (Management Studies); E R Killen (Education); L Marando (Haematology); E J Needham (Clinical Neuroscience); M Nussbaumer (Engineering); R Pearce-Higgins (Chemistry); B Petursson (Bio Science); G Sendžikaitė (Bio Science), G C M Skinner (Criminology); J A Thompson (Archaeology); M Tiessen (German); B Wei (Land Economy); A J Wijaya (Biochemistry).

## IV STUDENT ACTIVITIES: SOCIETIES, CLUBS AND SPORTS

### 1 JCR AND MCR REPORTS

#### *Junior Common Room.*

H Fishlock: President; E Connell: Vice-President; C ap Tomos: Treasurer; J Virk: Secretary; J Hardy: Green & Charities; J Gueli: Ents; E Barrett: Welfare (Male & Non-binary); M Solovyeva: Welfare (Female & Non-Binary); R Callear: LGBT + Rep; L Ibrahim: Women's Officer; K Lau: International Students' Officer; C Swadkins: Disabled Officer; N Baid: BME Officer; A Tufnell: Freshers' Rep (Male & Non-Binary); S Goyal: Fresher's Rep (Female & Non-Binary); J Tang: It Officer; S Cowley: Class Act; R Gavin: Catering & Accommodation; K T Kiew: Access and Academic.

It was busy in the Michaelmas and Lent Terms getting the College social life back up and running in the wake of the pandemic. Covid rates did threaten to increase at the start of the Lent Term but they have since fallen. Perhaps the re-opening of the College Bar and student consumption of its beverages killed off infection. But after a year of Covid imprisonment, we were all finally able to meet and make friends over drinks, without the inhibition of a patchy zoom meeting running on intermittent Wi-Fi. Events have tentatively returned including Jazz nights with Magdalene's very own 'Timotheé and the Jazz Disciples', the infamous JCR bops and the Magdalene-Magdalen Sports Day. Fran Ozog served Magdalene valiantly by rebooting this hallowed tradition

and Magdalene, seizing the opportunity, triumphed over their poorly spelt counterparts. Scores on the Doors (we won unless noted otherwise): Badminton: 9-0; Mixed Hockey: 8-4; Ladies Netball: 16-6; Mixed Netball: 17-11; Football: 4-2; Table Football: 10-2; Darts: best of three sets –first two won by Magdalene; Squash: 3-2 (to them); Tennis: 4-0 (to them); Rugby: 20-15 (to them).

A week after the Sports Day, Storm Eunice tried to blow us away but Magdalene stood strong and the first Halfway Halls for two years were finally able to go ahead. All students who missed out during the Covid year were invited to join for their belated dinner. Meanwhile, normal Formals slowly picked up pace. There are currently three a week, guests are once again allowed, and Ramsay has reopened for student dining. Post-pandemic, the College community is recovering well and optimism for the future is evident from the hum of the library to the hootenannies in the bar, the boat club bumping, and Formal Hall buzzing once again. I would like to thank the JCR committee for all their hard work this term and we look forward to the future with great anticipation.

Harry Fishlock

*Middle Combination Room.*

D Xu: President; J Ball: Vice-President; T Kefala-Stravridi: Secretary; H Barbosa: Treasurer; M Newis and M Chalaketevaki: Co-welfare Officers; J Sangen and Tom Wilson: Social Officers; I Sandak-Lewin: International Officer; B Muffet: Academic Officer; S Ahsan: Administrative Officer; N Odiase: BAME Officer; T Wilson: IT Officer; H Thomas: Sports Officer.

Currently we have around 250 members, masters and doctoral students, drawn from a great variety of backgrounds and parts of the world. The committee itself enjoys representation from Asia, Africa, the Americas and Europe. Although the current academic year started in the midst of Covid, the MCR was still able to pull off a Freshers' Week with a variety of activities, starting with an international students' tour and ending with a ceilidh in Cripps. Other social events included a welcome reception in the Middle Combination Room and a black-tie cocktail evening in Benson Hall. All occasions were fully booked and offered Freshers a chance to have fun and make friends. Despite the restrictions, the MCR also hosted

two banquets, one during Christmas and another at Easter, and various other one-off events. The Christmas banquet and party afterwards in Cripps were the first large scale events in months. They were very well received and much-needed at the end of that term. Both the Hall and Cripps Gallery were transformed into Winter Wonderlands with a variety of lights and decorations. Queues of people lined up to take photos.

In the Lent Term, a tropical themed bop was held in Cripps in partnership with the Cambridge Latin American Society. This time, the venue was transformed into a beach, filled with inflatable decorations and a DJ. Some 300 attended including guests from other colleges, easily filling the gallery; all the tequila was drunk, and the party ended at one in the morning. Other one-off social events included an 'assassins' game steered by the Social Officers, Tom Wilson and Jasper Sangen. Players were armed with foam blasters and told to seek out their targets. Our Welfare Officers, Maria Chalaketevaki and Millie Newis worked tirelessly to host welfare tea and yoga on a weekly basis, as well as other activities that offered all members the time and space to relax and enjoy life in Cambridge. Finally, the MCR held a very successful election for new officers. New posts include the Academic Officer, IT Officer and Sports Officer. With its new Executive Committee, the structure of the team is also in a good position to continue to serve the MCR community for years to come.

Diarmid Xu



*The MCR Christmas banquet in Hall*

## 2 SOCIETIES, CLUBS AND SPORTS

*The Editor received the following reports for 2021–22*

*Badminton Club.* (Captains: R Scobbie & V Gautam). After a year plagued by the pandemic and frustratingly few opportunities to play badminton, the stage was set for Magdalene Badminton Club (the real MBC) to return as one of our College's most popular sports. So great was the turnout this year that MBC were able to field three teams weekly in Michaelmas, with our first team playing in Division 2 and the other two playing in lower divisions. Continuing their impressive run of form in previous years, the first team (captained by club co-captain Robin Scobbie) played superbly to maintain their place in Division 2 in Michaelmas and, in Lent, secure promotion into Division 1 at the start of the 2022/23 season. By a combination of fresh talent and MBC stalwarts (many of whom were in their final year at Magdalene), the first team routinely made light work of some seriously good opposition. They unfortunately did not find similar success in Lent Cuppers, being knocked out by a strong St. Catharine's side in the first round. The second (captained by club co-captain Vasu Gautam) and third teams (captained by Harry White and Olivia Christopher) started their campaigns in Divisions 4 and 6 respectively, encountering mixed success in their league matches. The two teams ultimately merged in Lent and have retained a spot in Division 6 for the beginning of the next academic year.

Aside from competing against other Cambridge colleges, the introduction of badminton to the annual Magdalene-Magdalen sports day provided the opportunity to play against our Oxford counterparts – the event proved to be a big mismatch and Magdalene came away with a comfortable 9-0 victory. The weekly league matches, training sessions, and socials (including pub quizzes, pub crawls with other colleges and barbecues) have collectively helped foster a strong sense of community among club members. Running Magdalene Badminton Club has therefore been a hugely rewarding experience, and we eagerly look forward to returning to the courts next year.

*Football Club.* (Captain: B Weidmann). Magdalene FC enjoyed a brilliant season, finishing third in the league and barely missing out on promotion. Highlights included beating Oxford 4-2 in the Magdalene-Magdalen derby and also ending Clare's unbeaten season in an incredible 4-3 game (we were 0-3 down at half time), thanks to a last-minute screamer by our right-back Vernon Samejeu. Admittedly, the year got off to a rocky start, but as soon as attendance stopped being a problem and we found a goalie we put in a good effort for the title. During the year we also played against the Magdalene old boys (a team which contained only one old boy), who we managed to beat 4-2 but did put in a huge shift, leaving us trailing at half time. Magdalene FC, perhaps for the first time in its history, has never looked more professional, courtesy of our new, numbered and named, Nike kits and Slipped Disc sponsorship. Massive thanks as well to Felix Matheson and Joey Dalton for running the team this year. The co-captain for next season is Joe Mather.



*The Magdalene Team after their victory against Magdalen Oxford*



The following obtained Full Blues (\*) or Half-Blues during 2020–22:

P Badenhorst	*Rowing, 2022
N Bridson Hubbard	*Cross Country, 2021; Athletics, 2022
J Dalton	Football, 2022
A Davies	Eton Fives, 2021
J Dhariwal	* Cricket, 2020, 2021, 2022
S Escobar	*Tennis, 2022, 2022
S Hill	*Karate, 2022
M Johal	*Karate, 2022
R Jones	* Sailing (Team Racing), 202
R-H Pfeifer	University Dance Competition Team, 2022
A Moen	*Cricket, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022
	Hockey, 2022; Rackets, 2019, 2020, 2022
G Moran	Badminton, 2022
C Reilly	*Netball, 2022
S Sandhu	Swimming, 2020, 2022
R Scowen	*Rugby Union, 2022
L Simpson	Eton Fives, 2022
B Teh	*Powerlifting, 2022

*The Editor is grateful to Mrs Marsh and Matt Moon for verifying this list.*



*The Fellows' Garden in July*

## V LIBRARIES

### **Personnel**

The Libraries have benefited from the positive attitude shown by our hardworking staff this year; they have kept things on the road despite the many pressures.

At the start of the year, Miss Ellie Swire left to become librarian of Winchester Cathedral Library after five years of sterling service. A new part-time member of staff for the Historic Libraries, Miss Josie Day, served until July as Library Assistant and Invigilator, Pepys Library and Special Collections.

Mrs Katy Green joined as Archivist in September 2021, following the resignation of Dr Tilda Watson, and organised the transfer of material from the Old Library and the Lutyens store rooms to the new Archive.

Longstanding Deputy College Librarian, Mr Tom Sykes, left in May 2022 to join the Divinity Faculty staff. A large number of staff gathered at Tom's leaving party to thank him for the huge contribution he has made over the years. Ms Luran Richards arrives in succession to Tom from her previous role at Gonville & Caius. A new libraries' assistant, Mr Harry Bartholomew served from November 2021 until May 2022, when he moved to an enhanced role elsewhere and was replaced by Ms Ellie Capeling. We are especially grateful to her for looking after the New Library with skill, good humour and resourcefulness in the transitional period between Deputy Librarians, and when new to the College herself; Mrs Catherine Sutherland (Deputy Librarian, Pepys Library & Special Collections) similarly provided invaluable cover and assistance during the weeks of staffing transition.

### **The College Library**

This has been a momentous year for the College Library. Having moved all the books over to the New Library, we began making use of it prior to last summer's exams. The early reports were very positive. Students have enjoyed the Library's architectural beauty, views and its mix of study space styles.

For the College Librarian, a particular highlight of the year's work has been the occasion to show panels of prize-judges around the New

Library, including those adjudicating the Greater Cambridge Design and Construction Award 2022, the RIBA East Award 2022, and the RIBA National Award 2022. It is particularly satisfying that the building was successful on these occasions. The clutch of awards continues to grow.

### **The Historic Libraries**

Public tours of the Pepys Library, which are now underway since emerging from Covid-19 lockdowns, have proved both popular and a welcome addition to revenue which declined during the pandemic to about 15% of our normal income. To manage numbers of visitors, tours are administered using the event ticketing service *Eventbrite*. Once fees and VAT are covered, the Library receives about £72 per ten-person tour.

The Pepys Library has continued to welcome visiting researchers, recently returning to a fully operational weekday service, with an enhanced enquiry service for those who have not been able to visit in person during the lockdown periods.

Since the College Archives have moved into the New Library building, much work has been completed in the Old Library to rationalise its collection which had previously been spread over various 'overflow' spaces within College. Important groups of books such as the Valerie Eliot bequest, the C S Lewis collection and the Arthur Sale collection, now have a deserved home on the shelves in the Old Library.

The restoration work to the Old Library's pair of fine globes by John Senex has been completed thanks to a generous private donation. It is hoped that scholarly interest can be raised in these globes owing to their quality and importance.

*The Peterborough Antiphoner*, one of the Old Library's medieval manuscripts, was digitised on *DIAMM* (the *Digital Image Archive of Medieval Music*). This is now freely available for anyone to access online.

Book repair and conservation work has continued with the libraries' membership of the Cambridge Colleges' Conservation Consortium which Magdalene joined in 2017. Books and manuscripts conserved in 2021–22 include *Nuove inventioni di balli* by Cesare Negri and *Feats of Arms and Chivalry* by Christine de Pisan. We were also substantially assisted by the generosity of our 'Back a Book' supporters.



*The Senex Globes (photo: Matt Moon)*



*Illuminated initial from The Peterborough Antiphoner, f 15v*

The donation of books from Dr George Miller in 2020 has arrived in the Old Library and been catalogued.

The bequest from Dr Luckett has been catalogued (except for manuscripts). Because of such a large number of musical items within the collection, library staff have taken preliminary steps to add and update the Pepys and Old Libraries' representation on RISM (Répertoire International des Sources Musicales). RISM was founded in Paris in 1952 and is the leading international organisation recording documentary musical sources.



*A Group of rare books from the Dr Luckett bequest (photo: Catherine Sutherland)*

The books given to the College Library by Mr Robinson have been catalogued, providing our students and researchers with a superb art history resource. The libraries have been extremely fortunate in receiving some fine donations this year: further details will be reported as these are catalogued and made available to scholars and students. But the librarians wish to record their thanks to many generous benefactors.

## *The Friends of the Pepys Library*

The Friends of the Pepys and Historic Libraries welcomed Margaret Willes for the annual lecture on the topic of 'Pepys and Plants'. This was the first in person event for two years. The Pepys Librarian chaired an on-line discussion of Pepys's ballads, with speakers from California, Cambridge and Belfast. In a celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, the Pepys Librarian welcomed Friends into the library to talk about Samuel Pepys's relationship to royalty, from his love of the Royal fireworks to his ownership of a spectacular manuscript of Henry VIII's ships of the line. It has been decided to maintain a mix of in person with virtual events for the foreseeable future.

M E J Hughes  
M J Waithe



*'A Representation of the Fire-Workes in St James's Square on the Ioyfull Occasion of his  
Ma[jes]ties Glorious success in taking of Namur Sept. 9, 1695'  
(Mezzotint by Bernard Lens II. PL 2973, 369)*

## VI CHAPEL AND CHOIR

*Sacristan:* Jason Tang; *Ordinand:* Mary Brown (Ridley Hall)

This year brought a return to the familiar rhythms of worship in Chapel as health concerns lessened. As ever, the Freshers were intrigued and inspired by their new Chapel, but the rest of us too discovered it as though for the first time, especially relishing the return of Sunday night Evensong in College from week 6 of Lent Term. The popular Sunday morning Holy Communion remained in the Chapel throughout the year, as did Thursday Choral Evensong and twice-termly Compline. The Michaelmas and Lent Term's 'Corporate Communion' were held successfully in Hall, with unaccompanied singing from the Choir, followed by curry. Refreshments after Services, and informal Chapel life returned, as did interdenominational and other faith events, most notably an iftah in the Parlour towards the end of Ramadan. It has been a relief to have the solace that stability brings in a year when the College community has tried to stand in solidarity with Ukraine, and when other national and global concerns have weighed heavily. The Chapel was well-used for personal private prayer and occasional music recitals. Lida Cardozo Kindersley's (Honorary Fellow) stall-plate for Rowan Williams, former Master, with the arms of Oystermouth, was installed in May.



Sunday Evensong preachers included Dr Susannah Ticciati of King's College London; Professor Janet Soskice (on Dante's 700th anniversary); Professor David Fergusson, Regius Professor of Divinity; Professor Robert Turner, Emeritus Director of the Max Planck Institute, on 'Brain, Mind and Faith'; and the Rt Revd Dr Barry Morgan, former Archbishop of Wales. Collections were taken for: Cambridge Churches Homelessness Project and Lyn's House (representatives from these preached and dined); the British Red Cross Ukraine Appeal; King's Hedges Family Support Trust; Christian Aid; and the Student Hardship Fund at Commemoration of Benefactors.

Rowan Williams, Honorary Fellow, presided at a service of baptism and confirmation on the first Sunday in Lent with moving student testimonies. Two students were baptised and four confirmed. Two other baptisms took place, one wedding in Lent and one in the Long Vacation. The Chaplain took the private funeral of the much-missed Professor Cornish (1990) at Cambridge Crematorium on 27 January, with representatives from the College.

The delayed Memorial Service for Bishop Simon Barrington-Ward, KCMG (1950; 1930–2020) was held on 30 April at Great St Mary's. The College was joined by family, friends and alumni from each decade of his life. Choir Alumni returned to sing with the Choir. The preacher was the Bishop of Birmingham, David Urquhart, KCMG. The Very Reverend Dr David Hoyle and the Reverend Dr Philip Seddon, both former Chaplains, led parts of the Service. A reception in the Master's Garden brought more informal reminiscences on a remarkable day of thanksgiving.

The Matriculation Service was held on the first Sunday of the Year in St Giles' where the President-elect read the first Lesson before he was installed in Chapel later in the term. The Act of Remembrance exceptionally included a reading of the war memorial names. The Advent and Christmas services were popular and worshipful. Holy Communion was celebrated at midnight on Christmas Eve. A vigil for Ukraine was held in Second Court on 6 March with a Ukrainian prayer sung by the Choir, a reading from the Psalms from the Jewish Society, and a tribute from Mr Vitaliev (2021). The Lent Term ended with a meditation on the Passion including Tallis's *Lamentations*. The quiet Easter dawn service held in the Fellows' Garden was followed by a joyful return there for Ascension Day Choral Matins amid clouds of cow



parsley. The visit of the monks of Douai was reinstated and they sang Latin Vespers on the Sunday after Ascension in a packed Chapel; the preacher was the Dean of King's. The annual Commemoration of Benefactors was held in Chapel after a two-year hiatus. Sadly, the crowning of a wonderful year became the swan song for our Director of Music and Precentor, Mr Graham Walker when on the final Sunday of Easter Term, Trinity Sunday, he led a highly-acclaimed rendition of Bach's Saint John Passion to a congregation of 240+ students, alumni and members of the public in St Giles'. The moving Choir Leavers' Evensong also marked the departure of Mr Walker, where the Chaplain presented him with the MA hood he has lacked throughout his time here. The College has been richly blessed by his six years here, by his service, musicianship, and his friendship.

S Atkins



*Ascension Day in the Fellows' Garden*

#### CHOIR REPORT.

*Organ Scholar:* Cameran Johal

Approaching the beginning of a new Academic Year, the Choir had a real sense of hopefulness that the horrors of Covid-19 might be behind us, and that we could begin to tread the path back to some kind of normality.

We retained our relationship with St Giles', one of the real silver linings to emerge from this rather grey cloud, and our Sunday evensongs were sung there for the Michaelmas Term.

It was wonderful to be able to travel again with the Choir early in the academic year, even as short a distance as Bury St Edmunds. These visits are powerful opportunities for the group to bond and gel, and especially for the younger singers to socialise.

Alongside regular Evensongs, Compline took place twice a term, musically administered by students themselves. This presents an opportunity to experience what it's like to be in sole charge, from music choices through rehearsal to performance. These are popular events, attended by a large number of students, drawn by the calm spirituality and by the port and hot chocolate famously available afterwards.

The Michaelmas Term drew to a close with the usual progression of Advent and Christmas services, culminating in a very successful event for the Development Office. This performance, which is usually in London, took place at St Giles' this year, but nonetheless had a good attendance from alumni and Fellows and staff. Towards the end of the Lent Term Sunday Evensongs moved from St Giles' back to the College Chapel, something which felt rather more profound than expected.

In early April, the Choir travelled to Spain, for its first tour since 2019. The tour started with a choir rehearsal and short performance at the magnificent monastery of El Escorial just north of Madrid. From there, we drove to Segovia rehearsing with a large children's choir for a joint concert as part of the Festival of Sacred Music in Holy Week. On Palm Sunday, the Choir sang at the beautiful Basilica of San Francisco which has the third largest dome in Christendom, while the final concert, in Avila itself, was well attended and where the Organ Scholar, relished the challenge of playing Mendelssohn on an uncompromising Spanish baroque organ with one manual and apparently no pedals. The Choir received a rousing ovation but were not yet finished: a further unplanned performance took place after the nightclub closed at the local statue of Victoria.

Because of the way the Magdalene and Church calendars intersect, the Choir provided music for a number of special services and events including Ascension Day, Confirmation, Pentecost, Commemoration of Benefactors, and the Cripps Feast. A particular highlight this year was a performance of Bach's St John Passion. A capacity audience of more than

220 packed St Giles' to witness the College Choir, supported in the chorales by alumni of the College, and accompanied by the members of the Cambridge Baroque Camerata. Soloists included Saskia Edwards and Rowan Williams, who brought a touching humanity to the role of Christus.



*Commemoration of Benefactors*

After six happy years at Magdalene, I hand over the post of Precentor to James Morley Potter. It has been a joy to work with the College's talented and dedicated students, and I pay tribute also to Sarah Atkins and Nick Widdows, the two Chaplains who have worked with me with such kindness and energy.

G H Walker

## VII GARDENS

The trees are afraid to put forth buds,  
And there is timidity in the grass:  
The plots lie gray where gouged by spuds,  
And whether next week will pass  
Free of sly sour winds is the fret of each bush  
Of barberry waiting to bloom.

Yet the snowdrop's face betrays no gloom,  
And the primrose pants in its heedless push,  
Though the myrtle asks if it's worth the fight  
This year with frost and rime  
To venture one more time  
On delicate leaves and buttons of white  
From the selfsame bough as at last year's prime,  
And never to ruminare on or remember  
What happened to it in mid-December.

*A Backward Spring*, Thomas Hardy

Following a rather dry mild winter, the team was expecting and hoping for a rather moister spring to help our newly planted borders and beds. When the April showers did not arrive (they rarely do these days), we knew it would not be long until the hose trolleys would again save the day!

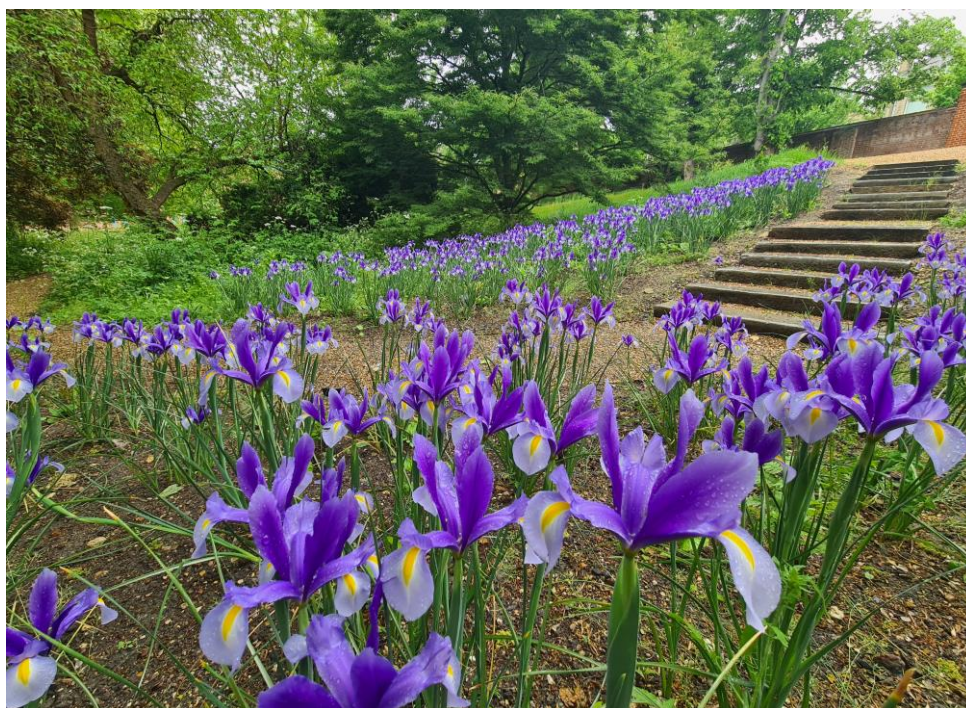
The spring bedding in First Court was looking grand by April with tulips flowering above the red wallflowers. The cultivar 'Vulcan' was chosen for the shades of red it usually gives although this year's seed seemed rather more orange than red! This was mixed with a sprinkling of 'Ivory White' to complement the white in the tulip 'Marilyn'. The 'Ivory White' turned out to be rather more of a shade of cream than white, but we don't always know this until everything comes out in flower – *caveat emptor!* In contrast to last year's summer bedding, this year we have chosen a more vibrant colour scheme with yellow gazanias, red petunias, *Salvia* 'Royal Bumble', orange *Tithonia rotundifolia* 'Torch' and canna lilies. The baskets on The Pepys Library were mixed with trailing begonias, verbena, bidens and thunbergia and the classic trailing lobelia 'Cascade'.



*April display in First Court and in River Court*

The bulbs in the Fellows' Garden, along River Walk, put on their usual terrific display and this year the clumps of snakes' head fritillaries (*Fritillaria meleagris*) and various species of anemone seemed to do particularly well, noticeably increasing in number.

In autumn, we completed the bulb planting around the New Library and by the newly created path to the belvedere to the side of Wentworth House. Over ten thousand *scilla*, *muscari*, *eranthis* and *iris* were planted either side of the gravel pathway interspersed with *Primula vulgaris* on the upper bank and *Primula verris* on the lower bank. This whole area of the Fellows' Garden has been thoroughly transformed in the last year and the memories of the building site are fading fast as this quiet corner of College has been reclaimed. Heading down the steps, from the belvedere, towards the river the garden team planted a further two thousand *Iris x hollandica*; the cultivar 'Sapphire Beauty' was selected. Dutch irises are less well known than the standard irises or smaller reticulated types but are excellent for early summer flowering and flourish in sun as well as shade. They were bred in the 19th century by the Dutch bulb company of Van Tubergen by crossing two varieties of *Iris xiphium* – *var praecox*, from Spain, and *var lusitanica*, from Portugal, with *Iris tingitana* from North Africa. Dutch irises increased in popularity



*Dutch irises by the steps to the belvedere (photo: Matt Moon)*

during the twentieth century and post-Second World War became very popular in the USA where the breeding of more yellow cultivars continued.

As these irises have a relatively short flowering period, they have been planted among a nascent collection of viburnums which will add to the various viburnums elsewhere in the Fellows' Garden. Included in this new planting are *V. cinnamomifolium*, *V. cylindricum*, *V x Juddii*, *V. odoratissimum*, *V. opulus* 'Compactum', *V. plicatum* 'Watanbe' and the stalwart *V. davidii*. *V. cylindricum* is a handsome evergreen shrub native of the Himalaya and China, and was introduced to Kew from India in 1881 and later from Yunnan via the Jardin des Plantes, Paris, in 1892. It is probable that plants in cultivation today are of Chinese heritage. Two characteristics make this species distinct from other viburnums – the tubular corolla with erect, not spreading lobes and the curious waxy covering on the leaves. *V. opulus* is a native species ranging from Britain across Europe, North Africa and Asia Minor into the Caucasus. Commonly known as the Guelder rose, this species is inferior in flower to many of the other species, but it is certainly not inferior in its ability to set fruit or in the rich hues of its autumn foliage.

One tree that looked particularly magnificent and was much admired this year was the foxglove tree (*Paulownia tomentosa*) in the Master's Garden. It was a splendid sight in mid-April to May, smothered in fragrant blue purple flowers shaped like foxgloves on steroids. A native of China, from western Hupeh, but introduced from Japan to France in 1834 by means of seeds given to the Director of Hothouses at the Jardin des Plantes. Only one single specimen was raised however, which stood 12' tall in 1840 and flowered the following year. In 1842 it was estimated that the total stock of plants raised from this solitary specimen was between 20,000 and 30,000! The tree prefers a rich soil and will tolerate great warmth, both of which are needed to flower well. It can also be pollarded regularly and treated almost as an herbaceous perennial which will result in less flower but enormous leaves larger than your average dinner plate.

Mark Scott

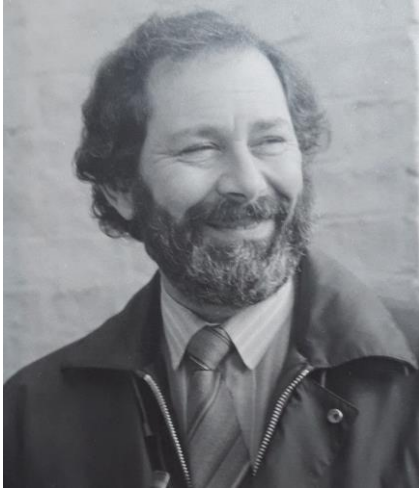


*The flowers and leaves of a foxglove tree*



## VIII COLLEGE STAFF

After more than 21 years of patient and inventive service, Nigel Hawkes resigned his post as Computer Officer; the College wishes him every happiness in his retirement. Mark Crane was appointed as Head of IT and was joined by Nick Grange and Liam Mason. Together with Usman Zia-Ul-Haq and Iain van Gardingen, these five comprise a strengthened and newly-named IT Office.



Sadly, the former and long-serving Clerk of Works, Paul Kay died in February. Before ill-health forced his early retirement in 2001 after 22 years of service, Paul was a stalwart of the College community. His success as Clerk of Works was built on his obvious enjoyment in solving maintenance problems and on his capacity for hard work and appreciation of and affection for the College buildings. To all who knew him and worked with him, his calmness under pressure and his ever-engaging smile was an inspiration.

The Maintenance Department lost Billy Betts to his family business but gained Braiden Evans, Tracy Lane and Wayne Dickerson, who swapped his trowel for a paintbrush when he moved from the Gardens team. Sam Morris was appointed as Gardener in April.

In the Academic Office Tess Leyland was succeeded as Schools' Liaison Officer by Natalie Thompson, with Abby Scott joining as maternity cover for Lucy Hartley.

The Alumni and Development Team welcomed Richard Morgan and Daniel Millard, as well as Deborah Parsons as maternity cover for Sarah Reynolds. Former Magdalene student and Senior Development Officer, Will Thong left in August 2021 to further his career in the charity sector and Ellis Stratton moved to work in another college.

The College Office underwent several changes; Joanna Green returned after the resignation of Malcolm Hertwick. Jemma O'Grady returned from maternity leave, and following the resignation of Catherine Folwell, Patrick Dunne and Sally Tam were appointed to the team.

Philippa Coe retired with the College's gratitude and best wishes for the future, and Ishbel Bruce was welcomed as the President's new PA.

During the pandemic, one of the hardest hit sectors nationally was hospitality, but the College managed to balance increasing demand for Formal Halls and other 'catch-up' events despite the challenges. Vincent (Vinny) Howard, who had led the Conference, Catering and Buttery teams for over 8 years moved to Girton College, and Mark Slater was appointed Head of Catering. Lisa Beaumont was promoted to Conference and Events Manager, and was joined by Georgia Stelling and Mariana Petrasova as they prepared for a busy season of summer schools and conferences.

In the Buttery there were promotions for Bogdan Bialy to Buttery Manager and Mark Stearn to Deputy Buttery Manager, and Karolina Chalecka was welcomed back to the post of Buttery Supervisor. Arina Votintseva was appointed Bar Supervisor and Dominika Marcinkowska as Buttery Assistant. Gary Wren, Head Chef with the College for nearly seven years and a culinary virtuoso, sadly decided to hang up his chef's whites for a new challenge closer to home and left the College in late August. Also saying goodbye were Alessandro Pelegrini, George Marrington and Terry Hughes. Pawel Udycz was appointed as Kitchen Porter.

Dawn Collins, after more than seven outstanding years as Head of Housekeeping, resigned her post for a change of lifestyle. A restructure brought the promotion of Ryan Carter, former Head Porter, to Head of Operations (Student Services) taking housekeeping, the Porters' Lodge and student accommodation under his remit. He is supported by Dayna Staton, promoted to Housekeeping Manager, and the Housekeeping Department welcomed back Kasia Niesterczuck and Rafal Orzechowski, to be joined by Daisy Rippingale, Mila Kostova, Luigi Petri, Tracey Hardwicke and Wioleta Beinias.

The Porters' Lodge welcomed Demi Skutela, Courtney Nixon and Hugo Barros. After many years' sterling service, Geoff Nicholas retired from his post as College Porter although you may still see him from time to time as relief Porter. Christine Bristow resigned her post, and after 16 years' sterling service John Hunt retired and we wished him the very best in his retirement. His ever-smiling courtesy and good cheer will be greatly missed by all.

C H Foord

## IX EVENTS AND COMMEMORATIONS

PARNELL LECTURE. This year's Parnell Lecture was given by Professor Christine Casey, Parnell Fellow, in the Sir Humphrey Cripps Auditorium on Friday 4 February 2022, and in the presence of HE the Irish Ambassador. Her title was 'Building Anglo-Ireland: Materials, Craft and Migration'. A packed audience hugely enjoyed Professor Casey's engrossing, beautifully illustrated and revelatory account of the relationship between the craftsmanship and architectural accomplishment of eighteenth-century Dublin and the quarries of Portland that provided the stone for the masons, carvers, joiners, and plasterers responsible for much of the quality and design of the buildings. Appreciative and animated discussion continued over drinks in the Denis Murphy Gallery.

LINDEMANN SCIENCE DAY. After a two-year break, we were delighted to resume the Lindemann Science Day for primary schools at Magdalene. On Thursday 10 March 2022, we welcomed Year 6 pupils from Trumpington Meadows Primary, Winhills Primary St Neots and Shirley Community Primary School to hear a series of exciting 'bite-size' science talks in the Cripps Auditorium from Dr Critchlow, Dr Baez-Ortega and, from Jesus College, Dr Kim Liu. Once again, the young audience responded eagerly - not least when Dr Critchlow, demonstrated the powers of an electric shock panel on one of the pupils' teachers.



*Dr Critchlow in full flow*

THE ROBERT CRIPPS GALLERY. In November 2021, the College opened the Robert Cripps Gallery in the New Library to host visiting exhibitions and display parts of the College art collection to the wider community. The Gallery has been named in honour of Mr Robert Cripps AM, a passionate art collector, generous supporter and Honorary Fellow since 2005. To great acclaim, three major exhibitions have been held so far.

Nov–Dec 2021: 'Everest 1921 - A Reconnaissance' featured pioneering works in photography. With kind permission of the Royal Geographical Society, the exhibition showcased a selection of prints of the approaches to Mount Everest taken in 1921 and reconstructed from newly digitised fragile silver nitrate negatives. The selection included some of the finest panoramic photographs of any high mountain region ever taken. With many of the images taken by one of the most famous alumni of Magdalene, George Leigh Mallory, the 1921 expedition also supplied the first recorded images of the Tibetan people.



Feb–Apr 2022: ‘Fragile Planet - Watercolour Journeys into Wild Places’ was a major exhibition of watercolours by Cornwall’s world-renowned wilderness artist, Tony Foster. The exhibition highlighted the precariousness of the world’s wildernesses and endangered environments, many of which Foster has visited and painted. Generously supported by the Foster Museum of Palo Alto, California, ‘Fragile Planet’ focused on five landscape areas – rainforests, water, arctic, deserts, and Cornwall – with accompanying key information about the plight of each. On 14 March, at a Zoom event, Mr Robinson discussed the exhibition in conversation with the artist.



*Kaieteur Falls looking SW from Johnson's View*

Sept–Oct 2022: ‘From Southwold to Alice Springs: Selected works from the Collection of Robert Cripps’ showcased a snapshot of the paintings, drawings and engravings he acquired over many years, reflecting both his deep roots in the countryside and coast of East Anglia and his championing of the indigenous art and artists of his adopted Australian home.



*Darrajayin by Betty Carrington (skin name Naminyji) (1944-2022)*

## X ALUMNI AND DEVELOPMENT

### 1 REUNIONS

The relaxation of pandemic restrictions during 2021-22 meant that we were able to reinstate College reunions, a return much welcomed by Members. However, limits on capacity in Hall together with the need to organise catch-up events resulted in more reunions this year than before.

A Reunion Dinner was held on Friday 10 September 2021 for Members matriculating in the years 1960–67, attended by 56 alumni and 4 Fellows. The after-dinner speaker was Sir David Clarke (1961). A Reunion Dinner was held on Friday 17 September 2021 for 1968–71 Members. It was attended by 52 alumni and 4 Fellows. The after-dinner speaker was the Rt Hon Mr Tim Eggar (1970). A Reunion Dinner took place on Friday 24 September 2021 for Members matriculating in the years 1974–78. It was attended by 50 alumni and 4 Fellows. The after-dinner speaker was Mr Oliver Wise (1977). A Reunion Dinner took place on Friday 25 March 2022 for Members matriculating in the years 1979–81. It was attended by 49 alumni and 5 Fellows. The after-dinner speaker was Dr Andrew Lownie (1981). On Saturday 23 April, the first Reunion Lunch for Members matriculating in the years up to 1963 welcomed 47 alumni and their guests, and 7 Fellows. The speaker was Mr John Simpson CBE (1963). On Saturday 7 May, a second Reunion Lunch for Members matriculating in the years up to 1963 welcomed 46 alumni and their guests, and 5 Fellows. The speaker was Mr Anthony Simpson (1956).

### 2 AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

F B Cazalet (2017): British-Italian Society Undergraduate Prize

Group Captain BJ Crawford (2003): OBE for the Royal Air Force and promoted Air Commodore and Commandant Air and Space Warfare Centre, Royal Air Force Waddington

F C Dunlop (1988): Guild of Food Writers 2022 Food Writing

C A I Forsyth (1990): appointed Deputy High Court Judge in the Chancery Division

B Fried (2010): Knight Bachelor for public service

C Y Graham (2015): University of Cambridge Outstanding Student

Contribution to Education (Inclusive Practice Category)  
 The Revd Dr P Hobday (Former Chaplain): appointed Canon of Wakefield Cathedral  
 M Hurlston, CBE (1958): appointed as member of the government MidLife Board  
 Dr A Ibrahim (2004): OBE for services to the Union, to Diversity and to Foreign Policy  
 Dr D Menon (Former Research Fellow) Falling Walls Foundation Prize 2021  
 R C McFarland (1970): MBE for services to the community in Chelmsford, Essex  
 A C Nightingale (1984): Tony Award for best original score for *A Christmas Carol*  
 Professor R E Thomas: Golf Star in recognition of Outstanding Teaching at the School of Medicine, University of Calgary  
 M Tiessen (Former Bye-Fellow): 2021 Wolf-Erich-Kellner Prize  
 Z Walker (2022): British Society for Aesthetics Prize 2022

### 3 SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

R Andrews (2002), *The Leviathan* (2022)  
 C Burton-Hill (2000), *Another Year of Wonder: Classical Music for Every day* (2021)  
 R A M Cohen (1965), *Making History: The Storytellers Who Shaped the Past* (2021)  
 \*N Collins (1972), *How Maritime Trade and the Indian Subcontinent Changed the World* (2021)  
 M J Estorick (1970), *Love Under Lockdown* (2021)  
 J A Flower (1995), co-editor, *Passmore and al: We Coach! The Complete Handbook of Tools, Techniques, Experiments and Framework for Personal and Team Development* (2021) and *Passmore and al: Coaching Tools, Vol 1* (2021) and *Vol 2* (2022)  
 G Garnett (Former Fellow), *The Norman Conquest in English History; Volume I: A Broken Chain* (2021)  
 \*J Goddard (1974), *Agatha Christie's Golden Age, Vol 2* (2021)  
 \*Prof C B Hague, OBE (1963), *Programmes! Programmes! Football and Life from Wartime to Lockdown* (2021)  
 \*G Harper (1963), *Biosphere Crisis: Six Conditions for Solving It* (2021)



Q M Khan (1996), *Hajj and the Arts of Pilgrimage* (2022)  
 Dr M C J Malins (2006), *The Rebel Daughter* (2022)  
 Dr D Menon (Former Research Fellow), *Changing Theories Concepts: from the Global South* (2020), and co-editor with Dr K Yazdani, *Capitalisms: Towards a Global History* (2021)  
 \*John F Nugée (1974), *Sailing Free: The Saga of Kari the Icelander* (2021) with G Stein  
 E C R Paice (1981), *Youthquake: Why African Demography Should Matter to the World* (2021)  
 A C Rusbridger (1973), *Author, News and How to Use it* (2020)  
 D E J Smith (2010), *Merchants: The Community That Shaped England's Trade and Empire, 1550-1650* (2021)  
 T F Yates (2006), *Geoffrey Finds a Bike* (2021)

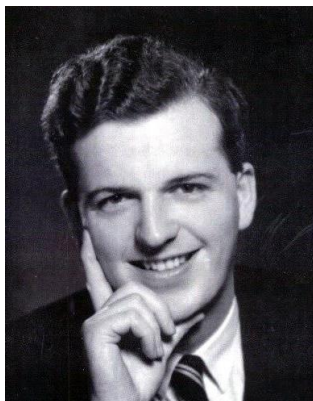
*\*We are grateful to these authors for presenting copies of their works to the College Library.*

#### 4 MEMBERS' DEATHS (reported to mid-July 2022)

J J Saxby (1943); Dr R E Wolfendale (1945); The Revd M Farmborough, MBE (1946); N J Johnston (1947); G R Lees (1946); John O Morgan (1947); N M Arcgdale (1948); B F Bland (1948); R G Fairbarns (1948); Dr C K R Brinckmann (1949); T L G Hawes (1950); Professor H J Käsmann (1951); T E Harmer (1952); C J James (1952); J N Davis (1953); M J Fenwick (1953); Sir A Lees (1953); R B Parker (1953); J W Stevens (1953); W Clark-Maxwell (1954); M J Fletcher (1954); J Morrison (1954); V N Petty (1954); D E Smith (1954); P J Gibbons (1956); T E B Hill (1956); G L R Metz (1956); N W Willink (1956); B Atkinson (1957); The Revd Dr M C Freeman (1958); G S Guild, MBE (1958); J L Skinner (1958); B G Woodrow, OBE, DL (1958); J A S Bristol (1959); D W Hussey (1959); G A Elliot (1961); D J Hughes (1961); J G R L Lowles (1961); N G Moore (1961); A P Colquhoun (1962); A B Hunwicks (1962); Professor P E Spargo (1962); T J Price (1964); J H Fielding (1965); Dr I C Lovecy (1965); D P Myers (1966); Dr W J Jordan (1967); Prof G A Lincoln (1967); I F Griffiths (1968); P Harrison (1972); D G F Thompson (1972); N E Trape, OBE (1972); J P A Goddard (1974); T C Hasler (1976); P J Flynn (1977); P X Morris (1989); The Revd N Vernezoz (2008).



*David Robin Fisher* (1927–1 July 2020) matriculated in 1950 and was a prominent member of the post-Second World War generation of British climbers. Active in Cambridge University Mountaineering Club, he made life-long friends as the clubs at Cambridge and Oxford advanced the standard of British climbing. David was one of the first undergraduates to join the Alpine Club in 1951, having climbed in the Swiss Alps since 1947. Summers were spent on classic routes, often in the company of George Band, Roger Chorley, Ted Wrangham, Geoffrey Sutton, and Ian McNaught-Davis. The major expedition of his Cambridge years was to Mount Rakaposhi (7,788 m) in the Karakoram Range of Pakistan in 1954, awarded the Mount Everest Foundation's first ever grant of £1,000. Emigrating to Canada, David became a highly influential figure in the Alpine Club of Canada (ACC) and began his civil engineering career with the Proctor & Redfern firm. Among his many achievements was coordination of one of the largest ever mountaineering, expeditions, with some 250 climbers and 26 first ascents in remote regions of the St Elias Mountains in the Yukon Territory. In recognition of his many contributions to the ACC, David was awarded the Silver Rope for Leadership in 1958, the Distinguished Service Award in 1970, and the A O Wheeler Legacy Award in 1995.



*Professor Michael John Kennedy Harper* (25 Feb 1935–28 Jan 2022) arrived at Magdalene in 1954 and took a PhD in 1962 in Reproductive Physiology with a dissertation on 'Egg Transport in the Rabbit'. His life's work was to create sustainable birth control technologies to support women's reproductive health in developing countries. Internationally recognised for his work, he served as an expert consultant for the governments of China, India, Sweden, and multiple African nations, and for global health organizations, nongovernmental organisations, the Population Council, USAID, Institute of Medicine, and National Institutes of Health. At ICI in 1960 he and two colleagues developed the drug, Tamoxifen, the oldest and most prescribed hormonal treatment for

women with breast cancer, then working at the Worcester Foundation for Experimental Biology in Massachusetts and as a Medical Officer for the World Health Organisation in Geneva. Moving in 1975 to the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, he remained Professor of Obstetrics-Gynaecology and Cell Biology until 1993. At Eastern Virginia Medical School he served as the Director of CONRAD's Consortium for Industrial Collaboration in Contraceptive Research. In 1979 he took a Cambridge ScD and elected a Fellow of the Institute of Biology. At his retirement in 2010, he had published some 150 peer-reviewed papers and 50 book chapters. He retained a strong affinity for his Scots-Irish heritage, supporting restoration of the eighteenth-century Cahans Presbyterian church in Co Monaghan. His wife Ann predeceased him by ten days.



*Alasdair George Houston* MBE, DL (5 Jan 1962–21 June 2021), came from Glenalmond College, Perthshire to read Modern Languages and Land Economy in 1980, before study at Edinburgh University School of Agriculture. He twice built two businesses: in 2001 foot and mouth destroyed his herd of beef cattle, but his 'Gretnahouse' herd is now famous as one of

the country's top pedigree breeding herds of Charolais and Aberdeen Angus; then, in 2019, the Covid-19 pandemic ruined his other family business, the famous wedding venue of Gretna Green. By June 2021, the business reopened and accepted the Queen's Award for International Trade. A gifted rugby player, including for Cambridge University, his career was cut short by a serious back injury; undaunted, post-recovery, he undertook the Cresta Run, the infamous toboggan run in St Moritz. Elected Fellow of the Royal Agricultural Society Scotland, he served as Vice President of the Royal Highland Agricultural Show and Chairman of the British Charolais Society. He also secured funding for the Star of Caledonia, which he conceived 20 years ago as a monument to the resilience of local people and to welcome those entering Scotland at the Gretna Green border. In 2011 he was awarded an MBE for Services to Tourism in Dumfriesshire and became Deputy Lord Lieutenant of the county.



*William Osbert Lancaster* (13 Mar 1938–19 May 2022), social anthropologist, was the son of Sir Osbert Lancaster, cartoonist, satirist and stage designer, and his first wife, Karen (née Harris). After Eton College, he came to Magdalene in 1968 to read archaeology and anthropology. An early experience living in caves at Petra as an excavation photographer confirmed his

interest ‘in the study of living people rather than the dead’. In the 1970s he took his family to live with the Rwala Bedouin of the Arabian Peninsula, leading to his first book, *The Rwala Bedouin Today* (1981): ‘I’m fairly convinced that being Bedouin is not a way of life at all... It is a political ideology’. Earlier, when learning Arabic at the Middle East Centre for Arabic Studies in Shemlan, Lebanon, he encountered Kim Philby and George Blake: amused members of the Rwala tribe teased him about being a spy. After a year teaching at Yarmouk University, Jordan, he joined the British Institute at Amman for Archaeology and History, and served as Director 1991–94. His second book, *People, Land and Water in the Arab Middle East: Environments and Landscapes in the Bilad ash-Sham* (1999), was the result of 25 years of joint research on the nomadic tribal societies of Syria, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Oman with his wife, Fidelity Russles, whom he married in 1964. William disliked cities, and in 1977 moved the family to Stromness in Orkney where he sang in the community choir, played badminton and enjoyed fishing. The house came with a sheep farm, an arrangement that in some ways mirrored the Bedouin people, albeit in different climes.



*John Marshall* (11 Sept 1930–4 Aug 2021) joined Magdalene in 1947, aged 17, having passed his A levels at 15. His daughter, Grace Bull, recalls that on arrival he still had a child's green ration book which he was glad to exchange for an adult one soon after. A popular physics teacher, first at Edinburgh Academy and Rugby School, then at Christ College Brecon, his lessons were memorable. As one ex-pupil commented, ‘you never

knew what would happen - from explosions to mass electrocution, there was never a dull moment.' Another ex-pupil recalls the entire class climbing a fire escape, to illustrate the difference between kinetic energy and potential energy; 6am revision lessons awaited any class that didn't learn. With his energetic wife Muriel, he established crammer courses in school holidays, and anyone who attended was virtually guaranteed an additional grade at A level. He often published ideas for school experiments and authored one of the first books of A level physics multiple choice questions. His quiet Christian faith was especially important to him and he often said that while a biologist might not believe in God, he rarely met a true atheist in a physics convention because they understood how truly complex the universe is.

*Barrie Reginald Kirby Pain* (1924–6 Oct 2021), born in Kent and a scholar at



Tonbridge School. gained a place at Magdalene in 1942 to read Engineering, before joining the Royal Engineers after one year with a view to returning after the war. He was gazetted Lieutenant and was promptly drafted to the Royal Bombay Sappers and Miners to train in India for fighting in Malaysia and in the planned invasion of Japan. After the war, he became a pioneer of the modern automotive industry as one of the first managers at the new Ford

Motor Company plant at Dagenham, later working for Ford and British Leyland at Cowley, then Rover Triumph at Longbridge, finally returning to Cowley as a Director of Jaguar Rover Triumph. He designed the first electro-coat painting system on a production line in the world at the new Ford plant at Halewood in the 1960s, a system still in used. A keen sportsman throughout his life, he enjoyed sailing, swimming and surfing into his 90s.



*Francis Home 'Sam' Popham* (28 Feb 1923–28 May 2022) who came to Magdalene in 1941, was among the last British tea planters in Sri Lanka. He also pioneered a method of forest restoration that helps combat global warming. Known locally as Gasmahaththi or 'man of the trees', he remained in his tastes and manners something of a man out of his time. Only in the endeavour that came to define his life was he wrenched back into the modern world, with its carbon neutral priorities,

for he was a pioneer of a method for restoring ravaged forests. His legacy, outside the town of Dambulla in the island's central dry zone, is the Popham Arboretum, still flourishing today, and seen by its present owner, Sri Lanka's National Institute of Fundamental Studies (NIFS), as a model for the rescue of forests elsewhere in the country.



*Mark Roper* (27 June 1935–20 Sept 2021) matriculated in 1956 and took over the management of Forde Abbey and its estate in 1959 on graduating in Estate Management. No one has looked after this nationally important building for longer. Together with Thomas Chard (Forde's last abbot), Edmund Prideaux (Oliver Cromwell's minister), and Francis Gwyn (Queen Anne's Secretary of State for War), Mark could have claimed that the four of them had

done more than all its other custodians to shape the Abbey as visitors see it today. Like Chard and Prideaux, he handed it over to his successors in better physical shape than he found it. His great achievement was to build an economic base on which the estate could thrive. This was no small task as the middle decades of the last century were not kind to England's rural estates unless there was a bank or a brewery in the background to sustain them. In Forde Abbey's case, there was no money tree. Mark was a founder of the Historic Houses Association in 1975 and one of its moving spirits, along with George Howard of Castle Howard, Lord Montagu of Beaulieu, and Michael Saunders Watson of Rockingham Castle.

*David Thompson* (4 July 1954–4 July 2021). A personal tribute by Rupert Marlow (1971) appears at: [www.magd.cam.ac.uk/david-thompson-1972](http://www.magd.cam.ac.uk/david-thompson-1972)

## Development Director's Report

The Future Foundations Campaign closed on 30 June 2022. The conclusion of the Campaign and the official opening of the New Library were celebrated with a large event in College on 2 July 2022. The total sum raised for the Campaign has surpassed the £29.5 million mark for the period from 1 March 2017 to 30 June 2022. An astonishing total only eclipsed by the fact that we received 4,581 gifts from 2,734 donors during the Campaign. This means that 37% of alumni contributed to the Campaign over the past five years. We have been delighted with, and are hugely grateful for, this warm and generous response from Members and Friends to our appeal for support.

During the final year of this ambitious fundraising endeavour, we raised more than £2.1 million. A wonderful achievement given the combined challenges of the lingering pandemic and the difficult economic situation compounded by inflation. We continue to be delighted by the positive response from Members to various initiatives including the Telephone Campaign last September, the Giving Day earlier this summer and our ongoing appeals for support for our students who have understandably encountered more difficulties in this past year. We are very fortunate that the College's Bursary Scheme, now in its tenth year, continues to be exceedingly well supported by Members. It has been a great success and hundreds of our students have benefitted over the years from the generous top-up bursaries the College is able to offer thanks to donations.

The Campaign Board, chaired by Mr Andrew Fischer (1983), has been wonderfully supportive over the past five years offering guidance throughout the Campaign. The Board's valuable service has now come to an end, and we owe Andrew, Mr Guy Davison (1976), Mr Simon Thompson (1986), Mrs Natasa Williams (1990), and Ms Diya Sen Gupta QC (1996) a debt of gratitude for all their help.

The relaxation of pandemic restrictions meant that we were able to return to a physical events programme during the Lent and Easter Terms, and this was much welcomed by alumni. We offered a total of 45 events which ranged from graduations (including several additional 'catch-up' ceremonies for those whose graduation was affected by the pandemic), to reunion dinners and lunches.



*The Central Reading Room and The Duncan Robinson Room in the New Library*



We were pleased to be able to resume overseas travel in the Michaelmas Term with events in the USA last November which included College Dinners in Washington, New York and Boston. We owe once again, most grateful thanks to Dr Frank Crantz (1969), Mr Robert Chartener (1982), Fellow-Commoner, and Mr Alastair Adam (1990) for their wonderful generosity, immediate offers of help and their unfailing support and continued enthusiasm for Magdalene. Many Members and Friends joined us for these occasions at the Cosmos, Union and Somerset Clubs respectively, to welcome the 'new' Master, Sir Christopher Greenwood, as the pandemic had prevented us from travelling. Indeed, we were delighted by the generous welcome we received and remain truly grateful that so many Members in the USA choose to support the College every year. We are just as thankful to the Magdalene College Foundation Directors, led by Mr Robert Chartener (1982), Fellow Commoner and Chairman, Mr Geoffrey Craddock (1977), Hon David Brigstocke (1971), Ms Suzanna Jemsby (1990), Dr Jason Hafler (2006) and Mr Graham Walker (1982) for their ongoing help.

Closer to home, we were also able to visit Edinburgh in the Lent Term to attend the Magdalene Dinner which was just two years late! It has been wonderful to meet Members in person again, but we remain in touch with many of you by means of our annual alumni newsletter, *Magdalene Matters*, available in hard copy but also digitally, the termly e-newsletters and by email and social media. We received almost 6,000 emails from alumni to our shared mailboxes over the past year and we have many new followers on social media. It is wonderful that so many of our alumni chose to stay in touch and follow developments at Magdalene.

Thank you for your ongoing interest in, generosity and enthusiasm for all things Magdalene; it is truly appreciated.

C D Lloyd

*A complete list of Members who have supported the College with a donation during the past financial year (1 July 2021–30 June 2022) will be available together with a list of all those Members and Friends who have contributed to the five-year Future Foundations Campaign in the period of 1 March 2017– 30 June 2022 (unless they chose to remain anonymous) in The Final Campaign Report, which will be published in the autumn.*

## NEW LIGHT ON OLD STONES: THE CHAPEL FLOOR

'But I do love, with all my heart, the grace of antiquity that mellows our crumbling courts, the old tradition of multifarious humanity that has century by century entwined itself with the very fabric of the place...'

A.C. Benson, *From a College Window* (London, 1907), 4th edn, p 13



*Figure 1: Magdalene Chapel*

Floors fall beneath notice. Taken for granted. Yet, few building surfaces are so closely connected with human activity. Ten to one, the reader long familiar with the Chapel will not have registered the paving sequence from chapel entrance passage to antechapel to chapel. Smooth and urbane at the threshold from First Court, rough and characterful in the Ketton stone floor of the antechapel, followed in the nave and chancel by an elegant carpet of Portland stone octagons and black squares. (Fig 1)

In taking up the Parnell Fellowship in Irish Studies in October 2021, for research on eighteenth-century Anglo-Irish building culture, close encounters with time-worn paving stones were far from my sights. Imagine then my surprise, on the first day of manuscript research in the British Library as Parnell Fellow, to find a direct connection between the Anglo-Irish stone trade of the period and the masons employed by Magdalene in a repaving of the fifteenth-century Chapel in 1733–34. The link was a stone-mason named Thomas Roper, then employed by a prominent London master mason and contractor to Magdalene, Andrews Jelfe, builder of Westminster Bridge, who was extensively employed in south-eastern England. Roper was already known to me as the custodian of the Portland stone quarries in the 1740s and 1750s whose letters to the Tucker family, preserved, and scanned by the Bodleian Library, had provided an archival lifeline for me during the pandemic closures. Roper and the quarrymen whom he supervised supplied Dublin builders with vast amounts of stone for the city's monumental classical architecture of the mid-eighteenth century. The builders included the master masons of Trinity College Dublin whose grandiose west front was built from 1757 to 1760. Jelfe may not have worked at Magdalene, as his wage records do not specify sites, but he certainly worked at Cambridge while the Chapel floor was being laid, and this was enough to pique high interest in the provenance of the paving. Was the surviving Chapel floor laid by Jelfe's men in 1733–34? Initially, I was disappointed and puzzled to learn from Willis and Clark that the stone paving costing some £104 had been swept away in a thorough classical remodelling of the Chapel in the 1750s, and further, that the repaving cost just £47: 'The pavement laid down in 1733 was not thought sufficiently good, and the Chapel and ante-chapel were in consequence repaved with large squares of stone with small squares of black marble at their intersections'.<sup>1</sup> But as research developed a more complex story emerged; and one which speaks to the environmental concerns of the twenty-first century.

In paving the Chapel, the Master and Fellows of Magdalene would undoubtedly have been conscious of recent precedent. The choir floor of King's College Chapel was paved in a spectacular cruciform pattern of black and white marble tiles in 1702, echoed in the Senate House floor which in 1730 cost the vast sum of £660.5s. Admittedly, these were

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<sup>1</sup> Robert Willis and John Willis Clark, *The Architectural History of the University of Cambridge and of the Colleges of Cambridge and Eton* (Cambridge University Press, 1886), vol ii, p 377

exceptional projects, but they certainly raised the bar in terms of contemporary flooring. The standard paving model of the period employed in domestic and ecclesiastical interiors was a combination of large pale coloured flagstones, usually squares transformed to octagons by taking off the corners, combined with small squares or 'dots' of black stone. It was a pattern described by Cambridge builder-architect James Essex (1722–84) as 'diamond and dotts'. This had advantages in terms of design and making. The flags could be set square or on the diagonal to emphasise axial procession. The 'dots' were a regulating device in laying the floor, while the removal of sharp corners to transform square flags to octagons may have been advantageous in terms of breakages in transportation. Indeed, I wondered if perhaps a standard flagstone had been produced in the period to further rationalise production. In terms of Magdalene, the latter proved not to be the case as the flags of the Chapel passage are of different dimensions to those of the Chapel, while a similar floor pattern in the antechapel at Clare College, executed several decades later, was generated by rectangular flags rather than squares. By now, helpful staff of the University and colleges were bemused by the enthusiasms of an eighteenth-century paving inspector.

While marble was used for paving in the most prestigious projects, the standard material for good quality interior flags in southern England in the eighteenth century was Portland stone. Since the late seventeenth century this white, workable stone, redolent of the Antique, was the material of choice for classical architecture in Britain. Its source, the Isle of Portland in Dorset, is an immense and solid block of oolitic limestone projecting into the English Channel, formed in a warm tropical sea at the end of the Jurassic period 150 million years ago. It has been neatly described by Stuart Morris as being 'tethered' to the mainland by Chesil Beach, an immense bank of pebbles resistant to vehicular traffic rendering shipping the only route to the mainland until the construction of a ferry bridge in 1839. The Isle of Portland was a royal manor since the eleventh-century. Stone had been quarried here since earliest times, but gained momentum in the early seventeenth century and was spurred by the post-fire rebuilding of London. An ancient custom of the manor of Portland gave tenants the right to receive a half share of the duty paid on any stone taken from the Common Lands, the other half going to the Crown, with the tenants' share later increasing to two-thirds. Stone for royal works was exempt from duty, and when St Paul's Cathedral was

granted royal exemption, unrest ensued, fuelled by Wren's cavalier treatment of the islanders and resulting in long delays to the construction of the cathedral.

Wren was succeeded as royal surveyor of the Portland quarries by Edward Tucker of Weymouth, who was in turn succeeded by his sons John and Richard whose correspondence with Thomas Roper was the catalyst to this exploration of the Chapel floor. Roper was Richard Tucker's appointee as custodian of the quarries and held the post until his death in 1762. From his house overlooking the pier, Roper watched his overseer and men as blocks of stone and bespoke elements of classical buildings were loaded onto vessels of varying capacity captained by seafarers from England and Europe. Out in the Channel, ships loaded with stone were seized by pirates from Spain, wrecked by drunken captains or inclement weather, or safely guided across the Irish sea to eager stone merchants and master builders in Dublin.

Prior to his appointment by Tucker, Roper had worked for a period as Andrews Jelfe's agent at Portland. Richard Hewlings's *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* entry for Jelfe reveals an extensive practice in public works and residential building including masonry contracts at Hampton Court Palace, Holkham and Houghton Hall. The son of a carpenter of South Weald in Essex, Jelfe was apprenticed to the Burford master mason Edward Strong junior whose father, Edward senior, was a principal contractor at St Paul's Cathedral and Blenheim Palace. 'Apply yourself to old Mr Strong' wrote Nicholas Hawksmoor in 1705 to the Clerk of Works at Blenheim 'he will assist you... if you find anything di[u]bious pray call Mr Strong to your aid'.<sup>2</sup> Edward Strong's foreman at Blenheim was a master mason named Christopher Cass who later formed a business partnership with Jelfe and Strong that continued after Strong's death. The firm engaged in extensive house building in London and secured contracts for several city churches including James Gibbs's St Martin-in-the Fields. Together, Christopher Cass and Andrews Jelfe established a building yard at Cambridge and Cass secured the masonry contracts for the Senate House and the Fellows' Building of King's College, both designed by Gibbs. The enduring quality of the masonry in these buildings is testament to the high standards of both architect and builders.

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<sup>2</sup> Kerry Downes, *Hawskmoor* (London, Zwemmer, 1979), p 237

The manuscript encountered at the British Library on the first day of research as Parnell Fellow is a ledger of Andrews Jelfe's building activity during the 1730s and 1740s including the construction period of Westminster Bridge. The ledger begins with wages paid for 'Master Jelfe being ye first paid since partnership ceasd with Mr Cass from April ye 22 1734 to ye 29<sup>th</sup> 1734' and includes payments to Thomas Roper, and to John Ogle who was the foreman of the Cambridge stone yard. The first specific mention of Cambridge, amid extensive payments for provision and sawing of stone, marble and paving and dispatch of client letters, occurs on 14 August 1734 when Jelfe paid 'four men to drink for traveling to Cambridge one night after ye had done their days work'. On 27 August, a tip was paid to 'Kings College grooms to Drink for opening ye gates and other civilities'. The works at Magdalene are documented from 18 September 1734 when 9d was paid to four porters 'for helping to Carry ye paving and step from ye water side to modling [Magdalene] chappil' and seven men were paid for loading the paving into the boats 'att ye crane and taking Do [ditto] out below ye great Bridge'. On the same day the men were given 10d for drink and on 27 September a waterman was paid for further carriage of paving from Garret Hostel to 'Modling Chapil'. On 4 October, a mop, oil and fine sand were used to clean the Chapel floor suggesting that at least part of the paving was then complete.

There is no indication in the payments of the materials used in the floor, although several types of paving are referred to throughout the accounts, namely pebble, Purbeck, and Portland stone. Considerable expenditure in the period was outlaid for sawing and rubbing of Portland stone but this cannot be linked to Magdalene as the accounts refer to Jelfe's entire business enterprise. Cass and Jelfe had opened a clunch quarry near Cambridge and payments are recorded for its transport to London. While the quarrymen are not identified in the accounts, we read on 5 November 1734 of 5s paid to a 'poor woman whose Husband was killed in ye quarrie that day I gave it her she was Left with 3 children (sic)'. Soft and chalky, clunch was an entirely unsuitable material for paving and most unlikely to have been used in the Chapel floor.

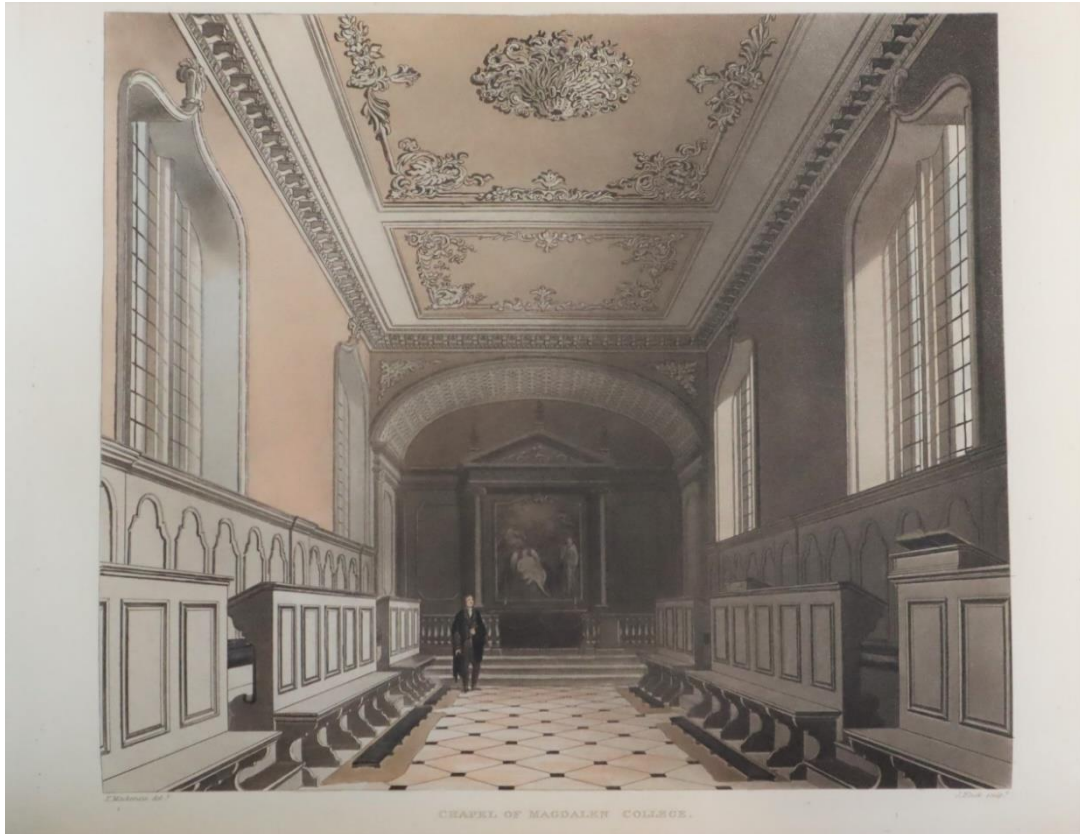
Although specific documentation of the works begins in the account book in September 1734, much preparation would have been required in establishing a building yard and procuring stone and it is likely that earlier payments for provision of sand to the 'Chapel Yard'

refer to Magdalene. Certainly, the College accounts refer to payments made in 1733. Materials from the previous floor may well have been used in the foundation of the new paving. A procedure to level and ram the ground with refuse from the old floor was recommended by James Essex for repaving Lincoln Cathedral in the early 1770s. A design for the paving most likely accompanied the contract, but neither survive. And while a pattern of octagons and squares may be considered a mundane design exercise, its configuration was subject to the proportions of the space: success was by no means a foregone conclusion. At Lincoln, Essex was clear in his instructions for the size of flagstones and ‘dotts,’ and to ensure clear communication, he provided the Chapter with a coloured drawing of the paving plan.

In the absence of a detailed account, we must speculate on the nature of the paving laid at Magdalene by Jelfe’s men in 1733–34. Do we still tread upon it or was it summarily destroyed in the remodelling of the 1750s? Of the three types of paving noted in the accounts, only two are conceivable, Portland or Purbeck, pebble paving being entirely inappropriate to a chapel interior. Isaac Ware in his *Complete Body of Architecture* of 1756 considered Portland to be the optimum paving stone, with Purbeck as a close second. ‘Purbeck is used much in paving and is very strong... and it serves well in steps; in both these uses it is inferior to the *Portland*, because it is less hard, and it will not take so’ good a surface’. The costs of the floor were defrayed by subscriptions. Most were of £5 but two subscriptions of twenty guineas came from the ever-scrutinous Master, Daniel Waterland, and his colleague Peniston Booth, Dean of Windsor.

The best evidence for the paving installed by Jelfe in the Chapel is Edward Tomson’s bill for repaving during the extensive remodelling of the building twenty years later, hitherto read as the installation of an entirely new floor: a fair assumption from the wording of its opening payment in May 1754 ‘To diging a Hole and putting the paving of the Chappel floor into the Ground’. If, however, we read on to January 1755 we find larger payments made for ‘taking ye paving and steps out of the ground and getting up to ye yard’. Stone was a valuable commodity and was often stored in locked sheds on the building site. Old Bailey records of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries document the theft of marble and stone including significant amounts of paving stone. The remainder of Tompson’s bill supports a hypothesis for the reuse of the existing

stone, including the use of 880 feet of 'old' Portland stone and 130 feet of 'new' Portland paving. Such a quantity – and more – would have been required to pave the Chapel floor to its present extent, although clearly, some matching modern paving has been introduced in the chancel (in the 1950s). Labour costs included 'taking up and New laying the Chappel floor'.



*Figure 2: 'Chapel of Magdalen College' (from R Ackermann, A History of the University of Cambridge, 1815), Vol II, p 131*

Just as the present nineteenth-century stalls impinge upon and conceal the extent of the eighteenth-century nave floor, it is possible that the pre-1750s stalls projected further into the nave than their immediate successors. At any rate, the modest intervention of the 1730s was no match for the radical classical remodelling of the 1750s in which the east window was blocked up, a classicising plasterwork ceiling was installed, and a remarkable figurative bas-relief, now exiled to the Parlour, was integrated with an Ionic reredos (Figs 2 and 3). From Edward Tomson's bill for paving in 1754, it seems likely that the new classical interior



required an extension of the paving scheme installed in the 1730s rather than its entire removal and replacement. For eighteenth-century clients and builders, waste and economy were two sides of the same coin, as were quality and durability. Stone and timber were habitually recycled, and salvaged materials were frequently negotiated in building contracts. The floor of the Magdalene Chapel represents a modest but enduring collective achievement reflecting thrift in oversight and skill in execution, made and remade by stone masons whose horizons were broader than we might assume. Andrews Jelfe, Christopher Cass, John Ogle, Thomas Roper, Edward Tomson and their associates flourished within a far-reaching building culture whose skills, standards and personnel embraced the craft industries of London, Portland, Cambridge, Dublin and beyond.



*Figure 3: Chapel reredos now in the Parlour*

Whatever its provenance, the eighteenth-century Chapel floor is a survivor of successive nineteenth- and twentieth-century alterations. It is remarkable that it escaped the historicist remodelling of 1847–51 when the plasterwork ceiling above it was summarily destroyed, dismissed by the *Ecclesiologist* in 1849 as ‘miserable Italian slathing’. In such a vigorous reinstatement of the Chapel’s late medieval form, extending from roof to fenestration and fittings, why was the old-fashioned paving spared? Encaustic tiles were laid upon the altar steps in 1857 and perhaps more widely at the east end, but the ‘diamond and dots’ of the nave endured. (Fig.4) Rubbed by the shoe leather of generations from Daniel Waterland to Charles Stewart Parnell and A C Benson, the Chapel floor is ‘the very fabric of the place’. If stones could speak, this would be a better story.

Christine Casey  
Parnell Fellow 2021–22



*Figure 4: detail of the Chapel floor*

I am grateful to Katy Green, Catherine Sutherland, Adam Gardner and Joanne Black for their assistance in accessing and photographing buildings and archival material and to Richard Hewlings for reviewing the draft.

## THE CAUSES OF AGEING

To get back my youth I would do anything in the world, except take exercise, get up early, or be respectable.

Oscar Wilde, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*



*Detail from Old Woman with a Basket of Coal by Peter Paul Rubens*

Everlasting youth is one of humanity's perpetual aspirations. None of us are impervious to the effects of old age, either in ourselves or in those we love. Yet, more than an inescapable element of the human condition, ageing is in fact a universal biological feature of complex animals, and possibly of all life. Biologically speaking, ageing is a gradual decline in the capacity of the cells and tissues in a body to preserve their integrity and carry out their central physiological functions. The ultimate consequence of this process is the body's inability to sustain its own

existence, leading to an inevitable death from 'old age'. Regardless of how much effort is devoted to prolonging life, humans and other animals seem to carry an intrinsic 'expiry date'. But why should this be so? How did such an implacable force of decay come to exist, and why do we humans seem unable to vanquish it?

The question of what causes ageing, which can be traced as far back as Aristotle, is in fact composed of two very distinct questions. The first is the question of *why* we age: what is the ultimate biological reason for the fact that animals have never evolved the capacity to live forever? The second question is that of *how* we age: what are the immediate physiological processes which cause bodies gradually to decay over time? The degree to which we understand ageing may be expected to vary between these two levels of analysis — but it may come as a surprise that it should be our understanding of *how* we age, rather than *why* we age, which remains very much undeveloped. The following presents our current scientific perspective on these two dimensions of the ageing process.

### **Why we age: Evolutionary causes of ageing**

The universality of ageing among animals was a troublesome fact to early evolutionary biologists. In the mid-nineteenth century, Charles Darwin had proposed that the biological traits of organisms were the outcome of evolution by natural selection, and therefore had probably been useful for the survival and reproduction of previous generations. How is it, then, that evolution has not crafted organisms with the clearly beneficial capacity to maintain their youth indefinitely?

The first evolutionary explanation of ageing was proposed by the nineteenth-century biologist August Weismann. An early supporter of Darwin's ideas, Weismann was a key figure in the development of early theories of biological heredity. To him, the evolutionary paradox of ageing could be resolved if one assumed that an animal's longevity is indeed the product of natural selection — but not because of any benefit to the animal itself, but rather to the species as a whole. He proposed that the duration of life — the lifespan — has evolved to an optimal value which spares the population from being smothered by a preponderance of old individuals. In Weismann's account, ageing is therefore a death mechanism explicitly evolved for the purging of older, less competitive

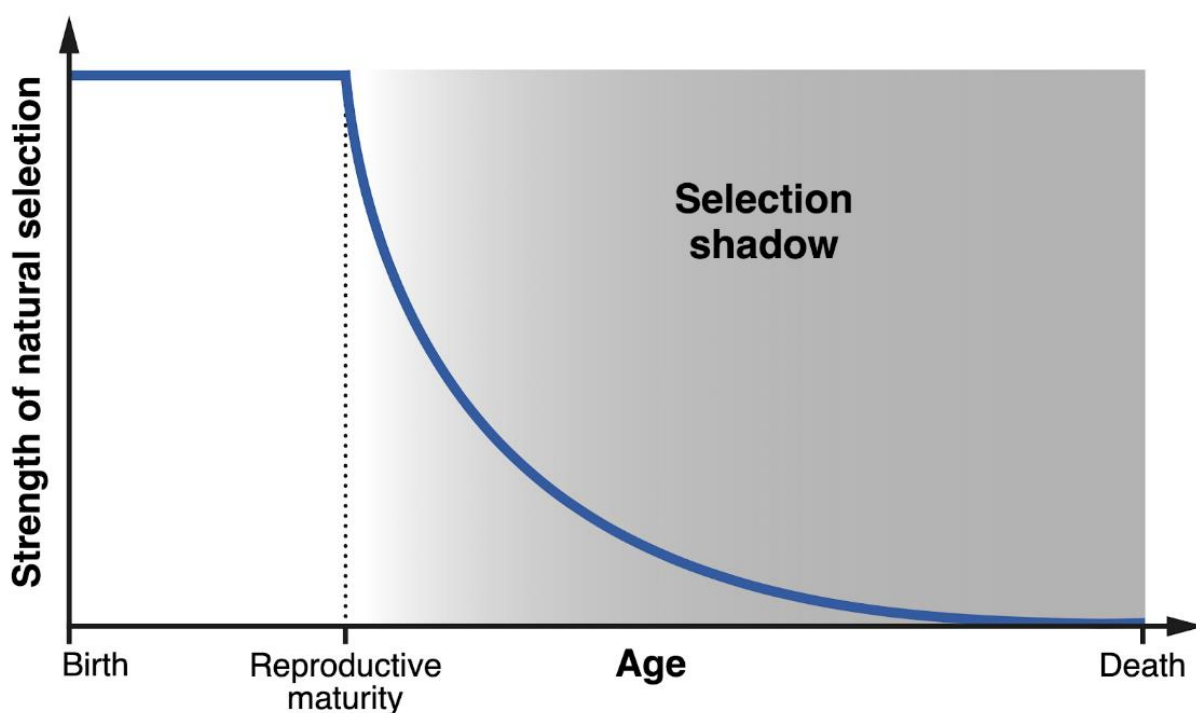
generations, enabling the success of younger individuals. Remarkably, this theory was in fact a Darwinian makeover of the views of the ancient Roman poet and philosopher Lucretius.

Weismann's explanation of ageing, although intuitively cogent, was found by later evolutionary biologists to be flawed. For one thing, the argument that older individuals should be purged because they are less fit than younger ones immediately invokes an assumption that individuals experience physiological ageing. But to infer the evolutionary origins of ageing, we must begin with a population whose individuals do not age, and thus can only die through extrinsic forces such as predation, infection, starvation or accident. In such a population, there is no reason to assume that older individuals should be at a disadvantage — if anything, the fact that they have survived for longer implies that they are, on average, better survivors. Moreover, older individuals should have amassed precious expertise in the manoeuvres and tactics of living, such that they should offer formidable competition to youngsters. Therefore, without the assumption of an ageing process, the death of older individuals cannot easily be defended as of benefit to the species.

Another powerful argument against Weismann's theory is the now-established fact that traits which benefit the collective at the expense of the individual are evolutionarily unstable. In most situations, natural selection operates overwhelmingly at the level of the individual: if one deer is, for instance, able to outrun the others, it will be less likely to be preyed upon, and hence more likely to leave offspring, which will inherit its superior speed. In the same manner, if a species were to evolve an ageing process that was beneficial to the species but disadvantageous to the individual, then any individual happening to age more slowly than the rest would be at a considerable advantage, just like the faster-running deer, and so this trait would be favoured by natural selection. Ageing therefore cannot have evolved for the sole benefit of the species; if Weismann appears here to have misjudged the implications of Darwin's theory, it may be said in his defence that Darwin himself would have fared no better. It is only after one and a half centuries of thought that we have come to understand ageing not as a consequence of the direct action of natural selection — but rather of its failure.

One of the earliest hints at the concept which underlies modern evolutionary theories of ageing was advanced by the influential

mathematical geneticist J B S Haldane. During an inspired series of lectures in 1940, Haldane noted in passing that natural selection should have little power to suppress a deleterious trait if such a trait only manifests itself late in life. To see why this is the case, let us consider Haldane's case of interest — Huntington's disease. Despite its devastating and fatal effects, this degenerative condition typically has its onset after the age of thirty, and hence has little impact on a person's ability to have children. By the time the disease is diagnosed, the patient's children may already have inherited the responsible gene. Haldane correctly saw this as the reason why such a pernicious gene has not been purged by evolution. The impact of Huntington's disease is confined to adulthood, a period of life in which the strength of natural selection declines dramatically, since reproduction has already taken place. This period is now termed the 'selection shadow', because biological effects within it are effectively 'out of sight' for evolution (Fig 1).



*Figure 1.* Diagram illustrating the concept of the 'selection shadow', referring to the progressive decline in the strength of natural selection after the age of reproductive maturity. (Credit: A Baez-Ortega)

The concept of the selection shadow was first developed into a complete theory of ageing by the Nobel laureate Sir Peter Medawar, who in the 1950s attempted to explain ageing as the combined effect of a collection of 'mutant genes' — altered versions of 'normal' genes — whose effects only arise late in life. Just as in the case of Huntington's disease, age-related conditions such as cataracts, arthritis and osteoporosis have a late onset and no impact on reproduction, which precludes natural selection from weeding off the implicated 'mutant genes'. A large number of these problematic genes will therefore accumulate in the 'shadow' of selection, their effects amalgamating into what we call ageing. Medawar also grasped the significance of extrinsic mortality, that is, the rate of death from environmental forces such as predation: the later in life the effects of a gene are realised, the less individuals will remain alive to experience them. Thus, a gene which contributes to prolonging the health of heart muscle for many decades may be very beneficial to an elephant, but it is of no use to a mouse that will almost certainly be preyed upon before the age of two.

Building on Medawar's work, a later theory proposed that ageing may arise from genes which not only have negative effects in old age, but also have beneficial effects in youth, when natural selection is at its strongest. In this theory, ageing would be a detrimental late by-product of processes which have evolved because they are beneficial earlier in life. The current scientific consensus is that each of these two theories is probably correct in some cases, such that certain components of ageing have arisen through accumulation of purely detrimental mutant genes, while others are late side-effects of advantageous genes.

An important aspect of these two evolutionary theories is that they define ageing as the result of the inability of natural selection to maintain physiological integrity for longer than is actually useful 'in the wild'. The key insight is that it is not evolutionarily advantageous to live longer than we do, because our species has evolved so that we are able to develop and reproduce long before our bodies succumb to age. Furthermore, because the wild environment of early humans made it very unlikely for them to survive as long as we do, there has been no evolutionary need for greater longevity. Notably, our evolutionary explanation of ageing, which is theoretically and empirically well supported, does not depend on which specific physiological mechanisms are responsible for ageing. In other words, we certainly understand *why* the process of ageing has

evolved in the first place; the scene is rather different, however, when it comes to the question of *how* this process unfolds in organisms.

### **How we age: Mechanistic causes of ageing**

Luckily for junior scientists, our mechanistic theories of ageing are much more abundant and less clearly supported than our evolutionary theories. Perhaps the most immediate question regarding the actual process of ageing is whether it results from a single physiological mechanism, or from multiple mechanisms whose effects are roughly synchronised. Given the conclusion that ageing is a consequence of the ineffectiveness of natural selection, it follows that it must come about through multiple, possibly many, unrelated mechanisms.

As a crude analogy, let us imagine owning a car in a very unsafe city, where vehicles are constantly being stolen or damaged. In such circumstances, we should be wise to buy a cheap car which might last a few years, and to spend as little as possible in maintenance, as otherwise the return on our investment may never materialise. Nevertheless, if by a stroke of fortune, we find ourselves owning the same car after a good number of years, we should expect it to come apart by virtue of its being cheap and poorly maintained. This analogy unflatteringly exposes the ultimate reason for ageing — insufficient quality and care — yet it sheds no light as to which of the car's components is expected to fail first. Given that the car's decay is caused by deficient maintenance, we might expect multiple of its components to misbehave with increasing frequency, up to the point where the machine as a whole cannot function. Moreover, different processes might be responsible for each component's failure: the transmission may expire out of sheer friction, while the pistons might succumb to soot. Hence, even though the ultimate cause of ageing may be universal, the processes immediately involved are manifold.

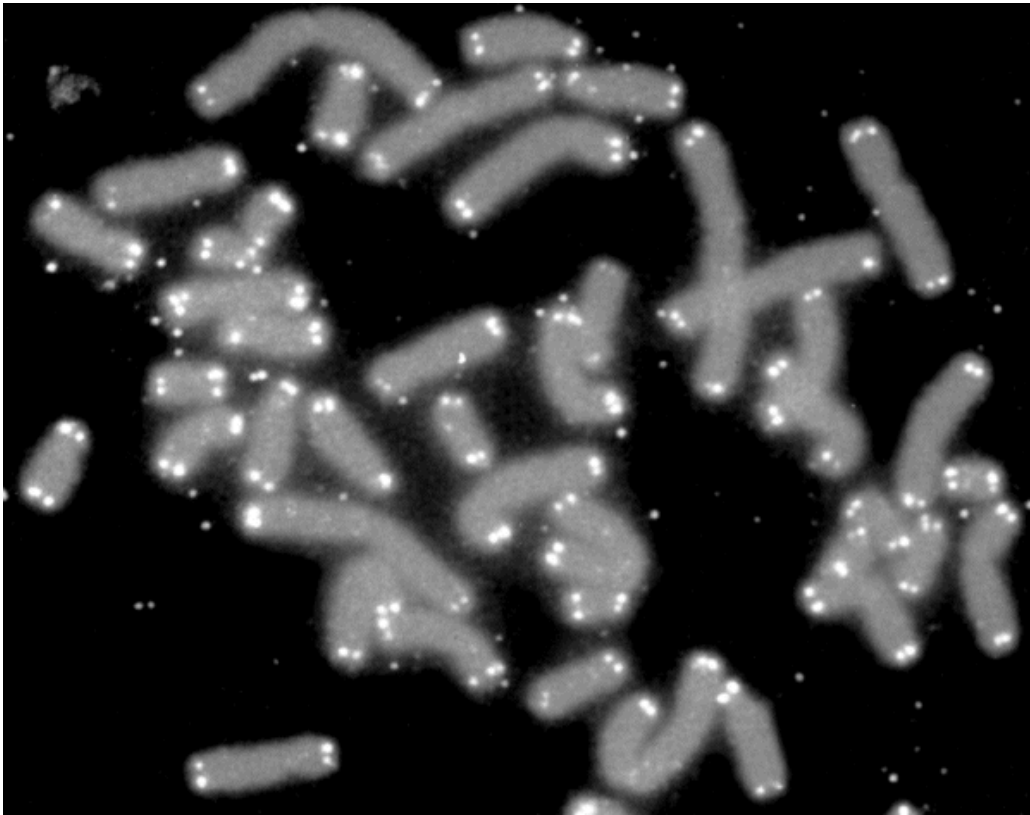
As suggested by this analogy, current research on ageing focuses on the challenging task of establishing which physiological processes contribute to ageing, and how significant each is. A large number of distinct processes have indeed been proposed as mechanistic causes of ageing. Among the most interesting of these are 'nutrient signalling pathways', which are functional networks of molecules responsible for transmitting the physiological signals produced when we acquire nutrients. The most popular molecule in this network is insulin, essential



for the regulation of blood glucose levels. Yet in addition to the well-known relationship between deficient insulin signalling and diabetes, it has been found that interventions which interfere with nutrient signalling can considerably prolong the lifespan of many species, both vertebrate and invertebrate. For instance, a treatment known as 'dietary restriction', whereby the supply of food (or of certain nutrients) is permanently reduced, is considered the most reliable way of extending animal lifespan. Furthermore, the deactivation of certain nutrient signalling genes, by either mutation or pharmacological treatment, produces similar effects to those of dietary restriction. In the 1990s, Cynthia Kenyon and her colleagues discovered that mutations in such a gene led to a doubling of lifespan in nematode worms, a finding followed by similar reports about fruit flies by the groups of Dame Linda Partridge and Marc Tatar. On the other hand, nutrient signalling also regulates body growth and development, and animals subjected to these life-prolonging interventions tend to be stunted and ill-developed. Interestingly, although the network of effects whereby nutrient signalling modulates development and longevity is not yet fully characterised, it is believed to be the reason why smaller dog breeds live longer than larger ones.

A second leading candidate among possible mechanisms of ageing is molecular damage. Cells are constantly exposed to many kinds of chemical damage, which can alter their constituent molecules and impair the efficiency of cellular processes. The types of molecules subject to such damage include proteins (which are both the cell's building blocks and its working tools) and DNA (which carries the organism's genetic information, including the instructions for protein synthesis). One extensively studied type of DNA modification with potential roles in ageing is the shortening of telomeres — long stretches of DNA which are placed at the ends of chromosomes to protect them from fraying, like the aglet in a shoelace (Fig 2). Telomeres are slightly shortened every time a cell divides into two new cells, and eventually become too short to allow further cell division, which is thought to be an important barrier against the emergence of cancer — but might also be a cause of ageing. Recently, the biologist María Blasco and her team reported the striking finding that the rate of telomere shortening in a species is related to its lifespan, such that telomeres erode faster in shorter-lived species. Nevertheless, this relationship is obscured by the fact that shorter-lived species also tend to

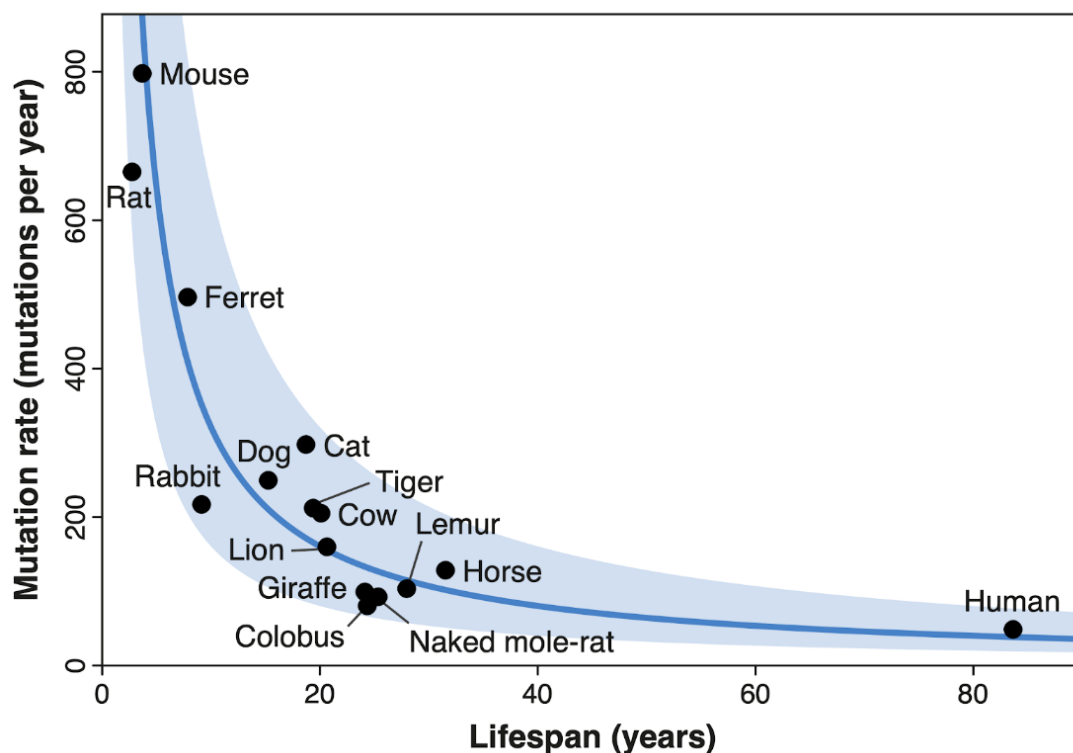
be smaller, and body size itself is thought to influence many aspects of animal physiology.



*Figure 2. Fluorescence microscopy image showing the location of telomeres (white) at the ends of human chromosomes (grey). Telomeres preserve the integrity of DNA inside chromosomes, and their shortening over time has been proposed as a cause of ageing. (Credit: NASA/Wikimedia Commons, public domain)*

Working with Alex Cagan and other researchers at the Wellcome Sanger Institute, I recently explored the relationship between animal lifespan and another common form of DNA modification — somatic mutations. This term refers to the changes that accrue in our DNA over time; such mutations are not present initially in any of our cells, but are acquired by individual cells as our bodies grow and age. Somatic mutations were first hypothesised to contribute to ageing in the 1960s, but their exact role remains elusive. Cagan and I characterised the rate of mutation across sixteen species of mammals, from mice to giraffes, and found a very similar relationship to that described for telomeres: shorter-lived species mutate faster than longer-lived ones, such that a mouse cell acquires as many mutations in two years as a human cell might do in

eighty (Fig 3). Crucially, we determined this result to be unaffected by the relationship between longevity and body size: at least in mammals, the mutation rate can be used to predict a species' lifespan, regardless of its size. The fact that the rates of different forms of molecular damage present similar relationships with lifespan suggests — but does not prove — that these forms of damage may be involved in ageing.



*Figure 3.* Diagram showing the inverse relationship between lifespan and the rate of somatic mutation in 16 species of mammals. The mutation rate of each species is inversely proportional to its lifespan, such that all species carry a similar number of mutations in their cells' DNA at the end of their respective lifespans. This relationship is indicated by the blue line, with the shadowed area marking a two-fold deviation from this line. (Source: Cagan & Baez-Ortega et al., *Nature* 604, 517–524, 2022)

It might seem inconsistent that processes as unrelated as nutrient signalling and molecular damage might all contribute to ageing. But these processes are not so distant when viewed in the light of a theory known as the 'disposable soma' theory of ageing. According to this, the physiology of complex organisms includes a central energy trade-off, such that the energy acquired from food is distributed between the processes of somatic maintenance (the preservation of the body via repair

of molecular damage) and reproduction (the preservation of genes via their transmission to offspring). Rather than grappling with the evolutionary origin of ageing, this theory provides a framework for its physiological regulation. Because our body (the 'soma') is ultimately perishable, the energy trade-off between maintenance and reproduction has presumably been optimised by evolution to favour the expensive process of reproduction in times of nutrient abundance, and to promote maintenance instead when nutrients are limited. It is thus possible that nutrient signalling disruption modifies the speed of ageing by interfering with the 'gauge' of this energy allocation system, whereas molecular damage may simply be the force which opposes somatic maintenance processes. Despite the remarkable coherence of the disposable soma theory, the evidence for the existence of a universal energy trade-off in animals is currently inconclusive. It is possible that, like so much else in biology, energy trade-offs are crucial but not universal: they might be relevant only for some species, or in certain organs, or at particular periods in life. Even in this time of unparalleled scientific progress, an immensity of knowledge remains to be discovered regarding the physiological processes involved in ageing.

### **The battle against ageing**

Since the days of Darwin and Weismann, we have come to understand ageing not as a death force evolved for the benefit of the species, but rather as an inextricable consequence of the manner in which evolution works. Animal bodies have not evolved to live forever, but to succeed in surviving and reproducing amidst a ruthless environment. The biology of our bodies is such as it is precisely because our ancestors managed to succeed in these tasks, not because they managed to live forever.

Whatever the causes of ageing, the essential question for humanity is whether we shall ever be able to overcome ageing processes — perhaps not with a view to living forever, but at least to enjoying longer-lasting health and a happier old age. It seems clear that this target will remain out of reach so long as we fail to understand what exactly 'ageing' means at the molecular level. Someday we might gain the power to manipulate the processes by which our bodies fend off the effects of time, or even to combat such effects directly; we may finally be able to throttle and domesticate the process of ageing. But such miracles lie still beyond the

horizon, and for years to come we must keep drawing on the power of conventional medicine to manage individual age-related conditions.

When it comes to growing older, A C Benson's own theory may be more helpful than those discussed here: 'I have a theory that one ought to grow older in a tranquil and appropriate way, that one ought to be perfectly contented with one's time of life, that amusements and pursuits ought to alter naturally and easily, and not be regretfully abandoned'. Too modest a theory, perhaps; he goes on to concede that 'It is easier said than done'. Yet, even as we feel the gentle slipping away of youth between our fingers, we should be wise to recall the words of Longfellow:

For age is opportunity no less  
Than youth itself, though in another dress,  
And as the evening twilight fades away  
The sky is filled with stars, invisible by day.

A Baez-Ortega



*Detail from Portrait of an Old Woman by Rembrandt*

## **'EVERY HOUSEHOLD SHOULD HAVE A COPY OF THIS TEXT'**

### GUIDES TO DAILY LIFE IN EARLY MODERN CHINA

*Awarded a Yip Visiting Fellowship in the Michaelmas Term of 2021, I was honoured to have the opportunity to come to Magdalene from Brown University and participate—to the extent that the pandemic then allowed—in the life of the College. My time at Magdalene was devoted primarily to completing preparations for a series of talks on Chinese book history for the Panizzi Lectures at the British Library. What follows introduces a topic from those lectures that reflects my own particular research focus in Chinese book history: texts newly produced in the early modern period to meet the demands of 'ordinary readers' for practical (and sometimes not so practical) information about the technologies of daily life.*

The proliferation of books claiming to provide the reading public with advice for the conduct of daily life is one of the striking new developments in the booming commercial publishing world of late Ming (1368–1644) China. In the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries, 'compendia of myriad treasures' (*wanbao quanshu* 萬寶全書) produced in Jianyang, Fujian, one of the major publishing centres of the day, were the most striking example of this phenomenon. They claimed to provide such comprehensive practical advice, largely in the form of collections of citations from other earlier texts, about matters as various as writing elegant letters, treating childhood diseases, playing chess, interpreting dreams—to name just a few topics—so that readers would never have to embarrass themselves by asking help or advice from others.

The commercial growth of the late Ming—and the resulting rise in the status of merchants, monetisation of the economy, and expansion of cities and market towns—created the economic and social conditions for the growth of a public that included an increasing number of commoner men (and some women) with the literacy skills and purchasing power to consume books. A movement within Confucianism that celebrated the moral potential of 'ordinary men and women' and promoted the production of texts of popular education served, too, to enlarge the reading public. City life stimulated a demand for information and entertainment, as well as guidance about how to appear a knowledgeable and sophisticated urbanite.

Commercial publishers were quick to take advantage of these trends by producing works crafted to meet the social and cultural needs of this burgeoning commoner, largely urban, readership. It is not surprising that the Jianyang publishers, noted since the twelfth century as purveyors of popular print, proved to be particularly shrewd innovators. By advertising their *wanbao quanshu* as works ‘for all four classes of the people’ or ‘for all under heaven’ (two phrases that frequently appear in their titles), they capitalised on the new stature claimed for ‘ordinary men and women’ in contemporary Confucian thought, while of course enlarging the potential market for these works—and their own profits.

These ‘encyclopaedias for daily use’ celebrated a form of knowledge that had in the past been marginalised or even disdained in elite writing: the useful technical knowledge required to manage the mundane tasks of life. In his preface to *Santai’s Infinitely Useful [Guide to] How to Do Everything Right for the Convenient Consultation of All the Four Classes under Heaven, Newly Cut* (*Xinke tianxia simin bianlan Santai wanyong zhengzong* 新刻天下四民便覽三台萬用正宗, 1599), Yu Xiangdou 余象斗 (c. 1550–1637?) states that, fearful that the knowledge of ‘the hundred schools and multitudinous techniques’ (*baijia fangji* 百家方技) of medicine, divination, physiognomy, etc, would be lost if no one recorded them, he has devoted himself to ‘collecting all the techniques, dividing them into categories, bringing together the essential, and selecting the best,’ with the result that *How to Do Everything Right* is comprehensive in its coverage of practical knowledge. Yu claimed that ‘nothing in the world and nothing of daily use has not been searched out and included’.

But knowledge of techniques was just the kind of knowledge long marginalized in the orthodox Confucian tradition—or even seen, at worst, as injurious to the learning of the Way. The true scholarly gentleman mastered the timeless cosmological, moral, and ethical teachings of the Classics, the words of China’s ancient sages. Too much attention to practical technologies, trivial matters suited to the attention of petty men, would divert the gentleman from study of the wisdom of the sages. Here, however, in the late Ming encyclopedias, it is mastery of these ‘trivial’ technologies that is the goal. As the 1600 preface to *Myriad Chapters of Scattered Stars Gathered by a Forest of Literati, Collated by Worthies for Circulation to All under Heaven, Newly Cut* (*Xinqie Yantai jiaozheng tianxia tongxing wenlin jubao wanjuan xingluo* 新鐫燕臺校正天下通行文林

聚寶萬卷星羅), puts it, these works contain ‘miraculous knowledge’ ‘not found in the ‘Six Classics and the Four Books’, the core texts of the Confucian canon.

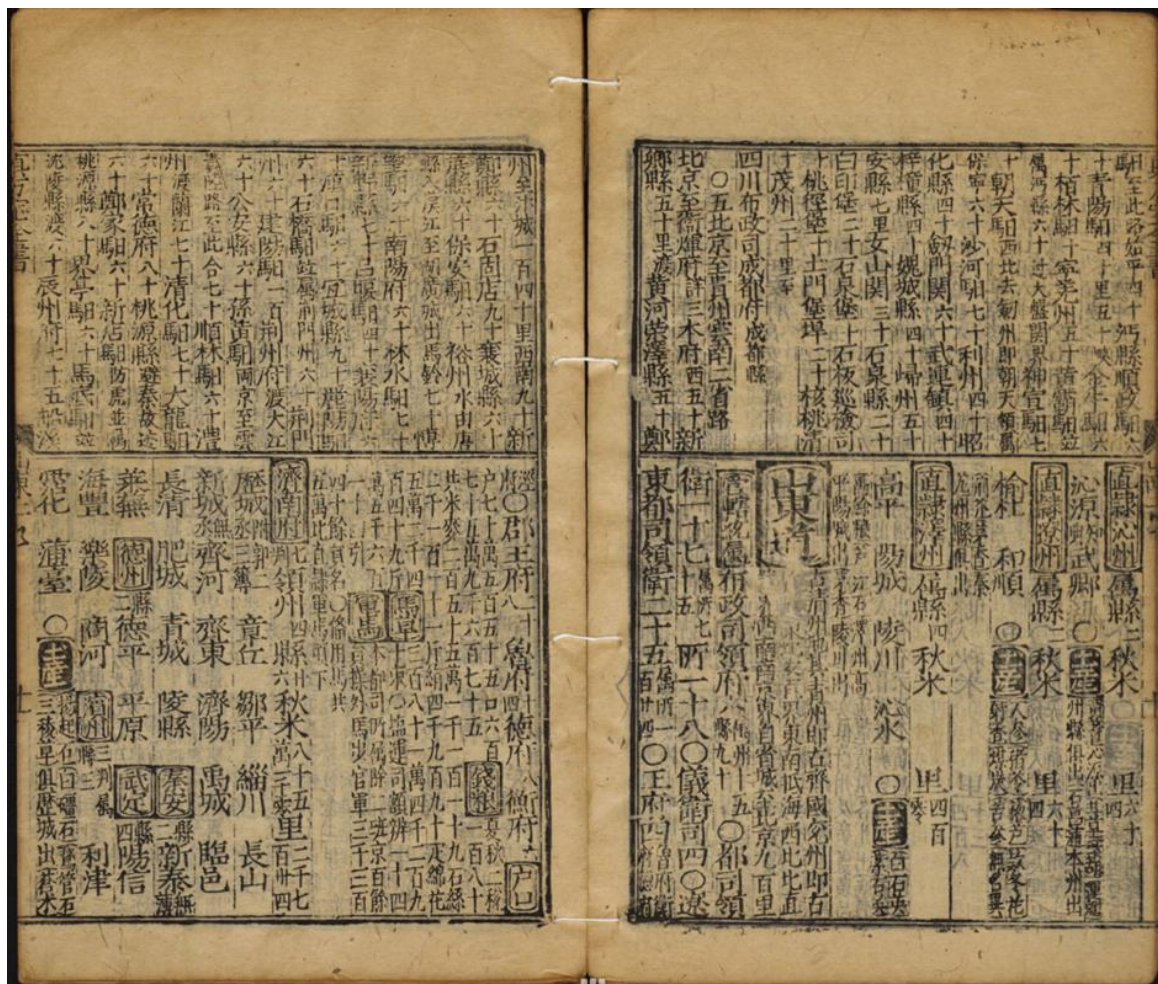


Figure 1. Pages from ‘Geography’ in the Marvellous Complete Book of Myriad Treasures from the Forest of Literati for the Convenient Use of All under Heaven, Newly Published and Expanded (Xinban zengbu tianxia bianyong wenlin miaojin wanbao quanshu 新板增補天下便用文林妙錦萬寶全書) (hereafter Marvellous Complete Book of Myriad Treasures), published in 1612 by the Anzheng tang 安正堂 of Liu Ziming 劉子明. As in most chapters of the better produced wanbao quanshu, efforts are made to guide the reader through the mass of detail with paratexts that highlight new sub-topics: larger characters (indicating the major administrative units), intaglio cutting and printing (for the category ‘special products’), circle-markers, and a variety of border forms for the identification of other types of information including population and tax revenues). Courtesy of the Harvard-Yenching Library.



The contents of the *wanbao quanshu* bear out this claim. For example, *How to Do Everything Right*, the longest and most comprehensive of the extant encyclopaedias, includes among its 43 chapters a few that could be said to present Confucian teachings and the kind of general information such as that about geography, historical figures and official ranks, available in previous encyclopaedias designed for elite education or study for the imperial examinations. But, in the late Ming encyclopaedias, these are overwhelmed by the number of chapters that treat such ‘techniques’ as agriculture and sericulture, raising livestock, mathematical calculations, merchant travel, drinking games, pregnancy and childbirth, fate calculation, correspondence and terms of address. In these works, ‘Visiting Brothels’ is given the same status as ‘Teachers and Confucians’, each occupying its own chapter.

How would one use these daily use encyclopaedias? Were they truly guides to the conduct of daily life?

To some extent the encyclopaedias followed earlier models. Like the educational encyclopaedias of the Tang (612–907), Song (960–1279), and Yuan (1279–1368), they do purport to provide straightforward ‘factual’ information about China’s geography and history and the foreign peoples on its borders and beyond. ‘Geography,’ for example, lists the provinces, their major administrative subdivisions, important physical features, population, land tax revenues, and the ‘special products’ for which they were known (Fig 1). Another chapter, ‘Human Records’, narrates Chinese history through brief accounts of successive dynasties and rulers. ‘Foreign Peoples’ (or ‘Barbarians’), one of the more colourful chapters, combines illustrations and brief descriptions of real peoples on China’s borders and, the farther one gets from those borders, increasingly fanciful imaginary lands (Fig 2).

In addition to the factual information they provided about China and the outside world, the *wanbao quanshu* were also like earlier encyclopaedias in that they were designed as aids to the composition of essays, letters and documents. Composed of lists of citations from earlier writings arranged under categories of information and knowledge, they offered novice writers storehouses of phrases and allusions that they could use to embellish essays and letters. Such writers might find a work like the *Quick Guide to All Categories of Things, Printed with Sideline Notes* (*Qie pangzhu shilei jielu* 鐫旁註事類捷錄, 1603) to be very useful. The entry for ‘Moon’ in the chapter ‘Heavenly Patterns,’ for example, lists a series

of phrases used in ancient texts to describe the moon: 'heavenly envoy', from the sentence 'the moon is the envoy of heaven' of the second century BCE text *Huainanzi* 淮南子; 'like a jade tablet,' from the fifth-century *Collected Writings of Jiang Wentong* 江文通集. Judicious use of these phrases, it was hoped, would impress a reader with the erudition and literary sensitivity of the writer. Of course, these entries might, too, simply be read pleurably as collections of beautiful or profound turns of phrase.



Figure 2. The top register of the chapter on foreign peoples depicts and describes the imaginary 'Zhu Yin' 燭陰 (R) and 'Di Jiang' 帝江 (L) peoples, while the bottom register treats the (real) people of the Ryukyu Islands (R) and the nomadic Jurchens (L). From the Marvellous Complete Book of Myriad Treasures. Courtesy of the Harvard-Yenching Library.

Similarly, there were the chapters that provided model rhymed couplets and guides to correspondence. Rhymed couplets, *duilian* 對聯, were exchanged at all major holidays and life events such as birthdays, weddings, the award of examination degrees and the opening of stores, and it was thus essential any literate be able to produce couplets appropriate to these occasions. This is precisely what the *wanbao quanshu* provided. Chapters on correspondence also offered equally practical guidance on the composition of both private letters to family members and friends and birthday congratulations and somewhat more formal correspondence including business letters, letters of recommendation and invitations. They, too, consist of collections of phrases to be used in these various forms of correspondence, official and private. But they also often include extra aids that elucidate what we might call some of the general principles of correspondence—for example, charts that make clear the terms a writer should use to indicate his/her awareness of his status vis-à-vis his correspondent (Fig 3).

Even more practically useful, perhaps, were chapters that provided models of documentary or official forms, including contracts for selling land, houses, livestock, and concubines, or for hiring labour or transport, petitions to local officials, property division documents and community compacts. But most interesting and useful for analysis of the significance of these works in late Ming society are the many chapters that explain how to master the ‘multitudinous techniques’ that Ye Xiangdou celebrated in his preface to *How to Do Everything Right* and that dominate the contents of the Jianyang *wanbao quanshu*. Ye’s own encyclopaedia, in addition to the conventional topics described above, covered entertainment and leisure activities (Five games, Kickball, Gambling, Drinking games, Visiting brothels, Leisure activities, Jokes); divination and fortune-telling (Alchemy, Astrology, Physiognomy, Divination, Numerology, Dream interpretation, Geomancy, Auspicious times); medicine and self-cultivation (Daoist cultivation, Nurturing life, Medicine, Preserving youth, Pregnancy and childbirth, Charms for expelling disease), merchant aids (Merchant routes, Mathematical calculation); and professional technologies (Construction, Agriculture and sericulture, Raising livestock). Earlier encyclopaedias cursorily treated a few of these topics (although they were often lumped together under one very general title such as ‘The Ways of Man’), but here they dominate. As Shang Wei puts it, in these works, ‘ordinary practices,

which had been marginalised if not entirely ignored in conventional official-elite discourse, became not only subjects important enough to warrant definition, classification, and explanation but also the guiding ethos for organising the entire body of knowledge and one's frame of social reference'.

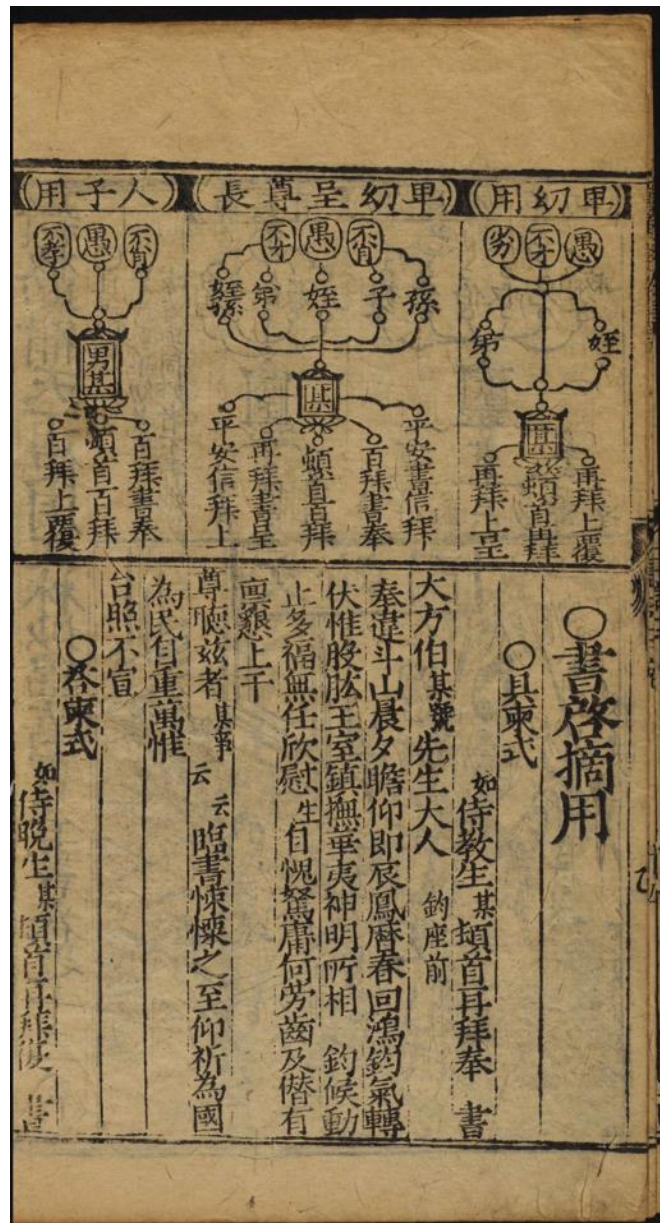


Figure 3. At the top are charts explaining the phrases—'stupid', 'untalented', 'unfilial' and others—that a younger male should use instead of 'I' in addressing his grandfather, father, uncle, or older brother. From the Marvellous Complete Book of Myriad Treasures. Courtesy of the Harvard-Yenching Library.

In foregrounding these ‘ordinary practices’, the compilers of the daily-use encyclopaedias—wily commercial publishers with considerable experience in reading popular trends—were revealing several of the preoccupations of late Ming society: commerce, individual cultivation, and entertainment. The concerns of merchants—the best and safest travel and transport routes and methods of calculation and keeping accounts—are the subjects of two chapters, two more than in most earlier encyclopaedias, which for the most part avoided references to an occupational group viewed with disdain in orthodox Confucian writings.

The impressive number of chapters devoted to methods for calculating and improving the fate, and to a somewhat lesser degree, ensuring the good health and longevity of the individual and family also spoke to contemporary concerns about the individual’s (and family’s) ability to get ahead during a period of rapid economic change and social mobility. Books that advised readers how they might ‘establish their own fate’ (*li ming* 立命) through the accumulation of merit and other strategies that promised to yield very worldly rewards—examination degrees, official posts, longevity, the birth of sons—were very popular in the late Ming; the *wanbao quanshu* offered a compendium of these different methods in their many chapters on techniques of divination, fortune-telling, and fate manipulation.

Finally, an interest in pleasure—and not pleasure as defined by Confucius as enjoying the fruits of study or the visits of friends from afar, but the pleasure of visits to brothels, drinking, and gambling—is strikingly evident in these encyclopaedias. Once again, it seems that their compilers were astutely reading contemporary social trends and tastes: life in the late Ming, particularly in the cities of the lower Yangzi delta, offered plentiful opportunities for play and indulgence in the luxuries of urban life. In sum, Yu Xiangdou’s ‘hundred schools and multitudinous techniques’ do more than supplement the Confucian teachings of the Six Classics and the Four Books; they reveal a new set of values that celebrates—or at least makes acceptable—profit, social ambition, and (illicit) pleasure.

The topics covered in the Jianyang *wanbao quanshu* thus reflect many of the distinctive qualities of late Ming society and print culture. But how truly useful were works like *How to Do Everything Right* or any of the other Jianyang encyclopaedias? Would they really teach an aspiring urban sophisticate how to make witty conversation in a brothel,

discuss painting and calligraphy knowledgeably with literati, play the zither (the favoured musical instrument of the elite)—or, for that matter, teach a novice farmer how to plough a field or an anxious parent how to cure a sick child?

Most likely not. Many chapters consist of information cobbled together from other works, and not in a coherent order that would make them useful guides to action. The complex technologies of rice agriculture and sericulture cannot be conveyed in the summary descriptions and highly generalised illustrations of 'Agriculture and Sericulture' in the *Marvellous Complete Book of Myriad Treasures from the Forest of Literati* (Fig 4).



Figure 4. 'Cutting Rice Stalks' (bottom right) and 'Threshing Rice' (bottom left), from 'Agriculture and Sericulture' in the *Marvellous Complete Book of Myriad Treasures*. Courtesy of the Harvard-Yenching Library.

And the chapters that might offer aid to a reader aspiring to join literati circles—for example, those claiming to provide information on the elite arts—calligraphy, painting, music—contain much that is misleading, often comically so. Wang Cheng-hua calls attention to illustrations in the ‘Calligraphy’ chapter of an encyclopaedia that purport to show examples of archaic script characters, these are wildly imagined seal-script forms consisting of little animals or petals organised roughly in character form (Fig 5). Here, the encyclopaedias provide not instruction, but rather, scattered, often entertaining, information for those wishing to appear ‘in the know’ about a range of topics, from pagoda construction to calligraphy and painting, from casting charms to playing chess.



Figure 5. From the ‘Calligraphy’ chapter of the *Marvelous Complete Book of Myriad Treasures*. The characters on the bottom register are standard characters, but those on the upper register on the left-hand leaf, supposedly depicting an ancient script, are purely imaginary. Courtesy of the Harvard-Yenching Library.

In the end, then, what does the popularity of these ‘daily use’ encyclopaedias from the commercial publishers of Jianyang tell us about late Ming society and book culture? The books reveal a voracious appetite among the reading public for works that offered instruction in the ‘multitudinous techniques’ of daily life, even while they dutifully maintained many of the conventions of previous encyclopaedias, newly valorised. They included information about orthodox Confucian ideas and rituals, but placed this information within an expanded knowledge universe that made it no more important than information about techniques of divination and fortune-telling. They reveal a thirst for information about elite culture that these works slaked with (often unreliable) lessons about, for example, how to play the zither, how to paint in the literati style, how to recognise archaic scripts, and how to appear suave and worldly in brothels. The books also supplied readers with information, albeit not necessarily reliable, about lives outside their own: for urban dwellers, rustic images of farmers planting rice and caring for their livestock; for rural dwellers, visions of urban entertainments and convivial drinking games. The books created a colourful imaginary of daily life in the late Ming that embraced the wide range of different beliefs and techniques that promised to teach ‘how to do everything right’ to readers eager to get ahead during a period of intense social mobility.

Cynthia Brokaw  
(Yip Fellow 2021)



## THE DUNSTER STONE

A century ago, Harvard University's President, Abbott Lawrence Lowell, proposed an ambitious plan. He wished to build several residential houses at Harvard, facilities where upperclassmen would live and work in a community setting. The first of these houses opened in 1930 and was named Dunster House in memory of Henry Dunster, who became Harvard's first President in 1640 and had matriculated at Magdalene in 1627.

Emmanuel College sometimes claims that its alumnus John Harvard was the founder of Harvard College in 1636, but that was not the case. John Harvard was not a Harvard *founder* but was in fact a generous *benefactor* who gave 400 library books and £779, quite munificent donations in the late 1630s. While these gifts quickly persuaded the grateful college to adopt his name, they did little to help it when Harvard's initial Master was caught embezzling funds. He was promptly sacked. The impoverished college closed in 1639 before graduating a single student.

Henry Dunster became the first President of Harvard College in August 1640, and the college reopened. It consisted of a single building and less than three acres of land. Dunster was the sole instructor for several years, and he framed Harvard's charter, making it the oldest corporation in the United States. (Professor Hyam reviews Dunster's years at Harvard in an article that appeared in the *College Magazine* for 2008–09.) However, in 1654 Dunster expressed grave doubts about infant baptism and was indicted as a heretic; in what was becoming a tradition at Harvard, his resignation was demanded. Nevertheless, his tenure was a successful one: though Dunster was not the founder of Harvard, he qualified as a founder and was certainly the person who put Harvard on the track to greatness that followed over the next centuries.

As Dunster House was being built nearly 300 years later, Magdalene College offered to remove two tracery stones from First Court and send them to Harvard. The offer was accepted, and these were placed on a wall near the doors to Dunster House's dining hall with the following inscription: 'The two tracery stones above this niche, a part of Magdalene College Cambridge in Henry Dunster's time, were given by the Master and Fellows of the College in the year 1930'. The first Master of Dunster House, Chester Noyes Greenough, wrote in 1931 to the Master

of Magdalene, A B Ramsay, to thank him for his kindness ‘in enabling us to have this visible evidence of the bond between the two foundations’. An enormous Magdalene shield was placed on a west-facing pediment of Dunster House to commemorate the relationship. Two years earlier, in 1928, Harvard alumni had been approached for the College's quatercentenary appeal and generously funded what was to be a whole staircase in the new Lutyens Building of Benson Court (now D staircase). Mr Lowell was elected an Honorary Fellow. Construction of the Lutyens Building began in 1930 and on D was carved the shield of Harvard (‘VERITAS’) which had been designed by Dunster.

Some 85 years later, Dunster House began a comprehensive renovation that closed the facility for over a year. It occurred to me that the timing was right for Magdalene to ask for something in return, some fragment of Dunster House that could be sent to Magdalene as another piece of ‘visible evidence of the bond’ between the two institutions. I sought advice from Roger Cheever (1967), an Associate Vice-President of Harvard, and he in turn contacted the Master of Dunster House, who promptly and graciously arranged for us to collect two large stones from the work site in 2015.



*Roger Cheever, Mr Chartener, and his daughter Matilda, collecting the stones at the Dunster House work site at Harvard in June 2015*

The stones languished in my barn until October 2020, when Covid-proof shippers collected, packed, and transported one limestone slab to the New Library at Magdalene. It weighed 283 pounds, which gave me considerable appreciation for the Fellows' wise decision in 1930 to send just two small tracery stones to Massachusetts. After some discussion, it was decided that the Dunster House stone could be trimmed slightly and installed as the base for the statue of St Mary Magdalene, the statue relocated from the belvedere and once adorning the pinnacle of the Chapel.

Some months later as the finishing touches were put on the New Library, the stone was set in the ground, and the statue of St Mary Magdalene was placed on top. The stone now stands to the side of the main door to the Library as an enduring symbol of the close association between Henry Dunster's two beloved institutions: Harvard University and Magdalene College.

R V Chartener



*The statue of St Mary Magdalene on the Dunster stone outside the New Library*

## THE MAGDALENE SEAMSTRESS



I grew up in Cambridge and hated it. I longed to get away from the (then) stifling town/gown divide. I left as soon as I could, swearing never to return. But look at me now – happily ensconced in the basement of Benson D, Radio 4 on, happily sewing away in my own little haven. I am so lucky to love my job and I've now been here for eleven years, longer than anywhere else. And my job has kept me sane while I dealt with elderly parents and teenage children.

Every day is different, and I never know what I'll be asked to do next. From the mundane to the weird, it's all part of being the Magdalene seamstress. Masters, Fellows, students and staff have come and gone, but my job is very largely unchanged (even though apparently it once came with a ground-floor flat in Cory House, Northampton Street). Students often say in their final year that they didn't know I existed and had only just found out through a friend. Then the usual questions follow:

'Are there seamstresses in other colleges?'

'What do you actually do?'

Well, the majority of my time is spent making and repairing curtains. And yes, I tell them that I'm very sorry if their curtains are in shreds but it's like the Forth Bridge, a never-ending task. And, would you believe it, after eleven years, there are still rooms I haven't been into. Then there are the endless broken zips, buttons, and split crotches to keep me busy. I've repaired Korean War medals and mended Panama hats and students' riding crops (which led my cousin to rename me 'The Bobinatrix of Magdalene'). I have taken up hundreds of pairs of trousers, mended swimming costumes, sewn badges onto porters' waistcoats, made rain covers for the gardeners' tractors and covers for the antique globes in the Old Library. Books in the Pepys Library rest on special cushions lovingly made by myself.

It amazes me that some students are content to live with no curtains at all and others can't sleep if there is even a chink of light to be seen. Some people come and see me regularly once they discover where I am. Some students seem to think I live in my small workroom and never leave, expecting me to be at their beck and call, unaware of weekends and holidays. Some jobs, of course, are more pleasant than others. Recently, I was stripping down an eighteenth-century chair ready to upholster it only to discover it was completely encrusted with blood. I regularly have to repeat my plea that those bringing clothes to repair or alter must wash them first. Smelly and dirty clothes are hardly enjoyable to work with.

'Sustainability' has rightly become popular, but anyone who knows me is aware that I can't resist a skip or a junk shop and sustainability has always been part of my life. In the last few years I've been busy doing more upholstery and recycling for the College and have saved many desk chairs from landfill simply by recovering them by re-using old curtains or fabric remnants. I have also worked on more prestigious pieces, saving, for example, some remnants of the William Morris fabric from C S Lewis's chairs to make new cushions (see *C S Lewis as a Research Supervisor* below, pp 118-24). The beautiful but slightly sun-damaged gold damask curtains from the Pepys Library have been used to recover chairs and make new curtains. I've even used the Master's Lodge old curtains to recover the sofa in the housekeeping office.

Mine is an unusual job and when explaining where I work, I often describe it as a cross between Hogwarts and Downton Abbey. At one of the May Balls an American woman came in to the Bar and exclaimed: 'I

don't believe it, a real live seamstress, how quaint'. Those Balls are indeed a challenge: nights filled with ripped hems, tears, angst and much more. I usually set up in the Bar with my safety pins, sewing machine and nipple tape. I sit there all night, on hand to help sort out any wardrobe malfunction. There are many such and they get more unusual every time. Most common are the dresses that are too long, but the next major issue is broken shoes. I could set up as a cobbler or more easily just give out flip flops. Take heed if you're planning on wearing delicate strappy sandals or painfully high stilettos. I've sewn both men and women into their dresses and shirts when they have been too drunk to change into a dressing gown; I've mended sporrans that have been thrust into my face; I've shortened countless dresses and saved many an escaped breast from broken dress straps. It is certainly an experience to work at the May Ball and so rewarding when people arrive in tears and leave saying I've saved their life! I'm delighted that the Editor of the *Magazine* suggested I put pen to paper so that I could record what actually happens down in the basement of Benson D. Let us hope his beloved ancient gown which is held together by history and waning threads lasts another year of service because I don't think I can do any more to save it.

Ruth Eckstein



*May Ball under the Pepys Cloisters*

## C S LEWIS AS A RESEARCH SUPERVISOR

*This is a version of an article which first appeared in the Journal of Inklings Studies, April 2022 (Vol 12, Issue 1, pp 110-17). The author, A C Spearing, LittD (Cambridge), PhDhc (Lund), is William R Kenan Professor Emeritus of English, University of Virginia, and a Life Fellow of Queens' College.*



There may not be many people still living who had C S Lewis as their supervisor of research for a PhD. I am one of them, so it seems worth setting down what I remember of that experience, along with a few other recollections of Lewis.

C S Lewis and I arrived at Cambridge in the same year, 1954, I from school as a freshman and he from Oxford as the first occupant of the new chair of Medieval and Renaissance English. He was elected a Fellow of Magdalene in the same year. Aged 18, I entered Jesus College to read English. Most young men of my age were doing National Service, which was still compulsory, but those who won a scholarship, as I did, were allowed to defer their service until they had completed their

undergraduate degree. Subsequently, my Firsts in both Parts of the English Tripos not only encouraged me to continue my studies but meant that I would almost certainly be accepted as a Cambridge research student and could again defer entering the RAF for a further period – perhaps until the requirement to do military service was abolished (which was indeed what happened).

In my last undergraduate year, it gradually became clear I wanted to be a medievalist. My medieval supervisor was Elizabeth Zeeman (later Professor Elizabeth Salter), and with her help I proposed a study of *Piers Plowman* as a dream-poem. But when I returned to Cambridge in the autumn of 1957 – I imagine through some kind of muddle on the Degree Committee – I wasn't assigned a research supervisor at all, and it wasn't until halfway through the Michaelmas Term that I learned I was to be supervised by C S Lewis. That came as a surprise to me, and I believe to Mrs Zeeman, because while she was currently working and lecturing on *Piers Plowman*, he was not. I suppose she may have been thought too junior to take on research students, while he as holder of the chair of Medieval and Renaissance English would have been expected to do so.

I had never met Lewis before he became my research supervisor. I had heard some of his brilliantly entertaining lectures, including, in my first undergraduate term, his sparkling inaugural, 'De Descriptione Temporum', in which he described himself as a last specimen of Old Western Man, a surviving dinosaur, whom we should value as such. I had also read some of his writings: *The Allegory of Love* certainly, and possibly *English Literature in the Sixteenth Century* and *A Preface to Paradise Lost*. I knew nothing whatever of his personal life, now so familiar through cinema, television, and written biography, and had heard none of his radio broadcasts. During my time as his supervisee I knew nothing of his fiction or his Christian apologetics, books now sold in their millions. It may be hard now to realise that most of what 'C S Lewis' means to most people in 2022 could have been quite unknown to an English student in 1957.

On 6 November 1957 I received a note in Lewis's recognisable script as follows: 'Dear Mr Spearing, I gather I have been inflicted on you as a "supervisor", so I suppose we ought to meet. Wd. next Friday at 12 suit you? Don't bother replying if it would, yours sincerely C.S. Lewis'. Needless to say, I made sure that it did suit me, and knocked on the door



of his rooms in Magdalene College at precisely 12 the following Friday. 'A man could set his watch by you!' he later exclaimed at my continuing punctuality.

On this first visit to Lewis, I was in a state of nervous awe, and not fully at ease. That wasn't at all his fault: he was always genial and courteous towards me, if in a somewhat impersonal manner, but I couldn't help being conscious of his scholarly eminence, of his immense learning, of his being deeply at home in Anglican and Catholic Christianity and theology.

We met in a large undecorated sitting-room, of which all I remember is two windows giving onto the College court, one or two doors to his private quarters at the far end, a big table, and two plain armchairs on opposite sides of a gas fire. There was no central heating in those days, of course, not even for professors. [Editor: Those rooms are now the Chaplain's room (A6 First Court) with the private rooms beyond currently separate Fellows' rooms accessible from Chapel staircase. The Chaplain's room still contains Lewis's two armchairs and settee, now recovered, but retaining the wooden contraption from which he could read students' essays.]



*C S Lewis's wooden contraption (Photo: Matt Moon)*

As I recall from that first meeting, Lewis was a shortish, stout, balding, middle-aged, bespectacled, red-faced man, dressed, as he usually was, in a shabby tweed jacket and well-worn grey flannel trousers that didn't quite fit him. It was obvious that he cared nothing for outward appearances (nor, I came to believe, did he have much feeling for the visual arts, except for their iconography), and he made nothing of his enviable rooms in Magdalene – but then his home was in Oxford, to which he returned in the vacations and every weekend during term. Because undergraduates then wore gowns for supervisions, I had brought my new BA gown with me, and I asked him whether I should wear it when visiting him. He gave a hearty chuckle and said no, but he'd wear a gown if I liked. After I had stumblingly explained what I hoped to do in my dissertation, one of the first things he said was that he had read nothing written about *Piers Plowman* since 1936 – 1936, I suppose, as the year when his *Allegory of Love* was completed – and that he didn't intend to do so now.

As is indicated by the quotation marks round 'supervisor' in his letter, and by its general tone of reluctance, Lewis was opposed to the professionalisation of literary research and the introduction of research degrees such as the Oxford BLitt and the DPhil, with the accompanying expectation that, as in German and American universities, candidates should be trained in research methods and should situate their work in the whole existing field of relevant publications. Even though Oxford had been the first British university to introduce a doctorate based on writing a dissertation (in 1917, two years earlier than Cambridge), Lewis's notion of research in the humanities was that taken for granted by most Fellows of Oxford and Cambridge colleges at the beginning of his own academic career in the 1920s. Except when commissioned, as the *Sixteenth Century* and *Paradise Lost* books were, research was a personal matter that came second to undergraduate teaching – teaching usually not limited by period or topic but covering the whole historical range of a subject such as English literature. Giving talks when asked probably also had higher priority; Lewis believed in making specialised knowledge as accessible and as interesting as possible to a general public and of course succeeded triumphantly in doing that himself.

For Lewis, literary research, however advanced, should be motivated by individual interest and curiosity and would be based on the study of primary texts in their original languages. He once told me

that when he retired he hoped to learn Persian, so that he could read Persian love-poetry in the original. When he came to the chair at Cambridge, he reluctantly accepted the duty to 'supervise' PhD students, but for him that duty did not extend to keeping up with secondary reading in their fields.

So the work Lewis set me was not to read anything about *Piers Plowman* but to study the whole of W W Skeat's monumental edition of the A, B, and C texts in parallel, published in 1886, and in the 1950s still available from Oxford University Press as a lithographic reprint. We met for an hour once a fortnight during term, sometimes once a week. In these early supervisions our discussions involved a fortuitous convergence of Lewis's focus on primary texts with the 'close reading' strongly emphasized in the Cambridge undergraduate course. After a bit Lewis encouraged me to do some writing. I still have two-and-a-half closely written pages of his comments on what must have been a crude draft of a dissertation chapter, work that a few years later was to feed into two of my earliest academic articles.

Lewis told me that he loved Cambridge (not industrialized and not then the crowded tourist centre it has now become), because it reminded him of the unspoiled Oxford of his youth. I believe we discussed the fact that it was then still possible to see countryside in every direction from the tower of Great St Mary's. And he said that his favourite part of the week was his journey each weekend by train on the direct line that still existed between Cambridge and Oxford, because it enabled him to read and think without interruption.

In the summer of 1958, seeing that I was not being helped to keep up with current scholarship and criticism on *Piers Plowman*, Mrs Zeeman managed to persuade the Degree Committee that she should take over from Lewis as my supervisor. Under her guidance, I came near to completing my dissertation, even if on a much narrower topic than I'd originally intended – a common experience, of course, among PhD students. But I never submitted it; working on it for too long, I had lost my enthusiasm, and in 1960 I was appointed to a university assistant lectureship, and then to an official fellowship at Queens' College, and so most of my time and energy was taken up with teaching. Those were the last days in which it was possible to make a respectable academic career without having a research degree. When I later moved from Cambridge to the University of Virginia, I was the only tenured member of the

English Department without a doctorate, except perhaps for those who taught creative writing. I like to think that Lewis would have been pleased. In one brief letter responding to something I'd written for him and asking me to visit him to discuss it further, he addressed me as 'Dear Spearing', which by the etiquette of the time was how he would have addressed a colleague, and continued, 'Most interesting, and an interpretation (whether one finally agrees with it or not) certainly worth powder and shot.' That willingness to admit the partial validity of an opposing case made by a student, and to welcome the possibility of further argument, set an admirable example for a budding academic.

Lewis had been extraordinarily conscientious in commenting in detail on anything I submitted to him, and he most kindly went on doing that after I had ceased to be his supervisee. One letter of 1960 or 1961 begins with the only reference to Shakespeare that I can remember from our acquaintance: "'He's a fool without his Book", said Caliban, and you catch me here without most of mine.' Lewis was presumably thinking of Caliban's warning to Stephano and Trinculo in Act III Scene 2 of *The Tempest*, as they plan to overthrow Prospero: 'Remember | First to possess his books; for without them | He's but a sot' – an interesting indication of Lewis's reliance not on books but on his well-stocked memory, and a nice tangle of remembering and misremembering. The reliance on memory, with its capacity for creative error, belongs to an older world of scholarship; the unreferenced misrecollection would never do in a modern academic article, but it does not distort Shakespeare's meaning, and it makes Lewis's point very aptly.

My only other recollections of Lewis derive from our membership of the Faculty Board of English. Like the supervision of research students, attendance at board meetings was an obligation he fulfilled reluctantly but conscientiously. I should explain that his appointment to the new Cambridge chair had aroused some controversy, with the loudest objectors being acolytes of F R Leavis, those who sat in the front row at Leavis's lectures, vigorously nodding at his assertions and laughing sycophantically at his sarcasms. They saw Lewis as a representative of all that was Oxonian, retrograde, and dead in English studies, and there was a widespread assumption that he and Leavis were deadly enemies. Yet what I noticed at board meetings was that when Lewis and Leavis both expressed opinions on policy matters, they were nearly always in agreement. A striking example is that they both

opposed suggestions that the works of American authors should be among the required texts for the English Tripos. Temperamentally very different, the two distinguished men shared a deeply traditionalist view of the nature of English studies, one that saw English literature as something quite different from literature in English.

I last met Lewis in the autumn of 1963, when I ventured to visit him at his home in Oxford to ask whether he would write a reference for me when I applied for a full university lectureship at Cambridge. It was only a few weeks before his death; he had taken early retirement because of ill health, but I had no idea how ill he was. I now realise that he must have been in great pain and can't in the least have wished to have me as a visitor, yet he received me with the greatest kindness and agreed to write the reference. Whether he did write it or not, I don't know; he may well have died before the question arose. It strikes me now that I have no idea what he might have written about me. His courtesy and geniality were both principled and genuine but were not to be confused with openness; that, I imagine, he shared only with a few intimates.

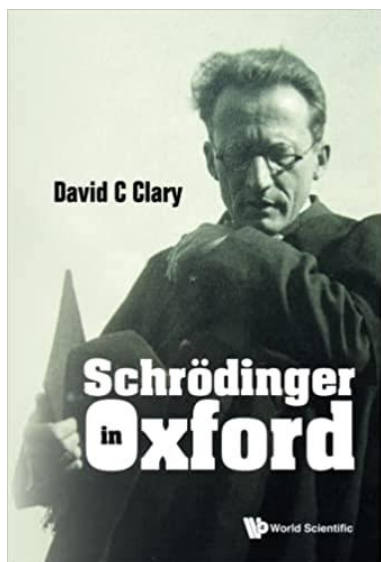
A C Spearing



*C S Lewis's windows in First Court (on first floor)*

## BOOK REVIEWS

DAVID C CLARY, *Schrödinger in Oxford* (WSPS, 2022, 420 pp)



Like the eponymous cat, in *Schrödinger in Oxford*, David Clary (Honorary Fellow) shows two co-existing Schrödingers: the first, a brilliant and confident scientist whose wave equation revolutionises twentieth century theoretical physics and chemistry; second, a man, somewhat naïve about politics, plagued by the uncertainty of not having a permanent academic position, constantly seeking security for his unconventional extended family.

To understand Schrödinger's time in Oxford, David Clary begins with a narrative of how the exciting new scientific developments of the quantum theory in the early twentieth century are intertwined with the academic personalities driving or hindering this scientific work and the deeply complex emerging web of European politics and the ever-darkening atmosphere in Germany and Austria.

Schrödinger's career is deeply entangled with this political environment and it is fitting that he coined the word 'entanglement' in a paper written during his time in Oxford.

The focus of this book is Schrödinger's Oxford period and his five years as a Fellow of Magdalen College. Among the comparatively little-changed world of gowns and candle-lit High Tables (including the custom of weighing Fellows at important occasions – a tradition which is also still performed today at Magdalen), we see a solitary scientist looking to establish a secure position for himself and his family and not wanting to have to rely on the kindness of others.

Schrödinger was admitted to his Fellowship at Magdalen in 1933 and later that same day was informed of his award of the Nobel Prize in Physics. While Magdalen rightly lists him as one of their Nobel Prize winners, the accolade may ultimately have led to his dissociation from the college as he spent a great deal of his time travelling and lecturing abroad, and we read of the then President's numerous letters written to

persuade him to dine at High Table. Ultimately, Schrödinger's search for permanence led him back to a Chair at Graz, Austria, in 1936. His reputation was then deeply clouded by a public letter he wrote in support of the Nazis in the hope of remaining in Graz, but any help this gave him was short-lived and he fled with his family in 1938 through the Vatican, leaving all his belongings and Nobel Medal behind, returning to Oxford and once again seeking refuge at Magdalen.

We see the story of this flight through the letters of those around Schrödinger, notably his wife Anny, as well as the Fellows and President of Magdalen, where Schrödinger spent a further few months as a refugee, his public political statement severely souring the atmosphere.

He left Oxford for a Visiting Professorship in Belgium which was curtailed by the outbreak of war, and Schrödinger once again had quickly to leave with his wife, daughter, and daughter's mother in tow and they moved to Dublin.

Some permanence finally came to Schrödinger by way of the President of Ireland who founded the Institute of Advanced Studies in Dublin with the unlikely combination of Celtic Studies and Theoretical Physics. At the Institute Schrödinger was the only theoretical physicist, but he remained there happily for many years before returning to his homeland of Austria in 1956.

In telling this story, David Clary weaves Schrödinger's and others' scientific journeys together with letters from prominent scientists and diaries from the family as well as personal recollections from Schrödinger's daughter, all of which give great depth to the personalities involved and allow readers to make their own judgements about Schrödinger's strengths and weaknesses.

As a quantum chemist, I found this book an excellent read, providing colour to the great scientist whose named equations and theories I use every day. Its focus on the people and their motivations during such a turbulent period of the twentieth century make the book broadly accessible. Unlike the question concerning Schrödinger's cat's life or death, I offer a categorical 'yes' to the question of whether to read *Schrödinger in Oxford*.

A J W Thom

ALI MEGHJI, *The Racialized Social System: Critical Race Theory as Social Theory* (Polity, 2022, 174 pp)



In troubled times when there seem to be a Babel of theories about racism and endless lexical confusion as to what it means, why it's there and where it comes from, this new book by Ali Meghji (Fellow) is a hugely welcome astringent. Brexit, Donald Trump and the global reaction to George Floyd's killing have, among some of the deeper tropes of structural racism, galvanised the author to argue that critical race theory – CRT – provides and must continue to provide indispensable scaffolding for the addressing of one of the modern world's most contentious 'ism's.

Indeed, these intense 170-plus pages cross the globe: from the United States where modern CRT began, arguably founded on the philosophy of W E B Du Bois of over a century ago, to Britain and France, and to South Africa, Australasia and Brazil. Trump is, perhaps predictably, a real flashpoint for the author's rising to the defence. As is stated in the introduction, the former US president once said critical race theory was 'like a cancer'. In political discourse in Britain, it hasn't always fared much better. Recent Tory leadership candidate Kemi Badenoch claimed that the current government stands 'unequivocally against critical race theory'.

Ali Meghji is unequivocal about what, precisely, he means by racism: 'We are ... talking about dynamics such as (to name a few) the fact that Black and Brown Brits are disproportionately represented in poverty and underemployment, that people of colour in the US are disproportionately exposed to air pollution, that lighter skin still carries a higher symbolic and economic wage in countries across Latin America, Africa and Asia...'

That said, a sharp, or single-focus, definition of CRT is far from easy. There are many different accounts of what it actually is. Trump lumped it lazily together with Marxist ideology and the supposed militarism of Black Lives Matter. In Britain, CRT has been seen as an offshoot of the decolonising movement that has sought to recognise the



dark side of the nation's history. In Australia it has been bound up in a wider movement for social justice.

Academics also differ radically in their interpretations. Marxist critics have characterised CRT as being an assertion of race centrism steeped in identity politics. More sympathetic scholars have – nonetheless – dubbed it as ‘not a unified theory but a loose hodgepodge of analytical tools’. Yet despite these semantic uncertainties, critical race theory is growing in popularity in, above all, Britain, with the author arguing at the same time that both critics and advocates of CRT have neglected the racialized social system approach. In so doing, critics have ‘missed the target’ in their rebuttals of CRT; advocates have downplayed the strength of critical race analysis.

The book adroitly proposes using a racialized social system approach to critical race theory, which, it is argued, has the conceptual flexibility to study British society. As a practical social theory, CRT offers us the tools to study the realities and reproduction of racial inequality. Underpinning this robustness and its theoretical nature, the book thus thoroughly examines and develops a conceptual framework for the racialized social system approach, paying specific attention to notions of social space, racial structure and racial interests, racialized interaction order, racialized emotions, and racial ideology, racial grammar and racialized cognition.

*The Racialized Social System* is a tour-de-force in the scholarly pursuit of a new deployment and understanding of CRT. It will stand as a benchmark text in the field for years to come.

James Woodall  
(Royal Literary Fund Fellow, 2017–19)



J J ORR, M COOKE, T J IBELL, C SMITH AND N WATSON, *Design for Zero* (Institution of Structural Engineers, 2021, 162 pp) This timely work includes among its authors John Orr (Fellow). More a reference book than a text book, the work is in many ways a combination of the two. As climate change moves up the agenda, all aspects of our lives must be considered and as buildings constitute 28% of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, the built environment must be high on the list of priorities.

After a foreword using examples as far apart as Salisbury Cathedral and a Stradivarius violin, the book opens with a scene-setting introduction very clearly outlining the nature and extent of the problem. It then goes on to discuss the process of design and materials selection currently in use, comparing the embedded carbon content of different materials. At this point, the approach changes and Part 2 of the book looks to the future and suggests several pathways to zero carbon stressing the importance of whole life cycle assessment (LCA). Part 2 offers a hierarchy of carbon reduction in four stages: 'Build Nothing', 'Build Less', 'Build Clever' and 'Build Efficiently'. The book takes each of these in turn, first describing what is meant by the term, then discussing the technical, sociological and economic aspects, followed by examples and case studies. In each case, three scenarios are given: today, 2035 and 2050. In all cases the client/architect/engineer relationship is used as a starting point.

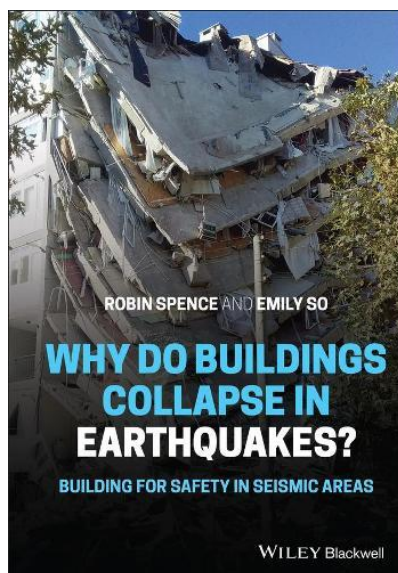
In 'Build Nothing' the parties involved are asked to think about whether they really need a new building or whether their needs can be met by re-purposing an existing building or by making better use of what they already have. In that case the carbon saving would be 100%. 'Build Less' involves modifying existing buildings to new use with the minimum of structural work. This generally results in a carbon saving of around 80%. 'Build Clever' is the most significant section. It accepts that some new build will be essential and looks at ways of reducing its embedded carbon. Concrete is identified as the most intractable problem. This section considers ways of reducing the amount of concrete

required, and using it only where no other construction material is suitable. It looks at various alternatives to Portland cement based concrete and low or zero carbon ways of production. It predicts savings of up to 50%.

'Build Efficiently' demonstrates that construction sites are notoriously inefficient and conservative and suggests that savings of about 20% are possible simply by changing the way things are done in design and on site. The book ends with a plea for a change of culture in the industry if it is going to get anywhere near to zero carbon by 2050. The volume is very much written by and for professional engineers and architects: it includes a set of definitions and is well referenced although its many acronyms are not always explained for wider audiences. Overall, the authors offer an extremely useful and novel contribution to the very real problems facing mankind.

R L Skelton

ROBIN SPENCE AND EMILY SO, *Why do Buildings Collapse in Earthquakes? Building for Safety in Seismic Areas*. (Wiley Blackwell, 2021, 304 pp)



Although many countries suffer fewer earthquake fatalities among their populations than in the past, the human and economic costs of earthquakes continue to mount dramatically. It also seems that on present calculations future earthquakes will remain among the costliest single disaster events throughout the world. A critical issue therefore is the extent to which the severity of earthquake risk can be communicated not only to governments and institutions but to threatened people themselves. Among a number of derivative questions is whether suffering might be alleviated by better developing different metrics, such as the calculation of economic cost. In terms of

earthquake mitigation, the cost of being prepared is far less than that of doing nothing.

In this succinct but marvellously wide-ranging study, Robin Spence and Emily So (Fellows) argue that we require more general advocacy to governments and international agencies to advance risk mitigation policies and regulations and that these must embrace the local as well as the national and international. At local level in particular, the need is for better engagement and implementation. Informed individuals must develop new ways of communicating and responding to those affected by earthquakes in order to effect physical and behavioural changes to their lives.

As the authors conclude, 'as our world population increases and more people are congregating in areas of risk, we have a duty of care as professionals to communicate earthquake risks, provide feasible solutions, and help people engage constructively with reducing earthquake risks worldwide.' *Why do Buildings Collapse in Earthquakes?* does exactly this, setting out in nine finely presented sections an exacting analysis of key lessons learned from building failures in earthquakes around the world from Ahmadabad to Bogota and from Istanbul and Athens to Christchurch and San Francisco (among many more). A rich selection of photographs and easily comprehensible graphs and charts accompany written evidence that takes even the novice through past failures and also, and obviously more critically, to the successful development of earthquake engineering and disaster preparedness. By understanding the specific vulnerabilities of buildings in earthquake zones, the design, refurbishment and maintenance of those buildings can be improved and building occupants better protected.

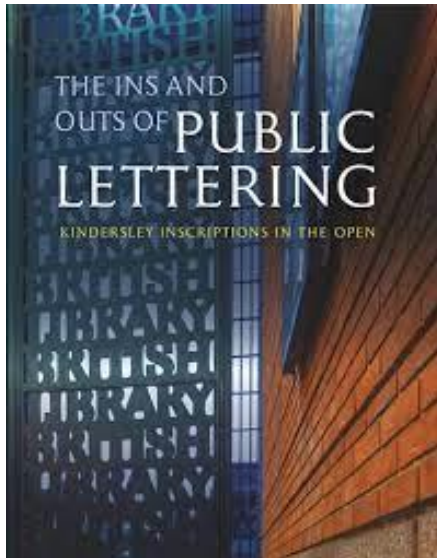
Those who bear ultimate responsibility for the well-being of those living and working in (and visiting) buildings vulnerable to earthquakes range from architects, designers and engineers to building owners and managers. All are invited to engage with the current research surveyed in this book and understand more exactly the impact of earthquakes on the built environment and how buildings are best constructed in relation to the impact of climate and seismicity. Chapters illustrate how different forms of building respond to types and levels of ground motion and to varying kinds of landslides and tsunamis and their sequential effects. What the many different stakeholders might do to improve the earthquake safety of their buildings remains the key consideration, with

the authors offering accounts of their own experiences in visiting areas affected by earthquakes and summarising collective views of the physical vulnerability of buildings around the world. The critical players here are the international stakeholders in disaster risk reduction (DRR) and especially those in developing countries. As the authors write: 'The message is simple. With affordable protection actions, buildings collapsing and people dying from earthquakes are largely preventable. Much like vaccines in infectious diseases, the consequences of earthquakes can be eradicated, but it takes commitment from all the stakeholders involved, not just the international funders and governments, but also from those who will be directly affected.'

It is evident in reviewing this book, that although much progress has been made in earthquake risk reduction, much also remains to be done. Three needs in particular stand out: first, to invest in science and technology in order to quantify and monitor the hazard; second, to communicate risk to different audiences to trigger action and notably to use social media to convey information across the globe twenty-four hours a day; and three, to incentivise earthquake risk reduction so that mitigation measures appear more urgently in the political and personal agendas of populations in jeopardy. The study graphically shows how the continuing peril is not simply one of poor building construction but a combination of a lack of understanding of the underlying threat, knowledge of exactly how to build appropriately, and awareness that actions actually can make a difference. Such actions are ultimately to be undertaken by information providers and by individuals reawakened to a belief in improving earthquake safety.

J R Raven

MARCUS WAITHE, LIDA LOPES CARDOZO KINDERSLEY AND THOMAS SHERWOOD, *The Ins and Outs of Public Lettering: Kindersley Inscriptions in the Open* (Cambridge: Cardozo Kindersley, 2020, 105 pp)



This elegant little book created by Marcus Waithe (Fellow) and Lida Cardozo Kindersley (Honorary Fellow), together with the Emeritus Professor of Radiology and Fellow of Girton, Thomas Sherwood, is a pictorial and literary tribute to the Cardozo Kindersley Workshop. That distinguished workshop is now in the ninth decade since David Kindersley became Eric Gill's apprentice in 1934. For several generations, carved inscriptions produced by the workshop have adorned public and private edifices throughout

Britain but they have also contributed to a refashioning and re-appreciation of the art of stone carving itself.

This study, which joins several other small books produced for or by the workshop, is beautifully illustrated with more than seventy images, most in colour. There are two main sections: one on Ins and one on Outs. In fact, the Ins, which are largely entrance sites, bear similar characteristics to the even more outdoor Outs, but as the introduction to this section proposes, 'entrances become exits when the flow is reversed... there are times when the outgoing is permanent, and a more formal valediction is required'. The book's selection bears this out. Lettering on memorials and gravestones dominate this later part, following the first section's display of the sometimes more familiar inscriptions introducing a great variety of British buildings.

Throughout, we see in often unusual perspective celebrated examples of the alphabet termed Kindersley M.o.T, and now also known as Grand Arcade. Cambridge exemplars are especially prominent and include street-sign lettering from the late 1940s, and signs for Wesley House, the American Cemetery, Addenbrookes and the Cambridge University Press bookshop, as well as the Francis Crick pavement at Caius. Nationwide, we can enjoy images of the workshop's work at the



British Library, John Rylands Library, Christ Church Oxford, St Giles Cathedral Edinburgh, and Westminster Abbey, among many other sites. Particularly striking is the burial tablet for Richard III in Leicester Cathedral. The unadorned simplicity of memorial stones for Barbara Hepworth and Margaret

Thatcher is counterpointed by the no less moving complexity of the 2018 Portland stone now covering the rediscovered burial place of William Blake in Bunhill Fields. Blake's illuminated and unmistakable calligraphy is reflected in the wayward flow of the ascenders and descenders of the chiselled letters. As Marcus Waithe observes, 'without resorting to direct mimicry, the inscription's energy and rhythm registers Blake's rejection of the dead letter, and something of his stylistic force'.

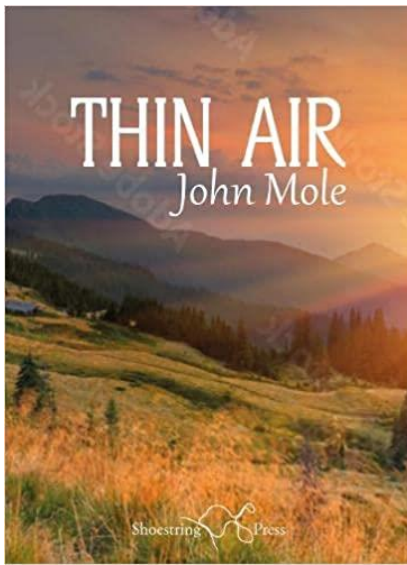


Together, the text and the images offer an immersion in what it means for letters to be 'in the open'; the innovativeness and sensitivity of design combines with the quality and effectiveness of its execution. The images also encourage a critical eye. The book is an elegy to the practice of lettering in public spaces, but many images support judicious reflection. For this reviewer, for example, the beautifully photographed image of the memorial stone to Archbishop Robert Runcie highlights a debatable balance in the proportions of his dates, while the reinterpretation of letterforms in the John Rylands tablets and the floral interpositions of work at the Ruskin Library and at the Garden Building of King's College, Cambridge, will continue to provoke discussion

beyond the persuasive appreciation of this book.

J R Raven

JOHM MOLE, *Thin Air* (Shoestring Press, 2021, 58 pp)



In 'Comfy', one of several tributes to the consolatory power of song in *Thin Air*, the poet expresses his gratitude for being '[s]ustained in these times / by melody at random'. It is a gratitude likely to be shared by readers of the forty-six deceptively accidental poems which make up John Mole's beguiling new collection.

Written during the year that followed Britain's imposition of Covid restrictions in March 2020, many of these 'sixteen-line improvisations', as John Mole has called them, originally appeared as Instagram posts or contributions to the online *Plague20journal*. Each consists of eight couplets, typically of two stresses per line, a form whose sauntering rhythm conjures the walks that feature in several of them. The opening poem, 'Distancing', is one such and sounds notes that will resonate throughout: the sense of teeming absence, of selfhood reconfigured by solitude, of memory as a means of finding one's bearings in a changed and unsettling world: 'I walk alone / in familiar company // stepping aside / abruptly from myself, // from who I was / to who I am, // our distance kept / for health and safety's sake.'

As that nod to officialese might suggest, *Thin Air* is unafraid to court occasional bathos as it quizzes the bland new lexicon of lockdown. Poems play variations on its coinages, sometimes juxtaposing them against remembered meanings, as if to reclaim them from the creeping writ of bureaucracy. 'Elbows' counterpoints T S Eliot's fabled awkwardness on the dancefloor with the ubiquitous lockdown elbow bump. In 'Bubbles' – one of a cluster of poems that movingly evoke the poet's childhood – soap-bubbles blown in the garden 'to catch the light' mutate, as they drift across the intervening decades, into the social bubbles of the Covid rulebook.

'Catch the light' is among a constellation of words and phrases – 'silence', 'promise', 'time', 'patience', 'breath' – which cycle through the collection, subtly recalling the simultaneous narrowing and intensification of experience familiar to most of us from the first phase of



the pandemic. Many – ‘absence’, ‘face to face’, ‘release’ – reflect a yearning for lost companionability. Images of arrival and greeting haunt these pages like the imagined visitors who ‘join the memory / our future has in store’ (in ‘Our Ghosts’). Variants of the word ‘welcome’ appear almost a dozen times, its connotations deepening with repetition until even the reflex ‘*You’re welcome!*’, shouted in response to the ‘unfamiliar courtesy’ of a party of cyclists encountered while out walking, comes freighted with hope and gratitude (‘Out of Nowhere’).

John Mole’s deftness in making metaphor of these new realities and etiquettes is one of the cumulative satisfactions of a collection always at its strongest when most firmly anchored in observed detail. The blossom in ‘Fierce Beauty’ is ‘loosened on the air / in purer light’. The children in ‘Possibilities’ run ahead of the adults, ‘keeping to the path / with all its possibilities // and improvising / like a line of verse’ – a credo of freedom within constraint at once the condition of creativity and, for the luckier among us, one of the quiet revelations of lockdown itself.

Only with the final poem, ‘Threshold’, do we come to understand the significance of the collection’s title. Here, as we ‘gaze in both directions, / balancing loss and gain’, bewilderment and gratitude ‘direct our looking back // to where the thin air / that so much has vanished into // first surprised us / with its welcome strangeness // promising then as now / a trust to be restored’.

In the balance of lockdown’s anxieties and consolations, *Thin Air* must be numbered among the consolations.

Neil Wenborn (1975)



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