

JESUS NEWS

450th Anniversary Issue

2021



**Jesus
College**
OXFORD

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Your copy of Jesus News includes a commemorative fridge magnet in celebration of the College's 450th anniversary. With thanks to alumnus and Campaign Board member Paul Bostock (1978, Physics) and his wife Sylvia (see p. 60).

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Welcome from the Principal

Professor Sir Nigel Shadbolt FRS FREng FBCS

Reading the Betting Book in the SCR the other day, my eye was drawn to a wager made at the start of World War I. A Jesus Fellow confidently bet on a version of “it will all be over by Christmas”. Our academic year – and our 450th – began with a hope that we could resume many of the normal patterns that define life at Jesus College.

In October we welcomed Freshers, although they were confined to “family households”, there was social distancing, no large events, and we exerted extreme caution for the safety of those in our own and the wider community. As a result, we had very few cases of COVID-19 in College, and teaching, tutorials, assessments continued. But nature finds a way: it wasn't all over by Christmas for us either. Lockdown followed lockdown as wave followed wave, disrupting this academic year more profoundly than last.

We have missed so much: magical musical soirées in the Lodgings, College Gaudies, matriculations and graduations. Sports and extracurricular activities have been particularly hard hit – all the more impressive then that we should have a report on what was possible (p.66). We did, finally, manage to have some outdoor gatherings for Freshers and Finalists, with Bev and I meeting many students for the first time in June.

The challenges and tragedies of the pandemic have affected us all, and I have been touched by the many messages of support from our alumni and supporters; we have been tempered and strengthened by facing them together. Nothing represents this better than the response to our 450th anniversary. It has been a busy year – not exactly what we imagined – and a huge credit to the Development Team. This 450th anniversary issue of *Jesus News* is a wonderful affirmation of the College's spirit as it celebrates past, present, and potential future accomplishments.

Look no further than Love Letters to College (p.34). What a trove of friendships made, passions pursued, and a reasonable amount of youthful transgression! In these letters you will discover *Jesusfreundschaftsausdehnungswirkung* – a linguistic confection capturing the ripple effect of the Jesus community – rounded off with David Newbold's *Alumni Love Song* (p.59).

Whilst Oxford research has helped vaccinate the world, we read of the exciting developments of

our Fellows in Regenerative Medicine (p.2) as their important work promises a way to repair damage inflicted by disease.

We read about the Oxford AnthroPosea Sailing Project (p.12) with Arzucan Nur Askin describing her interdisciplinary expedition examining human connections to the sea, and highlighting global marine issues facing our coastlines.

This issue contains the lovely poem by Llyr Gwyn Lewis, *Beth sy'n Gwneud Coleg?* (*What makes a College?*) (p.30), which was read by Llewelyn Hopwood at our 450th Commemoration Service held on 27th June at St Mary's Church, admirably led by our new Chaplain, Chris Dingwall-Jones.

Horrid Henry's creator Francesca Simon recounts a decidedly mixed experience of College in the '70s (p.19), and Kirsty McCabe relays her passion for science communication (p.23). Bill Parker reveals his own private passions in *Confessions of a Train Spotter* (p.26).

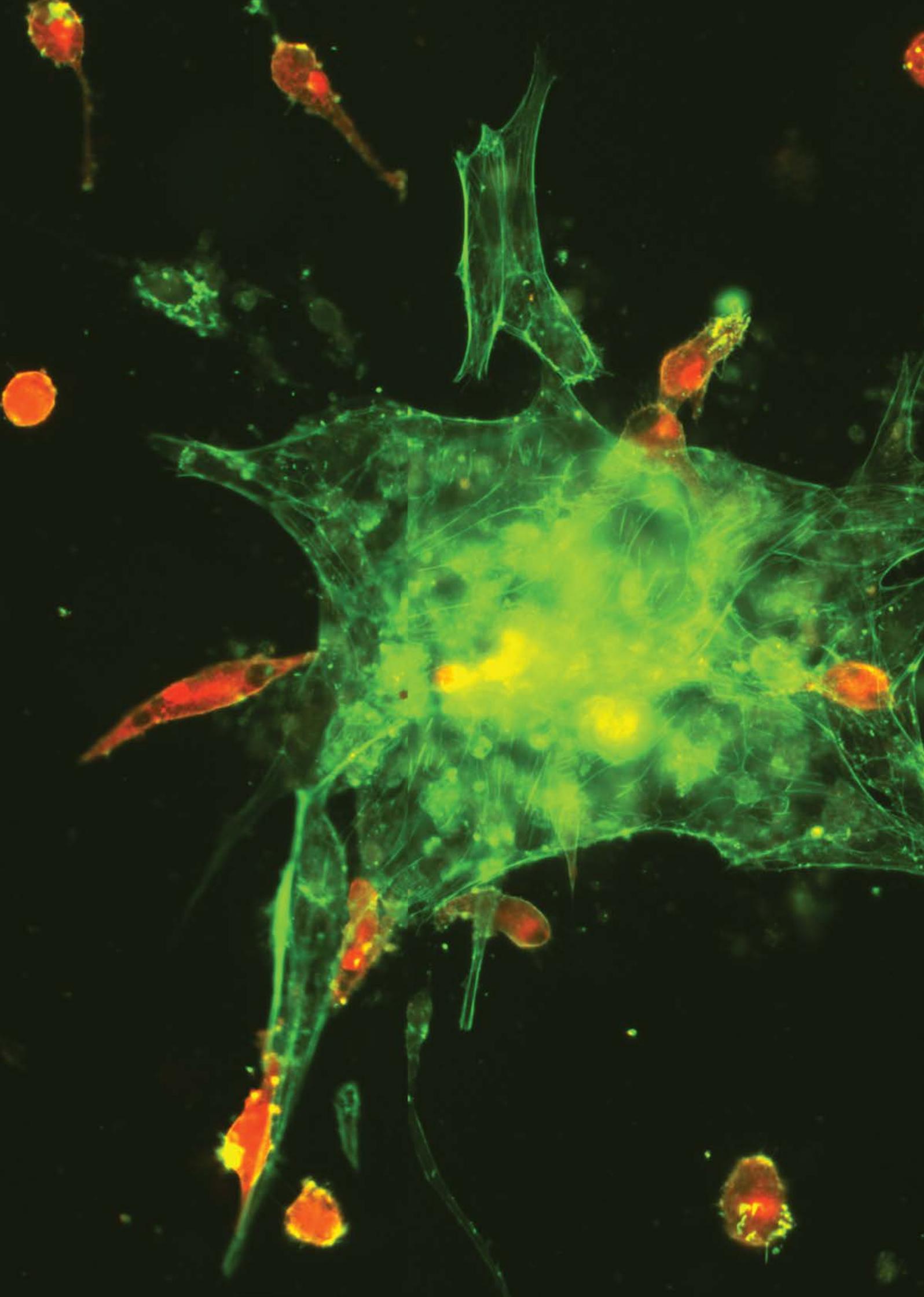
As befits the Elizabethan College we report on an exciting new Jesus College Shakespeare Project (p.74) and hear about our digital exhibition *450 Years in 12 Objects* (p.16), curated by experts and led by Paulina Kewes and College Archivist Robin Darwall-Smith.

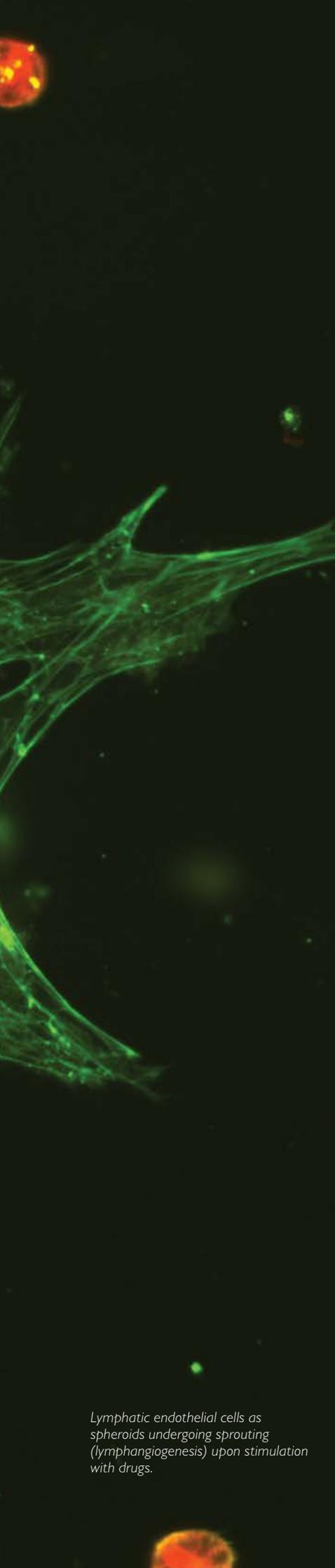
Paul and Sylvia Bostock introduce us to their wonderful home in Jamaica (p.60). Thanks also to Paul who has supplied a 450th memento to accompany each copy of the magazine.

Our remarkable Access Team describes how their work has been changed by the pandemic to reach even larger audiences as everything has become virtual (p.72).

The pandemic has changed so much, and there will be many lessons to learn about education and how we teach. I am leading the University Working Group developing its next Digital Educational Strategy. Whilst recognising the power and reach of new technologies, we also understand the importance of face to face instruction, mentoring and tuition. It is the essential ingredient in the tutorial model that underpins an Oxford education.

Nigel Shadbolt





Fellows on the Front Line

A world first in developmental and regenerative research

A conversation between two Jesus Professorial Fellows was the serendipitous catalyst for the foundation of the Institute of Developmental and Regenerative Medicine (IDRM), a collaborative world first that will bring together hundreds of renowned experts from around the globe to harness and share common approaches to advancing research into the heart, brain and immune system.

During that first meeting in the Jesus SCR in April 2012, Professors Georg Holländer and Paul Riley discussed the gap between developmental biology as it relates to medicine and, explored their common interests. Holländer (Head of Oxford's Paediatrics department, and Hoffmann and Action Medical Research Professor of Developmental Medicine), and Riley (Chair of Development and Cell Biology in Physiology, Anatomy & Genetics, and British Heart Foundation Professor of Regenerative Medicine) developed a plan to extend the initial concept of an Institute of developmental medicine to include a logical second focus: from understanding the molecular and cellular basis of organ development to applying that knowledge to regeneration. They left that meeting entirely oblivious to how much time and work it would require to see their ideas grow from inception to Institute, yet the time taken to realise those ambitions is impressively short when compared with other Oxford projects of similar scope.

Opening in early 2022, the £35m MS-Tetsuya Nakamura Building at Headington's Old Road campus will be home to the new Institute of Developmental and Regenerative Medicine (IDRM). In all, over 240 researchers – experts in congenital diseases affecting the cardiovascular, the nervous and the immune systems, regenerative medicine, and tissue engineering – will address human diseases affecting these three tissues within the body. They will study how these organs are normally formed and maintained, and identify the molecular and cellular mechanisms that cause birth defects, including congenital heart disease, and defects in the immune and nervous systems.

With Jesus Tutorial Fellow in Medicine and Professor of Developmental Biology Shankar Srinivas, Riley and Holländer will lead research groups on cell and tissue movement, cardiovascular development and regeneration, and thymus development and regeneration, respectively. It is hoped that their collaboration will enable them to understand the cellular and molecular control of normal human development, and to harness this knowledge to identify the pathogenesis of diseases and design novel therapies that will correct birth defects and repair adult organs.

Lymphatic endothelial cells as spheroids undergoing sprouting (lymphangiogenesis) upon stimulation with drugs.

Professor Paul Riley



Paul Riley. Photo courtesy of the British Heart Foundation

Paul Riley is a British Heart Foundation Professor of Regenerative Medicine and Chair of Development and Cell Biology within the Department of Physiology Anatomy & Genetics. He is also Director of the BHF Oxbridge Centre for Regenerative Medicine and inaugural Director of the Institute of Developmental & Regenerative Medicine. He was formerly Professor of Molecular Cardiology at the UCL Institute of Child Health, London, obtaining his PhD at UCL and completing post-doctoral fellowships in Toronto and Oxford. In 2008, he was awarded an Outstanding Achievement Award by the European Society of Cardiology, and was elected as a Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences in 2014.

Cardiovascular development and regeneration

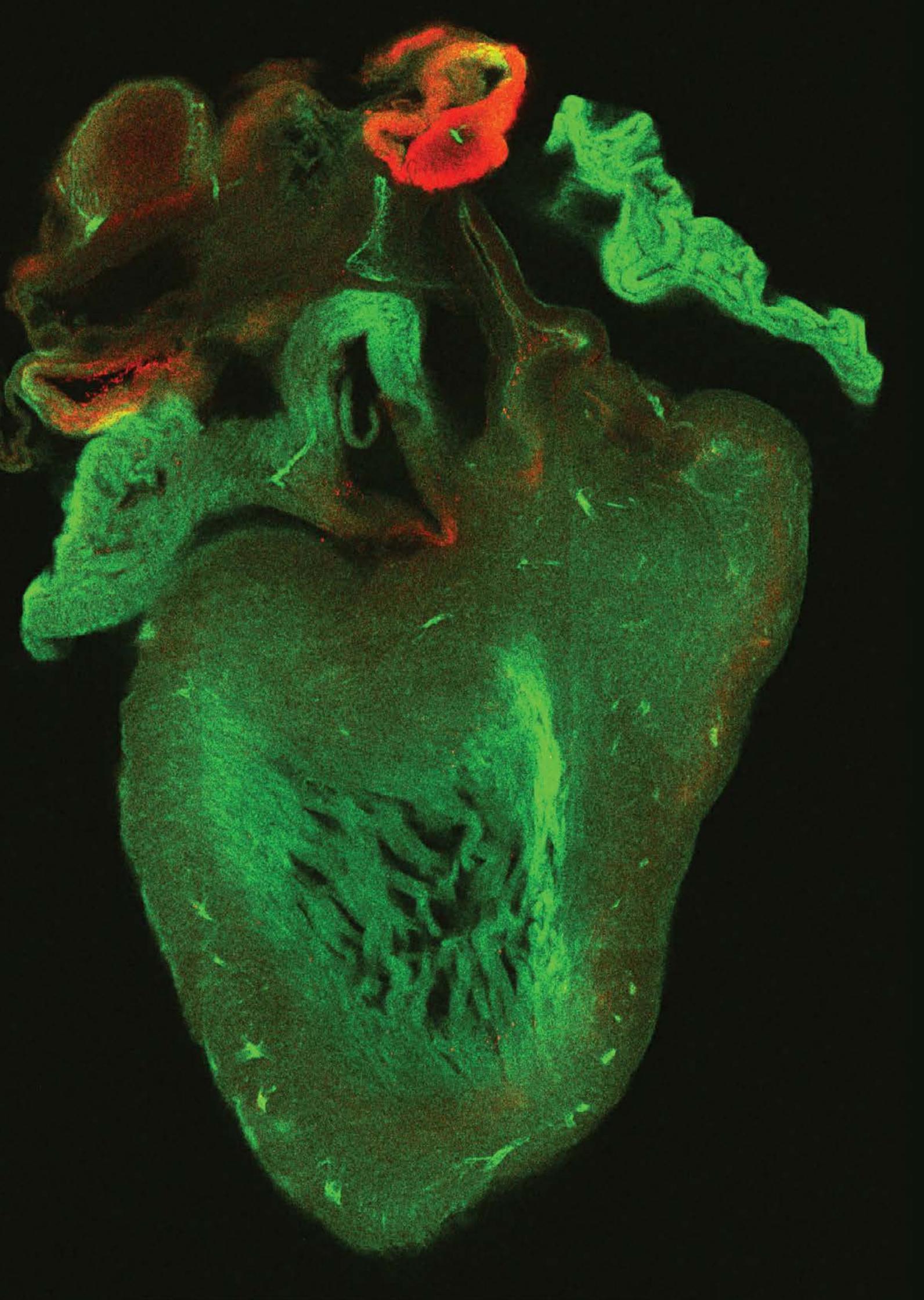
Cardiovascular research at IDRIM will examine the genetic basis and environmental modulation of the mechanisms that control normal cardiac development in the embryo, to both inform on congenital heart disease, and mark the potential of multipotent cardiovascular progenitor cells in the adult heart capable of initiating repair following ischaemic injury and acute myocardial infarction (or "heart attack"). Combining restoration of lost cell types after a heart attack with immunomodulation of the local injury environment will provide a holistic approach to regenerating the injured heart and preventing the onset of heart failure.

Led by Paul Riley, the cardiovascular research group aims to:

- understand the cellular and molecular pathways underpinning normal heart development to model congenital heart disease
- reactivate embryonic programmes in endogenous adult cells to restore lost tissue after a heart attack
- modulate the local injury environment by targeting the immune and fibrotic responses, to optimise repair and regeneration and prevent heart failure.

Embryonic mouse heart at 18.5 days of gestation showing the developing cardiac conduction system (green fibres).

Photo: Judy Sayers (Riley group)



Professor Georg Holländer



Georg Holländer. Photo by John Cairns

Georg Holländer is the Hoffmann and Action Medical Research Professor of Developmental Medicine and Head of the Department of Paediatrics at the University of Oxford. He is also the Director of the Botnar Research Centre of Child Health in Basel, Switzerland. Trained in paediatrics and experimental immunology he has held academic positions at Harvard Medical School and Basel University's

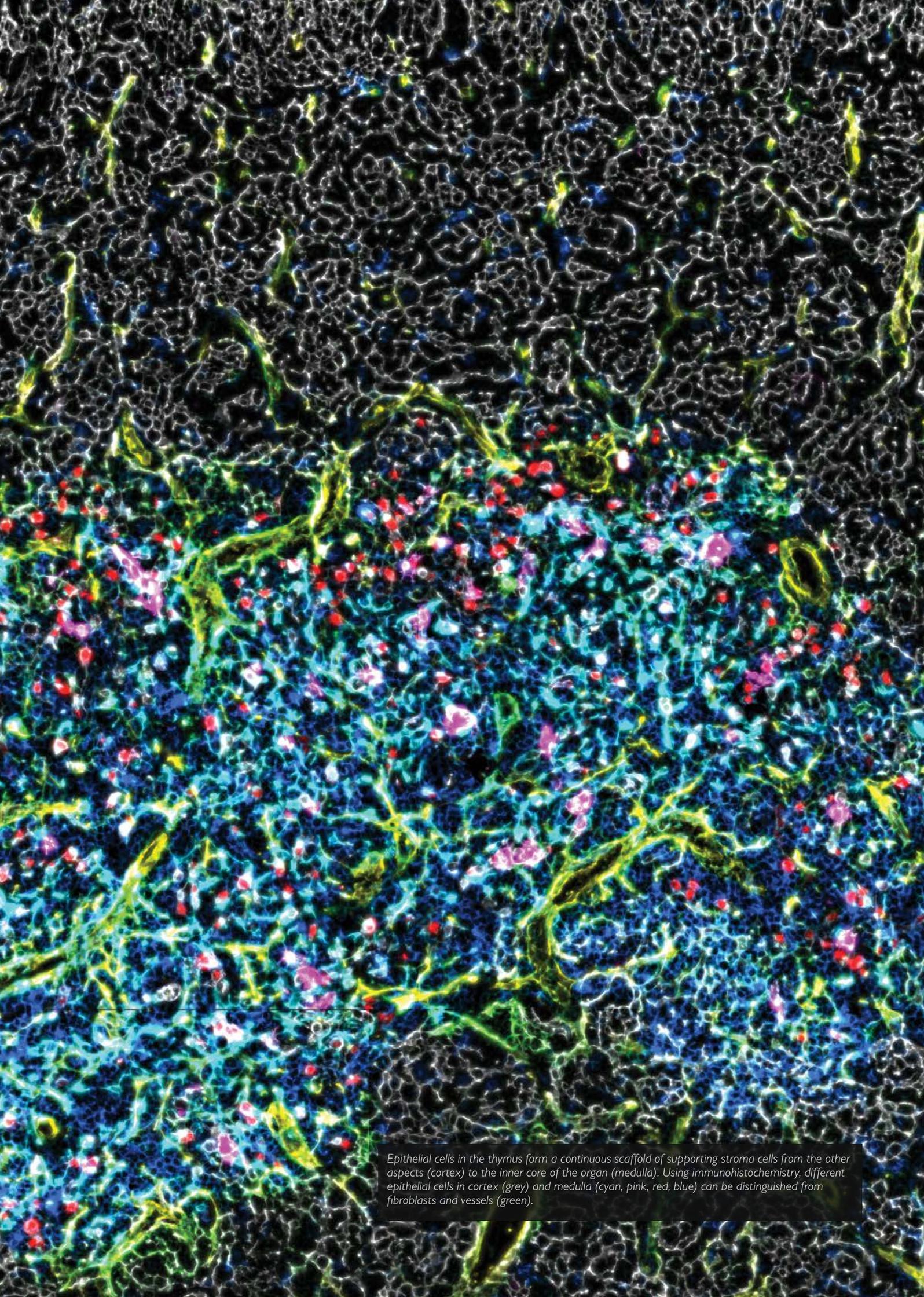
Children's Hospital. He divides his work and time between Oxford and Basel, where he supervises research on the developmental immunobiology of the thymus. He received the Fanconi Prize of the Swiss Society for Paediatrics in 2009, was elected corresponding member of the Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences in 2012, and elected as a Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences.

Thymus development and regeneration

Immunology research at IDRM will focus on understanding the genetic and epigenetic mechanisms that dictate the development and function of the immune system's competence to efficiently respond to potentially injurious antigens, such as infectious agents, while being immunologically tolerant towards the body's own tissues and molecules. Human primary immunodeficiencies are "experiments of nature" in which this competence is lost due to specific genetic mutations. Elucidating the molecular mechanisms responsible for these pathologies provides a rational strategy for new therapies. In parallel, inflammation, in response to tissue injury, will be investigated to advance insights into novel immunomodulatory therapies prior to, and in parallel with, a cell-based repair of the cardiovascular, neurological or immunological systems so that the immune system does not mistake normal tissue regeneration as a process to respond to with a destructive immune rejection.

Led by Georg Holländer, the developmental immunology research group aims to:

- understand the cellular and molecular pathways underpinning normal thymic stromal development and hence the conditions that enable the regular generation of T cells with a self-tolerant antigen receptor repertoire
- use different gene-targeted mouse models that model human thymus stromal pathologies to decipher the importance of distinct embryonic programmes in shaping the complexity of the thymus stromal compartment
- employ genetic pathways identified to be critical during thymus organogenesis to delay the organ's postnatal senescence and to rejuvenate its capacity for normal T cell formation following chemo-radiotherapeutic injury
- target thymic epithelial cells by different means, including in vivo methods, to change their genetic programmes.



Epithelial cells in the thymus form a continuous scaffold of supporting stroma cells from the outer aspects (cortex) to the inner core of the organ (medulla). Using immunohistochemistry, different epithelial cells in cortex (grey) and medulla (cyan, pink, red, blue) can be distinguished from fibroblasts and vessels (green).

Professor Shankar Srinivas



Shankar Srinivas.

Shankar Srinivas is Professor of Developmental Biology and a Wellcome Senior Investigator at the Department of Physiology Anatomy & Genetics. He is Zeitlyn Fellow and Tutor in Medicine at Jesus College. He completed a BSc in Nizam College in Hyderabad, India, and joined New York's Columbia University where he received a PhD for work on the

molecular genetics of kidney development. He moved to London's NIMR as an HFSPO Fellow to work on how the head-tail axis is established, where he pioneered the use of time-lapse microscopy to study early post-implantation mouse embryos. Shankar started his independent group at the University of Oxford in 2004.

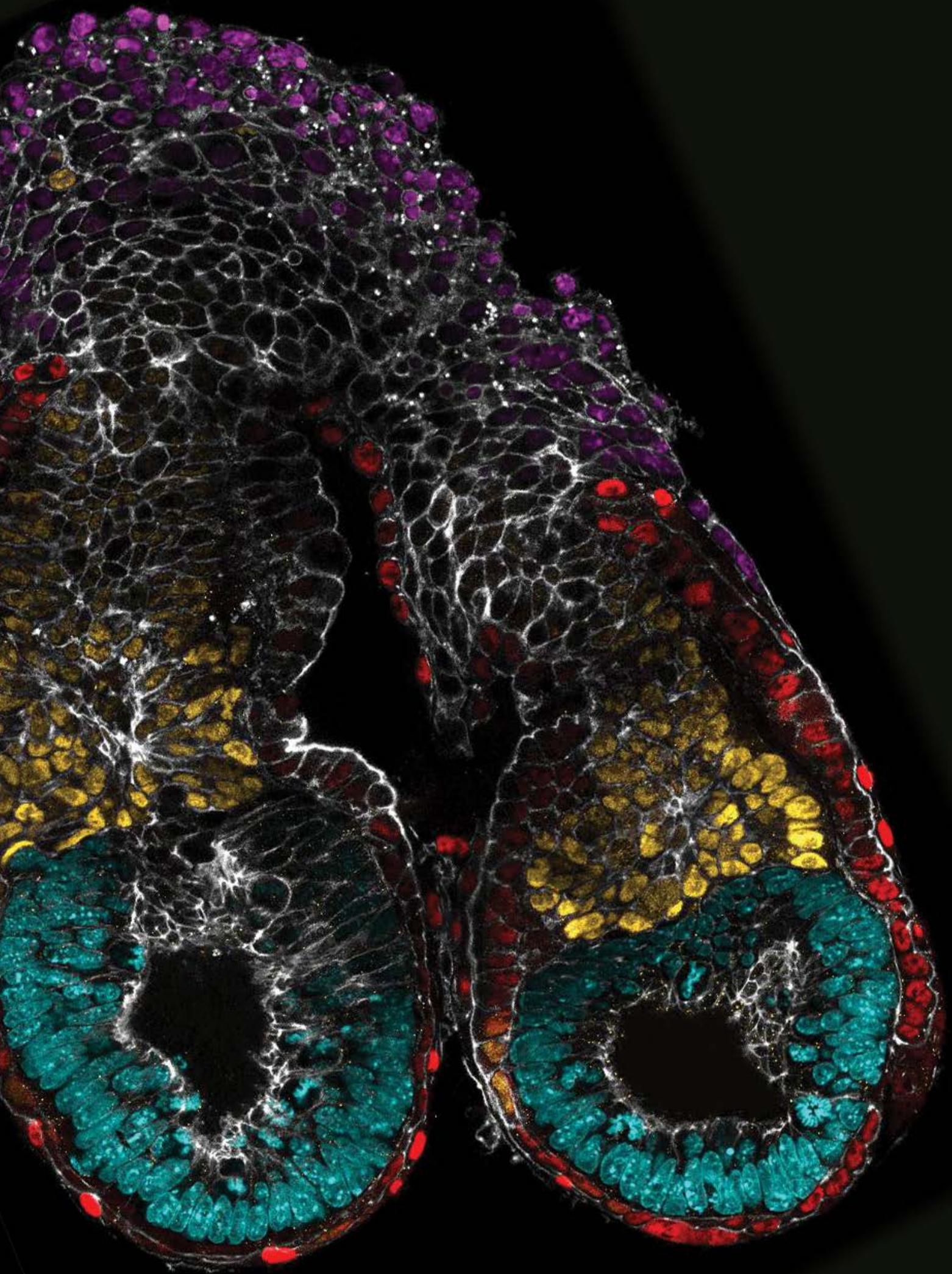
Cell and tissue movements that shape the embryo

The trillions of cells of the body all arise through the repeated division of a single starting cell, the fertilised egg. The shape of our body, internal organs, and their relative positions is not simply the result of growth in size of a pre-formed 'homunculus', but requires large-scale coordinated cell and tissue movements. For example, the region of the embryo that gives rise to the heart actually starts out in front of the region that forms the brain. Perturbation of this finely choreographed series of cell movements can lead to profound congenital defects, but little is understood about the molecular genetic control of this process.

Led by Shankar Srinivas, the cell and tissue movement research group aims to:

- understand how the diversity of cell types that make up the heart arise, and precisely which cell types give rise to others during the course of development
- determine how the heart, the first organ to function in the embryo, starts to beat
- understand how the coordinated cell movements that shape the early embryo are controlled.

Embryos undergo profound changes in shape during development, so do not necessarily resemble the adult form. Here, twin mouse embryos shortly after implantation have been stained to reveal different cell types. The cells coloured cyan give rise to the foetus, while all the other cells give rise to tissues that support the development of the foetus. Image: Dr Shifaan Thowfeequ, Srinivas Group.



So, is this the perfect research storm? It is certainly no accident that three of Jesus College's Professorial Fellows are founding members of the IDRМ project. The College has arguably some of the strongest links with developmental biology across the University, with Senior Research Fellows and Professors Yvonne Jones, Ilan Davis, Martin Booth and Tutorial Fellow Berta Verd each making significant contributions to award-winning biomedical research. Furthermore, to achieve its goals, the IDRМ will combine experimental and computational biology with machine learning, artificial intelligence

platforms and mathematical modelling, making it a synergistic fit with the College's Digital Hub – part of the new Northgate development project – and its plans for associated studentship programmes. There is significant interest from Riley, Holländer and Srinivas to secure funding for a PhD studentship for a future Jesus doctoral student to join an IDRМ research team; raising funds for graduate studentships is a priority for the College, and it's a natural step to involve a Jesus DPhil student in cutting-edge research at the Institute.

The aim is for the IDRМ to become an internationally-recognised centre of excellence for developmental biology and regenerative medicine research, and it's inevitable that the Institute's research learnings will be of significant value to wider areas of medicine in a post-Covid world. With two thirds of all deaths globally attributed to non-communicable diseases, it is not unreasonable to say that we are all stakeholders in the Institute's mission to use its insights into organ development and regeneration for the development of new drugs and strategies to treat birth defects and acquired disease.

About the Institute



The home of the Institute of Developmental and Regenerative Medicine, the Tetsuya Nakamura IMS building, was supported by a very generous donation from Dr Tetsuya Nakamura, Chief Director of Itabashi Medical System Group (IMS-Group), and substantial fund-raising from the British Heart Foundation.

The Institute plans to run a weekly seminar series of internal and external speakers as well as workshops and themed research afternoons with an emphasis on trainee presentations. It will also have capacity to host courses and conferences.

There are opportunities for transitional Fellows, students and post-graduates, and the Institute actively invites public

interest through its engagement programme, presenting at local and national science festivals, school visits and hosting tours of the Institute.

To find out more about the Institute of Developmental and Regenerative Medicine, visit: www.idrm.ox.ac.uk

To learn more about funding a Jesus DPhil student associated with the IDRМ, please contact Development Director Brittany Wellner James at E: brittany.wellnerjames@jesus.ox.ac.uk.



The Ocean and Me

Arzucan Nur Askin

(2020, MSc Biodiversity, Conservation & Management)



Arzucan Nur Askin (2020, MSc Biodiversity, Conservation and Management) is a United World College alumna, Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society with the Institute of British Geographers, and the newly appointed 2021 European ROLEX Scholar of the Our World-Underwater Scholarship Society®. She is currently studying for an MSc in Biodiversity, Conservation and Management at Jesus, focusing her research on the intersection of migratory sharks and human society with Lisa Wedding's Seascope Ecology Lab.

In May 2021, Arzucan led the Oxford AnthroPosea Sailing Expedition, a new interdisciplinary expedition examining human connections to the sea, and highlighting the global marine issues facing our local UK coastlines. We caught up with Arzu in April 2021 just before the Expedition set sail.

Tell us a little about you: where you were born, your childhood and family.

My parents are originally from Turkey but moved to Berlin in the hope of building a new life. I was born and raised landlocked, but like most immigrant families, we would travel back home every summer. The seagrass meadows, fishing boats and remnants of old ships in the Mediterranean were my first playing ground and later became the source of my passion for the underwater world. My parents loved the sea as much as I did, yet they would never swim out of their depth. I always wanted to go deeper and explore the sea beyond what I could do on one breath, ultimately learning how to dive and

spending a lot of time below the surface.

Why conservation?

It's been a complex journey into the conservation world, starting with a transformational scholarship to attend the United World College in Hong Kong. There, I was provided with my first opportunity to undergo scientific dive training and monitor the coral reefs that thrive there together with the WWF – and yes, Hong Kong has reefs! Despite living in polluted, industrial waters, I was amazed by how these living creatures seemingly flourished in such a hostile environment; if we can understand how, then we can leverage this information for other reefs around the world. During that time, I also went to Sipadan Marine Reserve in Malaysia to learn how to conduct more complex reef surveys. It was there that my understanding of marine conservation shifted fundamentally after being caught in the blast of dynamite fishers and feeling the wave of the explosion hit our bodies. We saw colourful coral species, some of which take between 50 to 100 years to grow, literally shattered into dust and hundreds of fish injured around us. While I had always wanted to study marine biology, this experience opened my eyes to the importance and challenges of socio-economic empowerment, effective monitoring, and community management as a vital response to increasingly inequitable suffering of people and wildlife under the consequences of failing governance.

I realised that the problems we face at sea, are the result of decisions made on land and to be part of the



Arzucan Nur Askin.

solution I had to work on land, no matter how much I loved being in the water.

As a result, I studied human geography for my undergraduate degree at LSE, focusing on political ecology, environmental economics and governance, as well as the intricate connections between gender and the environment. Even though the ocean is the world's largest and most important ecosystem, covering 70% of our planet, we barely spoke about it at the university. Wanting the university's departments – and social sciences in general – to engage more with the oceans, I founded the LSE Marine Society and hosted a series of talks and events to showcase the importance of also training lawyers, economists, political scientists and anthropologists in "blue thinking". To effectively protect the marine world these disciplines are critical in implementing the science produced by biologists and oceanographers.

Through fieldwork and research,

I came to understand more about how the sea bears witness to some of the most calamitous human experiences, such as human trafficking in the fishing sector, the ferocity of geopolitical tensions, the impact of natural disasters, but also the peaceful exchange between disparate regions of the globe through trade. I firmly believe that the beauty, diversity and intricacy of stories from below the surface need to be heard more if we are to mobilise more people, particularly those who do not sail or dive, to care about our marine environment. We also need a greater understanding of people's relationship with the ocean and more awareness of its cultural value to society.

With that in mind, it was while I was at LSE that I also founded and led what was essentially the base of the current Anthroposea expedition; known then as the "LSE Marine Social Science Expedition". It was essentially a human experiment, where we put social science students on a boat – many of whom had never been at sea before – to sail around Scotland and put their disciplinary insights into practice on the water.

What is Anthroposea and why is it important?

Anthroposea is the continuation and expansion of this project. With the Covid-19 pandemic impacting travel abroad, we decided to focus this year's expedition on the global issues we're facing on our local UK shorelines: species extinction, marine plastic pollution, rising sea levels. We want to turn our boat into a floating ocean think tank and storytelling platform to examine

people's connection with the ocean in a contemporary setting: we are living on an island with a rich maritime history, after all. The aim of this expedition is to also highlight the importance of the marine social sciences in addressing ocean problems.

We will be sailing on Merlin, a Sigma 41 offshore cruiser-racer and Sail Britain's beautiful flagship vessel. It won't actually be my first journey on Merlin, as I sailed her from Hamburg to the UK to start my degree course at Oxford through an unforgettable two-week, 500 nautical mile journey that enabled me to get here without carbon emissions.

Because our core crew comprises women studying Masters' degrees in the Biodiversity, Conservation and Management Programme at the Oxford University School of Geography and Environment, the project also celebrates the centenary of women at Oxford. With the UN Ocean Decade starting this year as well, 2021 is an important year for ocean governance and research conducted by women at the University.

At the time of writing (April 2021), we're hoping for an expedition crew of nine, but Covid restrictions may not permit that. We've already had over 50 applications to join the expedition from brilliant marine social science researchers across all departments. As we can't take everyone on board unfortunately, we're now forming a separate community that will keep the conversation going on land through discussion groups, panels, and a separate ocean hub.

Who inspires you?

There are so many individuals who do! My mother – who has given up so much to enable me to do all of this – and who relentlessly supports me even though she is afraid of the sea. I also deeply admire the conservationist and photographer Christine Mittermeier who constantly breaks down barriers as a Latin American woman in the often highly Western-dominated conservation world. She co-founded Sea Legacy, a non-profit organisation dedicated to promoting the protection of the world's oceans through storytelling and uniquely of incorporating human stories into her environmental advocacy.

What's next for you?

If Norway opens its borders this year, I will be joining Barba's Arctic Sense expedition from June to October, circumnavigating Svalbard, an archipelago between mainland Norway and the North Pole. The expedition will explore the polar Atlantic ecosystem, assess its current health, and highlight its vulnerability to climate change and pollution. We'll be researching whale populations, specifically orcas, and it's a dream come true for me as I have long admired the work of Barba's founder and our Captain, Andreas B. Heide.

Then I will embark on one year of intensive training in conservation technologies, technical diving, underwater photography and filmmaking and science communication with a scholarship from OWUSS.

Despite spending the majority of my studies locked in my room

in Oxford and not seeing the ocean, I am incredibly excited to be here and am deeply inspired by my peers and the degree programme, which has provided me with valuable insights into terrestrial conservation that can be applied at sea. I want to continue to push the boundaries as a diver, scientist and ocean researcher and, looking to the future, my goal is to have my own boat and run my own expeditions examining the intersection of oceans and society.

Ultimately, I dream of a life at sea and a career dedicated to interdisciplinary research that contributes to the protection of our global oceans and the livelihoods that depend on a healthy underwater world.

The Oxford Anthroposea Expedition:
www.anthroposea.com/the-expedition

Barba's Arctic Sense 2021 Expedition:
barba.no/expeditions/arctic-sense-2021/



450 Years in 12 Objects

A digital exhibition, curated by a range of experts led by Paulina Kewes and College Archivist Robin Darwall-Smith, is celebrating a landmark anniversary of the foundation of Jesus College.



Every month throughout 2021, our 450th anniversary year, the digital exhibition *12 Objects* reveals an item from the College's collections – a manuscript, a book, a punchbowl. Images of these objects are accompanied by brief descriptions and links to films which tell their stories. Among the presenters are current and Emeritus Fellows, lecturers, alumni, members of staff, and our archivist Robin Darwall-Smith, who has been a leading light of this enterprise.

Our series does not aim to be a comprehensive history of Jesus College. Rather, it offers glimpses into our past, our present, and our aspirations for the future. Nor does it, strictly speaking, showcase just twelve objects. There is, for example, the case of the two foundation charters, as explained by Professor Norman Jones, former Visiting Senior Research Fellow. **The first Charter of 1571**, which side-lined our true founder Hugh Price by proclaiming Jesus College to be of 'Quene Elizabethes foundation', was soon superseded by a second Charter issued in 1589 which sports an infinitely finer picture of the Queen than its predecessor.



The first Charter of 1571.



Charles I's watch c.1630.

In **#2: Charles I's Watch**, Dr Felicity Heal, former Tutorial Fellow in History, also discusses a mourning ring with the king's likeness: both items were bequeathed to the College by former Principal, eminent lawyer and diplomat, Sir Leoline Jenkins.

#5: The Works of King James I offers three, or maybe even five, objects in one. We are

introduced to the Fellows' Library, a fine space used extensively in teaching, research, and access, by our Librarian Owen McKnight. Then, we hear from Professor Susan Doran (Senior Research Fellow in History) and Professor Paulina Kewes (Tutorial Fellow in English Literature) about several early modern printed books the Library houses, from King James's folio Works (1616) and folios of

Ben Jonson (1616) and Shakespeare (1632) to the History of King Henry VIII (1648) by Henry Herbert Lord Cherbury who donated his unique collection of books to the College.

Kept in the vaults of the Bodleian Library rather than in College, **#3: the Red Book of Hergest** (as introduced by Professor Thomas Charles Edwards, former Chair of Celtic) is the largest single medieval manuscript collection of Welsh literature and history. The Red Book's cultural importance is such that no treatment, whether academic or popular, of the Welsh literary tradition could afford to omit it.

Yet not all the items featured in our exhibition are 'treasures' in terms of their singularity or monetary value. We treasure them because of their association with people or moments that have an honoured place in our shared memory and maintain our sense of being a collegiate community. Take **#4, the magnificent punchbowl** presented to the College by the eighteenth-century Welsh magnate and former student Sir William Watkins Wynn whose portrait hangs in the Senior Common Room. Professor Peter Davidson, Lecturer in English at Jesus and Senior Research Fellow of Campion Hall, shows that the punchbowl documents the strength of the College's Welsh connection, and reminds us of the Stuart-loyalist and conservative strain in both Welsh and Oxford politics. And it is somehow an object, in its round amplitude, which invites affection. It epitomises the value of commensality and the wonderfully welcoming spirit of the College on every day of the year – not just as we celebrate St David's Day.

We had a long-list of candidates for inclusion in the exhibition. Some were 'no-brainers'. How could we not showcase the first Charter, the *Red Book of Hergest*, or **#6, the Finals dissertation in History**, 'The influence of the Crusades on European military architecture to the end of the twelfth century', by one of our most illustrious alumni, T. E. Lawrence (Lawrence of Arabia)?

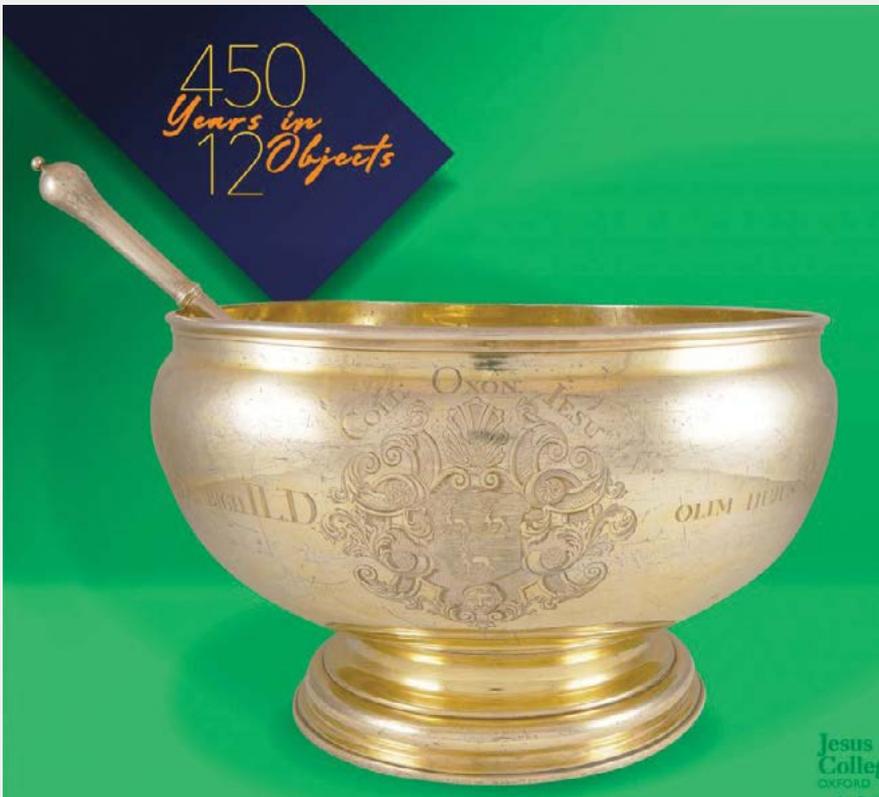
But others were more debateable. We considered, for example, displaying a set of memorabilia connected with our 400th anniversary celebrations in 1971. We have photographs of the Prince of Wales opening the Old Members' Building and meeting and greeting people in the College; a copy of the music commissioned from Peter Maxwell Davies in



Red Book of Hergest, c.1400.



The Collected Works of James I, 1616.



Sir Watkin Williams Wynn Punchbowl, 1732.

honour of the event, and copies of the script for *A Jesus Miscellany*, the play/revue in which Christopher Muttukumaru (1970, Jurisprudence) was involved, and images of the cast and the piece's author, Douglas Cleverdon, the radio producer famous for Dylan Thomas's *Under Milk Wood*, sitting on a bench in Second Quad. But we judged the celebration of the 400th a subject fit for a substantial lecture rather than a short film. In choosing the items we were guided by their likely interest, not only to members of the College past and present, but also to the wider public, among them potential applicants. Over the coming months, you will see a range of objects illuminating the ongoing transformation of the College from the C20 and into the C21.

To find out more about the *12 Objects* digital exhibition and for short films on each object, please visit: www.jesus.ox.ac.uk/450th-anniversary/12-objects/



T. E. Lawrence's *History Finals* thesis, 1910.

An Interview with Francesca Simon

(1977, English)



Francesca Simon read English at Jesus College, matriculating in 1977. A medievalist and one-time freelance journalist, she is perhaps best known as the author of the award-winning *Horrid Henry* series of books for children (and greatly enjoyed by adults too). She has published a range of other books for early readers and older children, including *The Lost Gods*, *The Sleeping Army*, *Two Terrible Vikings*, *Helping Hercules*, and *The Monstrous Child*, which she adapted for opera in collaboration with composer Gavin Higgins and was performed during the 2018/19 winter season at the Royal Opera House.

You were born and raised in the US, tell us a little about your childhood and early education

I had a peripatetic childhood, and attended 10 schools, in New York, London, Paris and Los Angeles. My father is a screenwriter and was writing Judy Garland's last film (*I Could Go On Singing*) which took us to London and then Paris, where I learned to speak French. When I was eight, we moved to Malibu where I lived for six years. I love the beach and the sea, but I prefer living in Europe.

Your tertiary education took you to Yale and then Jesus College. How important was your time at Jesus, and how do you think your Oxford experience shaped you?

When you tell an American you are going to Oxford, it's like saying you are going to heaven. I'll be honest and say that Oxford in the late 1970s wasn't heavenly. I was shocked by how conservative it was, and how homogenous the students were – mostly privately educated, middle and upper class, barely a black or Asian face to be seen. I felt in some ways that I was attending a finishing school, where students aspired to be exactly like their parents as soon as possible. There was also a distinctly anti-intellectual attitude. At Yale, everyone bragged about how much

work they were doing. At Oxford, everyone bragged about how little work they did. No one wanted to talk about their subject, either; it felt like a taboo and bad form.

There were huge social hurdles to overcome. I had trouble reading people and couldn't tell if people considered me a friend or not. I discovered that British people are more cautious about friendship, in a way that Americans aren't. I also had to learn that inviting someone to tea, and not lunch, was the most casual invite. And that people thought nothing of spending a fortune on drink, but kept their rooms unheated to save money.

That said, I never planned to stay in the UK after Oxford, and yet here I am, so attending a finishing school turned out to be quite helpful



professionally as well as personally. I have lots of dear friends from my Oxford days, including one of my publishers, Andrew Franklin (Profile books). Oxford made me Anglo-American, and enabled me to straddle both worlds.

I found my course very difficult (Old and Middle English language and literature) as it was so philologically-based, and I am much stronger on literature. I was saved by Professor Eric Stanley, the Rawlinson and Bosworth Professor of Old English who had taught me at Yale, who let me audit his graduate seminars and gave me extra tutorials. Eric and I stayed friends until his death at 94 in 2018, and I miss him to this day.

Any fond (or otherwise) memories of Jesus?

A key reason I chose Jesus was that it was one of only five mixed colleges. But when I arrived I was given rooms on Ship Street, where seven other Jesus girls lodged, and it was like being hurled back to the 1950s, as the two puritanical scouts who lived on the ground floor enforced their own strict rules, utterly at odds with College rules. I was actually reported to the Dean for having a man in my room (an American friend who was visiting). The Dean refused to budge about this unfairness ('It's not Yale or Berkeley here'), and for a time I considered leaving Oxford, as the attention to my morals seemed to far outweigh the attention to my academics. Francine Stock was also in the nunnery, and I know she agrees with me that our oppressive living arrangements blighted our first year.

I did like my knotted rope fire

escape, however. And learning to eat a three-course meal in 22 minutes, and not sitting in Hall where a certain scout always splashed soup on you. And I adored the beautiful buildings – for someone who loves medieval studies, it was like stepping back in time.

You describe yourself as a 'medievalist': tell us more.

I studied Medieval Art and Literature at Yale, and for a while I considered doing a PhD in the subject. I love the Middle Ages, especially gothic architecture, and I have huge sympathy for the urge to bring order out of chaos, with everyone in their little niche. I also love alliteration, which obviously influences my writing. And Horrid Henry, stripped down to basics, is an alliterative collection of archetypes and humours. There would have been no Horrid Henry if I hadn't studied Anglo-Saxon and the Middle Ages.

What/who do you read and why? (Authors, news, magazines, web resources)

A better question would be, what DON'T I read? I'm pretty broad in my taste, but my favourites are Victorian novels, especially Anthony Trollope, who taught me most of what I understand about British society. I also love modern fiction (Bernardine Evaristo, Amanda Craig, Maggie O'Farrell), and loads of children's books for all ages. I have always been a compulsive reader, and I don't like being anywhere without a book. That said, lockdown has made concentration harder, so I have found myself reading a lot of

newspapers (Washington Post, Guardian) and some non-fiction, especially about early American history. I'm a huge fan of Yale history professor (and Hamilton specialist) Dr Joanne Freeman, and attend a weekly online American history seminar she hosts every Friday afternoon. I hate reading books online and much prefer print, but I do read articles online.

The inevitable one: who was the inspiration for Horrid Henry and also Perfect Peter, or are they alter egos?

The simple answer is I wanted to write comic stories about families where there was a good child and a bad child (i.e. every family). There was no specific person who inspired the stories, apart from myself: I was perfectly behaved at school and less so at home. I also realised a few years after I started writing the books that Horrid Henry and Perfect Peter are two sides of everyone: the desire to be good and to conform; the desire to disrupt and go your own way. On one level their sibling rivalry has been going on since Cain and Abel; it's also cathartic to read about a character who never thinks about consequences but lives entirely in the moment. Essentially, the books are westerns for kids. Horrid Henry is the outlaw we all secretly root for.

The Horrid Henry series is enjoyed by both children and adults alike. When writing the Henry books, do you consider your adult audience too?

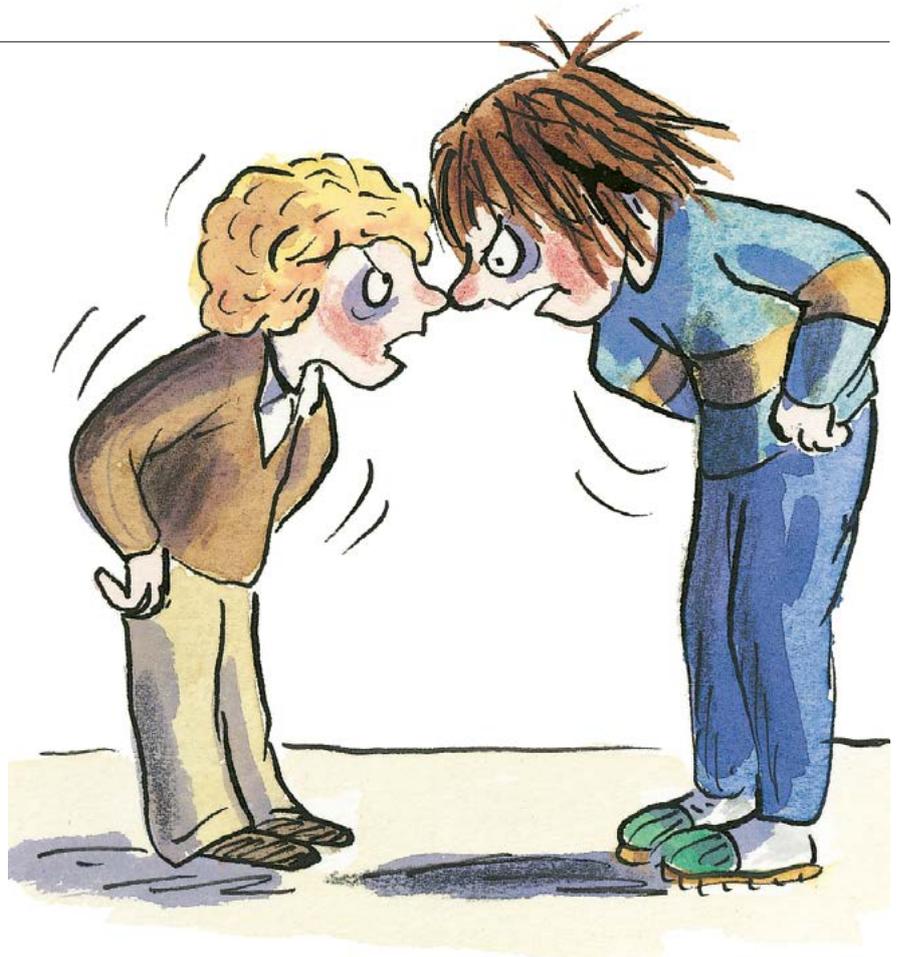
Always! I read to my son until he was 11, and I think shared books that both parents and children enjoy are supremely important.

Your collaboration with Gavin Higgins on *The Monstrous Child* opera was innovative and well-received, and another way of delivering a children's story to an adult audience. How did that come about?

This story is almost too good to be true: writer gets first opera commissioned and performed at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, to rave reviews. But it really did happen. While I was writing my young adult novel, *The Monstrous Child*, about Hel, the Norse goddess of the dead, as an angry, funny teenager, it struck me that this was a very operatic subject. Even though I knew almost nothing about opera. But I knew opera was about big emotions: love, hate, death, jealousy, passion, revenge, which all featured rather prominently in my book.

Two years earlier I'd had a chance encounter with John Fulljames, then associate artistic director of the ROH, and, as it turned out, a big *Horrid Henry* fan. He gave me his email and said I should get in touch, if I ever had an idea for an opera. I thought the chances of that were as likely as becoming a football commentator, but I kept his details.

I knew the composer Gavin Higgins socially, and was a big fan of his music, so I sent him the manuscript and asked what he thought. He loved the novel, and said he'd love to compose an opera based on it. We approached the Royal Opera House together, and they commissioned us almost immediately. It was quite a fairy tale, and definitely the best creative experience of my life. I fell in love with opera, and also with collaborating, which I didn't expect.



Gavin and I love working together, and have since written a cantata for two singers which will premiere in 2022. We are also hoping to create another opera with our wonderful director, Tim Sheader.

How do you view social media, both as an author and a consumer? Is it a valuable tool or just a necessary evil?

I don't particularly enjoy being my own publicity department, but I do enjoy Twitter as a way of praising books and authors I've enjoyed, and keeping up with politics. It's lovely to tweet at an author you don't know, especially new authors, to say how much you've liked their book. What I think is reprehensible are twitter pile-ons, when self-righteous people decide to hurl abuse and threaten violence to those who

disagree with them, or who hold opinions they dislike. This has happened to two writers I know, who've left Twitter because of it. But Twitter can also be an excellent place to share ideas, and to connect with people.

What's next for you?

I'm writing a new funny series for young readers set in the Viking age called *Two Terrible Vikings*, about riotous Viking twins Hack and Whack and their gang of friends: Twisty Pants the braggart, Dirty Ulf who hates baths, and Elsa Gold-Hair, the village goody-goody who likes to share. And because they are young Vikings, they can steal boats, run away to raid neighbouring islands, track trolls and rampage in the forest. I'm also hoping to write another opera.



A Day in the Life of... Kirsty McCabe

(1997, MSc Res Earth Sciences), Meteorologist, Columnist, Weather Presenter

Ali Painter, © Sky



Meteorologist, columnist, and Sky News weather presenter Kirsty McCabe (1997, MSc Res Earth Sciences) graduated from the University of Edinburgh with a first class honours degree in Geophysics before undertaking an internship at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland. She left College to work for New Scientist, before retraining as a broadcast meteorologist with the Met Office. She was nominated for a TRIC award for Best Weather Presenter in 2011 and is a Fellow of the Royal Meteorological Society.

Tell us a little about yourself

I was born and raised in Kilmarnock in southwest Scotland, youngest daughter of Patrick (a podiatrist) and Norma (a teacher). An early obsession with the environment and how the world works sparked my interest in Geophysics, which I read as an undergraduate at the University of Edinburgh. I then spent a summer as an intern at NASA's Goddard Space Flight

Center in Maryland, where I used MAGSAT data to interpret crustal structures in Australasia, and got to grips with driving on the 'wrong' side of the road.

In 1997 I began my research on environmental magnetism at the Department of Earth Sciences, studying palaeosols from the Greek Island of Santorini. I was lucky enough to get into Jesus College, where I sang in the choir, was president of the MCR (or GCR as it was known back then), rowed with the graduate team, got a green belt in Karate, and made some amazing friends for life.

After College, I switched from academia to science journalism, working as a sub-editor for New Scientist. It was actually an advert in the magazine's job section that led to me joining the Met Office in 2003, where I dusted off my thermodynamics textbooks, qualified as an aviation forecaster and began my career as a broadcast meteorologist.

For 5 years I was a core member of the BBC Weather Team, presenting forecasts across the entire range of BBC television and radio channels, including BBC One's Countryfile, and the all-important shipping forecast on Radio 4. I then joined the world of breakfast telly and 3am alarm calls, as the weather presenter and environment correspondent for GMTV and ITV. I produced programme strands on topics such as flooding and coastal erosion, and on a lighter note helped celebrities like Kylie Minogue to do the weather with me. One time Sooty and Sweep used water pistols when I said the word showers during my forecast,

unsurprisingly I got a wee bit wet!

Meanwhile in my personal life I married Renato, a South African architect, and we now have three children. My eldest, Ethan, arrived on Christmas Day 2010, Logan was born in May 2013, and Ava was born on Valentine's Day 2018.

As many working parents will tell you, especially women, I have been juggling career and family ever since I became a mum. Over the years I've taken on various freelance and part-time roles at the BBC, Channel 5, The Weather Channel and Sky News to try and find that elusive work-life balance. I was the world's first Meteorologist in Residence at the London Marriott Hotel County Hall, and regularly write about a variety of topics from weather to parenting for publications such as HuffPost, Junior and BritMums.

What motivated you to pursue your career?

I was very passionate about the environment when I was younger, but back then there wasn't the same level of interest or opportunities around climate science. I loved the real world aspects of Geophysics but most of my fellow students ended up in the oil industry. So I chose to come to Oxford, where I could analyse ancient soils and decipher the climate of the past to help understand what might happen to our climate in the future. I'm very excited that COP26 (The United Nations Climate Change Conference) is scheduled to be held in Glasgow this year. While the Earth's climate has always changed, we've now reached a point where the dominant cause of the current rates of warming is greenhouse gas



With Sooty and Sweep in the Daybreak studio.

emissions produced through human activity. And now we all need to do something about it.

Describe a regular day, personally

If I'm not on shift then I'm like most other parents, and the mornings are a whirl of activity sorting out breakfasts, school bags and packed lunches. Then I spend far too much time repeatedly asking my children to please get dressed, brush their teeth, and put on their socks and shoes. Once I've walked to and from school and nursery, I catch up on admin at home, both of a domestic and a business variety. If

I have time I'll do some exercise or I might have lunch with colleagues or friends. It's great to finally be able to meet up in person now we're coming out of lockdown. Then before I know it, the children are home and chaos returns.

And professionally?

These days I'm part of the Sky News Weather Team, which involves producing and presenting live and recorded weather broadcasts for TV, radio and digital platforms. If I'm on the presenter shift then I get up very early, do my hair and make-up (super quietly so I don't wake anyone else) and

head into the studios for 4am. If I'm producing and only doing voiceovers then I can work from home, one benefit of lockdown, so I don't need to get up quite so early or even brush my hair.

No matter what shift I'm on, the first thing I need to do is get on top of the weather story; in other words I need to know what's just happened, what's happening now and what's going to happen next. I'll look at the synoptic (pressure) charts along with the output from various computer models as well as current weather observations (eg satellite and radar), to see if what's

actually happening matches the forecast.

It's important that I have the weather story in my head, as weather presenters don't read the forecast off an autocue. Instead we ad-lib over the graphics, which we can only see via monitors in the studio if we are using a green screen. How long we talk for can vary, as weather is often used as a buffer in a news programme, so a fixed script just wouldn't work.

Next it's time to sort out the weather graphics. As well as live weather broadcasts every half hour on Sky News, there are a host of recorded forecasts that get used on multiple platforms. These cover local, national and international weather, both short range and longer term, as well as air quality, pollen and even sporting events like FI.

In between weather broadcasts, I write articles for the website, post on social media, and contribute to editorial discussions in the news room.

With three young children and a year of home schooling behind you, how do you and your partner find the right balance between successful careers and parenting?

My mother was a teacher so I've always had a lot of respect for them, but even more so after lockdown! I never want to do home schooling again. It's not much fun on very little sleep when you're trying to explain fractions and fronted adverbials, entertain a pre-schooler who won't nap, and juggle work. I was presenting the weather on Sky News from my back garden last



Behind the scenes at Sky News.

summer, with my husband in charge of keeping the kids out of shot.

The children are back at school now, but we're still trying to find the right balance between careers and parenting, because everyone's needs change as your children get older. I have been working part-time as that worked well for me with younger children, but now I'm ready to return to full-time work. That's if I can find the right role that excites me professionally, but still allows for quality time with family and friends. With hybrid and home working likely to continue in the future, I feel more positive about finding that elusive balance.

How did your time at Oxford shape you, both personally and professionally?

I think my time as a postgrad at Oxford played a pivotal role in my subsequent career choices and success in meteorology. I met some

fascinating people and learned a lot, both from an educational and a personal perspective. At College, I discovered the beauty of getting up very early to row on the river at sunrise. A useful skill I've transferred to my early presenter shifts, especially those where I'm on location doing an outside broadcast. But ultimately, the best thing to come from my time at Oxford were the friendships I made that have stayed strong all these years.

What's next for you?

Who knows?! I'm very aware that things never stay the same for long in television. I've been a STEM ambassador for a while now, as I want to inspire a love of science and the environment in the next generation, especially girls. So I'll keep doing that, keep doing weather broadcasts, and of course, keep learning and communicating about our climate.



LONDON TRANSPORT
L150

L.150

Private Passions: Confessions of a Train Spotter

Bill Parker, (1966, Geography)



Bill Parker in his workshop.

The first steam engines I remember were in Canada. Dad taught at McMaster University in Hamilton in the mid-50s and they ran on the freight line nearby, scaring me at first. But the interest took hold after we moved back to Brighton. Platforms 1 & 2 extended past the engine shed, and 11-year-old Bill could admire the best the Southern Region could offer, including the Brighton Belle and the Brighton Works' shunter painted in its original colours. I would take a trolley-bus after school to the station, where a kindly driver gave me my first ever footplate ride up platform 2. Once I was summoned home by the station announcer, "Master Parker's mother wants him home for his supper".

Mum and Dad took my brother and me up to London, spotting with swarms of other boys, and at 12 Mum let me take the morning train to Southampton, pulled by either 'Holsworthy' or 'Templecombe', Brighton regulars, all on my own. I remember leaning out of the window to see, hear, and smell the loco, which literally clanked, and the yellow china fixtures in the toilet.

At the age of 15 I spent a week in Scotland, with thirty bob a night from Dad to spend on B&B, saving the lot by sleeping in railway carriages. I was in search of fast-disappearing steam, but in reality I was seeing the world and finding adventure, all by myself.

By the time I appeared at Jesus in 1966 I had worked as a porter at Oxford station for the best part of a year, resulting in some culture shock, and I was very insecure in my first year or so

suppressing any overt enthusiasm for railways. I didn't join the railway society despite Jesus legend Johnny G (Classics don John Griffith) being president—and didn't apply to British Rail's management programme for the same reason. After staying on to do post-graduate research while my American wife read History at St Anne's, I left for the USA, developing expertise in valuing commercial property which subsequently gave me the wherewithal to quit for a few years in the early 80s.

The Dean Forest Railway was close to my parents' house and in 1980 I was persuaded to buy an ex-Great Western Railway tank engine, no. 5521, built in Swindon in 1927, that worked on West Country branch lines before ending up in the famous scrapyard at Barry. This was to change my life. I was told 5521 could be running in a year for about £10,000 – in reality it took 27 years and at least 20 times that – arguably 100 times that because it led to me taking on Swindon Works and finally creating my own.

DFR did not have the capacity to overhaul the engine, so I contracted with British Rail at Swindon to repair various parts, and when the closure of the works was announced I joined a consortium to keep part running for heritage work, although eventually it was just me who shook hands with Steve Reeves of Tarmac Properties.

Around the same time, over lunch at the Four Seasons in New York, one of my banking clients confided that they were eager to finance a high-value luxury train operation, but couldn't find anyone with the

L150 at Bluebell Railway.

expertise to value it as a going concern. They could establish the replacement cost of the carriages, but not what they could potentially earn in operation, and thus their market value. Could I apply the same techniques used on luxury hotels for what turned out to be the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express? You bet I could!

My partners allowed me to put the firm's name on the valuation for a nominal sum, and so Swindon Heritage Trust was formed with money in the bank. With two fellow trustees, the late Dame Margaret Weston and Bill Bradshaw (now Lib Dem transport spokesman Lord Bradshaw), we started with one machine in 1987 and in four years had over a dozen employees.

In 1990 the National Railway Museum in York closed to replace its roof, and we moved over to make room for many of its crown jewels, including Mallard, the world's fastest steam engine. Thanks to a Pembroke geographer working for British Rail (Jesus Geography



En route to Machu Picchu.

don Ernest Paget taught them too) I met the Princess of Wales, who told me that her boys were 'mad about trains' – within weeks Princes William and Harry had their first footplate ride on a steam engine (GWR City of Truro).

When the '90s property recession put paid to Tarmac Properties, I was forced to leave Swindon in 1992 – an awful blow – but was able to open my own workshop in the Forest of Dean on 1 July 1996 and 25 years later I'm still running it. Two high points that stand out are building a near-exact working replica of Stephenson's 1829 Rocket for the Science Museum in 2009, and overhauling and running Metropolitan Railway 1898 No. 1 through the Circle Line tunnels to Moorgate for London Underground's 150th anniversary in 2013.

The association with the Orient Express has proved hugely rewarding personally – you can't value it without sharing the passenger experience, and with each refinancing I had to ensure standards were being maintained! Then there was the Royal Scotsman, my absolute favourite. Then the White Pass and Yukon Railway, and even the concession to operate the Southern Railway of Peru. Not only have I been to Machu Picchu on business, but in my own train, even if it only had four little wheels.

And what of the steam locomotive that got me so involved? 5521 was finally finished in 2007 and went off by sea to Poland, later steaming all the way across Eastern Europe to Budapest. We were there when the Orient Express returned from its annual trip to Istanbul, and



A letter from Diana, Princess of Wales, August 1990.



Romania 2015 – Open Day.

somehow the next day we were on the front of the train heading across the Danube towards Vienna with me on the footplate. I can only compare it to landing at Kennedy in the cockpit of Concorde – but it wasn't my aeroplane!

In 2008, 5521 pulled scheduled passenger trains from Wroclaw to Jelcz-Laskowice in Poland, although I missed a five-day trip I organised for the late David Jones' (1966, Engineering & Economics) 60th birthday from Budapest to Bratislava, Prague, Wroclaw and Krakow, hauled by 5521 in Poland, because I was in the John Radcliffe for a heart bypass.

Ian Gray (1966, Modern Languages) and Margaret have joined me from Istanbul to Budapest, and John Jones (1966, Geography) and Jenny came on a trip through Transylvania. Ian Lake (2003, MSc Nature, Society and Environment Policy) helped prepare 5521 – now re-numbered L.150 – when it ran on the Metropolitan Line in 2014, and many others have visited the loco, including Duncan Hunter (1966, Physics) and Stewart Pearson (1966, Geography). L.150, newly overhauled and in London Transport livery, was hired by the Underground to run on the outer Metropolitan line in 2020, but...

Is it a passion? I don't drive the engines, let alone actually repair them – I leave that to those who know what they are doing. I don't write down the numbers any more, but in 2019 I rode with my son down the California coast on the veranda of the Santa Fe's Redwood Empire, and Prince Charles has promised to come to Romania this year, Covid-permitting, to promote a little railway that I'm trying to help revive in Transylvania. Long after my contemporaries retired I'm still employing people, still looking for apprentices, still investing in Victorian engineering. Not bad for a geographer.



IN QUARTA CAMERA
JOHANNES RICAR
HUJUS COLLECII OL
TEM SUUM RERUM PRAET
ER QUADRENNIUM EXERCE



20 WOMENS 2nd SUM

'Eternal Summer' by Bev Shadbolt.

Eternal Summer by Bev Shadbolt

Beth sy'n Gwneud Coleg?

Llŷr Gwyn Lewis (2009, MSt Celtic Studies)

Award-winning Welsh-language poet and prose writer Llŷr Gwyn Lewis spent a year at Jesus College pursuing a Masters in Celtic Studies. His first prose work, the semi-autobiographical *Rhyw Flodau Rhyfel* (*Some Flowers of War*, 2014), won the Wales Book of the Year award in the creative nonfiction category, and his poetry collection, '*Storm ar Wyneb yr Haul*' (*Storm on the Face of the Sun*, 2014), was shortlisted in the poetry category. Llŷr's short story collection, *Fabula*, was shortlisted for the Wales Book of the Year award 2018. In 2017 he was selected as one of the Ten New Voices from Europe, a selection of emerging writers from around Europe. Llŷr was commissioned by Jesus College to write the poem *Beth sy'n gwneud coleg?/What makes a college?* in celebration of our 450th anniversary year in 2021.



Llŷr Gwyn Lewis.

It's very much a stock answer in Wales, when asked how long you've been dabbling with this poetry business, to respond that you've been interested in it for as long as you can remember. Though I wasn't exactly rocked to sleep as a baby with the works of Dafydd ap Gwilym in my ears, there is an element of truth in this for me, which stems from the lived experience of Caernarfon where I grew up: a town that even to this day is around 85% Welsh speaking. This was a community that still lauded its poets, and showed its high regard for them through various means – not only in books and journals, but also on radio, television, film and in festivals. I had been enthralled as

“It's the wisteria, with all its stories of mortar boards, trashings, old rowing glories...”

“It’s the little Wales beyond England that welcomes you back each time in a different language...”

a child, for instance, by the 1992 film *Hedd Wyn* about the chair-winning poet who was killed in the Great War. The highlight of my year was attending the national cultural festival, the *Eisteddfod*, where you could listen to real, live, breathing poets compete against each other, and perhaps even, if you were lucky, get their autograph. Such figures as Gerallt Lloyd Owen, Dic Jones, Meirion MacIantyre Huws and Dafydd Wyn Jones were my heroes then, and the natural thing was to try to emulate their craft that I had witnessed reduce entire audiences to tears of laughter and of emotion.

That was until puberty kicked in and my interest turned to music. Fortunately there is also a vibrant Welsh-language indie music scene, and that’s what got my creative juices flowing for most of my teens. As someone who now prides himself on his poetry, however, the less said about some of the terrible song lyrics I produced during those years, the better.

In fact, I think I only started taking poetry seriously as a craft during my last years as an undergraduate at Cardiff, and perhaps even more so again during my year at Oxford. Whilst I was at Jesus I could go to various poetry readings, or choose to listen to a modern master such as Bernard O’Donoghue lecturing on Yeats. More than anything, getting to grips with the vastness of my own literary tradition, in depth and with greater understanding than ever before under the auspices of Professor Thomas Charles-Edwards, reignited my interest and love for poetry, but also for *cynghanedd*, the intricate system of Welsh strict metre.

For this commission, my starting point was a conversation with the College’s Alumni Engagement Manager Peter Sutton, who had very kindly got in touch with the idea of a poem to celebrate the College’s 450th anniversary. He mentioned the ‘12 Objects’ digital exhibition that would explore the College’s story through some of the objects in its collections. This led me to try to recollect how I would explore my own ‘story’ from that brief year at Jesus. What defines Jesus College for me? Certainly, its traditions and quirks and, yes, its objects. But for me what defined that period in my life – what defines it now, as I look back on it – more than anything are the people with whom I spent the year. I thought that this might be a way into conveying the collegiate nature of life at Oxford, but also of conveying the unique joy of Jesus College. There is a peculiar tension or paradox in this assertion that despite its buildings and its traditions and its history, it is the people who make it. This element is inevitably and constantly changing and overlapping, but it’s also what gives the College its strange sense of continuity, almost as though it were a living being, something organic. The overlap of people is what keeps the traditions alive, and instils the stone with meaning.

This idea, as well as my memories of studying *cynghanedd* at Oxford, governed my choice of metre. *Cynghanedd*, in the way that my generation employs it, embodies a sense of tradition interpreted in a modern way: continuity in change, perhaps. Similarly with the *cywydd*, the particular metre used here, which is made up of building blocks

of couplets. You can have any amount of couplets in a *cywydd*, and meaning can flow and enjamb freely; something that again I hoped would convey a sense of coming and going but also of unity.

How to convey this in English? Translating *cynghanedd* can be very challenging as meaning is so intertwined with sound and shape in this form. Literal translation can convey the poem as excessively strange, stifled, or archaic. Fortunately, as I was brainstorming and jotting down ideas and images, a great deal of the memories came to me in English, rather than in Welsh, because so much of my life in Oxford was experienced through the medium of English (I live the vast majority of my daily life in Welsh, which has always been the case apart for my year at Oxford). These images and memories that came naturally in English were useful: I wrote them down instantly, then tried to explore whether a line of *cynghanedd* offered itself in Welsh to convey a similar image or sentiment. That would then lead to a companion line in Welsh – often in the same couplet – that I could carry or convey back into the English. In a real sense, therefore, the two versions permeated and informed each other to the extent that I couldn’t say honestly that one or the other ‘came first’, or that one is a translation of the other. They are versions of each other, I suppose, and that’s a new and rare experience for me.

What makes a college?

Is it the golden stone, the sober grace,
the hall's high roof, the old carved oak,
the stern moustachioed portraits;
melon starters, shot in the guinea fowl
– no smoking please – and once a year,
Watkin Williams Wynn's peculiar pudding?

Is it the still, musty chapel,
with its candlelight and litanies?
Or the rush to print on time,
an essay crisis looming;
sleepy afternoons in the Habakkuk or Wilson;
the stained seldom-worn formal clothes,
or never ever stepping on the grass,
even when you come back in your mind?
The books unread, the lanes unexplored...

It is all that, of course, but it's also
something narrower, longer:
a window, a strip of sky past gables –
just enough to know how broad it really is;
or a sense, as you ascend the spiral staircase
that someone has gone up before you:
it is an archway opening up to splendour.

It's the wisteria, with all its stories
of mortar boards, trashings, old rowing glories;
It's a distant organ chord, the muffle of voices
going about late Thursday's rehearsal...
Tea in the tute amidst the books
and the busts, and the dust:
late lunch, the boathouse before dawn
or brunch in the MCR,
the cold mornings made martyr
to late evenings.

It's the little Wales beyond England
that welcomes you back each time in a different language

And this is all because
stone can't remember;
but the fresher sometimes can.

We have to leave, but we overlap
like the pages in the library.
We send letters across decades to the plodge,
chalk up our Eights and Torpids, but still see
older colours blazing through the stone.

We matriculate to the rest of our lives,
give up our rooms, our seat at formal,
the desk in the library we've claimed for ourselves;
leave them empty for others to fill.
Yet we overlap in the light of this place,
collegiate, close.

Beth sy'n gwneud coleg?

Ai cerrig aur cwadau'r co
a'r gras syber ei groeso,
ai'r tawch, neu'r toeau uchel,
a hen ddâr di'u cerfio'n ddel?
Gwg portread, sŵn Lladin,
sgwrs lednais, gwrtais a gwin,
neu ai pwddin Watcin Wyn
heddiw, fel ymhob blwyddyn?

Ai'r capel a'i dawelwch:
ei wydr llym, trymder llwch
rhyw gannwyll-lafarganu
a'i raen dwfn yn y pren du?
Ai'r holl lôn na ddarllenwyd,
hen dei bo staeniwyd â bwyd...
neu sgramblo i brintio mewn brys
ar ras drwy draethawd-greigus,
neu hen lif yr afon lwyd...
ai y strydoedd nas troediwyd?

Hyn: ond nid hyn yn unig.
Yr ŷm oll yn chwarae mig
â hanes sy'n gyfriniach:
stori fwy'r ffenestr fach.
Tybed wyt ti'n clywed clog
trwy wyll y grisiau troellog,
atsain balch troed ar galchfaen
fu'n esgyn fel hyn o dy flaen?

Neu storis y wisteria
am swigod aur hetiau'r ha'
neu sŵn organ sy'n ergyd
fel sêr drwy'r gosber i gyd?
Berw tiwt a'i glebar te'n
hawlio bod cwmni'n rhywle:
cinio, neu rwyfo cynnar,
neu Sul yn yr MCR,
a rhith-wawriau'n ferthyron
i wydrau hwyr y dre' hon?

Ym mhlethiad amlieithog
ei phlu, roedd gwely i'r gog,
ac ernes fach o gornel
ddiddos gu o Gymru gêl.
Treuliedig yw'r cerrig; co'
gleisiad sy'n dal i glosio.

Awn ffwrdd, ond gorgyffyrddwn
ninnau holl lyfrau'r lle hwn.
Atom drwy dwll colomen
dros dro o hyd daw'r st^wr hen;
daw rhai o hyd, pawb â'i dro
i grafu sgoriau rhwyfo
â rhyw sialc i'w ddrws ei hun:
o hyd mae eraill wedyn
yn ddwys glir am ddisgleirio
yn fud oddi tano fo.

O'r heddiw mae'n rhaid graddio:
rhoi gown ar beg coleg co',
wedyn awn, a gadawn ni
i eraill barhau'r stori:
golau hwyr cymdeithas glos,
yn golegol o agos.

Love Letters to Jesus College

In further celebration of Jesus College's 450th anniversary, we present a selection of 'love letters' to College: a collection of reminiscences and memories from Old Members around the world.

Derec Llwyd Morgan (1964, History) and Honorary Fellow

I first came up to Jesus in the summer of 1964 to sit an examination for the Meyricke Graduate Scholarship. After one of the Scholarship papers I was summoned to an interview with John Rigby Hale, the Senior History Tutor. For some reason he had his little daughter in his rooms. A minute or two after I arrived Dr Hale was summoned to the Porter's Lodge. As he went, he asked if I minded looking after

his daughter. "No, of course not." I took her on my knees and read her stories from one of the books she had beside her, and that was the scene Hale saw when he returned. He poured some sherry, gave me a glass and said straight away that he'd seen enough to offer me a place.

That non-interview summed up the Jesus spirit for me, and fifty-seven years later still symbolises its intimacy.

Jack Shulman (2008, EMBA)

Jesus was my college when, as a mature student, I was working for my MBA at Saïd. I was fortunate to get to know John Krebs a little. It's funny what sticks in one's memory, but I will never forget an evening reception and dinner I attended in his Lodgings at Jesus.

It was there that I learned of his secret vice and, perhaps, the unacknowledged fuel for academic and administrative excellence at Jesus: peppermint tea. I don't know how to describe the Platonic level of perfection that represents.

**Chris Murphy (1967,
Geography)**

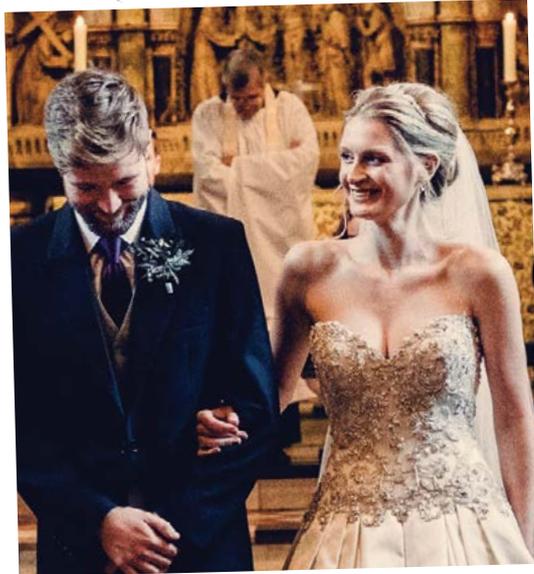


*L-R: Assistant Chaplain Rev. Walter Hooper,
Chris Murphy and girlfriend, and Andrew Burt.*

I read Geography and the geographers in those days (late '60s) were the first to start Finals and the first to finish: 10 three-hour papers on Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Monday and Tuesday. That was the biggest challenge I had ever faced but I survived and came out with a 2.1. One of my memories is that you could hear Welsh conversation as there was a very active branch of the Welsh Language Society in Jesus at the time. I've kept myself sane during lockdown by learning Welsh which is something I'd been threatening to do for some time. The grandchildren find it amusing to be greeted in Welsh.

**Holly (2011, PPE)
and Chris (2011,
Jurisprudence)
Edwards Yarrow**

I found a husband/
he found a wife! We
finally got married
in December 2020
in Chapel. We
matriculated in 2011,
got 'College married'
in Fresher's week and
have been together
since that first year.



Holly & Chris Edwards Yarrow.

Love Letters to Jesus College

Mike Hardy, (1956, Natural Sciences)

Memories of Jesus College:

- Welcoming, sociable, unfussy, and a long way from West Yorkshire by scooter.
- On a roof somewhere on May 1st, met up with another chap called Mike Hardy, reading Religious Studies at Keble. He later became the Rev Mike, as distinct from the Irrev Mike.
- On the rugby field, was introduced to Welsh style rugby – gave it up after my first forearm tackle, and switched to rock-climbing as being a safer sport.
- Pleased that in those days there were only first, second and third class degrees – no nonsense about two-one and two-twos.
- Really enjoy returning to Jesus – roll on the passing of Covid.

Peter Rees (1949, Chemistry)

I read Chemistry at Jesus, matriculating in 1949. My year group of six chemists consisted of two relatively old undergraduates who had the misfortune to be conscripted into the coal mines ('Bevin Boys') instead of the armed forces; one who had completed National Service after leaving school, with a commission in the army; and three who had come up to Oxford straight from school.

Like most of my contemporaries

my family did not possess a car, so journeys to and from College were made by train. It was a world without the World Wide Web and mobile phones. The JCR had a radio but no TV. The dons' studies were connected by an unreliable telephone link to the lodge, but undergraduates had to share a kiosk in Third Quad, paying for each call (button A or B) in cash, or requesting reverse call charges. Communication was principally by letter and it was possible to post

a letter to London at breakfast time and receive a reply by late afternoon.

I owe a great debt to the College in making me the person I am. I am proud to have worked alongside other Jesus graduates of various generations throughout my career and that numerous of my former pupils have continued their education at the College.

Floreat Collegium Jesu.

Ian Gray (1966, Modern Languages)

In October 1966 I received a replacement room-mate in Second Quad by the name of William Parker*. Fifty-five years later, Bill and I are still the very best of friends. My main memories of our Jesus life together are extra-curricular: hitch-hiking to football matches at West Bromwich Albion and Tottenham, and Bill ambulancing me and my broken wrist from rugby pitch to the Radcliffe in his somewhat brakeless jalopy. Post-university, we have kept in touch, though at times pursuing different

lives on different continents. Bill was a key figure on my first date with my now wife of fifty years, providing tea and crumpets toasted romantically over an electric fire in his father's room in Christ Church. We were back at Jesus together for the fiftieth anniversary of our matriculation and Bill also generously invited me to watch my Man United defeat his Spurs at Wembley. Greater love hath no man! May it survive for many more years yet!

*See *Private Passion*, p.26





**Peter McDonald
(1956, Chemistry)**

Oxford was a great experience for me and I met my wife there. She was a nurse at the Radcliffe – they had a great social life in those days when the University students were predominately male.

I was given an exhibition in 1954 and had to decide whether to do National Service before or after College and decided to join the Navy that summer. I was fortunate to join a cruiser based in Trincomalee in Sri Lanka and travelled to East Africa, Seychelles, India, and the Persian Gulf before coming home through the Suez Canal, Malta & Gibraltar. On leaving the Navy in 1956, Mr Eden started his ill-judged Suez War and I received a letter saying I should report to a Devon Airfield if reservists were called up.

On arriving at College I found about half the Freshers had been in the forces and we were all in the same uncertain position. Fortunately, the Americans intervened to stop the war and we were allowed to enjoy our first term.



**Sarah Harris née Trusler,
(1984, Engineering Science)**

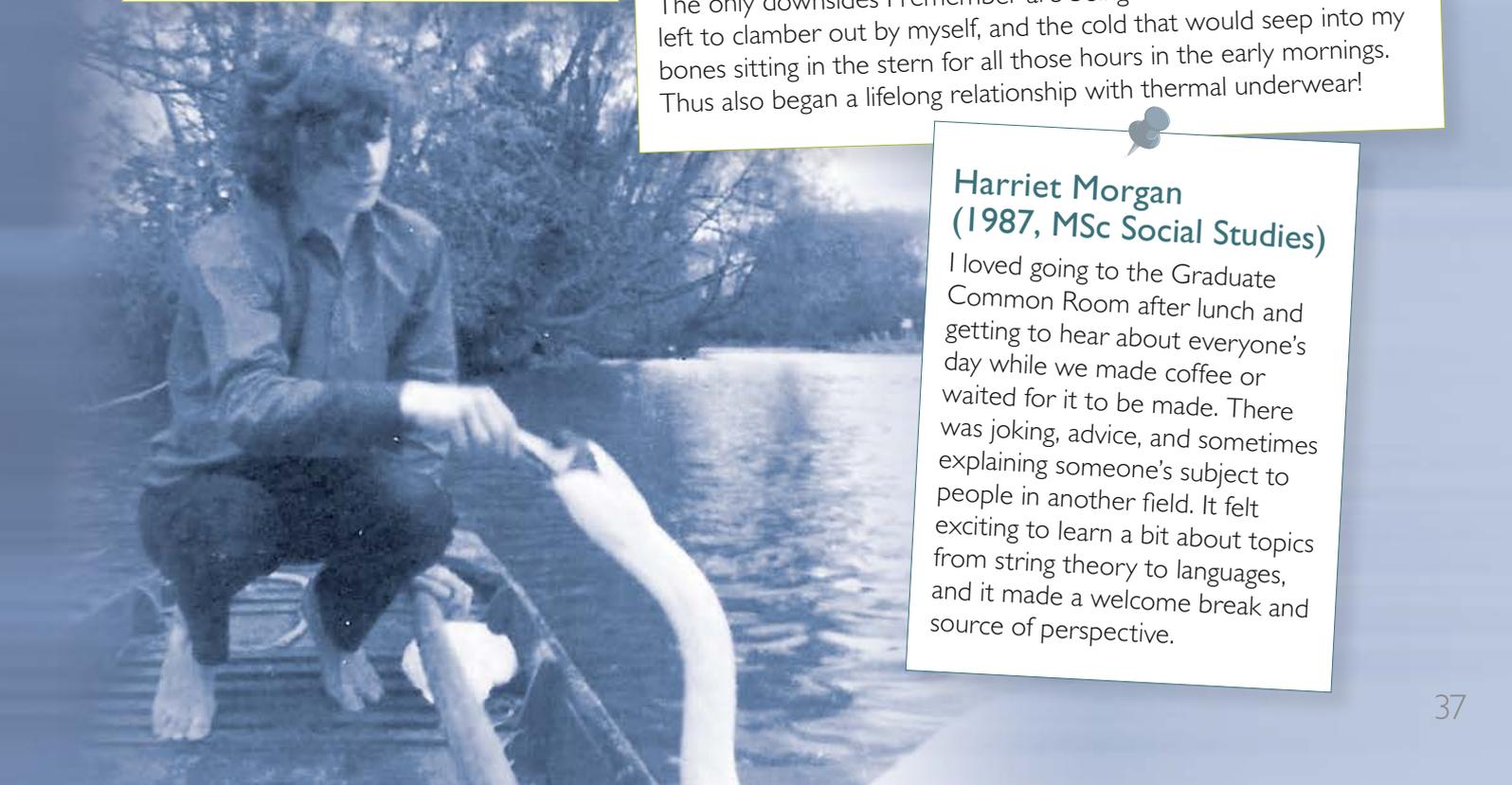


The First Eight at Eights Week, 1985

I came up to Jesus to read Engineering Science in 1984. At Freshers' Fair in Hall the Boat Club Captain singled me out and asked me whether I would like to try coxing. I didn't even know what he was talking about! Thus began three memorable years of coxing on the Isis.

I went with the Men's First Eight to Wallingford Regatta, where I was found to be under the minimum weight for a cox (I still have the certificate to prove it!), and had to carry a brick, extracted from underneath a nearby hedge, with me in the boat.

The only downsides I remember are being thrown in the river, then left to clamber out by myself, and the cold that would seep into my bones sitting in the stern for all those hours in the early mornings. Thus also began a lifelong relationship with thermal underwear!



**Harriet Morgan
(1987, MSc Social Studies)**

I loved going to the Graduate Common Room after lunch and getting to hear about everyone's day while we made coffee or waited for it to be made. There was joking, advice, and sometimes explaining someone's subject to people in another field. It felt exciting to learn a bit about topics from string theory to languages, and it made a welcome break and source of perspective.

Love Letters to Jesus College

Samarth Gupta (2018, MPhil Comparative Social Policy)

As an international student coming from the United States, I was not sure what to expect in a new country. The community in Jesus was welcoming, unpretentious, and joyful. From the boat club to the MCR, the college created spaces and relationships I treasure. I miss seeing familiar faces every morning by the MCR coffee machine and making the short weekly trip for a lunch at Najar's with friends. Jesus College became my home away from home, and the place where I met lifelong friends. I am excited to return in due time and hope to give back to the College for all it gave me.

Jane Lewis (1974, Oriental Studies)

I wanted to go to Jesus since I was about 3 or 4! When people asked what I wanted to do when I grew up, I would say, 'I want to go to Daddy's College' to which they would reply, 'But girls aren't allowed there'. So I was delighted when College opened its doors to women for the first time in 1974, and my application to be in that first group of women was successful. My parents were living in Brazil at the time, so I sent them a telegram saying, 'Jesus wants me'. 'Hallelujah' came back the reply.

People often ask me if we experienced much sexism or sexual harassment, but I don't remember any. The guys adopted us. Relationships were formed, but I can honestly say I don't remember any harassment or sexism. I felt I was treated as an equal – which made for rather a big shock when I finally joined the world of work.

Floreat Collegium Jesu indeed! Here's to another 450 years.

Nick Berry (1993, Modern History)

I was very lucky as I found many loves at Jesus; the atmospheric libraries, the JCR, and of course, The Sheepshagger. It would be remiss of me not to mention my love of Hungary, and in particular one Hungarian. We met at Jesus, were married the year after she left, and have been together ever since.

Ian Sutherland (1977, Physics)

Friendships and memories formed in those first terms convey a sense of belonging that manifests again at Gaudies. I remember the water fights in Staircase XIX in 1977, and the tea, toast and music in the top floor rooms with sloping ceilings – and I appreciate the ease with which that group reforms when it has a chance.

Dick Cowan (1964, Animal Physiology)

Prior to making decisions I had a real problem – which Jesus College should I go to? Cambridge or Oxford?

The latter was the correct choice and I was grateful to be offered a place. Geoffrey Rushworth was my tutor, and we got on well. The weekly sessions in College were exacting and good.

John Simon (1967, Physiological Sciences)

I found several “loves” and have listed them:

A love of the scientific method. This love was given to me by my tutor Dr Geoffrey Rushworth. It has remained throughout my life – and even grows stronger with age. I apply the scientific methodology not only to my work as a physician but also to my life in general!

I also learnt to play backgammon at Jesus in the JCR – and began to love the game. I used to play in the World Championships in Monte Carlo every year. I am proud to say I was the runner up one year in the Singles championship and on two occasions the Hong Kong team, of which I was a member, won the Team championships.

Kathy Sylva, 1977 Emeritus Fellow

I became a Senior Research Fellow in Psychology at Jesus in 1977, one of the first females in the Senior Common Room. True to its all-male history, men in the SCR were well provided with male loos, neatly adjacent to the SCR and discreetly labelled ‘private’. I, on the other hand, had to walk out of Staircase X along the path in Second Quad to use the female student loos at the bottom of Staircase XI. This love letter is sent to all the kind undergraduates I met regularly in 1977 at the bottom of Staircase XI. They advised me where to buy my first Jesus College green and white striped scarf, or which porters would go that extra mile if I urgently needed to contact a tutee. It was the undergraduates in the all-girls loo who made me feel at home in my own College, perhaps because they too had made that daunting first step into a College where, until 1974, only males could tread?

Steven Hillion (1987, Mathematics)



After three intense and wonderful years at Jesus College, I'd intended to continue studying mathematics at Oxford by pursuing a DPhil. But my advisor at Jesus, John Roe, suggested that for my particular interests (number theory) the place to be was Berkeley, at the University of California.

Within a few minutes, John had contacted a friend of his at Berkeley via this new-fangled email thing (this was 1990) and I was unofficially on track to be accepted

for the graduate programme. Within a year I was in Berkeley, within another year I'd come out and found a new freedom and happiness in my life, and within a decade I was engaged to be married to the man who now lives with me in our San Francisco house, where I sit today looking out towards Berkeley to the east and, a little further on, my alma mater. Jesus College, and John, fundamentally changed my life.

Love Letters to Jesus College

Louise Bishop (1986, Jurisprudence)



(l-r) Jo Thornton, Louise, Sarah Bruce and Andrew Hawthorne.

To get in was just a dream. I came from a State School and had been told by my school that it was not worth applying, so getting in was very much a solo effort. From day one I knew I had found my happy place – and I relished every single moment at College. Jesus was kind, unstuffy, inclusive and magnificent.

I made my closest lifelong friends at College – we still talk almost every day. My Jesus friends have been and remain my family. I also met my husband Andy at Jesus: we have been married now for over 20 years and are proud parents to two children.

Basically Jesus has made me happy – both while there and during my life afterwards. I will be forever grateful for that acceptance tele message!

Peter J Page (1966, Geography)

When I arrived at Jesus I was entering a completely unknown world. I think that the most important things I learned over the next three years had little to do with Geography. That included the lesson that I didn't know nearly as much as I thought I did. Here are a few memories from that time:

- The distinctive smell of the corridor between First and Second Quads.
- Lunch in Hall, and the day the kitchen got hold of some salmon, offered poached as a cold lunch option at an extremely affordable price.
- Chapel, and in particular the way the Classics don Johnnie G (Johnnie Griffiths) made a very precise sharp right turn as he turned from the aisle to approach the lectern when he was reading at Sunday Evensong.
- Oxford University Railway Society meetings in the College lecture theatre on Fridays.
- Stuart Pearson inviting a few of us to listen to his newly acquired copy of the Sergeant Pepper album in his rooms on the day of its first release.
- Hearing Professor Idris Foster conversing in Welsh in Third Quad.

Brian Allardyce (1959, Physics)

I read Physics and my tutor was Claude Hurst. I liked him, although I was somewhat in awe of him. I remember vividly one occasion of huge embarrassment when I had made some sort of major error in answer to a question on thermodynamics, and he said, "Oh Allardyce, where were you educated?". I did not know where to hide my face and I have remembered it to this day. Claude encouraged me to pursue a career in physics, but it was the lectures of Professor Dennis Wilkinson that got me into nuclear physics, for which I am so grateful. I also had John

Houghton as a tutor not long after he became a Fellow. He also gave great encouragement and was always keen to talk about his research work.

I still recall the hairy moments of climbing into College after hours. The method used was to prop your bike against the wall in Market Street at the point where the wall joins the College wall. Then, standing on the saddle, you clamber up over the spikes and into the small courtyard at the back of what was the JCR. No injuries fortunately!

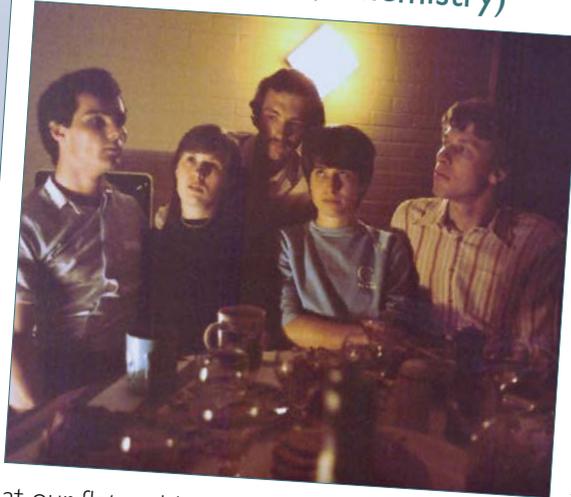
Canon David Staples (1956, Theology)

You might expect to hear of miracles from a retired cleric, but the very fact of my being given a place at Jesus was miraculous. At the time of my graduation I asked my tutor, Denys Whiteley, why I had been given a place as I left school at 16 with no 'A' levels: "There were a few signs that you had once been taught a bit of Greek".

I found digs off the Iffley Road and paid £3 per week for room and breakfast. My landlady ruled her students with a rod of iron, and I once received severe rebuke when I invited my brother to my room. She put the fear of God into me far more than any drill corporal during basic training in the Royal Warwickshire Regiment.

What did I gain from my experience? It was good to interact with others who were reading different subjects. It rooted my theology in a wide context and I still ask a lot of questions from outside the ecclesiastical box. I made many friends involved in other disciplines and am still, after over 60 years, in touch with some. It opened the door to Theological College and a ministerial life which has been very rich in experience of both situations and people.

Paul Baxter (1977, Chemistry)



In 1982-83, my last year at Jesus, I shared a flat with Steve Cook and John Needham. The Principal of the College was Sir John Habakkuk. He was due to retire the next year, so John thought it would be nice to do something in honour of this. When John said that he was going to invite him to dinner

at our flat, neither Steve nor I took him seriously, but that is exactly what he did, and what's more Sir John and wife, Lady Mary Habakkuk, accepted.

We all had a wonderful evening listening to Sir John's stories of his career, including how during the war he had nearly been recruited into the Secret Service via a very strange interview with a spy in a train station waiting room. Before they left, he said that this had been the only time in his academic career that he had been invited to a student's flat for dinner, and how touched he had been to get the invitation. They were genuinely nice people. I'm sure that they played a large part in creating the welcoming atmosphere of College during my time there.

Richard Turner (1972, Modern Languages)



During Trinity Term of that first year, I went along to a meeting of the University Spanish, Latin American and Portuguese Society in the basement of the Museum of Modern Art. As we entered, we were greeted by a girl – Claire – with stunning pre-Raphaelite auburn hair. Our eyes

met and my heart skipped a beat. To cut a long story short, Claire and I attended the Jesus Summer Ball of 1973 and had a wonderful night, but the next day I took the train home to Canterbury and Claire left for Leeds. During the following Michaelmas Term we saw each other a few times, but the pressures of work seemed to increasingly keep us apart and, sadly, the relationship never progressed.

But I shall always remember the moment Claire's and my eyes met, and the hot magical summer of 1973.

Love Letters to Jesus College

E. Helen Watt (1977, Modern Languages)



I was overjoyed to receive the telegram offering me a place at Jesus, which I still have, and which my dear younger brother told me was the result of a clerical error.

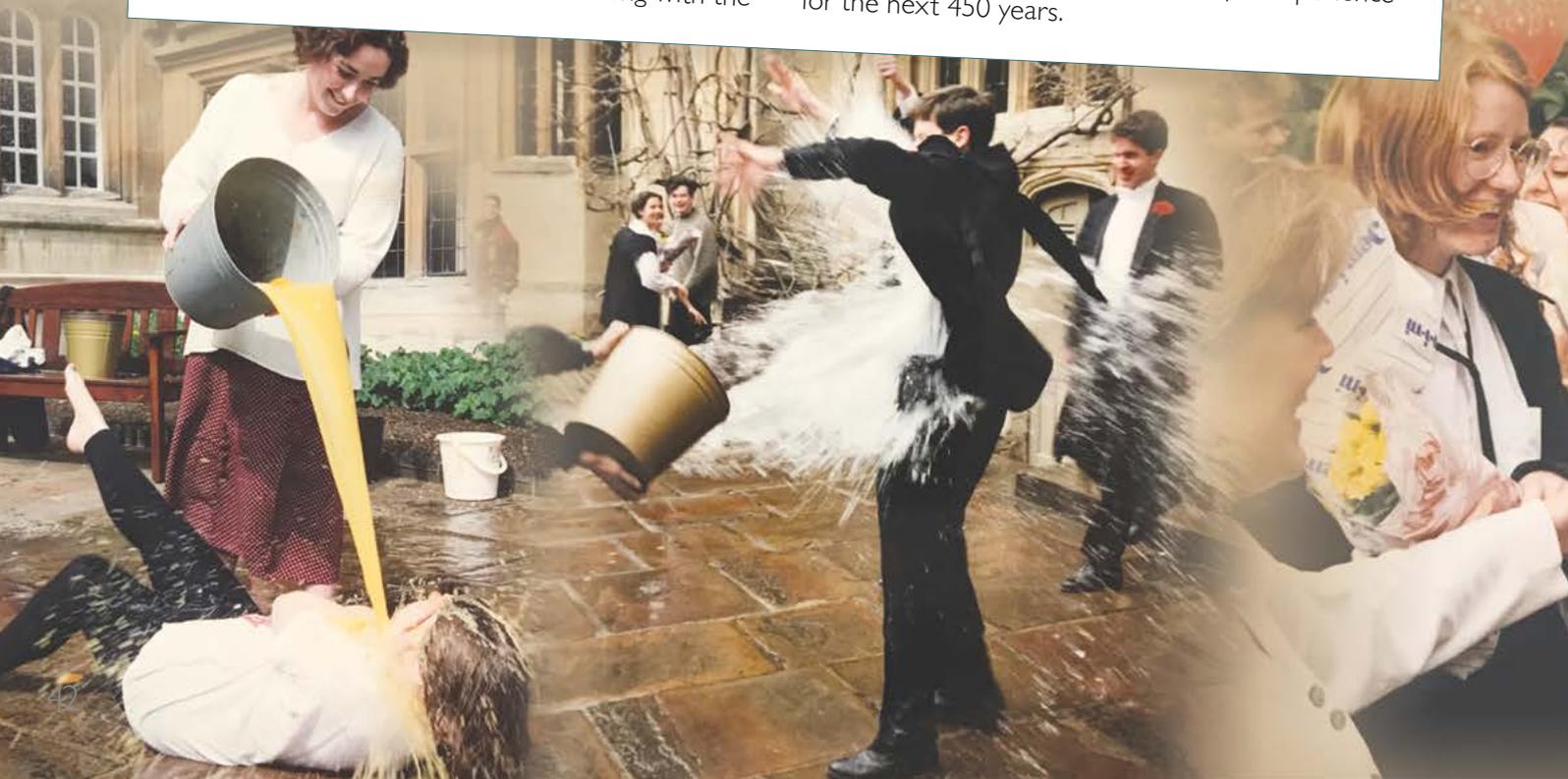
When I went up, the costs per term were £168 B&B, with a £10 booklet of coupons, for teas, bottles of wine, lunches, etc., which would normally last a term! My time at Jesus College was extremely happy and I retain very fond memories of my three years there. I found College to be a very friendly place: our year was roughly 50-50 men-women and being female, I don't think I ever encountered anything which might be classified as prejudice or sexism. Our College had none of the class divide which might have existed at other colleges.

Wales has since played an extremely important part in my life, as I have spent around ten years living and working there, enjoying learning to speak Welsh. I enjoy keeping up with my Oxford friends, attending the Gaudies, and hearing the news from College, and since I now also have a partner from my year (who really did get the best degree in the University in our year in his subject), I would like to end by saying thank you, Jesus, for everything! Diolch yn fawr iawn am bopeth!

Adam King (1993, PPE)

Being at Jesus was an enormous and unexpected privilege for me. I was the first in my family to go to university, and my overall recollection is deep happiness and fulfilment. I was surrounded by a very kind and inclusive group of people: from my very first welcome by my College "parent", to the intellectual stretch and friendship of the PPE-ists of the time; from the formal and informal music making with the

Chapel Choir and the musicians in College to the various opportunities to socialise and converse with students and Fellows. Through all these experiences and many more, I was overwhelmed by the welcome and friendship which gave me the confidence to be myself and shape the rest of my life. I hope Jesus will enable others to have their own unique experience for the next 450 years.



Kate Heal née Morris (1988,
Geography)



My time with you for my undergraduate degree was hugely formative in my personal and career development. I will never forget the advice in Principal's Collections in 2nd Year to "get up earlier and read more". It was true and it worked. I also really appreciated the down-to-earth atmosphere at Jesus. Whilst I met most of my Oxford friends in other Colleges through the University Rambling and Hillwalking Club, Jesus College was a safe, well-resourced base from which to venture forth and return. Thank you, Jesus College. Without you I would not be in my current career, with lifelong friends – still hillwalking – and my husband (from across the Broad at Trinity).

John Wilson (1962, Jurisprudence)



John Wilson rowing at 3 in Jesus 2nd VIII June 1963.

Having very sensibly had a mother born in Colwyn Bay I found I was eligible to sit the closed scholarship examination for Jesus College. Two memories of time at Jesus stand out in particular:

Music – An interest in music gave the opportunity to meet up with female undergraduates, as the Jesus-St Anne's Music Society was flourishing. There were concerts in the Principal's Lodgings, and a joint production in Michaelmas 1962 of a spoof version of Gilbert & Sullivan's *Patience*.

Rowing – I joined the rowing fraternity and was assigned to row at no.3 in the 2nd VIII in the 1963

Eights Week. We were bumped by the boat behind. We all stopped rowing (which we should not have done), but the boat behind kept on enthusiastically (which it should not have done) and as a result our bow started pointing towards the bank. Our cox rallied and called 'all together', so we pulled firmly – straight into the bank! The impact splintered the bow so that water began coming in. We rowed hard for the boathouse, with people taking bets as to whether we would make it. I surreptitiously took my feet out of the strap ready to swim for it if necessary. We did make it to the boathouse to the cheers or jeers of the onlookers. Happy days!



Love Letters to Jesus College

John Blore (1969, Theology)

I arrived at Jesus to read Theology in 1969, and was invited to the Principal's Lodge for tea where the kindly Mrs Habakkuk asked us each in turn, "and do you play an instrument?".

My spiritual journey through Oxford included College Chapel, attending St Aldate's, membership of the College Christian Union, and occasional visits to OICCU where I heard

Anglican evangelistic speakers. At Jesus, and subsequently at Wycliffe Hall, I met Tom Wright, one-time President of OICCU and subsequently Bishop of Durham and writer on New Testament Studies.

Those were heady days of College success at rugby and on the river. I spent rather too much time following cricket in the Parks. I loved old Oxford, punting, and

strolling in the Parks, Christ Church Meadow, and across Port Meadow to Binsey and the Perch. I went to opera and Shakespeare in the New Theatre, seeing Judi Dench as Juliet.

I was ordained in the Church of England in 1975, and ministered in Essex until retiring to Norfolk in 2015. It is always a delight to be back in College, especially if the wisteria is in bloom.

Jeremy Burrows (1989, Chemistry) and Louise Burrows née King (1991, Chemistry)

My seven years at Jesus (1989, Chemistry, then DPhil) were core years of my life affecting everything thereafter. My studies equipped me for my career in pharmaceutical chemistry and my current role, discovering the next generation of antimalarials for the world (www.mmv.org). I also hit it off with my wife to be, Louise (1991, Chemistry), at a Jesus College Chemists' dinner! Finally, the friendships that formed with fellow students and tutors have been precious over the last 32 years. Particularly, I want to acknowledge Prof Tony Downs, who interviewed and taught us both, for his academic excellence that challenged us to excel, and his fatherly support. Whenever I think of Jesus, I picture the beautiful wisteria in Second Quad – a timeless image. Jesus will always remain precious to us.



JESUS COLLEGE



FIRST EIGHT		
bow	Phil Smith	76.5 kg
2	Bill Symonds	70 kg
3	Pete Mead	80 kg
4	Robin Binks	82.75 kg
5	Paul Smith	85.5 kg
6	Phil Andrade	77.5 kg
7	Mark Clarke	85.5 kg
str	Bill Saunders	87.25 kg
cox	Alistair Morgan	65 kg
coaches		
J. H. Page Esq., T. Haslam-Jones		

SECOND EIGHT		
bow	Chris Jubb	
2	Joe Savundra	
3	Phil Legg	
4	Rhodri Walters	
5	Justin McCracken	
6	John Price	
7	Mike Dufton	
str	Rod Stark	
cox	Dave Evans	
coaches		
T. Haslam-Jones, A. Bunnell		

Captain
T. Haslam-Jones
Hon. Secy
P. M.
Treasurer
Rear Admiral
Sre
A. G.
Bo
P. B.
RUGBY
bow Loose
2 Hooker
3 Tight
4 2nd R
5 2nd R
6 Wing
7 Wing
str Lock
cox Ref
Admiral Sir

Andrew Johnson (1987, Geography)

I used to attend Morning Prayer in the College Chapel with a small group of other students and afterwards we were always invited back to the College Chaplain's study for breakfast. One of us was given money to purchase a fresh, still warm, loaf from the bakery in the Covered Market and on our return we enjoyed it with butter and jam and a decent mug of coffee before heading off to lectures. Interestingly six of the regular attendees are now serving as priests or ministers in churches around the UK!

The Revd Geoffrey White (1972, Modern Languages)

I came up to Jesus in 1972 to read Modern Languages, returning in 1976 to study Theology at St Stephen's House, although I was still a member of College and so came back to sing with the choir at Sunday evensong. So it was that I met Alison, a Northumbrian alto from St Anne's, who has been my wife for forty years.

In my second year, as a member of the Jesus – St Anne's Music Society, I was asked to organise the Summer Concert and, known for giving huge discounts to Oxford colleges, I approached the famous harpsichordist George Malcolm. In sorting out the format

of the recital, I naturally had to liaise with him. Around nine one morning, he turned up in my small, but very modern room, in the block built for the Quatercentenary; I was slightly embarrassed that my smalls were still drying over the heating duct!

When the evening came, all, including the weather, was fine. We packed the hall and I took the last seat in the gallery. The concert was magnificent, though I did learn one more thing about George Malcolm, and that was that he wasn't famed for total sobriety, and his performance was *molto animato*.

John Bridges (1980, Engineering Science)

I was an Engineering Science student from 1980, and remember particularly:

- the intelligence and warmth of my fellow Jesus Engineers, Chris and Helen
- the amazing paternoster continuous lift in the Engineering block – scary but then you master it!
- flying every week with the University Air Squadron at RAF Abingdon, and superb social events
- the day those of us in Ship Street building decided to surprise our Scout John by getting up early and all meeting in the top room, so that poor John had to open 12 empty rooms before finding us all in the final one. May have been his birthday!



LEGE



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wley, Esq.
BY EIGHT
Head
Head
ow (L.H.)
ow (R.H.)
Forward (L.H.)
Forward (R.H.)

cox
coach C.O.M.S.

coach
Christopher Parry (Bart.)

Love Letters to Jesus College

Geoffrey Lucas (1952, PPE)

When I came up in October 1952, the first amazing experience was that I had a bedroom of my own. I had come from a two bedroom bungalow, which I shared with my parents and elder sister.

I am always sad when young people tell me that applying to Oxford frightens them. My experience was that it was a huge improvement. I came from an all-male, day, secondary school, so the third big change was studying with girls.

My economics don was also my moral

tutor, a Jewish bachelor, whose mistress often spent the night in College, a practice which I regret that I failed to emulate, in spite of trying hard. He and I got on well, sharing a passion for chess as well as for economics.

I trod the boards twice for College, in *Much Ado* and *The Merchant*, played rugger and tennis, and eventually discovered what I wanted to do in life by a process of elimination. By good luck, I fell into a job which I loved in merchant shipping.

Steve Crabb (Modern History, 1982)



I am grateful to Jesus College for many of the loves in my life. College (and particularly Drs Walsh and Heal) developed my love of history into a life-long passion. Second quad gave me an abiding love of wisteria. But above all I have College to thank for the greatest love of my

life*. I met my wife at Jesus – she was a fellow historian at Pembroke – and I asked her out a few hours after we both finished Finals, in probably the least romantic part of College; Third Quad! We've been together for 35 very happy years now.

*along with our two children



Ian Fraser (1973, Chemistry)

I could talk about the excellent tutors I had, despite failing completely to synthesise and characterise thiazyl hexachloroantimonate. I could mention that I was all alone upon arrival, but was taken under the wing of three lads from Bradford: Messrs Minihan, Meehan and Rigby, all of whom became the closest friends. I could mention how enjoyable it was studying chemistry under Tony Downs and Mike Pilling, how strong was the camaraderie in Jesus College, and how much I gained from my involvement in rugby, squash and athletics.

But all of this provided a backdrop to the events which began one night at a party in IA Woodstock Road when some ladies from St Anne's arrived. One attractive young lady asked me what I did, and I replied that I was not part of the university at all but was a "car-breaker from Cowley".

Three months later at a party in New College, the same lady bounded up to me and said, "aren't you a car-breaker from Cowley?". Penny and I dated throughout Hilary and Trinity, and we decided to go to Jesus Summer Ball. It seemed like the perfect time, five months after meeting her, to ask Penny to marry me. I think she said "of course".

I write this having just celebrated the 44th anniversary of our engagement. We have three wonderful children and a gorgeous granddaughter. We owe our 45 year love affair to our time at Jesus and St Anne's, and any success we've had in life significantly to our Colleges and to Oxford.

Harry Harrold (1987, Zoology)

I arrived at College as a sworn ale drinker. A childhood aversion to anything fizzy meant I never got started on lager. Cut to the 1990 World Cup, showing in the JCR before the College bar dreamed of its own TV, or anyone at CERN envisaged a "web" where such things might be followed.

The only drink I could imagine liking less than lager? Canned bitter. So, it would have been in the Jesus JCR, during England's first round match vs the Republic of Ireland, that I started drinking lager. I think it would have been Kronenbourg 1664. Fortified, I believe, by the wise words of Stuart King (1987, Metallurgy), "You don't have to like it, Harry, you just have to drink it."

The game was a draw. I still drink Kronenbourg.

John Keeler (1960, Jurisprudence)

My College experience could not have shaped my career and life more directly. During my interview in 1959 with Arthur Rogerson, the Fellow in Law, he asked me what I wanted to do after I left. I replied that I would like to be a University lecturer, after three or so years' experience at a University in Canada or Australia. In 1963 Arthur was appointed to the Chair and Deanship in Law at the University of Adelaide, and before he left asked me if I would contemplate applying for a lectureship there. I did and was appointed to a lectureship in the Adelaide Law School in 1964. Arthur was my first Dean, and my best man when I married in 1972. I remained a full time member of the Law School until I retired in 2002 and retained an Adjunct position until I became an Emeritus Fellow of the University when I gave it up in 2018.

I gained entirely unjustified respect in the SCR during 1969-70. In those days of a male only College the issue of whether women could stay overnight was the most controversial issue. The policy at the time was that truckle beds could be hired for a night for five shillings. The JCR was opposed to this and as a protest the President resigned and a goldfish was elected in his stead, on the basis that the JCR President was a member of the Governing Body but that, since he had not been listened to, it was appropriate that the JCR be represented by a creature that opened and shut its mouth without expecting to be heard. I was asked my opinion as to whether this possibility required any response from the SCR, talked to some undergraduates (my cousin Colin, reading Physics at the College) and suggested that there wasn't. No disaster occurred.

Love Letters to Jesus College

Julian Fletcher (1986, Physics)

I do like to think I left a mark on Jesus College. More of a stain perhaps. For, in 1988, along with Julian Smith, I founded *The Sheepshagger* and edited it for a number of years.

Julian and I would spend most of the term not doing much about that term's edition. We did have several outstanding cartoonists though (Foz, Phill and the mother of a mathematician from our year). By the beginning of eighth week, however, we knuckled down and did our best to write enough articles to fill the requisite eight or twelve pages.

Making extensive use of the new-fangled Mac computers up at the Computing lab and Pagemaker, we'd have a half-decent set of proofs by the end of the week, held together

with Sellotape, Pritt and hope. Possibly the most challenging part: getting 120 or so copies printed. By the evening, we'd always managed it and retired to a packed bar for a calming drink. There would be a wall of people at the door, all clutching 20p pieces, desperate to get hold of a copy. Within a few minutes, we'd sell out and the bar would fall silent as people scanned the pages, hoping to see their name, or hoping not to see their name, depending on their personal disposition, what they'd been up to that term, with whom they'd been consorting, etc.

Malcolm Mclvor (1961, Mathematics)

Day 1 'Come and meet my school friends'

Week 1 Watched them play Bridge

Week 2 Played Bridge

Term 1 Established a Bridge four

Post graduation

Four actuaries in training

Five decades of life-long friendship

All thanks to a knock on the door by Dick Crease.

What do you get with 4 Maths men, 2 Greats men, 2 Historians and a Geographer? A £19 Punt Company with a punt called Messalina and another, Mistress Quickly. A bow wave down the Cherwell leading to Cambridge and Llangollen. At the end of the pole? Great fun!

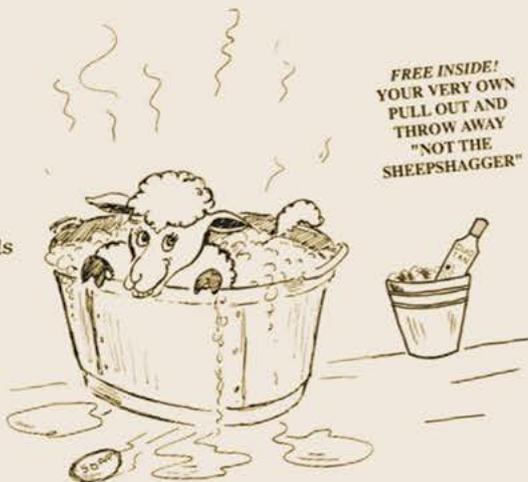
In 1961, what did you get from XI, 6 in the middle of the night? A long run for a p.. in XVI basement, the Palace. There you went!

The Sheepshagger

'The true end of satire is the amendment of vices' - John Dryden

20p

Emma Reynolds comes clean



FREE INSIDE!
YOUR VERY OWN
PULL OUT AND
THROW AWAY
"NOT THE
SHEEPSHAGGER"

Michaelmas 1990

The Sheepshagger

"Believe it or not" - R L Ripley

30p



the Sheepshagger this term because I
done anything." - P D Tomkins.
he thinks (see pages 2, 3 and 7-10).

ALSO FEATURING:
Not very much.

Hilary 1992

Simon Moffett (1969, Engineering Science & Economics)



I always knew I would go to Jesus College, Oxford, and find a wife. That's what my father did. My mother did her degree in St Hilda's. My sisters were doing degrees in Oxbridge, and so should I. With a complete lack of imagination, I simply followed on.

I read engineering science and economics and later I found a career in oil refining in West Wales where I did use some things I had learned. I joined the

choir in Chapel every Sunday. The chaplain, Rev Denys Whiteley, led discussion of the sermon after the service. We went because he served draught sherry from unlabelled bottles. I still don't know what original sin is, although we seemed to discuss it interminably.

Learning to sing the bass part was a distraction. The basses faced the sopranos and the tenors faced the altos. Among the sopranos was Mererid's smiling face. I didn't think she would ever take a fancy to me as I was far too 'home counties', while she was refined, academic and Welsh. But in our third year the penny dropped and we got together.

Meeting Mererid changed the drift of my life, giving it purpose. We live happily now in West Wales. I have learnt Welsh and we are blessed with two daughters, a fine son-in-law, and three grandchildren, all Welsh-speaking.

Stuart Yerrell (1958, Physics)

I first visited Jesus College in January 1958 to take the entrance examination. On my first evening I went for a nice hot bath in the basement of the Third Quad, and recalled the old saying that a cat washes itself when going to a new home if it intends to settle. It must have worked for me: I returned later that year with an open Exhibition to start reading Physics (called Natural Sciences in those days). It was the beginning of a very happy and enjoyable three years.



Love Letters to Jesus College

Paul Waine (1972, PPE)



Caravan's *Memory Lane*, Hugh could be heard again and again from my room on Staircase XVIII. I'd been lucky to be chosen to lead the 1974 Ball committee. Could we gain the confidence of College that we could put on the Ball and be financially sound? We were to be guided by the Home Bursar.

We needed an image to be the "brand" of the Ball. A series of "Love is" cartoons by Kim were featured regularly in newspapers around that time, and "Love is Jesus Summer Ball" ads first appeared in Daily Info early in Hilary. "Love is" t-shirts and badges followed, and we entered the "Love is Eight" in Eights Week.

Caravan headlined the ball. They went on at around 2:30 AM and their 60 minute set ran for 2 hours. Wow, we'd put on a great summer Ball!

"Love is" Jesus College. My time at Oxford, the people I got to know, the friendships made and renewed, the reunions, the alumni events. The memories that take you back. Jesus College is better and so much more exciting today. Congratulations to everyone on the 450th Anniversary.





Howard Steadman (1957, Physics)

Going up to Oxford as a 17-year-old Exhibitioner from a grammar school I was quite intimidated, not only by being surrounded by boys from public schools, but the fact that some had done their National Service and were 'men' where the rest of us were 'boys'.

Many happy memories include sunning myself with friends by laying on the grass in Second Quad with our feet on the path because

walking on the grass was banned. The JCR was a second home, especially if you were out in 'digs', as I was in my third year. Playing Shove Ha'penny there was one of the many enjoyable distractions.

Girls were not allowed as students in College in those days. Had they been, perhaps my best memories would have been very different!

Ross Manning (1997, Biological Sciences)

I had the pleasure of working behind the bar at College during my time there, and it was great fun – you were everyone's best friend on a crowded Friday night. The bar manager, Di, a tiny, jolly, Brummie redhead, was the unofficial College mother and very much loved. Tea and toast in the JCR after a morning of lectures was always a welcome restorative.

Another stand-out memory is the beautiful garden behind 121 Woodstock Road, where I lived with Rosy Hughes and Leo Goldsmith – I spent a lot of time in that garden in the sunshine after Finals finished. Of course, it was the friendships I made, and still have, that are foremost in mind.

Margaret Lawson (1976, Modern Languages)

It was in Oxford that I became a Christian. C.S. Lewis described himself as the most reluctant convert in all England and, although I wouldn't have said that of myself, it did take me a while to get there. I remember formative and helpful chats with the chaplains, the late Colin Bennetts and Bruce Gillingham, as well as inspiring and thought-provoking sermons at St Aldate's delivered by Michael Green. There were also plenty of late night discussions with friends – some Christians, some not – as I tried to figure out what I believed about God, life, the universe, everything.

I can picture myself cycling along the Woodstock Road to reach St Aldate's, bells gloriously ringing out all around me, and enjoying the rich autumn colours in Michaelmas and the drifting and scented spring blossom in Hilary and Trinity.

The faith in Christ which I discovered while I was at Jesus has been through its ups and downs over the years. It has changed and developed into something rather less black and white than it was then. It has, however, remained strong and I therefore recall with immense gratitude the opportunity I had whilst at Jesus to find Jesus for myself.

Love Letters to Jesus College

Kathryn Davies (1985, PPE) and Reinhild Fliethmann née Leinemann (1986)



Die Jesusfreundschaftsausdehnungswirkung (German, Compound Noun, Attr. Trier 1986) The Jesus College Friendship Expansion Effect.

Kathryn Davies and Reinhild Leinemann were thrown together during the annual Trier/Jesus student exchange in 1985/6. A generation later: the famous *Jesusfreundschaftsausdehnungswirkung* has reached out to all of our children. The ripple effect reaches sisters,

brothers, Godchildren, parents, husbands, friends, neighbours and even dogs.

We hope that the *Jesusfreundschaftsausdehnungswirkung* phenomenon has made its presence felt with you too. Maybe your address books are also scored through with multiple addresses and countries. Maybe your Jesus friendships have also tracked the inevitable triumphs and disasters life throws at us. Maybe you too have sought diversion during agonising times waiting for children's academic results and wondering whether they will follow in your footsteps? (net: Worcester and Keble – ach well, you can't win 'em all!)

Maybe there is hope to cheer up that famously miserable picture of Jesus founder, Hugh Price, that hangs in College? Jesus College is the friendliest college. Always was, always will be. May the *Jesusfreundschaftsausdehnungswirkung* touch him too, so that he looks down on us with a legacy of shared friendship for the next 450 years ... and learns to smile!

John Rhys (1962, Mathematics)

The most important event of my time in Oxford was meeting the woman who was to become my wife of 54 years. We did not meet at Jesus, or even in Oxford, but we were married in Chapel and celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary with a lunch in College.

Otherwise the most influential experiences and events were mostly related to my contemporaries, and exposure to ideas from a range of other disciplines, and to people with different backgrounds and perspectives. Dinner in Hall was important. Sconcing was still practised for deemed "breaches of etiquette"; such as talking about your own subject for too long.

Sport was fun. I played football for the college, and learned to play squash, which sustained me in exciting but exhausting exercise for many years afterwards.

Finally came travel. I think we secured a small grant from College, and seven of us embarked on an exploration of the Balkans and Near East, purchasing an ancient World War II Bedford two ton truck, which we converted. Travel was a completely different experience in those days. Again this was a formative, not just as a cultural, experience in terms of reaching agreements within the group in sometimes difficult circumstances.

Emily Collier née Eisen (2005, Music)



I can easily say that my two years at Jesus were irreplaceable in so many ways. Here's me and my then boyfriend, Chris Collier (St Catz) in Second Quad celebrating the end of our first year MSt music exams in June 2006.

And here we are last spring, married with two kids (Zachary, 5, and Natalie, 2):

For me, Jesus was the place where I finally settled and blossomed intellectually into my studies. It set me on the path to a very satisfying musical career, first as a professional, and now an avid amateur and supporter of the classical arts in Philadelphia where

we live. I'll never forget the beauty of the spaces that I felt I had special rights to within the amazing city of Oxford – all those doors I could walk through, gardens I could enjoy, rooms I could read in, port wine I could drink... Jesus has a very, very special place in my heart.



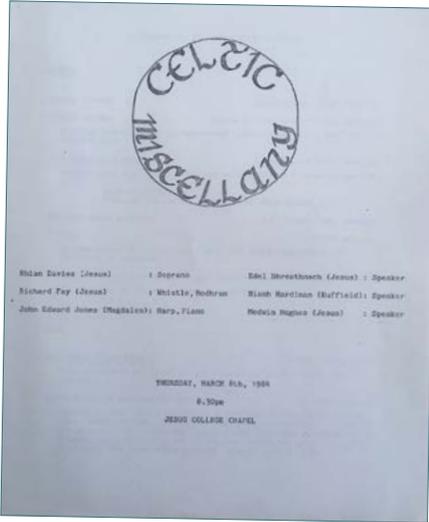
Anne Marie Hinton née Harvey (1977, English Language & Literature)

“How do I love thee? Let me count the ways”...

- The telegram offering me a place: still cherished, the only telegram I've ever received.
 - Your friendliness, liveliness, and fun – small enough to be intimate and inclusive, yet containing a wonderful diversity of talented people.
 - Your Welshness: sitting in Hall, listening to the lovely lilt of Welsh around us.
 - Spring and the month of May, and the glorious wisteria in Second Quad with its intoxicating scent.
 - Colin Williamson, a truly wise and humane scholar and gentleman.
 - Studying T S Eliot with Lyndall Gordon: a privilege and a joy.
 - Our double set on V.2 staircase in 3rd year: wonder if Harold Wilson had as much fun there as we did?
 - Jesus College parties and JCR discos.
 - “Trembling Les”, the iconic waiter in Hall, who always gave me large portions.
 - Queuing for the “Tardis” phone box on a homesick Sunday evening.
 - Creeping out into the wintry cold in our dressing gowns to have a bath on Staircase IV or V.
 - But best of all, making wonderful friends for life: Sue, Mandy, Robin, Jill and Liz: so great to be a strong group still, after 44 years. Thank you for all the memories and good times to come.
- I could go on and on but just want to say, dear Jesus College, with love and thanks.

Love Letters to Jesus College

Rhian Davies, Meyricke Scholar (1983, MLitt Music)



Celtic Miscellany was the high point of the year when Edel Bhreathnach and I overlapped as graduate students at Jesus. One Welsh girl and one Irish, it was inevitable that we should arrange a celebration of our music and literature in the College Chapel. We chose Thursday of Eighth Week, 8 March 1984, as the midpoint between St David's Day and St Patrick's. Six performers presented a sequence of material on six themes – Nature, Love, Magic, War, Death, and Humour and Satire – and the evening was introduced by Ellis Evans, Jesus Professor of Celtic, of whom we were all so fond.



30 years on I close my career as a curator, collaborating with classical and folk musicians to devise concerts and broadcasts that revive historic Welsh repertoire rather than singing myself. But Celtic Miscellany created an enduring friendship with Edel, including many happy reunions in Oxford, Ireland and Wales.

Edel Bhreathnach, Sir John Rhys Scholar (1983, Celtic Studies)



I landed in Jesus College in 1983 as a Rhys Scholar in Celtic Studies to find myself among a lively, young Welsh-speaking community. I had no choice but to immerse myself in the College's Welsh culture. Out of that year came a wonderful friendship with Rhian Davies that has seen us exchange ideas and

make numerous visits across the Irish Sea, not least her magnificent performance of Purcell songs at my wedding in 1988.

Our first collaboration was Celtic Miscellany which filled Jesus College Chapel and was presided over by a proud Professor Ellis Evans. We had many adventures as we prepared for the evening, including transporting a Welsh triple harp from Keble to Jesus! To many in the audience, this was their first introduction to the rich cultures of Ireland and Wales, and how they appreciated the evening. For years after the event, whenever we visited Jesus, we were hailed with fond memories of the event.

I continued with a career in Celtic Studies and medieval history, often visiting Jesus College Celtic Library and dining in College with my other great friend and mentor Thomas Charles-Edwards, Nárabh aobhinn beatha an scoláire ag an am!

Ian Johnston, (1967, Chemistry)



I've always believed that it was not my academic achievement at A level, but my answer to Tony Downs' question about what book I was reading – Modesty Blaise, by Peter O'Donnell, which came free

with tokens from Nescafé coffee labels – that secured my place at Jesus.

I was awarded an Open Scholarship which meant I had a rather spartan room in 13 Ship Street for my first year. The twenty guineas I paid to join the Oxford Union provided the opportunity to

enjoy dining facilities and Saturday night dances in the Union Cellars, where I met my future wife, Rosalind.

By early 1970 my by-then pregnant girlfriend Rosalind and I were living in a shared house in Jericho. Our first daughter, Lucinda, was born in February 1970 – quite a novelty for an undergraduate. Although it was no problem that we had a baby, the fact that Rosalind and I got married in May 1970 did cause a problem, because I had an Open Scholarship and College statutes indicated that Scholars should be unmarried! Geoffrey Young helped me concoct a suitable letter of apology and supplication, and I was able to keep my Scholarship. After all, he pointed out that by the same statute College Fellows should also be unmarried and clearly quite a lot were not!

Elizabeth Paice (1976, PGCE Geography)



A typical week included lunch and dinner in the Great Hall; wine and cheese in the GCR; sherry parties with the Vice Principal; evening drinks and darts in the Jesus bar; and Sunday evensong in the Chapel with sherry and coffee afterwards.



Love Letters to Jesus College

Hardy Bouillon (1985, Visiting Student Programme)

I fell in love with the entire Oxonian world. I experienced Oxford, and in particular Jesus College, as a paradise for someone keen to study his subject in an atmosphere he never experienced before, but within days realised that it is impossible to top. I cannot recall any bit that I disliked: the museums, libraries, pubs, Covered Market, punting, scones and strawberries, Pimms, theatre and music performances, JCR and SCR, squash, and of course lovely people in and around Jesus College.

Dr D. A. Rees became my tutor. In one of the meetings with him, while I read out my paper, he suddenly picked up the phone and, without dialling a number, read out the shopping list lying next to him on the desk. I don't know to whom he read it out, or thought he would, but I thought, "What a distinct and philosophical way of letting me know that my paper was a bore."

Pat Tyrrell (1968, Chemistry)

One of my most abiding memories of College was the day of a fire in the rooms above Hall. John Ryan, the head porter, came out into the First Quad and shouted that the roof of the Hall was alight. At about the same time the stalwarts of the Oxford Fire Service came down the Turl with bells ringing. They seized the hoses and, a little like a slow-motion Keystone Cops, ran into the College. Unfortunately, the lead fireman misjudged the ledge on the Postern Gate and went down, followed in succession by his team mates. They were quickly up and setting up the hoses when the Home Bursar called for assistance in taking pictures out of Hall, whereupon we rushed in to grab whatever we could. The fire, caused by an overheating kettle, was quickly extinguished but it remains to this day embedded in my mind!

26-2-62. LIBRARY SUGGESTIONS BOOK.
#

Ἡμῖν ἔφορος ἑκάστος, Ἡφαίστος, βοῶν δὲ
τοῦ βορέου ψυκτοῦ βέβαιον οὐκ ἀχρηστατοῦσαν
πληττομένους τ' αἰεὶ. φύσων δ' ἔσπου, κλυτοτέχνη,
χρεῖς τὸ πᾶσι σφίβου, καὶ πύρ ἰακχάουον δὲ Ἄττην.
Ἡμῖν μὴ σιγῇ θάνατος ἴστω γούνα λαοῦ
καὶ καταγῆ ψυχῆς Ἄϊδοδος δαιμόνιος Ἑρμῆς.
Ὡς γὰρ ἐναὶκ' ἦμῖν οὐδ' ἄρπυγῶν οὐδ' ἀνα κλειτόν
οὐδ' ὄρχην, κρονίου δὲ μέρους ἦν μὴ καταχάη
μῆτε φίλον ἑμῆσι θεοῦ βόης. Ὡς καὶ ἦμῖν
ὀβόαται τῆς Μούσης τιμῶσι πλησσομένη ἔργου
ἦν μὴ τις μῦθον τὰ θεμώτερον τὰς τοῦ

J. H. Musgrave.

Jonathan Musgrave (1959, Literae Humaniores)



Dear Coll. Iesu, I didn't act or write poetry... but I did write some doggerel for you. When the heating broke down in the Meyricke Library during a spell of icy weather in February 1962, I composed eleven lines of mock Homeric hexameters. Translation below:

Help us, Hephaistos, your suppliants seated here,
Forever buffeted by the harsh darts of icy Boreas.
Grab your bellows, Renowned Craftsman, in your
Sturdy hand and kindle fire beneath Etna, lest
Death steal silently upon us and loosen our knees,
And Hermes the Guide conduct our souls to Hades.
For, just as neither the vine nor the pear-tree bears
Fruit unless the son of Cronos pours down showers,
And Phoibos's welcome brightness shines,
So too we shall not last long enough to honour the
Muses with our labours unless someone restores
The heating here PDQ.



Andrew (1973, PPE) and Susan Meehan (1974, English Language & Literature)



We don't claim to be the first Jesus couple to marry but we must be among the first to have established such a long and continuous relationship – 46 years and counting! We got together at the beginning of the 1975 Hilary term: Andy, in his second year, was loitering in the lodge to eye up the newcomers, a packet of biscuits under his arm to tempt them up to tea in his rooms. I can confirm that the Teatime Assorted didn't immediately sway me in his favour.

A big part of the bond we formed at Jesus was the shared fun and friendships we made there. The memories have endured along with many of the friends: our lives weave in and out of each other's, but the excitement, affection and sheer novelty of that time – when women were in such a small

minority – make our experience a unique one and fascinating to compare with the significant changes that have occurred since.

Today we live not far from Oxford and often return to the places where our early shared history was forged.





Andy Simpson (1970, History) with an uncertain grip on the pole, Steve O'Flaherty (1970, History), and Pete 'Buzz' Armstrong (1970, English) punting on the Cherwell in summer 1972.

Alumni Love Song

David Newbold (1973, Modern Languages)

Love? To write of love you ask?
Of old alumni, no mean task!
But, yes, a kind of love it was,
and partly I believe because
When we were there we had the luck
Along with H. J. Habakkuk
To open up those boy zone gates
And welcome girls as college mates

But taking now a broader view
On those three years we all went through
I mean, for those of you, like me,
Who came in 1973,
What legacy still perseveres
Through (nearly) fifty fleeting years?
What meaning can we now extract
What reminiscences enact?

The legacy: a sense of place
And people, who with quiet grace
Filled quad and staircase, you know who
I mean, scouts, breezing through
like Francis, who would make your bed
And in the porter's lodge was Fred
While tutors, settled in their role,
Would waft around on night patrol.

To Jesus then our cohort came,
Like past and future years, the same,
Offloaded in the Turl and left,
Long-haired innocents, bereft,
But seizing opportunity
To build a new community
We moseyed off to find our rooms
And mine was where wisteria blooms

On staircase twelve, a set for two,
They'd put me with a Welshman, Huw.
But that was fine, (*Cymru am Byth!*)
And just above us, John Griffith
The public orator, no less,
Came down to say hello, and yes,
In Latin! with a friendly grin!
By half past six we'd settled in.

Three years in college was my lot
With rooms in all three quads, that's not
The norm, I know, and truth to tell,
I got to know the place quite well.

My second year on staircase one
Was really quite a lot of fun
Inside the tower, at the top
My room a sort of coffee shop.

I also had an unpaid role
As college lookout, in control
Of movements in the street below
To try to sort out friend from foe,
An early warning when there were
Potential raids from Exeter
Which happened once or twice at night
With drunkards looking for a fight

Or girls, because we now had some
And over there they still had none
But mostly nights up top were calm
So near the stars, a sense of balm
And then I had my stereo
Releasing audio afterglow
With Leonard Cohen, sometimes Bach,
Disseminating through the dark.

Year three, quad three, was not so nice
But third years need to sacrifice
Life's pleasures and its bonhomie
To exit with a good degree.
Above the Palace was my set
Staircase number I forget
That place they tell me long since went
For progress we cannot prevent:

Yes, some things pass, but others stay
And love does not just fade away
So etched deep in my memory
People, time, geography
Are all still there, still hold their grip
Preserving that relationship:
Alumni with their life's great starter,
Jesus College, alma mater.

Now please forgive this artless verse –
You probably will not find worse –
Constrained by rhythm, rhyme, and more,
And yet behind it all I'm sure
You understand my real intent,
To focus on three years well spent
And show that memories which we share
Are proof of a true love affair.

Escape to ... Jamaica

Paul (1978, Physics) and Sylvia Bostock



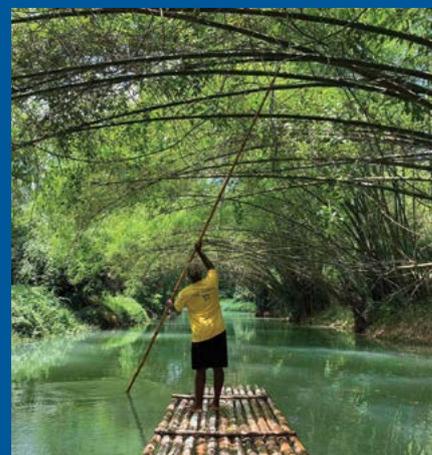
Jesus College enjoys long ties with Jamaica. Alumnus and Rhodes Scholar Norman Manley (1919, Law) was the country's Chief Minister from 1955-1959 and was appointed Jamaica's first premier on 14 August 1959.

Alumnus Paul Bostock (1978, Physics) and his wife Sylvia divide their time between London and Jamaica, where Sylvia was born. Until recently, Sylvia was a barrister dealing principally with family law and specifically child protection cases. Before coming to the UK and retraining, Sylvia's first

career was in Jamaican tourism, planning renovations and access improvements for historic sites.

Before retiring in 2009, Paul was Managing Director of the London office of US Fund Management Partnership Grantham, Mayo, Van Otterloo. Paul was one of the founders of GMO UK in 1987 and became a partner in 1993. He built and implemented processes for quantitative investment and led research into share valuation, asset pricing, asset allocation and risk.





How and why you divide your time between UK and Jamaica?

From the year we met, we have been travelling to Jamaica each year, usually a shorter trip in spring and a longer one in October. It's a chance to catch up with family and friends, mostly in Kingston and Spanish Town, and then make our way to the North Coast – often stopping at a couple of places on the way. As 'Skylarking' (our home on the island) was being renovated, and now that it's up and running, it requires us to visit a little more.

While arguably biased, Paul is a big, big fan of Jamaica and Jamaicans. If the 'archetype' is someone kind, humorous and relaxed that's reasonably accurate – except on the road. Jamaica has a very high standard of education too – so much so that the Jamaican 'diaspora' includes millions of professionals in North America and beyond.

Sylvia is a huge tennis fan, playing regularly, and is secretary of our local club. We watch the men's and women's tennis tours as they move

around the world and the biggest treat is Wimbledon. We were lucky to get debentures for 2016-2020 and (until 2020!) this meant two seats for each day of play. But perhaps the biggest benefits are the special restaurants, bars and facilities there, which make each day a very special day out. In 2019, we won a ticket for a special day to meet and get some tips from the stars – so Sylvia has now played with Martina Navratilova, Venus Williams, Lleyton Hewitt,





Kim Clijsters, Jamie Murray, Goran Ivanišević, and Pat Cash.

Where do you live on the island?

Our villa, 'Skylarking', is on the Silver Sands Estate, a quiet resort on Jamaica's north coast with its own secluded beach. The nearest town is Duncans and it's 7km from the historic town of Falmouth, a destination for slave ships that was busiest in the days of sugar trading. It's roughly halfway between the large resorts of Montego Bay and Ocho Rios.

Must-see places to visit?

Near Falmouth is the Martha Brae river, offering a relaxing rafting trip downstream and close to the Good Hope Estate with outdoor experiences including zip-lining, a water park, and restaurants.

Great Houses: Greenwood and Rose Hall are both 30-40 minutes west. Built on the hillsides between 1780-1800, Greenwood Great House is associated with the Barrett-Browning family and has tremendous views of the coast.

Rose Hall is an archetype of the Great House: once – and perhaps still – home of 'white witch' Annie Palmer. Annie is said to have murdered three husbands and several slaves as well.

Dunns River, Mystic Mountain and Ocho Rios are about an hour drive to the East. The climb up the big rocks of the Dunns River waterfall is the classic tourist experience. Mystic Mountain offers a variety of adventures – ziplines, water slides, tree walks and a toboggan run (Cool Runnings without the ice). Ocho Rios has always been a very popular area. The town itself has good shopping, restaurants and a beach at Margaritaville. There is a large craft market selling everything made locally.

A day trip to Kingston is around 2 hours travel each way. Jamaica now benefits from a north to south toll road which links Kingston and the north coast, crossing the spectacular Blue Mountain range and cockpit country. This has reduced travel times significantly.

Places to visit in Kingston include

the highly characterful National Gallery on Orange Street in Downtown Kingston. The downtown area is of course the most historic, but it is still more of a practical business and trading area than a tourist destination.

Our favourite lunch is to sit under the huge mango tree at Devon House on Hope Road. This offers excellent traditional meals at the Grog Shoppe, and a tour of the house is interesting too – the first mansion owned by a Jamaican businessman rather than a plantation family.

The Bob Marley Museum nearby is full of character and also the Hope Botanical Gardens, which showcase many beautiful local plants and trees and a zoo.

For those interested in seeing Kingston from the Blue Mountains and willing to stay overnight, Strawberry Hill is an exquisite place to stay and unwind.

Must-see events

The annual schools' track and field championships – 'The Champs' – takes place at the National Stadium in Kingston each summer (check dates during Covid), and there's a good chance of seeing some future stars. There's test match cricket at Sabina Park, also in Kingston, but dates vary.

There is usually a music festival in Negril around August, showcasing local and wider Caribbean talent.

Best beaches and places for water sports?

There are countless beaches around the island, offering a wide choice. The beach at Silver Sands is special and you can be there alone



and most often share it with just a handful of others. If you are lucky, at times you can observe the beautiful spectacle of turtles hatching and heading towards the sea. Early morning beach walks are a great alternative to a session in the sun or sea.

Glistening Waters (8 km west) offers boat trips after dark to see the bioluminescent waters. These can be spectacular – or not – depending on recent weather. There's a restaurant there too, with a good selection of local meals and we love the fish dishes, including steamed snapper and curried lobster.

To get out onto the sea, the big hotels all offer a wide range of activities: pedalos, windsurfing, canoeing, boating, water sports, sunset trips, and evening cocktails on the sea.

For those travelling around Jamaica, the 7-mile beach at Negril is a good

place to stop off, but it's busy too – especially around the well-known Rick's café where locals dive from the cliff edge. For a more relaxing stay, Jakes at Treasure Beach on the South Coast is lovely if expensive, but it's not the easiest place to find.

What are your food and drink tips – the flavours of Jamaica?

Jamaican cuisine is something else and their dishes are distinctive and delicious. Given fruit and vegetables in almost bewildering variety and abundance and the surrounding sea, there's no lack of great tasting ingredients. For breakfast, ackee and salt fish is a delicious meal. The fruit juices are good – Paul likes soursop, but choices include June plum, sorrel, local orange juice, and many more – and of course Rum Punch is always good. You'll want to try 'Jerk' dishes too. The technique of cooking on burning wood and under a cover is said to have originated when the diners did

not want to be easily found. You don't have to look far to see history on the menu – for example, the dish called 'Cow Foot' tells you that Jamaicans were not always given the finest cuts. Another classic is Curry Goat but our dentist nephew says to look out for bones – and he knows! For lunch, hot patties are a fine snack and there's likely to be a choice of fish, beef, chicken or vegetable filling.

Best restaurants

Most typical are small family run roadside bars and food stalls. There are some Jerk specialists too and we'd recommend 'Scotchies' – if travelling from Kingston to the north coast there's one by Drax Hall, just after the main road (A1) turns west and runs along the coast. The conventional restaurants are often attached to the hotels, and offer a choice of Jamaican and international dishes.



Your top five tips for visiting

Be patient, especially when travelling. Distances are not great, but roads can be slow especially inland, where they are frequently damaged by rainfall and mountain water.

For the same reason, we'd suggest planning ahead. If you are looking for specific activities or attractions, make sure to stay somewhere not too far away. Around Montego Bay/Falmouth, avoid visiting when the enormous cruise ships land (locals will know which days).

We would say to avoid Christmas and New Year – it's a time when many Jamaican families gather at the main resorts and most places are very busy.



The hurricane season is officially six months: the whole of June to November. The risk is higher for just two months, in mid-August to mid-October. We often visit in October as it is quieter.

Take some US dollars as well as Jamaican dollars. Quite a lot – especially those for tourists – is priced in US dollars, and it gives you some control over exchange rates to have both.

Your favourite place and why

We like the huge and luxurious Half Moon at Rose Hall just east of Montego Bay. There are countless activities on land and water and it's a place to be as spoiled as you wish. Most of the accommodation

is generously large and private and there are several different restaurants. Maybe we are biased – it's where we were married.

Then again, the 'couples' hotels offer a great stay at half the cost. We've been to the ones at San Souci and Tower Island – both a little way east of Ocho Rios. An all-inclusive deal gives you a big choice of daily activities and some great dining. For a little extra we took a sunset motor launch ride, just us and two crew. The onboard hi-fi played Bob Marley and we had a choice of Red Stripe (Paul) or champagne (Sylvia) and canapés. Altogether a romantic and spectacular couple of hours.

It's generally easy to find fun things to do and great things to eat! Paul would say that at around 32C average temperature, it's a little hot, but everyone will enjoy seeing so much of the sunshine.

For those wishing to visit Jamaica, Paul and Sylvia's contemporary villa, Skylarking, near Montego Bay, is available as a holiday let. Read more: www.jamaicaexperiences.com/blogs/details/article/start-the-skylarking.

Special thanks to Paul and Sylvia, who have kindly included a fridge magnet in this issue of Jesus News, in celebration of the College's 450th anniversary.



Sport at Jesus



Rounders

Laurel Boxall (2018, English)



The Jesus Rounders Club has started off its first season with a bang! Our first match against Exeter was characterised by daring dives, numerous players really coming into their own, and a real spirit of camaraderie between the different year groups – everybody got involved! We smashed the competition, taking home the

win (Exeter: 16½ Jesus: 19), and can't wait to continue this trend with our match against LMH this coming Sunday. The Presidents are currently working to set up a Rounders cuppers, updates to follow.

Rugby

Ryan Walshaw
(2019, History & German)

As the measures to counter the pandemic continue to affect our ability to meet, sadly little has changed with Jesus rugby since my last Sports Report in Michaelmas Term 2020. Despite the lack of organised inter-college competition, several informal touch rugby games towards the end of Hilary Term were arranged which saw participation from across the JCR.

In the week of writing, JCRFC is due to take part in the return of competitive inter-collegiate rugby at the Men's Sevens tournament at Iffley Road. The team, including several new additions to the squad from both first and second years, look forward to competing in the pool stage against colleges such as Keble, Queen's, and Balliol, with ambitions to qualify for the final.

Despite persisting difficult circumstances, the Rugby Club continues to offer an opportunity for members of the college to socialise across divisions of year group and subject, as confirmed by the attendance of our first 'social' in over a year, held at the Jericho Tavern on Wednesday of 3rd Week of Trinity Term.

With regards to the rest of the term, we look forward to the opportunity of restrictions lifting to arrange further events, both social and sporting, as members reach the end of their exam periods.

Rowing

Angus Alder (2018, Engineering) & Caitlyn Eddy (2019, Geography)



This season has been another challenging one for JCBC. However, with restrictions easing we are getting some long-awaited time on the water. Over Michaelmas and Hilary terms, training was limited to online land sessions over Google Meets, but this set us up well for getting back on the water. This year the club has pushed to become more integrated, with men and women training together on the water creating a great atmosphere within the club as a whole. Although rowing has only properly started this term, there are plenty of keen novices who are dedicated and learning quickly, as well as returning novices from last year finally getting the chance to progress. Currently, there are plans to put out a Mixed Senior 8+ and possibly a Mixed Novice 8+ in 7th Week Summer Torpids, depending

on novice development through the term. Although there will be no spectators this year because of Covid restrictions, it will be great to get JCBC racing again and possibly something exciting to say in the next report. Next season, we aim to get both Men's and Women's crews out for Torpids and Summer Vllls and perhaps a full year on the water!

Football

Samuel Lewis (2019, PPE)

In such an uncertain year for sport, only one thing could be counted on: Jesus remains a football college. With no League title or cup to compete for, the men's team took matters into our own hands, competing in four friendly matches during Michaelmas Term. Needless to say, we won all four. All fans were kept up to date after the historic establishment of the Jesus College Football Supporters Club.

The rest of the year was a quiet one on the pitch, but the Club remained a tight unit, with socials being used as a chance to discuss tactics for when we get the chance to return to the beautiful game we love. A particular highlight was the handing over of the captaincy from Sam Lewis to Adam Shaffer after a particularly rowdy night of karaoke.

The upcoming game at Selhurst Park is an exciting prospect and a first for the Club, as well as for the Supporters Club. Here's to making it an annual tradition. Up the Stags!

Netball

Zara Siddiqi (2019, Music)



Netball this term has started strong, with the atmosphere at MCS being the most collegiate experience we have witnessed since lockdown began. While our first two matches were slightly rocky (Magdalen 12-5 and Mansfield 13-7), we seem to be closing the gap, slowly but surely, with a very close match against Merton (8-7). With most of our experienced netballers now moved on to greener pastures, we have been very happy to welcome a new cohort of eager Freshers who have all demonstrated a high level of commitment and enthusiasm, and all of whom have made themselves deserving of a place on what will be a competitive netball team. We are thoroughly looking forward to seeing what the year has in store for JCNC and our future success.

Welcome our new Chaplain, Chris Dingwall-Jones

January 2021 was not the ideal time to begin work as Chaplain at Jesus College, or anywhere really. Chapel in an Oxford College, as I remember and envision it, is about getting people together. It's about the buzz of choristers before a big service, about drinks in the quad, about discussing the meaning of life into the small hours. It's about the cool stillness of a dim Chapel during exam season, about picnics and dinners, about a quiet word of encouragement in a corridor. It's about community, openness, togetherness.

Instead, I arrived in a mostly empty College, sat in a mostly empty study (while my books sat in a mostly empty house in Lancashire), and led services and meditation sessions on Teams. It was snowing.

A bit of context. I'm Chris, and I'm the new Chaplain of Jesus College. I didn't expect to end up as a College Chaplain, or, indeed, a priest in the Church of England. I read English at St. Hugh's, followed by a Master's in European Theatre at the University of Edinburgh and a PhD in Theatre and Performance Studies at the University of Kent, where I also lectured.

My doctoral research focussed on 'madness' and embodiment in recent British theatre. My research was inspired initially by my own experiences of mental illness as an Oxford undergraduate, but spurred on also by my work with a parish church in Camden Town, London, where I was living during my PhD. In Camden, the impact of poor mental health and (more importantly) the inaccessibility of fit-for-purpose mental health services was clear in



every aspect of the parish's life.

The interaction between my research and the community work I was doing in Camden fed into my decision to move from academia to the Church. It wasn't as thought through as that, though – I only voiced the idea, as much to my surprise as anyone else's, during a chat about life, the universe and everything with my fiancée, Hannah. Her response was 'well, I suppose

I should get us some more drinks then'. My parish priest, on the other hand, said 'thank goodness for that, I thought I was going to have to invite you round and tell you.'

The selection process for ordination requires more than a revelation after a couple of pints, so after a year of discussions, selection panels, and prayer, I was recommended to train, and Hannah and I (now married) moved back to Oxford

so that I could do, among other things, another Oxford humanities BA, this time in Theology. After another three years, and now with a baby daughter, Agnes, in tow, we prepared for further challenges in Fleetwood, a former fishing town in the North West, at the bottom of Morecambe Bay.

In many ways, Fleetwood couldn't be more different from Oxford or North London – a fairly static, rather than transient, population, 98% white British, solidly working class. I had visited as part of a 'mission week' during my training, and fallen in love with the people, the church, and the views of the Lakeland hills over the bay.

When I arrived, it was a bit of a baptism by fire – community building wasn't done by sending emails and arranging meetings, but by knocking on doors, sitting in local cafés and pubs, and just generally hanging around. I'm from the Midlands, and it was a bit of a shock to discover that meant I was a 'Southerner'! The sense of community in the town is amazing, and it was a joy to experience it 'from the inside'.

There was lots of space to be creative: I played in a rock'n'roll covers band with the local Roman Catholic priest, served as Chaplain to a local independent school, and led Bible studies including retired fishermen, single mothers, and well-travelled retirees. Soon after I arrived, I was part of a group of local church and business leaders who bought a derelict local hospital from the NHS. The strong relationships between groups meant that we were able to move quickly to provide support for people

isolating or out of work at the start of the pandemic – feeding hundreds of families in the local area for two weeks before the local borough Council came on board. The additional support was welcome, as a month and a half into lockdown, we welcomed Isaac, our second child. Due to the lockdown, he was baptised in a champagne bowl in my study!

This is the background I've brought to Jesus College – a sense that the work of Chaplaincy, the work of Christian ministry full stop, is first the work of building community, identifying the strengths and the needs of a community, and working alongside that community to realise its potential.

Of course, Jesus is a very different place now from its foundation 450 years ago as a College training priests in the doctrines and practices of the new, Elizabethan, Church of England. Jesus today is a diverse community intellectually, politically, and spiritually. As Chaplain, I have to balance fidelity to my own faith and that of the church I'm ordained in, to the religious history of the College, and to a College community which largely doesn't share this religious background.

And this brings me back to community, openness, and togetherness. We've all been through an awful lot over the past year and a half. There will be much we need to process, there will be people and experiences to be mourned, there will be unexpected opportunities to take advantage of, and there will be College traditions to be remembered, recovered, and re-celebrated.



Chris, Hannah & family.

All of this requires trust, and a willingness to be vulnerable together. One thing I've learned from work both in Camden and Fleetwood is that things don't get done if we aren't honest about both similarities and differences. Interfaith work blossoms where there is space for honouring difference robustly, and the same is true for any community: we are stronger when we are able to be authentically ourselves.

I arrived to an empty, snowy College. Today the sun is (just about) shining, there are people in Hall and flowers in the quad. Life, contingent and fragile as it always is, is returning. It is my hope that, over the coming years, Chapel too will blossom, not just as a space for Evensong and Communion, but also for challenging art, for deep conversations between faith traditions, for holding open a space for reflecting and making meaning from all the fragments of ideas and experiences which make up university life.

Development Update

Brittany Wellner James, Development Director

On 27 June, alumni, friends, and Fellows past and present gathered at the University Church to mark the 450th Anniversary of Jesus College. Despite social distancing, guests managed safely to fill every corner of the church for the Service of Thanksgiving, while a virtual audience of 70 alumni and friends joined us from around the world.

As the first in-person event we have held since March 2020, it was a joyful and moving occasion. The service was led by the College Chaplain, Rev Dr Christopher Dingwall-Jones, who memorably eschewed the lectern to deliver his College sermon on the theme “For all future times” from the elevated pulpit. Other original contributions included a reading by alumnus Llewelyn Hopwood (2014, BA Modern Languages), of Llŷr Gwyn Lewis’ specially commissioned Welsh poem, *Beth sy’n gwneud*



colleg? (What makes a college?) – see page 33 – and a personal address from the Principal, Professor Sir Nigel Shadbolt FRS FEng, paying tribute to the College’s past and sharing his hopes for its future. It was also the first time the Choir could gather inside to perform in over a year, and they closed the service beautifully with the College Hymn. It was wonderful to bring

Helping with 450th Anniversary Family Day.

members of the College community together for the afternoon after such a long period apart.

A recording of the 450th Anniversary service is available to watch on the Jesus alumni YouTube channel, where you can also find an ever-growing catalogue of College films on topics from Elizabethan lute

The 27 June Service of Thanksgiving and Evensong for Jesus College.



playing to climate change! Recent highlights of the collection include a lecture by Rory Stewart, whose talk on T. E. Lawrence was illustrated by his own reflections on life in the political arena, and a talk by our Principal on AI and Ethics, hosted by alumnus Steven Hillion (1987, BA Mathematics) and the JEN network. It has been rewarding to grow our online presence and film library over the past year and to find new ways to share this content with alumni.

The College's 450th Anniversary Campaign now has just under £3 million left to raise towards its £45 million goal. It is the incredible efforts of our alumni and friends in recent years who have brought us within sight of completing the Campaign, and we cannot thank you enough for your enormous generosity year on year. In celebration of the Anniversary itself, in June this year we held a Giving Day, a 36-hour online appeal to support the College's 450th Anniversary Fund. The Fund will benefit student support, access and outreach, and the new Northgate building – all important priorities for the College. We are grateful to the more than 300 alumni, staff and friends of the College who donated, and I am delighted to report that over £150,000 was received in total. The animation created to accompany the day featured two new College characters: Seren the Welsh dragon and Hart the stag (pictured), and the video will now become a resource for the College access and outreach team to use on their future schools visits.

We also marked the 450th Anniversary with the College's first

Family Day, held in July, in which alumni and their families were invited to College for a programme of events co-hosted by the Oxford Story Museum.

We're grateful to the many alumni who supported access and outreach this year. I am pleased to report that our first in-College access visit for more than a year took place in June with a small school group from Newport. In July this expanded to include four visits from schools in South London, and at the time of going to press we remain hopeful that the Universify summer school will host 50 children from 25 participating schools – mostly from London, but also Bradford, Bristol, Leeds, Liverpool and Manchester. The annual Seren residential held at Jesus in August will hopefully include students from approximately 40 schools across Wales. We have received some fantastic alumni support towards our digital access programme in recent months, which has enabled us to set up virtual reality classrooms for school



Seren and Hart, our new College mascots for Giving Day, June 2021.

pupils from more remote areas, as well as establish paid Digital Access Internships for current Jesus undergraduates. The new interns will take the lead in creating exciting new online content for prospective students and schools, and work closely with Matt Williams and Shelley Knowles to make the most of the recording opportunities in the College's new Digital Hub.

The Hub is scheduled to open with a soft launch alongside the opening of the Northgate building in Michaelmas 2021, with the first events on site taking place in early 2022. Thanks to the generosity of alumnus Alejandro Jack (2012, PGDip Global Business) the first SOUTHWORKS Career Development Fellow of the Digital Hub was appointed in June. Dr Janina Schupp joins the College from the University of Cambridge, where she was an Affiliated Lecturer in Architecture, and will be responsible for delivering a curated programme of activities and events in this exciting new space. We look forward to sharing the Hub's programme with alumni and inviting you back to College to experience this dynamic new space.

Despite not being able to host the alumni events and gaudies we were all hoping for in our 450th Anniversary year, if you are looking for proof that absence makes the heart grow fonder, look no further than the 'Love Letters to College' section of this special edition of *Jesus News*: in our most challenging year in recent history, it is clear that College has remained close to everyone's hearts. We have missed you, and we can't wait to see you again!

Access during the Pandemic

Matthew Williams, Access Fellow

A horrifying side effect of the already awful pandemic was wrought on education. Disparities in educational opportunities and attainment were thrown wider still. Many in the poorest parts of the country suffered disproportionately under lockdowns and concomitant uncertainties. We in the Access Team faced our own, far more modest, fears. Namely, what use could we possibly be? Locked away, we were unable to offer the usual access services of visiting schools and welcoming guests to Oxford.

To a significant extent our fears were misplaced, and, as many are discovering, there is a new normal that is demonstrably superior to the old normal. In the past we would struggle to visit physically remote coastal and rural communities – including, in particular, many of the most under-served working class areas of Wales. We were also hampered by limited human resources and frequently had to turn down requests for help. With a sudden spike in demand for online services, we were able simultaneously to increase our workload and broaden our geographic range of operations. Having thought it impossible to beat our 2019-20 record of working with 10,000 young people, we are now on course to smash it. Of course, we are anxious to get back to some semblance of normality, and already have events planned in Oxford and around the country. But digital access will be a



permanent fixture going forward, and will be magnificently enhanced by the College's new Digital Hub due to open in Michaelmas 2021.

What specifically have we been up to during the pandemic? As soon as the lockdown kicked in, we were asked by the Welsh government to cater for 100 young people who have been denied an opportunity to head to the US for a summer school. As a result, we launched a

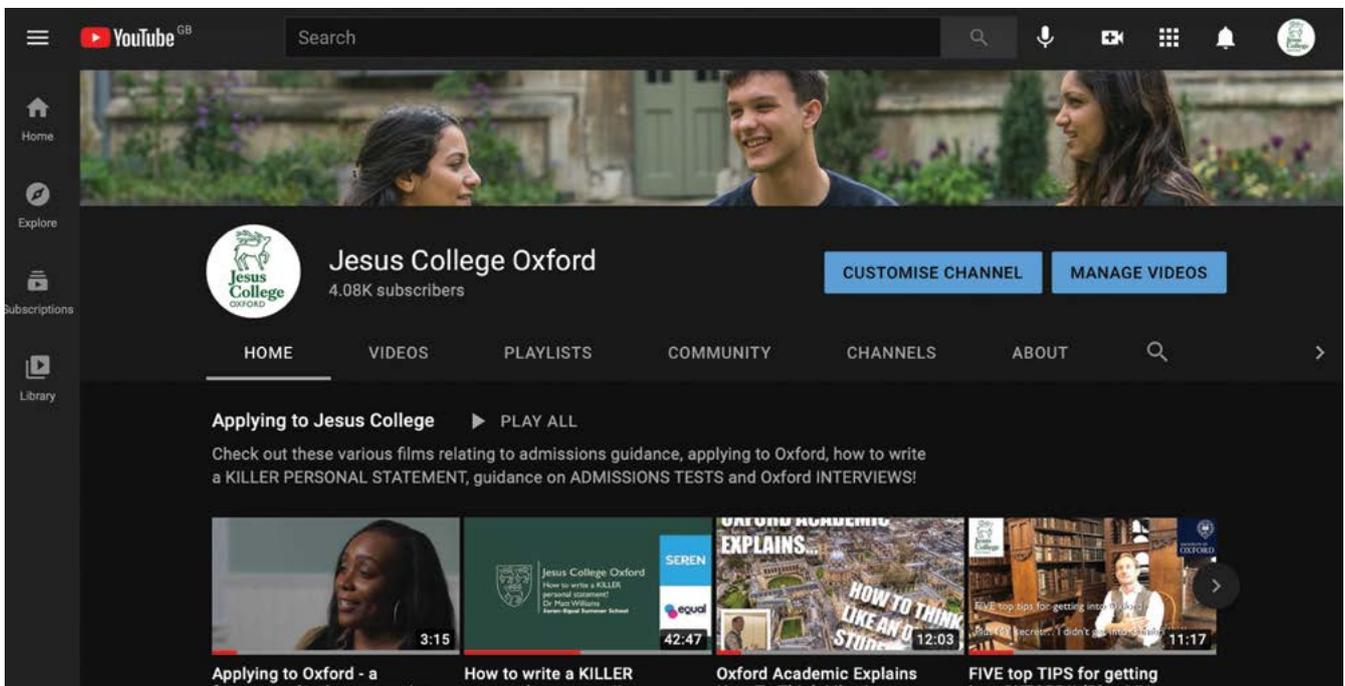
schools, our 2021 offering will cater to 425 young people from London and Wales. This compares to the 22 participants catered for in our inaugural 2017 summer school.

We have also launched digital support for British Bangladeshi and Pakistani students – amongst the worst represented demographic at the world's top universities. Utilising an online platform called Union Spaces, we have provided application and academic support since February 2021, and will follow the cohort of over 500 young people through to their submitting applications in October.

In addition, we have substantially expanded Jesus College Access YouTube Channel, offering all sorts of content – from 360° virtual reality tours; to videos on how to write personal statements and essays; to mock interviews; to taster lectures. In twelve months we have received 347,000 views, 6 million impressions, and over 4,000 new subscribers. You can see



new International Summer School online in 2020 for 100 stranded young people. This new venture will be expanded in 2021 to 300 participants. This means that, with residential and online summer



more at youtu.be/RuOPy0oPuWk and youtu.be/dnWRvohpMZs.

As ever, none of this work would be possible without tremendous ongoing support from our Jesus members, past and present. We have received substantial sums to help pivot towards a stronger digital presence. In particular, two generous donations have allowed us to hire three of our undergraduates as digital access interns over the summer. They will help produce our new 360° content, which can be used by schools with cardboard virtual reality headsets that we will be posting to them. Examples of our 360° content can be viewed on our YouTube channel, and are best seen on a mobile device.

We have also received our first significant gift from private sponsorship. An organisation with no erstwhile connection to the College has recognised our transformative work in London and has offered £100,000 over

five years to help us run summer schools for some of the Capital's most vulnerable and under-privileged youngsters. Collaborating with a fantastic charity of former Oxford students – Universify Education – we will provide sustained access services, including Summer and Easter schools, to support these young people prior to their GCSE exams.

Another new departure for 2021 has been “inreach”. Outreach is all well and good, but what about the under-privileged students we take? Many lack the social networks and access to opportunities that their more advantaged peers leverage into careers. Working with alumna, Alison Fletcher, we are piloting an inreach scheme for the JCR. A team of six have been given a budget, after successfully presenting their idea for a new digital access platform. They will gain a range of marketable experiences and skills, whilst helping us to deliver our access work.

So what's next? With the Northgate House development opening later this year, we are eagerly awaiting, in particular, the new Digital Hub. This will act as an interface between physical and digital worlds, where visitors can come and watch us in person whilst we broadcast to a far wider audience. We are also excited by the prospect of a recording suite to develop a podcast series – “The people that make Oxford” – due to be launched soon.

As ever, we are tremendously grateful to College members, both past and present, for their fantastic support. Our work would simply be impossible without this help. Looking to the College's next 450 years we are asking for support towards an endowment that will secure the Access Fellowship in perpetuity. To find out more about our work, or to donate to Access at Jesus, please contact matthew.williams@jesus.ox.ac.uk

Introducing the Jesus College Shakespeare Project

Peter Sutton, Alumni Engagement Manager

He was not of an age, but for all time.

These are perhaps the most famous words ever written by the great Jacobean playwright and poet, Ben Jonson, through which he expressed the most lasting of all the great epithets for his friend and rival, William Shakespeare. And he was certainly not wrong.

From our everyday idioms through to our political metaphors, as well as expressions of our deepest hopes and fears, we continue to appropriate the language, characters, and narratives of Shakespeare – both consciously and subconsciously – to mediate and explain the world in which we live over four hundred years after his death.

In this special anniversary year, we are delighted to commence a new collaboration between the Access and Development teams – the Jesus College Shakespeare Project – in which we will curate an exciting new strand of activities inspired by Shakespeare's works as part of our outreach and alumni event programmes. Led by Access Fellow Matt Williams, Helen Morag Fellow

and Professor of English Literature Paulina Kewes, Departmental Lecturer Amy Lidster, and myself, the project will present abridged versions of Shakespeare's plays, lasting approximately 90 minutes each, accessible to audiences of all ages. Alongside the performances – which we also hope to film and make readily available online – we will present tailored activities for local schoolchildren on access visits to College, focusing on how the plays speak to young people's concerns within today's world, incorporating a number of interdisciplinary curriculum topics. And, as alumni and supporters of our College, you too will get to share in this collaborative project, as we will offer a special alumni performance of each play with an additional pre-show talk. The ticket price for alumni will help us offer these performances free to schoolchildren – for many perhaps their first experience of live theatre. Performed by the best actors from across the university community, the project will, therefore, bring together the students of our past, present, and future.



Peter Sutton.

But where to start? It is our great hope that this project will continue to run in the years to come as we endeavour to work our way through the Complete Works of Shakespeare. In the words of *The Sound of Music*, we decided that the beginning was a very good place to start. We will never know for certain the exact order in which Shakespeare wrote his plays and every chronology that has been suggested has, to a greater or lesser extent, reflected the taste of the particular scholar. We wanted to start this project with a great sense of joy, liveliness, and fun, so have

A large, stylized signature of 'W. Shakespeare' in a light brown or tan color. The signature is written in a cursive, calligraphic style, with a long, sweeping underline that extends across the width of the text.

decided to begin with his three early comedies – *The Comedy of Errors*, *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, and *The Taming of the Shrew*. These three plays explode on to stage with the verve and passion of a young writer learning his craft. However, they also all speak to our age in ways that belie the supposed lightness of the material, and will allow us all to reflect upon the darkness and uncertainties of our own world through a Shakespearean lens. For example, when Paulina and I had initial conversations about the project all the way back in September 2019, we chose *The Comedy of Errors* as the ideal play to start this project, as it is filled not only with laughter and excitement to engage young audience members, but also engages with deeply contemporary issues, such as the plight of migrants, the questioning of traditional gender roles, and the privileging of trade over human lives. Little did we know that, as we approach finally being able to stage the play – having postponed the project by a year owing to the pandemic – that it is the enforced separation of a family and their



Paulina Kewes.

(spoiler ahead!) eventual reunion that, as we emerge from what we hope is the final lockdown, speaks most forcefully. As well as plenty of laughs, we can all expect a lump in our throat at its unexpectedly beautiful and moving conclusion. We will then follow *The Comedy of Errors*, with Shakespeare's under-appreciated dark comedy on the conflicts within adolescent love and friendship, *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, before concluding this first year of the project with one of Shakespeare's most performed, (yet also most provocative) plays, *The*

Taming of the Shrew. We cannot wait to find out how young people will engage with these early plays asking questions above love, friendship, and identity, as well as the nature of comedy itself.

We hope that you too will join us on this journey of discovery, opening our eyes not only to Shakespeare's world, but to our own. His plays belong to us all and whether you are seasoned theatre veteran or are discovering them for the first time, please do join us as we celebrate a timeless Elizabethan within our forward-looking Elizabethan College. If you would like to find out more about the project and our plans for the future, please email peter.sutton@jesus.ox.ac.uk.

The alumni performances will take place on Saturday afternoons. The 2021/2022 season will start with The Comedy of Errors (27 November 2021) followed by The Two Gentlemen of Verona (19 February 2022) and concluding with The Taming of the Shrew (14 May 2022). Booking dates will be announced to alumni via events emails.

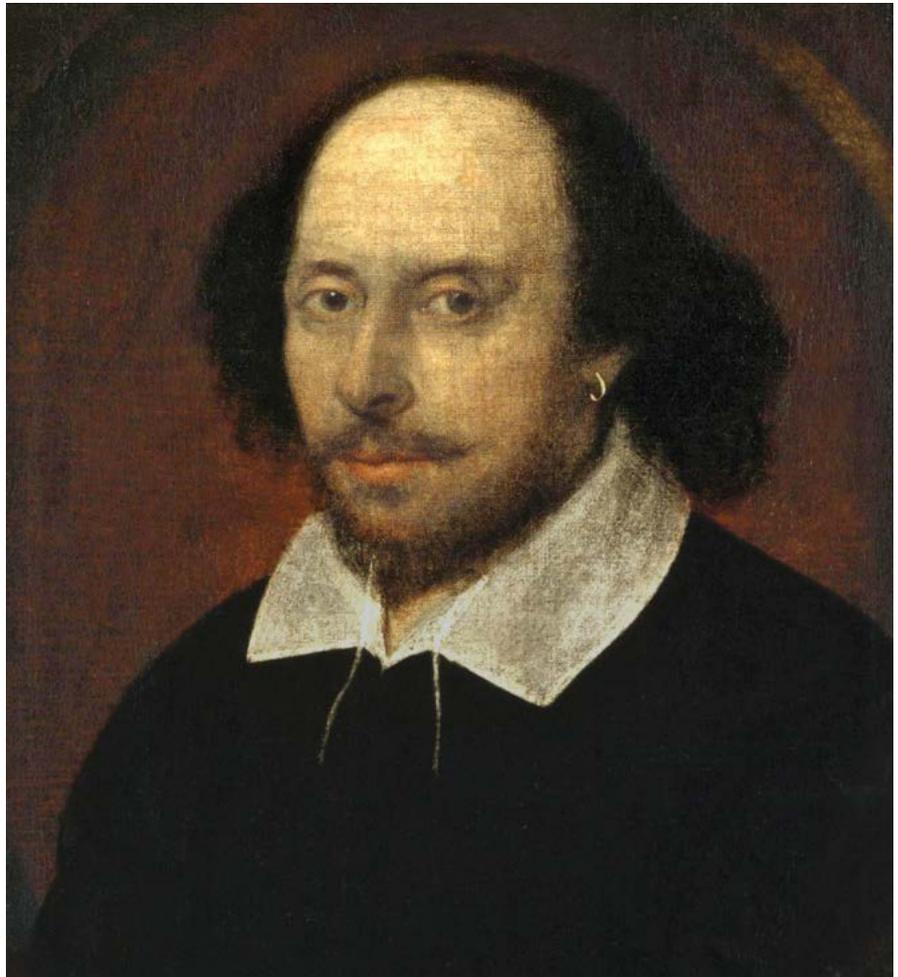
Shakespeare

Celebrating the Elizabethan College

The Global Stage of Shakespeare and his Contemporaries

In June, as part of the 'Celebrating the Elizabethan College' strand of alumni virtual events, curated by Helen Morag Fellow and Professor of English Literature, Paulina Kewes, alumni were invited to a performance-based event which explored how Shakespeare and his contemporaries depicted new, old, and imaginary worlds, exotic peoples and fellow-Europeans, voyages of discovery and travels of the mind.

Rife with battles, treachery, greed, and romance – and with a cameo by our founder, Queen Elizabeth I herself – we were delighted to welcome some of the finest actors from across the University to perform the scenes, which were directed by current Jesus DPhil student, Lucy Clarke, and Alumni Engagement Manager, Peter Sutton, with textual editing by former Jesus DPhil student and now Director of English, Simon May (2010, English), and his quondam supervisor Paulina Kewes. The event was compered by 2nd year English student and Co-President of the Herbert English Society, Kaitlin Horton-Samuel, and introduced by Brandi Adams, incoming Assistant Professor of English at Arizona State University, whose path-breaking research centres on the presentation of race on the Early Modern stage. We also heard from alumna Clare Williams (2005, English) who, along with Simon May, shared her thoughts on teaching Shakespearian drama and race in schools.



The Chandos portrait of Shakespeare held by the National Portrait Gallery, London.

The evening also heralded the College's new Shakespeare Access Project (see previous feature), as well as the publication of a set of innovative digital resources – maps, extracts, lesson plans, accessible overviews – aimed at schoolchildren and teachers in the late summer. These will be prepared by Simon May and current Jesus DPhil student, Felicity Brown, creator of the prize-winning app, *WillPlay*.

During rehearsals, we sat down with Lucy Clarke and third year English student, Lola Beal, to discuss the project.

What excites you about the project?

LB: It's so exciting to see these texts doing what they're supposed to be doing: being performed. Often plays of this era – or at least, ones that are a little more off the beaten track – are treated as reading texts, shut up in stuffy libraries. But that's not what these are at all, nor what they should be. They've got such life and humour to them which can only be fully realised when they're put in the mouths of people.

LC: I agree, it's great to get to put on scenes from plays that are not



performed very often at all! I'm also finding that using Zoom has allowed us to think much more about the theatrical work that these plays are often doing to get their audiences to imagine the far-flung spaces they're set within: for example, in the *Travels of the Three English Brothers*, Fame gives a 'perspective glass' to each brother;



Lucy Clarke.

so that they can see one another even as they are spread across the world, in Persia, Spain and England. It's a bizarrely prescient image of FaceTime, four hundred years early, and doing it over Zoom during a pandemic when we've all been separated from our loved ones has been unexpectedly moving. It's also the first time I've had a chance to actively direct actors since my production of *The White Devil* in Jesus Hall back in 2018, which has been a nice treat.

You are both working on a speech from one of Shakespeare's least known works – *The Book of Sir Thomas More* – tell us more about it and why it is so powerful and resonant today?

LC: In 1517, on 'Evil May Day', the citizens of London rioted against what they perceived as the unfair incursion of immigrant Lombard merchants in the city. More's speech comes at the tipping point, where

the riots seem sure to turn into all-out bloodshed, where he reasons with the rioters to put down their weapons. It's a real rallying cry for human decency: More's (pretty convincing!) argument is that the rioters should imagine themselves as refugees, and then think about how they'd feel if they were treated in the same way. It's an astonishingly moving piece of theatre: in reality, More didn't actually convince the rioters to stop, it was done via force, but in the play it's quite amazing how his speech has the power to calm the rioters. Mere lines before, they're saying they'll kill all the foreigners, but More's impassioned speech is enough to have the rioters realise they're in the wrong. It's distressingly resonant for today: the Londoners' arguments for their violence against foreigners is unsettlingly familiar to us in 2021, all 'they're taking our jobs/money/women', in terms that could very easily be coming out of the mouths of racists today. From



Lola Beal.

the depiction of the suffering of refugees – with their ‘poor babes at their backs, plodding to the ports and coasts’ – you could be forgiven for thinking that Shakespeare had been looking at the desperate journeys made by refugees across the Channel and Mediterranean. Working on it with Lola has been a really amazing opportunity to feel the power of the speech, and the tantalising hope that maybe, just maybe, the right words could stop people from behaving in such inhuman ways towards refugees and immigrants. I’m also interested to see how it works with an audience. *Sir Thomas More* was never performed, probably having been banned by the Master of the Revels, in all likelihood because of its depiction of anti-foreigner sentiment during a period of intensified anti-immigrant feeling during the mid 1590s. It’s a speech that makes you take a good hard look at yourself, about how you imagine yourself as safe because you have a country, a state that (in theory) will protect you, but still fail to recognise the human dignity of those without that privilege.

LB: Yes, it’s so easy to see very recent parallels in that. More asks them to imagine themselves in desperate need of refuge, imagine themselves showing up at strangers’ doors and being met with the same hostility. The speech has so much compassion. It’s calmly argued, compelling, kind. At the end of the speech he says a phrase which particularly springs out to me – ‘mountainish inhumanity’. What a brilliant phrase, and it just sums up the insular, hateful way many of our current politicians act.

What theatre have you been able to get involved with since the pandemic? What have been the opportunities and the challenges?

LB: I’ve been lucky and have done a lot of Shakespeare since the pandemic, and continue to do so. I think there’s definitely something to be said about how we return to the familiar in times of panic. Having said that, I’m surprised I haven’t seen more claustrophobic Zoom-Pinters. A lot of things have been moved onto Zoom, which is fun and challenging in its own way. I did a Zoom play very early in the first lockdown and I’m obviously here doing one again now and it’s very interesting to see how we’ve all managed to adapt to it. There are strategies already in place now for this kind of thing. We seem very used to it. Whether or not it will carry on when all goes back to normal – I’m sceptical. I’m personally quite excited to get back in a theatre.

LC: The pandemic unfortunately put paid to a series of practice as research workshops I was going to be running as part of finishing my

DPhil thesis, which was a real blow, and this project is actually the first proper theatre project I’ve been able to be involved in.

And finally, what are your plans for the future?

LB: Get this degree finished! After that, I’m not sure. It’s a weird time to be thinking about doing anything, especially dramatic. I’d love to carry on, but what the future is looking like for young aspiring theatre-people isn’t quite clear yet. Just before lockdown, I was going to be directing a production of Oliver Goldsmith’s *She Stoops to Conquer* and – because it was so suddenly shut down – I still have a fervour in my soul for that play and want to see it put up on its feet somehow somewhere. How I would manage that – who knows. I also have a burgeoning Hans Christian Andersen-themed cabaret extravaganza, but I doubt that will ever see the light of day.

LC: The plan is to hand in my thesis and start pursuing my next research project, on the performance of authority in early modern England. I’m planning on using practice as research workshops once again for this work, staging arrests, riots and proclamations from archival records all around the country. Hopefully by that point I’ll be allowed to put actors in a room to yell at each other about food prices and wave swords around again!

The recording of the event will be available soon on the Jesus College Alumni YouTube channel. For any further questions about the education resources, please contact peter.sutton@jesus.ox.ac.uk.

Right: The first page of Shakespeare’s The Comedy of Errors, printed in the First Folio of 1623.



The Comedie of Errors.

Actus primus, Scena prima.

Enter the Duke of Ephesus, with the Merchant of Syracuse,
Layler, and other attendants.

Merchant.

Proceed *Solinus* to procure my fall,
And by the doom of death end woes and all.
Duke. Merchant of *Syracusa* plead no more.
I am not part all to infringe our Lawes;
The enmity and discord which of late
Sprung from the rancorous outrage of your Duke,
To Merchants our well-dealing Countrymen,
Who wanting gilders to redeeme their lues,
Have seal'd his rigorous statutes with their blouds,
Excludes all pity from our threatening lookes;
For since the mortall and intestine iarres
Twixt thy seditious Countrymen and vs,
It hath in solemne Synodes bene decreed,
Both by the *Syracusians* and our selues,
To admit no trafficke to our aduerser townes:
Nay more, if any borne at *Ephesus*
Be seene at any *Syracusan* Marts and Fayres:
Againe, if any *Syracusan* borne
Come to the Bay of *Ephesus*, he dies:
His goods confiscate to the Dukes dispose,
Vnlesse a thousand markes be leuied
To quit the penalty, and to restore him:
Thy substance, valord at the highest rate,
Cannot amount vnto a hundred Markes,
Therefore by Law thou art condemn'd to die.
Mer. Yet this my comfort, when your words are done,
My woes end likewise with the evening Sonne.

Duk. Well *Syracusian*; say in brieft the cause
Why thou departedst from thy native home?
And for what cause thou cam'st to *Ephesus*.
Mer. A heavier taske could not haue bene impos'd,
Then I to speake my griefes vspeakable:
Yet that the world may witness that my end
Was wrought by nature, not by vile offence,
He ytter what my sorrow giues me leaue.
In *Syracusa* was I borne, and wedde
Vnto a woman, happy but for me,
And by me; had not our hap bene bad:
With her I liu'd in ioy, our wealth increas'd
By prosperous voyages I often made
To *Ephesus*, till my factors death,
And he great care of goods at randome left,
Drew me from kinde embracements of my spouse;
From whom my absence was not fixe months olde,
Before her selfe (almost at fasting vnder

The pleasing punishment that women beare)
Had made prouision for her following me,
And soone, and safe, arriv'd where I was:
There had she not bene long, but she became
A ioyfull mother of two goodly sonnes:
And, which was strange, the one so like the other,
As could not be distinguish'd but by names.
That very howre, and in the selfe-same Inne,
A meane woman was deliuered
Of such a burthen Male, twins both alike:
Those, for their parents were exceeding poore,
I bought, and brought vp to attend my sonnes.
My wife, not meaneely proud of two such boyes,
Made daily motions for our home returne:
Vnwillling I agreed, alas, too soone wee came aboard.
A league from *Ephesus* had we saild
Before the alwaies winde-obeying deepe
Gave any Tragicke Instance of our harme:
But longer did we not retaine much hope;
For what obscured light the heavens did grant,
Did but consuey vnto our fearefull mindes
A doubtfull warrant of immediate death,
Which though my selfe would gladly haue embrac'd,
Yet the incessant weepings of my wife,
Weeping before for what she saw must come,
And pittieous playnings of the prettie babes
That mou'd for fashion, ignorant what to feare,
Foull me to seeke delays for them and me,
And this it was: (for other means was none)
The Sailors fought for safety by our boate,
And left the ship then sinking ripe to vs.
My wife, more carefull for the latter borne,
Had fastned him vnto a small spare Mast,
Such as sea-faring men prouide for stormes:
To him one of the other twins was bound,
Whilst I had bene like heedfull of the other.
The children thus dispos'd, my wife and I,
Fixing our eyes on whom our care was fixt,
Fastned our selues at eyther end the mast,
And floating straight, obedient to the streame,
Was carried towards *Corinth*, as we thought.
At length the sonne gazing vpon the earth,
Dispers't those vapours that offended vs,
And by the benefit of his wish'd light
The seas waxt calme, and we discovered
Two shippes from tarre, making amaine to vs:
Of *Corinth* that, of *Ephesus* this,
But ere they came, oh let me say no more,
Gather the sequell by that went before.

Duk. Nay forward old man, doe not breake off so,
H For



Forthcoming Events

Since we started hosting virtual alumni events in autumn last year, we have been thrilled with the enthusiastic response they have received. We have been joined by alumni from 22 countries (spread across six continents), and from those who matriculated in the 1940s right through to current students, as well as connecting with a broader non-alumni audience of supporters.

We know, even as we look forward to our return to in-person events and welcoming our alumni back onto the College site, that large numbers of alumni have been able to reconnect with College across Zoom who would be otherwise unable to attend events. Therefore, we are delighted to say that going forward we will run both in-person and virtual events. We hope that this will allow as many people as possible to connect with College across the globe. Below, you will find some of the highlights of our forthcoming programme for the autumn, as well as a sneak peek at our early plans for 2022, with more events to be confirmed.

For your convenience, and to help the environment, we now send all events invitations electronically via our events mailing list. These will contain details of when and how to book.

2021 in-person events:

- **Tuesday 5 October:**
London Drinks at the Royal Society in London with a talk by Professor Tim Palmer DSc, FRS, CBE on the Tube Alloys nuclear project during World War Two (open to all alumni).
- **Saturday 27 November:**
Alumni performance of *The Comedy of Errors* – the first instalment of the new Jesus College Shakespeare Project (open to all alumni – for more details on this and future performances, see page 75).
- **Saturday 4 December:**
450th Anniversary Black Tie Gala Night in College (by invitation only).
- **Thursday 9 December:**
College's first London Carol Service, preceded by a reception (open to all donors).

2021 virtual events:

- **Wednesday 22 September:**
Celebrating the Elizabethan College, 'Elizabeth I and Ireland; the Irish and England' with Dr Brendan Kane, University of Connecticut. (6pm BST, open to all alumni).
- **Thursday 11 November:**
A celebration of the life and legacy of Harold Wilson with Access Fellow and Political Scientist, Dr Matthew Williams (6pm BST, open to all alumni).

2022 events preview:

- A new monthly series of virtual events entitled *#JesusFutures*, exploring the challenges and opportunities facing the world of tomorrow (January – June 2022).
- A complementary series of events exploring Wales in the 21st century (March 2022).
- Our very popular occasional series of events exploring the life of T. E. Lawrence will conclude with a major conference looking at multiple aspects of his life and legacy (early 2022).
- An exclusive virtual event for the members of our 1571 Society (early 2022).
- Our annual calendar of special events will return in 2022, including the All Alumni Dinner, Commemoration of Benefactors, Summer Eights event, and the 1571 Society Luncheon.
- The return of our gaudies, beginning with those postponed from 2020 in 2022, followed by those postponed from 2021 in 2023, etc.

The College is now open to book B&B stays for alumni visits. Please contact the Conference and Events Manager simon.smith@jesus.ox.ac.uk for enquiries or to make a reservation.

*For further information on any forthcoming events, please contact:
E: events@jesus.ox.ac.uk*



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