



# OPTIMA

ISSUE 7 • SPRING 2005

## The Master's message



I arrived in Fitzwilliam in September 1970 on a day I remember well. I was greeted by the then Master, the late Walter Grave and introduced to the late Nigel Kenney and to Stephen Fleet. From their generosity of spirit and kindness, I knew I should enjoy Fitz. At lunch this same day, I sat opposite to the late Tony Edwards who, peering over his half moon frames said (rather pointedly I felt), "Are you any bloody good?" To be frank, his remark so startled me that I really wasn't sure.

Over that memorable lunch I heard the first discussion of the College buildings. At this time, there was a problem with the Hall windows – they kept cracking and were liable to fall in! That matter, fortunately, was soon resolved. I have always liked Lasdun's centre block and over the following thirty five years have witnessed the move from a rather modest residential site to a fully flourished College with a range of beautiful modern buildings including a Chapel, the Theatre and a Gatehouse. We owe so much to the generosity of our benefactors and to the skill of our architects and builders.

And so, in this, my last year as Master of Fitzwilliam College, I would like to pay tribute to the renowned architects who have made Fitzwilliam what it is today. We may not have the river frontage, or the ancient tradition of some of the older colleges but we are fortunate to possess some of the finest modern buildings, designed by a most distinguished group of contemporary architects.

The late Sir Denys Lasdun was the first architect to be associated with Fitzwilliam with his design of both the Main Building on Huntingdon Road and the Dining Hall (1961 – 1967). He was an eminent architect whose name is particularly associated with the Royal National Theatre on London's South Bank. Although a modernist, he exhibited a classical echo in his work and viewed buildings as "urban landscapes", formed from interlocking spaces and levels like so many artificial hills and valleys.

He was followed by Sir Richard MacCormac who designed New Court in 1986 with the use of grey brick to match the original college buildings. He was also responsible of the design of the magnificent Chapel in 1991. Both attracted much favourable comment from the architectural press and won awards, both for the architecture and, in the case of the Chapel, for the woodwork. MacCormac, Jamieson Prichard's projects include

the redevelopment of Broadcasting House for the BBC and Southward station on the Jubilee line. Their rationale is to take into account the physical, cultural and historical contexts of the site and use space, light, movement, material and technology to create inventive designs.

Wilson Court was added in 1994, designed by Van Heyningen and Haward and attracted a RIBA award in 1996. Joanna van Heyningen and Birkin Haward have an international reputation, specialising in acoustically driven buildings and working for many National Institutions such as the National Trust and English Heritage. One of their notable projects is the Rare Book Library at Newnham College.

The most recent additions to the College are the Gatehouse Court and Auditorium, completed in 2004 and designed by Allies and Morrison. To keep the Auditorium to scale, one storey has been constructed below ground and enhanced by the addition of a sunken garden outside. The brickwork replicated that of the Grove and the Auditorium is claimed to be, acoustically, one of the best venues in Cambridge. Allies and Morrison's practice was set up in 1984 and they are currently working on the restoration of the Festival Hall. They are also one of the teams involved with the master plan for the London Olympics Bid. Bob Allies said about the project, "What made the Fitzwilliam project particularly rewarding was that it provided an opportunity not only to design buildings that could accommodate the new functions of Auditorium and Gatehouse, but also to create a new sequence of spaces within the College grounds, and in so doing to extend, reinforce and largely to complete the landscape of the original Lasdun masterpiece".

That "architecture in general is frozen music" can so aptly be applied to our glorious compilation of architectural masterpieces set in beautiful gardens on our eight acre site. The discontinuity of styles is a pleasure, the facades of individual buildings are to be savoured and the whole represents Fitzwilliam's gift to the future.

*Brian H. Johnson*



The Dining Hall



The Chapel



The Auditorium

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## A sad and sorry state ...

George Proffitt, Captain of Boats (1968/9) wrote in a letter to ex-crew and colleagues:

*“We all had a good run at College – no questions about good equipment, good changing facilities and a full time boatman, – no less!”*

**NOW LOOK!**

Richard Booth, reading Natural Sciences, majoring in Chemistry and Captain of Boats, 2004/5, says:

*“Since I’ve been here, rowing has become very important to me and the state of the current Boathouse is a cause for concern and may even put off would be rowers.”*



Boathouse window area with filled deformities in the wall below, rising damp, encroaching mould and collecting rubbish

## Boathouse funds and pledges roll in

The Master requested Members’ views in the last edition of *Optima* about rebuilding versus refurbishment of the Boathouse. Responses have rolled in, but not just opinions, many are willing to donate or pledge funds or launch personal initiatives to raise money.

The opinions were fairly divided on whether refurbishment of the existing premises for less money or a total rebuild costing more, should be the target. The majority would settle for refurbishment if adequate funds cannot be realised and Chris Gill (1965)’s response typifies this. He writes, “A comprehensive new development would be desirable, but ... if such a development was prohibitively expensive or

couldn’t get planning permission, a fundamental refurbishment would be acceptable (and the funds for it are within sight of being available)”.

The consensus is that the project **must** go forward and before too long, but how to raise adequate funds? “Do not underestimate the goodwill inherent in your database and the team spirit of past rowers. Is there any way you can harness this substantial resource?” pointed out Eric Goss (1964).

To this end, John Adams (1958), Secretary of the Billygoats, supplied a chronological list of Captains of Boats from 1947 to the present day. The Master wrote to them all in December, not only asking for support but to rally their former

It gives us great pleasure to announce that an extremely generous anonymous benefaction of £100,000 towards the project has been received

crews so the appeal, like the ripples in a pond (or a river!), could be spread by personal contact. We are gratified that many Captains have offered to contact former crews and request funds or even head their own fund raising initiatives. David Stewart (1967), a Chartered Planning Consultant has offered help with the planning issues. If any Captains have not yet answered the call and can follow in their wake, we would be more than pleased to hear from them and can offer help from the Development Office.

Finally, it gives us great pleasure to announce that an extremely generous anonymous benefaction of £100,000 towards the project has been received. At the JMA Trustees' meeting in March, we were able to report that the total, including pledges and tax recompense on gift aided donations, had reached £420,000. The Trustees confirmed their input of £100,000 and agreed to formally apply for planning permission with the realisation that achieving the full

£500,000 was feasible. The dream of a new **Boathouse** is now close to a reality.

To boost the fund raising efforts, two articles follow: George Proffitt (1966) remembers the heady days when Fitz went Head of the River in its centenary year. Sarah Winckless (1993) shares with Members her feelings as she won a bronze medal for the UK, rowing in the Athens Olympic Games of 2004.

**The total is in sight.** If you can help reach your fellow rowers or start a personal fund raising initiative, please contact Dr Sarah Coppendale at the Development Office (sc266@cam.ac.uk). If you would like to add your donation to that of others, forms for giving can be found in the centre pages of *Optima*.

## Billy makes history

George Proffitt (Geography, 1966) remembers former glory on the river



Bumped: Queens' 1

Billy bumped four times in the Mays of '67 under the Captaincy of Ian Hall. The following year under the Captaincy of John Reddaway (Blue) and stroked by Bob Winckless (CUBC stroke & secretary that year and father of Sarah), we were tipped to go Head!

In the first day we duly bumped Pembroke then ... disaster ... 5 man, Peter Major (Goldie '66) went down with a crippling 24 hr tummy bug. College goalkeeper, Peter Mathewman was drafted in, totally unfit. We held off Pembroke until 'The Pike and Eel', then were sadly bumped with yards to go!

The following day restored to full strength and with something to prove, we bumped Pembroke

before the gut with such force that their cox panicked, their boat went straight up the bank and bow 2 and 3 were able to step out on dry land. Their boat was a mess! The following and final day

we bumped 1st and 3rd just after 'The Plough' leaving Queens to row over without getting the chance to bump them. This was an almost foregone conclusion. They had had great difficulty holding off 1st & 3rd in the previous days racing!

The pleasure of bumping Queens the following year, again just opposite 'The Plough', gave me great personal pleasure, but was in a sense anticlimactic. It came a year too late. Nonetheless, it was the College's Anniversary year, so the timing was appropriate. The late Ron Walters (Senior Tutor) was seen beaming that day. The strength of the boat club had much to do with his canny selection policy. Sadly, he died a few days later, if memory serves me right, from a heart attack. What is also interesting is that in this year, Billy had 3 Blues (including the cox) not rowing for the College in the May races.

We also won the University Fours, went Head of the Lents for the first time in history. In addition, we won Senior Eights at Peterborough Centenary Regatta, the Head of the Cam and the Second Eights (representing Cambridge University) at the inter University Regatta held at Pangbourne.



Head of the River, Mays, 1969

# Winning bronze

Sarah Winckless (1993)

Those first few strokes taken out of the Fitz boathouse have led me on an incredible journey. It would mean a huge amount to me to see a smart new boathouse on the familiar Fitz plot.



slightly more confident session in the tub and I was hooked.

We decided that as I threw the discus left-handed I would row bow-side. This would work the right hand side of my body harder and hopefully, even me up. As fate would have it, the senior squad were struggling to find an eighth member and, before I knew it, with the promise of few early morning outings, I was installed in the five seat of the first ladies' boat. The boat club was incredibly friendly and the girls in the eight were amazingly patient, as I worked on getting to grips with this new skill. Sarah Metcalf (1991), the women's captain and Pete Lidwell (1991), our cox, were brilliant at helping me.

I was primarily a sprint athlete and we had a few short weeks to turn my raw power into something like endurance. I was terrified that the Fairbairns would come and just minutes into the race, my legs would blow and my forearms seize. Despite all my fears, I survived the distance and was as high as a kite as we returned to the boathouse. I really liked being a cog in such a large racing unit. I went on to row in the Lent Bumps. Perhaps only those who have experienced it can appreciate the true terror of being pushed out from the bank, seeing a boat incredibly close to your bows, waiting for the countdown to go silent and the cannon to fire. The adrenalin rush each day was huge. We equipped ourselves well, going up two and memorably, making so sure of our bump on Jesus that their boat ended up somewhere up the bank!

Although I tried to keep my summer terms relatively free to allow me to catch up on my studies, I can't pretend this busy schedule of rowing, netball, athletics and basketball, didn't take its toll. After two years of Natural Sciences, I struggled to settle on a final year course. As I was now considering law as a career, it was suggested I might change to the Land Economy department, where I could study some law, with economic and environmental options also. I also found that by changing course, I would do a second Part IB and this would extend my stay at the University by an extra year. Before the end of my fourth and final year at Fitz, my rowing ambitions had grown and, in my graduate year, 1997, I trialled for the National team. However, Finals got in the way and during a key training period for the National Squad trials, I was at my desk studying. I was delighted to achieve a 2.1, but this wasn't without cost to my fitness. I didn't make the team that year and they went on to have an extremely successful World Championships.

I gave myself a year to break into the team. I knew it would be tough. For the first time in my life, I concentrated on just one sport. While I missed the variety dreadfully, the results were good and I established myself as one of the

It amazes me how certain decisions you make about one area in your life can affect seemingly unrelated areas. Who would have thought that, by following my father to Fitzwilliam, rather than studying at Loughborough, it would shape my sporting career in such a positive way. I chose to read Natural Sciences and threw myself into University life with gusto. I quickly discovered the delights of the College bar and eventually found my way to the Department. On the sporting side, I was selected for the Blues' netball team, trained with the University Athletics Club for discus throwing (my main sport) and played basketball for Fitz. My days were very full!

However, Mike Roberts (1991), the boat club captain, was well aware of my father's rowing history. Dad had rowed both for the Blues and Fitz and, while he was at the College, Fitz had been Head of the River. Mike was convinced that there was latent rowing talent in my six foot three frame and made it his mission to get me out in a boat. At the Freshers Fair, he even put up a photo of Dad, 'to make me feel at home'! A few pints later, I had agreed to try rowing! I clearly remember my first cycle down to the river, seeing the brightly coloured doors of the different boathouses and eventually locating the maroon and grey building that was ours. The boathouse had a sort of 'old world charm'. I was interested to find out that it was unchanged since Dad had been up in the late sixties and I was delighted to find a training circuit he had written at the time, still up on the wall in George, the boatman's, office. As I climbed the iron staircase up onto the balcony and looked out over the river I was filled with a sense of excitement at this new challenge. A very wobbly session in the college single scull, a

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Elise Laverick and Sarah Winckless, World Cup



Race over, Athens Olympics 2004



Medal winners, Elise Laverick and Sarah Winckless

*It was exciting to arrive at the regatta course, see the many International friends and feel the buzz around the boating area.*

potential athletes for the Sydney Olympic games and earned Lottery funding. Training was intense with up to five sessions a day. I pushed my body harder than ever before, hungry for Olympic success, until I discovered that a pain in my side was actually a stress fracture to my rib. I lost my place in the quad that went on to get a silver medal, without me. I raced in the double scull and came ninth. It was devastating to work so hard for something and miss out so close to the end. It took me twenty-four hours to say, "Well done" to one of my closest friends who sculled in the boat and three and a half years to watch the race. However, having come so close, I wasn't going to give up. I returned home from Australia determined to train harder and to make my body stronger and more resilient.

However, things didn't go to plan. A slipped disc, followed by periods of illness, interrupted my training and I had to take a year out. For the first time in many years, I put myself before my sport and the break did wonders for healing both my mind and my body. With the help of a sports psychologist, Britt Tajet-Foxell, I worked on the ethos of "train cleverer" rather than "train harder". Making sure I understood what I was trying to achieve with each training session and how this was going to add to my strengths as an athlete, I re-entered the National arena. In 2002, I was fifth in the quad and in 2003, we improved this position becoming fourth in the World. We had a really strong group of athletes looking for selection in the Olympic year. Eventually, Elise Laverick and I were selected for the double scull. With hard work and a silver medal at the Munich World Cup, we showed our potential but needed to improve on our consistency and race tactics. We trained intensely, living and breathing rowing, sharing a double room and rarely being out of sight of each other. Every session was discussed and evaluated with our coach, Miles Forbes-Thomas, until we were on the plane to Athens and the Olympic regatta.

It was exciting to arrive at the regatta course, see the many International friends and feel the buzz around the boating area. Because we started racing on the first day of the Olympics, we were not marching in the opening ceremony, so missed the massive inspirational boost that it gives. This was compensated for unexpectedly one morning, when we passed the Olympic torch relay making its way along the marathon route. Seeing the runner with the lit flame, a lump formed in my throat and I was surprised to feel tears gather in my eyes. I knew I had my chance to perform at my best at an Olympic games and no one needed to tell me how important the next ten days were going to be. Elise and I went into the regatta seeded fourth. This meant we drew the New Zealand twins, the double World champions, in our heat. It was a great opportunity for us to see how we had moved on since the World Cup and we put together a solid race to come second. This meant we had to race again, two days, later in the repêchage to gain our place in the Olympic final.

Despite overwhelming nerves and a delay for bad weather, we crossed the line in first place. We were in our first Olympic final!

Every move was timetabled for the next few days to maximise our performance. Eventually at 9.45 on Saturday morning, we were sitting on the start line for the Olympic final. All the preparation had been done, I knew I just had to concentrate and make each of the 240 strokes down the 2000m track count. As a crew, we split the race into four 500m quarters. In the first 500m, we planned to go out fast and stay in contact with the field, but the boat didn't feel quite right and we had to work very hard for our boat speed. When we went through the 500m mark, Elise gave a call and the boat responded. I could feel the power we were creating together and knew that we were rowing at our best. The next 1000m passed like a flash, each stroke coming strong and together, until gradually, I could feel the boats on the outside lanes drop back. I was dimly aware that in a six-boat final, this put us at least in fourth place. Although in real time it took us nearly three and a half minutes, before I knew it, we were coming up to the last 500m. With about 40 strokes to go, my legs and lungs were screaming and my ability to see, was diminishing. "The blackness", I thought, referring to a state to which the coaches had encouraged us to push ourselves. "I'll come through the other side". After ten more strokes, I acknowledged that there was no other side and I just counted one stroke after another, body on autopilot, mind refusing to give up, desperate for the finish line.

It took me some minutes to recover enough to take in what Elise and I had achieved. We had come third and won an Olympic medal, something of which I had dreamed for as long as I could remember. It was incredible to row over to the medal rostrum and receive our medals in front of a hugely supportive crowd, including my family and friends. A couple of days later, I bumped into some friends from Fitz at the Olympic park and they told me they had been in the crowd cheering too.

I have had a hectic schedule since the games, with some unbelievable events, including an open topped bus tour of London and a visit to Buckingham Palace that fell on my birthday – one I won't forget in a long time. I had hoped to come up to the College to the Billygoats dinner to look round the boathouse and remember where it all started. Unfortunately, the events of the past few months caught up with me and I was unable to come because of the 'flu. I did row in the College Reunion weekend last September and saw how the boathouse building had suffered since I came up to College, ten years ago. I was excited to read in the last edition of *Optima* of plans for new developments and really hope we can find a way to raise the money for this project. Those first few strokes taken out of the Fitz boathouse have led me on an incredible journey. It would mean a huge amount to me to see a smart new boathouse on the familiar Fitz plot.

# Luton, Ladas and Lamborghinis

Rex Marshallsay Greenslade (Mechanical Science Tripos, 1967)

*In no way has my life been one that's typical of an engineer graduating from Fitzwilliam and Cambridge (whatever 'typical' means in that context). I've had at least four different careers...*



"I'm still alive!". Rex (left) having flown at Mach 2.2 in a Swedish Air Force, Saab Viggen while researching for 'Motor' on Saab, 1980. Rex was not a qualified pilot

*I'm convinced that the influence of my friends at Cambridge (most of whom weren't engineers), the subjects of the discussions and debates we had and the interests we shared all profoundly influenced my confidence in branching out into different career areas.*

My parents came from modest backgrounds in South Wales and couldn't afford a private school so with an interest in fast cars, I managed to get a scholarship with Vauxhall. I had to work for a year before coming up to Cambridge and the production line at Luton was as far away from my background as anything I could imagine, but a great education to the ways of the world. I'm not sure why or how I ended up at Fitzwilliam – I think my grades pushed me into a pool from which the powers-that-be at Fitzwilliam rescued me. I knew

that Fitzwilliam was a 'new' college – like New Hall and Churchill, but I didn't know a lot else. Nowadays Fitzwilliam has a much higher profile than it had back then.

A condition of the Vauxhall scholarship was that I had to work the long vacations back in Luton but they also paid me throughout my college

career. By today's standards it wasn't a lot – about £1150 per annum – but it was a fortune compared to the spending power of those fellow students without private means. If going to Luton was a shock, so was coming up to Cambridge – but for different reasons. The year at Luton was intensely structured: 7:00 am starts, time cards and punch clocks; brutally blunt fellow workers and work that varied from intensely interesting to tediously boring. Cambridge, in comparison, was comparatively free and easy, the onus on you individually to make the most of your time there: there was no one and, certainly no time clock, to check your attendance at lectures. But in its way, I'm sure that both experiences contributed to what was an exceptionally rich educational experience.

There's no doubt that, apart from being some of the happiest years of my life, my time at Cambridge was one of the most formative. I can't believe that I would have been exposed to the diversity of race, culture, country and financial background of people anywhere else. Cambridge also opened my eyes to possibilities beyond the pure stereotype most have of 'The Engineer' – the analytical, list-driven, uncreative character widely lampooned in the media – and to the possibilities of 'working within the system'. As Secretary of Cambridge University Auto Club, I was able to

make a convincing case that I should have a car (as today, undergraduates were banned from having cars at Cambridge). This did wonders for my social life! As I have often said, Cambridge gave me a great degree, but a hell of an education.

After graduating, I first worked for Vauxhall in car engineering near Bedford, then decided to go into journalism for 'a year or two' to get an outside perspective on the industry. I found it so enjoyable and productive in building experience and other skills that I stayed in journalism for nearly 11 years. I worked in the technical department of *Motor* magazine (now *Autocar*), teaching myself how to write and how to evaluate, interpret and communicate technical developments in a form understandable to the general magazine reader. Journalism offers an incredibly indulgent working lifestyle, travelling the world, meeting and interviewing captains of industry with fast cars as our drug of choice, even getting to test drive Formula One cars.

After six years, I became Technical Editor of *Motor* and took up motor racing in the British Saloon Car Championship (now the Touring Car Championship) with some considerable success. The culmination of this time was a three-year period as a works driver for British Leyland in the



First UK test of the Lamborghinini's acceleration and braking (the wheel at the back measures the true road speed), 1975

Triumph Dolomite Sprint and the Rover 3500. Highlights of this time included winning my class of the main supporting race of the 1979 British Grand Prix, winning my class at the 1983 Silverstone Tourist Trophy and qualifying to be invited to become a Full Member of the British Racing Drivers Club. I raced against Martin Brundle, Jonathan Palmer, Nigel Mansell and Derek Bell; unfortunately I didn't win as much as I liked – second always seemed to be my magic number.

All of this definitely beat driving a slide rule or a desk but the reality was that journalism simply didn't pay. I once had a Rolls-Royce Corniche Convertible (one of the most expensive cars in the



Rex driving a Rover for the works BL team at Silverstone, 1980. He recorded the fastest lap

world at the time) and couldn't afford to take my date to the Ritz – we went camping! As someone on the magazine said, “The staff had all the trappings of luxury, but none of the means...” and eventually you realize that no amount of fun will pay the bills.

In the early 1980s, Ford of Europe asked me to spearhead a new department ‘halfway’ between PR and engineering, to find new ways to bring understanding of technology, design and products to the media. The advantage was that my salary rose steeply but the disadvantage was that I had to give up motor racing! Ford of Europe led on to working for Ford in the United States which lasted nine years until I joined my wife, Carol, in G-2 Communications, a PR agency she had founded, working in product, motor sport, heritage and auto supplier communications. Our largest account currently is the agency of record for General Motors in motor sport and heritage communications. We've been involved with the 24 Hours of Le Mans, the Daytona 500 and the Indy 500 as well as all the major motor shows. One of our largest projects currently is the establishment and administration of GM's new Heritage Centre near Detroit, where all of the most significant assets of their last 100 years are being gathered, catalogued and displayed.

With all of this in mind, in no way could you conclude that my life has been one that's typical of an engineer graduating from Fitzwilliam and Cambridge (whatever ‘typical’ means in that context). I've had at least four different careers. But, as I said earlier, a common thread has always been automotive and engineering and I'm determined not to lose that; I'm a member of the Society of Automotive Engineers and I regard myself very much still an engineer.

There is the enigma about how I've managed to marry the ‘left brain’ analytical attributes of an

engineer with the ‘right brain’ creative streaks of a journalist/communicator. I'm convinced that the influence of my friends at Cambridge (most of whom weren't engineers), the subjects of the discussions and debates we had and the interests we shared, all profoundly influenced my confidence in branching out into these different career areas. I can't say that my life wouldn't have taken the various courses it did had I not gone to Cambridge, but I'm convinced it would have been much more unlikely.

I'm regularly in touch with students today. I look for people that can articulate and present well, can see the big picture yet are able to burrow down to the micro level to identify key issues, and above all have tenacity and drive to get the job done. My one regret regarding the academic training I received was that it was too theoretical. We spent too much time analysing and not enough time designing. I know from talking to my colleagues in the UK industry that this is no longer the case; that the engineering taught is closely aligned to producing the engineers that industry needs. As someone once put it, “Ask not an engineer to design a bridge; rather a way to cross the river.” But above all, it's important to keep all this in perspective and I look for candidates that have interests beyond work and a career. If you can take your hobby and make into your career, as I did, so much the better; the chances are that you'll be successful beyond your dreams.

Fitzwilliam College has gone from strength to strength and will continue to do so. Two years ago, I returned there with Carol to proudly show her the room and staircase where I had lived. It was gone, replaced by the construction to create the new courts! But there was no sadness, just wonder and pride on how far Fitzbilly has come since those days of 1967 when it all seemed so brand-new.

*Ask not an engineer to design a bridge; rather a way to cross the river.*

## Fitzsimmons on Fitzwilliam

Rachel Fitzsimmons is a second year Engineering Tripos undergraduate at Fitzwilliam College. She comes from a family with a strong engineering tradition and her parents met as Cambridge undergraduates. She maintains this didn't influence her choice of subject or university, “I applied because Cambridge was easily the best engineering course on offer. It is broad based which proves useful for integrated projects and understanding other disciplines”.

### Why Fitzwilliam?

I actually chose Pembroke because it was near the Engineering department but I was pooled and I ended up at Fitzwilliam. I'm pleased I came here now. It is very friendly, there's lots going on and you feel part of a community. In lectures, the Fitz students sit together. After living in London, the College feels open and safe. I've watched the new buildings going up and put up with the noise at exam time but I haven't really used them yet.

### Is it unusual for a girl to be doing Engineering?

We are in the minority but it isn't by any means unusual. People still sometimes say, “That's a strange thing for a girl to study” but about a quarter of the Cambridge Engineers are now female. I'm not sure I will go on to be an Engineer. I don't know yet what I will do with my degree but it will certainly open lots of doors. I would like an interesting job that allows me to live comfortably.

*continued on page 8*



*“I applied because Cambridge was easily the best engineering course on offer. It is broad based which proves useful for integrated projects and understanding other disciplines”.*

*Why would more funding be useful for Engineering students?*

Everyone is on loans these days. Anything to ease the financial situation would be great. The course is very intensive and quite tiring. The last thing we want to do in the holidays is start earning, although we do have to get work experience in some aspect of Engineering. By the end of the second year, we should have completed 8 weeks work experience, either all together or in separate blocks.

*What other things do you enjoy while here?*

I play football and am in the girls' first team. It is good fun and not taken too seriously. There's not really a lot of time for too many other activities. Engineering is interesting but quite hard work; we have about thirteen hours of lectures each week and six hours of practical sessions down in the Engineering Department. There's lots to do in Cambridge during the evenings when you can make time and cycling keeps us quite fit. Every student needs a bicycle, especially being out at Fitzwilliam.

*Are there enough books, computers and other resources at Fitzwilliam?*

I use the library a lot and it is fairly well stocked. There are so many basic textbooks needed for Engineering, you couldn't buy them all. There must be about twenty or thirty basic books – you'd have to have your own library! Mind you, there are

several key textbooks I would like to own just to save trekking to the library. At exam time, we sometimes need to use the same books so book grants would be useful. The computer rooms could do with improvement and the computers are often all in use. Some students have their own laptops and I can often borrow one from a friend.

*If funds were available, how would you suggest they were used?*

Undergraduate grants would be good and would take the pressure off a bit. They might be difficult to administer but some students worry a lot about loans and debt. A start-up grant for all new students to buy the basics needed when you begin an Engineering course would be great. Every student needs maths equipment, a good calculator, data books which contain all the formulae and are taken into exams, and basic stationery. More computers would certainly be useful and BIKES. You certainly need a bicycle if you live at Fitzwilliam. I happen to own one but some people don't.

**If you would like to help students like Rachel, turn to the centre pages for information on donating to the Engineering Fund. Any assistance you can give will take the pressure off today's Engineering students and allow them access to better equipment, enhanced computer facilities and vacation study grants.**



Ahmed Rashid

## War and politics in Central Asia

Ahmed Jamal Rashid (Social and Political Sciences, 1968)

Ahmed Rashid came up to Fitzwilliam in 1968 and studied English Literature for two years before changing to Social and Political Science in his last year. He is the author of three books, the correspondent for the Daily Telegraph and a number of other academic and foreign affairs journals. He appears regularly on international TV and radio such as CNN and BBC World Service.

His book, 'Taliban: Islam, Oil and the new Great Game in Central Asia' became a world wide best seller, was translated into 25 languages, selling 1.5 million copies since September 11 and becoming a course book for 220 US universities and colleges. His most recent book, 'Jihad, The Rise of Militant Islam in Central Asia' has been translated into 15 languages and has also become a course book for universities throughout the US, Europe and Japan.

In 2001, he was awarded the Nisar Osmani Award for Courage in Journalism by the Human Rights Society of Pakistan. 'Taliban' won several other prizes. He is a member the Board of Advisers to the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva and in November 2002, at the invitation of UN Secretary General, Kofi Annan, he became the first journalist to address the UN General Assembly. He has also established the Open Media Fund for Afghanistan (OMFA), a US registered charity that has distributed over 300,000 US dollars to new, independent newspapers and magazines in Afghanistan.

Since 1979, when I was in Kandahar, Afghanistan and watched invading Soviet tanks arrive and take up position in the bazaar, the trials, tragedies and aspirations of the Afghan people have become my most important journalistic passion. However, it took me 21 years of covering Afghanistan before I managed to write a book about the country. I started out as a journalist covering Pakistan and then spread my wings to Afghanistan and Central Asia. That has helped me understand the complex

relationships of this region, which have become so important after 9/11, but so difficult to explain.

Before 9/11, I was unable to find a big publisher for either my first book or 'Taliban' because Taliban and Afghanistan were considered non-commercial propositions. However once 'Taliban' came out, it did quite well and was quickly sold to Yale University Press who publicised it widely in the US. When 9/11 happened, there were only two books available about the Taliban and my book

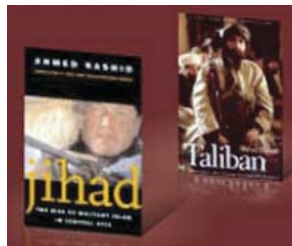
*I had no idea I wanted to do journalism after I left Fitzwilliam, but Fitz had turned me into a writer ...*



Hamid Karzai being elected as President of Afghanistan at the Loya Jirga in Kabul, 2002

became a best seller – especially amongst government officials around the world, who were supporting the US attack on Afghanistan but had no idea what they would face.

I was invited by numerous governments, universities and think tanks around the world to brief them about Afghanistan and the war on terrorism. It was a heady time, especially when I had to combine it with a strong desire to continue doing my journalism by covering the war and its aftermath. I was honoured that ‘Taliban’ became the most sold book ever published by an American academic publishing house. Yale had just bought out the book in paperback with a small print run of 5000 copies. Two days after the attack, the book had sold out and the White House telephoned Yale and said they wanted hundreds of copies



immediately.

There were numerous large print runs after that and the foreign language publishers rushed to buy the book and translate it.

My last book

‘Jihad’ was also researched and written before 9/11, again on an esoteric subject that, only after 9/11, became an important part of global concern.

I came up to Fitzwilliam the year of ‘68 and the worldwide student revolt. It was a time of intense political debate, activism, global opposition to the war in Vietnam as well as wonderful pop music, and a time of change in everything from fashion to movies. The Arts Cinema provided us with all the

World’s new films. It was also the time of the famous three day sit-in against the Vietnam war at the Senate House in which I took part.

I had no idea I wanted to do journalism after I left Fitzwilliam, but Fitz had turned me into a writer, first through my love for poetry and literature which I pursued for two years doing English Literature with some wonderful tutors and then the brand new course of Social and Political Science which the University had just started. The course was in its infancy and you could literally study anything from fascism to Mao and get away with it.

At the time Fitz only had one small hall of residence on campus, a small bar and the dining hall but the atmosphere was always warm, friendly and constantly inspiring with the intense political and cultural debates that used to break out in the JCR. Fitz was always very international with its intake of foreign students and as a result Fitz students had much more exposure to other countries’ politics and cultures than other Cambridge colleges at the time.

The girls next door at New Hall were considered too snooty and unavailable, but Fitz had become a venue for European girls studying English in the local language schools making up for the shortfall. My time at Fitz taught me tolerance and understanding of the world around me and a sense of commitment in trying to change the world or at least improve it. Fitz may have been very relaxed and full of sporty types, but it was always a place of learning and experience. Tolerance is built on the fact of many different kinds of people living and working together and Fitz supplied that in abundance.



## In memory of Professor John Robert Stephen Revell (1920 – 2004)

Professor Geoffrey Whittington, Life Fellow of Fitzwilliam College, writes of Jack Revell:

“Jack Revell was a distinguished applied economist, with a particular interest in the structure of financial institutions. He first established his academic reputation when he was a Senior Research Officer in the Department of Applied Economics at Cambridge. He combined this post with College teaching, first as Director of Studies in Economics at Selwyn [1960–65], and then at Fitzwilliam [1964–7]. He was elected to a Fellowship at Fitzwilliam in 1965 and also became a College Tutor. His personal qualities included an ability to support and counsel younger colleagues and students, as well as a formidable capacity for administration. These qualities were recognised by the College when he was made Senior Tutor in 1967. All too soon, in 1968, he left Cambridge to take up a Chair in the University of Wales at

Bangor, where he founded an institute of banking and became an international leader in this field. This was a great loss to the College, but he later retired to Cambridge (although his research output was undiminished in retirement) and re-established his contact with the College.

He will be remembered with affection by all who knew him and enjoyed his support during the critical period when Fitzwilliam was established as a full college of the University.”

**If, like Pat Revell, you wish to make a donation in memory of a loved one who enjoyed an close association with Fitzwilliam College or you would like to remember the College in your will, please turn to the centre pages or contact the Development Office who will be delighted to advise you.**

At the funeral of Jack Revell, his wife, Pat, requested that those who wished to remember him should give donations to Fitzwilliam College to support the student hardship fund, rather than send flowers. Over one thousand pounds has been kindly donated in his memory by both friends and family.

# Fitzwilliam Geography – building on success

*The research interests of the Fellows show that Geography is no longer just about maps and mountains; it is an attractive discipline of great relevance to the modern world.*

Fitzwilliam is well known for its success in Geography and continues to hold its own as one of the best achieving Colleges for this subject. In 2004, Emmanuel and Fitzwilliam College shared top academic honours, each attaining eight firsts over the three years of the Tripos. Admissions remain robust, and Fitzwilliam continues to admit a large cohort of Geographers each year. In the last three years, only St Catharine's College has equalled Fitzwilliam in the number of students accepted to study Geography.

More generally, although students are admitted to Fitzwilliam only on the basis of academic potential, the College admits one of the highest percentage intakes of students from the maintained sector of any UK higher education institute. This is a tradition of which we are particularly proud.

What explains the continuing success of Geography at Fitzwilliam? There are three main reasons:

## **1. The reputation of the College amongst the student community**

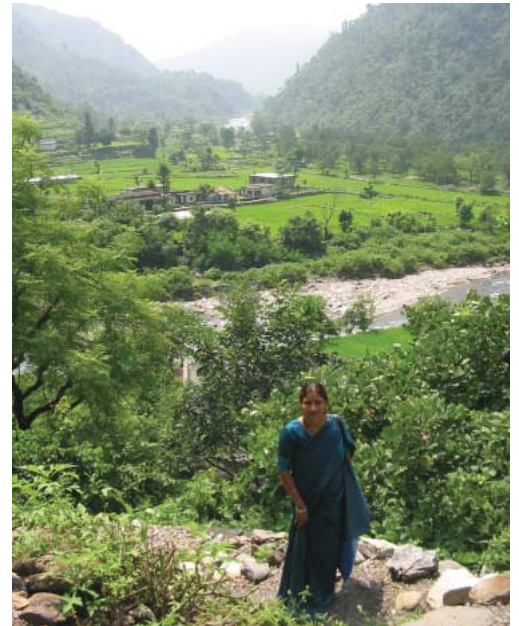
OFSTED has reported that teaching of Geography is declining in schools. At University level, however, Cambridge retains its pre-eminent position in assessments of teaching quality. The Colleges play a significant role in maintaining these high academic standards. To attract the best students to Fitzwilliam, Geography open days are held at the College for first year sixth form pupils from all over the UK, every few years, with the next one being planned for July 2005. The students attend lectures discussing cutting-edge issues in Geography, and are shown around the College, given lunch, and have the opportunity to talk to current students.

The students chosen to come to Fitzwilliam are high flyers and go, not only far, but into every aspect of life afterwards. Recent graduate, Al James [BA 1999], now Joint Assistant Lecturer at the University and College, was awarded the Economic Geography Research Group award for the best PhD dissertation in 2003. Rory Gallagher [BA 2002], won the William Vaughn Lewis prize for his third

year dissertation, and was runner up for the Royal Geographical Society's 'Women, Gender and Geography' award. He has stayed on at College, and is currently completing his PhD at the Department. And so it goes on ....

Slightly worryingly, numbers applying to Fitzwilliam as a first-choice College have

declined recently. This is partly due to our "out of town" status, partly to increased outreach initiatives by other Colleges to attract students from disadvantaged backgrounds but also to financial concerns. Funds to support Geography bursaries are needed badly, therefore, in order to continue to attract the best students to Fitzwilliam, regardless of background. It is imperative that the fear of debt does not put off those with the intellectual ability and determination to succeed, of whom state school students are the most vulnerable. Bursaries of a thousand pounds a year would attract prospective students from less-wealthy backgrounds to Fitzwilliam, and would ensure that the tradition and ethos of the College were upheld at a time when access to higher education is becoming more expensive.



*Dissertation research in Uttaranchal, India (Eleanor Hughes)*

This is not the only reason that funds are needed for Geography. To travel to an overseas destination in order to acquire data for a final year dissertation is expensive. The dissertation counts for one fifth of the final mark, and offers students a real opportunity to experience the intellectual challenges associated with designing and executing an independent piece of research. To many, it is the academic high point of their career in Cambridge. All projects are approved by the Director of Studies and the Geography Department and may cost anything from five hundred to several thousand pounds. The College Travel Fund does help with costs, but £150 (the usual grant awarded) doesn't go far towards six week's subsistence, accommodation and travel costs associated with dissertation research. The topics studied by current third years ranged from 'Scottish rivers' to 'AIDS and disability in Africa'.

*Rory Gallagher with focus group*





Dissertation research showing a performance by Balyegombe Childs Rights Club in Uganda (Sophie Holmes-Smith)

## 2. The friendliness of the College environment

Geography students represent a strong community at Fitzwilliam. All Geographers, whether undergraduate, postgraduate or Fellow, are proud to belong to the Fitzwilliam Geography Society. No first year Geographer feels at sea on arrival, with a ready-made family of peers and associates with whom to socialise and enjoy areas of mutual interest. The Geography Society meets socially about every three weeks for meals, drinks and even ten-pin bowling! The highlight for many is the annual weekend away in the Michaelmas Term at the Norfolk coast for social bonding and .... Geography! This engenders a strong sense of community among the students with friendships and support developing over the three year groups.



Norfolk field trip, 2004

The mutual support extends to a range of academic activities as well. Final year students, for instance, give talks on their dissertation

projects, and their peers are able to provide feedback, discussion and support. First year and second year students benefit from the experience of the third years when designing their own research projects.

This close knit community is strongly prized by Fitzwilliam Geographers but don't go thinking that they don't integrate or participate in other activities. There are enough rowing Geographers to fill at least a couple of boats. In 2004–5, there were three third year Geographers on the Fitzwilliam Ball Committee and one, this year's Geography Society President, Graeme Barnes, was also its President. Last year's JMA President, Katherine Sladden, is a Geography student. And, who regularly organises the University-wide "One World Week"? Why – inevitably, Fitzwilliam Geographers!

## 3. The quality of teaching and support

Fitzwilliam has four Fellows in Geography, compared with most Colleges that have half that number. The College shows its commitment to Geography as a subject by supporting one and a half of these posts from its own resources. This high calibre cohort of Fellows, all of whose work is of world renown and highly respected, provide

support and encouragement for the Fitzwilliam students, both of an academic and pastoral nature.

Dr Bhaskar Vira is Director of Studies and a University Lecturer in Environment and Development. Professor Bob Haining is Head of the University Department of Geography and a Professorial Fellow at Fitzwilliam. Dr Iris Möller is a College Lecturer, Assistant Director of Studies and Deputy Director of the Cambridge Coastal Research Unit. Dr Al James is a Joint College and University Assistant Lecturer and Assistant Director of Studies.

The research interests of the Fellows show that Geography is no longer just about maps and mountains; it is an attractive discipline of great relevance to the modern world. Bhaskar works on how public policy affects the management of natural resources in developing countries, especially in South Asia. He is interested in issues such as access to, and use of, forest and water resources, conservation and wildlife policy, and how all of these relate to poverty. Bob's research looks at how the postcode lottery affects the quality of life with a specific focus on the analysis of the statistics of crime and health in terms of where people live. Iris is a physical geographer and researches coastal development with reference to global warming and its effect on sea defences. Al's research interests include regional economic development, gender and cluster policy, and he has been looking at the growth of "Silicon Valley" – type high-tech industry around the University and the synergy that exists between the two.



Al James

The Geography Fund was launched in 2000, and had accumulated £12,608 up to the end of the financial year 2004. This has provided a welcome start to the Fund but continued support is desperately needed. We need to build on Fitzwilliam's continuing success at Geography, because in the words of Graeme Barnes, President of the Fitzwilliam Geography Society, "Fitzwilliam is the best College with the best results and a great social life. Everyone knows the Fitz Geographers".

**If you would like to support the Geography Department and build on the success already achieved, please turn to the centre pages for more information on giving to the Geography Fund.**

A Geography reunion dinner will be held in College on 1 July 2005. There are about three hundred past Geographers for whom we have contact details on the database who will receive notification of the event. There are over one hundred former Geography students (lost sheep) for whom we have no contact details (see the Fitzwilliam web site for a list sorted by matriculation year). If you are in touch with a former student who does not receive our mailings, please ask them to send in their details so we may welcome them back "into the fold".



William Washington Williams

*He assumed the roles of President, Tutor, Bursar, Assistant Censor, Treasurer of the Amalgamated Clubs and Director of Studies, many of these posts being undertaken simultaneously.*

## Following in his footsteps .....

At the beginning of last century, William Washington Williams was born in Northampton, “a countryman with early interests – and proficiency – in poaching”.

Whilst an undergraduate at Fitzwilliam House (1922–1925) he read Geography but also represented FH at rowing, soccer, rugby, hockey and cricket – no mean feat in the days when the clubs were small and had few active members. He was also President of the Debating Society.

In 1926, he went to Ceylon to work for the Survey Department and returned as Superintendent of Surveys in 1938 to take up a lectureship in Surveying in the Department of Geography and resumed his contact with Fitzwilliam House. While there, he assumed the roles of President, Tutor, Bursar, Assistant Censor, Treasurer of the Amalgamated Clubs and Director of Studies; many of these posts being undertaken simultaneously. During the war years he returned to Ceylon as a Major in the Sappers providing intelligence on enemy beaches and was twice mentioned in dispatches. In 1947, he won the Gill Memorial Prize of the Royal Geographical Society and while at Fitzwilliam contributed widely to the Fitzwilliam Journal. He definitely had a gift for multitasking!

During the twenty years he was Bursar, he wrote some words (Fitzwilliam Journal 1952) that will sound familiar to all Bursars who have gone before or followed since:

“The burden of writing these notes grows with the appearance of every issue. What but gloom can be the theme of a Bursar in these days of increasing inflation and disappearing subsidies? The Censor has his cares to be sure; the Club Secretaries have their problems, but they have at least some story to tell, or some lighter moment to recall: and at times like this I, whose normal mode of expression is a balance sheet, envy them their tasks.”

This was set at a time when Ryder and Amies, (tailors, robemakers, hosiers and athletic outfitters to Cambridge University and Fitzwilliam College) were supplying all silk cravats for 39/6 with postage at 6d extra.

It was unlike him to contribute in such a serious vein. Sometime after he returned to Cambridge from Ceylon, he wrote that he, “found civilisation irksome, but had acquired a house with three acres of jungle which he had been clearing ever since”. On the commencement of the creation of a garden at Fitzwilliam, he stated, “There has been the prophecy of a beer garden!”

In the difficult era from 1955 when the non collegiate system was terminated, it was deemed inappropriate to appoint a new Censor so William Washington Williams, the then Assistant Censor was asked to perform these duties, in addition to those of Bursar. In the Fitzwilliam Journal of 1958, it was written, “That the (Fitzwilliam) House has not only kept running, but has continued to make clear progress during these last three years is the

greatest possible tribute to his leadership”.

What an act to follow! But follow it they had to. Two of his grandchildren, Mrs Charlotte Bamforth (née Williams) and Major Richard John Washington Williams are Members of Fitzwilliam.

Charlotte read Natural Sciences (1985–1988) and now teaches Biology at Pangbourne College, Reading. The family thread is picked up with her prowess at rowing, although the interest in science probably comes from the other grandfather who was Post Graduate Dean of Medicine at Edinburgh University. She rowed in the Fitz women’s First Four in the Mays 1986 but then was selected for the Blues and so mostly had to forgo College rowing. Her grandfather was always amazed at the amount of training that she had to do and during one family Christmas up on the West coast of Scotland where he and his wife lived, told her that he could not understand what she was doing as, “a brisk walk before a good breakfast had always seen him perform at his best!”

She rowed in the Blue Boat in 1987 beating Oxford and again in 1988 (losing). At this time there were lots of Fitz ladies who had rowed in the Blue’s Squad. Like her grandfather, she also enjoyed travelling; with her parents, and living abroad, and going to many different places when rowing for the British team. She won a Silver Medal at the U23 World Championships in France in 1987. She continues to teach both rowing and biology, ever hopeful of sending pupils on to Fitzwilliam in the future. If all else fails, perhaps her own three children can follow on in due course. The elder two (aged 8 and 10) are already showing a great interest in sport (and rowing).

Charlotte’s younger brother, Richard (1987–1990), like his grandfather started his time at Cambridge reading Geography but subsequently changed to Land Economy when faced with the statistics module! Also a keen sportsman, he played rugby, hockey and tennis for College and captained the University modern pentathlon club from 1989 – 1990 gaining a Half Blue in this demanding sport. The ‘normal’ route into business and the professions did not appeal and so on leaving Fitz, Richard joined the Army as an officer in the Welsh Guards. He travelled extensively around the world and served in a variety of both operational and non-operational roles.

In a career that spanned some interesting challenges faced by the armed forces both at home and abroad, two episodes stand out. The first was when serving as a United Nations Observer in Cambodia, Richard found himself repeatedly tangling with the infamous Khmer Rouge. Ambushes, attacks on villages, forays into the jungle and being held hostage caused some stir in

On another completely different tack was the occasion when, as a Captain, Richard led the pallbearers at the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales. It would have tickled William to know that Richard was involved in the biggest media event ever, especially after having been waist deep in a bog on a cordon for an IRA incident in rural Northern Ireland only days before.

both military and media circles and Richard was subsequently awarded the Military Cross for gallantry. His grandfather would also have sympathised with the empathy Richard felt for the Cambodian peasants and villagers and the work he put in to win their hearts and minds, build bridges between warring communities and provide assistance for the injured, dispossessed and traumatised.

On another completely different tack was the occasion when, as a Captain, Richard led the pallbearers at the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales. It would have tickled William to know that Richard was involved in the biggest media event ever, especially after having been waist deep in a bog on a cordon for an IRA incident in rural Northern Ireland only days before.

So what of the parents, the skipped generation? Well, their father turned down a place at Pembroke in favour of a military career, later to returning to Cambridge to become a Bursar and their mother went to Edinburgh and read Fine Art.

Here's to the next generation!



Richard Washington Williams



The refurbished gym



Luke McNally on new equipment

## Lucky gym

Due to a generous donation by Kenneth Wilson (1946), a former Fitz cricketer, the gym at Fitzwilliam has been transformed.

Students got together, under the direction of the JMA President (2003/4), Katherine Sladden and formed a committee to decide what equipment was needed. "It is one of the most popular things I've been involved with in my year in office as JMA President" said Katherine. Captains from the rowing, football and hockey clubs all gave their opinions on what was needed and quotes were sought from various manufacturers of gym equipment. Cybex was chosen as the supplier, the company that also equipped the University gym at Fenners. There are eight pieces of training equipment sporting the Fitzwilliam colours of burgundy and grey. They are designed to aid cardiovascular stimulation, muscle development and general fitness and include an overhead press, a chest press, an indoor rower, a treadmill and a cycling machine. Weights and dumbbells have been added more recently.

This small room became a hive of activity in the late afternoon and evening with over a hundred

people trying out the equipment in the first week. Two fitness instructors, Tristan Coles and Brett Gooch, came up from Fenners on a regular basis to do induction courses. A gym committee was formed to ensure that adequate training was provided, to oversee the completion of the project and to ensure that the equipment was maintained correctly. A number of students, enthusiastic about sport and fitness, volunteered to serve and since its formation, the walls have been repainted and mirrors installed. They would like to have music added also.

The gym is used by students, staff and Fellows alike. Luke McNally, a self-confessed fitness fanatic, has been involved with the project from its start. He is a third year Maths undergraduate and works out three times a week in addition to playing football. Luke said, "The old gym equipment was years out of date and since I have been here there have been promises to get it updated but it's been a long time coming. It is great to have money donated for the development of sport for everyone".

## NEW MASTER OF FITZWILLIAM PRE-ELECTED

At a meeting of the Fellows on 3 November 2004, Professor Robert David Lethbridge BA MA PhD was pre-elected Master of the College.

Professor Lethbridge is a Life Fellow of Fitzwilliam College and was Senior Tutor in at the College from 1982–1992. From 2003, he was Director of the British Institute in Paris and Professor of French Language and Literature in the

University of London. He was made *Chevalier des palmes academiques* by the French Government for his services to French Culture and currently sits on the Development Committee of Fitzwilliam College.

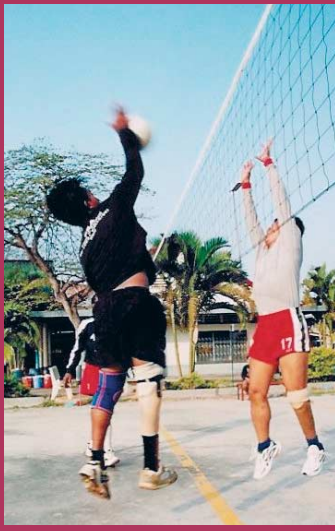
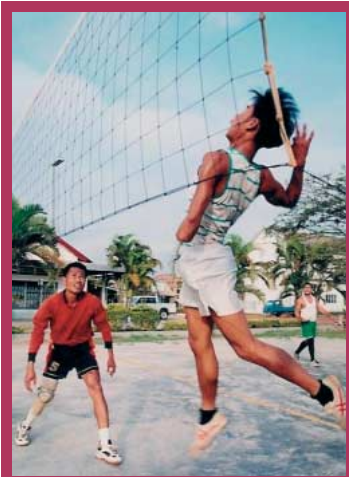
Professor Lethbridge will take office from 1 October 2005 on the retirement of the current Master, Professor Brian F G Johnson.

# From Cambridge to Cambodia

Cat Barton is a third year Fitzwilliam undergraduate studying Social and Political Science and is looking forward to her fourth visit to Cambodia. She has become involved with the Cambodian National Volleyball League (disabled) (CNVLD), a local non governmental organisation dedicated to raising awareness of the disability issue in Cambodia.



Cat Barton with volleyball players



Cambodia is a country of gross inequality and abject poverty. It receives the largest amount of international aid money of any country globally but the majority of donor money is laundered by international and development organisations to pay Western salaries and improve the lifestyle of those who administer the funds. It was recently discovered that the World Food Program rice was being stolen and sold off for profit, never reaching the starving people it was destined to help.

Many Cambodians, mainly men, but women and children too, are above or below knee amputees or have lost arms as a result of land mine injuries. Cambodian society traditionally views disability as retribution for sins in previous life and hence actively excludes and stigmatises the disabled. The CNVLD works in tandem with rehabilitation centres that provide prosthetic limbs and physiotherapy.

Disabled volleyball clubs have now been set up at twelve places in Cambodia and the sport has found its way into mainstream Cambodian society through constant coverage in the Khmer and foreign press.

The players are funded to play in their clubs at a wage of one US dollar per day which represents the average Cambodian wage and enough to feed a family of five. Professional coaches have come in to train the teams, which play against each other in a National league and have learned they can achieve, despite their disabilities. There is a Cambodian Paralympic Volleyball team being coached to go to Beijing in 2008, and in 2005, Cambodia will host the International Standing Volleyball Championship, its first International sporting event in forty years.

This innovative project has raised the awareness of the disability issue in Cambodia, both Nationally and Internationally. Although almost as many disabled women exist as men, it has been culturally less acceptable for them to take part in sporting activities but even this is changing. Due to a donation of racing wheelchairs, sprint racing for disabled women is now being developed. Cat

herself, was influential, during one of her early visits, in setting up a programme for disabled children which is still running today.

Cat's interest in Asia began during her gap year project when she worked for the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation, a Nobel prize winning organisation. She went out for three months and ended up staying for six. She has been returning ever since. Both her 'long vacs' were spent working in Cambodia and the subject of the dissertation for her degree is "Aid and development: a Cambodian case study", which will provide 25% of her final marks. The flights are expensive, costing in excess of £600 even by the cheapest route, but living, once there, is amazingly cheap. Fitzwilliam travel grants have been awarded for both her previous trips and she has applied again for her next planned visit.

Cat has the enthusiasm and idealism to make a difference and is passionate about her research into the aid and development industry. She speaks some Khmer and travels around in pick-up trucks and on motorbikes. She disregards any mention of danger, drugs problems or disease, in fact she reckons she has had all the vaccinations going and is happy to eat food from the local markets. She feels that as an outside voice, she can be objective in her views of the system and is excited by what she is involved in.

At Cambridge, her tutors are knowledgeable about aid and development issues and the University library has fantastic resources but her knowledge of Cambodia must come from first hand experience of the country. And when she finishes ..... she would like to do an MPhil in Development so that she can carry on with her work in Cambodia.

**Cat Barton has been helped by grants from the Fitzwilliam travel fund which have helped pay for her flights to continue her research project in Cambodia. If you are interested in contributing to the travel funds, or establishing a prize or award of your own – for whatever purpose, please contact Sarah (sc266@cam.ac.uk, or telephone 01223 332075) for further information.**



## GARDENS INTERESTING TO ALL

The Fitzwilliam website states, "Many different types of planting set off the various College buildings, providing gardens interesting to all, ...".

**This is certainly so, despite continuous human activity, these photos of unexpected 'fellow' residents have been taken. We, who work here, are fortunate to share our habitat with them.**



## NUTTER'S NOTE

With apologies to Graham Nutter, in the last issue of *Optima* we omitted to include the location of his vineyard, in case any Fitzbillies would like to visit:

Chateau St Jacques  
 "Le Bas"  
 11800 Laure Minervois  
 France  
 Tel/fax: 00 33 (0)4 6878 2482

Website:  
[www.chateaustjacques.com](http://www.chateaustjacques.com)

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## Competition

The Cambridge Garden House Moat House has offered a complimentary weekend break (two nights) for two, inclusive of breakfast, to the winner of our simple competition.

While a student in Cambridge, did you ever wonder what it would be like to stay in the Garden House Hotel? It is reputed to be one of the best hotels in Cambridge, situated by the Cam, right in the heart of the city. To qualify, just send in the answers to four simple questions below (all the answers can be found in this edition of *Optima*) and complete the form below to reach us by 30 June 2005. The winner will be drawn at random from all correct entries received by the closing date.

1. Who were the architects of the auditorium at Fitzwilliam College?
2. How many pieces of new training equipment have been purchased for the refurbished Fitzwilliam College gym?
3. Who was Sarah Winckless' rowing partner in the Athens Olympics, 2004?
4. What profession did William W Williams' grandson, Richard take up?

### COMPETITION 2005

#### Answers

1. .... 2. ....

3. .... 4. ....

Name: ..... Telephone: .....

Address: .....

E-mail: .....

List any Fitz Members with whom you are in contact with (to help us locate 'lost sheep'):

.....

.....

.....

Please return to Dr Sarah Coppendale, Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge, CB3 0DG by 30 June 2005.

THANK YOU



Emma Camps,  
Development Officer

## Emma Camps

### Events and alumni relations

Development Office  
Fitzwilliam College  
Cambridge CB3 0DG

#### TELEPHONE:

+ 44 (0) 1223 332034

#### EMAIL:

events@fitz.cam.ac.uk

As so many of our Members took part in sport at Fitz, formal invitations won't be sent. However, a notice will be emailed to known sportsmen and women. Booking forms have been printed in the centre of the Journal.

## Cambridge looks forward to its 800th

By the time you read this, spring will be well and truly here. As I write this, the daffodils are starting to bloom in the College gardens and blossom is appearing on the trees. If you're thinking of visiting Fitz, try to do so over the next couple of months, as this has got to be the prettiest time of the year.

### Events Galore

Our events are getting more popular each year and in 2005 we have a larger diary than ever before. Further details about the Member events can be found on the alumni section of the website. For College and Music Society events, please see the link from the Fitz home page [www.fitz.cam.ac.uk](http://www.fitz.cam.ac.uk)

### Fitz on Tour

Brian and Christine Johnson are visiting five towns around the country, during the spring and summer and would love you to join them. A member of the Fellowship and a Society Committee member will accompany them, so it is your opportunity to find out the news from Fitz at first hand.

If you live in Devon or Cornwall, I hope you were able to go the event in Exeter. Informal reunions will also take place in Bolton, Leeds, Birmingham and Bristol.

Booking forms and further details can be found in the centre of the Journal.

### Global Billy

Over the last couple of years, we've held three events in the US, one in Australia, two in New Zealand and one in France. If you live overseas and would like to attend a similar event in your area, please contact us.

### Sporting Dinner & Auction

All Fitzwilliam Sportsmen and women are invited to attend our Sporting Dinner in June. Earlier in the day, the annual Past v Present Cricket Match will take place at Oxford Road. If you'd like to play, let me know.

Our Sports Fund has been set up to improve and maintain our sports facilities. We are fortunate to have such a tremendous sporting tradition and reputation on the field. We'd like to match that off the field too.

An auction will follow the Dinner, in which we hope to raise a significant amount towards the Fund. Items include: **two VIP tickets for England v Australia at Lords, signed book by our very own Christopher Martin-Jenkins, signed Surrey CCC bat, tickets for the Varsity match and a Team GB Olympic t-shirt signed by Sir Matthew Pinsent and James Cracknell.**

If you are able to donate items, please contact us.

In 2009, Cambridge University will celebrate its 800th anniversary. A major fundraising campaign is planned that will help secure the excellence of the colleges and the University of Cambridge in teaching and research for future generations.

All colleges, departments and institutions are part of the campaign that will be launched in September 2005. Each college is expected to run its own annual appeal but it is stressed that any gift made to a college will count toward the total sought by the campaign.

### Dates for your Diary

21st April	Commemoration Dinner
22nd April	Concert, Fitzwilliam String Quartet and Friends
23rd April	Land Economy Reunion Dinner
24th April	Concert, Fitzwilliam String Quartet
30th April	Chemistry, Natural Sciences and Chemical Engineering Reunion Dinner
5th May	London Dinner
6th May	Regional Reunion at Bolton
20th May	Regional Reunion in Leeds
3rd June	Regional Reunion in Birmingham
10th June	Regional Reunion in Bristol
18th June	Bumps Supper
25th June	Past v Present Cricket Match
	Sporting Dinner & Auction
	Geography Reunion Dinner
1st July	Reunion Weekend
23rd-25th September	

For musical events, please telephone the Porters' Lodge on 01223 332000 or email Peter Tregear (Director of Music) [pjt21@cam.ac.uk](mailto:pjt21@cam.ac.uk)

### Photo Appeal – Thank you!

In the last issue of Optima, we launched an appeal for the 1967 Matriculation photograph and any other photos to augment our archives. We've had a tremendous response. There are too many people to name here, but you know who you are, so thank you!

One of the most interesting items we've received, is a standard lamp made from a 1969 oar. Fantastic! If you've stumbled across any Fitz related item that's gathering dust, we'd love to give it a good home!

That's all for now!

Emma, Development Officer

Fitzwilliam College will be launching its own Annual Fund in the autumn of 2005.

Planning in Cambridge is well underway with fundamental processes such as the establishment of committees, communications networks, funding opportunities, commemorative events and a campaign target, being formulated. The colleges and University have agreed a *Memorandum of Understanding* to ensure that participation in the campaign is harmonious and to the benefit of all.