**Master’s message**

*Optima* has been published regularly for more than a decade, and I have always enjoyed reading it – an unusual and sometimes quirky portrayal of alumni and current student news. This is, of course, the first time that I have been invited to open it with a ‘Master’s message’.

So I have re-read the previous editions (all on the website) with great interest. Collectively they tell the story of an evolving College, but individually perhaps the stories don’t change so very much. Students and alumni continue to flourish in wonderfully diverse ways. Optima (and its photographs) feeds our collective memory.

My memories of the last eight months? Perhaps the piles of pancakes that Christopher cooked and served to freshers over a whole succession of Sunday mornings; or our happy weekend tandem rides with (largely) graduate students. Or the conversations we have had with some fascinating alumni (see page 3). And of course my first outing in the new boat ‘Nicky Padfield’ on June 8th!

Alumni events in Hong Kong, Singapore and New York stand out – but so do the alumni events I have much enjoyed in College: most recently the 1869 Foundation Day, when those who have generously remembered the College in their will are invited to College to enjoy a convivial meal, to share the excitement both of presentations by graduate students embarking on their research careers and of musical entertainment.

There have been many uplifting days in the last eight months – Fitzwilliam really is an extraordinary place, helping people set their course for a lifetime of memorable actions. Read on!

Nicky Padfield

Follow my blog (or contribute to it) at blog.fitz.cam.ac.uk

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Cover: The Master (no.7) joined finalists and members of the women’s crew for an outing on 8 June in the new women’s boat “Nicky Padfield” – a gift from the Billygoats.

Photo: Dr John Cleaver

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**College News**

### Professor Sir James Holt

Family, close friends and Fellows of the College paid their respects at the funeral of former Fitzwilliam Master, Professor Sir James Holt, at Cambridge Crematorium on Friday 25 April. An eminent medieval historian, Professor Holt was Master from 1981 to 1988 and the driving force behind the building of New Court. His son, Edmund, reminded all present of his father’s passion for cricket and the Yorkshire countryside, and of his prodigious energy and kindness. A memorial service will be held at 3.30pm on Saturday 25 October at Great St Mary’s in Cambridge and a full obituary will appear in the Journal.

### New Upper Hall unveiled

The Old Library has now been transformed into the Upper Hall, a fantastic new space for dinners, receptions and conferences. All thanks to donors Paul Forster, Doug and Rachel Webb, and a bequest from Vivian Povah (Natural Sciences 1951), and thanks to much hard work by the Estates Committee, architects Cullinan Studio and contractors SEH French Limited.

From left: Paul Forster (Geography 1983), Nicola Padfield (Master), Rachel Webb (Natural Sciences 1979), Doug Webb (Geography & Management Studies 1979), Professor Sir Leszek Borysiewicz (Vice-Chancellor) at the official opening.

The Estates Committee outside the new kitchen extension. The kitchen extension and Upper Hall project was the last completed under the auspices of Domestic Bursar Tim Heath (6th from left), who has moved on to a new job at St Catharine’s College after 12 years at Fitzwilliam. The College wishes him well and welcomes his successor Andy Milne (2nd from left). Andy comes to Fitzwilliam from Comberton Academy Trust where he was Business and Operations Director. He was Director of Conference and Catering at Murray Edwards College from 2003–2011.
2014 has seen a new series of discussion events in which distinguished Fitzwilliam alumni have returned to the College to share their experiences and discuss challenging topical issues. At the most recent event, in May, under the title *Fitzwilliam to Whitehall* Sharon White, Second Permanent Secretary to the Treasury, and Julia Goldsworthy, former MP for Falmouth and Camborne and special advisor to Danny Alexander, spoke about their careers in politics and government.

In March, Cressida Dick QPM (Criminology 2000) (left) and Dame Shirley Pearce (right) asked *What Does a Police Officer Need to Know?* Cressida Dick is Assistant Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police and its most senior female officer. Shirley Pearce is a professor of psychology and is Chair of the College of Policing.

Also in March, Carlene Firmin MBE (Philosophy 2002), head of the MsUnderstood Partnership and founder of the Girls Against Gangs Project, discussed *Sexual Bullying: what can be done about it?* Carlene has researched the impact of criminal gangs on women and girls for charities Race on the Agenda and Barnardo’s.

The events have been very well received. See also Master’s blog on the website.

**Reunion Lecture**

**Saturday 26 September 2014**

‘Sustainable Materials: with both eyes open’

Our society is addicted to materials: global demand for steel, concrete, plastics, paper and aluminium is predicted to double by 2050. Achieving a 50% cut in emissions by that year will require a 75% reduction for every tonne of material produced. Fellow Dr Jonathan Cullen will explore whether this target can be met – and how.

**Foundation Lecture**

**Thursday 20 November 2014**

‘Decoding human genomes on a population scale’

The Human Genome Project took many years and thousands of instruments to decode the first human genome – at a cost of several hundred million dollars. Today, a human genome can be decoded in one day on a single instrument. Professor Shankar Balasubramanian (Natural Sciences BA & Chemistry PhD 1985), Herchel Smith Professor of Medicinal Chemistry and co-inventor of Illumina DNA sequencing, will discuss the history of sequencing, methods for rapidly decoding genomes, and the impact of rapid sequencing on the life sciences, medicine and society.

**CUSU teaching awards for two Fellows**

This Cambridge University Students’ Union initiative invited students to nominate individual supervisors, lecturers and support staff who have made a meaningful difference to their educational experience at Cambridge. Dr Philine Zu Ermgassen, who teaches Zoology, was a winner in the supervisor category and Revd Dr John Munns received a special mention in the lecturer category for History of Art.

**Access**

Fitzwilliam continues to ensure that applicants from a wide range of backgrounds hear about the opportunities at Cambridge, are encouraged to visit the College and consider applying. During the year, the Schools’ Liaison Officer visited 37 schools in Cumbria and Cheshire, and welcomed over 100 pupils from schools in Hammersmith and Fulham – these areas are Fitzwilliam’s in the University’s college-wide Area Links Scheme. The SLO hosted over 600 further students and 80 teachers, and Open Days attracted over 200 visitors.

**Telephone Campaign**

This year’s campaign has been our most successful ever - callers did a fantastic job and raised over £165,000. Donations are already being used to support students through the Student Opportunities Fund, which offers maintenance, travel and research awards, and also to boost our Teaching Fund.

*Thank you to all our alumni donors!*
Fellow’s gift of Bechstein

Sunday 2 February saw a special concert to welcome a Bechstein piano – donated for the Chapel by Life Fellow Barry Landy. The piano, built in Berlin in 1896, had lived in Barry’s parents’ house for fifty years and had been restored by the leading London firm, Marksons. At the inaugural concert, the piano was heard in solos, duets and accompaniments by Beethoven, Chopin, Brahms, Ravel and others, played by (from left) Archan Bhaumik and Charles Gurnham (both Natural Sciences 2012), Amalie Fisher (Assistant Organist, Trinity College), Anna Sozanska (Medicine & Veterinary Sciences 2013) together with Hannah Roper (Music 2013) on violin.

Judging the Dagger

Fitzwilliam Fellow Dr Kasia Boddy was one of the judges for the Crime Writers’ Association International Dagger 2014. Her fellow judges were Ruth Morse – who used to teach English at Fitzwilliam – and journalist John Crace. The International Dagger is awarded to the year’s best crime or suspense novel not originally written in English. The judges received sixty-four books, translated from fourteen languages. The winner will be announced in late June.

Dr Boddy said: “This is my first year judging the prize and I very much enjoyed it. My only comment would be that sometimes it seems as if writers think the word ‘crime’ only refers to the brutal murder of women; and there are other kinds!”

Hedgehog hotel

Hedgehog numbers in the UK have declined dramatically over the last 50 years. To help counter this trend, Fitzwilliam is participating in a hedgehog release programme in association with local charity Shepreth Hedgehog Hospital. Several new pens in the College gardens allow hedgehogs to readjust to life in the wild following their discharge from hospital. The first seven male hedgehogs are being cared for daily by a group of volunteer students. It is expected that a further seven female hedgehogs will be released later in the summer.

Leeks by stealth

Guests at Fitzwilliam’s 2013 Foundation Lecture Dinner enjoyed ‘heritage’ leeks and kale grown in the College’s own gardens. But not many people will have spotted the crops growing in situ. Head Gardener Steve Kidger grew the leeks – organically – in the sundial garden amongst snapdragons. Keen-eyed visitors might also have spotted courgettes in the decorative urn on the Grove lawn, and sweetcorn amongst the marigolds by the topiary ‘snails’. Steve said: “We like to make things decorative and productive. We’d like to grow more of our own vegetables.”

Careers Fair | 15 November 2014

Alumni from all career backgrounds are warmly invited to attend the 2014 Careers Fair on Saturday 15th November. The Fair attracts up to 40 alumni, who answer students’ career questions over tea and biscuits. Alumni get the chance to network and promote roles at their organisations, and an invitation to post-Fair drinks and a buffet.

Please email Development Officer Hannah Ellis-Jones at careernet@fitz.cam.ac.uk if you’d like to come. This year the fair will be followed by the English Reunion Dinner.
Addressing the ‘Zero Hunger’ challenge

Professor M S Swaminathan FRS (PhD Botany 1950) delivered the keynote lecture at the Cambridge Festival of Plants on 17 May, an event co-hosted by Fitzwilliam Fellow Dr Bhaskar Vira, the founding director of the University of Cambridge Conservation Research Institute.

A plant geneticist by training, Professor Swaminathan is widely celebrated for his leadership of India’s Green Revolution – a programme under which high-yield varieties of wheat and rice seedlings were planted in the fields of poor farmers – and for his tenure as Director General of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (1972-1979). Founder, Emeritus Chairman and Chief Mentor at the M S Swaminathan Research Foundation in Chennai, India, his advocacy of sustainable agriculture leading to an ‘ever-green revolution’ makes him an acknowledged world leader in the field of food security.

The Zero Hunger Challenge, a UN programme launched in 2012, takes as its starting point the belief that hunger can be eliminated in our lifetimes – more specifically, by the year 2025. According to UN calculations, this will have been achieved when the world’s whole population has access to adequate food all year round; when there are no stunted children less than two years of age; when smallholder productivity and income has doubled; when all food systems are sustainable; and when there is zero loss or waste of food. Ambitious goals, certainly – but Professor Swaminathan believes they are achievable.

He presented some stark estimates of how much key food crops will need to increase in order to feed the world’s population in 2030. For example, we’ll need 50% more rice than was being produced ten years ago – and, because of desertification and climate change, we will have approximately 30% less arable land available. The key to achieving such significant increases is to ensure that both biodiversity and soil quality are maintained and improved, for agriculture to become sustainable. Professor Swaminathan praised traditional techniques – such as multiple mixed cropping, currently practised among some of India’s 120 million farming families – as climate-smart practices which point the way forward.

Professor Swaminathan defined hunger by three main conditions: calorie deprivation, protein deficiency and micronutrient deficiency, all of which he argues can be mitigated by focusing on ‘biofortification’ – an all-embracing term for the improvements which can be made to plants to improve both yield and nutritional qualities. It is only plants, he reminded us, that can actually turn the sun’s energy into energy we can use: “We’re just the guests of the plants; they are the real hosts.”

Professor Swaminathan outlined three complementary routes available: increasing our use of naturally-occurring biofortified plants (such as moringa, sweet potato and nutri-millets); selectively breeding biofortified varieties such as iron-rich pearl barley and zinc-rich rice; and using genetically biofortified crops such as Golden Rice and iron-rich rice. Recognising that genetically improved crops have attracted a lot of controversy, Professor Swaminathan clarified that their use should be cautious and would require appropriate public debate and regulatory clearance.

The power of these novel approaches was vividly illustrated during the talk, using the example of the extraordinary nutritional properties of one of Professor Swaminathan’s biofortified species, Moringa Oleifera – a fast-growing, drought-resistant tree native to north western India, where its young seed pods and leaves are used as a vegetable. Amongst other qualities, it has 25 times the iron that’s found in spinach, 17 times the calcium in milk, 15 times the potassium in bananas, ten times the vitamin A in carrots and nine times the protein in yogurt. Food for thought indeed!

The lecture, The Transformational Role of Plants in Meeting the Zero Hunger Challenge, was co-hosted by the Sainsbury Laboratory, the Humanitarian Centre, the Cambridge Conservation Initiative and the University of Cambridge Conservation Research Institute (UCCRI). The UCCRI provides an inter-disciplinary focal point for research within the broad field of biodiversity conservation, and its impacts. Dr Vira’s own research interests centre on the political economy of development and the distributional consequences of changes in the urban and rural economy since the 1990s, especially in India. He focuses especially on land use and the management of resources, with particular interests in forests, wildlife, water and food security.
Dr Karkuky Zada Sirwan (PhD Engineering 1961) has written from Iraq comparing his time at Fitzwilliam with his life now.

The intimate amicable bond between the staff and the students was the basic characteristic; formed by the unhappy feeling that Fitzwilliam House was a poor college, and that some other students – of the richer colleges – had an unwelcome smile on their face when the College name was mentioned. This united us all strongly and formed us into a kind and sympathetic family. No matter how meagre the financial resources of the College were, affection and kindness were abundant everywhere.

My tutor was Dr Herbertson, and he noticed how disturbed and agitated I was about the news of fighting between the Iraqi government forces and the Kurdish partisans from northern Iraq – where my family lived. He suggested that I should visit Madingley Hall, where I stayed for almost two years. The place was wonderful; not only for its gardens and buildings but for the people I met there including Mr Edward Miller, later Master of Fitzwilliam College, and others, some of whom are now well known scientists. On Sundays I usually invited friends, among them my colleagues at Fitzwilliam who enjoyed the scenery – compared to the gardenless buildings of College.

After half a century things are very different. I returned to work in Iraq after leaving Fitzwilliam, and practised as an engineer; then I went into academic life, and then I worked in project planning in the buildings and services sector. Between 1978 and 1984 I was entrusted with building the Baghdad Conference Palace and the Residential Complex for the heads of state (now the Al-Rashid Hotel) for the 7th summit of the Non-Aligned Movement. They were successfully completed, but because of the Iraq-Iran War the summit was not, in the end, actually convened in Baghdad in 1982 as planned. To my surprise, one day in 1991, I was appointed Chairman of the Iraqi Tourism Board – where I stayed for seven years.

Life is different now: during my childhood, family and upbringing were very important in shaping conduct, yet now there is one single entity which mostly prevails: money. Money, combined with ever-increasing corruption, has become the international passport, much as the PhD was in my time. The shock wealth of oil and gas has also brought with it severe inequality in society leading naturally to terror.

Nevertheless, thinking of old Fitzwilliam, and the news of the College, currently enhanced and nourished by the publications, gives a nice soothing, relaxing and healthy environment – away from various types of pollution!

“I am very sorry that I could not provide you with photos of either the Baghdad Conference Palace, which is currently deployed as the Iraqi Parliament Building, or the Residential Complex, because all these photographs and other belongings were ransacked in 2007 in my Baghdad flat.”

On holiday in Berlin 2014.
Innovators

In March, Fitz students had the chance to hear about entrepreneurial careers in the biosciences from two alumni with different perspectives.

Dr Richard Trethewey, now Vice President, Project Management Office, BASF Plant Science, and Dr Simon Barnes, Managing Partner, Circadia Ventures, came back to Fitzwilliam in March 2014 to share their insights and experience with students contemplating a career in the life sciences industry.

Both speakers did their PhDs at Fitzwilliam, and progressed via postdoctoral positions into the entrepreneurial world of biotechnology start-ups. Richard co-founded metanomics which later became part of BASF Plant Sciences and Simon joined the venture capital industry where he has focused on investing in start-up biotechnology companies.

The event was organised by Fitz Fellow, Professor Nigel Slater.

Nigel said: “The event was attended by some 20 graduate and undergraduate students who struck up an enthusiastic conversation with the speakers about a wide variety of points regarding careers in the international biotechnology business. These ranged from issues about careers in scientific research and development to clinical research, project management, regulatory compliance and marketing.”

Careers

Dr Simon Barnes’ PhD is in Plant Biochemistry, focused on sugar and starch production in plants. He spent two years as a NATO Research Fellow at The Rockefeller University in New York, before becoming Head of The Laboratory of Cotton Biotechnology in Singapore. His life sciences venture capital experience started in the London office of Atlas Venture and he has invested in university spin outs including Renovo, the University of Manchester start-up now listed on the London Stock Exchange. He is now Managing Partner of Circadia Ventures.

Dr Richard Trethewey’s post-doctoral work was followed by two years as Group Leader, Metabolic Engineering at the Max Planck Institute for Molecular Plant Physiology in Potsdam. In 1998 he became Director, Science and Technology at metanomics GmbH, a company he co-founded as a joint venture between leading scientists from the Max Planck Institute and BASF AG. The Berlin based company conducts systematic analysis of plant metabolism in order to identify the function of specific genes.

Alumni news in brief

Sleuthing 1950s style

Actor James Norton (Theology & Religious Studies 2004) has been on our screens as Henry Alveston in the BBC series Death Comes to Pemberley, and as the psychopathic Tommy Lee Royce in Happy Valley. He’s also been seen in person, cycling along the Backs in 1950s costume, filming the new ITV series Grantchester.

Billed as Cambridge’s answer to Inspector Morse, the series is based on James Runcie’s novel Sidney Chambers and the Shadow of Death. James plays the eponymous vicar and amateur sleuth. James told Optima “I loved my three years at Fitz so it’s a joy to be back in Cambridge. It’s lovely to play a role I can identify with – Sidney Chambers and I both read Theology at Cambridge, so it was a bit too good to be true!”

The Welsh Body

Dr Katie Hemer (Archaeology & Anthropology 2002) held a British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowship in 2012 and a University of Sheffield Vice Chancellor’s Fellowship in 2013, and was a presenter on six-part Welsh-language television series Corff Cymru (The Welsh Body), for channel S4C, which featured some of her own archaeological research into skeletal populations from medieval Wales.

From Oxford Road to a career in sport

Matt Rogan (MML 1993) and his wife Claire (née Edmondson, Geography 1994) co-founded sports marketing agency Two Circles in 2011, and sponsored student places at Fitzwilliam’s Sports Dinner in 2013. It was here that Matt met Blues footballer Simon Court (Geography 2010), currently studying at the Judge Business School. JBS students work on projects with external organizations and Simon is working with Two Circles, looking at sponsorship and ways in which sports can better use customer data. The project is being managed at Two Circles by another Fitz alumna, Sam Yardley (Geography & Management Studies 2002). Matt said: “We’re always looking to recruit talented, driven and analytic people with a belief in the power of sport. There’s nowhere better than Fitz to search for people like that!”

Genetically modified rice plants in the greenhouses at BASF Plant Sciences subsidiary CropDesign each have a barcode and transponder, allowing them to be accurately identified at any time.
Uncovering the Roman Empire’s commercial hub

Two thousand years ago, the City of Rome was served by a massive harbour complex at the mouth of the Tiber, the hub of the commercial networks which formed the foundations for the Roman Empire. The harbour city of Ostia is well known through excavations which have laid bare the core of this thriving centre. Until recently, less was known about its twin, the imperial port complex of Portus which lies a couple of kilometres to the north, separated from it by the Isola Sacra. In the last decade the Portus Project – a collaboration between researchers from Southampton, Cambridge, the British School at Rome, and Soprintendenza Speciale per I Beni Archeologici di Roma – has been examining both Portus itself and more recently the Isola Sacra. One of the archaeologists leading this team is Fitzwilliam Fellow, Professor Martin Millett.

Using modern geophysical survey techniques such as magnetometry (see box), Professor Millett and his colleagues have laid bare the plan of the harbour and its infrastructure. Now they have announced a significant discovery: that Ostia’s boundary wall extended north of the Tiber encompassing a large part of the Isola Sacra, showing that the city was significantly larger than has hitherto been believed.

Professor Millett described the discovery as “completely transforming our understanding of one of the key cities of the Roman Empire. The results also illustrate yet again the power of contemporary survey methods in providing important new evidence about even very well known archaeological sites.”

The newly discovered district of the city includes the remains of a number of large Roman structures, the exact purposes of which have yet to be identified. Portus Project leader Professor Simon Keay said: “Three of these buildings were probably warehouses, similar in layout to those that have been previously excavated at Ostia itself. However, the buildings seem to be much larger. In addition, there is a massive 142-metre by 110-metre fourth building, composed of rows of columns running from north to south, whose function is unknown.”

For more about the Portus Project, visit www.portusproject.org

Magnetometry

Buried structures and materials often contain trace amounts of ferrous metals, which affect the Earth’s magnetic field very slightly. These tiny variations can be detected with a magnetometer. Many magnetometers are lightweight enough to be carried, so an archaeological site can be surveyed quickly on foot. The data collected are collated by specialized software and stitched together into a map of the site, similar to an aerial photograph. Heavy construction materials such as stone affect the local magnetic field more than ceramics, brick and other materials; so magnetometry can help archaeologists identify particular features of a site and locate the probable remains of buried structures.
What a difference a year makes...

In October 2014 a brand new school will be opening its doors in the village of O Tabok in the Ratanakiri region of Cambodia. 200 children, whose parents had been asking the authorities for a school for a number of years without success, will at last have their own building, plus qualified teachers, books, pens and paper.

This new community-based primary school is the result of efforts by Tim Howarth, John Craven, Gareth Purcell and Andy Cockburn (all 1998) and many other Fitz alumni whom the four friends persuaded to help make the project a reality.

They all support a charity called United World Schools (UWS), which provides schools, teachers and educational resources to remote and marginalised communities who otherwise have no access to education.

The idea to involve Fitz alumni came, as is often the case, over a pint. In October 2013 they started seeking support. “When we were at Fitz we felt a strong sense of the collective – we felt part of a community,” said Tim. “And so in planning the project we wanted to make sure this value was at the core. It was surprisingly straight-forward to sign up the 39 of us involved, which probably says a lot about the outlook of Fitz alumni. We suggested each of us commit to a donation of £20 per month, for a year – but people could give at whatever level was appropriate for them. Some kindly pledged a little more, and to date we’ve raised £15,000, which covers the building and resourcing of the school for 2014.”

UWS was originally set up by Tim’s father, Chris, who became aware of the needs in Cambodia when doing VSO in 2006. The first UWS school was funded by donations from the extended Howarth family and opened in 2008. UWS have now built and currently sustain 17 schools in Cambodia, with eight more planned in 2014-15. The aspiration of UWS is to grow their network of community schools to over 100 across 5 developing countries, transforming the lives of 50,000 children by 2018.

John Craven (Economics 1998), a Maths teacher in Oxford, said: “UWS is a small, efficiently run charity, so even a modest donation has a real impact. We all had the privilege of going to a world-class university (and College...) and saw a chance to join together as an alumni group to create educational opportunities for a community that was not so fortunate.”

John (Economics 1998) was an investment banker before retraining as a Maths teacher. Gareth (Management Studies 1998) works in property investment and his wife is a UWS Council member. Tim (Land Economy 1998) took a PGCE at Oxford, is now an educational consultant and looks after the UWS UK Operations. Andy (History and Management Studies 1998) has an MBA, was a strategy consultant and now runs his own business. Andy is also a UWS Council member.

From left: John Craven, Gareth Purcell, Tim Howarth and Andy Cockburn.

The building is now finished. Priorities for the project now move to installing the well, solar panels, teacher accommodation unit and classroom library in preparation for the official opening in October 2014.

www.unitedworldschools.org
The declaration of war, one hundred years ago this summer, was to have a profound impact on Fitzwilliam and its community, as historian and Development Director Helen Bettinson discovers in the College archives.

The scale of the havoc wrought by the Great War is hard to comprehend, and only by shrinking the panorama of pain and dislocation to the level of a single village, family or college, can we begin to make sense of it. Around three quarters of a million British men died as a result of injuries and illnesses sustained during the conflict – forty four of them were members of Fitzwilliam.

At the beginning of August 1914 such an outcome would have seemed preposterous. Fitzwilliam Censor, WF Reddaway, was relaxing at his seaside home in Norfolk. Returning to Cambridge a few weeks later he found the town ‘submerged by the khaki torrent’. Almost every eligible undergraduate was joining the Officers’ Training Corps, and by the beginning of Lent their commissions began to come through; numbers across the University fell dramatically.

It is not difficult to reconstruct the life of Fitzwilliam at this time as Reddaway believed it his duty to furnish men serving abroad with news of Cambridge and of one another, through the Fitzwilliam Hall Magazine. ‘It was a great delight to receive the ‘Billy’ mag last week and I read with great interest the doings of the old crowd… In this life one thinks most tenderly of Blighty… The Cambridge experience looms large,’ wrote John Stephens.
It was through the Magazine that many learned of the Hall’s first casualty, the hugely popular Wilfrid ‘Jerry’ Hirst, killed by a sniper’s bullet in April 1915. The son of the Mayor of Rotherham, Hirst had come up to Fitzwilliam in 1912 to read History prior to seeking ordination. In the terminology of the period Reddaway recorded that ‘no loss could have thrilled us more.’ Finding himself briefly stationed in Dranoutre, a few months later, his friend, Fred Scott, found ‘Jerry Hirst’s grave and had the privilege of playing respect to a great man by placing a bunch of flowers on his grave.’

Scott was one of the many serving men whose correspondence with Reddaway offers a fascinating glimpse of the war in France. ‘On the knoll a labyrinth. And over everywhere, in the dominated radius, not a blade of grass. Of trees, a few here and there, bereft of branches, and with splintered trunks. Rubble heaps mark the places where cottages once stood, and round about, the limp looking skeletons of former busy pit-heads peer shakily over black and ugly heaps of mine-spoil. Crater-gashed and pock-marked, the precious crest is still German…’ Wounded on three separate occasions and awarded the Military Cross, Scott was later taken prisoner and shot.

‘In this life one thinks most tenderly of Blighty… The Cambridge experience looms large’

The place of Fitzwilliam in serving men’s hearts is evident not only from their letters but also in the fact of their visits during periods of leave. The dining hall and combination room were not so different from the officers’ mess, and the humour and unspoken empathy found there may have been easier to bear than the loving concern of parents and sisters. Alec Boucher, the first Fitzwilliam man to be awarded the Military Cross, spent a term convalescing in the Hostel. ‘He brought home most vividly to all of us both the realities of the war and his own magnificent character,’ wrote Reddaway shortly after his death.

The experiences of ‘Billy men’ varied enormously. Many served on the Western Front but a good few found themselves in other ‘interesting’ theatres of war, including Wilfrid Copplestone. ‘We are in the heart of German East Africa and I am writing this in a grass house built by my orderly in a post which was a German one till yesterday… The grass is most luxuriant and all around all sorts of weird birds and insects abound (too many for comfort!).’ Even in this obscure location he ran into friends, including WS Thatcher (later to succeed Reddaway as Fitzwilliam’s Censor), serving in Africa as an officer in the Indian Army and seriously wounded shortly after.

Back at Trumpington Street student numbers and fee income were falling dangerously low. In December 1917 Reddaway wrote in the Magazine that ‘as a corporation, we have now reached the end of our financial tether.’ The playing field at Oxford Road was invaluable as it brought income from sheep-grazing and was used for growing potatoes – an activity that became something of an obsession for the few remaining students.

Far worse than the financial difficulties he faced were the human losses reflected in Reddaway’s correspondence with bereaved families. A letter from the mother of Philip Rolfe thanks Mrs Reddaway for the friendship that she had shown her son during his time as a student. The Reddaways had two small sons of their own, well-known to undergraduates. Mrs Rolfe closed her letter, ‘It is sad indeed to think of all the young lives sacrificed, of so many who would have served their Country by living well. May the young manhood of your dear boys reap the good harvesting of this bitter sowing.’ Words that still resonate one hundred years later.

Dr Helen Bettinson (History 1982), whose doctoral work is on medical treatment and disability pensions of ex-servicemen from the First World War, wrote the WW1 section of Fitzwilliam: The First 150 Years of a Cambridge College. The book, edited by Dr John Cleaver is available via the College website or from the Porters’ Lodge.
Books by members

The Distraction Trap
Frances Booth
March 2013
www.pearsoned.co.uk

Publisher's description: You may think you can do ten things at once – well, you can't. Discover how you can radically boost your productivity by keeping your whole brain and both eyes on the task in hand. The Distraction Trap will empower you to focus and prioritise, switch off your email, say 'no' to social media and rediscover your lost powers of concentration. Your campaign to reclaim your life starts here and now!

Frances Booth (Social & Political Sciences 1998) is an expert in attention management, digital mindfulness and digital detox. She works with clients ranging from major corporations to individual businesspeople, helping them increase productivity and achieve balance in a digital world. Before writing The Distraction Trap, Frances worked for eight years as a journalist for the Guardian and the Daily Telegraph, and has featured in the Sunday Telegraph, Wired, Vanity Fair, Psychologies and The Huffington Post. To find out more, visit www.herearesomewords.com

Noodle!
MiMi Aye
May 2014
www.absolutepress.co.uk

Publisher's description: Blogger, veteran noodle-eater and Burmese chef MiMi Aye brings you noodle recipes for every occasion. All types of the slender staple are explored – from wheat, rice and egg noodles to buckwheat and beyond. An essential guide with handy tips, secret weapons, and authentic flavours from China, Japan, Korea, Thailand, Burma and more.

MiMi Aye (Law 1998) qualified as a solicitor before going into legal and tax publishing. An obsession with Burmese cuisine led her to start the food blog meemalee.com. She has appeared on BBC Radio 4's The Food Programme, and in the Guardian, Telegraph, Evening Standard and Metro. She is working on a Burmese cookbook. She lives in Kent with her husband Simon Stirrup (Natural Sciences 1998), whom she met at Fitz; their daughter Thida was born last year. Thida's uncle Oliver Stirrup (Natural Sciences 2004), aunt Truly Johnston (English 2003) and grandfather Martin Stirrup (Natural Sciences 1969) all also attended Fitzwilliam. Follow MiMi on twitter @meemalee

The Accidental Species: Misunderstandings of Human Evolution
Henry Gee
October 2013
press.uchicago.edu

Publisher's description: The idea of a missing link between humanity and our animal ancestors predates evolution and actually has religious roots in the deist concept of the Great Chain of Being. Yet new fossil discoveries are often hailed as revealing the elusive moment when we stopped being “animal” and started being “human”. Henry Gee, palaeontology editor at Nature, takes aim at this misleading notion, combining his first-hand experience of many incredible palaeontological findings with healthy scepticism and humour, to overturn popular thinking on human evolution: the key is not what's missing, but how we're linked.

Dr Henry Gee (PhD Zoology 1984) has been on the staff of Nature since 1987, where (among other things) he has founded the award-winning 'Futures' SF column. He is the author of many books, including Jacob’s Ladder, Deep Time and The Science of Middle Earth. His recreations include writing, beach-combing, playing hard rock organ, supporting Norwich City FC and falling asleep. He lives in Cromer, Norfolk, with his family and numerous pets.
Publisher's description: Nothing was ever simple with army chaplaincy. The First World War saw an increase in the number of churches becoming involved with the army. The structure had already been under pressure in the first decade of the century with the Catholic Church insisting on new rules for its chaplains. The creation of the Territorial Force added a new dimension after 1907, bringing new players into the mix including the Jewish community. These chaplains challenged the traditional Garrison Church-based ministry of the regulars. The book examines the muddled state of chaplaincy in August 1914 and looks at how chaplains were mobilized.

Revd Dr Peter Howson (Theology 1972) served as an army chaplain between 1977 and 2002. He has contributed chapters to two further books on army chaplaincy: The Clergy in Khaki and Military Chaplaincy in Contention, both published by Ashgate Publishing in 2013.

Publisher's description: There are more badgers per square kilometre in Britain than in any other country. And yet many of us have never seen one alive and in the wild. They are nocturnal creatures that vanish into their labyrinthine underground setts at the first hint of a human. Patrick Barkham follows in the footsteps of his badger-loving grandmother, to meet the feeders, farmers and scientists who know their way around the mysterious world in which these distinctively striped creatures snuffle, dig and live out their complex social lives. This is rich, vivid nature writing at its best.

Patrick Barkham (Social & Political Sciences 1994) is a features writer for the Guardian, where he has reported on everything from the Iraq War to climate change. He is the author of The Butterfly Isles: A Summer In Search Of Our Emperors And Admirals.

Publisher's description: Twenty years have passed since the fall of the Iron Curtain, yet emerging democracies continue to struggle with a secular state which does not give preference to churches as major political players. Of interest to historians, theologians and politicians, this book introduces the reader, through a case study of Romania, to relevant and contemporary challenges that churches worldwide are facing in a context characterized by increased secularization of the state and radicalization of religion.

Dr Cristian Romocea (MPhil International Relations 2008) came to Fitzwilliam following a Theology PhD at Oxford. Since then, Cristian has worked for a British charity focusing on conflict resolution and encouraging ethical values for governments worldwide. He continues to teach, write and supervise doctoral students in religion and politics; his passion is to explore how religion can enhance public life and contribute to the common good. He lives in Oxford with his wife and three children, but plans to return to his native Romania to teach.
Four alumni doing inspiring things in the world of food and drink

The (not so) microbrewer

Duncan Sambrook (Natural Sciences 1996) has come a long way since he bought his first, experimental, three-barrel plant in early 2007. He gave up his accountancy job in August 2008 and by November had a fully operational 20-barrel plant in Battersea and was marketing his first pint of Wandle Ale. You can now find Sambrook’s beers in over 200 London pubs – from The Goat on Battersea Rise to The Clarence on Whitehall.

The micro-brewing idea came in 2006 when he and two friends from Fitz, Simon Dowker (Natural Sciences 1996) and Glen Cronin (MML 1997), were at the Great British Beer Festival. “We were looking for a beer brewed in London other than Fuller’s in Chiswick. To our surprise there was not one. So after admittedly a few too many we hatched a plan to bring brewing back to the heart of London.” Duncan then signed up for a course in brewing fundamentals at the University of Sunderland. The closure of Young’s brewery in Wandsworth proved advantageous.

“There was a lot of goodwill around the brewery, and we took on some of their staff. It’s an entry-level business and we’ve been able to offer work to people who’ve been unemployed for some time. It’s a very local enterprise. It’s a great industry at the moment; beer has become trendy. I get great satisfaction from seeing the achievements and development of our staff.”

The business is evolving fast, Duncan’s role has become sales and marketing oriented and Simon and Glen remain sleeping partners while pursuing City careers. They have started a bottling plant in Ramsgate where they bottle up to 300,000 bottles of their own beers and about 1.5 million for other breweries.

www.sambrooksbrewery.co.uk

The urban beekeeper

Prior to 2007 the closest I had come to sticking my head inside a beehive was attending one of Robert Lethbridge’s Zola supervisions.

As a (very) urban rooftop beekeeper in London and a rural apiarist in Suffolk, my priorities are healthy bees, delicious honey and building a bridge between people and bees.

The quality of Bermondsey Street Honey is a source of great pride for me. It has consistently won awards at the major UK shows (1st prize at National Honey Show for London Honey “Best Inside The M25” in 2011 and 2nd prize in the same class in 2013, as well as “Best Rooftop Honey” and “Best Packaging” at the London Honey Show 2012).

Of course, in beekeeping as in the stockmarket, it is prudent to conform to the mantra that: “Past performance is not an indicator of future performance”. But the reality is that it is the best available indicator.

For that reason, Bermondsey Street Honey sells out immediately after release, to a growing list of local subscribers. With four busy hives on my rooftop and the well-being of the bees as my top priority, my honey production is finite.

Dale Gibson (MML 1976) is a fund manager and also blogs at www.apis.gb.com
Alexandra Lazou (MML 2004) has gone back to her roots to nurture her passion for all the good things about the Cretan way of life – especially their diet rich in extra virgin olive oil. The traditional Cretan diet, unchanged for 4000 years, consists of freshly prepared dishes made from local seasonal products without processing. The diet is based on plant food: vegetables, pulses, legumes (lentils, white beans, chick peas), endemic wild herbs, aromatic plants and rough cereals. Extra virgin olive oil is ever-present, all year round, and is used in virtually every dish – savoury or sweet.

“A number of studies have shown the Cretans to be the healthiest people in the world,” she explains. “And a large part of this is thought to be due to their consumption of olive oil – which is vast!” Greeks consume twice the olive oil of Spaniards and Italians, and Cretans more than double that of their fellow Greeks.”

Alexandra spent a year in Japan on a Tsuzuki Scholarship (where she experienced another extremely healthy diet) and worked for Unilever in London before she teamed up with her business partner, Dr Stavia Blunt, in 2012 to develop Liquid Gold Products. Half-English, half-Greek, she was brought up in Crete where she now scours the island for some of the best extra virgin olive oil and honey producers.

Liquid Gold’s products are sold online and from a converted boathouse on the riverfront next to Richmond Bridge in London, where they also run oil tasting courses. “Nigella Lawson tasted one of our oils at a dinner party, ordered 12 bottles of our organic range the next day and has since become a regular customer! It has been extremely fulfilling to see the business grow in the most effective and sustainable way possible – through word of mouth.”

www.liquidgoldproducts.co.uk

The good life

Bridget Biddell (née Thornton, Land Economy 1979) and her husband Bill manage the Hampton Estate, near Guildford, Surrey.

Although her father never wanted his four daughters to feel they had to work on the family estate, Bridget’s career as a Land Agent (she worked for Cluttons and was the first woman receiver for the Church Commissioners) seemed perfect preparation for the job. Now they grow niche crops, including hops and organic beef, for niche markets, and rent converted farm cottages and office space.

“Habitat and wildlife are very important to us, and I’m very proud that we produce our own woodchips for the district heating system here.” She would also like to expand hop production. “We’re one of only 30 farms growing hops in the country, and with all the microbreweries we could sell them many times over!”

Some years ago they replaced their milk herd with a Sussex herd of 45 beef cattle, and they’ve obviated the need to distribute their beef by making collection a social event. Up to 100 people gather once a month to enjoy a drink and pick up their meat at the same time. It’s clearly a good life for everyone involved. “The beef are out all year in family groups,” she says. “They have a good life!” And when it’s time to be turned into beef? “My daughters were a bit unhappy to start with, but I’ve told them it’s only the boys they take away,” she laughs. “And they’re ok with that!”

www.hamptonestate.co.uk
Music news

Spirit Harbour

On 28 February and 1 March Fitzwilliam Chamber Opera gave the first performances of *Spirit Harbour*, a newly commissioned opera by Lliam Paterson (Music 2009). Drawing on resonances between ancient Japanese myth and modern disaster, *Spirit Harbour* explores the devastation caused by the 2011 Fukushima nuclear disaster. The opera centres on a retelling of the Noh play, *The Killing Stone*, through the eyes of contemporary Japanese refugee, Ayako Hamasaki.

Lliam wrote in the programme: “My enduring interest in Japanese culture led me to the idea of combining elements of Noh theatre with a more recognizable chamber opera idiom... Noh theatre displays an absolute clarity of intention... It is this quality I have tried to preserve in my work, as a homage to Japanese theatre: there is a clarity of texture and extreme economy in the music, expressed through returning motives which tie in to meanings suggested by the text.”

The production showcased the talents of several Fitzwilliam Members, including alumna Hannah Partridge (Natural Sciences 2009), who returned to perform as the soprano soloist, and Max Park (History 2011), who was the producer.

*Lliam Paterson continues to study at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, where he received the MMus in Piano Accompaniment. He is currently undertaking the MPerf as a repetiteur.*

Music Weekend

Fitzwilliam Music Reunion Weekend took place on the 3rd and 4th of May this year. On the Saturday night we had a professional concert given by Duo Concertante, featuring music by Bach, Debussy and Beethoven, and on the Sunday evening we had the choir reunion service, which saw over 40 past and present singers belting out Stanford and Wood. The highlight of the weekend was the Reunion Lunch on the Sunday – this year we were extremely lucky to have alumnus Professor Simon Keefe (Music 1987) as our speaker. Simon spoke fondly of his time at Fitzwilliam and humorously recalled his bi-terminly ordeal of moving his piano to and from his room in College! As ever, we thank everyone for attending and look forward to seeing more Fitzwilliam alumni at the Music Reunion Weekend in 2015.

*Rosie Busiakiewicz (Theology and Religious Studies 2011)*

In March and May Fitzwilliam’s distinguished ensemble-in-residence, the Fitzwilliam String Quartet, returned to College to deliver workshops on Beethoven’s string quartets with writer, lecturer and broadcaster, Richard Wigmore. They also gave two public concerts in the Auditorium, performing quartets by Beethoven and Haydn to very receptive audiences.

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*www.fitzwilliamquartet.org*
The Mercian Consort

Following fantastic reviews last year, The Mercian Consort will be returning to perform at Cambridge Early Music Festival on Saturday 16 August 2014. Founded by Alexander Berry in 2008, this versatile vocal ensemble draws its members from across the country and performs repertoire ranging from Renaissance polyphony to modern commissions. Two Fitzwilliam alumnae, Catharine Baumann (English 2010) and Alice Higgins (History 2010), regularly sing with the Consort, which has performed to critical acclaim both at home and abroad. The Consort released its first CD, Crucifixus, last year, and its next commercial release will be a CD of repertoire by William Byrd. www.mercianconsort.co.uk

New Charles Mackerras Fellow

Congratulations to conductor Fergus Macleod (Music 2006), who has been awarded the second English National Opera Charles Mackerras Fellowship. The award is an ENO initiative in association with the Philip Loubser Foundation, and celebrates the legacy of conductor Sir Charles Mackerras, ENO Music Director 1970-77.

On this bespoke two-year programme, Fergus will be mentored by both current ENO Music Director Edward Gardner and his successor Mark Wigglesworth. He will assist on productions across two seasons, and will have full access to the casting, staging and production departments at ENO, plus the opportunity to travel with the Music Director and make important contacts on the international opera scene.

While a choral and instrumental scholar at Fitzwilliam, Fergus founded Ensemble CB3; conducted performances with Fitzwilliam Chamber Opera and was appointed Conductor of the Cambridge University Music Society. He is currently Assistant to Donald Runnicles at the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra and the Leverhulme Conducting Fellow at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.

On turning 70, recorder player John Turner (Law 1961) was interviewed by Carson Cooman for the American Recorder Society. The feature reflected on John’s incredible musical career as a performer, recording artist, editor, composer and teacher, and it cast John – deservedly – as a champion for contemporary recorder music.

John embarked upon a legal career on leaving Fitzwilliam, during which he acted on behalf of UK musicians and musical organisations. On the side, he performed with David Munrow’s Early Music Consort of London. He went on to focus exclusively on music and, to mention but a few of his achievements, he has now given premieres of more than 500 new recorder compositions, performed on numerous CDs and had his own compositions broadcast on radio.
Student news

Fitz students take to the stage

Elizabeth Spence (MML 2012) masterminded the Cambridge University Ballet Club production of *The Sleeping Beauty* at the Mumford Theatre, Anglia Ruskin University, in February, and both she and Chloe Slattery (HSPS 2013) also danced.

Jordan Mitchell (HSPS 2013), Theo Wethered (Natural Sciences 2013) and Guy Emanuel (HSPS 2013) all appeared in the sketch show *Dystopia: The Musical* at the Corpus Playroom in April – produced by Alex Cartlidge (English 2013).

May saw an ADC production of *Stiff!* – a darkly comic short play written by Sam Grabiner (English 2013), directed by Jordan Mitchell, produced by Alex Cartlidge, and with publicity designed by Alice Walker (English 2013). The play won the Footlights Harry Porter Prize 2014. Sam Grabiner also recently played Ferdinand in an ADC production of *The Tempest*.

Alex also produced *A Clockwork Orange* at the ADC in May – with cinematography by Jordan and publicity by Alice. In June, Sarah Stacey (English 2013) directed *Lovesong* – with Alex as co-producer, Jordan Mitchell as cinematographer and Sarah Anne Aarup (MML 2013) as costume designer.

Olivia Taylor (Geography 2012) has been awarded the Scientific Exploration Society’s Cadogan Tate Explorer Award 2014 for her upcoming expedition to the Zanskar valley in the Indian Himalayas.

Olivia is President of the Cambridge University Expeditions Society. The Zanskar expedition will consist of her and three other Cambridge undergraduates, each from a different discipline but all undertaking research related to social narratives of climate change.

The Zanskar valley is a remote high-altitude region, and its subsistence farmers depend on seasonal meltwater from a small glacier – which in recent years has meant chronic shortages. Olivia said: “We have two main goals on the expedition: firstly, to complete my dissertation fieldwork, investigating migration as a response to water stress, which is related to climate change. The second goal is an outreach project to communicate the stories from the expedition to as wide an audience as possible... so the other expedition members will be blogging and recording a mini-documentary.”

The SES Cadogan Tate Explorer Award is a new award, given annually to the young leader of an expedition with an environmental research focus.

“The SES awards were presented by some very famous faces in the expeditions world, including quite a few world record holders... so it was pretty amazing just to be there!”

The expedition will take place in summer 2014.

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Blue Stockings

Optima asked Sarah Livingstone (Archaeology & Anthropology 2011) for her thoughts about playing Maeve Sullivan in January’s moving ADC production of Blue Stockings by Jessica Swale.

Blue Stockings is a warm, heartening play about the first generation of female undergraduates at Cambridge. Over the course of the first act, it transpires that my character, Maeve Sullivan, comes from humbler beginnings than her three friends, her study being funded by a benefactor rather than her family. Reading up on the real life ‘Maeve Sullivans’ like Trixie Pearson who studied in Oxford in the 1930s, was more affecting than I expected. All the girls I read about (mainly in Bluestockings by Jane Robinson) had fascinating, humbling stories about mothers and fathers who sacrificed everything for their education. For those parents, attending university was an opportunity for their daughter to move up a class and better her future family’s life prospects.

Understanding what was at stake for girls like Maeve, the moment when her brother comes with news of her mother’s death, necessitating her return home and the abandoning of her studies, is all the more devastating. Her story certainly made me feel bashful for complaining about essay deadlines and not always fully appreciating my own privilege in attending university.

Entrepreneurial weekend

Final year Computer Science student James McAulay experienced life in the fast lane during the last weekend in April.

“Two friends and I applied to a tech accelerator called YCombinator on a whim, purely for the learning experience, and got through to the final interviews, so I flew out to San Francisco at the weekend for a ten-minute interview! Our expenses were covered, and we were only there 40 hours before we had to fly back.”

They weren’t successful, but they haven’t been deterred. As if that wasn’t enough for one weekend, after landing at LHR at 7am, they then went straight to 10 Downing Street at midday with Entrepreneur First (a seed investment programme that selects purely on the basis of technical talent) for a round table meeting with the Prime Minister’s Tech Advisor.

“It was a crazy weekend,” said James. James plans to start his own company and recently set up a website which has revolutionised the way people find out about May Balls.

www.whichmayball.co.uk
On Monday 7 July Cambridge will be hosting the start of the third stage of the Grand Départ of the Tour de France. In honour of the event, Catharine Baumann (English 2010) profiles two of Fitzwilliam’s most successful cyclists – alumnus Michael Hutchinson and Fellow Ken Platts.
Dr Michael Hutchinson (LLM, PhD 1993) travelled to Belfast in May to provide the BBC commentary on the Giro d’Italia. I caught up with him on his return to find out more about his incredible career as a British racing cyclist, journalist and author.

Remarkably for a sportsman who has had such a successful and varied career so far, Michael admits that he fell into professional cycling rather by accident: “I never had a long-held ambition to become a cyclist. I was searching for a job as I came to the end of a year-long academic post at Sussex University, when I received a call asking me to ride for a professional team.” He took up the offer, seeing it then as an “interesting diversion” from academia, and the rest – as they say – is history.

Michael specialises in time-trialling. He has won more than fifty national titles in Britain and Ireland and he has competed in the World Championships and in three Commonwealth Games – he hopes to make it four! In 2005 Michael won the FT Bidlake Memorial Plaque for becoming the first rider to win the National Championships at 10, 25, 50, 100 miles and 12 hours, together with the British Best All-Rounder title and the Time Trial Series in the same season.

Michael now focuses more on writing and journalism, although he tries to keep training and racing as much as possible. He has been a columnist for Cycling Weekly since 2006 and is much in demand as a cycling reporter. He enjoys being on the scene when cycling history is made: “I like competing with other journalists for interviews and, while everyone else is at home watching race coverage on TV, I am right on the finish line, closer than fans can get.”

Dr Kenneth Platts, Director of Studies in Engineering and University Reader in Manufacturing, is the current Veterans Best All-Rounder – a title he has won five times. I asked him how he juggles his remarkable cycling career with a busy life as an academic.

Ken took up cycling as a child and, like Michael, started cycling competitively as a student at Cambridge. He has broken numerous records as a time-triallist – he currently holds the Veterans age-related records for East Anglia at 10, 25, 30, 50, 100 miles and 12 hours, as well as National age-related records at 25 miles, 50 miles and 12 hours. Not content with this, he has his sights set on the National 10, 30 and 100 mile records: “I would like to get a clean sweep as I have in East Anglia, but that’s quite a tall ask!”

Ken has also enjoyed considerable success in massed-start road racing. He regards his time as a member of the GB road team in the 1970s as a particular highlight of his career: “I rode in a number of international stage races – the Tour of Europe, the Peace Race, the Tour of Czechoslovakia etc. That was a good time.”

Such achievements require a rigorous training schedule and finding out how Ken fits this around his academic commitments was rather humbling. “I always ride into Cambridge, usually a 9 mile ride, but if I don’t have an early lecture and it’s a nice day, I can always ride the long way in, doing maybe 40 miles. Having the flexibility to work evenings and weekends allows me a range of options to schedule time.”

Ken says that cycling is an excellent sport for engineers as it is a balance between technological development and physical effort: “by incorporating engineering principles, you can optimise performance for any given level of physical ability. For example, work on aerodynamics is a significant factor in time-trialling and record breaking”. He’s currently doing some work in this area but, for obvious reasons, he would not elaborate! But, as he says, unlike some other technology-related sports, e.g. Formula 1 racing, when it comes down to it, you still have to push the pedals round!
Sports news

Cycling Cuppers

On Saturday 8 March eight Fitz cyclists took part in Cycling Cuppers, completing a 10-mile time trial at Bottisham. The team came an impressive 6th out of 19 colleges. Particular congratulations go to Andrea Stefkova (4th in the Women’s time trial) and Cheun Yan Leung (7th in the Men’s). Captain, James McAulay, said: “Fitz has only ever had one or two cyclists competing in Cuppers in previous years, so it was fantastic to rally a team of eight, and to move up seven places from last year. The standard this year was exceptional; I’m really proud of every one of our riders.”

James McAulay (Captain); Simon Schofield; Rory Bennett; Andrea Stefkova; Matthew Clarke; Peter Maynes; David Willer; Cheun Yan Leung

James Boyd-Moss

Rugby Blue, James Boyd-Moss (MPhil Energy Technologies 2013), was selected to play for Cambridge in the 132nd Varsity Match at Twickenham on 12 December 2013. Unfortunately Cambridge lost out to Oxford on the day, but James said of the experience: “The road to the Varsity Match offered the opportunity to play rugby in an extremely competitive environment, a journey that I enjoyed immensely. I was extremely proud to be selected for the squad to take on the ‘other place’ at Twickenham.” James sustained an injury in the Varsity Match campaign which left him unfit to play for Fitzwilliam in Cuppers, but he was delighted to see the Fitz team walk away with the Plate.

Fitz rugby players win the Cuppers Plate

Fitzwilliam’s rugby players have ended a successful 2013-14 season on a high, winning the Cuppers Plate Final in a tight match against Girton on Wednesday 12 March. Having been relegated into the third division last season, the team was keen to bounce back – and they did just that. Knocked out of the main Cuppers competition by Division 1 side Jesus, they staged a remarkable run in the Plate competition, knocking out Division 2 sides Trinity and CCK to reach the final.

Captain, Tim Eyre, said: “The game was one of the tensest I have played in my time at Fitz, the 13-8 scoreline reflecting what a close affair it was. After we dominated the first half and went into an early lead we were pegged back by an extremely strong and physical Girton side throughout the second half. However, our defence held firm and the incredible spirit shown by the team helped us to hold on for the victory in front of a partisan crowd of Fitzbillies.”

The team for the match: Tim Eyre (Captain); Dan Mehlig; James Evangelou; Harry Hargreaves; Joe David; Chris Cowie; Jack Fielder; Alex Howe; David Leahy; Oscar Maynard; Patrick Tice; Opeoluwa OduyeYe; Andy Harley; Giles Harper-Donnelly; Oli Jones. Reserves: Sean Gill; Leo Kirby; Josh Keane; James Webb; Gary Morton; Ged Norton; Kevin McCarthy; Sam Burville.

Simon Court

Simon was awarded Man of the Match by The Tab following his performance in the 130th Football Varsity Match at Craven Cottage on Sunday 6 April. Cambridge beat Oxford 4-2 on penalties following a goalless draw after 90 minutes. The Light Blues have now won the Varsity Match three years running!

Many of the students featured on these pages receive support for their sporting activities from the Paul Day Sports Fund or the Sports Support Fund. For more information about how you can help support the next generation of Fitzwilliam sporting talent, please contact the Development Office – development@fitz.cam.ac.uk.
Sports news

Making History

Fitzwilliam’s squash players have excelled themselves once again in Cuppers this year. On Sunday 11 May Fitz Men beat Emmanuel in the final to become Cuppers champions with an overall score of 4:1. Fitz Women also won their 3rd place playoff against St John’s 3:0. Unfortunately Zach Brubert (first team regular) and Chloe Withers (Ladies Captain) were unavailable to play in the finals. Chris Davis is also thanked for his contribution following strong performances in the second team.

Photo from left: Henry Pelham, Jamie Giddins, David Roper (Captain), Thomas Fryer, Zach Brubert, Harry Leitch. Women’s team: Anira Perera; Ellie Davies; Sally Millett

Fitz in squash Cuppers success

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Photo from left: Henry Pelham, Jamie Giddins, David Roper (Captain), Thomas Fryer, Zach Brubert, Harry Leitch. Women’s team: Anira Perera; Ellie Davies; Sally Millett

Modern Pentathlon Varsity Match 2014

Ed Tusting (Veterinary Medicine 2008), Ali Simon (Land Economy 2012) and Alice Watson (Veterinary Medicine 2011) competed in the Modern Pentathlon Varsity Match at Tonbridge School on 4 and 5 April. The Cambridge Ladies retained their title for the second year and the Men beat Oxford for the first time since 1996! All three Fitz athletes completed the full Pentathlon – fencing, swimming, horse riding and a combined shooting and running event.

Ed earned a full Blue for his performance in the Men’s match, coming 4th individually overall. His performance in the combined event was particularly commendable – he came 2nd, helping the Light Blues to make up their points deficit of 216 going into this final event. Ali Simon (Ladies Captain) and Alice Watson both earned half Blues in the Ladies’ match, helping Cambridge to a clear win over Oxford. Despite battling a sprained ankle, Alice completed all events in fine form. Ali came 2nd in the 200m swim, achieving a personal best of 2 minutes 23 seconds, and she won the shooting phase of the combined event by breaking her own record from the previous year to shoot down 15 targets in 2 minutes. Congratulations to all three athletes on their fantastic performances.

Update:
Hanna Tarver

Hanna Tarver (Chemical Engineering 2012) has enjoyed continued success in athletics this year. On Sunday 18 May she competed for England at the Loughborough International in the 800m and came 3rd. This was her first senior England vest, and Hanna ran a personal best of 2:03:14. On 5 May Hanna won the 800m at the BUCS Outdoor Athletics Championships in Bedford, and in January she became Northern Senior indoor 800m champion. Hanna is currently ranked 8th in the UK.
**Competitive catering**

*Optima* talks to Catering Manager Rob Clarke about keeping spirits up in our community of eaters and drinkers.

Last year’s 5-star hygiene rating was just the start. Now catering staff are jumping at the chance to test their skills, and learn new ones, by taking part in competitions. Rob, a member of the University Catering Managers’ Committee said: “One of our jobs is to get as many Cambridge colleges involved in competitions as possible.”

He was delighted when Chef de Partie, Anthony Brock, won ‘Best in Class’ in the ‘Open Lamb’ section of the University of Cambridge Culinary Competition last October. “This was my first public competition and I was very nervous,” said Anthony. “I was thrilled and delighted that I won the Best in Class.”

Magda Wright, Coffee Shop Supervisor, entered the Barista Skills Challenge at The University Caterers Organisation (TUCO) competition in March. “I felt really honoured to be representing the University and took part in a live 15-minute competition, making a dozen different coffees, including my speciality white chocolate and cherry latte,” Magda explains. “And I had to deliver a commentary at the same time!” The Coffee Shop is a popular haunt for students, staff and fellows; Magda made 64 frappés and smoothies on one recent hot day and, Rob says, sales continue to grow.

Staff have been getting better qualified in wine too. Jacqui Cattle, Deputy Hall Supervisor, recently passed her WSET (Wine and Spirit Education Trust) Level 3 advanced exam, with merit. In early May she joined Bar and Cellar Supervisor Chris Mason (who recently passed his WSET Level 2 with distinction) and Bye Fellow and Wine Steward John Beer to run a tasting of wines from the Fitz cellar. The team presented six wines and Jacqui proudly showed off the traditional silver tastevin she had been given by her husband on qualifying.

Rob believes that competitions raise standards and push boundaries. “We’ve got some really good people who enjoy competitions, and I’m hoping their success will inspire others.”

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**Events diary**

**2014**

**JULY**
Saturday 5
1964 Golden Matriculation Reunion

**SEPTEMBER**
Saturday 9
Fitz Golf Society Day
Monday 15 - Saturday 20
Master’s visit to Mumbai & Delhi
Friday 26 - Sunday 28
80th Reunion Weekend

**NOVEMBER**
Saturday 15
Fitzwilliam Society Careers Fair
Saturday 15
English Alumni Dinner
Thursday 20
Foundation Lecture

**DECEMBER**
Thursday 4
Winter Ball ‘Saturnalia’
www.fitzball.com
Thursday 11
The Varsity Match (ko 2.30pm)

To join other Fitz alumni at the Blues Village contact Carol in the Development Office.

**2015**

**JANUARY**
Date TBC
MML Alumni Dinner
Date TBC
Fitz+ January Drinks

**MARCH**
Tuesday 3
Fitzwilliam Society London Drinks
Thursday 13
Fitzwilliam String Quartet

**MAY**
Thursday 7
Fitzwilliam Society London Dinner

**JUNE**
Saturday 20
Fitz+ Garden Party
Past v Present Cricket Match & Dinner

**JULY**
Saturday 4
1965 Golden Matriculation Reunion

**SEPTEMBER**
Saturday 12
Sports Alumni Dinner
Friday 25 - Sunday 27
81st Reunion Weekend

For full details of all upcoming events, visit www.fitz.cam.ac.uk/events