Master’s message

Nobody glancing at this latest issue of Optima can be in any doubt that this is a dynamic community. And the latter extends beyond Fitzwilliam students currently in residence.

Alumni too continue to work together in making a mark. Their activities cover every field of endeavour, from writing books to crossing deserts or braving polar bears! To read about them is to be left as impressed (and as feeling inadequate) as in our everyday experience of what is going on here in Cambridge. Undergraduates under the twin pressures of Tripos and finding employment somehow find the time to publish novels and train for Olympic ceremonies. Our hugely increased number of postgraduates are involved in cutting-edge research which does not preclude their contributing to a newly-vibrant MCR. The engagement of Fellows, displacing their prime University commitments, ensures a continuing effort to attract to Fitzwilliam the brightest and the best. At the other end of the collegiate experience, former students are creating invaluable career networks.

None of the opportunities and achievements illustrated here would be sustainable without the contributions – in the widest sense and great or small – which bring the Fitzwilliam generations together.

Professor Robert Lethbridge
Master

College News

Two major gifts fund Library, Bursaries and Economics teaching

Alumni Ken Olisa OBE and Peter Selman have given generously during the past year to address key areas of College need, bringing the total raised in the 150th Anniversary Campaign to £8 million. See page 20.

Teaching, learning, inspiring

Alumni Teachers’ Conference 2012

On a wild, sunny Saturday at Easter, more than fifty of Fitzwilliam’s alumni, Fellows and students gathered in College to talk about teaching. The day was informal and interactive, but set on its course by our own Helen Price (M.Ed 2010), Head of a secondary school in Peterborough. Keynote speaker Dr Jane McGregor presented research on ‘Visual Voices’, and Arts Admissions Tutor Dr Rosemary Horrox gallantly fielded an hour of queries on the process of application. Ideas flew back and forth all day, and it is clear that the community of Fitzwilliam teachers is one that has preserved its ideals – “Stay in touch with the kids, and with your passion for the subject, and the other stuff falls away!” Plans are already being made for next year’s event. Join us if you can!

School report online at: www.fitz.cam.ac.uk/teachers2012

Alumni fund new SLO

A generous donation from two Fitzwilliam alumni has enabled the College to appoint Lauren Scarratt as the new Schools Liaison Officer. Lauren’s mission is to make sure that talented students don’t miss out on the opportunities a Cambridge education can bring. The role is central to Fitzwilliam’s philosophy and alumni Dick Tyler (Law 1978) and Andrew Wilson (Geography 1978) combined forces to help the College make this project possible. Dick explained why they supported the College’s outreach initiative. “It’s about creating a level playing field for opportunity. Cambridge and Fitzwilliam have done a good job to try and open the doors, but the odds are still skewed against state schools.”

Fitzwilliam alumni who would like to contribute to the important work of the Schools Liaison Officer are invited to contact the Development Office in the first instance.

New JMA

Ellie Davies (Engineering 2010) front row centre is JMA President 2012-2013.
Talking... and listening

Record-breaking 2012 Telephone Campaign
Student volunteers talked to 695 alumni in March 2012, and more than half have pledged a gift. Alumni pledged £157,389 – up 16% on 2011. Matt Bennison (Natural Sciences 2008) one of the student organisers, said: “What a fantastic result this year – all of us involved had a lot of fun talking to alumni and are really grateful for your support.”

Communications questionnaire 2012
Another big thank you to the 367 alumni who completed the online communications questionnaire sent out with eNEWS 5 in January. It went to about 6000 alumni for whom we hold email addresses. 14% of respondents were under 35 and 26% over 65. Recognising demographic as well as retirement age changes, we replaced ‘over-65’ with three distinct age groups. Asked which Optima 17 article they liked best, 36% chose College News; 29% were under 35 and 26% over 65. Recognising demographic as well as retirement age changes, we replaced ‘over-65’ with three distinct age groups.

Fellows’ books
RELEVANT IN CONTEMPORARY CHINA:
REVITALIZATION AND INNOVATION | ROUTLEDGE | 2011
Fellow Dr Adam Chau is editor of this interdisciplinary study of how China’s religious traditions have been transformed and ultimately revitalized by the changes of the twentieth century. Dr Chau is Director of Studies in Asian & Middle Eastern Studies, and University Lecturer in the Anthropology of Modern China.

SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS: WITH BOTH EYES OPEN
JULIAN M ALLWOOD AND JONATHAN M CULLEN | UIT CAMBRIDGE | 2011
Dr Jonathan Cullen is a Research Associate in the Low Carbon and Material Processing group at Cambridge University Engineering Department and a Research Fellow at Fitzwilliam. Jonathan, currently employed as part of a five year project, WellMet2050, which aims to identify and validate all means to halve global carbon emissions from the production of steel and aluminium goods, is also the Environmental Officer at Fitzwilliam.

2011 Fitzwilliam Foundation Lecture
Professor John Mullan delivered the 2011 Fitzwilliam Foundation Lecture, ‘The Business of Literary Fiction’, on 17 November. The lecture was enjoyed by a capacity audience from within and outside the College.

John Mullan was a Fellow at Fitzwilliam from 1987 to 1994 before joining UCL where he is now Professor of English. He said: “It was a delight to meet again so many of my former students, though disconcerting to be told by several that my lecturing style had changed not at all. It was a pleasure to meet Fellows I had known at the College, and to have it confirmed that Cambridge academic life preserves people against the ravages of time. And it was wonderful to see how the College had become a kind of architectural showpiece.”

Listen to the lecture here: www.fitz.cam.ac.uk/foundationlecture2011

HEADS UP:
The 2012 Foundation Lecture: ‘Women on Boards: The Power of an Idea whose Time has Come’, will be given by Helena Morrissey CBE (Philosophy 1984) on 15 November.
Your letters & emails

Library & lament

Tom Warren (MML French, German and Danish, 1971) had a private tour of the new College library during the 2011 Reunion Weekend.

"Since 1984 I have been responsible for the library at Denmark's largest boarding school – so it was with great professional interest that my wife and I had a private viewing of the new library at Fitzwilliam during the Reunion Weekend – and I was impressed.

In my time as an undergraduate (1971-74) the College library played an important role, as only first-year students lived in College. The library was an important place for study and meeting fellow undergraduates when I was otherwise banished to a study/bedroom in a private house in Girton village.

I am envious of the present-day students and the facilities they have in a new building with views from the top across Cambridge!

My only complaint would be the lack of Danish literature and history on the shelves. But then, Cambridge University has also abandoned Danish as a subject and closed the Department of Scandinavian Studies. I suppose you can't have everything. Congratulations on our new library! [3]

warren@post7.tele.dk

From a passer-by…

"Dear Garden Team at Fitzwilliam, the fritillary and tulip display on the grass on Huntingdon Road was just lovely. Added to the triangular planting of the hawthorn trees, this 'patch' of the college has brightened my daily walk this past week" [3] With regards, Corinne Jennings, via email, 20 April 2012.

The College's gardens were open under the National Gardens Scheme in April 2012, receiving over 150 visitors and raising £500 for charity.

Linguistic links

Catalan: 'The Catalan Connection' in Optima 17 resulted in emails for author Dr Eli Vilar Beltran from alumni and Fitz friends including Abigail Loxham (MML 1998), now a Post-Doctoral researcher at The University of Queensland. Eli, delighted, said: "It was great to learn they had enjoyed it and even more that they took the time to let me know!" An interested reader (John Pickworth, a retired English solicitor living in Barcelona with his Catalan wife) responded by donating a copy of his book 'Catalunya and the English Pope' to the College library. And an Anglo-Catalan conference weekend was held at Fitzwilliam in May 2012, to commemorate the 15th anniversary of 'Lectorat de Català'.

Dutch: 2012 sees the 65th anniversary of the teaching of Dutch Language and Literature, but the future is in some doubt. Mrs Elsa Streitman, a driving force in Dutch studies, retires in 2014.

Reunion | Murray Edwards College | 14 – 15 September | www.murrayedwards.cam.ac.uk

"What would you like to see more of in Optima?"

2012 Communications questionnaire – your comments.

"Optima importantly reminds alumni that they are part of an academic community. I'd like to see more cross-community engagement; more opportunity for students, alumni and staff to connect on shared interests." [3] Gregory Lupton (Natural Sciences 1998)

"... more about the College's commercial activities – links with business and industry, conference trade and how it's going." [3] Charlie Hobson (MML 1991)


"Sue was first woman president of the MCR in 1985.


"Since I am only timidly hanging on to the coat-tails of the Great Electronic Revolution – I would like any news of the mini-achievements and otherwise of those who were my near-contemporaries!" [3] Basil Hunt (Classics 1954)

Send your emails to…

Send your emails to…

If you didn't receive eNEWS and would like to, please go to the alumni section of the website and update your details.

If you didn't receive eNEWS and would like to, please go to the alumni section of the website and update your details.
That was then, this is now

In the summer of 1963, four friends left Cambridge to drive to the Middle East. In June 2011, the four met up again - for the first time in 48 years. Robert Perkins (Law 1961) tells the story:

In 1963, we acquired a 1956 ex-Electricity Board long-wheelbase canvas-back Land Rover, which we drove, perforce slowly, across Europe and Turkey to ‘The Levant’.

The extract from Robert’s log reads: “...Dennis and I had a fabulous stroll right up through the ruined city from the forum to the opposite gate. It was magnificent in a fantastically bright full moon, giving more atmosphere than I have ever felt in a Roman ruin – an experience never to be forgotten.” Jerash, north of Amman, is one of the largest and best-preserved Roman sites outside Italy.

Three of us slept rough on the slopes of the Mount of Olives for nearly a week to wait for Barry who had gone down with typhoid fever in Damascus – we had to get the Land Rover out of Syria. The old city of Jerusalem (which was part of Jordan before the 1967 war) was delightfully scruffy but full of character. We finished up in Haifa, whence we shipped the vehicle out to Naples. Returning via Paris, funds allowed only the purchase of one ham roll between four, plus the petrol, to reach Cambridge!

At a lengthy Sunday brunch in Mayfair, accompanied by our wives (Norma, Karen, Jenny and Andrea) and assisted by some excellent Champagne and wine, well-preserved original logs were produced, with some digitised slides and photos. Assisted by the former, there was much recall of the trip, and much catching up of 48 years of living. Most amusing was the production of original documentary evidence to gainsay some of the somewhat faulty recollections of at least one of us, as related over many years to his spouse on the subject of his alleged neglect by the others, much to her amusement, and his embarrassment. I will say no more!

As all of us were up at the time of the move to the first range of the new buildings, much admiration was expressed for the ultimate realisation of the dreams of Dr Grave and his colleagues, and the place that the new Fitzwilliam College has forged for itself in the University and much wider.
The Biorevolution

Dr David Nally’s talk ‘The biorevolution: some implications for contemporary food security’, examined recent advances in biotechnology – particularly in the field of molecular genetics. His introduction set out the topic: “Supporters of genetic engineering maintain that these new technologies will help deliver more abundant and nutritious foods thereby advancing global food security; in contrast critics claim that these technologies will transfer power to corporate agribusiness to the detriment of the world’s poor. I suggest that an historical understanding of the relationship between markets and famine is a useful way to unpack these countervailing claims.”

David’s own research focuses on the relationship between famine and society, the politics of disaster relief, and the historical geographies of underdevelopment and theories of political violence.

Perspectives

“The talks provided a taste of the types of geography that [students] will encounter at degree level, and the students were attentive, interested and eager for more! Informal feedback from the day suggests that everyone found the event extremely beneficial. We hope that even more schools will get involved next year by sending their aspirant geographers to this conference.” Bhaskar Vira

Julia Hughes, a teacher from Berkhamsted School, said: “The lectures were pitched perfectly at sixth form students in terms of what they learn at A-level, but also gave them an interesting insight into Geography beyond the school environment and what they can expect to study and experience in a degree in Geography. We will certainly be bringing some of our sixth form students next year.”

Cambridge Top for Geography

The Guardian University Guide has once again given top place to the Geography Degree at Cambridge for 2012, and Fitzwilliam has long had a reputation as one of the leading colleges for the subject in the University. Fitzwilliam’s Geography Fellows are closely involved with environmental issues and with research into effects of and responses to climate change. The College has a high number of Geography Fellows and admits 10-12 students to study Geography each year.
Coastal challenges

Dr Iris Möller spoke on coastal challenges in the 21st century – exploring the effect that environmental and societal changes have on the ecology and geomorphological functioning of coastal zones and on saltmarshes in particular. Iris works within the Cambridge Coastal Research Unit, providing scientific research to underpin sustainable coastal management. Iris has also been working with the Cambridge Conservation Initiative on a project exploring ecosystem-based approaches to adaptation to climate change (‘EbA’). The project’s findings were presented at the United Nations’ Durban Climate Change Conference in November 2011. Iris is College Lecturer in Physical Geography and a contributor to the National Ecosystem Assessment.

The political ecology of climate change

Conference organiser Dr Bhaskar Vira’s talk ‘Inconvenient Truths and Dismal Science: The Political Ecology of Climate Change’ focused on the economic and political issues that arise from efforts to address global climate change. Bhaskar’s research interests span political economy, development studies, and environmental studies, with a regional focus on South Asia. He led the work on Policy Responses for the UK National Ecosystem Assessment, which reported in 2011.

I have secured funding for an experiment using the Large Wave Flume at the Coastal Research Centre in Hannover… the flume is a 200-metre-long, nine-metre-deep water tank which allows the creation and measurement of waves. Across the next two years I will be working with colleagues from the Netherlands and Germany to scratch-build a small saltmarsh inside the wave tank and measure how strong a storm needs to be before the marsh is destroyed!

Iris Möller

For more about the National Ecosystem Assessment, visit uknea.unep-wcmc.org.

During breaks, participants were able to chat with the Fellows who teach Geography at Fitzwilliam as well as current Geography students. Advice was also given to the sixth-formers on how to make a competitive application to Cambridge, and Fellows gave suggestions on what to include in a UCAS teacher reference.

Next Progress in Geography conference Monday 25 June 2012

The speakers:

Dr Iris Möller
Director of Studies in Geography, Fellow and College Lecturer in Physical Geography.

Dr David Nally
Director of Studies in Geography, Fellow and University Lecturer in Human Geography.

Stephen Taylor
Advanced Economic and Social Research Council PhD student, Fitzwilliam College and Department of Geography. ‘HIV and AIDS in the City: suffering, healing and hope in Cape Town.’

Dr Bhaskar Vira
Director of Studies in Geography, Fellow and University Senior Lecturer in Environment and Development.

Green space continued overleaf...
The Environmental Studies Fund was set up in 2007 by Sally Benthall (née Ranger, Geography, 1981) to support Fitzwilliam students of Plant Science, Geography, Conservation Biology, Ecology and Zoology. Here are some of the uses to which the fund has been put in 2011-2012.

Lucy Johnson (Geography 2010) worked with churches and charities in the La Severiana slum in Guadalajara, Mexico, and attended a Christian conference in Leon: “It was fascinating to hear first-hand about the lives of the Palme, an indigenous people who live in remote villages in the Western Sierra Madres Mountains... The trip has deepened my understanding of topics such as globalisation, wealth and poverty.”

Max Fancourt (Natural Sciences 2009) researched the study of Eider sea ducks at the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, Slimbridge, near Gloucester: “I gained a fascinating insight into the way in which conservation research takes place, which has helped me choose the areas in which I want to specialise for my third year of study.”

A Fitzwilliam sledgeing flag has been flying in the Arctic Circle – thanks to Fitz graduate student Rob Plews (MPhil Polar Studies 2010).

Rob won a place on an Extreme Arctic Expedition in June 2011 – and took a Fitzwilliam sledgeing flag along with him. The nine-week expedition, run by the British Schools Exploration Society, took the team members to the Svalbard archipelago – and into some of the most extreme environments in the world.

The expedition conducted glacial monitoring and surveys of populations of geese, puffins and other wildlife, and team members learned a range of skills, including crevasse rescues and polar bear precautions. Travelling with pulks (short, low-slung toboggans) carrying up to 50kg, they undertook five-day journeys to reach some of their desired destinations.

Rob’s sledgeing flag was provided by John Mueller – current Fitz PhD History student and heraldry aficionado – who explained: “The flag is similar to those used by the first arctic explorers. Traditionally featuring the cross of St George (or appropriate national flag) in the hoist and personal colours, crest and motto, they are used to identify individuals in poor-visibility conditions. In the absence of a personal coat of arms it is usual for a flag to feature the crest and motto of one’s College!”
Revitalised MCR

Graduate student numbers at Fitz have swelled to 335 (compared to 472 undergraduates). John F Mueller (MPhil History 2010) former MCR President and Senior Scholar, describes how the MCR has risen to the challenge of its new numbers and diversity:

“The main event each week is always Friday’s MCR Formal Hall - voted the best event at Fitz by Varsity. Other recent entertainments have included a Chinese Lantern Festival, a Latin American dance evening, wine and whisky tastings, fancy dress, and a thanksgiving dinner. There are also more serious events - academic conferences and meetings of the gender group. We are the oldest graduate community in Cambridge and have become the most active and best-organised MCR - fulfilling Grave’s vision of a ‘third estate’ in college.”

John is a doctoral researcher at the Faculty of History. His PhD is on retailing in German society 1890-1940, and his enthusiasm for design is evident in posters promoting MCR events.

Fitzwilliam Chapel Choir in demand

The Fitzwilliam College Chapel Choir found that their talents were in demand around the UK in 2011: the choir performed Brahms’s German Requiem to a packed audience at the picturesque Herstmonceux Castle in Sussex in March; joined the congregation at St Catherine’s Church, Mile Cross, Norwich, for the church’s 75th Anniversary in November; and gave a Christmas Concert a little closer to home, at Little St Mary’s Church in Cambridge, in December – raising over £200 for Wintercomfort for the Homeless.

Safari vet school

Fitz students Amy Coleman (Natural Sciences 2007) and Nadia Ahaimi (Natural Sciences 2006) featured on the ITV series Safari Vet School in January 2012.

Dr Will Fowlds on the Amakhala Game Reserve in South Africa as part of their clinical veterinary medicine training. Amy (left) explained: “All postgraduate vet students are required to undertake extramural studies in the vacation – this was a good opportunity to learn about the care and treatment of wild animals.”

She and Nadia were filmed as they performed a wide variety of procedures, often for the first time, and sometimes in difficult circumstances. Nadia, in her final year of study, said:

“Our work with the animals always took precedence over the filming – we had to take clinical responsibility and make clinical decisions.”

The Heart at War

Catherine Banner (English 2008) is working on her third novel, The Heart at War – which will complete her Young Adult/fantasy trilogy The Last Descendants. Catherine began writing the first book, The Eyes of a King (Random House 2008) when still at school. She is currently studying for a PGCE at Fitzwilliam.
Three old friends who met as anthropology students in 1982 met for a dinner in Fitz last summer. Optima asked them to reflect on what had motivated them to study anthropology and where it had led them.

Left to right: Rebecca Jewell, Stephen Gooder and Bern Le Hunte, all Archaeology & Anthropology 1982.

The artist

In 1982 I stayed with the Golski-Dabrowski family in the Highlands of Papua New Guinea whilst Woytek Dabrowski did anthropological field-work on the impact of the Catholic Mission on the Gamugai people. His wife, Kathy, painted beautiful watercolours of the clouds and mountain mist and banana trees and drew ink-and-wash portraits of Numdi and Pella, and the other Gamugai who looked after us. I went initially for a couple of months during my gap year to tutor their children, but ended up staying nine months and helping Woytek with his research. This experience, for an 18-year old London girl, had a profound impact on my life. The image of those Gamugai men and women, their dark oiled skin glistening and beautiful bird-of-paradise feathers cascading from their headdresses, is still fixed clearly in my mind.

I had planned to study archaeology and anthropology, focusing on archaeology. But my time in PNG made me realise that social anthropology was what I wanted to study. In my first term at Cambridge we were shown the film ‘Ongka’s Big Moka’ and I whispered excitedly to my fellow freshers, ‘I’ve met Ongka – and danced at a Sing-Sing with him!’

My anthropological training taught me to observe, adapt, participate and apply and after graduation, I worked as a volunteer with the Oceania collections at the British Museum, then as a curator in the Asia department.
The filmmaker

What really got me hooked on anthropology – more than shrunken heads, or even Raquel Welch in a fur bikini – was the picture on page 48 of ‘Early Man’ (a Young Readers volume from Time Life). ‘A Prehistoric Battle Scene’, as the tableau is captioned, shows a mob of chimp-like australopithecines attacking a couple of our Homo habilis ancestors (smoother skin, sharper weapons, more evolved hairstyles).

Never mind the artist’s reticence with genitalia, I couldn’t drag my ten-year-old eyes away.

How wonderful to discover, nearly a decade on, that you could actually study human evolution as part of a degree. And yet how puzzling that no-one else seemed to share my passion: I was – quite literally – the only one in my year of seventy-odd Arch & Anth students to choose ‘physical anthropology’ for Part 2. Cambridge, of course, prides itself on one-to-one tuition, but an entire Department all to myself did seem a little over the top.

Under the circumstances, anything less than a First would have been a disgrace. Under the circumstances, anything less than a First would have been a disgrace. Under the circumstances, anything less than a First would have been a disgrace. Under the circumstances, anything less than a First would have been a disgrace. Under the circumstances, anything less than a First would have been a disgrace.

Long after my degree, I’m still gripped by new discoveries in anthropology. How astonishing to think that recently on Earth there lived a race of human ‘hobbits’; that up to 4% of our genes come from making love with Neanderthals; or that cooking created the sexual division of labour almost 2 million years – to pick just a few of my favourite recent highlights. Anthropology rules!

Stephen Gooder

You can find out more about my films at www.stevegooder.com

Update

“My film ‘Jungle Gremlins of Java’ picked up two ‘Best of Category’ awards at the International Wildlife Film Festival in Montana USA. More gratifyingly, it’s also led to the infamous YouTube clip, ‘Tickling Slow Loris’ (thought to have been encouraging the illegal trade) being taken down. If you look for it now you find a link to “the truth” and a clip from the film. Traders in Asia have been busted, and the Indonesian Ambassador to UK says he wants to train local police so they can better enforce their own wildlife laws.”

When my children were small I stopped working, decided to go to art school and then applied to do a PhD at the Royal College of Art. My thesis, ‘Understanding Pacific Featherwork through Drawing’ was the culmination of years of studying anthropology, material culture and art – and feathers.

Birds, in many societies, are seen as messengers between the gods and humans and the beauty and magic of feathers never ceases to amaze me; Hawaiian feather capes, Aztec feather shields, Brazilian feather headdresses, and of course the elaborate feather hats which fuelled the feather trade at the beginning of the 20th century. In 2009 I was invited to exhibit at the Rebecca Hossack Gallery and my exhibition, ‘Charmed Adventures’ explored the cross-cultural belief in magic and superstition.

My passion is to create artwork that is, like a PNG headdress, perfectly crafted, beautiful and meaningful.

Rebecca Jewell

Deer Stalker’s Headdress for Vogue.

Game-Keeper’s Headdress.

Rebecca Jewell exhibition | Rebecca Hossack Gallery | New York

Private View: Wednesday 12 September 6.30-8.30pm. Exhibition runs 12 September to 5 October 2012. 262 Mott Street, New York, NY 10012.

Rebecca Jewell: rebecca@pageslane.co.uk www.rebeccajewell.com and www.r-h-g.co.uk
The writer

I don’t know which parts of my brain are fused with the anthropological concepts I learned at Cambridge, but my fascination for people, ideas, society, religion, families and culture have continued to inspire my literary life to this day.

With its field of study so broad – with people and society in its embrace – anthropology sometimes feels like a dear friend with a bank of inspiration who just happens to own the world. If the people around the globe can collectively come up with so many bizarre beliefs and complex family arrangements, such disparate ways of conducting political and economic life and such a rich diversity of myths, then surely I could tune into this creative abundance and come up with my own wild and mythic tales! (Hardly surprising, one of my interests is in extreme storytelling.)

Since I graduated from Cambridge I have devised my own anthropological methodology – a kind of private, creative, free-style anthropology that offers tools to think and live by. It’s based on the ethnographic technique of being both an observer and participant – an insider and an outsider – something that comes very naturally to me, being half Indian and half English.

When I sit down to write I am simultaneously observer and participant – especially useful when I wrote The Seduction of Silence, a story about five generations of an Indian family – with some stories from my family included! I leant heavily on my anthropological knowledge when I wrote my doctoral submission on Creativity and Transcendence, and my latest novel, Father of all Stories. I borrowed heavily when I wrote my second novel, There, Where the Pepper Grows, a story about a Polish Jewish family who escape Nazi persecution during the Second World War and find an unlikely homeland in Calcutta.

The ability to understand culture and contrasts and to get inside the heads of my characters is surely an ethnographic exercise. I did my doctorate in English, but I am grateful to this day that my first degree was in Anthropology.

Bern Le Hunte

The Seduction of Silence was shortlisted for the Commonwealth Writers Prize in 2001

Bern Le Hunte is a lecturer at the Centre for Journalism and Media at the University of New South Wales, Sydney Australia. You can find out more about her novels at www.bemlehunte.com

If you’d like to reflect on your friendships, subject and career choices in 350 words for Optima, whether in twos, threes or fours, please contact the Editor.
Art & decolonisation
in Australia, Canada and New Zealand.

The second half of the twentieth century has been an era of decolonisation, with the formal withdrawal of colonial powers taking place around the globe. Settler societies, which are identified by mass European settlement that displaces indigenous populations, offer a challenge to our ideas of what decolonisation is – primarily because the colonisers never leave, but also because the settlers see themselves as colonised in relation to the imperial metropolitan centre. A New Zealander, for example, has a complicated relationship with both British culture and Maori culture!

Decolonisation in settler contexts doesn’t mean the Europeans leaving and handing over control to the locals, but instead involves the indigenous people making a strategic play for political power, gaining control of resources and being recognised by the state in a special way. The term indigenous demonstrates this unique value, marking them as people of the land, the first nations.

Thinking about what decolonisation is, or could be, is one part of my project. The other part is thinking about how art has got caught up in this process. Art is a symbolic practice that creates images and objects that operate in the sphere of representation, including the prestigious space of high culture. It is excellent at bringing together audiences and constructing group identities. Both indigenous peoples and settler populations have been quick to realise the potential of art to assert new ideals of nation, culture and identity.

Buck Nin, Rongo Pai Experience, 1979, acrylic on board, 2700 x 3600 mm, Waikato Museum of Art and History, NZ

I want to understand the political dimensions of this process – what interests are served by different artistic practices, and the kinds of politics that become possible as art itself changes over the twentieth century.

Damian Skinner
Dr Skinner has a two year Newton International Fellowship and is working at the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology with Professor Nicholas Thomas. His project is a comparative study of art and decolonisation in Australia, Canada and New Zealand. He is a Visiting Fellow at Fitzwilliam.

Dr Damian Skinner is an independent art historian and curator, based in New Zealand. He received his PhD in art history from Victoria University of Wellington in 2006, for a thesis exploring the dynamic relationship between customary or traditional and modern Maori art in the twentieth century. This was later published as The Carver and the Artist: Maori Art in the Twentieth Century (Auckland University Press, 2008). He has published a number of books about Maori art, the indigenous art of New Zealand, including Whanga: The Evolution of Maori Art in the Twentieth Century (Reed Publishing, 2007), and The Passing World, The Passage of Life: John Hovell and the Art of Kowhaiwhai (Kim Books, 2010).
Passion!

Adele Thomas (English 2000) was Project Associate on Passion, the three-day passion play which took place over the Easter weekend 2011 in her Welsh home town, Port Talbot.

“I was employed to gather, find, organise, mobilise and integrate the community of Port Talbot into the show and to integrate the show into Port Talbot.”

Directed by Michael Sheen (it’s his home town too), Passion was co-produced by National Theatre Wales and WildWorks, involved poet Owen Sheers and 2,000 people from the town, 1,000 of whom were performers. At its climax it had an audience of 15,000.

Adele said: “A number of reviews labelled Passion ‘the theatrical event of the decade’. I like that description! I’m extremely proud that the ‘theatrical event of the decade’ wasn’t a piece of theatre on the London stage, but on the streets of my humble little home town!”

Commenting this year on the long-term effects Adele said: “It is truly astonishing to see how resonant the impact of the show has been on the town. People have been more active than ever before in instigating social change in the area – record numbers of people have attended campaigns or started campaigns to protect their town, film companies have flourished and there have even been quite a few love stories…”

Adele Thomas won a Writer’s Guild of Great Britain award in 2007, and was selected for the ITV Theatre Director Scheme in 2008. Adele was president of Fitz Theatre and her Director of Studies was Subha Mukherji. Current projects include a new musical The Bloody Ballad of Mary Maid (on tour).

Spaces and schools in Kibera

James Engwall (Engineering 2002) and his wife Ann (Clare College 2002) spent four months on a RedR and Engineers Without Borders placement in 2011, partnering with NGO Kounkuey Design Initiative to develop a network of Productive Public Spaces (PPS) in Kibera, one of Africa’s largest informal settlements. “The concept of a PPS is to engage with community groups to identify local areas of informal waste dumping and help them to re-invent these sites to provide communal amenities and services such as learning centres, playgrounds and improved sanitation. The scheme also assists community groups in developing micro-enterprises that can help to fund site maintenance.” www.kounkuey.org

James is not the only member of Fitzwilliam trying to improve the conditions in Kibera: Sarah Shucksmith (Geography 2006) founded the charity Sarah Junior School during her gap year. The school is run and managed by Kenyan volunteers and all teachers and other personnel employed are local Kibera residents. The charity has purchased a plot of land and as of early 2012 the construction of a brand new school is underway – with the opening scheduled for 2013. www.sarahjuniorschool.co.uk

Call for news...

Contact the Editor
Alison Carter
optima@fitz.cam.ac.uk
+44 1223 330784

Please feel free to contact me with contributions for the next issue
Organ donation

Dennis Doyle (Music 1947) presented Fitzwilliam with a Viscount Regent organ on 7 October. The organ will be installed in the room of the College organ scholar and used in the Auditorium for concerts.

An informal gathering was held in the Auditorium to commemorate the gift, and Dennis was treated to an impromptu recital by senior organ scholar Will Warns (pictured).

Boat Race equality in 2015

Fitzwilliam's Helena Morrissey CBE (Philosophy 1984) is behind the move towards equal status for women’s and men’s rowing in the Boat Race. Helena is CEO of Newton Asset Management, which has sponsored The Newton Women’s Boat Race since 2011. The women’s race will join the men’s race on the Thames in 2015; both men’s and women’s crews will compete on the same day over the same course. The Boat Race will become ‘The Boat Races’.

Helena cared as a student at Fitzwilliam, and is also the founder of the 30% Club, which aims to encourage FTSE boards to recruit 30% female members. Helena Morrissey will deliver the 2012 Foundation Lecture at Fitzwilliam in November.

Less risk, more care

Ashley John-Baptiste (History 2008) (pictured, top right, at the 2011 Afro-Caribbean Society Garden Party held in Fitzwilliam) has had a dizzying and varied career since his mention in Optima 17. Ashley was one of the members of the band ‘The Risk’ on ITV’s music talent show The X Factor, but left the band six weeks into the 2011 series. Most recently, Ashley has authored a one-hour documentary about growing up in the care system, produced by Special Edition Films, to be broadcast on BBC3 in the summer. Ashley said: “Filming the documentary has been tough but rewarding, I hope that it will inspire many young people currently in the care system to tenaciously pursue their passions in life, and simultaneously to educate people who are otherwise ignorant about the world of foster care.”

Innovators

Organic Drive

Tom James (Engineering 2004) set up Organic Drive with two former Cambridge engineering students at the end of 2010. The aim was to become a leading player in the UK renewable fuels market producing biodiesel from used cooking oil. They leased a unit in the West Midlands in March 2011 and within a few months had built, commissioned and tested a plant designed completely in house. They can currently produce a road tanker of fuel a week. With fuel very much in the news, Optima asked Tom how the future looks.

“Things can be pretty up and down when one starts a business from scratch. However, if the business model is strong enough, the rewards certainly outweigh the risks. If you are currently at Fitz reading this, then I would encourage you to at least think about what you could do with your own business.”

Tom was taught at Fitzwilliam by Fellow Dr David Scott, who in 2011 was honoured with a Pilkington Prize. The Prizes recognize excellence in teaching within the University – in Dr Scott’s case, in Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology, in which he is Senior Lecturer and, until recently, was Deputy Head of the Department.

From the prize citation: “The success of the Chemical Engineering Tripos is in very large part attributable to David’s dedicated work.”

Love this!

Dave Colley (History 2005) is co-creator of ‘LoveThis’, a newly-launched iPhone app for sharing recommendations for almost anything – hotels, books, bars, music, you name it – with friends and contacts. “If you’ve ever struggled to remember the name of that book or restaurant a friend mentioned over drinks, LoveThis is for you,” said Dave. The app has been featured on the Apple App Store and mentioned in the Guardian and the Telegraph. Find it at www.LoveThis.com.

Whizz any news for ‘Innovators’ to optima@fitz.cam.ac.uk
In 1209 the University of Oxford was temporarily closed and its scholars dispersed. No one really knows, although there have been guesses, why one group arrived on the edge of the fens or why that was the group that was to develop into a second university. The town in which they arrived was a thriving trading and administrative centre, prosperous and largely self-governing. It is striking that when the university later developed its own origin myth it was designed to demonstrate that it was not only older than Oxford but predated the town. Its founder (4321 years after the creation of the world) was said to be a Spanish prince, Cantaber, who had married a daughter of Gurguntius Brabtruc, a British king who seems to have stepped straight out of the pages of A Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy. Cantaber sent to Athens for philosophers to teach there, and its scholars were later summoned to Rome by Julius Caesar.

Perhaps initially the scholars were barely noticed. The first references to them locate them very close to the town centre and the university buildings, as distinct from the colleges, were to remain just west of the market, suggesting that the scholars initially colonised existing properties. New religious foundations, by contrast, were characteristically located further out. But as the scholars acquired an institutional identity and friends in high places tensions began to mount. There were various aspects to this, but the over-riding issue was one of jurisdiction. Borough and university each had their own court; the problem came with cases involving members of both communities and here the university progressively acquired the upper hand. In 1268 it was announced that a townsman who attacked a member of the university should be handed over to the chancellor for punishment. In 1305 the chancellor’s court was given jurisdiction over civil cases, such as debt, where one party to the dispute was a scholar. Later this was to allow townsmen to escape borough jurisdiction by nominally becoming the servant of a scholar. Members of the university were also exempt from parliamentary taxation – a major headache for the town in the later middle ages when the number of taxpayers was declining but the town’s tax assessment remained fixed.

Such tensions bred violence. Even left to themselves the scholars proved a disruptive element, with inter-hostel or north/south riots. Town/gown violence also flared. In 1304 and 1322 townsmen stormed student hostels, in the latter case reputedly on the instructions of the mayor and bailiffs. Some at least of the civic authorities were also sympathetic to the attack on university officials and property in 1381 – part of the so-called Peasants’ Revolt – and the town was punished by losing its right to regulate the quality of bread and ale sold in the town – a source of profit as well as a cherished manifestation of authority. Adding insult to injury the right passed to the university. The early fifteenth century saw a dispute between a leading townsman, John Bilney, and the university that rapidly escalated into a furious exchange of accusations. At one stage the town protested that their serjeant had been ejected from office; the university countered that he was a notorious disturber of the peace and a pimp, who wandered about in the night jetting – swaggering around looking for trouble.

The origin of the dispute lay in Bilney’s refusal to permit one of his houses to be converted into a student hostel. This was a grievance that went back a long way. In 1231
...in 1381 the town was punished by losing its right to regulate the quality of bread and ale sold

Dr Rosemary Horrox is a medieval historian and Director of Studies. Her most recent book, co-edited with Professor Mark Ormrod, is A Social History of England, 1200 – 1500. CUP 2006. She gave the Reunion Lecture in 2011 on this topic.
Books by members

NORMAN NAVAL OPERATIONS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN by Charles D. Stanton | March 2011 | www.boydellandbrewer.com

Publisher’s description: Drawing from Latin, Greek, Jewish and Arabic sources, Charles Stanton details how the House of Hauteville used sea power to accomplish what the Papacy, the German Empire and the Eastern Empire could not: the conquest of southern Italy and Sicily from Islam. […] It was, quite literally, a sea change, ushering in a period of western maritime ascendency which has persisted into the modern era.

Chuck Stanton (MPhil History 2004; PhD Medieval History 2008) is a retired US Naval officer and aviator, whose lifelong passion for medieval history brought him to Fitzwilliam as a mature student. He studied under Professor David Abulafia and lives in Anacortes, Washington.

REPROBATES: THE CAVALIERS OF THE ENGLISH CIVIL WAR by John Stubbs | February 2011 | Viking Adult www.penguin.co.uk

Publisher’s description: From disastrous foreign forays to syphilitic poets, from political intriguing to ambitious young playwrights keen to curry favour with the King, John Stubbs brings alive the vibrant cast of characters that were at the centre of the English Civil War, and shows the reader just how the country came to one of the most destructive moments in its history.

John Stubbs (MPhil Medieval & Renaissance Literature 2001; PhD English 2006) studied English at Oxford before coming to Fitzwilliam. Donne: The Reformed Soul was published in 2006 and won the Glen Dimplex Irish Writers' Centre New Writer of the Year and a Royal Society of Literature Jerwood Award for non-fiction. Reprobates was shortlisted for the BBC Samuel Johnson Prize for non-fiction in 2011 and was featured on The Culture Show. John lives and teaches in Slovenia.

HOUDINI AND CONAN DOYLE by Christopher Sandford | October 2011 | Gerald Duckworth & Co. www.ducknet.co.uk

Publisher’s description: In the early 20th century, Arthur Conan Doyle and Harry Houdini were two of the most feted and famous men in the English-speaking world. Houdini, the world’s foremost magician, was a friend of Conan Doyle’s, but sceptical of the latter’s belief in the supernatural. Based on original research, this sensational dual biography of two popular geniuses conjures up their fame, personality, and competing beliefs.

Christopher Sandford (History 1974) has been a film, music – and cricket – writer for more than twenty years, and has published biographies of Kurt Cobain, Mick Jagger, David Bowie, Steve McQueen, Roman Polanski and Imran Khan – to name but a few. He divides his time between Seattle and London and is a frequent contributor to newspapers and magazines in the UK and US. His latest book is The Rolling Stones: 50 Years (Simon & Schuster 2012).
Publisher's description: Religion is high on the public agenda. Bryan S. Turner considers the problems of multicultural, multi-faith societies and legal pluralism in terms of citizenship and the state, with special emphasis on the problems of defining religion and the sacred. Religion and Modern Society contributes to political and ethical controversies through discussions of cosmopolitanism, religion and globalisation.

Bryan Turner (Fellow 2002-2005; DLitt SPS 2009) is Presidential Professor of Sociology at the City University of New York (CUNY) Graduate Center. He has written, co-authored, or edited over sixty books and more than two hundred articles and chapters. The Body and Society: Explorations in Social Theory (Sage, 2008), first published in 1984, is in its third edition. He is also an author or editor of The Cambridge Dictionary of Sociology, and The Blackwell Companion to Social Theory.

Publisher's description: On 19 August 1953, the British and American intelligence agencies launched a desperate coup against a cussed, bedridden 72-year-old. His name was Muhammad Mossadeq, and his crimes had been to flirt with Communism and nationalise his country’s oil industry, for forty years in British hands. To Churchill, the Iranian prime minister was a lunatic, determined to humiliate Britain. To Eisenhower, he was delivering Iran to the Soviets. Mossadeq had to go. And so he did, in one of the most dramatic episodes in modern Middle Eastern history.

Christopher de Bellaigue (Oriental Studies 1990) lived and worked as a journalist in south Asia and the Middle East between 1996 and 2007, writing for The Economist, the Financial Times, the Independent and the New York Review of Books. His first book, In the Rose Garden of the Martyrs: A Memoir of Iran, was shortlisted for the Royal Society of Literature’s Ondaatje Prize.

Publisher's description: In recent years it has become clear that breast cancer is not a single disease but rather that the term encompasses a number of molecularly distinct tumours arising from the epithelial cells of the breast. There is an urgent need to better understand these distinct subtypes and develop tailored diagnostic approaches and treatments appropriate to each. This book considers breast cancer from many novel and exciting perspectives.

Susan Done (Medical Sciences 1982) is an Associate Professor at the University of Toronto, a pathologist at the University Health Network in Toronto and a member of the Campbell Family Institute for Breast Cancer Research. She visited Fitzwilliam in 2010 to attend the Medics and Vets Dinner in honour of the late Dr Tony Edwards.
Major gifts fund Library, Bursaries and Economics teaching

Ken Olisa and Peter Selman have given generously to address key areas of College need during the past year. Both gifts reflect a deeply-held desire to enable a new generation of students to make the most of the opportunities that are provided by a Cambridge education – and by Fitzwilliam’s own brand of that education.

Ken Olisa OBE (Natural Sciences, SPS and Management 1971) and his wife Julia (Homerton College) made gifts of over £2 million to support the College’s new Library & IT Centre – which will be known as ‘The Olisa Library’. Ken, who started his career with IBM and Wang before setting up technology merchant bank Interregnum and – more recently – Restoration Partners, said “My time at Fitzwilliam was transformative for a state school boy from the poor streets of Nottingham. The College’s welcoming and egalitarian atmosphere and Cambridge’s academic excellence gave me the privileged experiences which underpin my career.”

Peter Selman (Economics 1991) made a gift of £1 million, split between bursaries to support undergraduates of limited means who might otherwise be discouraged from applying to the University, and teaching in Economics. Peter, who is co-head of Global Equity Derivatives Trading at Goldman Sachs in New York, made the gift through their donor-advised fund. His gift specifically supports the appointment of Anna Watson as Director of Studies. Peter said: “I am delighted to be able to support the undergraduate community at Fitzwilliam as well as the development of excellent teaching in Economics. I hope that this gift will be a catalyst for others.”

Anna Watson, newly-appointed Director of Studies in Economics, holds an MSc in Quantitative Methods and Information Systems from the Warsaw School of Economics and an MSc in Economics from the University of Warwick. She is currently completing her PhD, which investigates the impact of global economic integration on price rigidities and the effects of financial frictions on cyclical fluctuations in international trade. Before coming to Cambridge, Anna worked as an economist in the Monetary Policy Division at the National Bank of Poland.

In recognition of their exceptional munificence, the College has elected Ken Olisa and Peter Selman 1869 Fellow Benefactors.

Giving shares

Giving shares to Fitzwilliam is, in many cases, the most tax-efficient way of supporting the College and our students. The benefits to the donor apply both to income tax and capital gains tax. Income tax relief can be claimed on the market value of the shares on the date the gift is made, as well as on ‘disposal-related liabilities’ such as broker’s or legal fees. In addition, capital gains tax does not have to be paid on any increase in the value of the shares since they were bought.

Ken Olisa shares some thoughts about how the process worked in the case of his recent donation. “Portfolios are a bit like attics – repositories for items of evident, but somehow indeterminate value. While the Bursar is far from being your average Man in a Van, we found that his willingness to take away our shares and to realise their value was a very easy way for us to make the College very happy.”

First 150th Anniversary Campaign Dinner

The first 150th Anniversary Campaign Dinner – hosted by the twelve-strong Campaign Council, of which Lord Lamont (Economics 1961) is Chairman – was held in the sumptuous surroundings of the Peers’ Dining Room in the Palace of Westminster on Friday 2 March 2012.

A hundred alumni, including guests from Europe, Asia and the US, gathered to mark the success of the Campaign in passing the £8 million mark. The College was delighted that three of its peers were able to attend – Lord Lamont, Lord Griffiths of Burry Port (Theology and Religious Studies 1967) and Lord Knight of Weymouth (SPS 1984). Fitzwilliam’s popular female a cappella choir, the Sirens, provided entertainment between courses, and following the dinner David Starkey spoke convincingly on the theme of a college that has grown organically, and piecemeal, and is all the better for it.

With the continuing support of our members we are on course to reach our £20 million target by 2019, when Fitzwilliam will celebrate its 150th Anniversary. Please get in touch with Dr. Helen Bettinson if you’d like to get involved in the Campaign.
Fitzwilliam Society Careers Fair

Twenty-nine alumni were on hand to offer advice and support to current students at a Careers Fair on 12 November 2011, organised and sponsored by The Fitzwilliam Society. Over 100 students attended, joining alumni for lunch and networking. Fitzwilliam Society President Zoe Shaw (English 1979) encouraged students to make the most of alumni: “Ask them questions about career choices or CV tips. Practice speed interviews. Pick their brains. Make them work! You’ll be the richer for it at the end.”

Next Careers Fair Saturday 17 November 2012

Thank you to the following alumni who gave their time and expertise to help current students last year.

Sarah Asplin QC (Law 1979) Barrister, 3 Stone Buildings
Judith Bunting (NatSci. 1979) Executive Television Producer & Script Consultant
Rosie Cook (English 2007) Strategy Consultant, Deloitte
Steven Edgson (Economics 2008) Banco Bradesco
Christopher Goldsack (NatSci 1979) Classical Singer
Simon Gregor (English 1993) Photographer, Self-employed
Dr Neal Hansen (NatSci 1993) Global Director of Healthcare Consulting, Datamonitor Group
Scheherazade Haque (Law 2002) Senior Crown Prosecutor, Crown Prosecution Service (CPS)
Geoff Harrison (NatSci 1953) Group Research Manager (Retd), BP Chemical
Michael Harrison (NatSci 1979) Chief Brand Officer, Timberland
Lindsay Hetherington (NatSci 1996) Teacher / Social Science Research, Exeter University
Jenny Hunter (Oriental Studies with Arabic 2004) Managing Director, The Adventurists
Carl Meewezen (MML 1994) Civil Servant, Cabinet Office
Kate Murray (History 1992) Careers Adviser, University of London
Lucy Newman Cleeve (Theology & Religious Studies 1994) Contemporary Fine Art, Man & Eve
Alpa Parmar (SPS 1997) Research Fellow, King’s College London
Ajay Patel (Economics 2008) Corporate and Institutional Banking, RBS
Jonathan Polnay (Law 1996) Barrister, 5 Kings Bench Walk
Armit Puri (Economics 2008) Deutsche Bank
Zoë Shaw (English 1979) Corporate Financial Advisor, Promethion Ltd
Richard Sims (Engineering 1998) Project Manager, The Technology Partnership
Tom Tharayil (Computer Science (Masters) 2004) Leverage Financial, Credit Suisse
Milan Thomas (Economics 2007) Global Mobility Services, Ernst & Young
Vivienne Tong (Economics 2005) Management Consultant / Analyst, KPMG
Mike Tucker (Law 1979) Teacher, Hastings Academy
Doug Webb (Geography and Management Sciences 1979) CFO London Stock Exchange Group plc
Luke Wygas (Engineering (Masters) 1996) Barrister, 4 Pump Court

Work experience – getting inside the cabinet

Carl Meewezen (MML 1994) a senior civil servant in the Cabinet Office, attended the Careers Fair and offered two weeks’ work experience to James Harrington (History 2008).

“The Careers Fair was a great way to re-connect with the Fitz community after all these years – and to give something more profound back. I’ll definitely be doing this again.” Describing his work experience, James said: “During my short time with the team I produced a performance framework to assess progress on the ‘Big Society’ agenda, and to consider the impact of related government work programmes. The project was challenging and fulfilling and I was able to see some of my work already taking shape as a ministerial briefing before I left.” Carl, who mentored James, was delighted. “He did an outstanding job, and came to the difficult problem we set him with fresh eyes, enthusiasm, academic rigour and practical common sense. His hard work has challenged and moved on our thinking on performance measurement.”

Can you help?

The Society is looking for volunteers to help with the next Careers Fair on 17 November 2012, to offer mentoring and internships, to assist in identifying opportunities for internships and to co-ordinate international and regional chapters.

If you can help please contact the Honorary Secretary by email through development@fitz.cam.ac.uk

Internship scheme

Responding to the current difficulties in the jobs market, the Fitzwilliam Society is organising an internship scheme for Fitzwilliam students. Alumni can now add internship details to their Career Network profiles and these valuable opportunities will then be offered equally to all our students.

Join the Fitzwilliam Career Network at www.fitz.cam.ac.uk/alumni/career-network
**Sports news**

**Olympic round up**

As of 2012, there have been – to the best of our knowledge – ten Fitzwilliam Olympians, the first being Daniel Pettit (football 1936, Berlin Games). The two most recent Olympians are both women – fencer Fiona McIntosh (Land Economy 1980) who competed in 1984, 1988, 1992 and 1996; and Sarah Winckless (Natural Sciences 1993) who competed in 2000, 2004 (Bronze, double sculls) and 2008.

**Winckless Chair of British Olympic Association Athletes’ Commission**

Sarah Winckless (Natural Sciences 1993) won bronze at the Athens 2004 Olympic Games, and was twice world champion in 2005 and 2006. She participated in three consecutive Olympic Games and seven World Championships, before announcing her retirement from rowing in 2009. The British Olympic Association’s (BOA) mission is to transform British lives through the power of the Olympic values and the success of Team GB.

**Cuppers triumphs**

Fitzwilliam’s 1st team stormed to victory in 2012 football Cuppers, beating Christ’s College 3-2 in the final on Sunday 6 May. This is the seventh time that the Cuppers trophy has been brought back to Fitzwilliam. Read a report of the final at www.fitz.cam.ac.uk/triumph.

Victory in the men’s squash Cuppers followed a week later, with the Fitzwilliam team – Seb Armstrong, James Baudains, Matt Bennison, Harry Leitch and Henry Pelham – beating Emmanuel College 3-2 in the final.

**Cambridge Olympic Walks**

Emma Fletcher (née Veale, Land Economy 1996), who sits on the University’s Alumni Advisory Board, is responsible for Walk Cambridge 2012 – a set of six ‘Olympic walks’ round Cambridge. She’s worked with the colleges, Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge City and County Councils. Visitors choose from a variety of walks of different lengths (1.2 to 11.7 miles), each with a map, notes about the landmarks and their Olympic sporting and cultural connections. In total the six walks add up to the length of a marathon.

www.walkcam2012.co.uk

**Dancing at the Olympics Opening Ceremony**

Jennie Leggat (Natural Sciences 2011) tells all! “My contract means I’m not allowed to tell you who is choreographing the ceremony, but the creative director is Danny Boyle (who is present at every rehearsal).

I’m part of the final (and longest) dance of the ceremony, but I can’t tell you the music, theme, style or anything about my costume. The whole ceremony will be fantastic! It’s definitely worth travelling to London for seven hours each week to attend rehearsals because this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for me and it has already been a phenomenal experience.”

Jennie, who trained in ballet, tap and modern dance, has been dancing since the age of two, and has performed professionally in pantomime and musicals including Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. She’s originally from Glasgow but now lives in Casablanca, and was a caller for the telephone campaign fundraising team this year.

Alumni relations and events officer Carol Lamb will be part of the events services team this summer. “Following an interview last August, I was offered a role as a Games Maker for the Olympic Games, responsible for stewarding. This means scanning tickets, manning the Information Point, directing spectators, watching out for hazards and minor crowd control! I was thrilled to be chosen for the track cycling competition in the velodrome.”
Reliving the Boat Race

Moritz Schramm (MB/PhD 2005), who rowed at no. 2 position, talked to Alison Carter about his experience in the Cambridge boat.

During the 158th Boat Race, a rogue swimmer deliberately interrupted proceedings, causing a re-start. Then the boats clashed and Oxford broke an oar. Cambridge won by 4 and a quarter lengths, but there was no presentation ceremony, both sides showing concern for Oxford’s Alex Woods who had collapsed at the end of the race.

Had you been prepared for these sorts of eventualities?

“Wé’d prepared for all sorts of scenarios and ‘what if’s’ in training. And that included a restart. You talk it all through with the coach and the cox – you know what to do. You’re on autopilot. We’d been told to expect to deal with debris in the river. The Oxford crew lost a fin a few days before the race from debris damage. If there’s an obstruction you stop the race; or steer round it. It’s weird, when it did occur the umpire shouted stop and we went into the programme for a restart. For all I knew it could have been a log. Clashing oars is common and it’s sometimes used tactically. It’s a dangerous game to play because you can be disqualified. Any contact is a foul.”

Was it a hollow victory?

“No, we were neck and neck, it’s our job to believe we can win and we took the win as it was. It’s a race to the point that one of the crews breaks, and Oxford “broke” by steering into us. It was terrifying that Alex Woods passed out. At that point the race didn’t seem to matter anymore. When you race, you don’t know the other crew, but you’re aware of your opposite number – he’d been my opposite number for a while, my shadow, so I felt a special connection. There’s an eerie overlap. Once we got the all clear for Alex we relaxed.”

What did you learn about yourself?

“Learning about yourself – that’s what it’s all about! I love the sport, and I don’t think I’ll give it up – but it was 7 months preparation and, for me, 7 years rowing. During the run-up I wasn’t living, I was just functioning... I’ve been without my life for so long! On the day it’s very much like any other day; you try to blank out all the extra stuff. But after the race the whole thing crashes down on you. A broken blade effectively ended the race, but we would have won anyway!”

Moritz is a clinical medical student who is currently enrolled on the MB/PhD programme, researching the memory mechanisms underlying drug addiction for his PhD.

NEW Sports Support Fund

A new Sports Support Fund has been set up to help College teams and individuals take advantage of sporting opportunities. The fund was kickstarted by a generous donation from Robert Rigg (Economics 1988).

Vigorous veterans

Andrew Stacey (Natural Sciences – Physical 1973) won the President’s Putter golf tournament at Rye on 8 January 2012. “I’ve been trying to achieve this for the last 25 years!” Andrew said. At 58, he is the oldest person ever to win the tournament. An article in Golf Quarterly (edited by Tim Dickson, History 1972) reports: “By Andrew’s own reckoning, his career highlights came after he qualified to play as a senior aged 55. Winner of the Irish Seniors in 2009, he was runner up in the English Seniors that year, and played in the England Seniors Home Internationals in 2009 and 2011.”

Ken Platts (Fellow and Director of Studies in Engineering) broke the Eastern Counties age group record for cycling 100 miles in 2011. His time of three hours, 44 minutes and 33 seconds beat the previous record by 32 minutes. Ken, 59, said: “I am delighted with this performance. When stamina and experience count it’s good to know I can still hold my own.” The bicycle, a Lotus with a carbon fibre monoquette structure, was developed as a road-going version of the bike that Chris Boardman rode to Gold in the 1992 Olympics. Ken’s early career was spent in manufacturing engineering, working with companies that produced AC generators, cranes, and... bicycles.

Aubrey Waddy (Natural Sciences 1966) captained Fitzwilliam to both first division leagues and cuppers squash titles in 1968/9. “In 1982 I had to stop playing because of a bad knee but was persuaded to take up gentle doubles again in 2006, and ended up getting selected for the England over-60s Masters team last year - what a huge thrill!” A clinical researcher in the medical device industry, Aubrey has just written his second novel, Sex and Drugs and Squash ‘n’ Roll.
Events for Fitzwilliam alumni

Reunion Lecture by
Dr Kourosh Saeb-Parsy
Tripos to Transplant: the Cutting Edge

Saturday 22 September | 11.15 am
Transplant surgeon, Fellow and Director of Studies in Clinical Medicine Kourosh Saeb-Parsy (Medical Sciences 1993) talks about the issues involved in adult liver, kidney, pancreas and small bowel transplantation, as well as his research into transplant immunology and the mechanisms of organ rejection.

The Oxford and Cambridge Club
The Club, on Pall Mall, London, has 78 alumni members from Fitzwilliam.
www.oxfordandcambridgeclub.co.uk

Staff changes

Congratulations to John Eisold, now Head Porter following John Goodacre’s retirement in November 2011, and to Denise Cresswell who becomes Deputy Head Porter.

New Catering Manager Rob Clarke (left) has joined Fitzwilliam from Murray Edwards College and Richard Wayman joins as Head Chef from King’s College.

Coming online soon...
Fitzwilliam will be the first College to integrate its online resources with those of the University. Fitz alumni will soon be able to update their contact details online, and subscribe to a range of bulletins, publications and services.

Winter Ball 2012: Alumni welcome!

On Thursday 29 November, Fitzwilliam will metamorphose into the magical and mythical land of Narnia for the 2012 Fitzwilliam Winter Ball. This year’s ball promises to be an unparalleled night of lavish extravagance with a fantastic variety of music, huge arrays of food (including, of course, Turkish Delights), and drinks fit for Narnian royalty.

Details and booking at www.fitzwilliamball.com

Dates for your diary 2012

Saturday 16 June
Billygoats’ Pimms Party, Osier Holt

Monday 18 June
Music Society Garden Party

Thursday 21 June
Cambridge in America May Ball
New York City

Saturday 23 June
Past vs Present Cricket Match and Dinner

Saturday 23 June

Friday 6 July
Golf Day

Friday 21 September – Sun 23 September
Reunion Weekend

Thursday November 15
Foundation Lecture
Speaker: Helena Morrissey CBE (Philosophy 1984)

Saturday 17 November
Fitzwilliam Society Careers Fair

Thursday 29 November
Fitzwilliam Winter Ball

2013

Thursday 5 July
50th Anniversary & 1963 Alumni Reunion, Chancellor, Lord Sainsbury of Turville, to visit Fitzwilliam.

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