SENIOR TUTOR’S REPORT

Fitzwilliam undergraduates once again achieved record results in 2015, although a general uplift in classes across the University prevented this achievement translating into a higher place in the league tables. While the number of Fitzwilliam students achieving First Class results, at 97, was identical to the previous year, the proportion achieving a 2.1 or a First in Tripos rose for the sixth successive year, to 77.5% (the equivalent figure in 2009 having been 66%). Equally strikingly, this was almost certainly the first year in which no undergraduate failed or had to rely on an application. This reflects a lot of hard work and determination from all our students, including those facing difficult circumstances; and reflects well, too, on the Supervisors, Directors of Studies, Tutors and others who have offered their unwavering expertise, guidance and support.

There are many ways to gloss a large set of results, and we should never allow the inevitable attention to statistical fluctuations to distract us from our proper attention to the academic success of the individual students with whom we work so closely for three or four years (second only to their personal wellbeing – and the two are often closely related). Over recent years results have been consistently strong in Chemical Engineering, Economics, Geography, HSPS/PPS, Land Economy, Modern & Medieval Languages and Music. Engineering and Law have been less consistent but have enjoyed outstanding success (as, of course, have many individual students in all other subjects). As a cohort, our Arts finalists graduated with higher grades than the average in their subjects.

Neither should the attention lavished on undergraduate results obscure the fact that over 40% of the Junior Members of the College are Graduate Students, pursuing a wonderfully diverse range of taught courses as well as full-time or part-time research. We celebrate these students as the University’s leading scholars, central to the College’s academic mission. We are able to offer prizes for distinguished performances in taught courses, and scholarships for accomplished researchers. Over recent years, through generous donations and the allocation of a proportion of fee income, we have been steadily increasing the number of substantial studentships we can offer, to provide opportunities for top-level graduate study regardless of financial means. Fitzwilliam has become a popular choice for graduate applicants, attracting top-class graduates of other Universities, including some who never dreamed of Cambridge or who applied as undergraduates before succeeding elsewhere. Our historic commitment to making sure Cambridge is open to all – our access agenda – is served centrally at graduate level as well: we have more new graduate students than new undergraduates every year now, and will want to continue to develop our financial offer in the coming years.

We continue, of course, to offer pastoral support and general academic and personal guidance to all students through our dedicated team of Tutors, supported by others including the Chaplain, the Nurse, the Counsellor, the Porters, trained student peer-supporters and elected student representatives and welfare teams. Our Junior Members once again have reason to thank those they elected to the JCR and MCR Committees, who have worked very hard on their behalf and helped to ensure that the interests of students are always at the centre of the College’s thinking. We learn a great deal from individual meetings with students, as from committee meetings shared with their representatives. In addition we have been able to pay attention to responses to several large-scale student surveys, both internal and external, which have revealed certain specific issues worthy of close consideration and improvement, alongside the welcome news that Fitzwilliam students are among the most satisfied in Cambridge with their college’s pastoral/tutorial provision. Our students now have access to a College Counsellor as well as the University Counselling Service. We have an increasing number of students with disabilities and specific learning difficulties, and in liaison with the University’s Disability Resource Centre we work to ensure they are able to make their full contribution to the academic and social life of Cambridge (and as public funding for their necessary additional costs is squeezed we need to fill the gap). We have continued to address University-wide concerns about harassment and discrimination, and have established an Equality and Respect Group which will oversee further developments within College.

Through the generosity of donors, and through careful management of the College’s resources, we have been able to invest heavily in facilities of central interest to Junior Members. We have an excellent new gym on site, proving very popular with users who have access to the changing-room facilities of the squash courts. And we have sparkling new accommodation for Freshers, with the complete refurbishment of A Staircase to provide clean, bright, semi-ensuite rooms arranged around a substantial social space on each floor. The design was the result of very detailed development and consultation, and provides...
the blueprint for the progressive modernisation of all our Lasdun accommodation, as funds become available.

We want the best for – and from – every one of our students, and so we gladly invest in them directly. We made in total around 1,000 awards in 2014–2015, ranging from graduate studentships to modest awards in support of the costs of an activity or project. As the intercollegiate funding arrangements change, the College contributes a larger proportion of the cost of the Cambridge Bursary scheme, which provides grants of up to £3,500 to around 100 of our undergraduates annually. In addition, we seek to contribute to the cost of a wide range of extra-curricular activities, including sport, drama, music, travel, language courses, charitable activities, and sometimes simply accommodation outside term.

This is an era of consultations and strategies. The College works closely with our counterparts across Cambridge to ensure that we respond appropriately to external initiatives (such as A Level Reform, the PREVENT Agenda, the Green Paper) and to fulfil our responsibility, as one of the world’s leading universities, to set the agenda in challenging times. One important aspect of this, from the perspective of Fitzwilliam as a large and successful college within that world-leading university, is the development of an international strategy which builds on our extensive global connections, from major research collaborations to individual student journeys. Our recent conference on The Legacy of Lee Kuan Yew and the Future of Singapore reminded us all just how crucial are the choices made by individuals and by nations. Fitzwilliam College, as an open and forward-thinking institution with a proud history, has a great deal to celebrate, and a great deal to do. The work of education is more important than ever.

PAUL CHIRICO

COLLEGE STATISTICS

Undergraduate-student statistics
At the beginning of the academic year 2014–2015, there were 431 students in residence registered for undergraduate degrees, 261 men and 170 women. Corresponding numbers for 2013–2014 were 435, 262 and 173. Three of them were affiliated students (two men and one women).

The results for the finalists in those years were:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
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<td>First, with Distinction</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>131</td>
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Graduate-student statistics
In January 2015 there were approximately 327 full-time graduate students on the books of the College; the total changes through the year as, for instance, PhD students are approved for their degrees. Because of the number of one-year courses, the number of first-year graduate students is similar to the number of first-year undergraduates.

This population was very diverse in origin: about 35% of the graduate students were from the UK, about 20% from other European Union countries, and about 45% from outside Europe. It was about 65% male and 35% female.

Of the graduate students, 61% were either registered as candidates for the PhD or on track to be so registered (199 students), and 28% were undertaking MPhil or other one-year Masters degrees (93 students: some were taking the MPhil as a precursor to studying for a PhD – a formal requirement in many Departments – whilst others were studying here for a single year with the MPhil as the final degree). Other full-time students were in medical or veterinary studies (22 students), undertaking other courses such as those leading to PGCE or LLM, or at the Judge Institute working for an MBA.

There were also about 40 part-time Masters students, of whom the majority were senior Police Officers studying Applied Criminology and Police Management – graduates from that course in previous years have become Chief Constables, and in the 2015 Honours Lists for the New Year one received a CBE, and one was awarded the Queen’s Police Medal for distinguished service (p.82).

ACADEMIC AWARDS AND PRIZES

GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS AND STUDENTSHIPS for 2015–2016

COLLEGE SENIOR SCHOLARSHIPS
J Markeviciute, S Stamper (Applied Maths & Theoretical Physics); S R Saxena (Asian & Middle Eastern Studies); C Scheib (Biological Anthropology); D Zhang (Chemical Engineering); R Hardisty, F Lima (Chemistry); D Bulger (Clinical Biochemistry); Y Y R Tan (Clinical Neurosciences); T Bytheway, V Stakhov (Computer Science); M Morey (Criminology); M Campos, P Gurry, J Prothro, W Ross (Divinity); L Cowton, S Stephenson (Earth Sciences); A Eltemamy, A Leung (Education); Y
Hirose, M Sitte, W Zhao (Engineering); D Lerup (French); D Chen (Genetics); S Strong (Geography); D Runciman, K Sanderson (History); A Papworth (Italian); S K Kreft, A Wilson (Materials Science); M Tschurtschenthaler (Medicine); Y Ruan (Paediatrics); A Hodgson, D Turban (Physics); M Nunes (Plant Sciences); A Imseis (Politics & International Studies); D Ahflock (Pure Mathematics); R Finlinson (Slavonic Studies); M Vine (Social Anthropology); K Doniec (Sociology); L Chávez Díaz (Spanish and Portuguese).

1922 SENIOR SCHOLARSHIPS awarded to students who achieved First Class or equivalent
J McIntosh (Anglo-Saxon Norse & Celtic); R Machado (Classics); V Bheemireddy (Engineering); H Richard (English); A Simon (Land Economy); B Abram, (NST-P).

Honorary awards for those not continuing to a higher degree at Fitzwilliam
A Hobbs (Arch & Anth); S Cox (Architecture); L Cai, K Widjaja (Chem Engineering); S Warns (Clinical Medec); R Heard (Clinical Vet); J Mokry (Computer Science); M Campsie, F Holloway, O Jones, M Patel (Economics); J Fielder, F Fang, S Lee, Y Lou, D Oliver (Engineering); S Clarke, H Holmes, S Stacey, S Sutcliffe (English); J Davies, O Taylor (Geography); P Kelly, M McLean (Health); A Bajaj, L Kirby (Distinction); J Green, D Yee (Law); T Hickey (LLM); S zu Ermagassen (Management); C Babenko, M McAuley, P Schmitt (Maths); B Cleary, Y Omar (MML); M Price, T Wethered (NST); T Evans, F Hirst (NST-B); A Buchan, P Earp, J Halliday, C Ho, H Matchette-Downs, A Sivaratavasa (NST-P); A Glover-Short, I Pritchard, R Warnock (PPS); N L Grieve (Theol & Rel Studies).

SCHOLARSHIPS awarded to students with First Class or equivalent
Elections to scholarships

Re-elections to scholarships

PRIZES for First Class results in examinations

OTHER AWARDS AND PRIZES

Other Prizes
Frude (Classics). Reddaway: R Machado (Classics); J Yunis (Education); C Plane (History); N Fox (NST-B); R Warnock (PPS). Sunburne Music: H Roper (Music), William French: C Willmington-Holmes (NST-B). Scholar of the Year: M Patel (Economics). Sports Personality of the Year: S Hobbs (MML).

Swinburne Music: H Roper (Music).


Scholar of the Year: M Patel (Economics).

Sports Personality of the Year: S Hobbs (MML).

Other Fitzwilliam Society awards

Graduate Research and Conference Grants
Graduate Students at Fitzwilliam, undertaking PhD or Masters studies, have access to a range of funds which support them in their research. In 2014–2015, a total of about 90 awards were made, from sources which included the Fitzwilliam Society Trust Fund Research Fund, the Student Opportunities Fund, the Graduate Tutors’ Fund and the Cuthbert-Edwards Fund.

UNIVERSITY AND DEPARTMENTAL PRIZES


MUSIC SCHOLARSHIPS

New Awards
Aushalom Hertzwolf Saxophone Scholarship: I Yep-Manzano.
Padley Repetiteur Scholarship: A Sozanska. Queen Anne’s Choral Scholarship: M Clarke (bass), N Ellis (soprano).

Renewed Awards

After the General Admission graduation ceremony: the Master addresses new graduates and their families
GENERAL ADMISSION CEREMONY 2015

On Saturday 27 June 2015, 131 graduands were admitted to their degrees in person. Of these, 125 received the degree of BA (of whom 24 on four-year courses received MEng or MSci in addition to the BA), whilst three received LLM degrees and three received the degree of VetMB.
DOCTORATES APPROVED, 2014–2015

Doctor of Science
M.P. Eddleston

Doctor of Philosophy
A. Aboulghate: Developing quality indicators for Egyptian primary care using the Rand/UCLA appropriateness method and testing the acceptability of their application
P. Arias Vecino: Role of adsorption in catalysis: applications of NMR relaxometry
J.K. Bhambra: The development of a model of disease progression and mortality in dementia: using evidence synthesis to investigate treatment potential
T.J. Charlesworth: Studies of F-ATPases from fungal mitochondria
S. Chen: The path between phusis and nomos: theory and practice in Aristotle’s moral philosophy
M.S. Chiang: Jostling for space: church and state in Singapore since independence
Y.T. Chun: Charge transfer characteristic of zinc-oxide nanowire devices and their applications
A.J. Clarke: Simulating gas leaks in shallow aquifers
L.A. Evans: Fencing the front line: the separation of elephants and cultivation with electrified fences
H. Fang: Why some materials behave exactly the opposite of what is normal
M. Golozar: Plasma electrolytic oxide coatings on low-modulus β-type titanium alloys: applications to load-bearing orthopaedic implants
V. Gupta: Linear amplification analysis for extraction of coherent structures in wall-bounded turbulent flows
P. Harford: New lithium cuprates for the promotion of directed organic transformations
K.T. Hegarty: Investigation of UEGO sensors and their application to novel engine measurements
B. Hembree: Designing Victorian London: the career of James Bunstone Bunning, city architect
D.M. Hopkinson: Reducing rare earth consumption in Nd2Fe14B magnets through controlled nanostructures
T. Jucker: Relating above-ground wood production to tree diversity in forest ecosystems
J.A. Lehtosalo: Adapting dynamic object-oriented languages to mixed dynamic and static typing
C.Y. Leung: Connecting the dots: timing, polarity and cell fate in the mouse embryo
C. Li: Biological network evaluation and relation discovery from scientific literature
H. Lieng: Surface modelling for 2D imagery
K.M. Lim: DNS of inhomogeneous reactants premixed combustion
H. Nili: Understanding brain representational geometries
B. Ó Conchúir: Kinetic modelling of transport phenomena at the mesoscale in soft materials
T.H. Piachaud: On the use of partly-fluorinated side-chain polyfluorenes in novel device architectures
E.J. Pickering: Macrosegregation in steel ingots
C.O. Scheppach: Properties of single calcium-permeable ion channels in neocortical neurons
M.J. Scott: Investigations into the Ullmann Biaryl-Ether Synthesis
G. Siyam: Value in lean product development
R. Stevens: Anglican responses to the Toleration Act, 1689–1714
Z.K. Tan: Interfacial energetics control for efficient optoelectronic devices
A. Zachariou: Musical play and self-regulation: an exploration of 6- and 8-year old children’s self-regulatory behaviours during musical play sessions at Cypriot primary schools
ARROL ADAM PRIZE ESSAYS

Winners of the Arrol Adam Prizes for 2015 were reported on p.7, and two of the essays are reproduced here; to save space, the first of these has had its extensive footnotes and references removed. It reminds the Editor of his youth, as he spent his formative years mid-way between Barnet and Enfield, within the newly-established London Green Belt, travelling south on red London Transport buses (as distinct from green London Transport country buses) to reach the outermost extremity of the Piccadilly Line – which sixty years ago formed a natural limit to the suburbs at that part of London’s periphery.

Where Does London Stop? – Hugh Oxlade

Three years ago, at a cricket camp, I was engaged in a conversation involving both a coach, who hailed from somewhere in Warwickshire, and a fellow camp participant, who lived in Watford. ‘Ah, so you’re both from London, then’ responded the coach on being supplied with this information, I having a few minutes previously informed him of my residence in the capital. The camp attendee thereupon launched into an impassioned tirade, in perpetrated with hastily-scrawled maps, during which he expressed, in no uncertain terms, the opinion that Watford was in Hertfordshire, and most definitely not in London.

The coach, despite the vitriolic reaction, may, however, have had a point. Watford, after all, has a London Underground station, is situated inside the M25, a road otherwise known as the London Orbital, and is home to the Jurys Inn London Watford, the Holiday Inn Express London – Watford Junction, and the Mercure London Watford hotels, while an article from November 2014 on the London Evening Standard’s website unequivocally described Watford’s and Millwall’s respective football teams as ‘London rivals’.

The conclusion which can be drawn from this anecdote is perhaps a banal one: the boundaries of ‘London’ are arbitrary lines on maps. They are determined are numerous and varied and, while not perhaps of earth-shattering significance, do cast some light on mankind’s sense of history and geography and the part played by interest, awareness, apathy, commerciality, convenience and convention in defying, and embracing, arbitrary lines on maps.

Defining London’s limits should, in theory, be a simple exercise. The Greater London region, defined by the 1963 London Government Act, incorporates the City of London alongside 32 ‘boroughs’, each having a clearly demarcated area of administrative control. The names of the boroughs often feature on road signs, social housing developments, operational buildings and signs outside parks, swimming pools, libraries and other local government facilities. Most of these names disappear as one crosses into the areas controlled by the county councils of Essex, Hertfordshire, Surrey or Kent, or the unitary authorities of Slough or Windsor and Maidenhead. The intermittence and inconsistency of these features, however, renders them inconvenient as a means of judging one’s location: while many, but far from all, of Enfield’s street name plates, for example, come emblazoned with the heraldic beast which constitutes Enfield Council’s logo, a state of affairs similar to that in the other Outer London Boroughs, all other traffic signs are centrally regulated and therefore regionally unspecific. The other indicators of location within a particular borough are all much less common than these name plates, and therefore awareness of whether one is, or crucially, one is not, inside the London formally recognised by the Government is heavily dependent upon circumstance, and seldom a practical means of determining London’s borders abstractly.

The experience of a borough is also an overwhelmingly personal one; one can be sure that one lives in a given borough, as services such as waste collection and local council elections require direct engagement, and most boroughs are unrelenting in their delivery of promotional material to residents’ homes. Knowing whether another person lives in a London Borough is therefore a far less likely occurrence than knowing whether one’s own address lies within London’s ‘official’ confines. General election constituencies, which despite being highly fluid do not stray beyond a borough’s boundaries, can facilitate this process, but still require a knowledge of politics, and of the other person’s MP. Whether these boundaries are of any meaning to inhabitants of Wigan or Warrington is also distinctly questionable. The boundaries of the London Boroughs do not feature on Google Maps, the most commonly deployed means of navigation and orientation, while A-Z’s Master Atlas of Greater London covers an area which includes towns such as Brentwood and Worpleston, both of which lie far outside the ‘Greater London’ defined by the legislation of 1963. Even those who live near to the borders are unlikely to be aware of their precise location, as geography in most cases prohibits them from straddling natural frontiers. The theoretical borders of London thus aid a general recognition of London’s extent, but are themselves so difficult to be sure of that, while undoubtedly important, they are merely one of many ways applied informally at least to separate London from without.

The situation is further distorted by another traditional means by which the country is divided, namely postcodes. This system is from my personal experience at least a common means of determining whether somebody lives ‘in London’. A perhaps somewhat perverse form of judgment exists within our household; a house with an ‘E’ postcode is considered to have a London address, while those houses beyond Fuller’s Road which have an ‘IG’ postcode is considered to have a London address, while those houses beyond Fuller’s Road which have an ‘IG’ postcode are viewed as lying outside the capital. The ‘IG’ postcode has at its centre Ilford, the administrative centre of the London Borough of Redbridge, and yet our system of determination is not wholly without justification, as the ‘IG’ postcode area is entirely unrelated to the area of Redbridge Council’s jurisdiction. Places such as Loughton and Chigwell, both for us decidedly within Essex’, bear the ‘IG’ postcode but have their rubbish collected by Epping Forest District Council dustcarts. Transitions between postcode areas do not, however, in all cases represent practical divisions. The ‘DA’ (Dartford) postcode, for instance, extends so far into and out of London that it could not possibly be employed by local residents as a distinguishing factor. The use of smaller postal districts such as DA1, however, to define the London area, is an entirely plausible state of affairs as, despite the fact that the boundaries of these districts are
not coterminous with those of the London Boroughs, academics such as Fitzwilliam College Fellow Jason Rentfrow apparently see no issue with defining Greater London according to its ‘216 postal districts’. A person with little direct experience of the area might, on the other hand, be surprised to discover that ‘Barnehurst, DA7’ was in fact a London address, and the fact that the Outer London boroughs for the most part do not belong to the ‘London postal district’, consisting of postcodes such as N, SW and E, renders postcodes a haphazard means of defining London. Dependent on knowledge, some might simply regard the limits of these specific postcode areas as the limits of London, while others, either aware or not of the limitations of the postcode areas, may simply disregard postcodes altogether when deciding the London boundary. Others, however, particularly on London’s very fringes, will make use of both postcode areas and districts, thanks to their greater convenience, to define a London different, albeit only by a few streets, from the one defined by the London Government Act.

Another way of dividing the country for the purpose of communications gives rise to another means of separating London from what lies outside. Sterling Windscreen’s of 86 Eastcote Road, Ruislip, can be reached by dialling 02088137610. Dialling 0819542244, meanwhile, will connect one with Conchita Couture, a wedding-dress maker based three doors down at 89 Eastcote Road. Both lie comfortably within the London Borough of Hillingdon, yet one is in possession of a London dialling code, the other the dialling code assigned to Uxbridge. Although the 020 code has only been in operation for fifteen years, and is not strictly necessary when dialling from a landline, the disparity in the number of digits required when telephoning a ‘London’ and an ‘outside London’ number renders this a convenient and broadly accessible means of reaching a conclusion as to whether somebody lives beyond the capital’s frontiers. The increasing mobilisation of telecommunications, however, and the ability of telephones to store numbers means that knowing an individual’s telephone number is no longer the necessity it once was. Additionally, while the telephone directory has not entirely disappeared, the advent of e-mail as well as video-chat software such as Skype which employ non-geographically-specific addresses has reduced the prominence of the telephone number. On a residential and small business basis, and chiefly among the older demographic, however, the dialling code remains an important determinant of London residency, being more practical than borough boundaries and more widely known than postcodes.

Perhaps the most fundamentally ‘practical’ of any potential London boundary is the 117-mile roughly circular formation clearly marked on modern road maps which appears to enclose the city. The tortured history of the M25 motorway, which incorporates sections of routes originally constructed as part of the elaborate London Ringways plan formulated by the Greater London Council in the 1960s, reveals no suggestion that it was ever intended as anything more than a means of alleviating congestion in and around the city’s centre, although the alternative designation of the London Orbital Motorway, recognised officially since the announcement of the incorporation of the M16 into the roadway in 1975, since reflected culturally in Iain Sinclair’s 2002 book and film project London Orbital, does provide justification, linguistically at least, for regarding the motorway as a London border. The case is strengthened by such government documents as the 2003 Communications Act, which repeatedly references the ‘outside the M25 area’, as well as the consideration that the M25 has altered the administrative boundaries of Greater London itself, the boroughs of Hillingdon, Barnet and Havering having adjusted their borders in 1993 such that they might follow the route of the motorway. The sharp definition and widespread accessibility of this particular limit to the London area is clear, at least eight lanes of tarmac providing a barrier broken only by a mile-long section of non-motorway which incorporates the Dartford Crossing. It also seems to lie a suitable distance from the centre to merit reasonable consideration as an outer confine, in contrast to other potential roadway boundaries such as the London Inner Ring Road and the North and South Circulars. The road, however, does define an extremely large London, containing such villages as Chevening and Downside which boast few other qualifications as parts of London. Nor is the motorway one of uniform circularity, rendering it more apt as a boundary in some areas, such as those aforementioned boroughs whose borders are partly defined by it, than in others, particularly south-west Essex and north-east Surrey, where the M25 lies as much as seven miles from the furthest extent of the administrative unit that is Greater London. As such, it retains a greater significance for those outside London seeking a rough boundary than for those resident in and around the city forming a judgment as to where London ceases.

One of the features which might indicate that an urban area such as London has given way to an area beyond its frontiers is the transition in land use evident in the outskirts of cities. The Metropolitan Green Belt, when viewed on a map zoomed out such that the entirety of Britain is visible, would appear to form a viable London border zone, the green shaded area uninterruptedly enclosing a space which would appear to correspond to other definitions of the London area. The problems of employing green-belt land as a practical means of differentiating London and what lies beyond are, however, numerous, but these do not undermine it entirely. The piecemeal process by which green-belt land has been accumulated and discarded since the 1947 Town and Country Planning Act has firstly led to the establishment of a highly irregular border, the ‘belt’ being a far from uniform one. The Metropolitan Green Belt extends into areas of Walthamstow and Mill Hill, both difficult to exclude from a consideration of London, but only in a narrow strip, while the ‘boundary’ in the west is patchy in the extreme, isolated segments in Hayes and Hounslow reducing its feasibility as a continuous border. The green-belt area itself is also subject to regular alterations, coming under the remit of local authorities rather than being centrally controlled. Bexley adjusted the boundaries of their green-belt land in 1996, proposals in Enfield to redesignate 4.35 hectares of green belt have reached an advanced stage, and more generally it has been estimated that 32,000 hectares of green-belt land were lost in the UK between 2003 and 2012, although this of course this figure incorporates green belts other than the Metropolitan one. The issue of boundary awareness is not problematic from
a direct visual perspective, the transition in most cases indeed being 'knife-sharp', as Rowan Moore last year in the Observer attested. It is normally with respect to other people that London is defined, however, the question of agricultural land lying inside or outside London seldom arising in comparison to the assessment of towns, villages, streets or individual houses. The inconsistency of the green belt’s implementation ultimately renders the concept of living ‘beyond the green belt’ futile, and thus this potential means of deciding the limits of London is not of great significance, despite its potential applicability.

The aforementioned boundaries have all been introduced within the space of a lifetime, but in some cases the forces of convention and tradition have proved sufficiently long enduring to render this period of time a mere trifle. The counties of Middlesex and Surrey still loom large in the consciousness, despite the former no longer existing as a unit of political administration, having been almost entirely absorbed into the new Greater London. When writing the address on letters to my aunt in Enfield Lock, I still write ‘Middx.’ instead of London, inspired, somewhat obscurely, by a sketch from Monty Python’s Flying Circus. In a less idiosyncratic demonstration of how ancient boundaries still retain a significance, London Fields Cricket Club, based deep within the London Borough of Hackney, lies inside the Middlesex Cricket Board’s area of jurisdiction. Although it is likely the case that many, given the extensive encroachment of the city into the county, now simply regard the county as part of London, it maintains a potentially obfuscating separate identity. The case of Surrey, meanwhile, presents a greater issue for those attempting to discern the boundaries. Surrey County Council has its headquarters at Kingston upon Thames, a town inside Greater London and therefore outside its area of control, but the subtleties of the arrangement would elude most but local residents.

The extent to which the London Borough of Sutton has encroached upon Surrey’s former territory could be underestimated quite understandably; when his radio and television programmes were first broadcast, Tony Hancock’s house at 23 Railway Cuttings, East Cheam was located in a less salubrious quarter of an affluent Surrey town. The same address would now sit within a less salubrious quarter of an affluent London suburb, although this is not acknowledged by the Friends of Whitehall, a historic property in Cheam; nor by the Cheam Woodturners Association; nor by the online estate agency Rightmove, who all, for a variety of reasons, still seem to regard Cheam as a town in Surrey. Middlesex and Surrey, though anomalous as counties partially appropriated, do demonstrate the potency of the past in rendering London’s boundaries indistinct, although a force stronger still can perhaps explain the third quoted example of the persistence of an archaic division.

The boundaries of London are very broad indeed as they are defined by various commercial entities. As well as the previously cited examples of hotels and estate agents’ property descriptions, various small businesses can be found to have adopted an intriguingly broad definition of ‘London’, including CCTV Global London Ltd., based in Woking, the London Nail Company, whose premises can be found in Tunbridge Wells, and North London Car Sounds, a car alarm retailer located some 20 miles north of central London in Welwyn Garden City. Nowhere is the flexible approach to geography engendered by a capitalist system, however, more apparent than in the case of London’s airports, none of London Gatwick, London Stansted, London Luton or London Southend lying within any of the definitions of the city previously discussed. It is indeed highly questionable whether employees of companies such as RE/MAX, who recently marketed a £353,000 property in ‘one of the most cosmopolitan areas of London’, more generally known as the Bedfordshire town of Luton, truly regard their headquarters or products as lying inside London. These economically-motivated attempts to define location, however, do highlight the hugely subjective nature of the capital’s boundaries, even changing according to individuals’ private and public conceptions of the city’s extent. There must, furthermore, have been many tourists arriving in Luton expecting rather less than an hour’s drive (in perfect traffic conditions) to reach Trafalgar Square.

One means of defining a large London with less obscure justification than in the case of the forces of commercialism is through Transport For London’s public transit system. The London Underground, in one direction at least, extends as far as Amersham, well inside Buckinghamshire, although such deep incursion into London’s outskirts is atypical of the system, particularly in the south, Richmond, Kingston-upon-Thames, Sutton, Croydon and Bromley boasting a grand total of two Tube stations between them. The furthest reach of the London Bus network provides a less highly localised way of defining the extent of the city, serving towns beyond the bounds of Greater London as administratively defined around the entirety of the city’s perimeter. Although specific routes are likely only to be known locally, the termini of buses are prominently displayed, making them practical as a means of at least forming a judgment as to what lies inside London, the presence of London buses being far easier to determine than their absence. The point at which a Transport For London service becomes a local one can also in some cases be somewhat indistinct, routes such as the R21 using red buses, stopping at Transport For London bus stops and accepting the Oyster Card for part of their journey, but in fact being operated by Red Rose on behalf of Hertfordshire County Council. The use of private companies such as Arriva, Stagecoach and Abellio does deprive London Buses of a coherent identity bearing direct contrast to ‘outside’ services, but the London transport network remains a sensible and convenient indicator of London location to those in the very borderlands where the question of the borders of London is most pressing.

A full consideration of the area served by London Underground as London would necessitate a designation of Theydon Bois, a village with a station on the Central Line, as being a part of London. According to Professor Sir Richard Evans, who grew up there, however, the settlement is ‘definitely outside London, on the edge of Epping Forest’. How might this judgment have been reached? Theydon Bois does lie outside the ‘official’ extent of Greater London, in the county of Essex, has a CM postcode, an 01992 dialling code and, although it is situated inside the M25, is not home to any businesses giving an indication of a London location. It is doubtful,
however, that any of these arbitrary characteristics would contribute to the formulation of a consideration of the village’s location by anyone familiar with it; devoid of street lighting, small in size and surrounded by woodland and open country, nucleated about a village green, with a 17th-century pub and a fine collection of 19th-century oak trees, Theydon Bois simply does not ‘feel’ like London. Although London possesses a variety of guises, from the sleek skyscrapers of the City through to the tranquil canals of Little Venice, it nevertheless retains a distinct character which contrasts with that of some of the settlements on its outskirts. The difference in ambience which separates a suburb from a separate village is naturally a matter of subjectivity, perhaps difficult to define or at least to articulate, but for some with experience of such settlements, a powerful force. London is ever expanding, and may well consume Theydon Bois in due course, either by appropriating or altering its distinguishing qualities, but for the time being, in the eyes of those who know it at least, Theydon Bois, as well as other villages such as Stoke d’Abernon, Otford, Chalfont St. Giles and Wennington, lie outside London primarily owing to their conformation to a rural English ideal.

In conclusion, as was indicated in the introduction, no definitive answer has been provided to the question which forms this essay’s title. London stops in a variety of places, mostly depending on one’s knowledge, both in a general factual sense and in terms of more intimate familiarity, this in turn determined by circumstance and active curiosity, either general or a product of need or relevance. The means of defining London predominantly relate to definite geographical divisions formulated within the past hundred years in order to facilitate administration or communications, the lack of congruency between these divisions resulting in a London more subjectively defined than if the principles of private enterprise, historical understanding and the conception of the capital’s nature were the only ambiguous factors.

ARROL ADAM PRIZE FOR FICTION

Tidewrack – Nell Whittaker

The girl was a collection of angles and white lines out in the black water where the light from the moon touched her naked thighs and arms and made them stark against the darkness of the sea and the sky. She was looking down at the water and breaking the surface with the tips of her fingers. The water came up against her knees and her father, standing alone and dark against the sand on the beach, thought that she looked as though she was standing in glass. The girl turned on the spot and looked out across the sea and she crossed her arms to grip the opposite elbow. She took a few small unsteady steps forward. ‘Don’t go out any further,’ the man called. She looked at him over her shoulder, and then turned around to wade back carefully through the water. She leaned over to look at something floating, standing bent over to wade back carefully through the water. She looked at him over her shoulder, and then turned forward. ‘Don’t go out any further,’ the man called.

As she came closer through the shallow water he could see first the lights and shadows of her face and then her face in detail. He saw her dark wet hair clinging to her skin. She was holding her shoulders up high like a bird holds its wings when it’s on the ground. He could hear the sound of her legs through the water now and he held out the towel to her and watched her face as she came up the beach, half-running and smiling and shaking with the cold. ‘Oh my God!’ she said and took the towel. ‘You’re all wet,’ he said. ‘I’m all cold,’ she said. He put his hands on her back and rubbed the towel against her. ‘Were you watching?’ she said to the girl. ‘Yes,’ said the man. ‘I was worrying you’d be swept away.’ ‘Dad,’ she said. The man laughed.

They walked up the beach and sat on the sand higher up and looked out over the black sea. She was wearing his jumper and her jeans and they were wet all over the back and at her crotch from the wet underwear she was wearing underneath. The man had a cigarette and when he brought it away from his lips there was sand in his mouth and he spat it out onto the ground. The noise of the sea was a loud roaring, coming closer and receding away. ‘Are you cold?’ the man said. ‘No,’ she said. ‘Just a bit wet.’ ‘You should have brought some different clothes.’ ‘Mm.’ ‘You’re warm enough?’ ‘I’m fine.’

The man had hoped that while they were here away from the city he would feel close to her and he had felt that closeness in a sudden welcomed blow when she came out of the water. Now she was sitting a little way away from him and she was not excited and childlike anymore despite her teenage unsureness with her limbs and her long hair which made her look so much like an adult, and slowly he felt the closeness ebb away and she was becoming a stranger again. But he put his arm around her and after a moment she leaned her wet head against him.

‘Shall we walk back?’ he said. ‘I think I’d like to just sit here,’ she said. ‘If that’s alright.’ ‘Yeah,’ said the man. ‘Fine.’ She stayed there for a few moments and then she sat upright again and looked out to sea.

They sat for a while and the black sea and the sky began paling. The clouds were first dark-blue lumps and then light-blue and then they broke apart into wisps of white across the sky. The sky was orange over on the other side of the sea fading to blue and the sun, as the man and the girl sat watching, came up trembling in the air and its bright edge turned the water orange where they touched. There were darker clouds in a bank across the horizon. ‘Might rain later,’ said the man.

They went back along the headland through the yellow-green thin wind-weathered grass, following the sheep paths. Along the hills the ground had slumped down and made little ledges which they climbed up to reach the cottage. It was daylight now and bright, and they could see the seagulls were wheeling in the sky further inland over the town. They had left the door to the cottage open and they went inside and the girl wiped her bare feet on the mat.

‘Would you like some eggs?’ said the man. ‘We’ve got six eggs.’ He scrambled the eggs in a battered greasy frying pan on the stove and while they were cooking he washed two forks from the drawer. They were dusty from having laid there still for years. ‘Do you remember doing this when you were little?’ he asked her when they were eating them. ‘We used to come here every summer holidays. The first time you came here you were a baby and you slept in one of the drawers sticking out from the
dresser.’ The girl had her mouth full. The man waited. She said, ‘I remember it being much bigger. The cottage.’ She looked at her plate. ‘The smell is the same.’ The scrape of the man’s fork against the plate. He sat chewing. ‘What smell?’ ‘I don’t know. The smell when you get out of the car and go into the house and everything’s damp.’ ‘I don’t know. The smell when you get out of the car and go into the house and everything’s damp.’

When they had arrived two days ago the corners of the house were full of sandy earth that had blown in through the open kitchen window, and an animal had made a kind of nest out of dirt and dried grass in the old faded sofa. Everything was the same as the last time he had been there eight years ago. As soon as they walked in the man had regretted bringing his daughter here. She had been carsick on the way down and he felt sick too when he walked into the house and saw the familiar yellowing curtains and the tiles chipped in the familiar places on the kitchen floor.

‘We used to eat lots of eggs when you were little,’ said the man. ‘It’s amazing you’re not an egg,’ he said and he laughed. ‘I didn’t see the sign on the road for the little farm where we used to buy them. We should check tomorrow when we go past that it’s still there.’ The girl nodded. ‘With the sheepdog,’ ‘That’s right.’ The man took the plates and went outside to scrape them into the bushes a distance from the house. ‘Rats,’ he said when he came in. ‘I don’t trust that bin.’ ‘Yeah.’ He washed up the plates in the small stained sink and dried them and put them in the dusty cupboard.

‘Early morning swimming was nice,’ said the man. ‘Are you sleepy?’ ‘Not really,’ she said. ‘Feel fine.’ The man leaned on the table and looked at her. ‘I think I might read now,’ he said. ‘What will you do? Have you got a book?’ ‘Yeah,’ said the girl. She dipped her head at a paperback on the side. ‘What’s that?’ ‘Was one of Mum’s. I found it in her things.’ ‘The man stayed looking at the girl. He tried to think of another question to ask her. ‘Righto.’ The girl stood up slowly and the worn-down chair legs squealed to think of another question to ask her. ‘Righto.’ The girl stood up slowly and the worn-down chair legs squealed.

The man sat in his bed and read. He woke up slowly some time later, his hands clasped and resting on his belly. He put his hand out and found the book closed on the bed, his place lost. The light was coming in through the window and the dust motes moved slowly in and out of the bright straight beam that fell across the bed. He didn’t know where he was and he put his hand to his face and felt the spit that had dried down his chin. He felt very tired and very heavy, as though he was tied to the bedframe. ‘Lucy,’ he called, and heard his own voice as if it were coming to him from another room. ‘Lucy?’ He heard her shift on the other side of the wall. The man put his head back against the wall and closed his eyes. He sat there until he had remembered where he was exactly and what had happened. He looked at his watch. It was half past twelve and he had been asleep for three hours. He raised himself up and went to stand in the doorway.

The girl was sitting with her back to him reading. Her hair was pulled to one side leaving only the thin wispy darker hairs at the nape of her neck. ‘Reading?’ She looked at him and smiled absent. ‘What is it?’ She held the cover up for him. ‘It’s about a couple called Tomas and Tereza.’ ‘Is it good?’ ‘Mm.’ She looked at him. He did not move and she turned back to her book.

‘Are you hungry again?’ ‘Mm.’ In the kitchen, he looked in the plastic bags for what was left of the food they’d bought on the way down. He laid the sausages in the frying pan and poured the baked beans into the saucepan and put them both on the single hotplate. He stood at arm’s length and turned away to avoid the hot fat spitting from the sausages and stirred the beans with his sleeve pulled over his hand. She came into the kitchen and rinsed the tins and put them in the bin and when the sausages and beans were done they shared them between two plates and ate them at the table.

‘Can we go down to the beach again?’ said the girl. Remembering her open laughing face coming towards him up the beach, the man nodded. ‘Yeah. If you want.’ They ate. The girl speared each bean with her fork and let the sauce grow congealed on the plate. ‘How did you and Mum find here?’ she said. The man swallowed. ‘Sorry?’ ‘How did you and Mum find here? The cottage?’ ‘Oh,’ said the man. ‘The cottage. We found it by mistake, actually… we were walking along here, staying in the town in her aunt’s house.’ He pointed at the wall in the direction of the town. ‘Auntie Judy’s. You remember Auntie Judy?’ ‘Yeah.’

‘Well, anyway. We just saw this and it obviously had no one living in it and we … we thought we’d like to buy it. And we did. We got ripped off I think. The man could see how much we wanted it. And then we did it up and started coming here every year – firstly just us two and then later once with you in your mum’s belly and then with you, with you as a baby and then a little girl … Every time we came the cottage was a little closer to the sea and a little more falling down. Then when your mum and I separated. ‘The man looked up and into the girl’s face. She was watching him as he talked. ‘When your mum and I separated, the cottage came to me because it was in my name. I … I think I didn’t really like coming here. I let it fall into a bit of a state, really. As we saw when we first got here.’

The girl started eating her beans again, one by one. ‘Why? Why do you ask?’ said the man. ‘Was just wondering,’ said the girl. ‘I don’t really remember it very well.’ ‘Yes. Well, you were only tiny.’ ‘What did we do when we were here?’ ‘Hm. God,’ said the man. ‘I don’t know. We read a lot. You slept. We went down to the beach and you looked in the rocks for heart-shaped ones to bring to your mum.’ ‘I remember doing that.’

He watched her as she ate. ‘Did you miss her, then?’ she asked suddenly. ‘Yes,’ he said. Then he was hotly aware of the lie and spoke quickly. ‘No. At first I did. But then I felt … lighter.’ The girl looked at him and chewed. ‘I suppose now I’ll miss her all over again.’ ‘You didn’t really see her very much towards the end,’ said the girl. ‘I suppose now I’ll miss her all over again.’ ‘You didn’t really see her very much towards the end,’ said the girl.

Later in the day, they walked again down to the sea again. The day was bright and the wind flattened the grass against the hillsides in waves so that it looked like the sleek side of an enormous sleeping animal. The sea was rough and choppy and the white spray broke all over the sea surface and the noise of the water on the stones was loud and relentless.
‘Early start tomorrow,’ said the man. ‘We should leave here at about seven to miss the jams on the motorway.’ The girl had her eyes screwed up against the wind and it sent her hair streaming back behind her. ‘Early night tonight?’ ‘Yeah.’ ‘Then we’ll – woah!’ He almost slipped on the grass. She looked around without stopping walking. ‘We’ll go to the house and get some of your things. We’ll leave the rest for the movers. We’ll just get the things you’ll need for a few days before you’re moved in properly.’ ‘Okay.’ ‘I’ve set your room up. Double bed, shelves and things.’ He watched her to see if she would reply. ‘What do you think you’ll need?’ ‘I don’t know. Toiletries and things.’ Pyjamas. ‘Okay,’ said the man. ‘Fine.’ They walked in silence for a while. ‘Do you know what things of Mum’s you’ll want to. To take? To have in the house.’ He tried to see her face but she was looking down to step carefully over the little heaps of dried sheep shit pellets on the path. ‘I hadn’t thought about it,’ said the girl.

There were no other people on the beach. They walked along with heads down against the wind. The man watched the waves coursing over the patches of shingle and bringing pebbles up the beach and he listened to the rattling of the pebbles over the stones as the waves went back out. There was a line of dead seaweed and plastic running along the whole beach which had been left when the tide went out. There were broken feathers and rotting bits of plant and the man bent to pick up a stone with a hole right through it. He found a limpet shell which the sea had worn to a ring of smooth white and he put it on his thumb. He picked up a white feather but it had a clump of darkness at the shaft which looked like flesh and he dropped it again.

He went up the beach to where the hill jutted out of the headland and he looked up at the crumbling earth with its sprays of thin grass and he followed with his eyes the sheep paths that threaded all over the hill. He looked for the little yellow flowers which start to grow as it gets warmer and he thought about coming here with the girl and her mother when she was so little, and how easy it was then to make her laugh and how showing her the shells and the bleached white sheep bones he thought that he knew everything that there was to know.

He looked up and saw the girl ahead of him on the beach with her hands in her pockets. She was standing and looking at something on the ground and he walked to meet her. ‘What’s that?’ he asked. She didn’t turn around. He came up beside her and looked at the mass on the ground at her feet.

It was a carrier bag made from thick cream plastic that had been discoloured by being in the sea. The handles were knotted together and it had ripped along the seam and there was spilling from inside it something that had once been a cat. The head and one leg came out of the bag and the fur was dark and scummy and slicked down. The cat’s eyes were closed but its mouth was open and wetly gaping and he could see the lines of tiny pointed teeth. He thought he could see a silver of bone showing through the rotting fur but it moved and he saw that it was a maggot. ‘That’s horrible,’ said the man and his chest felt hollow. ‘Get away from it, Lucy. Who would put – God. Don’t look at it.’ But he stayed looking down at the cat and he felt the girl’s presence strongly beside him and he didn’t know what to say to her. He suddenly felt the jarring of tears in his throat and a trembling at the corners of his mouth and he began to cry, and he was surprised at his crying and tried to stop himself. Tears came into the corners of his eyes and he held them back and felt them hotly there and he put the heel of his hand to his face and wiped his eyes and he hoped in shock that his daughter hadn’t seen. ‘It stinks,’ said the girl. ‘Eurgh.’

He looked at her through his wet eyelashes where she was standing close to him and she was looking down at the cat still. Her face was all light and shadow because of the afternoon light coming onto her face from the side and one of her eyes was in darkness and one was in the light, and her eyelashes sent trembling shadows down her cheek. She was holding her hair back in her hand because the wind was moving it into her face and he felt as though he had never seen her before and that he didn’t know who she was. He felt a heaviness in his stomach that said to him – so forcefully that it could have been a real and loud voice in his ear – that he didn’t want to bring her home with him to his house and his work and his weekends, that he wanted to leave her on the beach with the wild tufts of grass on the dunes and the noise of the wind on the sea. She glanced sideways at him and then stepped over the dead cat and walked away along the beach and then turned to face him.

The man turned away from her and looked out to the sea. There were big grey clouds far out and then he pointed his chin at them with his jaw set and one more tear came, and then another. He stood there for a while and then he dragged his wrists across his now only slightly damp eyes and wiped them on his trousers. He looked to his daughter. She was walking along the beach already quite far ahead, head down, looking for things that had been washed up by the sea.

TSUZUKI SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

The exchange scheme, now in its seventeenth year, enables graduates from Fitzwilliam and from St Anne’s, Oxford, to spend a year at Japan University of Economics, where they study Japanese language and immerse themselves in Japanese culture. The University is in Kyushu, in the coastal city of Fukuoka which faces South Korea across the straits. The scheme is funded entirely by Tsuzuki Sogo Gakuen, a trust comprising some fifty institutions which supports 70,000 children and young people at all stages of education from kindergarten through to university. The Institute pays for all travel, board and lodging and also funds tuition for one academic year. The graduates teach English conversation for a few hours a week in a school, and often undertake private tuition as well.

This year, five students from Fitzwilliam – Andrew José de Castro (2013), Chloe Lane (2010), Alex McLachlan (2011), Laura Pugh (2011) and Stephanie Richards (2011) – and four students from St Anne’s made the journey to the Orient.

Culture Shock and Daily Routine – Chloe Lane

Everyone adjusts differently to life in a new place, and it was no different with us upon arriving in Japan. We were quick to notice the positives in our new environment: the weather was milder, the transport ran on time, shops were open later (or even for 24 hours), and the toilets were open later (or even for 24 hours), and the toilets
Of course everywhere has its good and bad points, and it was after this initial honeymoon phase that the negation stage of the culture-shock cycle began to set in. As well as missing home comforts and friends, some of us found that the small differences started to become bigger obstacles in our daily lives. The language barrier meant that everything we previously took for granted became a challenge, and making new friends outside our group of nine was a lot more difficult when we couldn’t communicate our thoughts and feelings in Japanese. That being said, we found ourselves adjusting as we became more familiar with the language and culture, and slowly those barriers began to lose their importance and fade away.

Some of us became so comfortable with our new lives, that going back home brought its own form of culture shock. I, for one, forgot how cold and windy the UK was, even in August. And a convenience store will never be truly convenient to me again, unless I can pop in for a hot meal, a new shirt, and to pay for flights to a foreign country – all at three o’clock in the morning.

As for our daily routine, classes started relatively late, at 10:40, however most of us ended up with two morning shifts at Linden Hall School, beginning at 09:00. There were two classes a day, each an hour and a half long, with a 50-minute lunch break in between. In the evenings, in addition to further Japanese study, most of us taught English to a variety of different people: from preschoolers, to housewives, to pensioners. Between weekends, vacation periods, and the massive seventeen national holidays Japan enjoys in a year, there was also plenty of time for relaxation, for travel and, of course, for Karaoke.

Studying Japanese – Stephanie Richards

On our fifth day in Japan, we launched into our language adventure, constituting 10 months of intensive Japanese lessons three hours a day, five days a week. The majority of the group consisted of complete beginners, knowing little more than a few characters, hurriedly learned before departure. This made for an intense beginning to what was to be a challenging but rewarding experience.

Exposure to three different teaching styles under Ikehara sensei, Watanabe sensei and Nagamatsu sensei gave an additional dynamism to learning, ranging from predominantly English-taught Japanese to language-immersive teaching. They also made efforts to engage us in Japan’s cultural traditions, ranging from a whole host of new celebrations such as ‘strawberry day’ based on quirks in the Japanese pronunciation of the dates, to Festivals like Setsubun which we marked by throwing dried soy beans from the classroom window to chase away evil spirits.

As our language progressed we delved into songs, poetry and, in our Japanese History classes, a short story written following the Second World War. Whilst all definitely challenged our language abilities, they made an interesting divergence from grammar and vocabulary and put what we knew into practice.

Alongside our studies, we were the honoured guests at a number of language-exchange lunches. Thrown in at the deep end, the first occurred when we could say little more than ‘that is a pen’ but these developed into a friendly way to chat with some of our fellow students. Matchings with language-exchange partners also proved fruitful for some, and led to some very rewarding relationships that have continued since our departure.

Teaching at Linden – Laura Pugh

As part of our scholarship we taught a wide array of students at Linden Elementary School and High School. The Elementary School is just opposite the University, and provides bilingual education for students aged 6 to 12. We were each assigned a year group, and we would each read with our students one morning each week. Through individual reading practice with each student, we were able to get to know our students well and really to take pride in their improvement as the year progressed. "Horton Hears a Who! remains one of my personal favourites of the year."
In the afternoons we ran the English After-School Club, where students are offered snacks and homework help. It wasn’t always easy teaching a room of highly excitable young children, but it was always fun to spend time with the kids and learn more about their lives growing up in Japan. We are also now experts in an impressive number of J-Pop celebrities and in all things One Direction!

At the High School, we worked with smaller groups of students to develop their conversational English. Each week they chose a new book for discussion. Their choices ranged from classics like A Little Princess and Roald Dahl, to Spiderman and the particularly popular Hunger Games trilogy. It was a pleasure to hear their thoughts and opinions on what they read, and watch their confidence levels increase as the year progressed.

We were also invited to attend various school events throughout the year. Just a week after we arrived in Fukuoka was Linden Hall Sports Day; a day not just of sporting events but also of interim creative performances by each year group. Watching the first graders dance to Avril Lavigne’s Sk8r Boi was possibly the most adorable scene of the year. The Elementary School also performs a Shakespeare play each Spring. This year, it was The Merry Wives of Windsor, and having worked with the students to help them memorise their lines over the preceding weeks, it was wonderful to watch them on stage.

Outcomes of the programme – Andrew José de Castro
It won’t surprise the reader to learn that one of the preeminent advantages of spending a year in Japan is the ability to tick off a long checklist of cultural clichés. These range from the obvious – singing karaoke at full pelt until 3am; to the challenging – eating raw chicken sashimi offered to you as a pre-drink snack; to the numbingly painful – kneeling on the floor during a three-hour-long traditional tea ceremony in which fidgeting is highly disrespectful.

We all, of course, left Fukuoka speaking vastly more Japanese than when we arrived. Even now, in the autumnal comfort of home, the subconscious occasionally brings up Japanese vocabulary we forgot we ever owned. After all, learning Japanese was the purpose of the scholarship, even if we did feel at times like our own versions of Sisyphus, each pushing a huge boulder up Mount Fuji only to watch it roll back to the bottom when presented with the next set of complex kanji.

Aside from the language learning, there were some inexorably personal challenges muddled in too: of trying to exist as distinct individuals in a conformist society; of locals doing their best to avoid sitting in the seat next to you for the duration of a crushingly busy rush-hour train journey; of staying motivated in the depths of winter, when even a brief glimpse of Christmas decorations brings a yearning for hearth and home, for mince pies and mulled wine.

In the end, as a group of nine tenacious, ambitious and determined students, we achieved outcomes which were no doubt different to those we had imagined we would depart with. Only two of our number – myself included – have decided to stay in Japan to pursue newly-forged opportunities, be they career-motivated or romantically-motivated. Another three have embarked on Master’s or PhD programmes at home and abroad, determined to drink even deeper from the grail of academia. The final four have returned home – mostly to the UK, with one to Singapore – to commence the perilous task of job-hunting in a diverse range of industries, no doubt influenced somewhat by their time in Fukuoka.

We arrived, most of us, as strangers to each other in a foreign country, naïve to the joys and challenges that our year in Japan would bring. We departed, satisfyingly, as graduates of the Japan University of Economics; as friends, thankfully, with a shared history forged by a unique experience; and, predictably, as enthusiasts for Japan – with all its idiosyncrasies and contradictions, a wonderful host during a year of extraordinary discovery.

In the classroom with Ikehara sensei
MARK SAVAGE TRAVEL AWARDS

The travel awards, given annually, commemorate Mark Savage (1999) who died in 2000 whilst he was an undergraduate at Fitzwilliam.

Political graffiti in Crete

During Easter 2015, I participated in a residential field-trip to Crete, Greece, organised by the University’s Geography Department. We each carried out an independent research project over three days and wrote a 2000-word report. We stayed in Rethymno, a medium-sized town in Northern Crete, for most of the trip. En route to Crete I noticed the overwhelming presence of roadside graffiti and became interested in the functions of political graffiti as a repertoire of a multiplicity of local social movements. I started my investigation by going round the streets and alleyways of Rethymno, photographing graffiti and gaining an idea of their form, style, spatial distributions, and message (with the help of a local translator). Other means of investigation included in-depth interviews with two local political-graffiti artists and with the vice-mayor of Rethymno, and carrying out ten surveys with locals to find out about their perceptions on the functionality and aesthetic value of local graffiti. Some interesting findings emerged from my research. For the anti-fascist activists I interviewed, for example, graffiti acted as an informal social control against oppositional fascist activists.

I thoroughly enjoyed my time in Crete. The field-trip was the first time for me to travel with an academic agenda, and I found the whole process intellectually stimulating. Immersion into real-life scenarios enabled me to bring to life the theories I have learnt and, through observations and talking with locals, my previous understanding of geographical concepts have been deepened, morphed – and sometimes challenged. It was particularly inspiring to travel with a group of peers, as each engaged with the place in a different way, and new ideas formed through constant discussion and feedback.

Looking back, the field-trip provided me with a solid foundation of independent research skills before my dissertation research project in summer. This is especially true for skills that cannot be gained through reading alone, like approaching strangers in a confident and professional manner, confronting someone’s answers critically, or gaining informants through the local network of contacts.

PAN HU (2013)

The impact of technology on Berber culture

As part of the examination for 1B Geography Tripos, we are required to participate in a residential field trip to develop fieldwork and research-method skills as part of a group. I used the travel award to fund my participation in a trip to Morocco, travelling between 13 and 18 March, 2015. As there was subsidy from the Faculty of Geography, the award covered the full cost of the trip. The first and last days in Morocco were spent in Marrakech, exploring the colourful and diverse souks with street foods, dancing, music, carpet sellers, snake charmers and storytellers all in the main square, Jemaa el Fna. Following the brief stay in Marrakech, we ventured north into the High Atlas village of Imlil where we began to conduct our own research projects.

For the next three days, I conducted research into the changing dynamics of technology within Imlil Valley, since mobile phones and the Internet are relatively recent additions to the area. After developing rapport with our guide and translator, I and three others interviewed various categories of people in local villages, including shopkeepers, tour guides, guesthouse owners, and
households, in order to elicit their experiences and their usage of mobile technologies. This allowed us to develop useful fieldwork skills such as interview techniques and ethnographic methods, and to find out about complications that arise in conducting such research. This will prove invaluable for our third-year dissertation projects.

Our conclusions led us to see how technology is reshaping the economies and livelihoods of those in Imlil Valley as many use phones to organise their business and keep in contact with friends and family. Worries around the cultural impact of such technology were however evident, especially in relation to the challenges they pose to Muslim cultural norms and to the erosion of traditional Berber cultural values. Overall, the travel fund allowed me to fully engage with this trip and project, not having to worry about the costs.

WILL MARKS (2013)

CRIMSON CHINA SUMMER EXCHANGE

In the summer of 2015, two Fitzwilliam undergraduates – Ian Samir Yep Manzano (2014) and Sandamini Chandrasekara-Mudiyanseilage (2014) – were selected to take part as Teaching Fellows on the Crimson Summer Exchange, organised by the Chinese Crimson Cultural Exchange Foundation and the University of Hong Kong. Students from universities including Cambridge, Oxford, Harvard, Princeton and Columbia took part in a six-week school-teaching programme in Hong Kong and in either Beijing or Hangzhou.

Ian reported:
As a Medic, I was initially a bit apprehensive at having to teach topics as diverse as globalization, debating and cultural anthropology! However, my uneasiness vanished as soon as I arrived at the University of Hong Kong for the first week of the Crimson Summer Exchange. The whole organisation of the programme was absolutely stellar and the training week at HKU was no exception. We attended lectures, seminars and workshops on diverse topics such as lesson planning, cultural differences between East and West, and tackling common problems within the classroom. In addition to this, every Fellow received one-on-one revision of their lesson plans by the programme Academic Advisors. In the end, all aspects of this introductory week turned out to be helpful as I was confronted by many challenges both inside and outside the classroom. To take just one example: English-language ability as well as academic interests varied widely within the different groups as well as between them. This necessitated constant revision and modification of lesson plans to the extent that it was necessary to construct an entirely new lesson for some of the most advanced students in Hong Kong. This constant need for adaptation was one of the most rewarding parts of the programme from an academic perspective, and it was so gratifying when the hard work paid off – seeing even technology-loving Hong Kong kids forget their phones for an hour and a half!

WILL MARKS (2013)
In medicine, one is often called on to present research, to report on a patient’s history to one’s colleagues, or even to teach or deliver lectures. In this light, the Crimson Summer Exchange served to give me countless hours of invaluable experience in areas such as public speaking – having to deliver a speech on behalf of the Fellows at the closing ceremony – as well as in more intimate supervision-style teaching.

My most cherished experience was the true cultural exchange I partook in. Being paired with a co-Fellow from the University of Hong Kong allowed me really to experience what being a ‘Hongkonger’ is like! I was able to taste the fishballs and mango dumplings of Cheung Chau, experience cycling through the New Territories, sample the best Hot Pot in town, eating 11 courses in the 2-hour buffet time limit, walk along the Great Wall in Beijing, learn countless Cantonese and Mandarin phrases, barter in Mong Kok, ride the Star Ferry, visit the annual Comic Con, and have so many other unforgettable experiences.

I formed some incredible friendships and I even decided to stay on in Hong Kong after the programme ended to continue to share experiences with my new friends.

The programme allowed me to experience Hong Kong and China in such a unique way by interacting with children, fellow students and mentors, and it has left me with unforgettable memories – but at the same time to be craving more!

Sandamini reported:
The Crimson Summer Exchange 2015 experience was absolutely wonderful and unforgettable! Our co-Fellows and organizers from HKU gave us a warm welcome and took very good care of us in Hong Kong as well as in China. It was an incredible opportunity to exchange ideas and have a taste of not one but many different cultures and perspectives, not just with the students but also with the amazing Fellows and co-Fellows from all over the world.

Some of the most memorable moments I took away from that month were those spent in the classroom with different groups of students in Shanghai and Hong Kong – they were enthusiastic and determined in the face of what was a new subject for most of them (public speaking and debating). Brainstorming and planning items for the final performance was a challenging experience for all of us – but one that brought all of us closer together and gave us tremendous joy and excitement. It was absolutely rewarding to see initially-timid students opening up and contributing more and more to the class discussions.

I also cherish the memories outside of the classroom and the students. The organizers kindly facilitated opportunities for us to take a break from work and to enjoy the city, taking us on tours and helping us experiment with their adventurous cuisine and colourful markets! Although we were the teachers, something I loved about this program is that even we got the opportunity to try out many new things and learn a lot of interesting new things. Two instances come to mind – the first was the trip we took to Lai Chi Wo which is inhabited by the indigenous Hakka people – we got the chance to wander about their beautiful little island and try out their dishes. That proved to be an amazing experience!

The second event that comes to mind is the ‘Zombie attack game’ where we had to dress up as zombies to play a massive group game with the students. I was very apprehensive at the start, believing that it will end up being silly – but the dressing up and the game itself was huge fun! Crimson Summer Exchange has enriched me with lots of amazing memories and lessons!
JCR Committee Members, 2015
President: Alexander Cicale
Vice-President: Damiano Sogaro
Treasurer: Maximilian Croci
Academic Affairs Officer: Eleanor Costello
Secretary & Communications Executive: Zoe Walker
Website Officer: Tom Merry
Publications Officer: Daniella Mae Briscoe-Peaple
Ethical Affairs Executive: Caitlin Mackridge
Green Officer: Tessa Lee
Charities Officer: Aneeta Sylolypavan
Target & Access Officer: Sammi Tarling & Leona Hayhoe
Entertainments Committee: Tom Dunn-Massey, Max Herinckx & Millie Paine
Female Welfare Executive: Isla Phillips
Male Welfare Executive: Jake Choules
Disabilities Officer: Jessica Jackson
Ethnic Minorities Officer: Buki Sule
LGBT+ Officer: Joe Binder
International Officer: Sebastian Borgeaud
Women’s Officer: Laura Hallahan

The year began with a debate on affiliation with CUSU, with an overwhelming majority of undergraduates opting to retain our membership. Alongside this, the Committee reworked the room-booking system and continued the process of drastically improving the facilities available for College members. Amongst other things, the JCR now boasts a free-to-play pool table with new accessories, table football and a projector. Meanwhile, we reduced the price differential in rent between the most expensive and the cheapest rooms, and secured a freeze in the minimum meals charge.

Whilst acting as the JCR’s administrative tsar, being ever-present at College and CUSU meetings, and running a successful housing ballot which saw the introduction of ‘pulling up’ to corridors, Damiano Sogaro has worked to encourage safe cycling and organised cycle-safety workshops for Freshers. His efforts have also led to the permanent return of the termly Food and Beverage Working Group and the creation of a suggestions box on the JCR website, both of which have improved the dialogue between students and the catering team.

Maximilian Croci has overseen the doubling of our budget, smooth reimbursement of committee members, and efficient accounting of the Committee’s finances, which are available on the JCR website for the first time.

Eleanor Costello has made it easier for students to express concerns about their DoSs and has sought to clarify their roles and responsibilities. She has also pushed for more rewards for Scholars, including the replacement of book tokens for College prizes with cash. She ensured that there were plenty of study spaces in exam term, arranged for stationery to be sold in the Porters’ Lodge, and is working to make sure that study-help textbooks and more core texts from subject reading lists can be found in the library.

Sophie Keating, Leona Hayhoe and Sammi Tarling have worked closely with the Schools Liaison Officer to truly upscale Fitzwilliam’s Access efforts. Their year began by coordinating the Fitzwilliam contingent of CUSU’s Shadowing Scheme which saw 35 students from schools with little or no history of top university applications visit the College. They set up the Target and Access Goats Facebook group to improve communication and established training sessions which led to increased cross-College involvement.
in Access events. They also hosted a talk with Teach First and played an active role in overhauling the JCR website, paying particular attention to the prospective-applicant and accommodation pages. The team have organised the first ever Fitzwilliam Shadowing Scheme which, if their handling of CUSU’s is anything to go by, will be a massive success.

Isla Phillips and Jake Choules have introduced a plethora of welfare initiatives which have made them an invaluable resource for students needing support. Alongside organising film and comedy nights, and giving College members much needed fixes of hot chocolate during the housing ballot, they provided a source of relief from the pressures of exam term. The duo organised free messages, dance and knitting classes, yoga sessions, a bouncy castle, and delivered cookies to students’ pigeon holes. They’ve also focused on approachability, with the introduction of fortnightly drop-in sessions, Freshers’ welfare packs, and a range of leaflets, stickers and posters.

By arranging formal Halls and brunches, Sebastian Borgeaud has been instrumental in developing our links with international communities in several Colleges including Sidney Sussex, Murray Edwards and Churchill. He has also secured long-term free-of-charge international storage space within the College and put together a stellar International Freshers Week timetable, which for the first time encouraged participation from students arriving early for pre-term courses.

Laura Hallahan has diligently represented the women of the College in fortnightly meetings of CUSU’s Women’s Forum and worked to promote the Good Night Out and Zero Tolerance to Sexual Harassment campaigns within Fitzwilliam. In line with this, she has also developed a new College policy on zero-tolerance to sexual harassment. Alongside a range of volunteers, she delivered a series of informative consent workshops in Freshers Week and has ensured that all third year accommodation will now have sanitary bins.

Although only entering office in Easter term, Jess Jackson brought Mental Health Awareness Week to Fitzwilliam with a display of posters, flyers and biscuits, encouraging undergraduates to make pledges to end the stigma surrounding mental health. Plans are well underway to establish an Emotional Support Group by
the end of the year and address the accessibility issues disabled students face in College and in the housing ballot.

Buki has published a termcard to draw attention to the smorgasbord of cultural events occurring across the University and is looking to encourage BME applications to the College shadowing scheme. She is also running a food festival which will allow all students to showcase an important aspect of their culture.

Joe Binder has focused on forming a cohesive LGBT+ community in College and beyond with ‘swaps’, socials and club-nights aplenty, whilst acting also in a welfare capacity.

Zoe Walker, Tom Merry and Danni Briscoe-Peple have substantially upgraded every JCR communication channel. Zoe has tirelessly coordinated and minuted every committee meeting, and her pun-infested Billy Bulletin is more enjoyable than ever. Tom’s outstanding new website offers a strong point of contact with the committee and a dynamic insight into life at Fitzwilliam for prospective applicants. Danni has worked hard on redecorating the JCR noticeboards and has composed a new-look and incredibly entertaining edition of The Goat Post, whilst making it easier for everyone to submit content. The effort the team put into redesigning the Freshers Week webpage and handbook can be seen in the exceptional end result.

Fenella Keevil, Millie Paine, Tom Dunn-Massey and Max Herinckx began a sensational year by organising Refresher Week featuring a pub crawl, pub quiz and film night and arranging a ceilidh for Burns Night with the MCR. As well as organising club-nights and running a significant number of superhalls and bops, they have revamped Fitz Sessions and overseen more musical talent performing in our bar than ever before. Their first Fitz Up Look Sharp of the year sold out in good time, and with an exciting line-up in place for the second, did so yet again. A better-than-ever timetable for Freshers Week and Michaelmas proved that Fitzwilliam’s social calendar remained in good hands.

Cait Mackridge has brought the positive investment campaign to the College, not least by securing student representation on the Investment Advisory Committee. Working with Tessa Lee, the duo organised an excellent Fairtrade Fortnight, culminating in a superhall attended by Barbara Crowther of the Fairtrade Corporation. They also hosted a Jazz and Wine Night with locally-sourced wine, spirits and ale (not to mention music), and its popularity led to another in Freshers Week which has proudly displayed information on every aspect of College life, leaving no false impressions of who we are and what we do. Our ‘warehouse’ certainly changes perspectives within its walls as beauty truly resides in the spirit and community in College and beyond with ‘swaps’, socials and club-nights aplenty, whilst acting also in a welfare capacity.

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It has been a real pleasure to work with an exceptionally dedicated and creative Committee, without which these achievements would certainly not have been possible.
live performances, theatrical shows, decadent Formal Halls, and even on their hands and knees planting anything edible under the sun in our new College allotments behind Wilson Court. We are truly strengthening our community one social activity at a time to complement the growing needs of the modern MCR member. They can invite their families for a day of tea on the Grove lawns and ride far south on tandem bikes with the Master and her husband. When the summer gets quiet, we have even seen the inauguration of our first MCR summer Formal Hall and subsequent post-dinner drinks in the Grove, which was a massive success for all 51 attendees!

A glass of wine (perhaps not from all vineyards!) can certainly ease a long week’s tension but the MCR takes pride in fully supporting the academic development of our members. Our graduate conferences, talks and academic resources pick up where Departments may become overwhelmed. Yet, we are a lot more to do and thus we are implementing our newest series of ‘Academic Exhibitions’ which were developed with the aid of the Master to give students a much wider social calendar. Private trips to Ely Cathedral, the Pepys Library, Tate Modern in London, and exhibitions in the Fitzwilliam Museum will give our MCR members a holistic approach to relaxation. Physical escape is important too and our sporting team and facilities have seen an amazing year! With a brand new College gym, upgraded MCR sports equipment for hire, and the honour of having two MCR members keep College rowing to high levels amongst many other achievements, there is no shortage of opportunities in the MCR.

Like a loyal and constantly on-the-go bike in the city centre, the MCR needs a bit of grease to keep us moving forward. After all, a repetitive and limited MCR is a bore and our graduates certainly deserve more than tried and tested, yet tired events. Thus, we are seeing the implementation of new traditions such as a tri-annual London Alumni brunch, where newly graduated MCR members can reconnect in the heart of the capital city, further developing our Alumni relations, but this time, in an informal setting. The MCR remains with you for life as many have said to me, so why not start from the get-go?

Where will we be without our selfless and hard-working staff and Fellows? We would certainly not be the thriving community we are today and I am sure most of you reading see that question as purely rhetorical, and for good reason. We have made concrete efforts to recognize the hard work that goes on behind the scenes (all with a smile to boot) by having the MCR Committee and interested graduates serve the staff during this year’s Staff Luncheon in June. We hoped that by taking just one page out of their tome, we could truly have the staff feel at one with the College and receive the gracious service that they tirelessly give to our students. Further to this, we are working on opening up Formal Hall dinners to the staff on select days to further foster this sense of community and interpersonal relations. We often are at the forefront of innovation and have consistently broke free from the restraints of out-dated traditions, and the MCR happily steers the College with the support of our many graduates.

Finally, there is a group of students who receive very little compensation. Who are overworked and tired on most social evenings, and who give no complaint in the process, yet are completely grateful at the same time ...

The MCR Committee, I sincerely thank you. What seems polished and refined on the surface has only been achieved through the dedication and countless hours given by these graduates, and I take immense pride in knowing that it can only be testament to the diverse, international and passionate MCR community that we are privileged to have. And eagerly ready to maintain!

MASAO ASHTINE, MCR PRESIDENT 2015–2016

ACADEMIC SOCIETIES

History Society

The Fitzwilliam History Society offered a broad spectrum of talks throughout the academic year 2014–2015. A varied programme enabled us to attract a cross-section of students from across the College and the University. Our first Michaelmas talk was delivered by Dr John Heavens (Clare), who discussed his book proposal on The North American YMCA and their work in China from 1923 to 1937. Dr Deborah Thom (Robinson), then spoke about History,
public memory, women and war – revisiting the First World War. This talk attracted a large audience from across the University; it was particularly popular with students studying the Part II paper The politics of gender in Britain, 1790–1920. Dr Andrew Spencer (Christ’s) then delivered a talk entitled Dealing with inadequate kings: constitutional experiments from Magna Carta to the deposition of Edward II, 1258–1272. Our final talk of Michaelmas term was delivered by Dr Amy Blakeway (Homerton) a lively and engaging talk Prizes, Prisoners and Propaganda in the Anglo-Scottish war of the Rough Wooings, 1543–1550 which explored an aspect of the war that is relatively understudied.

Lent term began with a discussion by Dr Hester Vaizey (Clare) on how life changed for East Germans once the Berlin Wall fell in 1989, and their experiences of switching communism for capitalism. Dr Hubertus Jahn (Clare) followed with a discussion of the Russian Empire’s identity policies in the South Caucasus in the 19th century. Our penultimate talk was delivered by Fitzwilliam College’s Stuart Middleton, who discussed Marxism and Literature in the Twentieth Century.

The annual Dissertations Evening was our final event of the term. This evening provides a chance for the Fitzwilliam historians to discuss their extended research. Our topics included Cinematic depictions of the African slave trade, Tenth and eleventh century aethelings, American jazz and cultural degeneration, and British education policy in mandate Palestine.

The society concluded the academic year with the Annual Dinner at the beginning of Easter Term. This year we were fortunate enough to have Professor Robert Tombs as our guest speaker before dinner. Professor Tombs gave a talk entitled Telling Stories in History, discussing how historians are affected by accepted stories about the past, and giving examples of how fundamentally things could have been different.

It has been a pleasure to see the History Society attract such a wide audience from the College and the University alike. This has been aided by our close work with the Communications Office and the consequent use of the digital screens around College. The support of the Committee has ensured the smooth running of the society, and I look forward to seeing what next year holds.

DAISY STEVENS (2012)

Law Society

The Fitzwilliam College Law Society has worked hard over the past year, both to support students in their current studies and also to prepare them for the world beyond University. In each of the three terms, we arranged talks to allow students to engage with their subject at a deeper level.

One of our key guest speakers was Sir Dennis Byron, former President of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and the current President of the Caribbean Court of Justice. Sir Dennis, an alumnus and Honorary Fellow of the College, came down to speak about the role of the International Criminal Law in promoting reconciliation and altering views within societies. Other guest speakers whom we had the opportunity to host included a former United Nations legal advisor in the Middle East, who spoke on International Law and the global role of the UN, as well as a practising media lawyer who gave us his views on the media and legal industries. These varied speakers certainly took the Law out of its textbook confines, demonstrating how wide-reaching and fascinating their subject is. The talks were well attended by members of the Law Society as well as by other members of the College and the University.

The Law Society has striven also to strengthen the focus on legal career advice within the College. Having developed ties with a major international firm, Herbert Smith Freehills, the Law Society is well-placed to help future students find their feet in an ever more challenging legal environment. The annual trip to London in 2015 incorporated visits to the Middle Temple, to the Royal Courts of Justice, and to the offices of an international Law firm, allowing participants to get brief overviews of the key career tracks available in the legal sector. Students were invited to consider where their futures may lie, developing invaluable career networks in the process.

It was not all work and no play, as the Law Society also organised several social events throughout the year for members to mingle and exchange tips and advice. This culminated in the Society’s garden party during May Week, which was generously sponsored by Herbert Smith Freehills. And in 2015 the College hosted its Law Dinner, which was attended by illustrious alumni from various years, including three Honorary Fellows of the College: the Rt Hon Lord Justice Kitchin (1977), The Hon Mr Justice Ouseley (1968), and His Honour Judge Dean Spielmann (1989), the President of the European Court of Human Rights.

The Fitzwilliam College Law Society has a simple mission that it will continue to pursue in the years to come: to improve and support legal education within the College and to prepare its members for what comes after their final exams.

JOSHUA GREEN (2011) and DANIEL YEE (2012), PRESIDENTS 2014–2015

Economics and Finance Society

The Fitzwilliam College Economics and Finance Society had a successful year in 2014–2015, in which it continued to grow. A highlight in the year was a visit by renowned economist Professor Jagdish Bhagwati. Currently a professor at Columbia University, Professor Bhagwati studied Economics at St John’s College (1956). He has taught many of today’s most influential economists, including Paul Krugman, Olivier Blanchard and Mario Draghi. His talk was wide-ranging, covering topics such as trade and his thoughts on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, and also giving some political insights such as why he came out so strongly in support of the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the last election. This was an exciting opportunity for students of the University to converse with one of the world’s most highly regarded economists. The talk was well attended by students from a range of subject backgrounds and Colleges, which is very encouraging.

The society has also, with the help of Dr Helen Bettinson, the Development Director of the College, tried to create links between current students and alumni working in fields of interest to society members. This was a focus for the event Life in the City. Fitzwilliam alumni Alex King (Social and Political Sciences, 1994) and Iain Brown (Geography, 1981) generously visited College and spoke to students about their careers in...
the financial industry (respectively Private Equity, and Investment Banking), offering advice and answering questions from the students. The event hopefully will have served as useful preparation for internship and job applications. In particular an explanation by Iain Brown of how the different sectors within banking are structured and interact was cited by students who attended as very helpful in clarifying a field that to an outsider can seem very complex. In addition to this the society has aimed to raise awareness of careers-related events at the University to its members and was able to secure an invitation for Fitzwilliam students to a dinner held in Cambridge by Schroders, an asset-management firm.

I hope that the coming year will see the Society host many more interesting and informative events.

TAHIRA KHAN (2012), PRESIDENT 2014–2015

Enterprise Society

In November 2014, a splendid mix of local alumni entrepreneurs, Fellows and students met at Fitzwilliam’s inaugural Entrepreneurs’ Dinner to discuss how best to develop the entrepreneurial ambition of our students past and present. The dinner was a roaring success, and from it grew Fitz Enterprise, our College’s Entrepreneurship Society.

Fitz Enterprise aims to empower young founders with world-class knowledge and connect them with alumni and each other. Our raison d’être is to educate, inspire and connect entrepreneurially-minded Fitzwilliam members.

The Society was established officially only at the beginning of the Lent term but has since been very busy. We have hosted several informal evening sessions, where Fitzwilliam alumni have come to share their entrepreneurial experiences, answer questions from our members and provide advice. So far we have hosted Dr Richard Trethewey (1987, Natural Sciences), Dr Rajan Jethwa (1996, Medicine), Peter Cowley (1974, Engineering) and Dr Helmut Becker (1994, Physics). The sessions have covered topics varying from start-ups in the Life Sciences arena to angel investments within the Cambridge technology cluster. The sessions have been incredibly informative, and have drawn large audiences of Fitzwilliam students.

Fitz Enterprise hopes to continue its exponential growth in the coming academic year, and looks forward to hearing from more inspirational alumni.

JONNY LISTER (2012)

Geographical Society

As an academic discipline and degree subject, Geography has a firm and visible presence at Fitzwilliam College. This year, as previously, the Fitzwilliam College Geographical Society has played a strong role in fostering interaction, support and friendship among Geographers at the College. A wide variety of events took place during the year, the most significant of which occurred during the Michaelmas and Lent terms.

The activities of the Geographical Society in Michaelmas began early in the year with an informal ‘welcome’ event held in College to allow newly-arrived first-years to meet the upper ranks of Geographers at Fitzwilliam. This was a good chance for the Geography students to get to know new members of the College at the start of the academic year, whilst also allowing older hands to catch up after a long summer vacation.

The annual Fitzwilliam Geography Weekend Away took place later in the term over a weekend in early November. A large group of thirty or so Fitzwilliam geographers were afforded the chance to spend a weekend beyond the Cambridge University ‘bubble’ by visiting the town of Wells-next-the-Sea in Norfolk. The weekend was attended by the majority of first, second and third year geographers in addition to a small handful of very keen alumni. It was also a delight for the students to be joined by Dr Tatiana Thieme and her young family. The weekend certainly offered an opportunity for amusement and excitement, and among the numerous activities highlights included a long seafront walk and an enjoyable group lunch in a local pub. This short break from the term’s work has the added academic value of enabling students and Fellows alike to share and compare their experiences of Geography at Cambridge, with an implicit sharing of opinions, views, notes and advice.

The final event of the Michaelmas term was the third-year dissertations session, which involved each geography finalist presenting their research. For most of the third years, field research had taken place largely during the summer vacation and this session provided a worthwhile opportunity for an up-to-date review of progress. It was also a superb chance to gain valuable advice from the collective minds of Fitzwilliam Geography. A great diversity of research topics had been pursued, and these included Olivia Heininger’s examination into the spatial variability of flood recovery in Colorado; Cassie Herliby’s research into the urban regeneration of the city of Atlanta, USA; Olivia Taylor’s exploration of the hydrologically-driven motives for migration in the Zanskar Valley, Ladakh;
Kiana Thorpe’s analysis of the implications of land-cover types on the likelihood of wildfire; and Patrick Vickery’s investigation of the effect of the tourism industry on the economic development of Zanzibar, Tanzania.

During the Lent term, the Fitzwilliam Geography Annual Dinner provided a special occasion. This year’s dinner was extremely enjoyable, with the Fitzwilliam catering and waiting staff laying on a fantastic meal and evening. A large number of students and Geography Fellows at Fitzwilliam attended the meal in Upper Hall, and were joined, in addition, by three years’ worth of alumni. Guests had the privilege of listening to an after-dinner talk by the Geography Department’s recently-retired Professor of Pacific Geography, Tim Bayliss-Smith. His humorous speech reflected on his long career as an academic both at Cambridge and abroad, and offered rare insight into some prominent characters in the history of Geography at Fitzwilliam.

Whilst the activities of the Geographical Society are usually put on hold in exam season, the end of the summer term yielded the opportunity for the second-year geographers to present their dissertation research plans, again in front of Fitzwilliam Geography students and Fellows. Students spoke impressively of their research plans, and were able to collect useful feedback ahead of pursuing their individual research agendas in the vacation.

Medical and Veterinary Society

The year 2014–2015 has been another fantastic year for FCMVS. As usual, we started Michaelmas term with our termly curry to welcome the freshers, before hosting our first talk of the year entitled Life After Medicine. In this talk Dr Saif Abed told us about what led him to explore entrepreneurship at Cambridge after medicine at St George’s, and how so many of the skills we learn as medical and veterinary students prepare us brilliantly for other careers. This attracted students from a wide range of subjects and colleges and was our best-attended event to date! We also teamed up with the Downing College MedSoc to host our first Clinical Conundrum by Fitzwilliam’s very own Dr Aaron D’Sa, who took us through a selection of exciting A&E cases.

Lent Term began with a partnership with the Fitzwilliam Debating Society to deliver a lively debate on whether it should be the doctor or the patient who decides on assisted death. This was soon followed by the highlight of our FCMVS social calendar – the annual black-tie dinner. The hustings and elections for next year’s President took place during the drinks reception, after which we sat down to a delicious meal in the College Hall. Our after-dinner speaker was Professor Geoffrey Raisman, the man who led the UK research team responsible for developing a cell transplantation technique that allowed a paralysed man to walk again! The dinner was well attended by students from all years, as well as Fellows and several alumni, and provided a great opportunity for the whole Society to get together ... and play a few rounds of medical charades! At the end of the term we were delighted to host Professor Rebecca Fitzgerald, an Honorary Consultant in Gastroenterology and General Medicine. She gave a fascinating talk on New frontiers for the early detection of oesophageal cancer.

The Society rounded off the year with its annual summer barbecue in the sunshine of May Week – an afternoon of relaxation for students and supervisors after a busy year.


Literary Society

In February two of our alumnae, Adèle Thomas (2000, English) and Caroline Williams (2003, English) returned to talk about staging their recent smash-hit production of Francis Beaumont’s Jacobean city comedy, The Knight of the Burning Pestle in the new Sam Wanamaker Playhouse at Shakespeare’s Globe.

Originally performed in 1607, the piece was a notorious flop at the time and, despite some valiant efforts, has proved difficult to carry off in the modern period. All the more remarkable then that this production – of which Adèle was the director and Caroline the assistant director – turned out to be so popular with contemporary audiences. The speakers gave a fascinatingly personal insight into the research and rehearsal which lay behind this winning formula. The evening culminated in a hilarious performance workshop under Adèle’s direction featuring student actors wittily experimenting with ways of running the play’s opening scene. For the closing question-and-answer session, Adèle and Caroline were joined by Farah Karim-Cooper, the Globe’s Head of Higher Education and Research, who played a leading role in the project to
complete the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse. A coach-party will be travelling from Fitzwilliam to the Globe this October to see Adèle’s production of Aeschylus’ Oresteia.

Other events during the year included the Literary Society’s hosting of the launch of Long Poem Magazine, Issue 12, in association with the Cambridge Poetry Collection. The evening comprised of readings by poets Timothy Adès, Richard Berengarten, Sophie Hersheimer, Patricia McCarthy and Ben Rogers, along with lively discussion.

At the end of Lent Term the Literary Society saw the election of a Student President, Secretary, Junior President and other committee members who have been busy planning events for next year. During Easter term, they ran a short poem competition and organised a screening of Much Ado About Nothing, designed to help students both relax and revise.

Thanks to the generosity of alumnus Chris Martin (1976), first-year undergraduates were once again able to visit the Globe with their supervisor, this time to watch The Merchant of Venice, featuring an extraordinary performance by Jonathan Pryce (Cardinal Wolsey in the BBC’s Wolf Hall) as Shylock.

For the Literary Society website, visit http://fitzlitsoc.co

CONOR MONIGHAN (2014)

THE KNIGHT OF THE BURNING PESTLE

The past year has been a fantastic one for Fitzwilliam College Music Society, with Natalie Price as Junior President and Annika Mathews (2012, Classics) as Junior Vice-President. Under the helm of the new Director of Music, Katharine Parton, the academic year has seen a wonderful and diverse array of both professional and student concerts in Fitzwilliam. It opened in October with our annual Freshers’ Concert, an institution which in recent years has been going from strength to strength: this year the concert, organised by Annika, was given for the first time in the Auditorium – which was packed.

This year, the Society has been particularly keen both to encourage the many talented instrumentalists of Fitzwilliam to take a more active part in College musical life, and also more generally to promote student music-making further. To this end, the year’s term-cards featured a whole host of student recitals alongside their professional counterparts, as well as some successful new musical ventures, including an MCR Salon Evening. The year ended on a high with, of course, the annual FCMS Garden Party: a great success, and planned fantastically by Hannah Roper (2013, Music) who, fresh from organising a wonderful and dizzyingly large-scale performance of Carl Orff’s Carmina Burana in the Fitzwilliam Auditorium, is the society’s incoming Junior President – I have no doubt that she will help take music at Fitzwilliam to exciting new places in this coming academic year, and welcome the return of our resident ensemble, the Fitzwilliam String Quartet.

NATALIE PRICE (2012, History)

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NATALIE PRICE (2012, History)
the weather, which was largely intermittent, we welcomed a good turnout and kept the Pimms flowing to the accompaniment of some of Fitz’ best musical talent. FCMS looks forward to a more diverse and exciting year of music than ever before, with the return of our resident ensemble, the Fitzwilliam String Quartet, and a plethora of others.

HANNAH ROPER (2013)

The Fitzwilliam Oratorio Project

The Fitzwilliam Oratorio Project was a development of a successful performance of Elgar’s Dream of Gerontius in February 2014, which began life as a fledgling idea in the summer before my matriculation. The aim of the performance, and subsequently of the project, was to bring together students and non-students alike under top-class professional direction and with high-flying professional soloists, a niche which had been barely filled in Cambridge outside the University Musical Society.

For the 2015 performance of Carl Orff’s celebrated Cantata, Carmina Burana, all of the 100-odd performers were voluntary recruits from in and around Cambridge, rather than selected through an audition process. This enabled a range of abilities to take part – which was of no detriment to the quality of the final performance! Removing the barrier of auditions also meant that those who may not have previously experienced professional direction through a competitive ensemble now could do so. The concert itself – the result of five weeks rehearsal and preparation, and of many more months of organisation – was strongly supported by Fitzwilliam College and its thriving Music Society.

It was a pleasure to have co-ordinated and taken part in the project, which is much indebted to conductor Adrian Partington, whose expert advice and generous support ensured the great success of concert day. The fabulous teamwork of the student orchestra and the volunteer chorus were received with enthusiasm by an audience of around 100 people in the Fitzwilliam Auditorium, culminating in a great atmosphere enjoyed by all.

HANNAH ROPER (2013)

Barbershop

Following a gruelling audition process, Fitz Barbershop veterans Matthew Clarke (2011), Tim Hubener (Homerton, 2012) and Bowen Wang (Trinity, 2013) were joined by the fresh faces of Chris Greenwood (2012), Isaac Jarratt Barnham (2014), Nicholas Wong (Trinity, 2014) and Jonathon Goldstone (Wolfson, 2014). Under Matthew Clarke’s capable leadership, the new group’s hard work paid off. The team sailed through relaxed bar performances at the start of term, before performing a well-received 2-am set at the Saturnalia-themed Fitzwilliam Winter Ball.

The group’s activities stepped up in Lent term, with performances at both Churchill Ball and the Medsoc Ball. However, our term highlight was definitely a dinner set for Downing College’s Mathias Society, featuring good singing, good food and drink, and an exciting moonlit tour of the College.

Easter term then saw the greatest Barbershop achievement of the year: a joint cheese and wine evening with the Fitz Sirens. Performing an hour of varied repertoire to a sold-out auditorium was a real highlight for the whole group, and an achievement to be remembered for years to come. The term was rounded off with our obligatory appearances at a variety of May Balls, this year including both Trinity and St John’s – a few hours after which the exhausted Barbers achieved a triumphant second place in the Cambridge University A Cappella competition. As May Week drew to a close we bade farewell to Matthew, Tim and Chris, and we wish them a future as fabulous and fun-filled as our Barbershopping together in the past year!

ISAAC JARRATT BARNHAM (2014)
Fine Arts Society

This year has brought a number of visual treats to the college, demonstrating how art of all types provides a perfect complement to the academic life of Fitzwilliam. In January, Life Fellow Dr Geoffrey Walker – who has enjoyed a connection with Fitzwilliam for over 60 years and has been a Fellow since 1967 – and his wife Anna presented the College with two signed lithographs by Salvador Dalí, an amusing and exciting addition to the College’s art collection, which will be displayed where they can be enjoyed by students and staff alike. Greenwich-based artist Beka Smith, who has a long-established link with the College having previously painted Dr Leslie Wayper and the previous Master, Professor Robert Lethbridge, was commissioned for the Master’s official portrait and produced a wonderful piece capturing Nicky’s character. It was unveiled to acclaim after the Governing Body meeting on 8 July (p.4).

A highlight to round off the year was the Fitzwilliam Art Show, open to all staff, Fellows and students. This received a fantastic range of entries across many media, including sculpture, digital art, willow weaving, oils, photography, watercolour and more. Professional artist Sam Shaw kindly agreed to judge the competition, awarding First Prize to Eve Avdoulos for her street photography taken from the viewpoint of her young cousin; Second Prize to Natasha Jones for her digital landscapes; and Third Prize to Alfie Glover-Short for his Klimt-inspired portraits.

In the next year we look forward to introducing an outdoor sculpture to the College, which will commemorate the renovation of A Staircase and provide a visual highlight to the gardens and pathways leading up to The Grove.

MILLIE PAPWORTH (2014)
Competition: second prize, from Natasha Jones

Competition: third prize, from Alfie Glover-Short
The University Boat Races

Ashton Brown (2014) rowed in the Newton Women’s Boat Race on Saturday 11 April 2015, held for the first time on the Tideway; unfortunately, they went down by 6½ lengths to Oxford. Ashton, who is from Canada and has a BA in Economics from Princeton and an MA in Economics from the University of Ottawa, obtained her MPhil in Psychology and Education, and now is continuing at Fitzwilliam for research towards a PhD.

Clemens Auersperg (2014, MPhil in Management at the Judge Business School) rowed in the BNY Mellon Men’s Reserve Race, in which Goldie went down to Isis by three lengths. Clemens is from Austria, and has a BA in History from Columbia University, USA where he was in the Varsity Crew.

Fitzwilliam has further connections with the Boat Race. The sponsor is BNY Mellon, and the Chief Executive Officer of Newton Investment Management Ltd, BNY Mellon’s UK-based global-equity and multi-asset specialist, is Helena Morrissey CBE (1984). The initiative to hold both men’s and women’s races on the same day and to provide equal sponsorship owes much to Helena, who has been very active in promoting the role of women in business – she founded and chairs the 30% Club, seeking to achieve at least that percentage of women on the boards of FTSE-100 companies (currently, the level has reached 26.1%, which by international standards represents good progress – for instance, the corresponding board memberships in the USA and in Malaysia are respectively 19.2% and 10.2%). Helena gave the Foundation Lecture in November 2012, on Women on Boards: The Power of an Idea whose Time has Come.

Sarah Winckless (1993) umpired the Newton Women’s Reserve Boat Race, and was assistant umpire for the Men’s Blue Boat (BNY Mellon Boat Race).

Blues, Half-Blues and University Colours

Many members of the College have been active in University sport, and awards of Full Blues, Half Blues, and Club Colours for 2013–2014 were reported in the 2015 University Sports Yearbook:

Full Blue
James Boyd-Moss Rugby Union (Men)
Jamie Bristow Hockey
Sam Browne Cricket
Simon Court Association Football
Jamie Giddins Golf
Francesca Hirst Lacrosse
Harry Leitch Squash Rackets
Jamie Muirhead Lawn Tennis
Henry Pelham Squash Rackets
Anita Perera Squash Rackets
Lizzy Perkins Swimming
Thomas Pechaud American Football
Edward Tusting Modern Pentathlon

Half Blue
Madeline Ang Judo
Katie Booth Lawn Tennis
Alex Braithwaite Powerlifting

College Sport

The Amalgamated Clubs continues to provide the financial uplift for all of these activities, allowing all teams to enter their respective League and Cuppers tournaments, and it has been a pleasure to witness so many turning
out proudly in Fitz colours each week. Extremely grateful thanks must be directed again to JMA Senior Treasurer Dr Matt Wingate. He answers endless emails and queries from captains and from me, and we are extremely lucky to have such an enthusiastic and helpful Senior Treasurer to support and help direct our activities. Thanks must go also to team captains for the enthusiasm and commitment they show on a weekly basis, handling the administration of their respective teams, encouraging involvement, and ensuring teams are out to represent Fitzwilliam come rain or shine.

The new Gym has been a fantastic addition to the College’s facilities – kitted out with brand-new exercise balls, racks, mats and weights on the ground floor, and with cardio facilities upstairs, p.14. Weekly circuit training has received a great turnout, with planks aplenty and a distasteful weekly playlist complied by myself and Emily. The Fitz Sport Facebook page sees continued use, with followers kept up to date with events, fixtures and results from the various clubs.

The year came to a celebratory conclusion at the annual May Week Amalgamated Clubs Dinner. Over a hundred guests were present for a fantastic dinner and to listen to an insightful speech from Bernie Cotton MBE. Bernie gave students and Fellows a view of his many Olympic experiences from the inside. Anecdotes ranging from winning Gold in Seoul as assistant manager to the Hockey team to watching from his sofa the events of Super Saturday unravel provided great entertainment for those in attendance. The evening was extremely enjoyable, and I would like to thank the attendees, Bernie, and the Catering Department, who all made the event such a success.

The JMA has also funded several other activities that have helped to bring Junior Members of the College together. Fitzwilliam students crowded the sidelines to watch the final of the 5-a-side Bobby Lethbridge Cup at the May Week Billy Day event. At the Michaelmas Billy Day, attendees were treated to copious snacks, a bouncy castle, and an exhibition game from the Men’s Football First XI. Both Billy Days were organised and ran extremely smoothly by my Vice, Emily Bliss, whom I must thank for her outstanding support throughout the year.

Finally, special thanks must go to Groundsman Dave Norman, who keeps the Oxford Road playing surfaces in phenomenal condition. Dave’s tireless work is always hugely appreciated by the masses of students and Fellows who get to make use of this fantastic facility.

Building on a successful year for nearly all the clubs, and with fresh facilities and a new crop of Fitzbillies, the 2015–2016 season is shaping up to be an exciting and decorated one. Please keep up to date with the latest activity throughout the season via the Fitz Sport Facebook page!

JAMIE BRISTOW (2012), PRESIDENT OF CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

Football
Both Fitzwilliam College Women’s Football team and Fitzwilliam College Men’s Football team compete in their respective top Leagues and are year-to-year title contenders. The teams set off this year with a great mixture of well-established players and new faces. However, the start of the League season could not have been more different for the two teams. FCFW had some strong victories early in Michaelmas term in the League, including a hard-won 4–3 victory against Christ’s and a 2–1 win against Pembroke. On the other hand, the Men’s team, despite putting enormous effort into their League endeavours, lost all of their five games in Michaelmas. Our boys were truly unlucky, as every single defeat was by one goal only. This poor performance put us into the relegation zone, which was clearly below the players’ high expectations, and Captain Carl Plane had to have some serious talks with the team. This made the players realize that we are Fitzwilliam – and we never give up. Consequently, the second part of the season was ours: 4 games, 4 wins, 18 goals scored, 0 conceded. That was a real display of quality football but also of the Fitzwilliam famous tenacity. This allowed the Men’s team to escape relegation and finish on a decent seventh position in the League. The Women’s team kept up the good work and achieved outstanding support throughout the entire season and achieved an impressive third place in the top League – to which they were promoted only 2 years ago!

Unfortunately, none of the teams had a successful campaign in the Cuppers. The Men’s team lost to St. John’s on penalties after a 3–3 thriller with Fitzwilliam coming back from 3–1 down, losing the goalkeeper due to an injury with 2 minutes to go, and with Sam ‘Sports Personality of the Year’ Hobbs scoring directly from a corner just when the final whistle blew. Unluckily, without a proper goalkeeper the penalty shootout finished 3–4 to St. Johns, who did not encounter another demanding rival on their way to win the Cuppers in the end. It should have been our cup... All the fans that came down to Oxford Road could not have been disappointed, as it was probably one of the best games ever played in the entire Cuppers history.

The Women’s team, due to a lack of players, were very unlucky to crash out of the cup in their first match against Murray Edwards; however, we maintain that achieving 4 goals against 0 was a truly valiant effort with just 8 players!

Off the pitch, the Women’s team also participated in feminist discussion project Cambridge Women Speak Out to emphasise the difficulties women sometimes experience in playing what can all too often be perceived as ‘a man’s sport’. The Men’s team, for one of the many social events, decided to watch our local football team, Cambridge United, and thus supported the development of professional football in Cambridge.

On behalf of all Fitzwilliam footballers we would particularly like to thank the College Sport Support Fund for providing the Women’s team with funds to obtain some FitzWFC sports jackets, Professor Cardwell, the football bursar, and David Norman, our one and only greenkeeper. We all hope to move into next year with more-experienced teams that can hopefully go on to achieve more.

MICHAL RONIEK (2013), MEN’S CAPTAIN, and MEGAN STAMPER (2012), WOMEN’S CAPTAIN

Rugby
Fitzwilliam College Rugby club had another fantastic season last year, building on the previous year’s success in the Cup. Thanks to a cohort of committed Freshers and to some reliable old faces, we secured promotion into the Second Division of college rugby as well as making it into the final of the Cuppers plate, again. Sadly, after an incredibly bruising encounter, we lost out to Division...
Mixed Lacrosse

Fitzwilliam Mixed Lacrosse, joint with Murray Edwards and Peterhouse, has had a tough year in Division Three, plagued by a lack of player availability for both our own and opponent teams. However, we completed the season with no forfeits and claimed some convincing victories, the highlight of which was our derby match; a thrilling 3–1 defeat of Newnham. A renewed recruitment drive and some training sessions for new members saw us bolster our team towards the end of the season; this came too late to have a major impact on our League standing, but was a key factor in our impressive Cuppers form. A brilliant performance at Cuppers which saw us qualify from the group and leave the competition only after a valiant defence against the Cambridge Medics Sharks, who went on to finish second in the competition.

As in previous years, Fitz House Hall mixed lacrosse has been a team focused on enjoyment and inclusivity, and yet on the field has produced performances to be proud of.

ARAN SHAUNAK (2013)

Men’s Rowing

This last academic year has been the most successful for Men’s Rowing at Fitzwilliam in over 20 years. Thanks to an overhaul in the way we recruit novices at the start of Michaelmas, we managed to field one senior and three novice crews for the Michaelmas term. The standard was extremely high, and our first big race of the year, Cambridge Winter Head, saw our Men’s First Boat win their Division, and our First Novices placed joint-second in theirs. This first term’s rowing culminated in the annual Fairbairn Cup in which M1 came 15th overall, seven places higher and 40 seconds faster than the previous year (despite being thoroughly sleep-deprived following the Fitzwilliam Winter Ball the night before). Perhaps more exciting, however, was the novice event: NM3 put in a solid performance placing 18th overall. But, after a term’s ongoing rivalry between our top two novice crews, NM2 actually finished three places higher than NM1, at 9th, and 9 seconds faster!

The Lent term continued to bring success to the club, with three men’s crews competing in the Lent Bumps for the first time in many years. M3 competed in the M4...
Division, unfortunately going down two places. M2, however, were cheated of their blades on the second day when they were awarded a technical row-over because crews in front failed to clear. Still, they stayed positive and put in a fantastic performance, needing a mere 42 strokes to bump on the final day.

This term was particularly spectacular for our First crew. We entered six events over the course of the term, including representing the college off-Cam at Bedford Head where we won the Novice Division – and some very attractive pots! The Lent Bumps saw our climb back into the First Division. The boys put in a stunning performance, bumping both Selwyn 1 and Magdalene 1 on the first day, followed by Trinity Hall 1, Emmanuel 1 and Clare 1 as the week went on. We gained 5 places – and the first Men’s blades since 2006.

The Easter vacation did not bring too much of a break from rowing as two men’s crews took to the Thames to compete in the Head of the River Race. This was a great experience for everyone, despite boat-stopping winds and rain throughout the event! Also, before returning for the start of the exam term, we finally found our 8th man, but sadly too late! The standard of the May Bumps only improves every year, and this year wasn’t ours! We will, however, go down in the history books as one of the few crews to get blades and spoons in the same year.

All of the men’s crews have grown closer as a squad. With socials and crew pastas galore, there has been an incredible atmosphere of camaraderie. This, coupled with some friendly rivalry to push each other to achieve our best, has meant that we have loved training with each other; as is clear from the fantastic results. With two sets of men’s blades in one year, Fitzwilliam is back in the game!

Samantha Tarling (2012), Captain of Boats 2014–2015, M1 Cox.

Women’s Rowing

Fitzwilliam Women had a fantastic start to the year as they welcomed many enthusiastic new rowers. The novices produced great results in Michaelmas in the famous Queens’ Ergs – just narrowly missing the final, with one of our novices being the fourth-fastest woman in the competition! In the Winter Head the Novice First Boat was placed a fantastic second in their Division. The girls all dressed up for Emma Sprints looking fabulous as Reindeer in NW1 and in their Snow White and the Seven Dwarves outfits in NW2. But they had had bad luck, including a blade falling out and a tough draw, and unfortunately did not make it to the final. Both novice crews had excellent strong rows in Fairbairns at the end of term, and both was placed thirteenth in its respective division. The senior women this year welcomed two freshers this year and worked very hard throughout Michaelmas, which paid off in Winter Head as they were placed top of their category, winning some lovely hip flasks. Despite Fairbairns being the day after the Fitzwilliam Winter Ball this year, the seniors put in a very gutsy row, placing them very comfortably amongst other First Boats and improving last years’ time by 25 seconds.

Following on from the high intake of talented novices in Michaelmas, there was a lot of competition in Lent for places in the First Boat. Training was stepped up a notch in W1 and so placed comfortably ahead of the crews we were due to race in Lent Bumps which seemed very
promising. The girls also made a trip to Bedford Head, rowing twice across the day and incredibly improving their time by 20 seconds between races, winning the IM3 division and taking home tankards. Unfortunately the hard work didn’t pay off and, despite closing in on our opponents throughout Bumps, W1 dropped one place overall. Nonetheless they progressed a lot throughout the term and did bring in some fantastic results. W2 also had an unlucky term, unfortunately not quite making it onto Bumps in the getting-on race. However, the girls improved so much and were so committed and determined throughout with wonderful team spirit.

In Easter the women’s side had a great addition to the team of Ashton Brown from the Blues Boat and W2 also welcomed back some seniors in their final year at Fitzwilliam, which gave us all the drive to try to achieve some great results in Mays. All the girls and their coxes trained extremely hard throughout their exams which again lead to huge leaps in improvement. W1 managed to go from losing to Emma W2 by 2 seconds in Head2Head to beating them by 19 seconds two weeks later in Champs Eights. In May Bumps W2 (otherwise known as Carlo’s Angels) had an eventful four days, with a bump due to a crab on the first day followed by a strong row-over the next. On the third day they finally bumped Pembroke but then Pembroke got their revenge and bumped back on the last day. The girls however were not disheartened and consistently had smiles on their faces and had great fun. W1 bumped Emma W2 on the first day, with Rob Machado’s steering being described as ‘the perfect line’ by CamFM! Sadly the next day two very quick bumps occurred ahead of them, leaving the girls with a row-over and snatching our chance of blades. On the third day W1 bumped Darwin with an exciting chase just before the reach and on the final day rounded the year off by producing an epic bump on Trinity Hall just past Billy Field.

With some good results and lots of progress made the Women’s side have had an excellent year, and by the end of it we all felt like we were one big rowing-mad family!

**AOIFE MATCHETT (2014)**

**Tennis**

Fitzwilliam College once again fielded a formidable tennis team, so I want to start by thanking everyone who played for the team during the year. For much of the year we were joined by Michał Filus of Clare Hall and Joyce Lau of Lucy Cavendish, so thanks too to both of them.

In the Winter League we were defending our position in Division III, first losing 3–1 to a strong side from Kings I, despite Nick Ivin playing impressive tennis to win 6–4, 6–3. We next lost 3–0 to Christ’s I – but our fortunes improved in the summer.

We began Cuppers with a comfortable 6–2 win over Downing II thanks to wins by Nick Ivin and Andrew Harley, after Daniel Sandbach and Marcus Hatton had to forfeit a close doubles match due to injury near the end. In the next round we lost to a very strong St John’s I team, which included Blues and second-team players. In the consolation draw into which we subsequently were entered, we won our Round of 16 match against Trinity Hall to make it into the quarter-finals. Unfortunately, the term was at an end and the tournament could not be completed, as other colleges had not played their earlier rounds.

We look forward to welcoming any tennis-playing freshers into the team, and to competing again next year.

**MARCUS HATTON (2013), CAPTAIN OF MEN’S TENNIS**

**Badminton**

For Fitzwilliam Men’s Badminton, 2014–2015 was a solid season. We had all but one overall wins in Michaelmas, which saw us promoted to the Fourth Division (out of nine). Lent was more challenging. We started with a 4–5 loss to Peterhouse I. But we quickly recovered, winning the subsequent matches against Trinity II (6–3), Trinity Hall I (6–3), Pembroke II (8–1) and Emmanuel I (8–1). Towards the end of Lent we faced the team to which we lost in Michaelmas: Homerton I. This was a decisive match for determining which team was promoted, and after two hours of intense badminton we narrowly lost to our opponent, 4–5. So in the end we came third place in our Division – although we were tied second in terms of League points!

For Fitzwilliam Women’s Badminton, 2014–2015 was a smashing season! Starting the year in the Third Division and with only seven players, it didn’t look like we were in with much of a shot at glory, but we rallied together and were able to serve up an impressive 31 games in Michaelmas. This meant we were placed second in the Division and were set to move up in Lent, to face teams who served faster, smashed harder and dressed more uniformly than ever. We didn’t let this ruffle our feathers, though, and after a string of decisive victories we managed to net joint-first place, ending the year on another promotion.

We want to thank all the players who have shown massive interest and support this year. Thank you!

**KIM FONG (2013), MEN’S CAPTAIN 2014–2015**

**Men’s and Women’s Squash**

This year has seen a double victory for Fitzwilliam in the ATAS College Squash League. The Men beat Wolfson 4–1 and the Women beat St John’s 2–1 to clinch the gold.

We’ve seen a lot of new players in the Women’s team, who have trained regularly and seen marked...
improvements in their games throughout the year. We had the privilege of having Ali Hemingway, Cambridge University’s first seed, join the Fitzwilliam team for her last year in Cambridge. Harry Leitch, a Bye-Fellow of the College, represented Scotland in the 2014 Commonwealth Games and finished fourth in the Men’s Doubles category. He helped secure the gold for Fitzwilliam in the Cuppers Match, breezing through his match.

James Sutton and Katherine Parkin will be the Captains for next year, where we will work hard to clinch the gold for Fitzwilliam again.

ANIRA PERERA (2013), WOMEN’S TEAM CAPTAIN

Netball

Fitzwilliam Ladies Netball has had a strong season. After promotion last season into Division 2, we have put in strong performances, and have maintained our position in the division. Notable wins include a convincing win against Pembroke and Trinity Hall. The team has seen strong stand-out performances from old faces Buki Sule and Yasmin Omar; and the addition of a number of new faces this season – the likes of Jess O’Sullivan, Katie Purohit and Maxine Meju – has strengthened the team further.

The Mixed Netball Club had a successful Michaelmas term, gaining many new players and retaining a lot of the existing team. The team put in some strong performances, finishing top of Division 3 and gaining promotion into Division 2 for Lent term. The teams in Division 2 proved tougher opposition, but Fitzwilliam fared well and

EMILY BLISS (2013) and LUCY CHARATAN (2013)

Swimming

Fitzwilliam Swimming Club continued its tradition as an informal club, encouraging those of all abilities to come and improve, while meeting new friends from various years at the College. Various swimmers organised sessions with each other throughout the year at Parkside Pools to build up stamina and develop technique.

The main competitive event of the year was the University Cuppers, which took place at the start of Easter Term. This year, unlike previous years, we managed to field participants in all races. There was great team spirit, and fun was had by all that took part in both the Men’s and the Women’s teams. Special mentions should go to Sophie Clarke and to Alice Hobson who both reached the finals, for freestyle and for breast-stroke respectively – with Alice going on to win hers. Overall, we came seventh, which, for a scratch team, was no bad feat.

WILL MARKS (2013), SWIMMING CAPTAIN, 2014–2015