Women speak out - then and now | Global Fitzwilliam | Comet landing
Master’s message

Here’s another Optima, brimming with a wonderful miscellany of news from alumni and students. Please keep the news flowing.

I was particularly interested to read about Geoff Harrison’s memories of the birth of the College (see page 5). Next summer we will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of the granting of our charter in 1966. What a long way the College has come since then. As I write, we are preparing for graduation day. The College looks absolutely beautiful, and our fingers are crossed for glorious weather. We will be celebrating some wonderful successes – for example, the 13 students who gained first class results in every year of their Tripos exams.

We are delighted that a number of the graduating students will be returning in the autumn as postgraduates. Increasing funds for student scholarships allow us to enable excellent students to remain with us (see, for example, Millie Papworth’s piece on pages 6-7).

This summer sees the arrival of the builders for the start of our major transformation of the student accommodation in the original Lasdun part of the College – a huge and essential project. As ever, I say a resounding thank you to those of you who enable us to take on such projects; but we also hugely value your ambassadorial roles, so please shout loudly about Fitzwilliam to young people considering an application to Cambridge. Fitzwilliam is thriving!

Nicky Padfield

Photo: Dr John Cleaver

College News

Nigel Slater to be Pro-Vice-Chancellor

Professor Nigel Slater, Fellow of Fitzwilliam, is to be one of three new Pro-Vice-Chancellors. He takes up his post on 1 January 2016. Professor Slater will focus on enterprise and regional affairs. He is currently Head of the Department of Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology, and is Professor of Chemical Engineering. The Department of Chemical Engineering was ranked top (by GPA score) of the 25 entrants in the recent Research Excellence Framework, which judges the quality and impact of research in UK universities – 92% of their submission was rated as ‘world leading’ or ‘internationally excellent’.

Rogier Kievit awarded Wellcome Fellowship

Bye-Fellow Rogier Kievit has been awarded a prestigious four-year Sir Henry Wellcome Postdoctoral Fellowship. He is currently a postdoc on the BBSRC-funded Cambridge Centre for Ageing and Neuroscience project. He will be collaborating with large-scale developmental cognitive neuroscience projects in Cambridge, London and Berlin to study how lifespan changes in brain structure and function affect the ability to reason, plan and mentally juggle information in two key periods – adolescence and old age.

Teaching Awards for Fellows

One of thirteen prestigious Pilkington Prizes for teaching awarded this year has gone to Fitz Fellow Dr Bill Allison, Reader in Physics at the Cavendish Laboratory, who ‘has made a huge contribution to physics teaching during his career, and inspired many students both in the lecture theatre and the laboratory’. His innovative lecture courses on topics such as condensed matter physics and thermodynamics have been well received by students. Fellow Jason Rentfrow, who teaches in the Department of Psychology, was a winner in the supervision category of the CUSU teaching awards. Students nominate staff for their ability to generate enthusiasm and to communicate complex ideas. Jason is also co-author of a new study showing that life satisfaction in London links to how well your personality suits your local environment. Read more on the website.

Fitzwilliam Literary Society

In February English Fellows Dr Hero Chalmers and Dr Subha Mukherji hosted an evening during which two alumnae, Adele Thomas (English 2000) and Caroline Williams (English 2003) (Director and Assistant Director respectively) returned to talk about staging their 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. Read more on the Master’s blog.

Contact the Editor

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Foundation Lecture: Professor Maurice Bloch (PhD Arch & Anth 1962), Professor Emeritus in Anthropology at the LSE, will give the Foundation Lecture on Thursday, 19 November 2015.
New Chaplain – The Revd Helen Arnold

‘I am delighted to have been part of Fitzwilliam through this, my first full academic year. Being entrusted to continue a ‘ministry of presence’ in the College is a great privilege.’

The Estates Gazette Peter Wilson lecture

Lord Heseltine gave the inaugural lecture ‘The Future of Regeneration’ at Fitzwilliam on 26 February. The new series of lectures are in memory of Peter Wilson, the former owner of Estates Gazette and an Honorary Fellow of Fitzwilliam 1997-2010. The event also marked the launch of the Peter Wilson Estates Gazette Scholarships, set up in his honour by Mrs Audrey Wilson to support talented graduate students studying Land Economy at Fitzwilliam College. The first awards were made to Fitzwilliam students Yujia Shan, Leo Kirby, Ante Busic and Niko Szumilo.

The 2016 Lecture will be on 25 February.

Lord-Lieutenant for Greater London

Ken Olisa OBE, alumnus and 1869 Fellow Benefactor, took up the post of Her Majesty’s Lord-Lieutenant for Greater London on 28 May 2015.

Ken said: ‘I will be proud to represent Her Majesty and the Crown in all of my official duties, but I am also keen to bring to the role my twin passions of social inclusion and entrepreneurship for the benefit of those who live and work in our great capital city. It’s much more than a ceremonial role – I see a massive opportunity to contribute to the social integration of the capital.’

Benefits of book bequest

A generous bequest from alumnus Tony Garner (Classics 1968) has benefited Fitzwilliam’s Olisa Library and a school in Cambodia funded by alumnus. The bequest included books on philosophy, history of science, history, politics, English literature, Latin and Greek texts, all aspects of classical archaeology, ancient history and the cultural life of Greeks and Romans – all of which were initially stored in the squash court. One thousand two hundred books were added to the Olisa Library, and the remainder were sold to students and staff, raising over £600 to support the United World School at O Tabok in Cambodia. This community-based primary school opened in October 2014, as a result of fundraising efforts by Tim Howarth, John Craven, Gareth Purcell and Andy Cockburn (all 1998) and 40 other Fitz alumni. Read more on the website. www.unitedworldschools.org/uws-o-tabok-cambodia-school-profile

Past, present and future with social media

Twitter: See the gardens in full bloom, discover what we are doing in access and outreach, smack your lips at the delights the café offers. #TBT – Throw Back Thursday – offers a titbit from the College’s history every Thursday. Why, for instance, were televisions classed as musical instruments by the Dean? @fitzwilliamcoll @FitzSLO

On Facebook: Enjoy photos from recent College occasions, follow links inviting you to events in College and explore some of the College’s future developments. We even feature what some alumni are up to and share some of the University’s stories.

www.facebook.com/fitzwilliamcoll

Blog

• India’s Daughter comes to Fitzwilliam – Harriet Sands (SPS 2013)
• Responsible investment: the fossil fuel debate – Andrew Powell, Bursar
• ‘Fitzwilliam Hall for the firing line, just as it ought to be’ – Dr John Cleaver – Life Fellow
• The art and craft of justice – Nicky Padfield

Subscribe at https://blog.fitz.cam.ac.uk

Master’s welcome film

A new three minute film has been released. Nicky Padfield introduces herself and the College, and talks to Fitzwilliam students. www.fitz.cam.ac.uk
Lee Kuan Yew 1923-2015

A memorial to Fitzwilliam alumnus and Honorary Fellow Lee Kuan Yew (Law 1947) was held in the College Chapel on 29 March, attended by Lee family members, over 200 Singaporean students and the High Commissioner, Ms Foo Chi Hsia. It was followed by tea in the Senior Combination Room where guests signed the condolence book of the Cambridge University Malaysia and Singapore Society.

Fitz student Daniel Yee (Law 2012), from Singapore, said: ‘It was heartening to see the College filled with Singaporeans and Fitzwilliam alumni, gathered to mourn the death and celebrate the life of Mr Lee Kuan Yew.’

Lee Kuan Yew was, of course, Prime Minister of Singapore for the first three decades of its independence. In 1969 he was elected to an Honorary Fellowship of Fitzwilliam, and in 1971 gave the Foundation Lecture: East and West – the twain have met.

The connection between Fitzwilliam College and Singapore has remained strong over several generations. A substantial and significant body of Singaporeans have studied at Fitzwilliam, including Lee’s younger brothers who read Law and Medicine. Currently, there are 16 Singaporean undergraduates and 12 graduate students in the College.

We will be remembering Lee Kuan Yew’s legacy at a half day conference on 31 October. See website for details.

In Conversation with the Master

These informal topical discussion events continue to be popular and well attended. Topics have included ‘Insight into Extremism’ with Ahmed Rashid (SPS 1968), author of the best-selling “Taliban” (2000) and “Descent into Chaos: The US and the Disaster in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Central Asia” (2008); ‘The Alchemy of Loss and Gain’ with artist Jeremy Houghton and curator Jim Brook; ‘From Cambridge to Westminster’ with Julian Huppert, former Lib Dem MP for Cambridge; a screening of the controversial film ‘India’s Daughter’ followed by discussion with Directors Leslee Udwin and Riddhi Iha, and ‘Surviving sexual trauma’ with psychotherapist Zoe Lodrick.

Telephone campaign – best yet

Students raised over £190,000 during the 2015 telephone campaign – the most successful yet. Alumni gave mainly in support of the Student Opportunities Fund and the Teaching Fund. The total raised from telephone campaigns since 2009 is over £1 million. Thank you to all generous Fitzwilliam alumni!

Celebrating 60 years’ connection

Former Master, Professor Robert Lethbridge, was one of 90 guests that attended the MML dinner on 31 January to celebrate Dr Geoff Walker’s 60 year connection with the College. Geoff matriculated in 1955, completed his BA and PhD at Fitzwilliam, and served as Director of Studies in MML from 1974 until 1994. In 1989 he was awarded the Cross of St George (Catalonia) for services to Catalan culture, having been President of The Anglo-Catalan Society for a number of years.

Geoff and his wife Anna marked the occasion with a gift to the College of two signed lithographs by Salvador Dali. ‘Anna and I have a little hideaway in El Port de la Selva, near Port Lligat where Dali had his house and headquarters. Our village became a congregating point for Catalan intellectuals of the last century and over the years we had the privilege of meeting a number of them, though never Dali himself. Thanks to this we acquired these two lithographs in the 1970s. One is a self-portrait – you can see his waxed moustache, eyes, brain and hands. The other is a sort of veiled defiant comment to the world at large: two eggs with a rather flaccid-looking ‘sausage’ on one of the plates!’

It was also announced that the College had established The Geoff Walker Scholarship for excellence in the field of Hispanic Studies, supported by gifts from alumni and Fellows.
That was then, this is now...

Geoff Harrison (Natural Sciences 1955) celebrates 60 years as a member of Fitzwilliam this year. 2016 marks the 50th anniversary of the Royal Charter by which Fitzwilliam House was transformed into Fitzwilliam College. Geoff writes about the part he played in that story.

In May 1958, in my last term at Fitzwilliam House, when I was General Secretary of the Amalgamated Clubs, I wrote to the Vice-Chancellor on behalf of the undergraduates at Fitzwilliam, saying that we felt ignored and neglected by the University. There was no sign whatever of movement to collegiate status, and I pointed out in my letter that like any other college, we sat the Tripos exams, competed in the sports, and had a collegiate life in all but name.

When it was my turn, he clasped my hands, someone said ‘Harrison’, his head shot up and he looked straight into my eyes. Then of course I moved on and never saw him again.

But six weeks later, in August 1958, it was announced in the national press that Dr Grave had been appointed to be Censor of Fitzwilliam House and to prepare Fitzwilliam for collegiate status. To quote Bill Williams, the Acting Censor at the time, I had lit the blue touch paper!

Since that time, I have been Secretary of the Fitzwilliam Society for 22 years, President of the Society twice, President of the Billygoats, and I’m on my eighth Master of the College. My commitment to all things Fitzwilliam is total.

From Fitzwilliam Geoff joined Distillers Chemicals & Plastics Group in South Wales, which became BP Chemicals Ltd. He progressed through factory technical management to head office operations management, finishing his career in research management, with research programmes in the UK, France and the USA.

To my surprise, the Vice-Chancellor wrote back asking me to have tea with him. Now this wasn’t any old Vice-Chancellor, it was Lord Adrian; Nobel Prize Winner, Master of Trinity – the prospect was knee-trembling. However, I duly went to the Master’s Lodge at Trinity and talked with him at length, explaining how our undergraduates felt let down. He listened to me very kindly before eventually I was dismissed. Two weeks went by, and then I got another invitation to tea from the Vice-Chancellor. This time, instead of listening to me he asked a lot of questions, and I subsequently heard nothing more. No more invitations.

I sat my Tripos, my boat won its oars, and eventually I came up happily at the end of June to take my degree. As I stood in line in front of the Vice-Chancellor, with hundreds of others, I saw him, an elderly man, obviously tired, his head deeply bowed, repeatedly clasping hands and saying the Latin words without ever looking up.

That was then, this is now...
An Eloquent Woman is Never Chaste

Millie Papworth explores the climate in which two very different women dared to speak out about the status of women in early modern Venice.

Early modern Italy might have been the birthplace of the ideas and mentalities which shape our world today, but the question of whether women had a Renaissance is still hotly contested. As scholars and princes vied to extend the boundaries of art, science, music, and literature, women were silenced, enclosed and even literally walled up away from the vital and exciting new discoveries.

Venice prided itself on being at the forefront of sophisticated culture and thought, but that was not the city known to its upper and middle class women. Subject to some of the strictest social codes in Europe, they were forced to remain in their houses or convents as possessions of their male relatives, who would dispose of them as they thought most convenient.

Men were the holders of public power, and all the traits that accompanied it: eloquence, rationality, intellect. After the reforms of the Council of Trent (1545-1563) women were increasingly confined to the domestic sphere to practice their particular virtues of obedience, chastity, silence and modesty. Moreover, a woman’s silence and modesty were equated with her chastity and respectability. A woman who broke these social codes and dared to enter the public sphere, be that through distributing her writings, speaking publicly, acting on stage, or even drawing attention to herself in the street, was instantly victim to doubts about her chastity, or even outright accusations of promiscuity.

One of our primary means for understanding the ways in which women were restricted in their behaviour is through conduct books which survive to this day. These were guides to all aspects of a woman’s behaviour, dress, manner and lifestyle produced for parents, male relatives, or women themselves in any of the four states of life, maiden, wife, widow or nun. Influenced by mid-century religious and social changes following the Council of Trent, which gradually turned women’s education into a Christian training to obedient wifehood and devout motherhood with no regard for the development of women’s intellectual life, these guides became ever stricter.

The primary aim of women’s education became the acquisition of strong religious morals aimed at preserving their chastity until matrimony, together with the practical skills of ‘preserving’ and managing their husbands’ property and wealth. In 1584 Cardinal Silvio Antoniano wrote On the Christian and Political Upbringing of Children which stated that ‘The duty of men is to remain for long periods outside of the home... while women must always stay at home’. Parents are told to prevent girls from looking out of windows, answering any greeting, and enjoying any form of ‘recreation’. In public, girls should cover their head and face with a veil, and their mothers, by their example, should show them that the best feminine adornments are chastity and silence, followed by modesty, shyness, sobriety, and love for husband and children.

Not all Venetian women, however, were content to accept this fate. Veronica Franco (1546-1591) was a high class courtesan and Arcangela Tarabotti (1604-1652) was a noble nun, both of whom dared to take up the pen and viciously attack a city and its male rulers who condemned them as second class citizens.

As a courtesan, Franco had little time for these rules. Although Venice was famous among foreign travellers for its sexual freedoms and high number of prostitutes (one scholar estimates that, at the start of the sixteenth century, as many as one in six Venetian women worked at least occasionally as a prostitute), only a very few women succeeded in becoming a higher status ‘cortegiana onesta’, or ‘honourable courtesan’. To become a ‘cortegiana onesta’ a woman needed to be
beautiful, sophisticated in her dress and manners, but also an elegant, cultured conversationalist. In the refined language and topics of her published letters (1580), Franco provides the written proof of her cultivation, and also of her high social contacts – she opens her Lettere by thanking the King Henri III of France for his nocturnal visit in 1574. There is also, however, a sharp awareness of the restrictions which faced other women, writing of the dangers for a woman forced into common prostitution, rather than being a courtesan:

‘To make oneself prey to so many men, at the risk of being stripped, robbed, even killed, so that one man, one day, may snatch away from you everything you’ve acquired from many over such a long time, along with so many other dangers of injury and dreadful contagious diseases; to eat with another’s mouth, sleep with another’s eyes, more according to another’s will, obviously rushing toward the shipwreck of your mind and body – what greater misery?’

Franco herself eventually discovered that the dangers of life did, in fact, threaten courtesans too: records of her become scarce, but she appears to have ended her days in relative poverty after being investigated by the Inquisition.

Equally enraged about the dangers facing women was nun Arcangela Tarabotti. Huge dowry inflation in Venice meant that her father could not afford to marry off all his daughters and Arcangela, despite being the eldest, was placed against her will in a convent at the age of eleven because of the limp she had inherited from the father himself. She did not leave until she died almost forty years later, suffering in a convent with no windows to the outside world, living on poverty rations in homespun clothing. She wrote a number of furious works against this ‘convent hell’ as she termed it, and Paternal Tyranny is particularly ruthless in its criticism of the fathers who subject their daughters to such a fate: ‘It would be better for these innocents whom you deceive and incarcerate if their days of birth were also their days of death!’ Their daughters are described as ‘still-breathing corpses in coarsely woven rags among a thousand never-dying deaths brought on by wretched poverty’. The worst aspect was that, because these women had been forced to take the veil against their will, they had committed a mortal sin. Their fathers had condemned them not just to an earthly hell, but to eternal damnation.

It is hard to believe that, as the foundations of our modern world were being laid, sisters, wives, daughters and mothers were being so brutally attacked by the machine of a political, judicial and cultural society which supposedly prized rationality and Christian mercy. Recently, work has begun to reclaim their voices and uncover their hidden lives, so that finally they might be permitted to speak out and be heard as equals.

Millie Papworth (2014) is an MPhil student working on women’s writing in the early modern period in France and Italy, in particular on the writings of Commedia dell’arte actress Isabella Andreini. In October she will begin a PhD on the poetry of Laura Terracina, a sixteenth-century poet from Naples who was the best-selling female author of the era in Italy, exploring how she was effectively constructed by the burgeoning print culture in which she lived. She is the first recipient of the Robert Lethbridge Studentship in MML.

Frontispiece Portrait of Veronica Franco, originally intended for her volume of poems, the Terze rime (1575). A detached engraving (anonymous) in the manuscript collection of the Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana, Venice. MSS il IX 14i(=6988).

Compared to other images we have of actresses and prostitutes of the time, Franco’s hairstyle and high neckline are relatively understated. This both promotes the intellectual side of her reputation, and is perhaps in response to sumptuary laws of the time, which aimed at ensuring visual differences between noblewomen and prostitutes.

Portrait of a Lady, follower of Jacopo Tintoretto, Italian, 1519–1594, Worcester Art Museum MA

This portrait of Veronica Franco, painted by a follower of Tintoretto c.1575, was sent with a letter and sonnets, later printed in her Lettere to King Henri III as a gift thanking him for his visit. Although Franco mixed with the highest in society, her position remained precarious, as her later financial difficulties demonstrate.
A new report underlines how forest foods can help solve the global hunger crisis.

Fitzwilliam Fellow and Director of the University of Cambridge Conservation Research Institute, Bhaskar Vira, explains.

About one in nine people globally still suffer from hunger, with the majority living in Africa and Asia. Forests are key to protecting biodiversity, and for mitigating the effects of climate change. This is well known. However their contribution to alleviating hunger and improving nutrition has been somewhat neglected. A recent study by the Global Forest Expert Panel on Forests and Food Security, which I chaired, shows how forests and trees can complement agricultural production and give an economic boost to some of the world’s most vulnerable regions.

Tree foods are often rich in vitamins, proteins and other nutrients and are associated with more diverse diets. For example, the iron content of dried seeds of the African locust bean and raw cashew nut is comparable with, or even higher than, that of chicken meat. Wild meat, fish and insects are also important forest food sources. Many forests and agroforests (tree-based farms) are managed by local communities specifically to enhance edible insect supply.

Forests are also essential for firewood and charcoal. In developing countries, 2.4 billion people still use wood-fuel for cooking and heating. Access to cooking fuel provides people with more flexibility in what they can eat, including more nutritious foods that require more energy to cook. Trees offer a multitude of ecological services. They support bees and other pollinators, provide animal fodder that enables communities to produce meat and milk, and protect streams and watersheds as habitat for fish.

Close to one out of six people directly depend on forests for their food and income, and it is important to recognise the rights of local people to these livelihood options. In the Sahel, for example, trees can contribute as much as 80% to household incomes, especially through shea nut production.

Novel initiatives are attempting to develop new tree commodities to supply the poor with sustainable incomes. For example, poor producers in Tanzania are engaged in a global effort to produce the seeds of the Allanblackia crop, which yield an edible oil – the business could be worth hundreds of millions of dollars annually for local farmers.

Although forests are not a panacea for global hunger, they play a vital role in complementing crops produced on farms. This is especially important when the staple food supply is impaired by droughts, volatile prices, armed conflicts, or other crises. While large-scale crop production remains important, it is highly vulnerable to extreme weather events, which may occur more frequently under climate change. Tree-based farming can adapt far better to such calamities. During periods of food shortage triggered by such events, forest foods can provide a vital safety net, especially for the poorest households.

This forest-farm link also means that the loss and degradation of forests exacerbate the problem of food insecurity. Losing forests jeopardises “ecological services” such as a clean water supply, crucial for crop and livestock production. Managing landscapes on a multi-functional basis that combines food production, the maintenance of ecosystem services and other land use services should be at the forefront of efforts to achieve global food security.

In the lead up to the UN’s finalisation of the Sustainable Development Goals later this year, the contribution of forests and tree-based systems to the “Zero Hunger Challenge” needs to be emphasised. They can be managed to provide better and more nutritionally-balanced diets, greater control over food inputs – particularly during lean seasons and periods of vulnerability (especially for marginalised groups) – and deliver ecosystem services for crop production. It will be a critical element of the responses to global hunger.

Dr Bhaskar Vira is Chair of the Global Forest Expert Panel on Forests and Food Security. He is Reader in Political Economy at the Department of Geography, and Graduate Tutor at Fitzwilliam College.

This article is an edited version of a blog in ‘The Conversation’ 6 May 2015.

Faith in the wilderness

Optima hears from two alumni with experience of ministry in the Middle East

The Mission to Seafarers Port Chaplain

From our Church steps you can see Israel and Egypt, and Saudi Arabia is just 18 miles behind us, yet we are in Aqaba in Jordan. The country is beautiful, dramatic, friendly and full of ancient sites; this is the biblical wilderness. I work with the sailors who come into our ports and run an Anglican church. The ships are vast, and most are fringed with razor wire and dummy sailors set up to deter the pirates. The sailors’ lives are hard and isolated with six months away from home. We hear tales of gales and attempted boarding by gangs; of late pay, bad living conditions and dangerous ships. My ministry is to be there for the sailors and their concerns; everyone else who boards the ship is concerned either with the cargo, the certification or the owner. It is basic ministry, but in the loneliness, exhaustion and fear that many sailors’ lives involve it is vital. In Aqaba there is also a small diverse congregation, and we run an English language service on Sundays. People are changed by living here; this is after all the wilderness and unresolved issues have a habit of emerging. All of this is set in this quiet eye of the storm of violence and conflict that rage in the countries around us, throwing the peace and generosity of this place into high relief. The inner life is taken seriously; there is an assumption of prayer, fasting and giving, and shock that this isn't seen as vital in the west. I find myself expected to be prayerful and dedicated to my faith.

The RAF Chaplain

It’s summer 2012 and I’m on an American airbase near Kandahar as Chaplain to the British Forces involved in an ugly and complex conflict. It’s my first deployment since I joined the RAF in 2009 and my first experience of Afghanistan. All is desert. The landscape is flat, dusty and barren; only the distant mountains break up the monotonous scenery. Water is found in a small, polluted lake and the so-called ‘poo-pond’ that contributes sewerage needs and an unfortunate smell when the wind is in the wrong direction. The only contact with locals is with those who work for contractors on the base or the handful who sell their wares at the Saturday morning bazaar. There is a Church on camp (in a country where Christians face fierce persecution) and the faithful few gather in a harsh environment to offer support and remember the God of the desert. But over the next few months my eyes and heart grow to see signs of life: mynah birds nesting in the hangar roof; lizards scuttling between rocks and weeds; snatchted conversations with young men who have understood the fragility of life and appreciate anew the love that sustains them from home; camouflaged New Testaments and bandannas inscribed with Psalm 91 that disappear from the table outside my office; a renewed appreciation of the Muslim faith through the commitment expressed during Ramadhan; a book debating the interface of science and theology passed into the grateful hands of a questioning pilot. There is always life in the desert.

“*Aqaba means stumbling block or obstacle course, and when you see the mountains that surround the sea here and drive through the passes towards Petra, you can see why it got its name. It is simultaneously at the centre of so much with Egypt three miles over the red sea, a land border with Israel and Saudi Arabia both inside its precincts. Yet it is out on a limb, cut off from the rest of Jordan by desert and mountains which are often impassable owing to snow, dust storms or torrential rain.*”

Optima, Fitzwilliam College Newsletter
Landing a manmade object on a comet moving at 55,000 km per hour around the sun was always going to be a huge challenge – but the Rosetta mission managed it in 2014. Alumnus Les Baldwin tells *Optima* about his involvement in not one, but two landings on solar system bodies.

The history of the Rosetta mission goes back 22 years. It was in 1993 that Rosetta and its lander, Philae, were first approved by the European Space Agency (ESA) to perform in situ observations of a comet.

ESA contracts European industry for launchers and spacecraft for missions in Earth and planetary science, astronomy and human spaceflight. Scientific instruments are provided by research groups and I joined the German-led lander project in 1998. The Open University (OU) had a chemical analysis instrument called Ptolemy on board, and the Rutherford-Appleton Laboratory, where I worked, was providing electronics and software to control it – and I was involved in writing the software.

Ptolemy is a gas-chromatograph mass-spectrometer, an instrument commonly found in chemistry laboratories, and is normally the size of a sideboard. It had to be reduced to the size of a toaster to fit into Philae – itself the size of a washing machine (truly, an appliance of science!). Ptolemy processes samples of dust by heating and chemical reaction to release the lighter elements, which are ionised by high voltage and dispersed by a magnetic field onto a detector. The software I was involved with controls all of Ptolemy’s operations – from receiving commands from Earth through to returning the scientific data.

In March 2004, Rosetta and Philae began their odyssey across the solar system, boldly going where no lander had gone before –

**Giving outreach a whole new meaning**

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In March 2004, Rosetta and Philae began their odyssey across the solar system, boldly going where no lander had gone before –

**Giving outreach a whole new meaning**

Landing a manmade object on a comet moving at 55,000 km per hour around the sun was always going to be a huge challenge – but the Rosetta mission managed it in 2014. Alumnus Les Baldwin tells *Optima* about his involvement in not one, but two landings on solar system bodies.

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but to the wrong comet. Because the launch had been delayed for over a year, the original target, 46P/Wirtanen, had become inaccessible; so another comet, 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko, had been selected – leaving us just 10 years to learn how to pronounce its name!

By then though, I was working with Science Systems (SCISYS) on the British-led Beagle-2 Mars lander. Beagle-2 had a ‘clam-shell’ design, with motorised hinges to open the lid on landing and to unfold the solar panels from within it to uncover the communications antenna. The base contained the science instruments. My software controlled an instrument from the OU similar to Ptolemy, and two sampling devices – a corer-grinder for rock samples and the ‘mole’, for sub-surface samples, which was propelled by springs, eccentric cams, unbalanced weights and friction! In addition, my software also controlled the robotic arm to place other instruments in contact with rocks, and the deployment of the lid and solar panels.

So what about the famous bounce when Philae landed?

Beagle-2 was launched in June 2003, attached to an ESA Mars orbiter, and was due to land on 25 December that year. But very sadly, the eagerly-anticipated Christmas present of a signal from the surface of Mars never materialised and by 2004 ESA had declared the mission lost.

Scroll on to 2014, and after a decade in transit, Rosetta finally arrived at 67P! I followed the descent of Philae on 12 November with keen interest. But it wasn’t really a “live” event and I checked on it only at intervals during the (working) day via the internet. If I am known for anything, it’s being calm about things.

I worked at ESA’s control centre in Darmstadt in the 90s (that’s where everyone was jumping around when the news of the Rosetta landing arrived) and we had some pretty serious moments when calmness was essential.

So what about the famous bounce when Philae landed? What happened was that the greater mass of comet 67P and the failure of Philae’s ‘hold-down’ thruster had increased the risk of a bounce. When first contact with the surface started the science operations, it left Ptolemy, in mid-bounce, analysing the dust samples kicked up by the impact. Even so, its science data were still returned safely to Earth 300 million miles away.

Then, astonishingly, just two months later on 16 January 2015, came the remarkable news that Beagle-2 had been found – lying on Mars in a partially deployed state. As the lid and some panels were deployed, this indicated that the deployment method was sound and that some of my software had had a chance to work, though something very serious must have happened on landing to block that fourth panel. Landing on Mars is notoriously difficult – half the attempts have failed – and Beagle-2 made Britain only the third nation to succeed, inspiring a generation in the process.

For Beagle-2, there can be no recovery; but it’s not over yet for Philae. As 67P approaches the sun, the panels will generate enough power to resume operations. In the open, Philae would have overheated before closest approach (August 2015) but as it’s shaded it should survive to see the comet at its most spectacular, giving better science than expected.

Stop press: Philae woke up on 13 June!
uncompromising interpretations of Ruskian craft architecture that the English Arts and Crafts Movement produced. The book presents Prior’s fascinating writings for the first time to a modern audience. Introductory essays examine the ideas and context behind each piece, uncovering a much more complex output than might be assumed from his ‘Arts and Crafts’ associations. Prior’s buildings are illustrated with new and contemporary photographs and drawings.

David Valinsky (Architecture 2003) is a practicing architect, living and working in Cambridge. As a student he won the Faculty of Architecture’s ES Prior Prize and was nominated for the RIBA Bronze Medal.

PUBLISHER’S DESCRIPTION:

Publisher’s description: Severeley unwell children are the most frightening emergency a clinician can face. This handbook aims to guide the clinician through what to do and when, in a format that can be read at the bedside. It is a symptom-based handbook which concisely covers a range of essential information, from the key facts about the history to the specific difficulties of children in an emergency situation. Symbols are used to indicate clinical severity, and the book includes detailed drug dosages for children and the most recent resuscitation guidelines.

Dr Stuart Crisp (Natural Sciences 1985) is still hands on as a Consultant via a busy rural paediatric clinic and general hospital in New South Wales, Australia.

PUBLISHER’S DESCRIPTION:

Publisher’s description: This revised edition of the most authoritative analysis of England’s most famous constitutional text sets the events of 1215 and the Charter itself in
the context of the law, politics and administration of England and Europe in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. The new introduction examines a range of issues raised by scholarship since publication of the second edition. This includes the intellectual setting, the degree of influence of Roman and Canon Law upon those who drafted the Charter and the legal and jurisdictional issues that affected the Charter’s clauses on justice.

Professor Sir James Holt (1922-2014, Master of Fitzwilliam 1981-88) was an authority on medieval history. He published on the Norman Conquest, Robin Hood, medieval government and early colonial England.

MAGNA CARTA: THE TRUE STORY BEHIND THE CHARTER
David Starkey
April 2015
www.hodder.co.uk

Publisher’s description: The monarchs of seventeenth-century Europe put a surprisingly high priority on the abolition of duelling, seeing its eradication as an important step from barbarism toward a rational state monopoly on justice. But it was one thing to ban duelling and another to stop it. Many of the greatest names in Western literature wrote about or even fought in duels. As John Leigh explains, the duel was a gift as a plot device, but writers also sought to discover in duels something more fundamental about human conflict. The literary history of the duel illuminates the tensions that attended the birth of the modern world.

Dr John Leigh (MML 1988) is a Fellow of Fitzwilliam, Director of Studies in MML and University Lecturer in the Faculty of Modern & Medieval Languages.

ON SOUTH BANK: THE PRODUCTION OF PUBLIC SPACE
Alasdair J.H. Jones
July 2014
www.ashgate.com

Publisher’s description: Tensions over the production of urban public space came to the fore in summer 2013 with mass protests in Turkey sparked by a plan to redevelop Taksim Gezi Park, Istanbul. In London, proposals to refurbish an area of the South Bank historically used by skateboarders were similarly met by staunch opposition. Through an in-depth ethnographic examination of London’s South Bank, this book explores multiple dimensions of the production of urban public space.

Dr Alasdair Jones (Geography 1999) is Assistant Professor in Qualitative Research Methodology at the LSE.

POWER OF PERSUASION: ESSAYS BY A VERY PUBLIC LAWYER
Louis Blom-Cooper
January 2015
www.bloomsbury.com

Publisher’s description: Simon Giaddish (Religious Studies 1990) trained as an English language teacher after university allowing him to live and work all over the world. He now lives in Swansea.

Simon Giaddish

Plate 1: Tensions over the production of urban public space came to the fore in summer 2013 with mass protests in Turkey sparked by a plan to redevelop Taksim Gezi Park, Istanbul. In London, proposals to refurbish an area of the South Bank historically used by skateboarders were similarly met by staunch opposition. Through an in-depth ethnographic examination of London’s South Bank, this book explores multiple dimensions of the production of urban public space.

The Final Over: The Cricketers of Summer 1914
Christopher Sandford
August 2014
www.thehistorypress.co.uk

Publisher’s description: August 1914 brought an end to the ‘Golden Age’ of English cricket. At least 210 professional cricketers (out of a total of 278 registered) signed up to fight, of whom thirty-four were killed. Sandford recounts in intimate detail not only the stories of the cricketers, but also the simple pleasures and daily struggles of their family lives and the whole fabric of English social life as it existed on the eve of that cataclysm. The Final Over is a gripping, moving and fully human account of this most poignant summer of the twentieth century, both on and off the field of play.

Christopher Sandford (History 1974) has been a professional writer for 29 years specialising in cricket and contemporary music.

TOUCHE - THE DUEL IN LITERATURE
John Leigh
June 2015
www.hup.harvard.edu

Publisher’s description: At Runnymede on 15 June 1215, the seal of King John was attached to the Magna Carta, and peace descended upon the land. Or that’s what successive generations have believed. Is it true? Often viewed as a victory for the people over the monarchy and a cornerstone of democracy, the true significance of Magna Carta is misunderstood. Starkey paints a vivid portrait of the years 1215-1225, a revolutionary decade of huge significance that produced not only but four charters, and challenges centuries of myth-making.

Dr David Starkey (History 1964) is an Honorary Fellow of Fitzwilliam, a leading historian of the Tudor period and one of the best known TV dons. He was made a CBE in 2007.
To Benin and back

British troops looted thousands of works of art from the Benin Empire in 1897. Last year, Mark Walker returned the bronzes he’d inherited from his grandfather.

In 1897, Mark Walker’s grandfather, Herbert, was in West Africa as part of the 500-strong Benin Punitive Expedition, sent to punish the Oba (King) of Benin for the killing of seven British officials. Mark never met his grandfather but he’d been familiar with his journal ‘To Benin and back’ since he was a boy. Some of the more graphic photos in the journal had made a lasting impression. So too had the two bronzes his grandfather had kept as souvenirs. A ‘bird of prophecy’, known as an Oro bird, and a bell used to invoke ancestors.

But when he inherited them in 2013, and having coveted them for many years, Mark found himself asking what he really wanted them for. ‘As you come into your 60s you realise you have to start making preparations for moving away from this life. Possessions aren’t as important as I used to think when I was younger’.

So Mark got in touch with the Richard Lander Society, an organisation that campaigns for the Benin artworks to be returned, and last year he travelled to Benin City in Nigeria to hand back the bronzes to the present Oba, the great-grandson of the King deposed by Herbert and his colleagues. He was greeted with enthusiasm and gratitude, and said he felt humbled. ‘I was just returning some art objects to a place where I feel they will be properly looked after.’

There are plans to establish a museum in the Oba’s palace where returned items can be put on public display. Most of the objects taken from Benin were sold and about 800 of them ended up in the British Museum. ‘A thief never rests,’ said the Commissioner for Arts, Culture and Tourism, Aanena Jemitola, during Mark’s visit, adding: ‘Now you will rest in peace.’ Mark said that her remark struck him at first as a sweet and generous comment, and he still feels it was meant that way. ‘But it is of course also an indictment of me, one of the indirect beneficiaries of theft.’

Mark Walker (Natural Sciences 1967) switched to Medical Sciences with the encouragement of Tony Edwards, and worked as a consultant in medical microbiology at Preston and Bangor.

Mark’s story has been covered by the BBC World Service “Witness” series, which led to interest in his grandfather’s diary from students of the Open University.
Saturday 9 May marked 42 days without any cases of the Ebola virus in Liberia – the milestone the World Health Organisation (WHO) required to finally declare the country ‘Ebola free’. It also marked a little over 14 months since I moved to live and work there. I never expected to end up helping the Government manage the worst Ebola outbreak in history.

I first travelled to Liberia in March 2014 (a few weeks before the first human case emerged somewhere between Guinea and Liberia) to work with Tony Blair’s Africa Governance Initiative (AGI) as an advisor in the finance minister’s office, supporting the government to implement its development strategy (including re-starting hydro power and building major roads). I was on a career break from HM Treasury, and up until July last year the work had been both fascinating and challenging.

However by the first week of August a real panic had set in as Ebola reached the capital city, Monrovia, and the number of cases suddenly began to spiral, quickly outstripping the small capacity of the response teams. The airlines were pulling out, some expat health workers had contracted the disease, a government consultant (who had been in my office two weeks before) took Ebola to Nigeria and organisations had started evacuating expats. My AGI colleagues and I were pulled back to London for a conference, but I was keen to get back to Monrovia. I didn’t know what to expect – my flight was mostly empty and the aircrew, looking visibly scared, donned face masks as we landed. However, after a few tense weeks in August/September there were surprisingly few signs of a major crisis on the streets, save for a new Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) treatment centre and a load of new UN 4x4s.

Between September and Christmas I worked with the Government on the response to the crisis, alongside a range of new expats arriving from the various relief organisations. My work included helping Ministry of Health colleagues develop a weekly overview, helping set up a regular meeting for the President to oversee the response and supporting the Government coordinator of Dead Body Management (pretty grim title). Safe burial and body disposal was critical to limiting infection and when I got back in September the response was struggling to keep pace with the growth of cases.

Things started to look a bit better towards the end of the year, with the communities themselves playing a huge role in the improvement (whereas the impact of the hundreds of millions spent by the international organisations is more up for debate). This allowed me to shift back to working with Finance particularly on the post-Ebola recovery plans.

It’s been a real privilege to sit on the side of the Government and work with them through yet another really difficult period for their country. Even if it wasn’t quite what I had in mind when I set out.

From Fitz Peter St Quinton (Natural Sciences 2003) spent a year with a social inclusion NGO and a year in the strategy team at Network Rail. He was at HM Treasury for four years working on banking reforms and the financial crisis, international/EU issues and defence spending before moving to Liberia.
Global Cambridge, global Fitzwilliam

Universities in the 21st century are big business, and the most successful understand the need to position themselves on the global stage. UK plc is a huge beneficiary of the international pull of Cambridge and other far-sighted British universities. Helen Bettinson explores Fitzwilliam’s global profile.

The trend towards greater internationalism in student intake and research collaboration has accelerated in recent years, but cross-national and multi-cultural links are not new to Cambridge or to Fitzwilliam. The College’s proud history of taking students from across the globe extends back well into the 19th century, and it continues to the present day. Around a quarter of our undergraduates come from outside the UK, and over half of our graduate students. More than 2,300 alumni members of Fitzwilliam are based overseas, in 114 countries.

The University recognises that attracting talent from around the world is essential to Cambridge’s continued success. The College plays an essential role in offering a home and a community to individuals who form friendships across national and academic boundaries, thereby enriching not only their own lives but also the intellectual and social life of the whole Fitzwilliam body and of the wider University. In other words, it’s a win-win.

Or is it? Critics might argue that each non-UK student deprives a home student of a place. But that argument ignores the fact that admission is highly competitive for all applicants, regardless of background, and that – given the high academic threshold – a reduction in foreign students would not necessarily lead to a greater intake from Britain or the EU.

In any case, we value the huge benefits enjoyed by all members of the College that derive from living in a thriving international community. Having the chance to work, socialise, debate, play sport, and make music with students from China, the United States, Germany, Ukraine, Singapore, Australia etc, is a huge bonus. In addition, our students have opportunities to work and study across the globe, thanks to programmes and personal links forged by our Fellows and alumni.

There are difficulties, however, as the Vice-Chancellor explained at the Global Cambridge conference held in Berlin in March. Visas for foreign students entering the UK can be a challenge, and may be a source of frustration that can lead prospective international applicants to look, for instance, to US universities. Funding is also an issue. Scholarships such as those offered by the Gates Trust or the Cambridge Trusts are wonderful in bringing top scholars to Cambridge – and to Fitzwilliam – but they are woefully outstripped by demand. The College is hugely grateful to alumni who offer studentships and bursaries to overseas students that enable them to meet the cost of their Cambridge education and take up their places here.

Academics and College Fellows, like students, are a vital element in the international Cambridge community. In addition to teaching they engage in cutting-edge research across the disciplines, and partner with peers around the world to advance the frontiers of knowledge. Fitzwilliam’s Fellowship includes members from the USA, India, Europe, Russia, Sri Lanka, New Zealand; Visiting Fellows refresh the national mix every term. They come here for the same reasons as our students: to play their part in one of the world’s top academic institutions and broaden their own personal and intellectual horizons.

Over the past 18 months the Master has visited alumni in Asia, Europe and the USA, and I’ve been fortunate to accompany her on some of those trips. She has hosted dinners in Mumbai, Delhi, Rome, Berlin, Singapore, Hong Kong, New York and Boston. If the budget allowed she would visit Fitzwilliam alumni in every one of the 114 countries in which they can be found! We’ve met an Indian scientist now working at Harvard, a Greek economist living in Frankfurt (two of them, actually!), a Bulgarian-American peacekeeper at the UN in New York … the list goes on. We are also in touch with British nationals living in Jordan, Taiwan, Brazil, Japan, and everywhere in between.

Tables of nationalities and countries of residence are fun to compile but maybe miss the point, which is that behind them lie thousands of Fitzwilliam members with a shared experience. Each year we welcome dozens of them – of you – back to College, sometimes as part of a personal visit to Cambridge, sometimes to attend the main Reunion in September or the Golden Matriculants’ Reunion in July. We hope that what brings you back isn’t just nostalgia but also curiosity as to what Fitzwilliam is today, and how our position in the global marketplace of education continues to chime with our distinctive ethos and tradition.

Helen Bettinson (History 1982) is Development Director and a Fellow of the College.
Cambridge on tour

As part of its remit to reach out to overseas alumni, the Cambridge University Development and Alumni Relations office (CUDA) organises one-day Global Cambridge conferences to showcase the breadth and significance of Cambridge’s research. The Master has attended the two most recent events, held in Delhi last September and in Berlin this March. At the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities the audience was stimulated by a number of talks and panel discussions including a ‘conversation’ between the Master, Nicky Padfield, and Fitzwilliam alumnus Dean Spielmann (LLM 1989). His Honour Judge Dean Spielmann spoke candidly of the challenges he faces in his role as President of the European Court of Human Rights.

FITZ ALUMNI OVERSEAS

There are 2300 Fitz alumni currently resident outside the UK, of whom 555 are in the USA, 142 in Germany, 140 in Australia, 133 in Canada, and 114 in Singapore. Of the 114 countries where Fitz members can be found, Hong Kong, China, France, India and Malaysia all have sizeable communities.

The University has more than 52,000 overseas alumni in over 180 countries.

From England with Love

Fitzwilliam’s long association with India was celebrated on 20 November at the launch of a new book, From England with Love, edited by Professor Padma Desai. Published by Penguin India, the book contains letters written in 1926-27 by her father, Kalidas Desai, who studied English at Fitzwilliam House.

At the launch, hosted by the Master and attended by current Indian students of the College as well as students who benefit from the KL Desai Fund, Professor Desai described her excitement at being handed a metal box containing her father’s letters, written in ink on brown decaying paper. The correspondence revealed his battles with Norse languages, his delight at attending lectures by TS Eliot, his enchantment with London and his deep appreciation of the English countryside. After his return to India, Kalidas taught at the MTB Arts College in Surat, Gujarat, where he later served as Principal. He died in 1987.

Professor Desai was accompanied by her husband, Professor Jagdish Bhagwati, an alumnus of St John’s College. Both are Economics professors at Columbia University in New York.

Copies of the book are available from the Fitzwilliam College Development Office, price £10. All proceeds will go to the KL Desai Fund to support excellence in English.
New
Director of Music

Katherine Parton talks about conducting and outlines her plans for the future

It has been a great privilege to take up the post of Director of Music at Fitzwilliam College. Coming with a broad remit, the position has given me the opportunity to support the strong tradition of music-making at the College whilst developing and facilitating new initiatives. As a conductor myself, my particular focus continues to be on enabling musical leaders amongst the students by teaching conducting.

This year I have established structured conducting teaching and coaching for the Organ Scholars, Choral Scholars and other members of the Choir. Our joint goals for the Choir are to raise its profile both within the University and beyond. We have recorded a video for the College website, were invited to perform for the University's Guild of Benefactors, and are planning both a domestic and an international tour. In collaboration with the MCR, I have established a Graduate Salon series, hosted by the Master, which features music and poetry from MCR members. These evenings, and other tailored opportunities (such as Matthew Waldren's workshop) for graduates, will continue.

Teaching young musicians to conduct opens doors within College and more widely. Leadership in music often requires burgeoning conductors to step in at a moment's notice, and young musicians need to have the confidence to say 'I can do that'. Many talented young people miss these opportunities because they have yet to label themselves 'conductor' or 'musical director'. Sometimes even Freshers feel they need to have had 'experience' before putting their hand up. One of my goals is create a generation of Fitz musicians who have learnt to conduct, who have 'had a go' and who are ready to say 'I can do that'. As I teach these students to conduct and help them seek out or create opportunities to lead their peers, make connections and take musical risks, I hope that I am doing more than simply coaching their gesture and technique.

Looking forward, my strategy is to support emerging leaders at Fitzwilliam to expand their horizons, particularly in responding to students' ambitions to include more contemporary and popular music in the College's musical life.

Katharine Parton made her professional conducting debut in 2009 with Offenbach's La Belle Hélène for Lyric Opera of Melbourne.

Nicholas Marshall
Songs and Chamber Music

Métier Records present three substantial song cycles by Nicholas Marshall (Music 1961). James Gilchrist (tenor), John Turner (recorder), Tim Smedley (cello) and Harvey Davies (harpsichord and piano) with the Manchester Chamber Ensemble.

'Marshall’s musical influences and talents are many and varied, and while certainly having his own inventive voice he follows in the musical footsteps of Warlock, Delius, Vaughan Williams and Sir Lennox Berkeley. James Gilchrist sings exquisitely, and Harvey Davies sounds equally at home on both harpsichord and piano. Two pieces for recorder and string quartet are played with attentive affection!'

Alison Melville (The Whole Note)
www.divine-art.co.uk/CD/28552info.htm

PhD research on musical play

Antonia Zachariou (Education 2009) dedicated part of her PhD research to children’s learning during musical play. In November, with support from Fitzwilliam’s Milner Walton Music Fund, she invited parents and guardians with their children to musical play workshops in the Reddaway Room, where they were able to explore instruments, sounds, movements, their voices – and have fun. Antonia takes up a lectureship in Early Childhood at the University of Roehampton next academic year.
Fitzwilliam Oratorio Project

Hannah Roper (Music 2013) arranged a performance of Orff’s Carmina Burana in February, the second in an Oratorio series which she launched with Elgar’s Dream of Gerontius last year.

The aim behind the Fitzwilliam Oratorio Project was to design a performance that brought students and non-students together under top-class professional direction and with high-flying professional soloists – a niche Hannah felt was barely filled in Cambridge outside of the University Musical Society. The performers for Carmina Burana were recruited voluntarily, rather than through an audition process, enabling a range of abilities to take part. Hannah said: ‘The concert itself was a pleasure to have co-ordinated and taken part in, and I am much indebted to conductor Adrian Partington, whose expert advice and generous support of the project, and of me, ensured the success of concert day.’

Fitz people involved in the orchestra included Archan Bhaumik, Freddie Brewer, Robert Folkes and Anna Sosanska; and in the chorus Anna Lush and Nicola Padfield. The Delphini Orchestra and Chorus were conducted Adrian Partington, with John Savournin (Baritone) Sian Winstanley (Soprano) and Russell Painter (Tenor). The programme also included Elgar - Pomp & Circumstance No. 3, and Vaughan Williams - The Lark Ascending (Violin: Hannah Roper).

Masterclasses with Matthew Waldren

Matthew Waldren (Music 1995) studied at the Royal College of Music in London before coming to Fitzwilliam and then enjoyed a successful 10-year career as an opera singer before emerging as a conductor of opera and orchestral music. Described as ‘a talent to watch’, his association with the College was strengthened this year when he returned to deliver workshops and mentoring sessions.

In January he ran an exciting workshop and masterclass on singing and vocal technique for graduate students from Fitzwilliam and Murray Edwards. In addition he worked intensively on conducting in a workshop with the College’s Organ Scholars Charles Gurnham (Physics 2012) and Amalie Fisher (Music Trinity College) and coached the Chapel Choir through a rehearsal on choral singing and breathing technique. In 2015/16, Matthew hopes (schedules permitting) to serve as a mentor for the next iteration of the Fitzwilliam Chamber Opera.

Matthew makes his debut at the Royal Opera House in November, conducting Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland, an opera for children which he previously conducted at Opera Holland Park. His debut studio recording of Alice will be released on Signum Classics this year.
Fitzwilliam College Community Garden

A wide range of people have been involved in getting the Fitzwilliam College Community Garden project off the ground – Fellows Jonathan Cullen and Tim Hughes, head gardener Steve Kidger and the student-run allotment committee. ’Seed’ funding has been provided from the gardening budget, the Environment Committee and the Fitzwilliam Society, which donated £500. In April the College gardening team turned 70m² of garden space behind Wilson Court into raised beds... and cultivation is under way. Tim Hughes said: ’We are hugely indebted to Steve Kidger, who conceived the idea, and to him and the gardeners for constructing the raised beds and providing tools and seedlings to get things started.’

Jonathan Harris (Geography 2010, 1st year PhD) chair of the allotment committee said: ’I got involved in the Fitzwilliam College Community Garden as soon as I heard about it because it’s something I’ve felt strongly we should be doing in College since I first came here. What’s been fantastic is finding out I’m not the only one. People from all over the College – staff, Fellows, grads and undergrads – have all come together with tons of enthusiasm for the project.’

Graduate student Millie Papworth said: ’The ethos is simple. The beds will be a space for anyone to use simply by joining our mailing list, and we would like the results to be shared as widely as possible. That might be individuals grabbing some parsley to pop in their supper, courgette cakes for the JCR and MCR to enjoy, or a pumpkin pie cooking session when autumn rolls around. It will be a space for people to learn more about gardening, to take some time out from the stresses and strains of Cambridge, and to have a real sense of community.’

Fitz Enterprise

In November 2014 a group of local alumni entrepreneurs came into College to meet and dine with interested students and Fellows. A stimulating discussion about ‘what next?’ was led by Dr Simon Barnes (NatSci 1987), and the result was Fitz Enterprise, a new student society for undergrads and graduate students. Dr Richard Trehewey (NatSci 1987), Dr Rajan Jethwa (Medicine 1996), Peter Cowley (Engineering 1974) and Tom Phillips (Land Economy 2009) have since shared their experiences and expertise at informal evening sessions. Fitz Enterprise aims to inspire, educate and connect entrepreneurially-minded Fitz members, as well as to nurture the network of past, present and future Fitz entrepreneurs. The Society looks forward to hearing from more inspirational alumni in the coming academic year.

Contact the Development Office if you would like to be involved.
Winter Ball
Saturnalia

A thousand guests enjoyed the Winter Ball on 4 December 2014, with much of Fitzwilliam turned (literally) upside down for the night.

During the Roman festival of Saturnalia, order turned to chaos, masters waited on their slaves, work ended and play began. And so it was (almost) at Fitzwilliam. A Christmas tree and presents hung from the ceiling; pictures hung upside down; even the menu was back to front – dinner began with ‘tea and cake’. The Auditorium was transformed into the Underworld Club and the Grove Lawn hosted the Round Up. Acts included: Ben Comeau, Quarry and The Hoosiers. 

Congratulations to Sophie Clarke (President), Zach Brubert and Lucy Charatan (Vice- Presidents) and all the committee!

Outstanding IT student

Jozef Mokry (CompSci 2012) received one of the seven inaugural Worshipful Company of Information Technologists’ (WCIT) ‘Outstanding Information Technology Student’ Prizes 2015 at the Saddlers’ Hall in London on 11 February. The prizes, worth £250, were created to recognise outstanding undergraduate/ MSc students studying at a UK university. Originally from Bratislava, Jozef intends to continue his studies as a postgraduate student.

The WCIT was established in 1992; two Fitzwilliam alumni, Roger Graham OBE (Engineering 1958) and Ken Olisa OBE (Management Studies 1971) are former Masters of the Company.

Cambridge Women Speak Out

International Women’s Day this year was enlivened by an innovative photographic campaign in which several Fitz students, the Master and Fellow Angie Tavernor took part.

A photography campaign called ‘Cambridge Women Speak Out’ created a platform for students to express their messages to other women on International Women’s Day on 8 March – using their bodies to spell out messages of solidarity and support. The photos, by Anna Kreßler were displayed at Michaelhouse Café.

The campaign was organised by Student Life, a society run by Christian students who ‘want to create an open, honest and relaxed environment for anyone to consider the big questions of life’.

Optima, Fitzwilliam College Newsletter 21
Women’s Rugby: 
47-0 Varsity victory

Chloe tackling.

Hannah in action.

Hannah Cooper (Medical & Veterinarian Sciences 2013) and Chloe Withers (Medicine 2012) played on the winning team – but were both new to rugby when they started at Fitzwilliam. Chloe Withers tells the story.

Hannah and I have both rowed for Fitz since first year and never imagined that we’d be able to represent the University in sport! When we turned up to the rugby development sessions in early October we didn’t really know what to expect and were excited to be encouraged along University training. The squad couldn’t have been more welcoming; everyone went out of their way to give us tips and encouragement and soon we were playing two matches a week. Being picked for the Varsity squad was an amazing feeling. We opened the letters together and couldn’t stop grinning for days afterwards! Varsity was such a surreal experience, there was an amazing Fitz contingent there to support us and winning 47-0 made it all the more incredible – the biggest point difference in 15 years. The team went on to win our British Universities and Colleges Sports (BUCS) league – meaning we both receive Full Blues. The women’s club has only recently joined with the men to come under the single label CURFC and on 10 December 2015 women’s Varsity is moving to Twickenham. We both hope to continue playing and be a part of this big step in women’s sport.

Why not join us at the Blues Village on 10 December and cheer on the men and the women? Contact Carol Lamb in the Development Office.

Sporting history was made when men and women rowed the same course in the Boat Race this year – and two Fitz graduate students were lucky enough to be part of that historic day.

Ashton Brown (MPhil Psychology and Education 2014) rowed in the Newton Women’s Boat Race and Clemens Auersperg (MPhil Management 2014) rowed in the BNY Mellon Men’s Reserve Race. Both were good races, but, as you will all know, Cambridge lost this year.

Ashton, from Canada, said: ‘I was incredibly excited to be a part of such a historic race. She is the recipient of the Fitzwilliam PhD studentship, and will be staying in College for another three years. Clemens, from Austria, has been studying at the Judge Business School. Musing on life after the boat race he said: ‘I am still thinking about rowing for the Austrian national team and trying for the Olympic Games in 2016. Apart from that I think I will start my career in corporate finance or management consulting.’

Fitzwilliam’s Sarah Winckless MBE (Natural Sciences 1993) umpired the Women’s Reserve Boat Race and was assistant umpire for the Men’s Blue Boat. The initiative to hold both men’s and women’s races on the same day owes much to Fitzwilliam alumna Helena Morrissey OBE (Philosophy 1984), who is CEO of Newton Investment Management, sponsors of the race.

Boat Races make sporting history

Sports news
Sports news

Men’s Hockey

Jamie Bristow (Natural Sciences 2012) was part of the victorious men’s hockey team which won the Varsity match against Oxford on 8 March. In front of over 800 spectators the Light Blues dominated the first half with Jamie finishing off a stunning move down the left with a deft flick into the roof of the net. Cambridge shone throughout the match which was 2-2 at end of play, and won on penalties. Jamie is President of Fitzwilliam’s Amalgamated Clubs.

Dancesport

The Cambridge University DanceSport Team train and compete in ten dances, five ballroom and five Latin, and have held both the National and Varsity titles for four straight years. It’s a very popular society and members practice twice a week for 3-4 hours. For Christopher Ho (Natural Sciences 2011), who took up dancing when he arrived in Cambridge, it’s the perfect complement to study. ‘When you train you have to be very focused, so you take your mind off academic work – it gives you a breather.’ He’s competed in the Empress Ballroom Blackpool – of ‘Strictly’ fame – and most recently the DanceSport Varsity Match on 2 May which Cambridge won. He dances mainly cha cha, jive, waltz and quickstep. He’s also had funding from the Sports Fund, helping to cover the cost of competitions, private lessons and shoes – he’s on his third pair!

Brand new gym

Amalgamated Clubs President, Jamie Bristow, said: ‘Students have been involved in the planning of the new gym from the beginning, and it will be a fantastic facility that we can’t wait to start using. We know, too, that it will be big draw for potential applicants. Sport remains a massive part of student life at Fitz and we’re proud to have what will be one of the best gyms in Cambridge.’

Perhaps you’d like to help our promising athletes with their training? Or support students who find the gym a perfect stress-buster?

If so, all you need to do is return your donation with the enclosed gift form, and select ‘sport’ when specifying how you want your gift to be used. Alternatively, the Development Director Dr Helen Bettinson would be delighted to hear from you if you would like more information.

Lower floor proposed
From right to left: multi rack, 4 mats, a cable machine, 2 dumbbell benches and a dumbbell rack.

Upper floor proposed
Clockwise from stairs:
2x concept2 rowers;
2x treadmill;
2x total body arc trainers;
2x upright cycles;
1x leg press;
1x row/rear delt;
1x pulldown;
1x overhead press;
1x chest press.

From right to left: multi rack, 4 mats, a cable machine, 2 dumbbell benches and a dumbbell rack.

The small, old basement gym beneath the Dining Hall is no more! An exciting project to convert one of the squash courts to a new two-storey gym (with spiral staircase) has recently been completed, thanks to a £100,000 legacy from Ken Wilson (Agriculture 1946). In addition to doubling the floor space the new gym benefits from upgraded showers and changing facilities. The plan is for there to be free weights on the ground floor and cardio-vascular and resistance equipment upstairs.

All that’s missing is new equipment, as indicated in the visualisations.

According to a student survey improved free weights provision and more cardiovascular machines are the priorities. Some of the existing equipment, which is over ten years old and showing its age, is being transferred to the new gym, but £25,000 is needed to complete the project.

Chris Ho and Maria Fala (Convile and Caius) dancing the paso doble at the Empress Ballroom in the Inter Varsity DanceSport Competition 2015.

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Events diary

2015
SEPTEMBER
Saturday 12
Sports Dinner & Golf Day
Friday 25 - Sunday 27
Reunion Weekend

OCTOBER
Saturday 31
Conference: The legacy of Lee Kuan Yew
and the future of Singapore.

NOVEMBER
Saturday 14
Careers Fair
History Dinner
Thursday 19
Foundation Lecture -
Professor Maurice Bloch

DECEMBER
Thursday 10
Blues Village Varsity Matches
(Women’s & Men’s)

2016
Date TBC
CompSci & IT Dinner
MARCH
Tuesday 1
London Drinks
MAY
Wednesday 11
London Dinner
JULY
Saturday 9
Golden Matriculants

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

Year of the Goat

In February Fitzwilliam sent alumni in China and Singapore ‘Fitzbilly’ greetings for the Chinese New Year, and invited them to send in their ‘goat’ photos and stories. Thanks to everyone who responded!

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Take out a Fitzwilliam MBNA credit card

Have you heard about the Fitzwilliam credit card? It provides attractive rates and benefits, and also means you’re supporting Fitzwilliam every time you make a purchase.

Since our card was first issued in 1995, Fitzwilliam has received a total of £36,447 in commission. Our income in 2014 totalled £964.45 and approximately 200 members are cardholders.

The College benefits each time the card is used for a retail purchase - at no cost to the cardholder. The College also receives commission from MBNA Limited for each new card that is taken out:
• £20 when you use your card within 30 days of the account opening
• 15p for every £100 you spend on card purchases
• £3 for each year the account remains open and active

To apply for your Fitzwilliam Credit Card call 0800 028 2440 and quote “Fitzwilliam College”.

For more information please see the website: www.fitz.cam.ac.uk/alumni/benefits/credit-card

1 Jeremy Yeo (Law 2003, right): 'I am having a celebratory lunch with my family. We are in the midst of the practice of “lo hei”, the Chinese New Year tradition.’

2 Graham Silverthorne (History 1972): ‘My wife is Canadian and I have been forced through a number of year-beginning traditions including eating the most revolting black fungus for breakfast yesterday. Today’s first day of year (even though it is the second day) dinner is more promising with fresh fish and pork...’

3 Chen Li (Economics 2008) taken with his daughter (18 months).


5 Adrian Tollett (Computer Science 1972)

6 David Uresey (Economics 1982) sent from IFC Mall, Hong Kong

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