



ST JOHN'S COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

The Eagle 2024

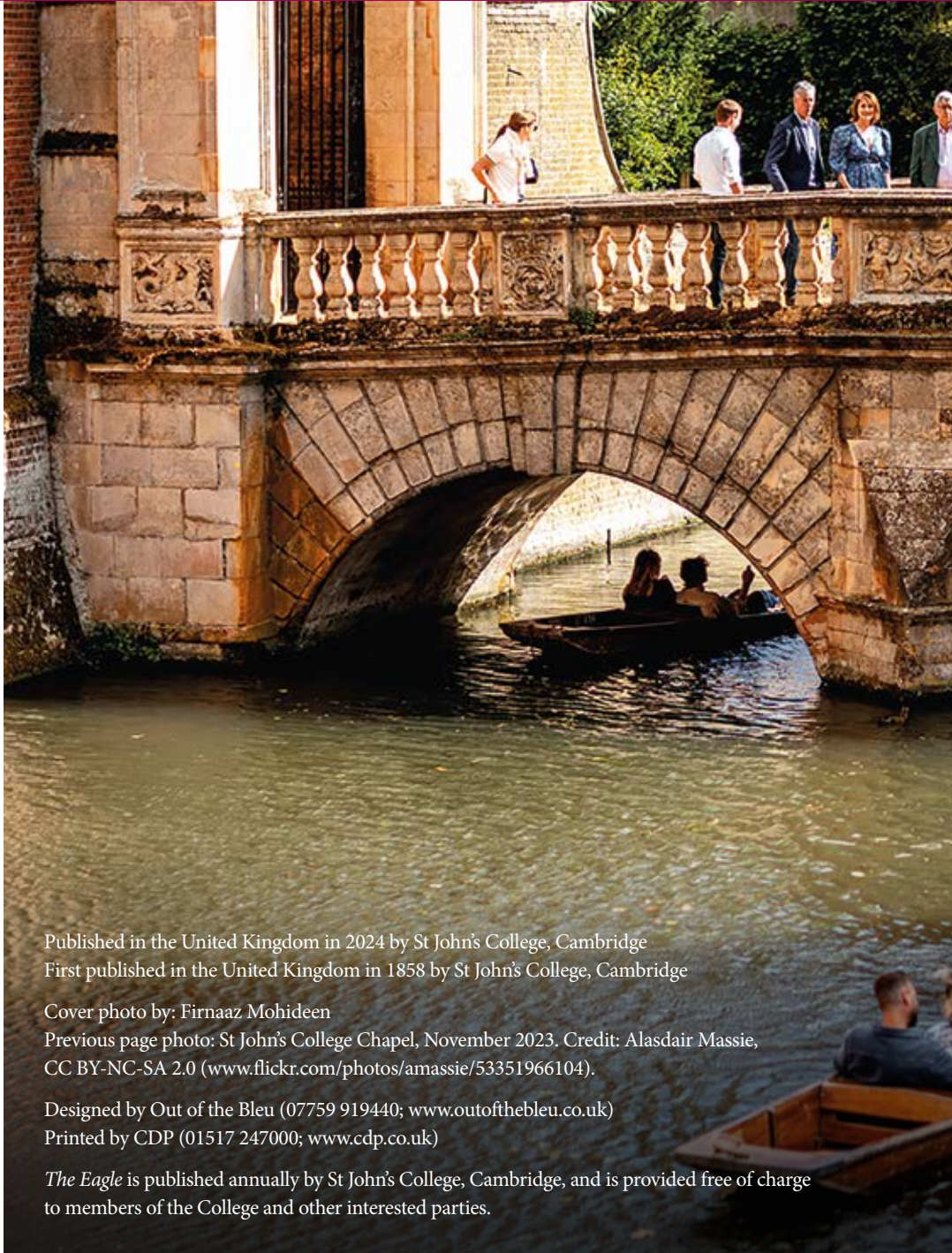


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Photo: Kitchen Bridge, July 2023
Credit: Ben Minnaar

WELCOME



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Contributors

Thanks are due to all who helped shape this issue of *The Eagle*, including:

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BRETT WILSON

Brett is a conservationist currently working with the UN Environment

Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC). During his PhD at St John's, he began researching wild tulips, and since then he has conducted research in Central Asia, leading to the discovery of a new tulip species and to the addition of some endangered tulips to the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) 'Red List of Threatened Species'.

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AMY ORBEN

Amy is a psychologist whose research focuses on how digital technologies impact adolescent mental health. She leads a research group at the MRC Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit and is a College Fellow, Lecturer and Director of Studies. Amy was awarded a £1.9 million UKRI Future Leaders Fellowship in 2023 and previously received the British Neuroscience Association Researcher Credibility Prize in 2021 and the inaugural Medical Research Council Impact Prize in 2023.

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JELAL HYDYROV

Jelal is currently an undergraduate student at St John's studying

Engineering. During the long vacation, Jelal took part in an Undergraduate Research Opportunities Programme (UROP), a summer research project, using artificial intelligence for medical report generation from radiographs.

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RENE RUSSELL

Rene is a postgraduate classicist whose MPhil research considered the

reuse of religious space in the Mithraic and Christian ruins under the Basilica di San Clemente, Rome. Rene initially studied Modern and Medieval Languages, before her love of Latin language and literature led her to pursue further study of the art and archaeology of the Roman world.

Editorial

It has been a busy year at St John's; you can read about the academic achievements and research projects of St John's students and Fellows in the reports from College officers and in the featured articles at the start of the publication. Extracurricular collegiate life has also been as vibrant as ever. The JCR and SBR committees hosted diverse programmes of student events and worked hard to improve student welfare and make a positive impact on the world around them.

This year the Choir went on their first international tour since 2019, performing sold-out concerts to audiences in Luxembourg and the Netherlands. And on the Cam the LMBC men reclaimed their rightful spot at the head of the river in both May and Lent Bumps, giving them a rare and coveted 'Double Headship' title. You can read more about sporting successes and other exciting student activities in the reports from the sports teams and societies.

The College, like wider society, has also been grappling with the challenges and opportunities presented by increased engagement with artificial intelligence and digital technologies. Many of the articles in this issue touch on this theme, and you can read about how undergraduate Jelal Hydyrov (2022) used machine learning for radiographic reporting in his recent research placement. Meanwhile, Dr Amy Orben, College Lecturer and Director of Studies in Psychological and Behavioural Sciences, presents her thoughts on the

interaction between digital technologies and young people's mental health. Finally, Ifeoma Chike (2022), formerly JCR Computing Officer, reflects in her closing article about the impact that artificial intelligence is having on students and how it may be harnessed as a power for good.

As always, we are very grateful to all the alumni, Fellows, students and staff who have contributed to this issue. If you are interested in submitting an article, or if you have an enquiry or feedback on the College's annual record, please email development@joh.cam.ac.uk or write to *The Eagle*, Development Office, St John's College, Cambridge CB2 1TP.

You can read previous issues of *The Eagle* and share the publication online at johnian.joh.cam.ac.uk/publications/the-eagle. All issues, dating back to the 1850s, can be found at joh.cam.ac.uk/eagle-scanning-project.

Editor: Ellie Collingwood

With special thanks to Miranda Byers

Message from the Master

I'm writing for *The Eagle 2024* in the midst of May Week. Examinations are over for almost everyone, and results are trickling in, with rewards for all the effort invested. Tense shoulders are relaxing, the Library emptying, and the sun is *finally* shining. May Week got off to an exhilarating start as M1 secured a well-earned Headship in the May Bumps. In time-honoured fashion, we burned a boat on Saturday evening to celebrate their success, and in the pages of this year's *Eagle* you'll read much more about the sporting highs and lows of the year. The traditional May Week Concert revealed the impressive musical talent in our student body, with lyrical and energising performances on harp, piano and oboe, and of course a series of superb choral offerings, to the delight of students, staff and Fellows packed into the Chapel. The artistic and cultural life of the College is thriving at all levels, from our expert and accomplished students to those discovering a new passion. The harmony has now given way to the soundscape of final May Ball preparations – drilling, hammering, ferrying and sound-testing – before we're amazed and entertained by the ingenuity and hard work of the committee.

It's a privilege to witness our students so ambitious for their learning, and to see that ambition rewarded in examination success. And it's a joy to see them having fun, making the most of their student years. We've been capturing on film vignettes of life at John's to use on our new website, launching later in 2024. Students in their own voice are bringing alive what it's really like to become part of this distinctive, warm and deeply

enriching community. As they describe their Johnian experience, it's clear that scale is our single biggest advantage. First and foremost, in the size and global renown of our Fellowship, who bring an unparalleled diversity of discipline to the College and whose research constantly refreshes our reputation as a place of big ideas. Scale matters when it comes to space for everyone to feel at home in our beautiful and inspiring buildings and grounds. And scale means that we can offer countless life-changing opportunities to expand our students' intellectual and personal horizons, and open up boundless possibilities for their future.


It's unsurprising that St John's remains an outstandingly popular college for applicants to the University of Cambridge. Last autumn we attracted a record field, with 1445 applications for undergraduate entry in October 2024 – up 20% on the previous year, while overall applications to the University rose only marginally. The quality of applicants, for undergraduate and postgraduate study, is superb, and our A Level entrants averaged more than three A* grades. Today's students are already inspiring those of tomorrow, with stories like that of PhD student Pratyush Ghosh (2020) and undergraduate Mya-Rose Craig (2021). Pratyush has already secured recognition in *Nature* for his research on decoupling electrons from vibrations in organic material, something previously thought to be impossible, and his PhD is not yet complete. Mya-Rose Craig featured in *The Sunday Times* Young Power List as one of the twenty-five most inspiring people under thirty in the country for her environmental

leadership, and who, before completing her BA this year, already holds an honorary doctorate from the University of Bristol.

Most of all though, our students and applicants are inspired by the intellectual reach and diversity of the Fellowship. This edition of *The Eagle* introduces you to 2024's cohort of early-career Research Fellows, the five postdoctoral academics who shone out in a field of more than 800 excellent applicants. These highly competitive Fellowships offer a four-year College research grant without requiring a heavy teaching commitment. This freedom to focus on research comes at a critical juncture in building a high-flying academic career, and our Research Fellows have a remarkable track record in securing prestigious permanent appointments in leading global institutions. It is no wonder the awards are so competitive.

We are equally fortunate in the longer-term academic appointments we have made this last year, following a pandemic-induced reduction in recruitment and adding to the impressive research and teaching excellence gathered in our Fellowship. In the last year, we've been joined by Dr Sofia Singler, Fellow in Architecture, whose research interests include Finnish modernists Alvar, Aino and Elissa Aalto, and indigenous architecture. Professor Sarah Hall (1996) is a Johnian coming home, having been elected Professor of Geography in the University, a professorship established in 1931 and one of the oldest in Geography in the country. Sarah's research focus is the spatial implications of profound macro-economic change, including Brexit and the changing economic position of China internationally. It is a great pleasure to

have Professor Po-Ling Loh join the Fellowship. Po-Ling is Professor in the Statistical Laboratory within the Department of Pure Mathematics and Mathematical Statistics, working on high-dimensional statistics, optimisation and network inference, and she becomes our first female Fellow in Pure Mathematics. Another mathematician we have welcomed is Dr Mike Boemo, Fellow in Mathematics for Biology, whose research into genomic instability, particularly when instigated by defective DNA replication and repair mechanisms, works across the Departments of Pathology and Genetics, where he holds a joint appointment as Assistant Professor of AI in Disease.

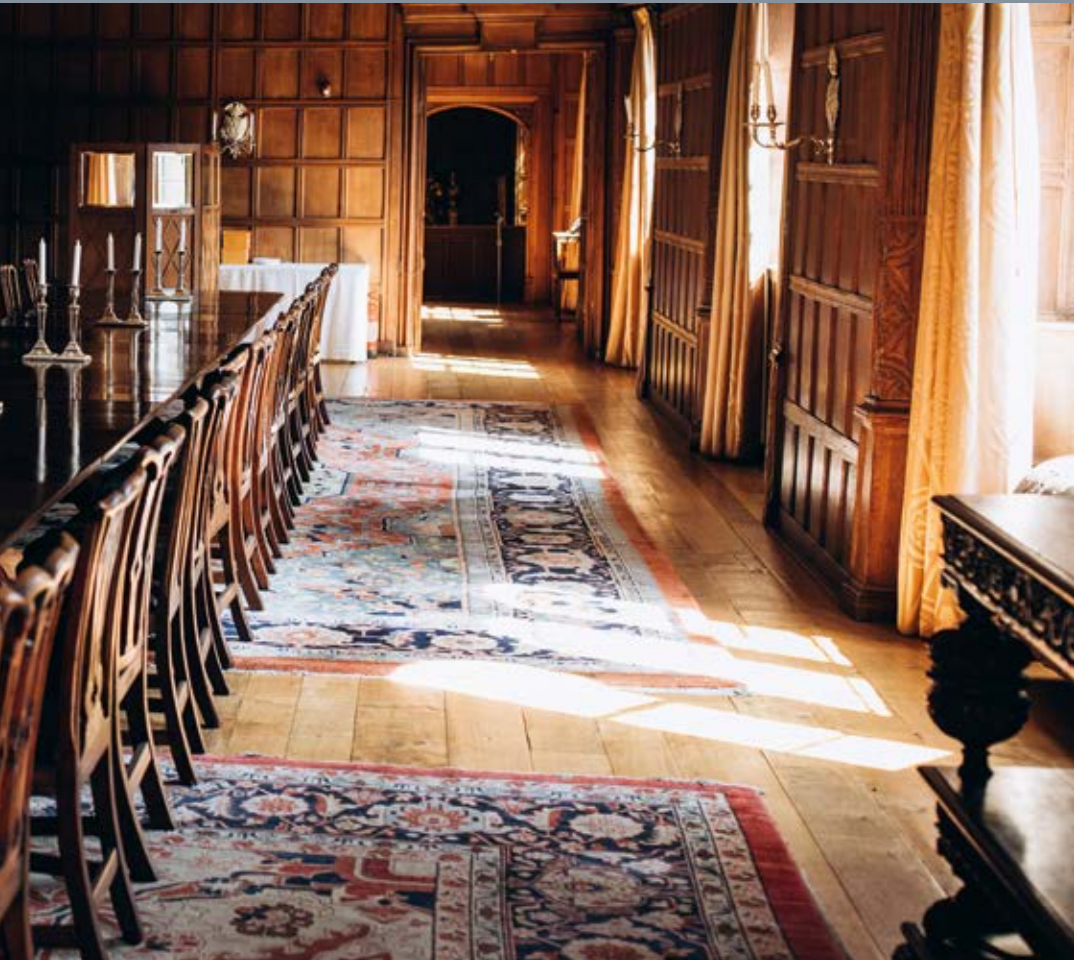
Dr Dorian Gangloff, quantum information scientist and leader of the Quantum Engineering Group at the Cavendish Laboratory, is a former Research Fellow who is returning as a Fellow in Physics. Dorian comes back to St John's in October, when he'll be joined by others new to the College, including Marta Grzeskiewicz (Economics), working in economics and machine learning, Dr Rachel Bryan (English), whose research interest is in writing of the 'aftermath' of profound societal change, and Dr Emily Gordon (Law), specialising in legal history and tort law. These additions to the Fellowship offer just a glimpse of the intellectual capital we can attract, year after year, sustaining and enhancing our global renown for scholarship and academic excellence, and our reputation for providing the most inspiring teaching and education to the exceptional young people who walk through the Great Gate. I hope you enjoy reading stories of the year in the pages that follow. 

Heather Hancock, Master



Photo: The Combination Room,
May 2024
Credit: Dasha Tenditna

FEATURES



In search of wild tulips

Dr Brett Wilson (2013) studied Natural Sciences at St John's before completing a PhD in the Plant Sciences Department focusing on wild tulip diversity in Central Asia. He is currently Protected Planet Programme Officer at the UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC). Here he shares his experiences of fieldwork expeditions tracking wild tulips in Central Asia.



Credit: Brett Wilson

(From left to right) Brett Wilson with David Gill from Fauna & Flora International, Maarten Christenhusz, Kew consultant, and Ormon Sultangaziev from Fauna & Flora International Kyrgyzstan

Tulips are one of the best-known garden plants. Spring gardens are full of the blooms of this horticultural favourite, which constitute a billion-euro trade. There may be as many as 14,000 cultivars in circulation, primarily grown in the Netherlands; however, people often don't realise that tulips only entered Europe in the sixteenth century.

These flowers originally came to Europe from the Ottoman Empire, where ruling Sultans made tulips a mainstay of palace gardens, and they were widely depicted in art and even used as a religious symbol. It was there that the cultivation of this plant really began. Yet tulips could be found in the gardens of Bactria and Persia even before

this. In fact, wild tulips, the ancestral cousins of our beloved garden favourites, have existed for millions of years. Sadly, in recent decades little attention has been paid to these remarkable ancestors or to how modern-day tulips are faring in their native habitats.

This lacuna was recognised by Professor Sam Brockington from the Cambridge University Botanic Garden, and Vicky Wilkins and David Gill from Fauna & Flora, an international conservation charity based in Cambridge. The presence of the national collection of wild tulips at the Botanic Garden and Fauna & Flora's international network led to the establishment of a collaborative project aiming to ensure the survival of wild tulips in our ever-changing world. This project encompassed a PhD studentship, which I took up. In 2018 PhD funding was obtained and a broader grant was secured from the Darwin Initiative (a UK government funding body) to deliver a four-year-long multifaceted scheme of work.

Sam and I were the primary research leads for this project. Our first task was to establish which tulip species truly existed in the wild. This required answering complex taxonomic questions (taxonomy is the organising of living organisms into a hierarchical system of categories and classifications) that had arisen since 1753 when Linnaeus described the first species of tulip. These questions had grown in number and complexity as more species had been described, including over fifteen new species since 2010. Under the tutelage of Sam, I began to collect tulip material and data from botanic garden collections, herbaria, online databases and, most

excitingly, from wild populations. Using these samples, we employed modern genetic approaches to understand the relationship between different wild tulips.

Wild tulips grow naturally from western China and Mongolia across large swathes of Eurasia to southern Spain and Portugal, and a single species even occurs in northern Africa. But two areas of the world are particularly rich in tulip diversity. The primary centre of diversity falls within the region of Central Asia, with the secondary centre of diversity in an area covering parts of western Iran, Turkey and the Caucasus. Given Central Asia's extraordinary range of wild tulips, found across the mountain meadows, grasslands, steppes and semi-deserts of the region, this is where the project focused much of its attention. Collaborations were established with researchers at universities and botanic gardens throughout Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, facilitated by Fauna & Flora's local teams in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. I travelled in the region alongside collaborators during the springs of 2019 and 2022 collecting material and data.

Stepping into the mountainous landscape of northern Kyrgyzstan, I spied my first wild tulip. It was a small, white-flowering, dainty-looking plant hiding behind some rocks on a heavily grazed slope. In the following years, I would see over twenty-five wild tulip species, each as wonderful and majestic in its own way as the last. As the project proceeded, I found myself scrabbling up scree slopes, descending steep grassy hillsides, baking in bare, dusty ancient sea



Credit: Brett Wilson

Tulipa dasystemon growing in the Suusamyр valley of Kyrgyzstan

beds, and even climbing to the snow line under the watchful gaze of a nearby golden eagle. I scrambled, hiked and tumbled, with wild tulips initially appearing as flashes of red, yellow, white or pink.

Fieldwork is often glamourised – and it does offer incredible opportunities to see nature – but it is not always a smooth, comfortable process. At one point our car broke down on a mountain pass, requiring us to spend half a day pushing it until we managed to catch a tow, and there were numerous occasions where I went a surprising number of days without a shower. Yet, during these years following the footsteps of thousand-year-old Silk Road traders, we collected an enormous amount of valuable information.

Back in the lab we were able to sequence the DNA of 245 different tulips, with over 120 of these collected from the wild. Crucially, we had collected material from around 86% of all known wild tulip species. This DNA led to some exciting findings. We discovered a

new tulip species that we named *Tulipa Toktogulica*, a small, yellow-flowering plant found only in the Toktogul region of Kyrgyzstan. We also discovered a new group of tulip species that was so distinct from other known groups that it warranted recognition under a new name, *Eduardoregelia*. And we were finally able to create an up-to-date list of species that can now be used by researchers worldwide to better understand wild tulip diversity.

Genetic data also allows us to explore the evolutionary history of organisms, enabling us to see where, when and why tulips evolved, and how they then dispersed to their current locations. We surmised that the original tulip appeared around 32 million years ago in the broader Central Asia region before beginning to diversify 22 million years ago as the region became drier and mountain ranges appeared, likely creating barriers between populations. Around 7 million years ago tulips spread, primarily through the steppe land of Kazakhstan and

Russia, to the Caucasus, Turkey and Iran, where they diversified further, eventually reaching the Mediterranean via the Middle East and Turkey. Importantly, our research reaffirmed that Central Asia has remained a key region for tulips throughout their history.

As we know, however, climate is not stable. Although historic conditions in Central Asia have led to this amazing abundance of tulip diversity, humans are causing rapid changes to the climate. As part of our work, we explored the threat climate change poses to tulips. We modelled the current distributions of a range of Central Asian tulips and predicted their future distributions under different climate scenarios. What we found was quite shocking. The habitat of wild tulips in Central Asia is going to decline dramatically as areas of remaining suitable habitat shift to higher altitudes. Unfortunately, tulips are not very good at dispersing pollen and seeds over long distances, so they may struggle to migrate to higher mountain areas and may require some help from humans in the face of this growing threat.



Credit: Brett Wilson

As we began to understand more about wild tulips, their habitat and threats, we could piece together more information about the extinction risk of different tulips. This culminated in May 2022, when we attended a workshop in Bishkek with collaborators from Central Asia to collate this information and write reports assessing different tulips' chances of survival. After three very intense days, we had created reports for fifty-three species and assigned each one a corresponding threat status. These reports were formalised and released on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) 'Red List of Threatened Species' – the world's most comprehensive information source on the global extinction risk status of animal, fungus and plant species. These were the first Central Asian tulips to have ever been assessed. Sadly, over 50% of wild tulips were deemed to be threatened with extinction, and we recognised an urgent need to channel resources towards their protection.

Across this enormous project, an incredible cross-cultural collaboration was established, memories of tulip seeking were made and many interesting conversations were held over plov, a beer and vodka. Yet, the true testament of this project's success is the long-term impact the information collated in this work will have. Although our work highlights the precarious position of many wild tulips, we are now in a better position to understand their diversity and how best to protect this remarkable plant in the places it calls home. 



Exploring the impact of digital technology on young people's mental health

Dr Amy Orben is a College Lecturer and Director of Studies in Psychological and Behavioural Sciences, and she has been a Fellow at St John's since 2023. She is also a Group Leader at the MRC Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit. In this article she discusses her work on the intersection between digital technologies and mental health in young people.

Please give us a brief overview of your research interests and tell us about the research team you lead.

My work tries to understand some of the factors that might be behind the decline in the mental health of young people that we've witnessed over the last decade. There's general concern that digital technologies, which have become increasingly popular during that time, have something to do with it. My work specifically tries to understand whether digital technologies such as social media affect young people's mental health and, if so, by which processes or mechanisms.

I have a team of about ten people, including myself, at the MRC Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit, which is a research unit at the University. My team comprises a variety of people, from those who specialise in statistics to those who are trained clinical psychologists, as well as PhD students from a variety of different disciplines.

What methods do you use to examine your hypotheses and what types of evidence do you use for your research projects?

My undergraduate degree was in Natural Sciences; I initially focused on Physics, but I moved into Psychology in my final year. I began using quite a data-driven way of working. My initial studies used large-scale, often survey, datasets collected by the government or big research teams tracking media use and wellbeing in tens of thousands of young people, but now that

I have a team we use a wider range of methods. Some of my team members work directly with young people and go out into schools to interview them and design interventions about how social media might be made better for them. I also have people conducting experiments, and a subsection of my team fits computational models (such as those used in machine learning and animal behaviour) to the behaviour that people exhibit on social media. Scientific teams often apply one method to a variety of research questions, but my team has one research question and uses a variety of methods to address it.

Have any results from your research projects surprised you?

There's a common assumption that young people who struggle with their mental health might be more negatively impacted by social media, so we did a big review of the literature and looked at thousands of studies and we actually found no difference. So it seems like the correlation between social media use and mental health is the same for those with a diagnosed mental health condition and those without. We're now doing a lot more research in that area, but the initial findings were surprising.

This is a topic that many people are discussing at the moment. Do you come up against recurring questions and preconceived ideas?

This is an area of great concern. Many people assert that social media is ruining

childhoods or driving mental health conditions, and this is echoed by newspaper columnists and politicians, so the same questions and concerns continue to arise. Historically, it's quite common that with any new technology there's a wave of concern about its impact on young people. In the 1940s there was apprehension about radio addiction and whether it might be akin to alcoholism. Now we see similar concerns about addiction to smartphones. Of course in many ways smartphones are quite different to the radio, as they're specifically designed to grab our attention and to monetise that. So I do think that some concerns are warranted, but I often find that there's a real disconnect between the evidence and data and where the public conversation is. It's definitely a difficulty of working in this space.

Have you found a demographic split in public opinion?

Well, survey data shows that children and young people are more likely to identify good and bad aspects of things like social media, while parents often agree that the negatives outweigh the positives. Young people often cite social connection and communication with friends as priorities, and so, while social media might also increase that pressure to present yourself in a certain way, they weigh up those things differently. There has also been a lot of research showing that there is a generational impact for all technologies – the older you were when they were first introduced, the more sceptical you are.

I have definitely seen a generational disconnect, and that's why we're talking

increasingly to young people, because if we do design an intervention or recommendation, we need young people to buy into it for it to be effective. It's very easy to shut down young people's access to technology, but they're quite ingenious here and can often outsmart the older generations anyway. So it's about empowering the positives while safeguarding them from the negatives.

What do you hope to get out of the UK Research and Innovation Future Leaders Fellowship?

The future leadership project provides at least four (and potentially up to seven) years of funding that will mainly allow me to recruit and retain very skilled team members. This will increase the speed of evidence gathering and allow us to be more responsive to questions from policy-makers, governments or charities. We will complement much of the research we're already doing with this more impact-focused approach to answer time-critical questions that arise from outside academia.

The funding will also allow me to recruit an adolescent advisory board that we'll meet with regularly throughout the year to discuss the research we're doing and get their input. What's really nice is that this funding is quite flexible and long term. It allows me to work on the things that matter most at the time. And, because technologies change so quickly, that flexibility is vital. If you have to write a grant application, wait a year, recruit and then finally do the research, your research might well be three years out of date once it's done.



Amy and her lab group go-carting

So how do you keep up with changing technology?

I think that's an existential question for researchers at the moment. We're at a crossroad trying to understand what we can do to adapt and what our role should be. Are we supposed to hold technology companies to account or are we supposed to help design better technology? Over the next five to ten years, we need to do a lot of soul searching about what it is we want to deliver and what society wants university-based technology researchers to deliver.

In my team we don't, for example, study particular social media platforms; what we study are particular designs. For instance, we study the effect of quantified social feedback, through 'like count' or comment count or the number of friends you have, and these 'social status indicators' are common across many different social media platforms, as well as certain gaming applications. This approach helps us to stay relevant against a backdrop of changing technologies.

What can individuals do to protect themselves and their loved ones when using technology and social media?

Social media and technology aren't drugs that have a defined dose–response relationship. We can't say that a specific dosage has a specific impact regardless of who you are. This makes it really difficult to give recommendations. For example, we can give alcohol unit recommendations because there is a specific dose–response relationship, and there are clear rules around medications for the same reason. It's crucial to understand that a certain amount of time spent on social media will have very different impacts depending on the content viewed, who the person is and what they're going through at the time.


We need to keep communications pathways open to empower people to discuss openly the things they are struggling with online. For example, children should be able to feel confident that raising concerns won't result in having their access revoked. That's something young people are really concerned about. It's also important to have more open conversations across generations about what type of use is helpful and what is problematic for each individual, and to consider which tools are available to target the problematic types of behaviours. It's important to be reflective.

We already have these sorts of conversations about diet. For example, there's a big difference between eating a chocolate bar if you are diabetic or if you've just finished a marathon. As a society we have a lot more

ways to talk about diet that can be positive or negative. It's part of our life – we can't stop eating and we can't stop using technology. We need to move towards that way of talking about technology.

What are your predictions for the future of this field?

We're currently training a new generation of scientists who have spent the vast majority of their lives online and who understand the deep complexities and the risks and benefits associated with that. I think that in the next few years we'll see quite a large change in the field because of that. Already, undergraduates are fascinated by these topics and they have some very interesting ideas.

We're also in the midst of massive technological change and researchers can't just be stuck in their ivory towers wondering what niche research project they want to work on next. We need to consider our place in society and help to mould technological change to ensure it is having a positive effect on our world. We're still finding our place there but we're increasingly having the right conversations. Hopefully, the next generation will help us get a bit closer to that as well. 



Harnessing AI for radiographic reporting

Jelal Hydyrov (2022) is about to begin the third year of his Engineering degree. In the summer of 2023, Jelal took part in an Undergraduate Research Opportunities Programme (UROP) at Imperial College, focusing on artificial intelligence. In this article he discusses the programme and how it has informed his academic and career interests.



Pursuing an Engineering degree was a purposeful decision driven by my keen interest in how technological innovations shape our daily life. And, during the summer break, I fuelled this enthusiasm by engaging in a research project through the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Programme (UROP) focusing on artificial intelligence (AI).

While the excitement around AI is palpable, often bordering on the hyperbolic, my interest in writing this article lies beyond the typical discourse. I am acutely aware of the potential clichés and the oversaturation of AI narratives in current discussions. Therefore, my aim is to approach this piece purely as a reflection of my own experiences in this field.

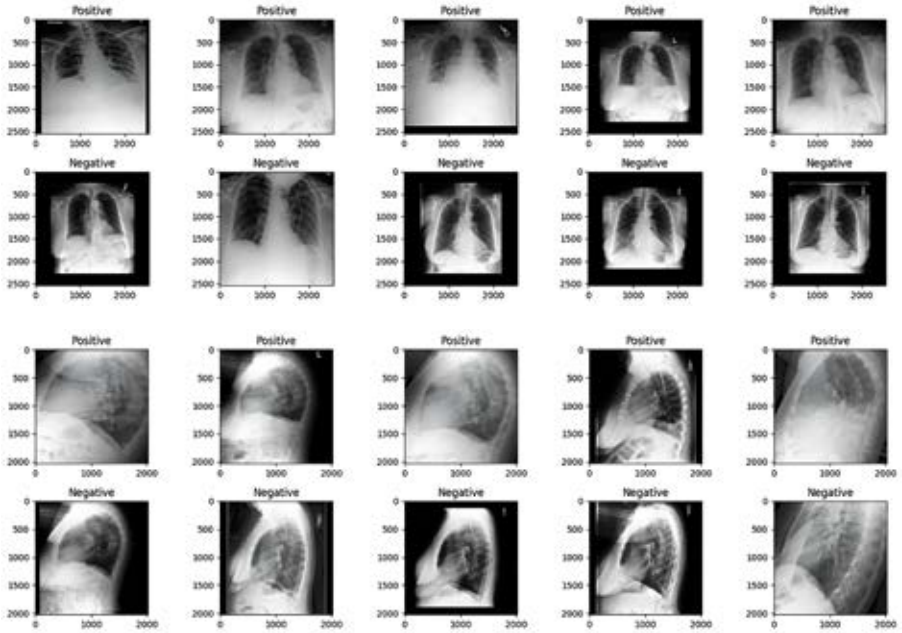
My UROP project took place at Imperial College London – the opportunity having arisen after I contacted a project provider listed at Imperial’s UROP directory, which I learned about from my sister, who is a student there. Fortunately, I received additional support from St John’s through the Summer Bursaries Scheme, and this allowed me to take up the place. My participation in UROP also fulfilled the Department of Engineering’s industrial experience requirement.

My project focused on medical report generation from radiographs. The learning curve proved to be steep. Delving into the technicalities of AI without a formal background in the subject meant that every step became a lesson. Engaging in online courses, reviewing survey papers and collaborating with my mentor at Imperial introduced me to a new educational approach that surpassed my previous experiences. While I had some familiarity with programming before the internship, I had the opportunity to delve into libraries such as PyTorch and gained a deeper understanding of the significant reliance on hardware such as graphics processing units.

In terms of the project, my focus was on creating a classifier utilising a data set provided by MIT from the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Centre, known as MIMIC-CXR, and exploring the advantages of ‘transfer learning’. Transfer learning involves employing a pre-trained model on a new problem – in my case, leveraging one pre-trained on ImageNet. It was intriguing to observe that despite ImageNet’s images


not being inherently medical, utilising them resulted in improved outcomes and faster training. Additionally, investigating best practices for quality assurance in a field with minimal room for error, such as medicine, was enlightening. This journey culminated in the production of a report investigating best practices in X-ray classification, honing my abilities in articulating research findings.

Although the concepts and models I interacted with were not necessarily ‘ground-breaking’ or ‘cutting edge’, when compared to current developments in the field, the purpose of the project was to explore how best to use the existing MIMIC-CXR data set and open-source models to diagnose conditions from radiographs effectively. This allows medical reports to be semi-automated in areas where there may be a lack of radiologists, which has the potential to lead to efficiency gains that could alleviate workloads. This idea of semi-automation is also being attempted in other fields. Currently, the Ministry of Justice is looking into applying this process to criminal justice reports. The outcome of my project was to suggest the use of pre-trained models as a starting point for the use case of radiographs, and I provided recommendations on how to navigate the MIMIC-CXR data set for extracting as much useful information as possible. Most of what I found out was within my expectations. However, what surprised me was the incredible dependence I had on my scarce allocation of computing power. It really gave me first-hand understanding of why hardware for AI development is an area contributing to current geopolitical tension!



Training data for the models Jelal trained – the ones with a positive label show signs of a condition called pleural effusion, while the ones with a negative label do not show signs of this condition

Beyond the technical competencies acquired, I found great pleasure in further immersing myself in the field. Exploring a plethora of ideas – particularly those focused on developing low-cost technologies for aiding regions or countries facing resource constraints – sparked my curiosity regarding potential additional applications of AI in developmental contexts. This curiosity has prompted me to consider specialising in bioengineering, alongside information and computer engineering modules, during the latter years of my degree. Consequently, I wholeheartedly recommend any engineer seeking to discover their passion to explore the possibility of undertaking a UROP project.

My UROP experience has offered me far more than just technical skill acquisition or academic fulfilment. It has served as a crucible for refining my ambitions and has nurtured my intellectual curiosity. This opportunity has not only equipped me with a versatile skill set but also instilled within me a profound sense of purpose and direction in my engineering pursuits, propelling me towards a deeper exploration of bioengineering and computational technologies. As I progress, the insights gleaned from this endeavour will undoubtedly illuminate my path, fostering a continued dedication to innovation and the ethical utilisation of technology in addressing real-world challenges. 

Castra Tenebrarum: An examination of the reuse of religious space in the Mithraic and Christian ruins under the Basilica di San Clemente, Rome

Rene Russell (2019) has just completed her MPhil in Classics, focusing on the art and archaeology of early Christianity. She previously studied for a BA in Modern and Medieval Languages at St John's. In this article Rene discusses her research into the reuse of religious space in Mithraic and Christian ruins in Rome.



My route into Classics has not been the most conventional; I started out at St John's in 2019 reading Modern and Medieval Languages with a focus on Spanish and Latin. One thing led to another, and my interest in Latin language and literature spiralled into a fascination with the art and archaeology of the Roman world. Having focused heavily on literature until that point, art and archaeology was something that I had not previously considered as a lens through which to examine the past. However, I have since learnt that taking a multi-lens approach to the ancient world is key. While literature is immensely valuable and can teach us a great amount, combining it with an artistic or archaeological approach can enable a deeper examination of a topic, privileging the voices of those who have left nothing in the literary record.



Mithraeum with Mithraic altar beneath the Basilica di San Clemente, Rome

This joint literary and archaeological approach is one that I have taken in my research this year as part of an MPhil in Classics, which has focused on the art and archaeology of early Christianity. This has included a project on which I recently presented entitled ‘*Castra Tenebrarum*: An examination of the reuse of religious space in the Mithraic and Christian ruins under the Basilica di San Clemente, Rome.’ *Castra tenebrarum* is Latin for ‘a camp of darkness,’ a description used by the fourth-century CE Christian writer Tertullian to refer to Mithraea, the temples in which members of the Cult of Mithras worshipped. While there is a wealth of information available to us about early Christianity, from the letters of Pliny the Younger to martyr texts produced by Christian authors and communities themselves, mystery cults like the Cult of Mithras lack such a literary record owing to initiates being sworn to secrecy.

However, Mithraism has left its archaeological footprint all over the Roman Empire, with Mithraic temples surviving from Rome itself to the fringes of the Empire (e.g. Carrawburgh Roman Fort on Hadrian’s Wall or Dura Europos in Syria). When dealing with mystery cults like Mithraism, an archaeological approach can be extremely useful for revealing information that would otherwise remain hidden.

However, the archaeological record can also be fragmentary, especially in the case of Mithraism, a religion that Christianity considered to be a rival. This rivalry led to the defacement of some Mithraic sites, such as the Strasbourg Mithraeum, whose central cult image was systematically smashed into more than 360 fragments and scattered throughout the temple. Some Mithraea also had Christian churches built over them; in Rome alone, at least five Mithraea have been discovered beneath or in the immediate

vicinity of Christian churches. Other Mithraea suffered both defacement and being built over. Such drastic and violent religious action can be attributed to the fact that early Christians did not deny the existence of pagan gods but believed that they were dangerous spirits who had to be defeated. Despite this religious violence destroying some of the little evidence that could further inform us about Mithraism, this has also led to the preservation of many Mithraic temples.

My project examined one such case of destruction, namely the Basilica di San Clemente in Rome, which was constructed over a Mithraeum. I had the chance to visit the Basilica in 2022 as the recipient of a College travel grant; this opportunity to explore Rome and visit its ancient churches inspired me to take the art and archaeology of early Christianity as the primary focus of my MPhil in Classics. The site of San Clemente is a complicated one with multiple levels of occupation by different groups, which inspires the question of how much the Christians and Mithraists using the site would have interacted with each other. The two groups were operating in adjacent buildings until the Christians expanded the Basilica, filling in the Mithraeum to provide the foundations for a new apse. The degree of interaction between the two religious groups would have depended on a range of factors, including when Christian worship began at the site, and when the Mithraeum stopped being used. Both dates are impossible to establish for certain: Christian worship at the site may have predated the construction of the Basilica, and the

Mithraeum may have fallen out of use earlier than it was filled in. However, there are several indications that worship may have ceased at the Mithraeum as the result of religious violence. This is suggested by the fact that the Mithraic altar was broken or destroyed, and subsequently integrated into Christian-era flooring, while the Mithraeum itself was filled in not long afterwards to provide the foundations for the Basilica's apse. Literary evidence for Christian antagonism towards Mithraism, as well as archaeological evidence from San Clemente, suggest that the Christians of the Basilica may have capitalised on wider socio-political changes against paganism in order to appropriate Mithraic space for their church.


'While literature is immensely valuable and can teach us a great amount, combining it with an artistic or archaeological approach can enable a deeper examination of a topic, privileging the voices of those who have left nothing in the literary record.'

I have continued to focus on Christianity this year; as well as learning Ancient Greek (the New Testament was first written in Koine Greek), I am currently working on a thesis examining early Christianity from an artistic viewpoint. This thesis focuses specifically on depictions of Christ, and how early Christian artists pictured the divine using pre-existing models from pagan tradition. So far this has included figures such as the legendary musician Orpheus, who was used allegorically to represent both



Side-by-side comparison of Good Shepherd (Musei Vaticani) and Hermes Kriophoros (Museo di Scultura Antica Giovanni Barracco) statue types

David and Christ, and Christ as the Good Shepherd depicted very similarly to depictions of Hermes Kriophoros (Hermes holding a ram). I find these examples of early Christian art especially interesting and relevant because they were produced at a time when Christian doctrine was still being established and theological debates about Christ were causing immense conflict within the Church. It has been fascinating to research depictions of Christ from this period to see how these debates played out in artists' attempts to depict such a complicated figure as Christ. Unlike the immortal gods of the Greco-Roman pantheon, Christ was both entirely divine and entirely mortal at the same time, at least according to Nicene Christianity.

I hope to use what I have learnt this year to continue my research with a PhD comparing Christianity with other religions that were becoming popular in the Roman Empire at the same time, namely 'eastern mystery cults'. My plan is to compare these from an artistic point of view, examining how their focus on 'foreign' imagery such as Egyptian animal-headed gods in the Cult of Isis, or Phrygian caps in the Cult of Mithras, might have aided the propagation and popularity of each cult. I aim to shed light on this topic by examining how early Christianity's iconography compared to that of other religions and cultic groups, especially relating to the degree of assimilation with the visual language of pre-existing Greco-Roman artistic tradition. 



COLLEGE LIFE

Photo: Graduation, July 2023
Credit: Nordin Čatić (2017)



Senior Tutor's report: helping students reach their academic potential

A question that exercises the Fellows of St John's College is, 'How do we ensure that our students reach their academic potential?'

This is existential: alongside our academic research, teaching students defines us and characterises the University, within which colleges best exemplify the importance of teacher–student interaction to our collective identity. Colleges emerged in the Middle Ages from the hostels where students lived alongside the academics who taught them in a shared residential space. Living and learning together were symbiotic, and it's no surprise that they were then institutionalised. By the time St John's was founded in 1511, the model of a Cambridge college was established, and so there has been no time when the Fellows of this place did not understand that a significant part of their *raison d'être* was enabling students to do well. Latterly, we understand our own students as part of one of the world's best academic junior academies! They are our future collaborators and colleagues, and giving them the best possible platform for future development is imperative. We are also conscious that when we meet our alumni, among the first questions they ask is, 'How are the students doing?' – by which they usually mean, 'Are they getting good academic results?'

Critical to students doing well is admitting the right ones. It is easy to overcomplicate

Cambridge admissions. We seek to recruit students whose love of their chosen subject is deep and likely to endure, whose intelligence and aptitude mark them out among even the very best of their contemporaries, and who naturally work hard. In other words, we hope to admit the very best students from every background – because their being foremost in their cohort on academic measures like examination results is the best and most reliable indicator of potential that we have.

'We understand our own students as part of one of the world's best academic junior academies! They are our future collaborators and colleagues, and giving them the best possible platform for future development is imperative.'

For undergraduate entry, interviews can be a helpful additional tool in identifying subject commitment, intelligence and aptitude, but of course unhelpful factors at interview can get in the way – like nervousness, or candidate good fortune in being asked questions with which they happen to be comfortable. So, we always temper judgements formed at interview with a strong sense of the candidate's paper profile, in which it is increasingly common for referees to helpfully tell us exactly where


they rank in the cohort from which they are applying.

When we get admissions right (which, with dedication and clear thinking, we thankfully mostly do), the students concerned tend to fly academically. That's not to say that everything always runs smoothly, because even the best students experience academic ups and downs; but they have the natural academic resources to prosper.

Where their supervisors make a difference is in helping them with technical challenges and – most importantly – in inspiring them, with interesting, thought-provoking perspectives. Directors of Studies for undergraduates add to this by enabling students to consider their learning strategically – in respect of playing to intellectual strengths, schemes of consolidation and revision, time allocation, the importance of pacing oneself, of not peaking too soon, and the like. They can also help to ensure that, where teaching is disappointing or teaching relationships frictional, alternative provision can be found, or perspective placed on personal interactions that are not, in the end, limiting progress.

Many of us believe we can't turn 2.1s into Firsts, or postgraduate Passes into Distinctions, through our efforts as supervisors or Directors of Studies; that's a matter for natural talent and commitment on the part of the student. But we can help prevent the First-class student from slipping to a 2.1, or the 2.1 from sliding to a 2.2.

'If one admits very interested, bright and industrious students, most academic problems are really welfare problems in disguise.'

The key to this is prompt and effective action to deal with welfare challenges that are spiralling. In the end, if one admits very interested, bright and industrious students, most academic problems are really welfare problems in disguise: a lapse in academic focus is often really a crisis in the student's family at home, or the resurgence of an earlier mental-health challenge. Tutors, the academic administrators who support them, and the staff in our Health and Wellbeing Centre monitor student welfare discreetly in an effort to curtail problematic issues before they escalate. The alertness and responsiveness of Directors of Studies is crucial too – as is enlisting the counselling and mentoring support that University Student Services can provide to our students who are starting to struggle. Such intervention means that – thankfully – most students facing problems are able to graduate with the excellent degrees they deserve. 

Richard Partington

Education report – Philosophy

Professor Alexander Bird is Director of Studies in Philosophy at St John's. He has been a College Fellow since 2020, and he is Bertrand Russell Professor of Philosophy at the University of Cambridge. In this education report he explores the history of the teaching of Philosophy at Cambridge and St John's.

Cambridge's historical significance in modern philosophy was established by its being the birthplace of analytic philosophy in the first half of the twentieth century, its pre-eminence associated with the names of Bertrand Russell, G. E. Moore, Ludwig Wittgenstein, C. D. Broad and, later, Elizabeth Anscombe. Philosophy has been taught continuously at Cambridge since its earliest years, and Cambridge has made other significant contributions to the discipline over the centuries, the Cambridge Platonists of the seventeenth century being a slightly less recent example. The nineteenth century saw the first examinations in 'Moral Sciences', a combination of papers in philosophy, economics, history and law. This was instigated by the polymath and philosopher and historian of science, William Whewell, as a parallel to the new examinations in 'Natural Sciences'. In 1861 the Moral Sciences Tripos was born, and St John's was one of the first colleges to appoint a college lecturer in the subject. Over time the mix of subjects included in the Tripos shifted and shrank, leaving just philosophy with an admixture of psychology, the latter hanging on until just after the Second World War. In 1896 a new professorship in the discipline was instituted while the longstanding Knightbridge Professorship (previously a Chair in Casuistical Divinity) was reassigned to

Moral Philosophy. These two Chairs remain the two established Chairs in the Faculty of Philosophy, the former being re-endowed as the Bertrand Russell Professorship in 2010. Regrettably, almost all of the holders of these Chairs have been Fellows of a certain neighbouring college. Happily, however, the lack of a Johnian in either professorship was rectified in 2020. And with the appointment of a Title B Fellow, Jessie Munton, as well as Jane Heal as Title D Fellow, we can see that the present era is one of Johnian dominance of Cambridge (and therefore world) philosophy, which we may hope will persist for a considerable portion of the current millennium.


'St John's is very fortunate to have two University Teaching Officers (out of thirteen across the University) as Fellows and college lecturers... we have made St John's the strongest college environment for philosophy in Cambridge.'

Having shed its involvements with other subjects, Cambridge Philosophy was not about to follow the enthusiasm for joint degrees, such as 'P.P.E.' (Politics, Philosophy and Economics), that one finds in other universities. The Faculty of Philosophy teaches only one Single Honours degree,

although it does share papers with several other Triposes, including Classics, Psychology, Natural Sciences (HPS) and (soon to come) Law. By focusing on one degree programme – which is unique among leading UK Philosophy departments – we can make sure that it is the best possible. Undergraduates on the Philosophy Tripos all take the same papers at Part Ia and one paper in common at Part Ib, ensuring that all students have the same solid base of knowledge and skills that can be assumed in the more advanced parts of the Tripos. It is not surprising that Cambridge produces a large percentage of the UK's professional philosophers, out of all proportion to the small number taking the Tripos.

'In recent years our undergraduates have achieved Firsts at Part II in two-thirds of cases, and several have gone on to do graduate work in philosophy, while others have started careers in areas such as law.'

One disadvantage of our approach is that Cambridge has one of the smallest Philosophy departments in the UK – whereas Oxford (which does only joint degrees in Philosophy) is over five times our size. While we maintain that small is beautiful, our small size does mean that it is difficult to offer as broad a range of papers and topics as we would like and our students are requesting. Changing this is a priority. Given the large numbers applying for the Philosophy Tripos, as well as for the MPhil in Philosophy, this is surely something we can and should do, although, as ever, funding it is a challenge.

St John's is very fortunate to have two University Teaching Officers (out of thirteen across the University) as Fellows and college lecturers. I arrived in 2020, while Jessie Munton rejoined the College (having previously been a Research Fellow) in 2022. Although retired, Jane Heal, a central figure of Cambridge philosophy for many years, plays a full part in supporting philosophy and philosophers in the College. Between us, and recent Research Fellows Lucy McDonald and Adam Bales, as well as the excellent undergraduate and graduate students, we have made St John's the strongest college environment for philosophy in Cambridge. In recent years our undergraduates have achieved Firsts at Part II in two-thirds of cases, and several have gone on to do graduate work in philosophy, while others have started careers in areas such as law. We also have a regular stream of medics taking Philosophy at Part II – who do impressively well indeed from a standing start. Our academic year starts with a walk to the Ascension Burial Ground to see the graves of past Cambridge philosophers – since it is useful to know where one might end up. Recently, our students set up a College Philosophical Society, which features talks from guests and from students, as well as other activities across the year. Philosophy at St John's is flourishing intellectually, academically and socially. 

Alexander Bird

**Bertrand Russell Professor
of Philosophy**

**Fellow and College Supervisor
in Philosophy**

The JCR



L-R: Keisha Dowlman (2022) and Sophie Denny (2022), Co-Presidents

This year got off to a flying start for the JCR with an enthusiastic new committee. As Co-Presidents we want to improve accessibility and inclusivity, alongside ensuring the committee runs smoothly.

One of our main projects has been the Annual Fund application. With the help of our Treasurer, Richard, and Vice-President, Jack, we submitted a successful application to refurbish the College's gym facilities, adding new equipment and storage. Our

Gender Equalities Officer, Scarly, worked alongside the SBR to initiate female- and non-binary-only hours in the gym, ensuring all College members feel comfortable using this space.

Beth, our Sports, Societies and Services Officer, has upgraded the sports equipment students can borrow and will be organising the Balliol sports day at St John's in Michaelmas 2024. Alongside Ben, our Officer for Environmental and Charitable

Affairs, she has attended meetings to ensure Buttery and Café provisions reflect student opinion, and they have discussed how to improve sustainability. Ben organised a successful charity comedy night, which raised £361.40 for Jimmy's Cambridge, a charity that supports rough sleepers.

Our Welfare Officers, Flo and Gabe, have worked alongside Florrie, our Mental Health Officer, to bring the College community together. They put Freddos chocolates in people's pigeonholes and organised an Easter scavenger hunt and watercolour painting event in the Chapel. They also introduced a weekly 'Welfare Update' and welfare term card. Easter term saw the revival of popular events such as 'Snacks on The Backs' and Zorb Football, giving students a break from revision. Florrie also organised a 'Wear it Green Day' for students to get involved in Mental Health Week.

JCR 'Ents' are key events, and Konrad, our Ents Officer, has done fabulously, devising themes and decorations, as well as planning the celebratory June Ent. He has ensured that students enjoy their evening, also giving some student DJs the chance to DJ at the first couple of Ents.

Lewis, our Disabilities Officer, has worked with our Access Officer, Zamry, to continue the 'Alternative Ent', which has taken on multiple forms, including board-games nights and a movie night. Zamry has also been liaising with the College's Admissions Office to discuss how to make outreach events more accessible and has been

involved in the College's ambassadorial work, including at the Northwest Access conference.

To help keep College accessible our Class Act Officer, Suzan, attended a meeting with the Senior Tutor to discuss student financial support. Alongside Richard, she will deliver a talk in Freshers' Week about how to manage finances at university. The JCR has also been paying for students' prescriptions during term time, partly funded from the profits of a sale of former Master Dobson's books, for which we are very grateful.

Our Liberation Officers have created welcoming and inclusive spaces within College. Buzz, our LGBTQ+ Officer, liaised with the SBR on collaborative events, including a Rainbow Hall, and organised events for Pride Month, also attending the LGBTQ+ Focus Group. Our Ethnic Minorities Officer, Tobi, has put on multiple events, including a successful Cultural Wear Formal. He has been planning an inter-collegiate ethnic minority groups barbeque and sports day and has continued to improve the multi-faith room.

Internationals Officer Erik worked with Tobi to organise a Lunar New Year Hall, and organised summer storage for international students, partnering with a company to provide additional discounted storage. He has also liaised with Jack, our Vice-President, to plan International Freshers' Week.

To maintain transparency, our Secretary, Eimear, has taken minutes at the weekly JCR meetings and uploaded them to our website.



Before a JCR Ent

Sam, our Computing Officer, has updated the JCR website and its photos, creating a comprehensive list of student societies. Our Publicity Officer, Daniela, has kept everyone informed and entertained through the JCR Instagram page and her Weekly Bulletin, which includes a joke and song of the week, alongside necessary information for students.

The JCR is a collaborative effort, and we have been well supported by our Vice-President, Jack, who has attended meetings with us, held termly open meetings and updated the JCR's constitution. He has been busy creating a schedule for Freshers' Week to ensure the incoming first-year students have a smooth transition into university life.

It has been a privilege to see the work that goes on behind the scenes in College,

attending the Senior & Junior Members Meeting, the Co-Curricular Committee and Council. We have regular meetings with the College Nurses and the Domestic Bursar, who support our endeavours, including investigating the possibility of a second laundry room in College. We have enjoyed working with the Master, the Senior Tutor and the Domestic Bursar to continue the work of our predecessors, Neha and Anissa, in improving College life and ensuring student voices are heard. We are very lucky to have an incredible committee and are excited to see what we can achieve during the rest of our time on the JCR Committee. 🎉

**Sophie Denny and
Keisha Dowlman
Co-Presidents**

The SBR



Some committee members in the Master's Lodge

Without a doubt, this has been a wonderful year for the SBR. Our new crop of freshers have been absolutely excellent (as every year, of course). Freshers' Fortnight was a riot, with all our usual events, wine receptions, mingles, formals and the big Freshers' Ent, and some new additions like speed-friending, helping to create a real sense of community and good vibes.

The SBR itself has been frequently used, and we love to see postgraduates enjoying this space as much as they do! Events have been plentiful, diverse and well attended, and we have increased our interactions with other colleges (in Cambridge and beyond), senior members and the JCR. We have held more 'Ents', extended social and academic activities, and worked hard on student welfare and sustainability. Stash orders –

thanks to Soleh's amazing designs – have also been through the roof!

There's been increased engagement with the committee, with outstanding new officers joining us and a big group of associates helping with events. We hope everyone in the community feels involved in the SBR in one way or another, and members are always welcome to help out, organise events or just visit the SBR for a chat.

Along with this year's highs, as always, we had some lows and issues to resolve. Rent increases are hitting postgraduates particularly hard, so we negotiated extensively with College to try to reduce them as much as possible and keep College accommodation a viable option for postgraduates. We were happy that talks

with College staff were respectful and productive; we gained some helpful concessions and discussed ways to improve postgraduate accommodation.

Social

The SBR Committee, particularly our Social Officers, Emily and Zahir, put on an array of social events for the postgraduate community to meet, mingle and, most importantly, have fun. A key highlight was the return of weekly port and sherry evenings after BA table on Fridays, which has fostered ties with the early-career senior members of the College, who regularly join us. Additionally, we have developed greater connections with other colleges, having

organised formal swap exchanges with more than one-third of Cambridge colleges.

We started Lent term with a highly successful cheese and wine tasting session and introduced many postgraduates to haggis at our Burns Night celebrations. We also collaborated with St John's Picturehouse to provide free cinema tickets (and popcorn!) to postgraduates for screenings of *Saltburn* and *Dune 2*. We had some great parties, collaborating with Undergown to run several themed Ents with live bands, DJs and salsa dancing classes. In addition to the Ents, we were delighted to host our friends from Trinity College, Dublin, at our spring formal event, which included a captivating performance by the band Soft Crunchy Landing.



Pumpkin carving in the SBR

Welfare

Our wonderful Welfare Officers, Emily, Sneha and Simon, organised a variety of events to improve both physical and mental health amid the stresses of postgraduate study and fast-paced Cambridge life: pumpkin carving, a visit to a petting farm, dog petting in College and yoga classes in the SBR, to name a few. We also compiled new training materials on Moodle regarding welfare, collaborated with the wider College on several reviews, particularly regarding sexual misconduct, and updated the system for requesting free sexual-health supplies.

EDI

Our EDI Officer, Rhiannon, has been busy with events and advocacy during the past year. The LGBT+ and Women's History months were packed with activities to celebrate, engage with and support these groups, from 'Drageoke' in the bar, Rainbow Rave and 'girl dinners', to poetry recitals and movie nights. For Rainbow Rave we managed to fill up the Fisher Building with 250 people, lots of decorations and a make-up station, with several drag acts and queer DJs performing all night. And in July we celebrated Disabilities History Month.

Academic

The SBR is not all fun and games; we also get academic sometimes. Thanks to Ross and Audrey, we have kept our graduate talks going, allowing us to learn about each other's research and engage in multidisciplinary mingling. We also organised the annual

Graduate Symposium in March, where we showcased the incredible, high-quality and diverse work of our postgraduates. And our international friends from the University of Pavia, Italy, and Trinity College, Dublin, had a chance to discuss their research when they visited us.

Environmental

The student garden at the back of Madingley 1 now has a new look. This year we are trying the 'no-dig' method, covering existing plots with cardboard and compost provided by the gardeners. After extensive woodworking, cardboard laying, compost carrying and seed planting, we are seeing the first fruits of our work in the greenhouse and on the plots. Later this year, John and Martina will build completely new, substantial beds for the next season, thanks to the Annual Fund. Robert, Yorrick and Henning have been busy working with the Sustainability Forum to organise clothes swishes, another Bioblitz to showcase College biodiversity, and many other new green initiatives to improve energy usage and food waste at St John's. At the latest Swish on 27 April, students brought in 115 kg of clothes, of which only 23 kg were left and donated to Oxfam, preventing roughly 2.3 tonnes of CO2 emissions.

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This amazing year would not have been possible without our incredible committee and the wonderfully engaged and positive postgraduate community, who make all

the work we put in more than worth it. We also wish to thank the outstanding members of College who look after our welfare, academic worries, accommodation and any other matters: the Postgraduate Tutor, Sylvana Tomaselli; the Domestic Bursar, Alison Cox; the Master, Heather Hancock; the Senior Tutor, Richard Partington; the

Dean, Nick Friedman; Student Services, particularly Audrey Hewson; Catering, particularly Chris Pope and Ean Hogg; the Postgraduate Office, particularly Angela Mansfield; and the porters. 🏰

**Gabriel Ferreras Garrucho
SBR President**



Ceilidh after the SBR Christmas Formal in Hall

Chapel report



Ascension Day Tower Service, May 2024

This year Chapel has seen some significant changes in our team, some of which will be mentioned in the Choir report. In Chapel itself Chris Gray began his first full year as Director of Music. And then the Dean, The Revd Canon Dr Mark Oakley, left to become Dean of Southwark at the end of Michaelmas term. This was marked in a farewell occasion where speech after speech celebrated his massive contribution to the life of the Chapel, and indeed the whole College. Many of us went to his Installation at Southwark Cathedral on Advent Sunday, which was a splendid and moving event. April saw the arrival of the new Dean, The Reverend Canon Dr Victoria Johnson. And then in the summer the Chaplain, Andrew Hammond, bade farewell, heading into Norfolk to become Vicar of Wymondham Abbey.

Our daily round of services has sustained the life of the Chapel. Best known, of course, are the choral services, at which either the College Choir or St John's Voices have sung with commitment and great skill. That day-to-day sequence is also studded with highlights. At the start of Michaelmas term we held the Matriculation Service. Later (in early November) was the All Souls Day Requiem: a powerfully beautiful and moving way to remember those who have died, especially in the previous year. The Choir sang the *Requiem* by Maurice Duruflé; and on a wooden cross in the nave people lit candles, one for each person being remembered. And we held a special service to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the founding of the Anti-Slavery Society, the second great campaign in which Wilberforce and Clarkson

were crucially involved. This was part of a sequence of activities organised by St John's students with Annual Fund support.

At the end of term were the Advent Carol Services, the second of which was broadcast live on BBC Radio 3. Two weeks later we put on the traditional College Christmas Carol Service, to which we especially invite members of staff with their children or grandchildren. There is then a very happy tea in Hall, including a visit from Santa.



Matriculation Service, October 2023

The Lent term was bookended, so to speak, by two special choral services: the Epiphany Carol Services, at which every member of the congregation carries a lit candle to create a magical atmosphere; and then Lent Meditation (this year called 'From the Desert to the Cross'). These services differ from Evensong, with their own structure based on readings and music chosen for the season, and we always welcome capacity congregations to them.

We also created opportunities during the Lent term to explain what is happening in our services. There was 'Evensong Unwrapped', during which both the Chaplain and the Director of Music offered introductions to each section of the service. And at the Sunday 8.30am Student Communion (on which there is more below), the Chaplain did the same thing, this time split across two successive services (there being a lot to say about the Eucharist!).

Thence to the Easter term, a highlight of which was the annual service of Baptism and Confirmation, with candidates from both the School and College. This was conducted by the Bishop of Chelmsford – a nice connection this, in that her son is now an undergraduate student at St John's.

A crucial part of Sunday Evensong is the sermon. Each term we have a specific theme, often with visiting preachers. In Michaelmas it was 'Who do you say that I am?', in which preachers offered their own perspective on Jesus Christ. In Lent we took our cue from the change of seasons from

Epiphany to Lent, so the series split into ‘Three Epiphanies’ and ‘Four Laments’. And in Easter we looked forwards, in a series entitled ‘Brave New Worlds’: each week the preacher addressed a different aspect of the future – from education, AI and medicine to the Church and even ‘truth’.


The worshipping life of the Chapel extends beyond choral services of course. Every Sunday morning, at the challenging time of 8.30am, there is Student Communion. This brings together a real cross-section of students and is followed by cooked breakfast in Hall. There is also Morning Prayer at 8.30 every weekday. Then we have several late evening services (at 10pm). The best-known is ‘Compline by Candlelight’, sung by the Chaplain and members of either the College Choir or St John’s Voices. This service has its roots in the medieval period and is the perfect way to end the day. Here we follow it with port and hot chocolate.

We also put on an occasional service, which the Chaplain originally devised for King’s College, when he was Chaplain there. This is ‘critical mass’, something very different from any other services we have in Chapel. We gather in the middle of the nave, with most people sitting on the floor on rugs. There is candlelight, incense, soul or meditative music playing and a huge fabric screen stretched across the whole width of the Chapel on which the texts are projected. It is a very simple communion service and includes a talk that aims to speak to the life world of the students there (it’s only for students). The name of the service tries to capture several things: it’s a mass (a.k.a.



Epiphany Carol Service, January 2024

eucharist or communion), it aims to have a certain weight and it engages our critical faculties (speaking to both heart and mind).

Beyond the Chapel itself, both the Dean and Chaplain take their part in the College’s welfare provision. The Chaplain has also organised reading groups, a weekly Bible Breakfast and sundry social events. Our hope is that all this is wholly continuous with the life of the Chapel, that everything we do serves the whole College community, and always with our three fundamentals in mind – faith, beauty and justice. 

New Research Fellows



Annie Calderbank

(BA, MA Cambridge, MPhil, DPhil Oxford) *for Religion, Theology and Philosophy of Religion*

My research centres on the Hebrew Bible, Dead Sea Scrolls and other ancient Jewish literature. I am interested in the history of religious ideas, as well as issues of philology and hermeneutics.

My doctoral dissertation addressed the concept of holiness or sanctity in the context of ancient Hebrew literature. I explored how these texts perceive holiness in events and actions, and what is involved in making something holy. I investigated holiness as a status of relation and the interconnectedness of different holy things. This involved reconsidering definitions of holiness as numinosity or separateness prevalent in the study of religion across disciplines.

During my Fellowship I will pursue a new project on hermeneutics, which will explore the dynamic relationship between repeated expressions and textual boundaries in ancient Jewish literature. It will consider how our assumptions about textual unity affect our readings of repetition. The Hebrew Bible's long process of composition, as well as the discovery of fragments among the Dead Sea Scrolls, offer exciting possibilities to explore these questions.

Annie will be joining the College in October 2025.



Helena Gellersen

(BSc Jacobs University Bremen, MRes Maastricht University, PhD Cambridge) *for Experimental Psychology*

I am a cognitive neuroscientist studying how healthy ageing and the earliest stages of Alzheimer's disease alter brain function and memory processes.

Memories vary widely in terms of the amount of detail we recall, yet most prior studies used simple binary (correct vs. incorrect) measures. During my PhD at the University of Cambridge, I designed new tests to assess the fidelity with which people recall information, uncovering cognitive processes that explain inter-individual differences in memory precision during ageing.

During my Fellowship at St John's, I will use functional MRI to identify the neural underpinnings of memory fidelity in healthy ageing and determine features of brain dynamics that can explain youth-like performance even into old age. In collaboration with the German Center for Neurodegenerative Diseases, I will test whether memory fidelity tasks are promising for early detection of the preclinical phase of Alzheimer's disease, where individuals do not yet show obvious cognitive decline but harbour silent brain pathology. Using novel high-resolution neuroimaging methods, I will obtain a precise characterisation of the effects of preclinical pathology on memory systems at an unprecedented resolution. These insights are crucial to improving current memory tests for screening at-risk older adults and monitoring potential treatment effects.



Eve Houghton

(BA Yale, MPhil Cambridge, PhD Yale)
for English

I am a scholar of early modern English literature. My current research, on free indirect style before the novel, is about the representation of speech and thought in the early days of English prose fiction.

My PhD thesis traced the early modern theatrical history of awkwardness, defined as the charismatic redirection, or misdirection, of audience attention. Each chapter centred on one of the early modern stage's awkward types – the gull, the malcontent, the fop and the booby – in works by playwrights from William Shakespeare to Aphra Behn. I showed how these minor characters, often hopelessly inept in the traditional spheres of masculine self-assertion, were nonetheless capable of disrupting the hierarchy between leading men and supporting players.

At St John's I am writing a book about early methods for representing speech and thought in sixteenth-century English fiction. Lacking novelistic methods (e.g. quotation marks), writers like George Gascoigne, John Lyly and Thomas Nashe experimented with a range of techniques for channelling the thoughts and voices of their characters. Their efforts were not always successful or consistent. The result, I argue, is a mobile and wandering point of view – a proto form of free indirect style.



Holly Smith

(BA, MPhil Cambridge, PhD University College London)
for History

I am an historian of modern Britain. My work lies at the intersection between architectural and political history. I am crucially preoccupied by how people translate their feelings about the built environment into language.

My doctoral thesis offered a new history of high-rise housing and its grass-roots reception in Britain. It revised influential arguments that high-rise architecture has been universally unpopular among its inhabitants. I excavated a diverse range of historical residential responses to different multi-storey environments to suggest a more nuanced relationship between architectural form and subjectivity.

At St John's I am turning to a new project on the post-war community architecture movement. Responding to the perceived repression of democracy in 'modernist' post-war urban design, this movement called for more participatory architectural practice. My project traces the curious migration of the movement's arguments – from their emergence in leftist counter-culture during the 1960s–70s to their redeployment by figures on the right by the 1980s. This research proposes that the 'New Left' and 'New Right' (conventionally characterised as profoundly polarised camps) drew upon a shared political language in post-war Britain.



Yan Wang

(BA Jiangnan University, MSc Peking University, PhD Cambridge) for *Materials Science*

Modern electronics consume an enormous amount of energy. My research is dedicated to leveraging the fundamental advantage of atomically thin semiconductors to create ultra-low-power electronic devices. This involves the development of high-quality electronic materials, designing innovative device structures and engineering the properties of these devices to improve their efficiency and performance.

During my PhD I successfully demonstrated clean contacts on atomically thin semiconductors using an industry compatible approach for the first time, and realised low contact resistance for N-type field effect transistors (FETs). This method has been widely adopted by the community. Further, I developed a method that mitigates energy transfer during deposition to enable clean van der Waals contacts using high work function metals, paving the way for practical P-type FETs.

As a Research Fellow at St John's, I will develop ultra-low-power electronics such as tunnel field-effect transistors, ferroelectric field-effect transistors and tunnel electro-magneto-resistance memories based on atomically thin semiconductors enabled by my discoveries of van der Waals interfaces. 🏆

Credit: Ian Olsson



Graduands' Garden Party, June 2023

The Master and Fellowship

College Officers

The College Officers as of 1 October 2024 will be:

The Master
 The President
 Senior Tutor
 Senior Bursar
 Dean of Chapel
 Dean of Discipline
 Domestic Bursar
 Librarian
 Praelector
 Director of Music
 Chaplain

Mrs Heather Hancock
 Professor Steve Edgley
 Mr Richard Partington
 Mr Chris Ewbank
 The Revd Dr Victoria Johnson
 Dr Nick Friedman
 Mrs Alison Cox
 Ms Tanya Kirk
 Professor Graeme Barker
 Mr Christopher Gray
 The Revd Graham Dunn

College Council

The College Council as of 1 October 2024 will be (in order of seniority):

The Master
 The President
 Professor Christine Gray
 Professor Serena Best
 Dr Sylvana Tomaselli
 Professor Jason Robinson
 Professor John Rink
 Professor Nathan MacDonald
 Professor Albertina Albors-Llorens
 Professor Edward Tipper
 Professor Eric Miska
 Professor Alexander Bird
 Dr Sofia Singler

Fellowship

The Fellowship of the College as of 1 October 2024 will be (in order of seniority):

The Master (Mrs Heather Hancock)
 The President (Professor Steve Edgley)
 Dr Ben Garling
 Dr George Reid
 Professor Patrick Boyde
 Dr John Leake
 Dr Alan Macfarlane
 Professor David McMullen
 Dr Keith Matthews
 Mr Ray Jobling
 The Revd Dr Andrew Macintosh
 Professor John Iliffe
 Professor Malcolm Schofield
 Professor Tim Bayliss-Smith
 Professor Steve Gull

Professor Howard Hughes
Dr Peter Goddard
Professor Peter T. Johnstone
Professor Ian Hutchings
Professor Richard Beadle
Dr Derek Wight
Professor Sir Richard Friend
Dr Robin Glasscock
Professor Robert Tombs
Dr Dick McConnel
Professor David Midgley
Dr Martin Richards
Professor John Kerrigan
Professor Graham Burton
Professor Geoff Horrocks
Professor Sir Partha Dasgupta
Professor Hugh Matthews
Professor Jane Heal
Professor Tom Hynes
Professor Nick McCave
Dr Ricky Metaxas
Professor Simon Conway Morris
Professor Ernest Laue
Professor Robert Evans
Dr Sue Colwell
Dr Helen Watson
Professor Christel Lane
Dr Christopher Robinson
Professor Yuri Suhov
Professor Simon Szreter
Professor Deborah Howard
Professor Manucha Lisboa
Professor Ulinka Rublack
Professor Ben Simons
Professor Máire Ní Mhaonaigh
Professor Duncan McFarlane
Professor Christine Gray
Dr Ian Winter
Professor Nick Manton
Professor Neil Arnold
Dr Stefano Castelveccchi
Professor Ann Louise Kinmonth
Professor Janet Lees
Professor Stefan Reif
Professor David Stuart
Dr Mark Nicholls
Dr Matthias Dörrzapf
Professor Andy Woods
Commodore John Harris
Professor Serena Best
Dr Petra Geraats
Dr Paul Wood
Professor Emily Gowers
Professor Usha Goswami
Professor Richard Samworth
Professor Graeme Barker
Dr David Williams
Dr Sylvana Tomaselli
Mr Chris Ewbank
Dr Frank Salmon
Professor Chris Warnes
Professor Chris Jiggins
Mr Stephen Teal
Dr Tomas Larsson
Professor Robert Mullins
Professor Tuomas Knowles
Professor Jason Robinson
Dr Georgina Evans
Professor Mete Atatüre
Professor Zoubin Ghahramani
Professor John Rink
Professor Erwin Reisner
Professor Ole Paulsen
Professor Austen Lamacraft
Professor Uta Paszkowski
Professor Nathan MacDonald
Professor John Taylor
Professor Andrew Arsan
Professor Meredith Crowley
Professor Michael De Volder

Professor Hannah Joyce
 Professor Orietta Da Rold
 Professor Albertina Albors-Llorens
 Professor Edward Tipper
 Mr Tim Watts
 Professor Adam Chau
 Professor Graham Ladds
 Professor Richard Gilbertson
 Dr Fleur Kilburn-Toppin
 Professor Andy Wheeler
 Dr Gabriella Santangelo
 Professor Laura Torrente Murciano
 Dr Ruth Abbott
 Professor Eric Miska
 Professor Jean Abraham
 Professor Helen McCarthy
 Professor Dhruv Ranganathan
 Dr Becky Shercliff
 Dr Morag Morrison-Helme
 Professor Amanda Sferruzzi-Perri
 Professor Alexander Bird
 Dr Nick Friedman
 Dr Virgil Andrei
 Mr Richard Partington
 Dr Darshil Shah
 Professor Laura Diaz Anadon
 Dr Ella Sbaraini
 Professor Nic Lane
 Dr Matteo Seita
 Dr Jessie Munton
 Mr Chris Gray
 Dr Ritwick Sawarkar
 Mrs Alison Cox
 Dr Sofia Singler
 Dr Jef Laga
 Dr Amy Orben
 Professor Sarah Hall
 Dr Brigid Ehrmantraut
 Dr Rakesh Arul
 Dr Michael Boemo

Professor Po-Ling Loh
 Dr Leah Downey
 Dr John Colley
 Dr Andrea Luppi
 The Revd Dr Victoria Johnson
 Ms Tanya Kirk
 Dr Emily Gordon
 Miss Marta Grzeskiewicz
 Professor Catherine Bradley
 Dr Elena Giusti
 Dr Rachel Bryan
 Dr Faidon Varesis
 Dr Yan Wang
 Dr Helena Gellersen
 Ms Eve Houghton
 Dr Holly Smith
 Dr Irene Dedoussi
 Dr Dorian Gangloff

Honorary Fellows

The Honorary Fellows of the College as of 1 October 2024 will be (in order of seniority):

Dr Manmohan Singh
 Sir David Wilson
 Sir Bryan Cartledge
 Sir Derek Jacobi
 Professor Sir Roger Penrose
 The Hon. Richard Goldstone
 The Rt Hon. the Lord (David) Hope
 of Craighead
 Sir Timothy Lankester
 The Rt Hon. the Lord (John) Browne
 of Madingley
 Professor the Lord (Mervyn) King
 of Lothbury
 Mr Mike Brearley

The Hon. Frank Iacobucci
Ambassador Andreas Jacovides
Sir Michael Scholar
The Most Revd Dr Peter Carnley
Sir Mark Moody-Stuart
Mr Dan Burt
Mr Nick Corfield
Professor Eric Maskin
Professor the Lord (Colin) Renfrew
of Kaimsthorn
The Rt Hon. Sir Richard Aikens
Professor Sir John Ball
The Rt Hon. Sir Jack Beatson
Sir David Hopwood
Sir Roger Palin
Sir David Pountney
The Rt Hon. the Lord (Nigel) Crisp
Sir Simon Keenlyside
Professor the Lord (Peter) Hennessy
of Nympsfield
Professor Andrew Hamilton
Professor David Harvey
Miss Jennifer Egan

Professor Jane Stapleton
Mr Marc Feigen
Mr Thomas Adés
Professor Manuel Castells
Dame Louise Makin
Sir Harpal Kumar
His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales
Mr Mark Coombs
Mrs Annamarie Phelps
Professor Sheena Radford
Ms Laura Bates
Dr Claire Craig
Dr Heidi Doughty
Dr Eben Upton
Professor Sir David King
Professor Sharon Peacock
Professor Bhaskar Vira
Professor Walter Woon
Dr Anthony Freeling



Credit: Jean-Luc Benzazel

MA event, May 2024



MEMBERS' NEWS

Photo: St John's College
May Ball, June 2023
Credit: Jaemin Ban



Members' news

The following pages are dedicated to sharing the news of alumni, Fellows, Honorary Fellows and students, listed in order of matriculation year in the University or the year of joining the College as a Fellow. Please note that we rely on those submitting entries to check that they are correct, and we cannot be held responsible for inaccuracies.

You can contribute your news to next year's issue of *The Eagle* online at johnian.joh.cam.ac.uk/publications or by filling in the paper form accompanying this issue.

If you've lost touch with other Johnnians, please contact the Development Office at development@joh.cam.ac.uk or on 01223 338700. If we have their contact details, we will try to help you reconnect.

1941 STURROCK, Professor Peter celebrated his 100th birthday on 20 March 2024. His current interest is cosmic neutrinos, which he finds are (with the right equipment) more easily detectable than solar neutrinos.

1950 MOUNSEY, John is now in assisted living with his wife in a top flat with a balcony overlooking the river Kent in Kendal.

1951 MORRIS, Geoff and his wife, Wang Zhen, have spent a hectic year despite their age. Geoff has been carrying out Academic IELTS training to prepare Chinese students for entry to postgraduate programmes at British, Australian, New Zealand and American universities. Zhen has been in high demand to carry out phone or three-way visual translations or facilitations, notably for the UK Home Office. They attribute good health to a battle at table tennis every evening and daily exercises plus a walk of one kilometre. They regularly attend and

enjoy Manchester Grammar, St John's and University of Cambridge functions.

1951 SOLOMON, Rabbi Norman's most recent publication is *Making Sense of 'God'*, Portland Oregon, Wipf & Stock, 2023.

1951 YOUNG, Professor Anthony's first postdoctoral job was in the Colonial Service, as Soil Surveyor in the Department of Agriculture, Nyasaland (now Malawi). This proved a springboard for a more than fifty-year career, focused on the survey, evaluation and management of land resources in the tropics, divided between positions at universities, international research organisations and consultancies. He was a founding member of the School of Environmental Sciences, East Anglia, and the International Centre for Research in Agroforestry, Nairobi. Research led to a DSc, 22 books and 150 journal articles. See his not-too-serious autobiography, *Semper*

Juvenis: Always Young, for further information.

1952 CARO, John self-published his twelfth book in December, *One World or Midnight*, a speculative fiction offering two future choices for humanity: one world where there is one worldwide authority, with violence and wars eliminated; or the alternative, with the doomsday clock ticking over to midnight and humanity's self-destruction. This novel is available as an e-book on Amazon. Otherwise, his and his wife's lives (his wife, Kate, is also ninety-two) are taken up with wild parties and other nonagenarian events (doctor's visits).

1953 TUSTING, John's son Nicolas Tusting (1998) became Master of the Leathersellers' Company in the City of London this summer, thirty-four years after John's year as Master of the Company.

1955 LUTLEY, John has been married nearly sixty-five years. He has three children, twelve grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren with three more on the way. He lives in the suburbs of Philadelphia. John still plays golf and enjoys his greenhouse and garden greatly.

1955 PHILLIPS, Professor Ian has published a guide to the wild orchids of the Province of Malaga. The guide is simple – when to look for the orchids in bloom, and where, and helps with identification – it is definitely not for experts. The St John's College Library holds a copy.

1955 ROBINS, Major Colin's programme of military history talks that he was giving in aid of army charities was halted by the national

impact of COVID. A hip replacement and ninetieth birthday followed. But his spirit is undiminished, and news of the College and LMBC is keenly followed.

1955 VITA-FINZI, Dr Claudio and another affiliate of the SETI institute have developed a scheme called NOaH, an anagram of NaOH, the key chemical for global-scale capture of atmospheric carbon dioxide to allow the continued use of fossil fuels, especially in disadvantaged regions, while the application of solar (as per the research of Sir Richard Friend (1976)) catches up.

1956 AITKEN, Dr John Mark, Emeritus Consultant Physician, Colchester, published, *Who Cared: Conflicts of Interest*, ISBN 9798403160872 and *Exposing NHS Skeletons: Blueprint for Better Healthcare*, ISBN 9798873845149. These are essential reading for everyone wanting to champion a more socially balanced health service. He also published papers in the *Association of Clinical Pathologists Newsletters*; Winter 2021, 'Covid-19 replication and pathogenesis: an alternative hypothesis'; Summer 2022, 'A serendipitous gift'; Summer 2023, 'Octogenarian COVID exposure'. These papers explain how the initial coronavirus exposure of the lungs is via the gut and blood stream, and not directly from the upper respiratory tract.

1956 GOULDEN, David, although eighty-six, continues to teach at Vienna University law school. His most popular course is critical thinking for lawyers. He remains active in Vienna's cultural life and

is an active supporter of the state ballet and opera, occasionally being asked for advice concerning artist contracts and the provenance of classical instruments, e.g. Stradivarius violins offered on loan to the Vienna Philharmonic. He has a busy family life, regularly visiting with six children (and six grandchildren) living as diversely as a court lawyer in Scotland, a retired haematologist in France, a newspaper executive and a PR firm owner.

1958 GUILLEBAUD, Emeritus Professor John, on World Environment Day, with colleagues and friends, marked at Kew Gardens the thirtieth anniversary of his environment time capsule (EcoTC) project www.ecotimecapsule.com. A 1959 lecture by Dr Colin Bertram (1929), on the eco-danger of unremitting population growth, inspired John's environmentalism and medical specialism, leading to his Emeritus Professorship of Family Planning at UCL. EcoTCs contain children's pictures, letters, poems and relevant artefacts about the worsening climate emergencies. John reiterates warnings, apologies and the promise to make 'sorry' to the future less essential, hopefully resulting in 'a saner, safer and more sustainable world'.

1958 MALEY, Professor Alan has, since 2022, run an international creative writing group, Worlds into Words, with fifty members from twenty-eight nationalities. They have completed more than twenty collections of poems and translations etc., many on social justice and environmental issues. He is partly responsible for a section on 'Eco Issues' in a leading language

teachers' webzine (HLTMag). He has a book in press with Pavilion Education entitled *Wisdom Stories in Teacher Education*.

1959 BRAMLEY, Dr Richard had a vignette of his National Service published in the 2023 Summer Edition of *As You Were: The Military Review*, militaryexperience.org/2023/05/29/as-you-were-the-military-review-vol-18-released/

1959 GOUGH, Professor Douglas has been awarded the 2024 Crafoord Prize in Astronomy.

1959 LAWLEY, Dr Jonathan has been researching a book on the aftermath of a Rio-Tinto-funded programme that he directed to develop the first senior technical managers for the mining industry in southern Africa. He has also been drawing world attention to the subject of his book *A Road to Extinction*, which tells of the threat of extinction to the indigenous population of the Andamans. They arrived on foot from Africa 60,000 years ago when the Indian Ocean flooded and they were cut off from the outside world until the era of the first global navigators. They cannot survive contact with modernity.

1959 READ, Piers Paul's book *A History of the Catholic Church* was published in September 2023 by Meid Books.

1959 SAVIDGE, Ian is married with three children and three grandchildren, living in Canada with winters in Florida. He is enjoying retirement after a career in the tyre industry. He would enjoy hearing from

other 1950s Johnnians, and he can be contacted on Johnnian Hub.

1960 BETHELL, Dr Hugh and a colleague, Professor David Brodie, have recently published the second of his books about exercise: *Exercise: A Scientific and Clinical Overview*. This takes the form of a textbook – much needed in his opinion, as the role of exercise in the prevention and treatment of a wide variety of diseases, particularly in later life, is not routinely taught to medical students, or to other health professionals. The book describes the physiology of exercise, with a description of its short- and long-term effects and its role in the prevention and treatment of disease. Exercise is medicine!

1960 BREARLEY, Michael had his book *Turning over the Pebbles: A Life in Cricket and in the Mind* published by Constable, an imprint of Little, Brown Book Group, London, in June 2023. The paperback edition was published in May 2024. It is a memoir of the mind.

1960 DAVIES, Dr Robin was made a Medallist of the Order of the British Empire (BEM) in the King's New Year Honours 2024 for services to the NHS.

1960 ULLETT, Nicholas says that since wasting his time at Cambridge mainly in the Footlights, he has gone on to make even worse choices. He has been a stand-up comedian, half of a comedy team, an actor, a singer and the Creative Director of an advertising company. However, his most recent effort is, he believes, his best. A novel, available on Amazon, *The Unlikely Adventure of Blaggard*

and *Bliss*. This is an autobiographical novel, which makes it enormous fun. Which bits are real? That's for you to discover.

Nickullett.com

1962 DASGUPTA, Professor Sir Partha was awarded The Frontiers of Knowledge Award for defining the field of environmental economics by incorporating and quantifying the social value of nature.

1962 HUTCHINSON, Procter's book *Letters Home* was published by Pegasus, June 2023. It tells of the peripheral activities of an engineer travelling for work to a variety of countries worldwide. The editor wrote: 'Spanning three years, countless countries, and hours upon hours of air, rail, and road travel, *Letters Home* is a charming collection of tales inspired by years of work in the shipping industry'. One of Procter's readers remarked that the subject matter should be brought to the attention of STEM students and putative engineers. Not all graduates are carrying a spanner in greasy overalls. ISBN: 9781800165472; pegasuspublishers.com/books/procter-hutchinson/letters-home

1962 MARYON-DAVIS, Professor Alan, newly emeritus, expected an easy life in the rolling downland of beautiful south-west Wiltshire. Instead he chairs Nadder Community Energy, a not-for-profit community benefit society providing solar panels free of charge to schools and worthy buildings in the Nadder Valley. The schools get cheaper electricity, local investors receive a good return, surplus monies are spent on the local community (such as our electric-car-sharing club and thermal-camera home

survey scheme) and the planet stands a better chance of reaching net zero. Alan still performs with the humorous comedy-singing group, Instant Sunshine, who are still staggering on after fifty-seven years.

1962 ROBERTS, Trevor has now retired from his town planning and management consultancy, although he retains a degree of involvement in the Royal Town Planning Institute, of which he is a former president. With his wife, Jane, Trevor continues to split his time between Glasgow's vibrant West End and helping their son produce high-quality extra virgin olive oil from trees on his land in Puglia, Italy's heel. Boccadoro (the name of the area near Ostuni where their son lives) is believed to be the only olive oil pressed from olives picked by a Johnian approaching his eightieth birthday!

1963 McINTYRE, Professor Michael Edgeworth has been awarded the Symons Gold Medal, the highest award of the Royal Meteorological Society. The accompanying lecture was given on 15 May 2024, rmets.org/event/symons-gold-medal-lecture-missing-gravity-wave-forces-and-scientific-understanding. Last year his book for young scientists, *Science, Music, and Mathematics: The Deepest Connections*, went into its second edition, complete with a discussion of climate issues: damtp.cam.ac.uk/user/mem/papers/LHCE/mcintyre-book-preview.html

1963 MITCHELL, Dr David has, after fifty-plus years (excuses deleted), finished the 'Big Book' of recreational mathematical art, *Lattice Labyrinth Tessellations* (280 pages,

Royal octavo; £20, £30 hardback), published under his Derbyshire bookshop's imprint, Scarthin Books. David thinks it's matured well; the inclusion of complex numbers may mollify a few professionals while alienating everyone else, but there are pictures on nearly every page. Ask in the College Library. What next: church visitors books? Beach engineering? Historical mensuration?

1963 SALTER, The Revd F. Bernard has received a PhD from Durham University, for research and a thesis on 'The Reception of Plainchant'. The thesis describes a research project with thirty participants and other expert informants. The participants listened to three tracks of recorded plainchant and described their responses in terms of memories evoked, feelings experienced and whether the music led them to experience a sense of transcendent realities. The other informants gave their insights into the power of music, both in an ecclesiastical and secular context. This is part of Bernard's attempt to keep his brain 'active in retirement'.

1963 WALLACE, Dr John had a book derived from his Durham doctoral thesis published by Sacristy Press in July 2023. It is called *Anglo-Catholic Church Planting: Can it Work?*

1964 HOWARD, Professor Deborah has been elected a foreign Fellow of the Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti. This historic, learned society dates back to the early nineteenth century and spans all disciplines. The Fellowship will be conferred in a ceremony in the Great Council Chamber in the Doge's Palace in Venice on 9 June 2024.

1964 LUPTON, Steve had an unusual 2023, with a number of 'firsts'. In April, aged seventy-eight, he won his first golf trophy. The following Saturday he won his second golf trophy, playing in a foursome with his grandson, Thomas, aged fourteen. In July Steve had a bad accident involving a shopping trolley and was rushed to the trauma unit at Manchester Royal Infirmary – a first in an ambulance. The next day his wife had her purse stolen, another first, which had the effect of stealing the sympathy from Steve. Life goes on and has its surprises even in old age.

1964 ROBERTS, Professor Keith has in the last couple of years, while busily retired, had a number of books published. He is the co-author of *Molecular Biology of the Cell*, seventh edition, W. W. Norton, 2022, and of *Essential Cell Biology*, sixth edition, W. W. Norton, 2023. He has been working on these two best-selling textbooks since their first editions, starting in 1983! And, in the art world, he wrote *John Kiki: Fifty Years in the Figurative Fold*, second edition, Selwyn Taylor, 2022.

1964 TITFORD, John was appointed Provincial Archivist for the Provincial Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Derbyshire in 2024. He was aged seventy by the time he was initiated as a Freemason – a move of which his father, who had witnessed what he took to be inexcusable Masonic nepotism in the City of London, where he worked, would scarcely have approved...

1965 HEYWORTH, Dr Martin's Mixolydian Quartet had its world premiere at the

Academy of Vocal Arts in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA, on 4 December 2023. It was given by the Wister Quartet, a professional string quartet based in Philadelphia. This work has been published by Universal Edition in Vienna, Austria.

1966 BOSWORTH, Professor Richard published his very last book with CUP last year: *Politics, Murder and Love in an Italian Family: The Amendolas in the Age of Totalitarianisms*. It is a study of Giovanni, the father and a rather authoritarian liberal democrat, bestially murdered by the fascists, and his communist son, Giorgio. It is Richard's COVID-19 book, and he greatly enjoyed researching and writing it. Now he has the different pleasure of being a volunteer research assistant for a sometime colleague – all the pleasures of research and none of the responsibilities, a sensible life choice for one now over eighty.

1967 MACFARLANE, Dr Alan's article 'Pi Formulas: some smooth stones on the beach of rough numbers' appeared on 19 February 2024 in the Number Theory section of the Mathematics ArXiv. It may be viewed online using the reference number arXiv:2402.10589

1967 STEVENTON, David, while he is no longer fit enough to go on the annual seabird counting and ringing expeditions to the Shiant Islands, still has plenty to do before and after the trips. He occasionally has to use his materials science knowledge and skills to electrochemically etch leg rings removed from recaptured seabirds. This reveals the complete serial number when part has been worn away by years of abrasion on seabird cliffs.

1968 BARRON, Keith has been helping to shape biodiversity activities at the Kent & East Sussex Railway in the High Weald Historic Landscape. Bird and bumblebee surveys reveal scores of red- and amber-listed birds, including nightingales and turtle doves, and rare ruderal bees – data that has been shared with Kent's 'Making Space for Nature' strategists. Disease-resistant elm trees have been planted, a pond is to be restored for great crested newts, and a precious two-acre wildflower field protected. They are publicising the green corridor to passengers and local ecological bodies. For details, see issue 317 of *Heritage Railway Magazine*.

1968 BROWNE, David has published archaeological reports online on the first castle at Aberystwyth. He continues his preparation of a book about the Nasca culture of Peru. Work has been slowed down by a heart attack in August 2023, but a course of multiple medications seems to be keeping him going.

1968 SUGDEN, Steve and Sheila welcomed the birth of Felicity, their tenth grandchild, in July 2023. Steve continues to work as an equine chiropractor in Suffolk and Norfolk. He also volunteers at the local kennels of the Retired Greyhound Trust.

1969 JONES, Dr Gareth had *Ynyslas, Poems 2014–24* published by Scenario in Kindle and in paperback editions. Please visit scenariofilms.com to order a copy, and likewise for his D-Trilogy of feature films now available in DVD box set, as well as other work. The 1985 full-length audio dramatisation of his first novel *Lord of*

Misrule, starring Philip Madoc, will shortly be released as an audio download at the BBC website. Any fellow Johnian publisher interested in a new print edition of his Welsh Drovers Trilogy of novels, please get in touch at his Scenario email address: gareth.jones@scenariofilms.com

1969 WATSON, David was elected Honorary Life Member of the Piscatorial Society.

1970 BARRETT, Professor Martyn (Emeritus Professor of Psychology at the University of Surrey) continues to work as a lead expert for the Education Department of the Council of Europe (CoE). He is currently leading a new project to develop guidance and recommendations for the Ministries of Education of the forty-six member states of the CoE on how 'Education for Sustainable Development' can be embedded within competence-based Citizenship Education. The recommendations will be aimed at the full age range of formal education, running from preschool through primary and secondary education to higher education.

1970 d'AVRAY, David published *The Power of Protocol: Diplomats and the Dynamics of Papal Government, c. 400–c. 1600* (Cambridge University Press, 2023).

1970 MASEFIELD, Robin had his latest book, *The World Administered by Irishmen: The Life and Times of Robert Hart and Contemporary Irish in East Asia*, published by Queen's University Belfast in summer 2023. While the initial focus is on the Chinese Maritime Customs Service, and the Ulsterman Sir Robert Hart, who led it for forty-five years, it

brings together a treasure trove of other Irish people in East Asia. The book is available for £20 online at blackstaffpress.com, or email specialcollections@qub.ac.uk to purchase. ISBN: 978-0-9955886-2-2

1970 ROYALL, Chris' sons Timothy and Jonathan were both married in 2023, and both marriages delivered his first grandsons, one in May and the other in September. Chris is retiring from singing teaching after forty years and is bowing out with a farewell concert in St Mary Magdalene's Church Enfield, at which five of the London Gentlemen of St John's will be singing. Chris is a founder member of the Gents and a founder member of The Sixteen. He retired from St Paul's Cathedral Choir in 2012.

1971 BOULTON, Ian was recently asked to join the Board of the RBM Partnership to End Malaria, based in Geneva as an alternate member representing the private sector. RBM is the global platform for co-ordinated action against malaria.

1971 MORRIS, Dr Derek is now semi-retired, having spent a career in higher education and in consulting civil engineering. He now spends his time shuttling back and forth between Texas and Vancouver, Canada, where his mother passed away recently. If you would like to get together sometime, email him at derekmorris@yahoo.com

1971 SPRAY, Professor Chris was appointed to the Board of Environmental Standards Scotland by the Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Just Transition, Mairi McAllan MSP, in June 2023 for a term of four years.

He also accepted an invitation at the end of last year from the Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity, Lorna Slater MSP, for a second term on the Board of the Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park, running until November 2026.

1971 TAYLOR, Dr Phil has lived and worked in Italy for the last forty-two years, alternating between being a consultant and a CEO. He has interacted with dream teams like Lamborghini and Ducati, many university management CEOs and several of their top teams. This resulted in a fascinating journey, visiting locations like Venice, Urbino and Perugia, discovering massive latent talent, much joy and incredible proactivity. Italy is known for being a bureaucratic nation, so the focus has always been on the legal and procedural. Focusing on people, cross-functional and AI solutions to help with this has been a riot of positivity.

1972 BROWN, Dr Iain received the Sir Walter Scott Medal for 2024 from the Royal Society of Edinburgh, Scotland's national academy. The citation is a dual one: it commends his support for scholarship worldwide through the development of the manuscript collections of the National Library of Scotland, their exploitation and interpretation through exhibitions and publications, and by advice and assistance given to the academic community; and, second, his personal scholarly career pursued in tandem and since retirement. Iain sees it as a 'lifetime award', and it happens to mark fifty years since he first published work in a learned journal.

1972 ELLIS, Mark's book *Dead in the Water*, the fifth in his World War Two DCI Frank Merlin London detective series, was published in May in the US. A US book tour took place in conjunction with the publication. Ellis contributed Frank Merlin short stories to two published anthologies, *An Unnecessary Assassin* and *Action This Day*. Ellis also recorded a number of Spotify history podcasts and continues to do so. He was a founding trustee, organiser and treasurer of Wales' first dedicated crime-writing festival in Aberystwyth.

1972 PEEL, Robert has published his fourth guidebook for walkers in Kent. This latest book, *The Kent and Sussex Ramblers Guide to The Wealdway*, helps those taking this eighty-two-mile route from Gravesend to Eastbourne to understand the character and evolution of the varied landscape through which it passes as it crosses the North and South Downs, the High and Low Wealds and the Greensand Ridge. It also provides all the maps and directions needed to help them find the way. You can only truly know a place by exploring it on foot.

1973 BROOKE, Professor George completed a three-year term as President of the European Association for Biblical Studies in July 2024. He appeared on *In Our Time* in May 2023 talking about the Dead Sea Scrolls.

1973 NEWTON, Jeremy has retired from his role as Vice-Principal at Guildhall School of Music and Drama. He serves on the Finance and Investment Board of Lucy Cavendish College, has recently been appointed as a Trustee of the University of the Third Age in

Cambridge and is writing a book on song lyrics from 1920 to 2020.

1973 WILKINSON, Steve has relinquished his position as CEO of the European Training & Simulation Association, while retaining his part-time position as CEO of HALCYON Training Solutions. He will now be concentrating on family life and the charity Newbiggin Arts Centre, for which he remains the Chair of the Board of Trustees. In his newly found spare time, Steve hopes to devote more time to his acrylic and watercolour painting (commissions welcomed!).

1974 BLAKEY, Simon currently has a Senior Visiting Fellowship at the School of Transnational Governance at the European University Institute, Florence. He is applying scenario-planning techniques, learnt from long experience in the energy industry, to a book on the relationship between Europe and Russia in the year 2040.

1974 BONSALE, David published *Essays in Time* to celebrate the centenary of the Old Wykehamist Golfing Society, of which he is currently the President. This book is a social history of the last 100 years of British life, interspersed with details of the lives and stories of people who went to Winchester College and also played golf. It is illustrated with hundreds of photographs and contains 'curiosities' that emerged as part of his research. David and his wife, Margaret (née Shaw, Girton 1974), are doing their travel bucket list, visiting Ecuador, South Island, New Zealand and fulfilling her passion for penguins.

1974 JACOBS, Dr Howy officially retired from his professorship in Tampere University, Finland, in 2023, although he remains active in science. His lab published its second major report on the profiling of intramitochondrial temperature in cells subjected to various stresses (Terzioglu et al., eLife, [doi: 10.7554/eLife.89232](https://doi.org/10.7554/eLife.89232)).

1974 TANG, Professor Tong wishes to announce the marriage of his son, Kevin, and daughter-in-law, Stela, on New Year's Day in the Year of the Dragon 2024.

1975 DUCKWORTH, Colin competed for Great Britain in the 2023 World Trail Orienteering Championships in the Czech Republic. Graham Urquhart (1973) was also in the team. They were in the relay team that came sixth in their class at the event. Both have been selected for the GB team for the European Trail Orienteering Championships in Finland in May 2024. Both have also been appointed as International Orienteering Federation event advisers, allowing them to supervise world-ranking events.

1975 LEWIS, David, writing as D. X. Lewis, is pleased to announce the publication by Alien Buddha Press of *A Life in Pieces*, a novella-in-flash. 'In 28 miniature stories, D. X. Lewis conjures the rich essence of an entire life. From getting engaged at six years old to bumping into [a more successful version of] himself at a school reunion, Edward is depicted in a way both humorous and highly perceptive of the human condition', Matt Kendrick. '... moments of profound and devastating beauty...' Debbi

Voisey. The book is available through Amazon in print, audio and e-versions.

1975 MARCOFF, A. A. (Tony) was elected a Life Member of the British Haiku Society for his contribution to haiku and tanka. He was commissioned by the *Japan Review* to review a new translation of Basho's complete haiku. Tony also published his *Selected Tanka – 1995–2023, The Productions of Time* (available at aamarcoff@yahoo.co.uk). He was recently appointed a selector for GUSTS (Tanka Canada), and his tanka and tanka prose are appearing in the UK, Japan, the USA and Canada.

1975 McCULLAGH, Barney continues to write pop songs, many of which appear on Spotify, YouTube, SoundCloud and other sites (search Barney McCullagh and/or Infra Dignitatem). In summer 2023 he presented his annual paper to the Arts Faculty Symposium, Ovidius University, Constanta, Romania. This year's title was 'Wrapped in Grief: Post-traumatic Stress in Homer, the Homeric Hymns, and Aratus'. [crees.com](https://www.crees.com). Barney has taken up walking football and table tennis as antidotes to Parkinson's Disease and has joined the Comberton Twinning Association committee. They organise visits to and from Le Vaudreuil, a town close to Rouen in Normandy.

1975 NAYLOR, Charles is returning to his first love and career inspired by singing in St John's Choir. He was a professional until he was thirty, singing as a soloist at the Wiener Staatsoper and Glyndebourne. He then spent thirty-seven happy years in communications and marketing. He now focuses on helping

young people access the wonderful opportunities that he had. He is Chair of the Rodolfus Foundation, which runs choral courses for eight- to twenty-one-year-olds, and a Trustee of Oxford Song, the world's largest festival of classical song. Charles is also doing more singing himself while he can!

1975 ROBERTS, Ian is retired and living in Edinburgh. He is a scorer for Cricket Scotland and member of Lord's Taverners and MCC. He is the proud winner of the 2022 Edward Marshall Hall Golf Cup. He took part in the annual golf match between St John's 75 and Trinity 75 in Northumberland in 2024. He is a committee member of Cambridge Society of Edinburgh and also the Networks and Volunteers Group of Cambridge University Alumni Advisory Board.

1976 McALLISTER, Mark became Chair of Ofgem in November 2023.

1976 SMITH, Peter has started lecturing on Master's courses at Skema Business School in Lille and the University of Northampton Business School. (Did you know Northampton was the third university created in England after Oxford and Cambridge?!) He and Jane were also delighted to welcome their first grandchild Milo (born in Addenbrooke's) in February 2024. The subtle St John's brainwashing starts soon, as his parents are both Queens' alumni.

1976 SUMMERTON, Professor Christopher brought his NHS career to a close in November 2023, after retiring as a Consultant in Gastroenterology for the Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

He continued in private and medico-legal practice until September 2024 and then left medicine completely. New commitments beckon in the charitable sector, and his nine grandchildren are looking forward to seeing more of him.

1976 WHITFORD, Professor David has been appointed Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cyberjaya, Malaysia, commencing 1 June 2024. The University of Cyberjaya is a top-tier university in Malaysia, offering programmes including Medicine, Health Sciences, Nursing, Pharmaceutical Sciences, Education, Psychology, Physiotherapy, Homoeopathic Medical Sciences, Business and IT, and Biomedical Technology Engineering, among others. The University, together with its affiliated institutions, currently has a student population of over 7,000 and has produced more than 12,000 successful graduates. The University is also currently ranked in the top 401+ under the THE Rankings 2023.

1977 HODSON, Paul retired to London in 2022 after working for the European Commission for twenty-seven years, mostly as an energy regulator in Brussels and then leading its battery and hydrogen research in the Netherlands. He is now blogging (paulhodson@wordpress.com), designing an operational war game on naval warfare in the French revolutionary wars, and being a grandfather.

1978 FOWLER, Jake worked for the BBC for nearly forty years as a radio and television reporter, producer and editor, notably running the award-winning *BBC Yorkshire Look North* programme from Leeds. Later, he worked

from Television Centre and Broadcasting House, London, on newsgathering projects to improve IT systems used by thousands of BBC journalists in the 'Journalism Production Tools' programme and its spinoffs. As Product Manager he devised systems and trained users to improve BBC collaboration and sharing of editorial and logistical information: a vital, if overlooked, aspect of how a huge news organisation works effectively for its audiences.

1978 McCULLOCH, John has retired from a career in the airline industry, starting with the Swire Group and Cathay Pacific Airways, via the oneworld Alliance for ten years (with a quick stop as Head of HSBC Group marketing) and a dalliance with consulting to finish off. He has managed to keep his joints working and was delighted to be selected again recently to represent Canada in Masters Field Hockey (sixty-plus) at the World Cup in Auckland end 2024. May the England team quake!

1978 PIERCE-SAUNDERSON, Richard's novel *The Mortality Code*, the sequel to *The Immortality Clock* and Book II of *The Immortality Chronicles*, was published by NoPapyrus Press on 1 March. Richard's novel *A Fear Of Heights*, which relives George Mallory and Sandy Irvine's ascent of Everest in June 1924, was released on 8 June 2024, the 100th anniversary of the day on which the men were last seen. Richard's spoken word single 'Cost Of Living' was picked up by BBC Radio 6 Music at the beginning of April 2024, one of Tom Robinson's favourite five tracks of that week.

1978 STEFFEN, Jonathan performed with his trio, delivering a set of Jonathan's songs at The Round Church supporting the British Red Cross in Ukraine and at Downing Place United Reform Church to fund a Saturday school for Ukrainian children. Jonathan continued to perform with the Moonlight Orchestra and the British Fretted Orchestra. He co-founded the Moonshot Mandolin Ensemble, winning the Clifford Essex Challenge Cup for the best quartet or quintet, 2024 Festival of the British Banjo, Mandolin and Guitar Federation. A member of the Julian Players, Jonathan presented Baroque recorder compositions in a fundraising concert celebrating Mother Julian of Norwich.

1979 DUNLOP, Gilbert has been awarded his hunt buttons by the Cambridgeshire Hunt, at the end of another season following hounds.

1979 FOWLER-WATT, Andrew lives in Sri Lanka with Viv, his long-suffering (some might say saintly) wife of thirty years. Since retiring as School Principal of Trinity College Kandy, he has been living in Colombo, a city he loves. He now runs a small sixth-form college, specialising in creative A Levels (e.g. Drama, Music and Fine Art), most of which are not offered anywhere else in the country. He strongly recommends Sri Lanka as a holiday destination, and would be delighted to meet up for a sundowner with any Johnians who find themselves in Colombo.

1979 JOHNSON, John was made Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) for services to the Maritime Industry in King Charles III's Birthday Honours List 2023.

1979 MERRIMAN, Dr Nicholas was made Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in the King's New Year Honours 2024 for services to the Arts and to Heritage.

1979 PENNELLS, Stephen moved with Helen to Sheffield to be near two of their six grandchildren and shed church and campaigning responsibilities. He is rebuilding bookshelves and then looking to pick up new roles.

1980 FRANCIS, Jonathan has published *From 9 to 5* under the Coil Press imprint. Anne Wyeth, the fictional author of the book, looks back from 2150 to the changes the world has gone through over the preceding 100 years, describing the impact of a decline in the global population from 9 billion to 5 billion and the cultural revolutions, economic changes, political shifts and global wars that ensued. She does this through her biography of Solomon Isarebe, who as early as the 2040s had foreseen the potential of population change to reverse global warming without destroying economic growth. Buy at coilpress.com

1980 MAWSON, Michael, after a long career in technology and consulting, retired at the end of 2023. He and his wife, Debs (who also retired in 2023), will be spending their time between Hertfordshire and Languedoc, though there may be trips around the world to meet up with fellow alumni.

1980 PURKISS, John had *Learn to Let Go – a Guided Journal* published by Octopus Books. This book accompanies *The Power of Letting*

Go (2020), a bestseller that has been translated into Hindi and Spanish.

1980 SAMPSON, Professor Tony retired from the University of Southampton as Emeritus Professor in October 2023 after twenty-eight years in asthma research and clinical pharmacology education in the Faculty of Medicine.

1980 SCOTT, Peter's second book and third TEDx talk on artificial intelligence came out in 2022 and 2023, and he has been in high demand for keynote addresses around the world. He has a particular focus on private schools and helping them reinvent their teaching methods and curricula to adapt to AI. He would welcome more opportunities to bring this work to the UK in particular.

1981 WELLS, Mark, after repeatedly topping Amazon's fantasy charts over recent years, has finally managed to get his bestselling Cambridge Gothic trilogy into Heffers. 'I always wanted Johnnians to be able to buy the books when visiting Cambridge. Now, they can pop into Heffers and get a signed copy to read on the way home. Hopefully, the series will bring back memories of their time at College – minus the monsters, of course!'

1982 DRAKE, Dr Laurence married Deborah Halifax at Madingley Hall in April. She is an English and Debating teacher, former lawyer and a JP. Laurence has been teaching clinical anatomy, including lecturing in the CU Anatomy lecture theatre and supervising at Clare (and Peterhouse). He retired as a GP at fifty-five but works weekly in Rheumatology at Addenbrooke's. He regularly teaches on the

MRCP PassPACES Course in Hammersmith and Guy's. Laurence builds machinery for the theatre! He is very active musically, playing the violin in two orchestras, and chamber music with the conductor Robert Ziegler. He enjoys vintage motoring and motorcycling.

1982 SAMUELSON, Robert's business (Zegona plc, which he helped to found in 2015) agreed to acquire Vodafone's Spanish business. Formal regulatory clearances are expected soon, and the Zegona team will then work with local management to deliver the business plan. Zegona appreciates the support it has received from its investors and everybody involved in delivering this acquisition. Robert has continued to pursue sporting interests, including tennis, skiing, climbing, kite surfing and cycling. His wife, Andrea, is Chair of a children's charity, Small Steps, and Chair of Governors at a local school. His children, Lauren and Ben, both now work in London.

1983 BARRETT, The Revd Victoria was commissioned as Rural Dean of Wirral South Deanery by the Bishop of Birkenhead on 17 April 2024. She continues to serve as Vicar of All Saints, Thornton Hough, and celebrated five years in post in May 2024.

1983 DOUGHTY, Dr Heidi finally retired from NHS Blood and Transplant in 2024. However, 2023 was a busy year, with lectures in Dubai, Gothenburg and Prague. She also celebrated students defending their PhDs in Bergen, Norway. She continues to write and serve as a reviewer focusing on trauma and emergency preparedness. In 2024 she became a Trustee for Trauma Care, a charity

committed to improving the care of trauma victims through education and research. She supports other charities and continues as a DL for the West Midlands.

1983 OLIVER, Tom's farm in south-west Herefordshire has become a flagship Local Wildlife Site for the West Midlands, with ongoing work to restore ancient hay meadows, wood pasture, hedges and stream margins. Recent developments include the return of breeding pied flycatchers (a Welsh Marches speciality) and the recovery of sneezewort among the meadow flowers. More land was acquired last year with the same objectives, including what is probably the last ancient woodland site to be cleared in the locality, between 1843 and 1886. Better soil, water and carbon management are products of this semi-natural – not wild – ecosystem.

1983 PERKS, Dr Chris took part in the Himalayan Trust UK's trek celebrating the seventieth anniversary of the first ascent of Everest. Sir Edmund Hillary described the views from Pikey Peak as 'the finest in all of Nepal'. Unfortunately, Chris encountered hail, mist and visibility of 50m. The views improved as Chris ascended the Khumbu valley. He visited schools, Khunde hospital, and a refuse recycling initiative, and planted a tree to celebrate the anniversary. Chris met several of the Himalayan Trust UK's Board, notably his old SJCRFC Captain and Trust Chairman Sir Graham Wrigley (1981) and Robert Ross (1976). himalayantrust.co.uk

1984 RADFORD, Professor Sheena has been awarded the Biochemistry Society Centenary Award for 2025. This is given annually to a

molecular bioscientist based on the impact of their research and a demonstrable commitment to build, support and nurture talent within the scientific community.

1985 BIRD, Nigel has published *The Arsenal of Grace*. This book is a collection of articles that presents a Christian perspective based on personal relationships with God and others. The book covers various topics, including biographical testimonies, spirituality, mental health and difficult theological questions. The author provides advice on prayer, disputes and suffering, and emphasises the importance of unity and fellowship in living a love-centred life. He explains grace as the free gift of salvation that comes from God through faith in Jesus Christ that can transform people's lives and lead them towards eternal life. See the website: thearsenalofgrace.co.uk

1985 DOAR, Dr Matthew is now working for Adaptavist, a UK-based company, though still living in San Jose, CA.

1985 HUNT, Jacqueline 'Jay' was made Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) for services to the Arts in King Charles III's Birthday Honours List 2023.

1985 MENZEL, Dr Garry sold his cancer therapeutics company and took six months off to travel, which included such diverse activities as diving in Hawaii, wine tasting during the Rugby World Cup in France, running several half marathons, skiing from his house in Park City and climbing Mount Vinson in Antarctica. All good things come to an end, however, as he has recently started

as an Operating Partner at London-based GHO Capital.

1985 PRICE, Clare completed a DPhil in Architectural History at the University of Oxford in 2022 with a thesis on inter-war church architecture.

1985 RINK, Professor John gave piano masterclasses and presented public lectures, as well as keynote papers, in Europe and Asia. He continued in his role as Editor-in-Chief of *The Complete Chopin - A New Critical Edition* and as Deputy Chair of the Programme Council of the Fryderyk Chopin Institute in Warsaw. His latest book – *Music in Profile: Twelve Performance Studies* (Oxford University Press, 2024) – demonstrates some of the methodologies that can be used to study musical performance, in addition to exploring the identity and artistic voice of the performer.

1986 FAFINSKI, Dr Stefan was appointed to the Lord Chancellor's Recruitment Advisory Committee for the Thames Valley in March 2024.

1986 WATKIN, Dr Tim has been a patent attorney for thirty years. He has worked in Japan and, for thirteen years, in Singapore, co-managing a local branch of a British IP law firm. He, his wife and three children are now back in the UK.

1987 ESPOSITO, Dr Giampiero has completed his book on the foundations of classical field theory: *Fondamenti di teoria classica dei campi*, his first scientific book in Italian.

1987 HALL, Jonathan was appointed in 2023 as an arbitrator on both the football and general sports lists to hear sports cases at the Tribunal Arbitral du Sport/Court of Arbitration for Sport (TAS/CAS) in Switzerland. He is currently General Counsel & Company Secretary at the International Cricket Council (ICC) in Dubai.

1987 SMITH, Nicholas has completed a one-act opera based on a story by Chinese author Hong Ying. *The Stone God* will premiere at London's Bloomsbury Theatre in November 2024.

1987 SWEATMAN, Peter's work in climate change and innovation was profiled in a commemorative book entitled *His Majesty at 75: The Leadership and Vision of King Charles III* that was launched at Claridge's in London on His Majesty's seventy-fifth birthday, 14 November 2023. bit.ly/kingcharlesiii Peter became a social entrepreneur after leaving JPMorgan in 2000 and has worked in climate finance since 2004.

1988 KELLY, Professor Fiona has been awarded the Association of Anaesthetists' Featherstone Professorship 2024.

1988 KUMAR, Professor Deepak published two books in 2023, *Science and Society in Modern India*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, and *'Culture' of Science and the Making of Modern India*, Primus Books, Delhi. Last year, under his initiative, a society for the History of Science was formed in Kolkata, and he was made its Founder-President. The details are on the website:

societyforthehistoryofscience.com.

On retirement from the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, in 2017, he shifted to Hyderabad and currently holds an Honorary Professorship in History at the Maulana Azad National Urdu University. Deepak misses Cambridge, but life, as usual, is wonderful!

1988 LOVE, Dickon was made Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) in the King's New Year Honours 2024 for services to Bell-Ringing in London and Kent.

1988 SUTCLIFFE, Dr Damian completed a PhD in July 2023 in Computational Biology at the University of Cambridge, using machine learning to help predict the onset of lung exacerbations in people with cystic fibrosis.

1989 HARDING, Anna has visited Cambridge with Dr Alan Jones on a number of occasions and taken part in a little academic life that is offered through events like Donor Day. The history and culture of Cambridge continue to inspire the acquisition of knowledge and discovery. They spent time trying to recreate the wonderful planting and botanical gardens of St John's by taking notes in 2023 of the plants and recreating this at home. It continues to be an adventure as spring has brought with it Cambridge 'at home'. Dr Alan Jones now enjoys evening scotch in a Johanian atmosphere!

1989 HENSON, Professor Rik has taken over directorship of the Cambridge Centre

for Ageing and Neuroscience (CamCAN) and became President Past of the British Neuroscience Association (BNA).

1989 WOODBURN, Dr Charles was made Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) in the King's New Year Honours 2024 for services to International Trade and Skills Development.

1991 CHUAH, Professor Jason Chin Tik was appointed Dean of Law at the Faculty of Law, Universiti Malaya, Malaysia, in 2023.

1992 HEMMING, Dr Jessica and Dr Philip Hemming (1990) have made major career and lifestyle changes since autumn 2023. They moved from Vancouver to a twenty-four-acre horse farm abounding in wildlife near Qualicum Beach on Vancouver Island, along with their daughter and son-in-law. Consequently, in spring 2024 Jessica left her position as Associate Professor of Medieval History at Corpus Christi College (Vancouver) to pursue academic editing full-time (she continues to be Editor of the journal *Folklore*). Philip now works remotely running the Enterprise Risk Management for the Province of British Columbia.

1993 COVILLE, Peter has continued his tradition of annual holidays with friends from the 1993 and 1994 matriculation years and their families, totalling forty-six adults and children at the last count. All are doing well. Peter enjoyed several adventure holidays in 2023 with his wife, including ski touring, rock climbing, scuba diving and mountaineering.

1993 GULATI, Dr Ambika has successfully completed her EdD from New York University, NY. Her problem of practice considered an improvement study in which she examined how thinking skills could be fostered in a K–12 Indian curriculum school that is based in the United Arab Emirates.

1994 CARR, Dr Gilly has spent the last five years chairing a project for the IHRA (the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, of which she has been a UK delegate since 2016), which has resulted in the launch of a new charter. The IHRA Charter for Safeguarding Sites is a heritage charter aimed at safeguarding Holocaust sites in the twenty-first century. It was launched at the European Commission in January of this year. Gilly's eighth monograph, *A Materiality of Internment*, will be published by Routledge in autumn 2024. The book examines the objects made by civilian internees in Germany in WWII.

1994 SHARMA, Dave was appointed Senator for New South Wales in the Australian Parliament. He had previously served as a member of the House of Representatives and, prior to that, as a diplomat and ambassador.

1995 GRIFFIN, Dr Ben published a chapter titled 'Perceptions of crisis in the history of masculinity: power and change in modern Britain' in Matt Houlbrook, Katie Jones and Ben Mechen, eds., *Men and Masculinities in Modern Britain: A History for the Present* (Manchester University Press). The book is open access and free to download from the Manchester University Press website.

manchesteruniversitypress.co.uk/9781526174697/

1996 CLARKE, Dr Ben lives in Calgary, western Canada, and works as a People & Culture consultant helping organisations to become successful, effective and fun places to work. He works all around the world but gets back to St John's at least once a year. Ben has four teenage daughters, three pianos, two (male) dogs, one amazing wife and a life that is never dull and hardly ever predictable.

1997 HADLEY, Andrew married Catherine English (Lucy Cavendish, 1997) in March 2024. They met through the Department of Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic.

1997 PENFOLD, Nicola (née Lumsden) published her fourth children's book, *When the Wild Calls*. It is a sequel to the ecological adventure *Where the World Turns Wild*. Nicola's books consider how our impact on the Earth's climate and biodiversity will affect future generations. In *When the Wild Calls*, Nicola takes us back to a world ravaged by a deadly tick disease where people can only live in built-up cities, fearful of the natural world, while outside the countryside has rewilded, renewed with beauty and life. Nicola has been nominated for multiple awards, including 'The Little Rebels Children's Book Award', 2023.

nicolapenfold.com

1998 MAIA DE LOUREIRO, Dr Guilherme was invested as a Knight of the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes and of Malta, most

commonly known as Sovereign Military Order of Malta, on 16 December 2023 at the Church of São Francisco in Oporto.

1998 PAULDEN, Dr Tim and Celia Chambers are delighted to announce the birth of their second daughter, Esther Nancy Paulden, in October 2023. Professionally, Tim is Innovation & Development Manager at Exeter-based sports forecasting firm ATASS Sports, and Chair of Governors at Exeter Maths School, which achieved its second OFSTED Outstanding rating in 2024.

1998 WHITELAW, Francesca was appointed King's Counsel in March 2023 and celebrated at the Inner Temple in May with Johnians Professor Rich Samworth, Sarah Samworth, Jim Kemp, Jennie Rooney, Eleanor Rowswell, Amy Thomas, Kate Wilson, Fiona Learmont, Tash Nair and Andrew Mold KC. In 2024 Frankie represented the Secretary of State for the Home Department in the Forbury Gardens, reading terror attack inquests with Alice Meredith (2008). She is instructed as Counsel to the Inquiry for the forthcoming Sturgess Public Inquiry (Salisbury Novichok poisonings). Frankie specialises in public inquiries, inquests, public law, police law, national security and information law.

2000 KOWENICKI, Sarah (née Samworth), having worked in international development and enjoyed time with her three young children, has launched a career as an artist. Find her at sarahkowenicki.com to get in touch about sales or commissions, or to follow her socials.

2001 KITT, Kirsten (née Dettman) lives in Maidenhead with her husband, Jamie (Robinson College, 2002), and two children, Constance (nine) and William (seven). She is a Partner in the London office of International Law Firm Simmons & Simmons LLP. She specialises in insolvency and fraud-related litigation and asset recovery. A notable year for Jamie achieving a DPhil from 'the other place' in 'Cardiovascular Remodelling after hypertensive pregnancies' with several related publications. Now back to the NHS.

2001 McAHRON, Dr Brigid 'Chip' (née McClure) married and welcomed a daughter in 2020, moved to Kent in 2021 as Bursar at Sevenoaks School and welcomed a son in 2023.

2002 HIRST, Rocky published an article entitled 'The ongoing challenge of conduct risk management' in the Summer 2023 edition of the *Journal of Financial Compliance* (Henry Stewart Publications), following his appointment to the examinations panel for the Level 6 Regulation and Compliance narrative exam administered by the Chartered Institute for Securities & Investments (CISI).

2003 DLAMINI, Dr Sazi's article 'Overseas Visiting Scholarship' was published in *The Eagle* 2003. In 2009 he received a Musicology PhD from the University of KwaZulu-Natal for his thesis 'South African Blue Notes: bebop, mbaqanga, apartheid and the exiling of a musical imagination'. He specialises in Zulu mouth and gourd-resonated indigenous musical bows. He convened the

first two International Bow Music Conferences (2016 and 2018, Durban). Sazi composes and plays guitar for his jazz ensemble Skokiana, and he recently translated Homer's *Odyssey* into isiZulu. He and his partner, Maria Cristina Giampietri, have a daughter, Zwelisha (thirty-three), and grandson, Neo (three).

2003 JONES, Mark's second book, *1923 The Forgotten Crisis in the Year of Hitler's Putsch*, was published by Basic Books/John Murray Press.

2004 MAC CORMAIC, Ruadhán has been appointed Editor of *The Irish Times*, Ireland's leading quality newspaper. He is a former Assistant Editor at the publication and previously served as Foreign Affairs Correspondent, Legal Affairs Correspondent and Paris Correspondent.

2006 EVANS, Dr Sarah and Robert Bell (2007) finally tied the knot in December 2023, having met during their time at St John's. In February 2024 they welcomed a daughter, Evelyn Mina.

2007 HEMPE, Dr Eva-Maria, having been Associate Partner specialising in Healthcare at Bain & Company, and having spent three and a half years as Senior Director Enterprise Sales for Central EMEA at VMware, joined NVIDIA in April 2024 as EMEA Lead Healthcare and Lifescience. Her mission is to create revolutionary tools for healthcare and life sciences powered by AI. By working with stakeholders across EMEA, she aims to unlock the potential of AI in genomics, drug discovery, medical imaging

and medtech to transform healthcare and empower people to reach their full potential.

2008 CATTON, Dr Ursula (née Moore) gained her PhD from Newcastle University in 2023. The title was 'The natural history of dysferlinopathy'. This year she has welcomed her second child, a little girl called Emma. Ursula is now training to regain her fitness in a bid to qualify for the 2026 winter Olympics for ski mountaineering racing.

2008 GURTU, Aditya works as the Capital Project lead within Transport for London's newly formed Environment and Sustainability Engineering team. Over the last year, he led the team's efforts to assess the carbon footprint of approximately £4.5 billion worth of engineering construction works, covering nineteen transport projects affecting assets such as roads, railways, buildings and bridges. They created new carbon management governance structures and inspired cultural change. Many ground-breaking carbon assessments have been produced from first principles owing to transportation assets, such as railway signalling or engineering trains, being so unique. An exciting step towards a lower-carbon London!

2008 KIRPEKAR, Dr Sahil, since moving with his family to New York City, decided to move from a large pharma company to a small biotech firm. He's been working in the clinical development of psychedelics for mental illness. The space has the potential to transform how mental illness is treated, and policy, regulation and treatment protocols need to evolve significantly to make this

work. This needs non-traditional thinking and requires working with non-traditional people for the sector. Sahil has taken on a leadership position within one of the largest companies in the space, and it promises to be an exciting ride!

2008 KOO, Alan's stewardship of River Cam Medical Group has seen it flourish in Hong Kong. The prestigious 2023 Hong Kong Management Association Quality Award was bestowed upon River Cam Medical Group, acknowledging its dedication to providing outstanding healthcare services, especially during COVID-19. Mr Koo's commitment to broadening the reach of Chinese medicine facilitated the establishment of ten clinic branches in Hong Kong. This expansion, guided by his leadership, facilitates greater accessibility to their comprehensive wellness approach. River Cam Medical Group was honoured as a Hong Kong Top Brand by the Hong Kong Brand Development Council in 2022–23.

2009 BAILEY, Emily married Ben Richards (alumnus of Peterhouse College) in June 2023. Their wedding was held in Shutford, Oxfordshire. They then spent five weeks on honeymoon in Japan, Hawaii and Canada.

2009 PLANT, Laura is delighted that her career has brought her back to her scientific roots! She now works for NatureMetrics, a company that provides technology to quantify biodiversity improvement or loss. Primarily environmental DNA (eDNA) technology – Laura wishes she'd had it during her undergrad! The interest in nature monitoring in the corporate and non-profit

world has been accelerating rapidly, in part because of publications like the Dasgupta review – a famous Johnian in this space!

2010 SUDAR, Dr Sam completed his second year as a software engineer at Substack, an online publishing platform. He works remotely and has been spending time in Mexico City.

2011 BOGHOSSIAN, John co-founded a life sciences start-up, Pangea Bio (pangeabio.com), currently raising a Series A financing round. He is based in London and married his partner this summer.

2011 CASTREJÓN-PITA, Professor Alfonso joined the University of Oxford as a Royal Society University Research Fellow and Lecturer in Fluid Mechanics and Fellow at Wadham College. He was made an Associate Professor in Fluid Mechanics in January 2014 and Professor of Fluid Dynamics in August 2022. His current research focus is the micromechanics of splashing, studied using a combination of experiments, theory and numerical simulations. He works on other fluid dynamic processes, such as biofluids, geophysical flows and the use of droplets in soft photonic devices (using liquid crystals) and life sciences, using microfluidic devices.

2011 FARADAY, Dr Christina published her first book, *Tudor Liveliness: Vivid Art in Post-Reformation England* (Paul Mellon Centre / Yale University Press) in 2023, which explores the problem of realism or vividness in the visual art of the Tudor period. She discussed this work on BBC Radio 3's *Free Thinking* in July 2023. In 2022 she was elected

a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, and she has since been appointed a Trustee of the Walpole Society for British art history.

2011 OZOLINS, Kristaps previously balanced being an educator at the Pauls Stradins Medicine History Museum with a teaching job. Now he's a full-time biology teacher and Acting Head of Science at Riga State Gymnasium No1. Kristaps designs national diagnostic examinations and was awarded the Cabinet of Ministers' Diploma for work with the Intl Biology Olympiad laureates. He provided support and encouragement, while the generous staff of the University of Latvia oversaw the theoretical and practical preparations of pupils. Kristaps joined the Riga Rowers' Club and is now back on the water, together with his boyfriend, Artis – *Viva Laeta!*

2011 PRICE, Rosie is an author whose second novel was published by Vintage in July 2024. Her first book was about a single, violent event that shatters a life apart. *The Orange Room* is about a different kind of violence: slower, more subtle, that causes a young woman – vibrant, creative, loving – to lose herself. When we meet Rhianne, she's working in a secluded hotel, having dropped out of art school. There, she meets Callum, a charismatic chef who provides a place of refuge. But the blaze of their romance quickly turns into something else – darker, and more dangerous. penguin.co.uk/books/455634/the-orange-room-by-price-rosie/9781787304093

2011 REDMOND, Dr Joan, together with Dr Simone Maghenzani (Fellow of Girton College), welcomed Anna Siobhán

Maghenzani Redmond, born at the Rosie in Cambridge in January 2024.

2011 TAM, Andrew welcomed his baby daughter, Olive Tam, into his family in March 2024. He has been on secondment from the Singapore Civil Service to Shell since 2022, working on APAC's first cross-border carbon capture and storage project, as well as decarbonising the national grid.

2013 MOTTRAM, Victoria (née Brown) and James welcomed their first child, Francis James Mottram, in July 2023.

2014 ALEXANDER, Jillian and Joshua Alexander welcomed their third child into the world in November 2022. After a brief hiatus away from the education world, Jillian is now putting her educational leadership degree to good use as assistant head of a small Montessori school in the picturesque community of Santa Rosa Beach, Florida.

2014 BECKER, Dr Rachel has had her first monograph, *Valuing Nineteenth-Century Italian Opera Fantasias for Woodwind Instruments: Trash Music*, published by Routledge. The book approaches opera fantasias – instrumental works that use opera themes as the basis of virtuosic and flamboyant material – both historically and theoretically, concentrating on compositions for and by woodwind-instrument performers. Through archival research in Italy, theoretical analysis, and exploration of cultural contexts, this book clarifies a genre that has been consciously stifled and societal resonances that still impact music reception

and performance today. Rachel is Assistant Professor of Musicology and Oboe at Boise State University.

2014 DAY, Dr Laura received a PhD in English Literature from Durham University in January 2024.

2015 CASTELLS, Professor Manuel's book *Advanced Introduction to Digital Society* was published by Edward Elgar Publishing, June 2024.

2016 BURDICK, Britton Thomas and Shannon Leigh Peak of Washington, DC, are pleased to announce their engagement. Mr Burdick, a graduate of New York University and St John's College, is a Communications Director in the U.S. House of Representatives. Ms Peak, a graduate of Georgia College & State University and American University Washington College of Law, is an Associate Attorney at Shannon & Wright LLP. An intimate elopement in the Dolomite Alps is planned.

2016 MILLER, Professor Robert, Beaufort Oversees Visiting Scholar 2016/17, has published *Finding Beauty in the Bible: An Aesthetic Commentary on the Song of Songs* in the McMaster Biblical Studies Series with Pickwick Press.

2017 SAROLDI, Dr Anna completed their doctorate in English Literature at the University of Oxford in December 2023. Anna is developing an interest in mountaineering literature and has written both academic and non-fiction articles on the topic. Anna has also organised the

exhibition on Sandy Irvine at Merton College, Oxford, and the related Everest 1924–2024 symposium.

2017 WADE, Dr Ralph is a Director of CambridgeCultura Ltd, a boutique strategy consultancy that counts WeTransfer, the Labour Party, the Department for Science and Borkowski among its clients. He has been named an Empower100 entrepreneur by Virgin Startup. Alongside this, Ralph continues to lecture in the Art History Department and to publish on the achievements of the Scottish nineteenth century. He advised on the revision of Scotland's final 'Pevsner' volume and has been elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries (Scotland).

2018 HANDTRACK, (Maria) Elena began writing her first book after graduating from her Master's programme in corporate and commercial law from the University of Tübingen, Germany, in the summer of 2023. The book is about studying correctly and includes everything from tips around organising yourself in school and university to study methods and how to approach writing a Bachelor thesis and other academic writing. The book is written in German and was published by a German publisher in late March 2024. The German title is *Richtig Lernen: Dein Guide für Schule und Studium (Studying Correctly: Your Guide for School and University)*.

2019 BERNADIM, Dr Barbara moved to a pivotal role within Switzerland's pharmaceutical industry. She oversees the life-cycle management of an ADC

blockbuster, leading troubleshooting and strategic initiatives to support cancer patients worldwide. Her latest academic contribution was an American Chemical Society Editor's Choice (*Bioconjugate Chemistry*, 2024, 35, 2, 132–39). This is her second manuscript in collaboration with Professor Knowles. July 2023 marked a significant milestone for Barbara as she celebrated her union with Dr Rupert Proctor at St John's College Chapel under Revd Andrew Hammond. Based in the Swiss Alps, she spends her free time skiing, hiking and climbing.

2019 O'FLAHERTY, Katie received a Larmor Award in 2023. She achieved First-class results throughout her Materials Science degree. She was involved in multiple extracurricular activities, including volunteering at Cambridge's Sedgwick Museum of Earth Sciences and singing in Aquila. Katie was a Treasurer for *BlueSci* (the University science magazine) and co-founded a company in 2020. She rowed for the LMBC W1 team and was a member of Cambridge University Powerlifting Club. Since graduating, she took part in a weightlifting competition in Slovenia – World University Powerlifting Cup – and hit her personal best, deadlifting 145 kg.

2020 ADEGBITE, Sarah received a Larmor Award, having consistently ranked at the top of her tripos. She was awarded the University's Theological Studies Prize in 2022 and 2023, and the Lightfoot Prize in 2023, when she gained a First-class degree with Distinction. She was Co-President of

the JCR Committee and was involved with outreach for both the College and Faculty of Theology. Sarah also volunteered to work with children at her Cambridge church, Holy Trinity, and contributed to various other community initiatives.

2020 HOMER, Yasmin, a historian, received a Larmor Award for her exceptional academic record, achieving First-class marks in her first year and First-class with Distinction in her second, ranking comfortably within the top 10% of the tripos for both years. Beyond her studies, Yasmin was active in College and University life, particularly in areas regarding access and social welfare. She served as a CAMbassador – mentoring students from under-represented backgrounds applying to the University – and wrote for Cambridge University Amnesty International. Yasmin also took co-curricular German lessons during her degree.

2020 MYERS, Mia received a Larmor Award in 2023. She achieved First-class marks every year in the Psychological and Behavioural Sciences Tripos. Mia is involved in charitable work centred around disabilities, particularly her own condition, spinal muscular atrophy (SMA). She is involved with SMA UK. She has helped to provide support materials for children with SMA, contributed to books, written articles and been a mentor, as well as produced and presented a podcast. Mia also hosted a webinar discussing new drug developments with medical experts. With a passion for health psychology, Mia has been accepted for an MSc at UCL.

2020 OPAYINKA, Hetty received a Larmor Award, having obtained First-class results every year of her studies in Education, Policy and International Development. She instigated the launch of The Dobson Society for Education and was its first President. Hetty was also involved in launching the University's Black Advisory Hub, directing plays at the ADC and Corpus Playroom, and was Assistant Director for the Marlowe Society's Showcase in Cambridge and London. A member of the African-Caribbean Society and FLY (a forum for women and non-binary people of colour), Hetty worked to promote a positive and inclusive culture in College.

2021 TAN, Jun Hao is delighted to share the joyful news of his recent marriage to Ms Maxine Choo at the Thean Hou Temple in Kuala Lumpur on 4 March 2024. The ceremony was a beautiful celebration of love and commitment, surrounded by family and friends. Jun Hao and Maxine look forward to this new chapter in their lives together, filled with love, happiness and shared adventures.


2023 ORBEN, Dr Amy was awarded a UKRI Future Leaders Fellowship of just under £2 million, which will support her team in researching the mechanisms by which social media impacts adolescent mental health over the next four years. Her research was also recognised by the Association for Psychological Science through a 'Rising Star' award. 



Photo: Rainbow over
Second Court, May 2023
Credit: Serena Povia

OBITUARIES



Professor Peter Hugoe Matthews FBA (1934–2023)



Professor Peter Hugoe Matthews FBA died at his home in Cambridge on 7 April 2023 after a long period of illness. An alumnus of St John's, where he studied Classics and later Italian and Linguistics, he had been a Fellow of the College since 1980, when he returned to Cambridge as the University's first prestigious Chair of Linguistics. He remained in post until he retired in 2001, when he also relinquished his role as Praelector of St John's, held since 1987.

From 1992 to 1996, he was President of The Philological Society – the UK's oldest learned society devoted to the study of languages and linguistics – and was more recently Vice-President, until health problems prevented his active participation.

An inspiring teacher, as well as a great scholar, Professor Matthews was the author of *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Linguistics* (first edition 1997, third edition 2014) – an authoritative and invaluable reference source for students and teachers of language-related courses. His 1981 book, *Syntax* (Cambridge University Press), also introduced generations of students to the basic concepts of the study of sentence structure.

Publishing as P. H. Matthews, his final work, *What Graeco-Roman Grammar was About*, was published in 2019.

Born in Devon in 1934, Professor Matthews held positions at Bangor University and the University of Reading before moving back to Cambridge in 1980. He was elected a Fellow of the British Academy in 1985,

awarded the DLitt degree in 1988 and appointed Honorary Member of the Linguistic Society of America in 1994. From 1970 to 1979, he was Editor of the *Journal of Linguistics*.

His many other publications include the influential *Inflectional Morphology* (1972), *Morphology* (second edition, 1991), *Generative Grammar and Linguistic Competence* (1979), *Grammatical Theory in the United States from Bloomfield to Chomsky* (1993), *The Positions of Adjectives in English* (2015), *Syntactic Relations: A Critical Survey* (2007), *Linguistics: A Very Short Introduction* (2003) and *A Short History of Structural Linguistics* (2001).

'His research proved to be instrumental in reviving international interest in morphological theory – the study of word structure – at a time when many had casually dismissed the subject as one of marginal interest.'

Professor Geoffrey Horrocks, Emeritus Professor of Comparative Philology and Fellow of St John's, said: 'Peter was one of the most distinguished British linguists of his generation, who played a key role in securing the place of linguistics in the UK through his ground-breaking work at Bangor, Reading and finally Cambridge. As a linguist he knew his own mind and instinctively adopted a sceptical stance towards the work of fashionable theorists, who seemed to him to have pushed their ideas too far.'

‘Focusing on what was important for him, his research proved to be instrumental in reviving international interest in morphological theory – the study of word structure – at a time when many had casually dismissed the subject as one of marginal interest. His research in later years focused chiefly on the importance of understanding the history of linguistic thought as a vital precaution against much ill-informed reinvention of the wheel.

‘Above all, he sought consistently to demystify a subject notorious for its technical jargon, not only through the clarity of his own technical writing in fields such as morphology and syntax but also, towards the end of his career, through the compilation of a down-to-earth and widely appreciated *Dictionary of Linguistics*.

‘Peter was one of the most active supporters of The Philological Society of London and inter alia served with distinction during his tenure as President.

‘He was a kind man and cared a lot about the College.’

Dr Esther-Miriam Wagner, Executive Director of The Woolf Institute and Affiliated Lecturer in the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, organised two linguistic conferences with the help of Professor Matthews in 2011 and 2014, when she was a College Teaching Associate at St John’s. The conferences led to the publication of two volumes co-edited by Dr Wagner, *Scribes as Agents of Language Change* and *Merchants*


of Innovation: The Languages of Traders, dedicated to her friend and colleague.

She said: ‘Peter was instrumental in getting the funding for the conferences, which were well received. He attended and was essentially the guest of honour, but he was never a person to grandstand or put himself first; he always listened.

‘He was really interested in nurturing young talent. Most people who study linguistics will have a copy of *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Linguistics* on their shelves. Over the course of seventeen years, he kept revising it to keep it up to date. Dictionaries don’t get you the glory, they’re not very popular for modern scholars to write, but they’re absolutely crucial for anyone setting out in linguistics because you need these sorts of sources to get the basics.

‘It was so important to him to support younger scholars and learners.’

Although Professor Matthews suffered health issues in recent years, he still attended seminars and conferences and was a keen cyclist, often turning up with his bike helmet under his arm.

‘He was a great scholar and very jolly; he would come to dinners with us teaching associates when we were at College,’ added Dr Wagner. ‘If we had guests, he would help to entertain them and talk to them. He had a very fine sense of humour and was a really wonderful colleague.’ 

(This obituary first appeared on the College’s website on 28 April 2023).

Professor James Staunton FRS (1935–2023)

Jim was born in Liverpool in the first quarter of 1935 and brought up there. In the late 1950s he completed his PhD at the University of Liverpool, working on structure determination of the fungal natural products Sclerotiorin and Rotiorin (both polyketides), under the supervision of (William) Basil Whalley.

Jim went on to do a postdoc in the early 60s with Carl Djerassi at Stanford University, doing optical rotary dispersion studies, and returned to Liverpool to be Alan Battersby's lieutenant, working on alkaloid biosynthesis.

Jim moved with Alan to Cambridge in 1969, making it a condition of his move that he got a fellowship at a college, which Alan duly arranged at St John's. Jim also started his independent research in Cambridge, choosing to study the biosynthesis of polyketides, which distinguished his research from that of Alan on alkaloids and tetrapyrroles. In the early years in Cambridge, Jim also had joint students with Alan, studying stereochemistry of enzymic reactions.

Jim is perhaps best known for his work with Professor Peter Leadley FRS on the biosynthesis of polyketides such as erythromycin, leading to the founding of the start-up Biotica Technology Limited, to engineer novel polyketides with therapeutic potential.



Jim, who was widely regarded as a leader in his field, was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1998, for his 'outstanding contributions to our knowledge of the biosynthesis of natural products.' The Royal Society notes that he pioneered the use of electrospray mass spectrometry for the detection of intermediates bound to enzymes involved in polyketide biosynthesis, and that his research on polyketide synthases (PKS) has transformed knowledge of these enzymes.

Throughout his career Jim was very supportive of his group and encouraged them into academic careers. Jim was a gender champion before such roles were even thought of, and for much of the time his group was predominantly female (possibly at one point it was female-only), with a high proportion going into academic careers after their PhDs.

A few years after Jim retired in 2001, he moved from Cambridge to Leamington Spa. He is survived by his wife, Ruth.

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Professor Finian Leeper (1972) said:


‘I came to St John’s College as an undergraduate in October 1972. I probably met Jim in my first year, but he did not supervise me in Organic Chemistry until Part IB and Part II. I started my PhD with him in October 1975, studying “Biomimetic synthesis of polyketides”.

‘Towards the end of my PhD, Jim said he thought I had a future in academia and he advised me to do a postdoc, so I secured a position with Ian Spenser in Canada – I am sure this was in no small way due to Jim’s recommendation.

‘Back in Cambridge as a Research Fellow (again due to Jim’s influence), I worked in Jim’s group on biosynthesis (rather than biomimetic synthesis) of polyketides.

‘We had joint group meetings with Alan Battersby’s group. Towards the end of my fellowship, Alan called me into his office to offer me a demonstratorship as his lieutenant. I am sure Alan must have discussed this in advance with Jim, so again Jim was a huge influence on my career.

‘Students (or postdocs) that I can think of that went into academia are: Mary Garson (University of Queensland), John Murphy (Strathclyde), Ernest Laue (Biochemistry, Cambridge), Chris Abell (Cambridge), Jill Barber (Manchester), Alison Hill (Exeter), Bob Hill (Glasgow), Helen Hailes (UCL), Bernard Rawlings (Leicester) and Sandeep Handa (Leicester), and there are probably many others.

‘In summary I am very grateful to Jim for his influence and guidance to me and many other chemists in the early stage of our careers. His good humour and wit will be particularly missed.’ 

(This obituary has been reproduced with the kind permission of the Yusuf Hamied Department of Chemistry, University of Cambridge. ch.cam.ac.uk/person/js24)

Credit: Department of Chemistry, University of Cambridge



Jim's retirement dinner

Dr John Bower Hutchison (1938–2024)

An attendee at College events with his wife, Rose, John Bower Hutchison was looking forward this year to his fiftieth Advent Carol Service.

John had an eventful life. He was born in 1938 and spent his early life in central London in a house in Knightsbridge. This life was dramatically changed during the 1939–45 war. While living there as a young child, the bombing during the blitz blew in the windows of his parent's house. When the doodlebugs started coming over, the family evacuated to live with his grandmother in the safety of rural Devon for the rest of the war. He remembered growing up in a rural environment, but that the occasional warplane did fly over.

His life changed in 1945 when his father died. He went to boarding school in Sussex, where he said that his only talents were in rugby, Latin and History, and in that order.

In 1950 his mother remarried to a farmer from northern Natal in South Africa, and the family moved there. He said that growing up in that environment as a teenager was a paradise for him – he was able to ride horses and to experience the wildlife of the Drakensberg bush. He also became fluent in Afrikaans. He described this as ‘a different type of education’.

John was obviously gifted academically and went to The University of Natal,



Pietermaritzburg, where studied Zoology, which he pursued through Bachelor's and Master's degrees, and continued on to a PhD in Zoology. John's Natal PhD supervisor was Dr John Poynton, then a lecturer in Zoology at Natal University, who later moved to the Natural History Museum in London. His PhD research examined the reproductive behaviour of toads, which is highly different in males and females. This was his lifelong interest – how sex hormones generate sexual dimorphism in the brain and consequently sex-specific behaviour.

‘John was highly successful in his research, first a Research Student, then a Research Fellow at St John’s... These are highly competitive awards, and this is a mark of the innovative and imaginative approach that John took to his research.’

It was during that time that he met Rose, who was also studying Zoology at Pietermaritzburg, and they were together for the rest of his life. They married in 1962. For many years Rose would be not only his wife, but also his collaborator in research work. In 1963 John won a scholarship to come to St John's and they both moved to Cambridge.

Arriving at Cambridge, John became a Research Student (for his second PhD!) at the Medical Research Council Sub-Department of Animal Behaviour, which was affiliated with the Zoology Department, based in the grounds of Madingley Hall. He was supervised by Bill (W. H.) Thorpe, who was Director of the sub-department at the time; another early-career researcher there at the time suggested that Thorpe was not particularly interested in the role of the brain, leaving John to drive his work largely independently. He experimented on the neural mechanisms of reproductive behaviour in the collared dove, using minute quantities of hormones locally implanted into the brain and observing their effects on courtship behaviour.

John was highly successful in his research, first a Research Student, then a Research Fellow at St John's; it is likely that he obtained that through Robert Hinde, who headed the research unit at Madingley Hall at that time. These are highly competitive awards, and this is a mark of the innovative and imaginative approach that John took to his research. Much of this work was done together with Rose as a team.

He was strongly influenced at that time by other Fellows at St John's, particularly Jack Goody, Robert Hinde and Harry Hinsley. He remembered fondly rowing in the College, first with postgraduates in the Samuel Butler Room Boat, then as a Research Fellow in the First Fellows Boat which was then organised by Richard Perham, a future Master of the College.

John's research achievements grew, and he won a Fulbright Scholarship and spent time at both Princeton and the Rockefeller University in New York, before returning to an independent research position at the Babraham Institute in 1987, where he founded a Medical Research Council-funded Neuroendocrine Development and Behaviour Research Group. This is a very significant achievement – he was what we would today call a Principal Investigator, leading a substantial research group. At this time he became a teaching Fellow at St John's.

'Much of his work was done in the 1980s, but it really was innovative in its conception, and it is still relevant. Much of it was before its time.'


His research publications are impressive: the two highest-ranked journals internationally are *Science* and *Nature*: many outstanding research scientists get a research paper published in these journals once or twice in their careers – if they are lucky. John published four: one paper in *Science* and three in *Nature*.

Much of his work was done in the 1980s, but it really was innovative in its conception, and it is still relevant. Much of it was before its time. In recent years scientific technology has transformed what is possible experimentally, and the sort of questions he asked about the hormonal control of behaviour are again coming into fashion. Several of his papers from more than thirty years ago are being cited in recent research.

One aspect of John's research career was its internationality, which was not so common at the time: he won European grants and worked with collaborators from all over Europe, as well as further afield. Many of his collaborators went on to become independent researchers in similar fields.

John's research career was curtailed by illness some years ago, but he remained a Fellow of St Johns.

He was a regular attendee at College events, wherever possible with Rose. I don't remember an Advent Carol Service that they were not at, or the President's party for families early in the new year. He and Rose were also regular attenders at the Arts Society lectures and trips, and at many other events, such as the summer Shakespeare performances in the garden.

John's last visit to the College was for the St John's Advent Carol Service in November 2023, he thought forty-nine years after first attending it. Both he and Rose were suffering mobility problems, so they could not take their regular seats (halfway along the Chapel, in the Fellows stalls on the left-hand side). They were both sitting in the aisle and very happy at having just enjoyed a wonderful service: this will be an enduring memory of John for many Fellows. 

Steve Edgeley, President of St John's

Professor Richard Mead Goody (1921–2023)



While pursuing his PhD at the University of Cambridge, Professor Richard Goody pioneered work in atmospheric measurements and radiative transfer modelling. Later, at Harvard University, he took on significant roles, overseeing the Blue

Hill Observatory and leading the Center for Earth and Planetary Physics. Post-retirement, he collaborated with the Jet Propulsion Laboratory as a Distinguished Visiting Scientist. An acknowledged authority in atmospheric physics, Professor

Goody was elected to the National Academy of Sciences and garnered multiple honours. He consistently championed the value of experimental data in atmospheric and climate studies.

Professor Goody's pioneering work in atmospheric radiation consists of three significant achievements: building a high-resolution infrared instrument; installing and flying it in a Mosquito aircraft to make the first spectroscopic measurements of water vapour in the stratosphere; and inventing the eponymous random band model to interpret the data. What drove a graduate student at Cambridge to undertake the monumental challenge of determining the column abundance of water vapour in the stratosphere? The answer could be traced back to WWII when the Germans were able to detect Royal Air Force bombers by the water vapour trails they produced in the stratosphere.

Beyond the context of WWII, the significance of the stratosphere lies in its temperature being determined by radiative equilibrium. This contrasts sharply with the underlying troposphere, where temperature is controlled primarily by convection. The boundary separating these two atmospheric regimes is the tropopause. In his ground-breaking 1949 paper, Professor Goody provided insight into the interplay between radiation and convection. This influential work is widely recognised as among the earliest, if not the first, to illuminate the fundamental physics that determines the height of the

tropopause and the temperature of the lower stratosphere. He masterfully outlined the delicate balance between radiative heating and convection – a cornerstone in understanding how greenhouse-gas-induced radiative heating influences surface-level global warming, which directly affects our habitat.

'Without his contributions, the precise understanding of global warming, particularly from increased human-made carbon emissions, would remain elusive.'

Moreover, in the 1950s, Professor Goody and his collaborators introduced the innovative Curtis matrix method, which, as of today, is still the standard method for parameterising the longwave cooling rate for the non-LTE radiative transfer and sheds light on the characteristics of the water vapour continuum in the atmospheric window region. Without his contributions, the precise understanding of global warming, particularly from increased human-made carbon emissions, would remain elusive.

In 1958 Professor Goody accepted a job at Harvard as Director of the Blue Hill Observatory and Abbot Lawrence Rotch Professor of Dynamical Meteorology. He would be on the Harvard faculty for thirty-three years until his retirement at the age of seventy in 1991. His impact at Harvard was immediately felt in the scientific community. He shortly became

the Founding Director of the Center for Earth and Planetary Physics (CEPP), and his esteemed book, *Atmospheric Radiation: I, Theoretical Basis*, stands as a cornerstone in atmospheric studies. CEPP produced a generation of leaders in atmospheric and oceanic sciences.

The book was pioneering in its comprehensive coverage of topics ranging from radiative transfer and gaseous absorption to dynamic interactions and scattering. For years it stood as an essential guide for both graduate students and seasoned researchers in the field. Even astronomers, looking to mitigate the interference between their telescopes and stars, found it invaluable. By integrating quantum mechanics and non-equilibrium thermodynamics, the work established a robust foundation for applications in Earth's atmosphere and beyond.

In 1958, against the geopolitical backdrop of the Cold War and the birth of NASA following the Soviet Union's Sputnik launch, Professor Goody made a pivotal move from the UK to the USA. This period soon morphed into an age of space exploration and subsequent commercial ventures. Embracing this new frontier, Professor Goody delved into the study of the Martian and Venusian atmospheres. Professor Goody's deep perception often crystallised into memorable statements such as, 'To Mars, dust is what water is to Earth.' At CEPP Professor Goody's contributions ranged from interpreting spectroscopic data to deciphering planetary compositions and dynamics, to

aiding in the design of instruments for space probes. He is often hailed as the 'Father' of Pioneer Venus, a 1978 NASA mission dedicated to studying Venus. Broadly, his endeavours played a significant role in mobilising the scientific community to address the challenges posed by the Soviet Union.

Over a distinguished career, Professor Goody's scientific contributions were especially notable during the three decades from 1991 onward. Upon becoming Professor Emeritus at Harvard, he simultaneously embraced the role of Distinguished Visiting Scientist at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory. Among these contributions, several key achievements are particularly striking.


First, he penned the textbook *Principles of Atmospheric Physics and Chemistry* in 1995. Designed primarily for first-year graduate students, this book has also become an indispensable resource for those in climate studies. Rapidly established as a classic, it promises to maintain its status for the foreseeable future.

Furthermore, Professor Goody rekindled his early interest in the computation of high-resolution spectral lines with the paper titled 'The correlated-k method for radiation calculations in nonhomogeneous atmospheres' in 1989. Fuelled by advancements in artificial intelligence, this model remains at the forefront of research. While it might approach the efficiency of the band model, it may never truly replicate its inherent simplicity and elegance.

'He is often hailed as the "Father" of Pioneer Venus, a 1978 NASA mission dedicated to studying Venus.'

Lastly, Professor Goody, in collaboration with Professors James Anderson, Gerald North and Kuo-Nan Liou, was instrumental in envisioning a space-based climate monitoring system. This system, grounded in the principles of S. I. (International System of Units) traceability, aimed to establish for the first time the fundamental importance of accuracy (as distinct from precision) in climate observations from space. Such a robust foundation builds trust in the data, a critical component of comprehending and addressing the intricacies of climate change. From 1998 to 2013 his relentless efforts laid the groundwork for NASA's Climate Absolute Radiance and Refractivity Observatory Mission. This mission aimed to precisely measure Earth's infrared emission to space with an unparalleled accuracy of 50 mK. Additionally, it used GPS radio occultation to gauge microwave refractivity with a precision of 1 part in 10^4 .

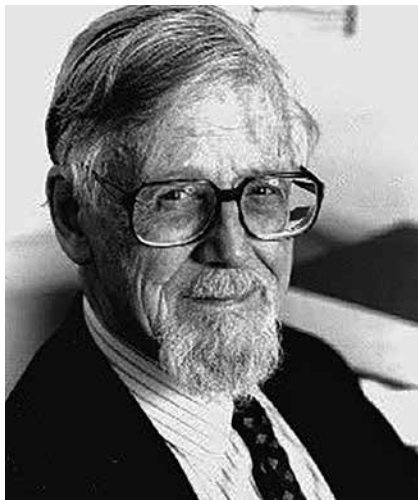
When asked about the secrets of his success, Professor Goody replied, 'I have few obvious talents. I am neither a skilled experimenter nor a gifted theoretician. But I was intensely curious about the physical world; I would not admit that anything was beyond me, despite evidence to the contrary. I was obstinate and would never admit that I was beaten. When I could make use of these qualities, I could do good work.'

Professor Goody possessed an extraordinary knack for fostering the success of his students, postdocs and early-career colleagues. He not only guided students towards innovative and critical thinking but also familiarised them with the nuances, uncertainties and intricacies inherent in any topic. While he did not always have the answers at his fingertips, his unparalleled intuition and foresight consistently led to uncovering the truth. 

(This obituary has been adapted with the kind permission of Yuk L. Yung from his article 'Professor Richard Mead Goody (1921-2023): A Life in Three Acts', *Journal of Quantitative Spectroscopy and Radiative Transfer*, Volume 311, December 2023. [sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0022407323003138](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0022407323003138))

Professor John Greville Agard Pocock (1924–2023)

Internationally recognised as one of the greatest historians of our time, John Greville Agard Pocock died on 12 December 2023 in Baltimore, Maryland, just short of his 100th birthday. J. G. A. Pocock was the Harry C. Black Professor of History Emeritus at John Hopkins University, a Corresponding Fellow of the British Academy and of the Royal Historical Society, and a member of both the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Philosophical Society. A Research Fellow of the College from 1955 to 1958, he became an Honorary Fellow in 2006.



Born in London on 7 March 1924, John Pocock was brought up in Christchurch, New Zealand, to which his father, a Homer scholar, had moved on becoming Professor of Classics at the University of Canterbury. He was to attend the University himself as an undergraduate before coming to Emmanuel College, Cambridge, as a research student under the supervision of Herbert Butterfield. After obtaining an academic post first at his *alma mater*, and later at the University of Otago, a Research Fellowship at St John's College, Cambridge, brought him back to England. There followed a lectureship at what is now the University of Newcastle before Pocock's permanent move to the United States, teaching first at the University of Washington, St Louis, and then at Johns Hopkins University of Baltimore, Maryland.

However, he remained a New Zealander, concerned about the impact of the United Kingdom's entry into the EU and watchful of what he called 'global Britishness', but also engaged in New Zealand historiography by 'redesigning it as a relationship between *Pākehā* history and Maori history'.

An extraordinarily impressive intellect, as well as a meticulous and most learned scholar, his seminal *The Ancient Constitution and The Feudal Law: A Study of English Historical Thought in the Seventeenth Century*, first published in 1957, was completed in Dunedin during 1954 and 1955, and was based on Pocock's 1952 doctoral dissertation. It traces a century-long debate between common-law theorists, who took their law to consist in the immemorial

custom of their land and not derived from any other source. This highly influential publication heralded many others, including *Politics, Language and Time* (1971), *The Machiavellian Moment: Florentine Political Thought and the Atlantic Republican Tradition* (1975), *Virtue, Commerce and History* (1985), *Barbarism and Religion* (1999-2015) and *The Discovery of Islands* (2005). Pocock never ceased to reflect on historical method, and some of his essays on the subject are collated in *Political Thought and History, Essays on Theory and Method* (2009). He also edited *The Political Works of James Harrington* (1977) and *Burke's Reflections on the Revolution in France* (1987), the introduction of which will remain one of the most insightful readings of Burke's work.

'Pocock was a paragon of the lapidary, appearing to speak off the cuff, in seminars and sometimes – alarmingly – even in casual conversation, in perfectly chiselled paragraphs.'


Pocock was an early practitioner of the method of the 'Cambridge School' of history, of which he is considered one of the principal founders, along with Quentin Skinner and John Dunn. It was Pocock who identified this historical approach as a self-conscious school in the early 1970s, according to the current Cambridge Professor of the History of Political Thought, Richard Bourke – although, as the latter also noted, its style of history of

ideas had already begun to characterise historical research at Cambridge in the 1960s, especially that of Duncan Forbes and Peter Laslett. Endeavouring to retrieve the intentions of the authors of the texts these historians study, and doing so by establishing the intellectual, social and political contexts in which these texts were conceived, are the combined watermarks of the school's methodology. While this may now seem a self-evident way of coming to an understanding of texts, this could by no means be taken for granted within the twentieth-century history of ideas.

As can be gauged from some of the titles of his major works, Pocock's distinctive interest lay in the history of historiography. His *Barbarism and Religion*, a six-volume work, published like most of his works by Cambridge University Press, appeared between 1999 and 2015. Edward Gibbon's *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* is at their core. Pocock thought to show how this canonical text was the 'artifact of its age and culture', but that it amounted to far more than an account of a fall, as Gibbon himself realised. It was also the story of the way in which the seeds of modern Western conceptions of liberty were sown by what might be loosely called Germanic barbarism, as well as religion. What Pocock achieved in these six volumes is nothing short of monumental.

'He was a considerate colleague and a most generous commentator and teacher.'

Pocock's death has led to an outpouring of eulogies at conferences in America, Britain and New Zealand, in major newspapers, as well as academic journals. He was a considerate colleague and a most generous commentator and teacher. Professor Colin Kidd called him 'a giant of the historical profession' in his obituary for the Institute of Intellectual History, concluding that 'it's rare enough these days to encounter an academic able to speak in elegant, grammatical sentences, Pocock was a paragon of the lapidary, appearing to speak off the cuff, in seminars and sometimes – alarmingly – even in casual conversation, in perfectly chiselled paragraphs. His speech was oracular, and he himself had a magus-like appearance and aura.' Sometime after Pocock's acceptance of the College's Honorary Fellowship, it was the Fellowship's great privilege to hear him read (or was he speaking?) in his rich, accented voice resonating in the candle-lit Combination Room.

His wife, Felicity Pocock (née Willis-Fleming), died in 2014 aged eighty-three. He is survived by his sons, Stephen and Hugh, and his grandchildren, Henry, Charlotte, Rowan and Jasper. His family add that 'in addition to being a great scholar, he was a wonderful father and devoted husband.' 

Dr Sylvana Tomaselli (2004)

Alumni obituaries

The College is grateful to the family and friends who have provided these tributes to their loved ones. We honour the lives of our alumni by publishing obituaries in *The Eagle* of Johnians whose deaths we have been notified of in the last year. In some cases we have simply recorded the names and dates of Johnians where families have preferred for us to do so, or where no obituary was provided.



Gerry Blanshard (1943)

1943 BLANSHARD, Gerald 'Gerry' Phoenix MB, BChir, MD (Cantab), FRCP, died 13 August 2023, aged ninety-seven. After Bridlington Grammar School, Gerry read Medicine at St John's. During the austere war years, life at Cambridge was reportedly a wonderful experience. Gerry was enthralled by the splendid architecture, beautiful choral music and college traditions. He always referred to his time there as 'marvellous'. After completing his degree, he headed to Middlesex Hospital to finish his medical training. There he met his future wife, Dr May Simpson Bisset. After qualifying he was fortunate to secure funding to join a research programme in Paris and then went to Harvard, where he studied under the eminent doctor Seymour Gray. On returning to the UK, he took up a consultant physician post at Hillingdon

Hospital specialising in diabetes. In later years his passion for forestry, farming and tinkering with machinery came to the fore, and he became a farmer as much as a doctor. His love of John's was constant. He leaves four sons, Keith, Nigel (Caius, 1976), Jonathan and Gavin.

1943 GOVIER, Leonard John, died in April 2023, aged ninety-seven.

1944 JAHN, Richard Edgar, died 16 July 2023, aged ninety-six.



Ian Mackintosh (1944)

1944 MACKINTOSH, Ian Brine, died 30 November 2023, aged ninety-seven. Ian read Mechanical Sciences and gained prominence as a rugby referee. In 1946 Ian refereed the 2nd XV Varsity match while an

undergraduate. He was co-founder of the Cambridge University and District Referees Society. Ian's subsequent distinguished civil engineering career featured stints with Halcrow, Taylor Woodrow and Balfour Beatty on projects as varied as Dungeness 'A' Nuclear Power Station, Mangla Dam, Pakistan and Kainji Dam, Nigeria. Ian published numerous articles in professional journals and gave a prestigious presentation on rock fill dams at the 1964 International Congress on Large Dams. Ian reinvented himself as a maths teacher in 1981 at schools in West London (Cardinal Newman and Sacred Heart) for fifteen years. Ian's interests included a seventy-plus-year choral singing career and being a stalwart member of the London Society of Rugby Referees. In retirement he self-published five books, featuring his abridgements of travel and theological writings. He was married to Hilary (who predeceased him) for fifty-nine years. They had two children, Catherine and John.

1944 SIMEONE, Reginald 'Reggie' Nicola, died 30 June 2023, aged ninety-six. He came to St John's on a scholarship to read Geography. Happily married to Josephine (née Hope) for sixty-nine years, and father of Nigel and Robert, Reggie's passions included European travel, food and wine (especially in France), music and opera. He was happiest watching a good production of Mozart's *Marriage of Figaro* – its combination of humanity and humour encapsulated his own outlook on life. His exploration of rural France was exhaustive: he delighted in plotting dramatic itineraries over the most alarming mountain passes or finding

exquisite undiscovered places. Reggie did National Service as an Instructor Lieutenant in the Royal Navy (starting his lifelong fascination with the weather) before joining the Admiralty in 1950. In 1959 he joined the UK Atomic Energy Authority, later becoming Authority Personnel Officer, Comptroller and Board Member for Finance and Administration, and Adviser to the Chairman; he was Adviser to the Chairman of Nuclear Electric plc, 1990–96, and Executive Vice-President of the European Atomic Energy Society, 1987–90.

1944 SUCKLING, Peter Gordon, died 6 June 2023, aged ninety-six.

1944 WILLIAMS, Professor Phillip, died 3 January 2024, aged ninety-seven. Phill was born in Pontypridd in 1926. He gained a scholarship to The Leys Cambridge, was evacuated to Scotland and read Chemistry at St John's. Following National Service and teaching, he studied Psychology through Birkbeck College and retrained as an educational psychologist. He joined Swansea, University of Wales (UoW), in the 1960s, moved to the Open University, becoming Dean of Education, and then to Bangor (UoW). He published extensively and was part of the Warnock Committee, reviewing provision for special education. Phill was a loving husband to Glenys for over fifty years. After Glenys' death he met Rosemary, with whom he spent ten happy years. A keen hill-walker, he climbed Snowdon on his eightieth birthday. Phill was warm, patient and full of interests. He could recite a poem, restore an old chair and make Anglesey wine. In retirement he published

several books. A proud Welsh-speaking Welshman, he followed the national rugby team. He is survived by his three children, seven grandchildren and his brother Dillwyn.

1945 LOOSARARIAN, Armèn Barouyr, died 16 March 2015, aged ninety-one.

1945 NICHOLSON, David Hulme, died 17 July 2023, aged ninety-six. After Wigan Grammar School, David read Modern Languages before moving to Law, and rowed for the LMBC. He joined a local chemical manufacturer (later part of Laporte Industries) and worked for more than twenty years in sales and product management. In his late forties, he left industry and qualified as a solicitor, spending the remainder of his working life in private general practice. In 1951 David married Elsie Cheetham (who survives him) and they had two sons, Roger and Simon.

1945 SHAW, Michael Mellodew, died 9 September 2023, aged ninety-five. Inspired by excellent teaching at Leigh Grammar School, Mike was a capable mathematician, awarded a Hoare Exhibition in 1946 and a Scholarship in 1947. He coxed for the LMBC from his first term and steered the 1948 First VIII crew, winning Head of the River at Reading, narrowly missing oars in the May Bumps and competing at Henley. He spent most of his working life as a scientific civil servant at the Royal Aircraft Establishment in Farnborough and Bedford, and at the MOD in London. His penultimate job took him to Washington, DC, and he finally transferred to the Civil Aviation Authority.

He was married to Barbara Downe for almost seventy years, and they had five children, including two sets of twins. Mike's leisure activities included squash, Scottish dancing and golf, alongside the intellectual satisfaction of club-level bridge, weekly cryptic crosswords and resolving numerous sudoku. He is survived by Barbara, their two sons, three daughters, ten grandchildren and one great-grandchild.



George Gwilt (1946)

1946 GWILT, George David, died 9 March 2024, aged ninety-six. Born in Edinburgh to Richard Lloyd and Marjory (née Mair) Gwilt, he studied Mathematics at St John's. In 1956 he married the poet Ann Dalton (née Sylvester) (1934–2014). Active in the actuarial profession, he became General Manager of Standard Life (1979–88) and President of the Faculty of Actuaries in Scotland (1981–83). A self-taught flute player, he performed as a soloist and with many orchestras and chamber groups, including with three generations of his family. He remained a steadfast supporter of music and the arts. Together with his wife, Ann, George helped found the

Scottish Poetry Library, serving as Director and Treasurer. He served as Director of The Edinburgh International Festival Society (1989–95). A life-long squash player, he was part of Edinburgh's octogenarian squash team. He was also an active computer programmer, member of the Sinclair QL group and author of Assembler programs. He is survived by his brother David, three sons, Richard, Philip and Christopher, seven grandchildren and one great grandson.

1947 AKIWUMI, The Hon Mr Justice Akilano Molade, died 13 February 2024, aged ninety-six. He was a proud Johnian and member of The Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn, who devoted his time to the furtherance of the rule of law and justice for all. He served, among other roles, in the High Courts of Ghana and Kenya, the Courts of Appeal in Kenya and Botswana, and as the first President of the COMESA Court of Justice. He leaves behind a legacy that includes being the only father (Augustus Molade Akiwumi) and son appointment to the Bench in the Commonwealth (Ghana), drafting the legislative framework for the East African Community (EAC), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and the South Africa Development Community (SADAC), and later setting up the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) Court of Justice. Privately, Aki (a Cambridge Blue) continued to enjoy athletics and sports, playing cricket for the Gold Coast on his return to Ghana. He will be missed by the many people who knew and loved him.

1947 PENLINGTON, Dr (Gilbert) Napier, died 26 December 2023, aged ninety-five. He won a scholarship to read Medicine at St John's College in 1947. After qualifying, Napier served in the Royal Air Force Medical Branch in Malaya before practising general medicine in Singapore. Upon returning to the UK, he specialised in anaesthesiology, practising at various hospitals including West Middlesex, Guy's, Addenbrooke's, King's College and Massachusetts General. In 1969 he became a consultant anaesthetist at the then new Walsgrave Hospital, Coventry, where he lived happily thereafter. Survived by his wife of sixty-two years, Elizabeth, three children, five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren, Napier was a passionate archaeologist and historian, contributing articles and serving as President of the local branches of the History Society, the British Legion and the Liberal Democrats, standing as a parliamentary candidate on several occasions. Active in the Church of England, he served as churchwarden at Stoneleigh and on the Coventry Diocesan Synod. Napier enjoyed attending the Johnian alumni dinners. Greatly loved, deeply missed.

1947 ROOM, Eric Sydney, died 5 August 2023, aged ninety-seven. Educated at Pocklington School, he gained a place at St John's in 1944. However, National Service intervened and he spent two years in the Royal Navy before taking up his place one term late in January 1947. Part of the College 1949–50 2nd XI Hockey Team, Eric graduated with a Classics Honours



Eric Room (1947)

degree and spent his working life in education. He started work as Classics Master and Master of Cricket at Tettenhall College in Wolverhampton, where he met his wife, Patricia. They moved to Wrexham, working first at Grove Park Grammar School and later at Yale Sixth Form College. Alongside his working life, and during retirement, Eric also devoted many hours to charity work, in particular as Chairman of the Wrexham & District Handicapped Children's Society. Eric was a devoted father to three daughters and, subsequently, grandfather to four grandchildren. A proud Yorkshireman, Eric's other passions were cricket (particularly Yorkshire cricket), golf and gardening. He was a true gentleman with a great sense of humour.

1947 WILKES, Kenneth 'Ken' William, peacefully passed away 29 June 2023, aged ninety-four, at Royal Star and Garter Care Home, succumbing to the gentle embrace of old age. Born on 23 October 1928 in Birmingham to Ivy and Samuel Wilkes, Ken's extraordinary intellect shone brightly from his days at Hanworth Grammar School. He continued his academic journey at



Ken Wilkes (1947)

Cambridge University, earning a scholarship to St John's College and achieving Distinctions in Physics, Chemistry and Biology. Ken's career encompassed service in the RAF, teaching at Harrow School and ultimately the role of Headmaster at Borehamwood Grammar School, followed by a tenure in the civil service within the food and agriculture department until retirement. Ken's legacy extends beyond his professional achievements; his spirit of charity and kindness touched lives, evidenced by his philanthropic gesture of donating a room in an old-age care home in Kerala, India. May his soul find eternal peace as his memory continues to inspire.

1948 DUKES, Professor (Maurice Nelson) Graham, died 13 August 2023, aged ninety-two. Graham studied Medicine at St John's. After graduation he studied Law, becoming a doctor and a lawyer. He worked in the Dutch pharmaceutical industry as a clinical investor and research manager (1961–72). Becoming more critical of drug

policy, he joined the Dutch Ministry of Health as Vice-Chairman of the Netherlands Committee for the Evaluation of Medicines. In 1982 he moved to the WHO Regional Office in Copenhagen, specialising in drug policies. He often acted as an expert witness in lawsuits against the pharmaceutical industry. He published books with Elsevier's *Excerpta Medica* and was Editor in Chief (1975–2000) of *Meyler's Side Effects of Drugs*. In 2000 he became an Officer of the Order of Orange-Nassau. In 2013 the Royal College of Physicians, of which he was already an Honorary Member, awarded Graham a Fellowship. Aside from professional writing, he published various stories, essays, poems and teaching texts. Graham leaves more than fifty-five books, medical, legal and historical, to his name.

1948 HAY, William 'Bill', died in Elie, 19 December 2023, aged ninety-seven. Bill gained a scholarship to St John's to read Classics and matriculated in 1948 after completing his National Service. After graduating, he joined the Colonial Service and spent ten happy years in Tanganyika, rising to the level of District Commissioner. After independence he returned to the UK and enjoyed a successful career in personnel with Laporte Industries in the north-west of England. His real interests lay in the great outdoors, particularly bird watching, botanising and salmon fishing. He was a tenant on the River Naver for half a century. Latterly, he spent a happy retirement in Cupar.

1948 MORTON, The Revd Howard Knyvett, died 28 July 2023, aged ninety-

three. Howard received a Double First in Maths. He was a much-loved husband, father and grandfather, and a good friend to many, particularly in Pakistan, India, Israel, Ethiopia, Tunisia and Central America.



Philip Clarke (1949)

1949 CLARKE, Philip Holmes, died 27 December 2023, aged ninety-four. Philip was born in Chesterfield on 5 October 1929 to Bernard and Ada Clarke. He attended Chesterfield Grammar School, excelled academically and in sports, and was Vice-Captain of the school. After National Service in the RAF, he read Natural Sciences and Chemical Engineering at St John's College. He met his future wife, Enid Young, at the Victoria Dance Hall in Chesterfield. Philip clearly enjoyed his time at University and

recalled the magnificent Cambridge May Balls. On a visit to College years later, a porter recognised him and regaled the family with his student escapades. Following graduation Philip worked as a Chemical Engineer for Boots, Nottingham, and then for ICI in Huddersfield and Thornton-Cleveleys, Lancashire. He was an enthusiastic sportsman and interests included DIY, gardening, birdwatching and travel. Philip and Enid had a wonderful extended retirement in the Gloucestershire countryside. Enid predeceased him in 2022. He is survived by their three children (David, Jill and Christopher), and five grandchildren (Lara, Francesca, Sophie, Marcus and Theo).

1949 FISHER, Dr Michael George Penton, died 24 December 2023, aged ninety-three. After completing a First-class Honours degree in Natural Sciences, he attended Middlesex Hospital Medical School (1952–55). While a House Surgeon at Tilbury Hospital, he met and married the ward sister, Nuala Patricia Timlin. In 1956 he enlisted in the RAF (final rank Group Captain) and was deployed to Hong Kong, the Maldives, Belize, Germany and Washington, DC. He became an authority on aviation medicine, which involved such exploits as parachuting into the sea to evaluate what medical consequences that implied. He received the 1977 Richard Fox Linton Memorial Prize for creating a flight safety programme for the RAF. After leaving the service in 1985, he worked at the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) as Senior Medical Officer. On retiring from the CAA, he worked for the Aircraft Underwriting

Agency evaluating applications for medical retirement by pilots and air traffic controllers. Like his grandfather George Fisher, Michael was an accomplished artist. He leaves a son, Robert, a daughter, Caroline, and three grandchildren.

1949 HOSKING, Dr Anthony John, died 9 October 2023, aged ninety-three.

1949 JOHNSON, Malcolm MacDonald, died 20 December 2023, aged ninety-three.

1950 EDWARDS, John Michael, died 23 July 2023, aged ninety-one.

1950 MARTIN, John Sinclair, died 21 October 2023, aged ninety-two. John studied Agriculture as part of his degree, which equipped him well to return to life on the family farm. Since the family rented farmland from the College (and still does), John was proud to have been both a tenant and an undergraduate of the College at the same time. As a Fenland farmer he built up an encyclopaedic knowledge of rivers, land drainage and flood defences, which he put to good use when serving for many years in the Ministry of Agriculture, National Rivers Authority and Environment Agency at a regional and national level. He could always be relied upon for a strong opinion on any news reports of flooding! John was happily married to Kate for sixty-three years after their wedding in Cambridge and was devoted to his four children and nine grandchildren. He retained close links with the College and was happy to welcome any visitors produced by his Johnian sons and grandson to the family farm.



John Shaw (1950)

1950 SHAW, Dr John Humphrey Wilfred, son of Wilfred (1916) and brother of Andrew Paul Shaw (1958), died 22 January 2024, aged ninety-one. After Marlborough College, John studied at St John's College, joining the Medical College of St Bartholomew's Hospital in 1953. He gained a Shuter Scholarship in 1953 and won the Matthews Duncan Gold Medal and Prize in Obstetrics in 1956. Following various junior hospital appointments, he carried out his National Service in Germany as a medical officer to the Queen's Royal Irish Hussars. He settled as a GP in Redhill, where he worked for thirty-four years in the Hatchlands Road practice, and from 1985 he was the managing partner. After his retirement in 1997, he attended literature classes and did research leading to his authoring of several published articles associated with the poem 'Luriana Lurilee', quoted in Virginia Woolf's *To the Lighthouse*. He leaves three children, Rosalind, Robert and Martin, and six grandchildren.

1950 SINGLETON, John Rutherford, died 29 October 2023, aged ninety-one. John studied Mathematics at St John's, reputedly

spending more time on the cricket and rugby fields than at lectures, achieving an Ordinary degree. While at College, he formed lifelong friendships, particularly with John Martin (1950). Fittingly, they remain close together in this obituary section. After University and National Service, John and his wife, Betsy, began teaching careers. In 1960 they purchased St Johns-on-the-Hill, a preparatory school in Chepstow, Gwent, where he remained Headmaster for twenty years. He played significant roles in various industry bodies, co-founding the Independent Schools Information Service and serving on the board of the IAPS. In 1980 he became Headmaster of Chafyn Grove School, Salisbury, a post from which he retired early following the tragic death of his wife in 1986. He married his second wife, Jane, in 1989, creating a family of eight children. His passions were cricket and boating. He owned various sailing boats, the first of which he built himself, enjoying sailing on the South Coast into his nineties.



John Singleton (1950)



David Backhouse (1951)

1951 BACKHOUSE, David Roy, died peacefully 21 January 2024, aged ninety-one, at his home in Herefordshire following a short illness. David, a native of Blackburn in Lancashire, won an Exhibition to Cambridge following his secondary education at the town's Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School. Reading Modern Languages, it was also at St John's that he would begin to develop his considerable abilities in music, singing baritone with the Lady Margaret Singers. Following National Service and studying for a Post Graduate Certificate in Education at Oxford, David took up a teaching post at Stand Grammar School for Boys in Whitefield, Manchester. It was also at this time that he became one of the BBC Northern Singers, broadcasting regularly from Manchester. Later moving to Ross-on-Wye, David continued his teaching career at the Royal Forest of Dean Grammar School. David is survived by his second wife, Dr Christine Lenton, and his five children. His

first wife, Joyce (née Holden, and also from Blackburn), died in 2000.



Keith Foster (1951)

1951 FOSTER, Professor Keith, died 23 June 2023, aged ninety. Keith studied Mechanical Sciences, returning for a PhD following engineering work and National Service. In 1960 he became a lecturer in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Birmingham. He was Professor and Head of Mechanical Engineering, Aston University, 1977–87, also serving as Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Post-Graduate Affairs for three years. He became Head of Mechanical Engineering, University of Birmingham, 1987–90, then Director of Education at the Engineering Council, and finally Development Director of the Engineering Occupations Standards Group. Keith was a Fellow of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers (receiving the Joseph Bramah Medal, 1971, and joint T. Bernard Hall Memorial Prize, 1975). He was also a Liveryman in the Worshipful Company of Engineers. He co-authored a book on fluidic control systems and helped set up fluid-

control research in Stockholm and Montreal. Keith enjoyed music, a passion shared with his wife, Valerie. He loved art and painting. He was very active, playing tennis, skiing and walking. Above all, he was much loved.

1951 SCOTT, The Revd (Charles) Geoffrey, died 5 April 2023, aged ninety. Geoffrey was born in Cranbrook School House to Irene and Charles Russel Scott. He had four siblings. At age eight Geoffrey attended St Michaels College. Miles from his family, Geoffrey found calm in music. He became an accomplished choirboy, singing a solo in King's Chapel during his university years. Geoffrey gained a musical scholarship from St Michaels College to attend Haileybury College. It was here that Geoffrey found his passion for rugby and cricket. Geoffrey achieved well in sports, even playing at Lords. Geoffrey attended St John's and then completed his National Service as a Second Lieutenant in the Royal Artillery, serving in Malaya alongside the Gurkhas. On his return, he joined the clergy in Brighouse, where he met his love and wife to be, Heather. Geoffrey and Heather married, having two children, Crispin and Gillian, and four grandchildren. Geoffrey was a role model to his family, which he loved greatly, and who will always love him greatly. He was truly a gentle gentleman.

1951 TAIT, Robin Trevor, international lawyer and philanthropist, died 29 August 2023, aged ninety-four. He was born in New York City on 5 February 1929. He was the eldest son of Trevor S. and Katharine Lamb Tait. He received a BA from Cornell University in 1951 and a BA (Economics)

and MA from the University of Cambridge. He graduated from Yale Law School in 1956. After attending Yale he joined the law firm Sullivan & Cromwell, New York City, and was transferred to their office in Paris. He joined the firm of Coudert Freres and finished his career at the Paris office of the Bank of America. Robin had an incredible breadth of knowledge and could talk for hours on any subject. He loved art, Shakespeare and fine food and wine. He was devoted to his family's artistic heritage and created an endowment at Cornell University in its honour. Robin is survived by his older sister, Barrie Tait Collins, and two younger brothers, Colin and Kevin Tait. He was pre-deceased by his wife, Vigdis Erklef-Kohn.

1951 WEEDEN, Gerald Arthur Clifford 'Gus', died 5 January 2023, aged ninety-two.

1951 WRIGHT, Hedley, died 5 August 2023, aged ninety-two.

1952 DODDS, Rodney Holder, died 2 August 2023, aged ninety-one. Rodney was born in Newcastle upon Tyne. He attended school in the Borders and Sedbergh in Lupton House. A keen sportsman, he roamed the fells with friends. He studied Modern Languages at St John's and was University Rugby Fives champion. He completed National Service in the RAF. Rod married Mary Hainsworth in 1955, and they moved to Germany, where he taught at Salem School. Returning to England, he was employed by Clarks Shoes. He remained with Clarks for over thirty years. Rod and Mary had four children, Penny, David

(1977), Nic (1979) and Pip. Rodney immersed himself in community projects, the church, sports (mostly tennis) and watercolour painting, and he had many friends. After Clarks he returned to teaching. He and Mary travelled considerably after retirement. In 2005 they moved to a retirement community to be nearer their children. They were devoted grandparents and great-grandparents. With the onset of COVID-19, they moved to a residential home in Manningtree near Penny. Mary died seventeen days after Rod.

1953 CLARK, Anthony Leonard, died 13 December 2022, aged eighty-seven.

1953 KERSLAKE, Geoffrey, died 3 June 2023, aged eighty-nine.

1953 THOMAS, Nigel Eric Lynam, died 22 August 2023, aged ninety. Nigel was born 18 February 1933 to Margaret Evelyn Thomas (née Astbury) and Theodore Lynam Thomas (1919), Housemaster of Rugby School and Headmaster of Repton School. He was educated at The Dragon School and Rugby and was stationed in Gibraltar for National Service prior to going up. Though not given to academia, he enjoyed his time at St John's. Nigel married Dawn Lawrence in 1962 and moved with their sons, Gavin (born 1964) and Martin (born 1966), to Guildford, Surrey. Their daughter, Pippa (born 1973), completed the family. For most of his working life, Nigel worked for the BBC (responsible for setting up their local and regional radio and TV stations) until retiring in 1993 – the year Dawn died. He was a proud Governor of St Catherine's School,

Bramley. Nigel married Marion Christine Perks in March 2002, and his granddaughter Lottie Rose was born (to Gavin and Ammie) in 2012. Nigel is much missed and is remembered for his wonderful smile and loving kindness.

1954 BLYTH, Dr Kenneth William, died 8 October 2023, aged ninety.

1954 CLARKE, Dr David Robert, died 28 January 2021, aged eighty-five.

1954 HUGHES, Barry, died peacefully 25 February 2024, aged eighty-nine. Officially, his time at St John's focused on Modern & Medieval Languages. But in reality his years were spent indulging in his two loves of punting and cricket, while developing a close circle of life-long friends. Barry went on to have a career in international business, first with De La Rue and then selling whisky for John Walker & Sons, travelling extensively.



Barry Hughes (1954)

He married Anita in 1962, and they had three daughters and six grandchildren. Retirement prompted more travel and a move to Richmond in South West London in 2006, where they were able to spend precious time with their grandchildren and friends. Anita's death in 2017 was a challenge for Barry, but once again cricket, courtesy of Sky Sports, came to his rescue. Barry always spoke fondly of his time at St John's. He would regularly drag his young children to Cambridge (it worked – one daughter and two granddaughters went there), and he continued to attend Johnian dinners until 2016.

1954 NEWSON, Dr Robin Mitford, died 18 February 2023, aged eighty-eight.



Jim Proctor (1954)

1954 PROCTOR, James 'Jim' Anthony, died 7 November 2023, aged eighty-seven. From Ormskirk Grammar School, Jim gained a minor scholarship to read Mathematics. Born in Wakefield, he had moved aged seven with his teacher-parents to Skelmersdale (Lancashire), maintaining later that his Yorkshire accent was corrupted by living in

Lancashire. To Johnian friends this corruption mattered little as Jim was a man of very few words in any dialect. He enjoyed bowling tortuous spin with The Willows Cricket Club. Receiving a First in the Maths Tripos, Jim went to GCHQ as a computer programmer. In Cheltenham bridge became the game of his life, and leaving GCHQ he was quickly made a Tournament Director with The English Bridge Union. He had detailed knowledge of black and white films, while train timetables absorbed him when he could not cycle or be with his partner, Kevin, in Brighton. Jim gave pleasure, on any piano available, for friends in Cambridge and then Scarborough, his last home, and for those still alive anywhere, Mozart and Bach remind us always of Jim.

1954 STRANG, Christopher Andrews, died in Houston, Texas, 22 March 2023, aged eighty-seven. Christopher, son of Maxwell Andrews Strang and Dorothy Morton Strang, was born in Hamstead, London, 27 December 1935. During WWII Chris was evacuated to St George's Hill, Weybridge, Surrey. He attended Harrow College from 1948 to 1954. Chris obtained a BA in History and Economics from St John's in 1958. He played cricket and golf at Cambridge and won several amateur golf competitions, both in England and abroad. After Cambridge he studied in Paris. He became an antiques dealer in Europe, and in 1978 he moved to Houston, Texas, to open a shop called Traditions selling high-quality European antiques. In 1986 he met Angelica S. Frias, a Chilean physician. They married in 1991 and Chris became a loving stepfather to Isabel and Sam, Angelica's children. He is

survived by his sister, Gail, her husband Anthony, and Chris' nephews, Duncan and Giles; Isabel, her husband, Dave, and son, Nicholas; Sam; and, last but not least, his wife, Angelica, who lives in Houston, Texas.

1954 WATERFIELD, Hugh Grenville, died 18 August 2023, aged eighty-nine.

1955 AARONS, John Julius Emile, died 19 June 2023, aged eighty-six. After attending Kent College, John came to St John's to study Maths before realising his passion lay in Geography. His witty way with words also found an outlet in Footlights, with an outstanding peer group of future household names. After graduating, John was part of a young expeditionary group who set out to survey the Atacama Desert in Chile. His account of the trip, *The Useless Land*, written with Claudio Vita-Finzi (1955), was published in 1960. After training in land survey, John worked for the DSO in Africa. Returning to England in 1963, he became a systems analyst and in 1971 joined the London Stock Exchange, where he spent twenty-two years, ultimately as Head of the Quality of Markets Unit. In a successful career, his lasting City legacy perhaps lies in his coining of the phrase 'Big Bang' to describe the 1986 deregulation. John, a devoted family man whose wife, Mo, died in 2006, is dearly missed by his four children and seven grandchildren.

1955 BRIERLEY, Donald, died 10 February 2024, aged eighty-eight.

1955 COCKCROFT, John Hoyle, died 25 April 2023, aged eighty-eight. Cockcroft was

born in Todmorden, West Yorkshire, the son of Jenny and Lionel Cockcroft (brother of Nobel-Prize-winning physicist Sir John Cockcroft). He attended Oundle School, winning a scholarship to St John's. He became President of the Cambridge Union Society and studied History and Economics. After university he became features writer at the *Financial Times* under Nigel Lawson, before moving to the economics department of Guest, Keen & Nettlefolds (GKN). He was seconded to The Treasury, before becoming Economics Editor of *The Telegraph*. In his first book, *Why England Sleeps*, Cockcroft argued for entry into the common market. In 1974 he was elected as an MP. He stood down as an MP in 1978 and moved to Duff Stoop as a stockbroker. Cockcroft married Tessa Shepley in 1971. Tessa survives him with their three daughters, Lucia, Gemma and Eloise. His pro-European stance was a constant thread throughout his life. In later years Cockcroft published his memoir, *Titans Encountered: Snapshots from the Foothills*.

1955 CURTIS, Christopher John Andrew, died 21 February 2024, aged eighty-seven. Chris grew up in Australia and then London, where he attended St Paul's School, winning a scholarship to read Classics at St John's. As the youngest Latin scholar, he said the grace at his first Hall. Chris won a Browne Medal, sang in the Choir and enjoyed late-night bridge games. He recalled crossing from his room above the Baron of Beef in dressing gown and slippers to use washing facilities on the central site. Chris completed a Dip Ed in Cambridge and taught Classics at Alley's School, London, and Nottingham High

School (1964–96). Here Chris became Head of the Lower School, a role he was ideally suited to thanks to his gentle, patient temperament. He is remembered for mentoring younger staff, his dry sense of humour and running rugby and cricket teams. Chris enjoyed birdwatching, mountain walking and music and was a much-loved family man. His wife, Jane, and their three sons, Andrew (Christ's, 1987), Tom and William (Trinity Hall, 2000), survive him.

1955 HOLLINS, The Revd John Edgar, died in 2023, aged eighty-seven.

1955 HORROCKS-TAYLOR, John Philip, died 11 February 2023, aged eighty-eight.

1955 LEGG, Sir Thomas Stuart, died 8 October 2023, aged eighty-eight.

1955 TUNSTALL, Cuthbert Jeremy, died in June 2023, aged eighty-eight.

1955 WHARTON, Dr Leonard, died 12 November 2021, aged eighty-seven.

1956 FLETCHER, John Alan, died 8 August 2017, aged eighty-four.

1956 GORRING, Peter, died peacefully in October 2023, a few days after his eighty-seventh birthday. Peter and a number of students from Newcastle Royal Grammar School went on to St John's College together, where Peter read Geography. He played for several College teams, gaining his Blue for boxing. He was awarded the Larmor prize in 1959. All Peter's working life was in

education, teaching in both prestigious public schools and schools in more deprived areas. He was a born teacher, and his wife and daughters only learnt after his death how many lives he had touched. He helped pupils and staff navigate the difficulties of study and teaching. Peter loved organising field trips, which were always fun and over-subscribed. Later he became a schools' inspector, putting people at their ease and offering advice. When Peter retired, he played an active part in the community. He was Secretary of the Parish Council and the local Bridge Club, and he enjoyed watercolour painting and walking his dogs.

1956 LARDNER, Professor Robin Wilmott, died 21 February 2024, aged eighty-six.



Anthony Weston (1956)

1956 WESTON, Dr Anthony John, died 23 November 2022, aged eighty-four. Anthony attended Hereford Cathedral School before studying Law at St John's. He continued his studies throughout his life, gaining an MA, LL.M, Bachelor of Divinity and PhD in Theology. Anthony worked as a solicitor before marrying Rosemary in 1967. He later

set up his own practice and became an advocate for young people requiring legal aid. Anthony's Christian faith became the inspiration for many of his activities. He was an elder at the Barton Hall, preached regularly and was trustee for various Christian organisations. He will be remembered for his kindness, integrity, unflinching generosity and humour. His children, Clive, Shirley and Catriona, brought much joy, although the loss of Clive aged thirty-seven was a time of enormous sorrow. In 2014 Hereford City Council conferred on him 'The Honorary Freedom of the City of Hereford' in recognition of his voluntary work. Receiving this, Anthony referred to a future day when he would meet his 'dearest friend' Jesus – this joyful meeting occurred on 23 November 2022.

1957 CROMBIE, John McDonald, died 26 December 2022, aged eighty-three.

1957 EVANS, Nigel James Forrester, died in November 2023, aged eighty-five.

1957 HUDSON, Antony Philip 'Tony', died 27 February 2023, aged eighty-six.

1957 MILNER, Professor Anthony David, died 28 September 2021, aged eighty-three.

1957 PLATT, Keith James, died 23 August 2023, aged eighty-seven. Keith was born in Walton-upon-Thames. His father was a college principal, and they moved to Mill Hill, North London, so he could gain a scholarship to University College School. After school he undertook a UN Plebiscite in Cameroon and completed National Service

in the Navy. He gained a scholarship to St John's to read Classics. On graduating, he joined the management trainee scheme of British Overseas Airways Corporation (BOAC) and was trained for adapting airports for the Boeing 747. He was posted to Nairobi for four years as Manager, Kenya. Subsequently, he served as Country Manager in Portugal, Belgium and Luxembourg. He returned to the UK in 1982 and took up positions within the Cargo Division of BA. He became Airmail Manager and travelled widely until retiring at fifty-five. Improving his golf and painting, along with much travel, kept him happily occupied until ill health overtook him. He married Alison Rae in 1966. They met in Hong Kong, and she supported him throughout his career.

1957 WILKINS, Malcolm 'Max', died 14 December 2023, aged eighty-six.

1957 WILSDON, Henry David, died 22 March 2023, aged eighty-six.

1958 COATES, Leon, died 22 December 2023, aged eighty-six. Leon was a musician of rare accomplishment, already evident in childhood, when he played his own piano pieces on BBC Children's Hour. After Derby School he did two years of National Service in Oldenburg. Having won a scholarship to study at Cambridge, he read Music, studying composition with John Exton. In 1961 his setting of the *Jubilate* was sung by King's College Choir. After working as Assistant Director of Music at the Leys School, he lectured in Music at Edinburgh University from 1965 to 2002. Generations of students and colleagues benefited from his skill and

passion as a composer, performer and conductor of profound and natural musicianship. For more than half a century, he was an integral part of Edinburgh's musical scene. Many compositions were performed, including song-cycles, music for organ and piano, and two concerts. In 1976 Leon married Heather, who survives him. He will be remembered for his unwavering and generous support and encouragement of others, and for his smile.

1958 FONTAINE, Richard Hugh, died 23 November 2023, aged eighty-four.

1958 GHEY, Peter Lachlan, died in November 2023, aged eighty-four.

1958 NICHOLLS, Dr Derek Clifford, died 19 September 2023, aged eighty-four. Through his deep involvement in Cambridge life, he leaves an extraordinary legacy. He was a lecturer and then Head of Department (1978–79) in Land Economy and served on the Finance and Buildings Committees. He became a Fellow, Senior Tutor and Vice-President (1988–92) at Wolfson, a Fellow and Acting President (2004–05) at Fitzwilliam and Director of the Cambridge International Land Institute. He served as a County Councillor (1984–93) and stood twice for Parliament in South West Cambridgeshire. He married his beloved Rosemary, who died in 2001, and raised two children. They loved singing together, from duets to oratorio to light opera! He was immensely proud of his five grandsons and travelled widely in his last months for precious time with them. Raised in Cornish Methodism, he served for over

fifty-five years as a Methodist local preacher, making regular Sunday visits to Cambridgeshire chapels. He prepared countless sermons, as well as bite-size devotions for his grandsons over Zoom during COVID-19 and beyond.

1958 RITCHIE, Anthony David, died 24 November 2023, aged eighty-three.



Lord David Rowe-Beddoe (1958)

1958 ROWE-BEDDOE, Lord David Sydney, died 15 November 2023, aged eighty-five. Born in Cardiff, Lord Rowe-Beddoe was a chorister at Llandaff's Cathedral School and a music scholar at Stowe. At Cambridge he joined the Marlowe Society, acting alongside Sir Ian McKellan and Sir Derek Jacobi (1957). His career began at Thomas De La Rue, and within ten years he was Chief Executive. He became President of Revlon (Latin America, Europe, Middle East and Africa), then President of

Morgan Stanley GFTA. From 1993 Lord Rowe-Beddoe chaired the Welsh Development Agency. Knighted in 2000, he was Chair, then President, of the Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama. The Welsh Government sought his support for the creation and funding of the Wales Millennium Centre. He was Chair, then Life President. He received a peerage in 2008 and was Chairman of Cardiff Airport, Deputy Chairman of the UK Statistics Authority and President of Cardiff Business Club. He chaired a finance review of the Church of Wales. He is survived by his wife, Madeleine, three daughters from his first marriage, a stepson and stepdaughter.

1958 SHEA, John Henry, died 23 February 2023, aged eighty-three.

1958 TWADDLE, Dr Michael John, died 22 March 2023, aged eighty-three. Michael was an academic historian from a working-class family with modest resources – his father was a police sergeant and his mother a nanny – but he excelled at Battersea Grammar School, before taking a BA in History and completing a PGCE. He began his teaching career at Mbale Secondary School, Uganda, 1962–64, before completing a PhD at London University School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS). He lectured at the University of East Africa at Makerere, 1967–70, and at SOAS until 1972, when he took up a post as Senior Fellow and Lecturer at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies. He remained there for the rest of his working life, teaching History and Politics, publishing his key work, *Kakungulu and the creation of Uganda*, in 1993 and working

closely with his Danish colleague, Holger Bernt Hansen, on a number of other publications. He also acted as Editor of *African Affairs*, 1974–86. His loving wife, Margaret, three sons and four grandchildren survive him.

1959 BURROWS, Peter Frank, died 1 September 2023, aged eighty-two. At St John's Peter studied History and Economics and won a Half-Blue as a half-miler. He retired from serious athletics shortly after leaving Cambridge, and thereafter in his leisure hours devoted himself to bridge, twice playing in national county championship-winning teams. He served as bridge columnist for the *Cambridge Evening News*, and was author, with Julian Pottage, of *The Art of Psychic Bidding*. In his professional life, after winding down his father's company, Peter was a fund manager and analyst with Sun Life of Canada; ESSO; Simon and Coates; Brown, Shipley and Company; and, finally, Nomura Capital Management, from which he retired in 1998. A keen linguist, he was fluent in Turkish and Japanese. Peter was happily married for fifty-nine years to Myra, a Homerton-trained teacher, who survives him, together with two sons and two grandchildren.

1959 CONWAY, Professor Sir Gordon Richard, died 30 July 2023, aged eighty-five.

1959 COPPLE, Anthony 'Tony' Cecil, died 9 October 2023, aged eighty-two. Tony was ready for heaven, so God opened the door and freed him from pain forever. Beloved husband of twenty-four years to Laurie-Ann. Loved by his children, James (Kathy) and his

late daughter, Debbie (Bryan). Proud grandad to Jasmin and Sagan. He is survived by siblings Dianne (Mike) and Neesa and four great-grandchildren. Tony was part of many communities in the UK, Canada and South Africa. He was a devoted Beatles fan. He emigrated from the UK to Canada in 1987. He was exposed to asbestos in the Royal Navy, which eventually caused the mesothelioma that contributed to his death. He also worked as a computer salesman and a financial planner. After four years serving as an Iris missionary in South Africa, he returned to Canada to care for his father-in-law until he died. He gently poured his heart, soul and faith into all he met. To see his remembrance page, please visit: Coppleswesterncape.ca/remembrance



Rodney Cross (1959)

1959 CROSS, Rodney Alan, died peacefully at home surrounded by his family on New Year's Eve, 31 December 2023, aged eighty-three. Rodney was born at home in Combe Down, Bath, yards from where he died nearly eighty-four years later, and where he spent his entire working life at Cross Manufacturing. He went to school in Bath, then went on to St John's College to read Engineering. He remembered his time at St John's with fondness all his life. He enjoyed his time

rowing for the LMBC. The attempted double over-bump story was told many times. He returned to work in the office of the family firm in the early 1960s and was still working there more than sixty years later as Chairman. He was a Chartered Engineer and a member of the IMechE and the RAeS. Rodney is survived by his wife, four children and six grandchildren.

1959 HARDY, (George James) Allan, died in February 2022, aged eighty-three.

1959 ROBERTS, Dr Roy Stewart, died 25 August 2023, aged eighty-two.

1959 WHITE, Alan Roger, died 19 October 2023 after a short illness, aged eighty-three. Born on 26 September 1940, Alan went to St John's College in 1958 to study Medicine. In Cambridge he met Ann, whom he married soon after graduating. At University Alan encountered some wonderful people who became life-long friends: Douglas (1959) and Rosanne Gough, and Peter (1959) and Myra Burrows. Although he never became a doctor, Alan used his education to build a career in market research in the pharmaceutical industry. With a keen interest in local politics, Alan became Mayor of Leighton Linlade in 1980. He used his position to raise money for The Royal Papworth Hospital, the UK's main heart and lung transplant centre. In 1972 Ann was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. Alan became Chairman of and raised money for the local Multiple Sclerosis Society. He worked tirelessly for disabled people on the local Access for All initiative, helping to set up the Buzzer Bus transport link. Alan leaves

his children, Christine, Vivienne and Martin, and grandchildren, Adrian, Josh, Zoe and Emma.

1959 WURR, John Alexander, died 2 February 2023, aged eighty-two.

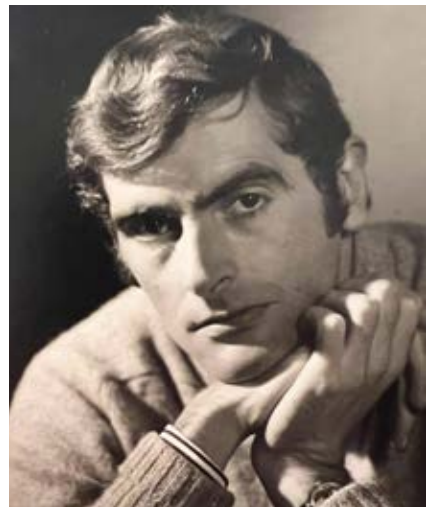
1960 CANTLEY, Mark Flett, died 27 April 2023, aged eighty-one.

1960 COLLINS, Michael James, died 18 February 2023, aged eighty-one.

1960 KEELING, David, died 28 April 2022, aged eighty. After Tiffin School, David read Music (Choral Scholarship). Upon graduating, David went to Canterbury as a lay clerk and resident master. He emigrated to Canada in 1967, where he began an illustrious forty-two-year career as an administrator within the University of Toronto, becoming Assistant Dean, Faculty of Music, and then Chief Administrative Officer, Faculty of Medicine, and finally Bursar, Victoria College, University of Toronto. On retirement in 2009, Victoria College established The David Keeling International Award. In his retirement David enjoyed long walks around the city, attending concerts and spending time with his family. In 1971 David married Julia, who predeceased him. They had four children, Simon, Jeremy, Nicholas and Rachel.

1960 PHILLIPS, David Percy, brother of Peter (1965), died 27 June 2023, aged eighty-one. After Dartford Grammar School, with a State and a Whytehead scholarship, David read English and won a Larmor Award and the Charles Oldham Shakespeare

Prize. He taught English at Riyadh (1963–65) and Baghdad (1965–67) universities. After postgraduate research and some Arabic study at St John's College, Oxford (1967–69), he joined the British Council, was Director, Dubai (1969–72) and Oman (1972–75), then worked in the Policy Research Department (1975–77). Tired of London, he moved to Shropshire, learned carpentry while reconstructing a ruined cottage and helped to establish Concord College. He was Director, Amman Baccalaureate School, Jordan (1983–88), then returned to his beloved Shropshire and became a fundraising consultant for churches and cathedrals (including Brecon and St David's). Energetic, satirical and funny, he loved church architecture, rugby (was a founder member of the Dubai Exiles 7s team), cooking and a quiet pint with a good book. He is survived by his wife, Mary, and their children, John and Ann.



David Phillips (1960)

1960 STRICKLAND, Dr Ian David, died in September 2022, aged eighty.

1960 WATERFIELD, Brian John, died 19 July 2023, aged eighty-two.

1961 BOWDEN, Charles Hilton Foster, died 17 October 2023, aged eighty.



David Clines (1961)

1961 CLINES, Professor David John Alfred, died 8 December 2023, aged eighty-five.

He was born 21 November 1938 in Sydney, Australia. A Professor in Biblical Studies at the University of Sheffield, David was a noted Old Testament scholar; he was the author of, for example, *Interested Parties: The Ideology of Writers and Readers of the Hebrew Bible*, as well as the creator and editor of *The Dictionary of Classical Hebrew*, and, currently in production, the even fuller and richer *Dictionary of Classical Hebrew, Revised*. His work centred on six themes: 1. commentary (e.g. the Book of Job), 2. new methods in biblical criticism, including literary theory and procedures, 3. masculinity or masculinities, 4. Hebrew language: the *Dictionary of Classical Hebrew*

(1993–2011), including the Dead Sea Scrolls, Ben Sira and inscriptions, 5. publishing: Sheffield Academic Press and Sheffield Phoenix Press, and 6. developing biblical studies in many vivid directions.

1961 EVANS, Barry Lawrence, died of Parkinson's in 2023, aged eighty-one, lovingly tended by his partner, Muriel. An adopted child of Welsh parents and later overjoyed to rediscover his birth family, he would endlessly quote *Under Milk Wood* or break into *Cwm Rhondda* in Welsh. Overflowing with genial good nature, Barry had a warm, lyrical voice that travelled before him, announcing his presence. This helped to start his acting career at the ADC in *Death of a Salesman*. He also managed the University Traditional Jazz Band. After Cambridge he chose advertising, soon switching to writing copy for charities. As important to him was the celebrated Richmond Shakespeare Society, where he gave many memorable performances – Shylock, Julius Caesar and the outrageous psychiatrist in *What the Butler Saw*. He also directed – relishing the dark humour of the Jacobean. Other interests included bird watching, fast cars and walking round Britain with his children. Barry was a breath of fresh air for all who knew him and will be sorely missed by his large family and friends.

1962 CULLINANE, Peter Michael, died 19 January 2023, aged seventy-eight.

1964 BATCHELOR, Max Dudley, died 16 March 2023, aged seventy-six. After leaving Malvern College, Max read Agriculture at St John's. After graduating, he



Max Batchelor (1964)

joined the family farm in Higham, Kent. In 1978 he took on the tenancy at Whitehouse and Abbey Farms. He was the third generation of Batchelors to have farmed St John's land, previously farmed by his uncle and grandfather over a period of ninety-three years. Every year the Senior Bursar paid the farm a visit. Dr Christopher Johnson, then Dr George Reid and finally Mr Chris Ewbank visited, followed by lunch at Whitehouse Farm. The Rent Audit was another date in the calendar, with all the North Kent tenants being treated to lunch at Read's Restaurant in Faversham. They were also invited to a dinner at St John's every five years. Max retired in 2008 and moved into Higham village. He enjoyed travel, windsurfing, waterskiing, sailing and golf. He was a great family man, much loved by his wife, Janet, his sons, Richard and John, and his five grandchildren.

1964 BOLD, Gerald Howard, known as Ged to his friends, died on 4 May 2023, aged seventy-seven. After West Park Grammar School, St Helens, he read Modern Languages (French and German, Scholarship). His fondest memories of the College were of playing poker with friends!

After university he taught languages for twenty-seven years at St John Rigby College, Orrell. He was a hardworking and successful teacher, and many of his pupils went on to study languages at university, including Cambridge. He was a keen walker and went on numerous walking holidays abroad or in England, with friends or with the school. Some of these treks, such as in Corsica and the Pyrenees, were particularly strenuous. He retired in 1994 in poor mental and physical health. As his mental health declined, he lost touch with his friends. His friends managed to rediscover him in 2007 after some combined detective work, but sadly he was already suffering from dementia, which later became Alzheimer's, and he spent the rest of his life in care homes. He never married.

1964 DAVIE, Dr Richard Mark, died 3 December 2023, aged seventy-eight. After The Perse School, Cambridge, Mark read Modern Languages (French/Italian) before a PhD at Reading. A university career followed, in Liverpool (1971–87), then Exeter (1987–2006), including a spell as Head of School. Mark's academic interests ranged from Dante (notably the *Fiore* sonnets of the 1280s) to the nineteenth-century novelist Manzoni. From 2003 to 2010 he was the Italian Editor of *Modern Language Review*. Retirement was marked by a festschrift (2011): its theme – intellectual communities and partnerships – reflected Mark's widely recognised collegiality. He translated *Selected Writings of Galileo* (2012) and an edition of Galileo's *Dialogue on the Two Greatest World Systems* (2022). A life-long churchgoer, Mark was licensed as a Church of England Reader in the Liverpool Diocese in 1983, a

commitment that continued in Exeter. His interest in music expressed itself increasingly in choral singing. His loyalty, kindness and generosity were evident in every part of his life. He died following a taxing illness, leaving his wife, Grace, three sons and six grandchildren.

1964 McLEOD, James Yuill, died 12 May 2023, aged seventy-six.

1964 SQUIRE, Michael James, died 4 May 2023, aged seventy-seven.

1966 SADDLER, Dr Hugh David Walter, died 29 June 2023, aged seventy-nine. Australia's energy transition has lost a titan. Hugh was deeply influential on generations of Australian energy researchers, industry experts and policy-makers. His impact came not so much from the public limelight, but from a dedication to the best possible analysis, from relentless pursuit of understanding how the energy system works and how it can be improved, and from great generosity in sharing his insights. His work helped to lay foundations for Australia's transition to a low-emissions energy system. A graduate of Adelaide University, he gained a prize-winning PhD in Biology at St John's. With a rising interest in politics, society and the environment, he worked in London before returning to Australia for a life as an academic and then consultant. Hugh will be remembered not only for his public-spirited research, successful outreach and influential advice to governments, but also for his generosity in sharing knowledge and insight. Hugh was married to Marilyn Chalkley for almost fifty years. They have two sons, Owen and Harry.



Chris Burgoyne (1968)

1968 BURGOYNE, Professor Christopher John, died 2 January 2024, aged seventy-three. He was born in Kent, to Clifford, a council draughtsman, and Kathleen, a switchboard operator, who raised him in Topsham, Devon, a county he fell in love with. He attended Exeter School before reading Civil Engineering at St John's, where he met the Homertonian Vanessa. A brief spell at Cheshire County Council followed, giving him the opportunity for further study at Imperial College, where he appended MSc and PhD to his name. Accepting an Imperial lectureship, he returned to Cambridge in 1988 as a Senior Lecturer and Fellow of Emmanuel College. Ever curious, Chris researched all forms of civil and structural engineering, gaining his Chair in 2015. An advisor to the construction industry, he aided the design of countless bridges, including the repairs to Hammersmith flyover. Chris' analysis of Coventry Cathedral won the Institute of Structural Engineers' paper of the year in 2017. He was passionate about climate change, family and naval history. He is survived by Vanessa, their three children and five grandchildren.

1968 HEATHCOTE, Professor John Godfrey, died 20 March 2024, aged seventy-three. Godfrey read Medical

Sciences and was awarded a Master's Prize (1969) and a Rolleston Scholarship (1970). He obtained his MB, BChir (1974) at University College Hospital. He received a PhD in Medical Biochemistry from the University of Manchester (1978) before completing his residency in Pathology at the University of Western Ontario, Canada. Godfrey had a long career in laboratory medicine serving as Chairman of the Department of Pathology and Chief of Pathology at the University of Western Ontario and Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and their affiliated hospitals. A recognised expert in the pathobiology of ocular disease, Godfrey served as Chair of the Canadian Ophthalmic Pathology Society (1999–2014) and President of the British Association for Ophthalmic Pathology (2016–19). He was an editor of the *Canadian Journal of Ophthalmology* (1994–2014) and the first Editor-in-Chief of the *Canadian Journal of Pathology* (2009–15). In 2009 he gave the William Boyd Lecture, the highest award of the Canadian Association of Pathologists.

1968 MARKESINIS, Professor Sir Basil, died 23 April 2023, aged seventy-eight.

1969 HARWOOD, Graeme Ian, died 23 July 2023 after a short illness, aged seventy-two. He read English, with a short spell studying Social Anthropology, and gained a 2.1. A talented sportsman, he opened the bowling for St John's 1st XI and played for both the Crusaders and the University 1st XI. He might have gone even further had he played by the conventional disciplinary rules and had not sustained a significant shoulder

injury. He also played for John's 1st XV Rugby on the wing, but his dislike of training meant that was brief. After university his career followed an unusual path. He was the author of *Caissa's Web*, *The Chess Bedside Book* (chess was a lifelong love) and *The Eng Lit Kit*, and he worked in travel (another passion), in business and quite often in nothing at all. He enjoyed his life to the full and had no regrets. With a wonderful sense of humour, he could charm and amuse, as well as exasperate! His time at the College meant a huge amount to him.



Chris Trinder (1969)

1969 TRINDER, Christopher Gerard, died 15 January 2024, aged seventy-three. Born in 1950 to Royce and Josephine, he and his brother, Stephen, spent a happy childhood growing up in Essex. Chris was a bright and inquisitive young man and, in 1969, was accepted to study Economics at St John's. Chris was vividly passionate about not only economics but also chess, football, tennis and, of course, teaching. He dedicated himself to shaping young minds, guiding many on the path he once trod, with six of his pupils in a single year attending

Cambridge and four subsequently receiving First-class degrees. Beyond the classroom, Chris nurtured Young Enterprise teams, coached chess teams and developed the school table tennis club from scratch. Few will forget his warmth, humour and lively sense of fun. He loved to visit his daughter, Lucy, in the Netherlands, enjoyed expanding his eclectic tastes in music, film, cigars and fine wines, and he often returned to St John's, remembering his time there with fondness. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

1971 GEORGE, Mark McHallam, died 20 December 2022, aged seventy. Mark was born in Hammersmith to John and Dorothea, brother to Chris and Tina. Mark attended a private Catholic school. Coverage of US race riots led him into law. He was called to the Bar in 1976, joined a small radical set of chambers in the Temple and took silk in 2009. A defence lawyer, he specialised in complex and serious criminal cases. The 2014 Hillsborough inquests were the result of George's years of toil. During the 1984 miners' strike, he was engaged by the Haldane Society, a campaigning legal group. He represented print workers, animal rights campaigners and environmentalists, and more recently assisted people arrested in anti-fracking protests. He also campaigned against the US death penalty. A dissolved marriage to Anita produced sons Tom and Kieran. In 1987 he met Sue Price, with whom he lived for thirty-five years and had a son, Joe. George was a regular blogger and tweeter, liked real ale and red wine, and was a Chelsea football supporter.

1971 SAVAGE, Adrian Paul, died from oesophageal cancer on 21 October 2023, aged seventy-one. After attending Highgate School, Adrian studied Medicine at St John's College before moving to The London Hospital to complete his clinical studies. He was an enthusiastic rower for the Lady Margaret Boat Club and an active member of The London Hospital Sailing Club. He trained in surgery at the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, and Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, USA, before appointment as a Consultant Surgeon at Russell's Hall Hospital, Dudley, ultimately specialising in colorectal surgery. He was a strong advocate for patients, as attested by the multitude of appreciative letters received. Adrian was a talented musician, playing guitar in various bands, and a natural sailor, circumnavigating the UK and undertaking transatlantic passages. He had a deep understanding of electronics and applied these skills to designing and constructing equipment, including a CNC router, to progress his love of woodworking. He is survived by his wife, Caroline, children, Charlotte and Victoria, and adored grandchildren. His ashes will be scattered at sea.

1972 ROBERTSON, Nicolas William Montgomerie, died 5 November 2023, aged sixty-nine. 'A field of maize, grown just above the height of a boy of seven; a path of beaten earth through it, along which I walk, in some sort of procession. This scene is associated with music somehow, and since I first stopped to think about it, this (not quite "background", but somewhere intangibly in the air) resolved itself into Veni

creator spiritus. I'm at school in Africa ... and this is the first memory I have of plainsong.' Nick arrived at St John's as a Choral Scholar already steeped in music, and his life continued to be entwined with music, in a lifelong career singing with the Tallis Scholars, Monteverdi Choir, Sixteen and many others. Living in Portugal with his much-loved late wife, Lidia, illness restricted his life in later years; but his formidable, quirky mental acuity remained active, including his work on John Eliot Gardiner's Bach books. Nick inspired deep affection in his many friends, and his loss is felt by us all.



Nick Robertson (1972)

1973 BIRKINSHAW, Professor Mark, Professor of Cosmology and Astrophysics at the University of Bristol, died 23 July 2023, aged sixty-eight. A scholar in the 1970s, following his PhD at the Cavendish Laboratory (1976–79), he won a Miller Fellowship at the University of California, Berkeley. A Fellow of Gonville and Caius in the 1980s, he published the first solid detections of the Sunyaev-Zel'dovich effect, showing how the gaseous atmospheres of clusters of galaxies affect the ubiquitous Cosmic Microwave Background Radiation.



Mark Birkenshaw (1973)

In 1984, after marrying astrophysicist Diana Worrall, he joined the Harvard University faculty, and later the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory. Mark's Chair appointment at Bristol in 1995 was to establish a new astrophysics group. He was a distinguished researcher and popular teacher and mentor, known for his insightful explanations and derivations from first principles, presented in his signature tiny elegant handwriting. For all his academic prowess, Mark was a gentle, modest and kind man, and a prolific reader. His early and unexpected death is a huge loss: he was a loving husband, friend and inspirational colleague.

1973 HUNT, Dr Timothy 'Tim' John CVO, died 1 March 2024, aged eighty-seven. Educated in Edinburgh, with a Marshall Bursary, Tim studied Zoology at Humboldt University in East Berlin. He joined the Medical Research Council, leading projects



Tim Hunt (1973)

for the government on the effectiveness of certain medicines, projects for the army, the police and on safety to drive. When Tim's first wife developed cancer, on observing her poor medical care, he switched to medicine. Tim co-founded the Arthur Rank Hospice, remaining Medical Director until retirement. He supported the establishment and running of six other hospices in East Anglia. His expertise in symptom control, particularly pain, led to him being invited to help members of the Royal Household, for which he was admitted to the Victorian Order. He ran residential courses for healthcare professionals from this country and Europe for over thirty years. However, it is for his kindness and generosity that Tim is most remembered. A loyal and active Johnian, Tim was Vice-President of the Beaufort Society. He is survived by his wife, Athene.

1973 JACOBSEN, Timothy Charles, died 14 May 2023, aged sixty-eight. Tim was a kind and gentle soul who lit up the lives of those around him until his unexpected death. He was fiercely loyal to his family, which he deeply adored. Not a man prone to obvious

displays of emotional vulnerability, Tim's adoration for his wife, Nicki, was plain to see. He had immeasurable pride in his son, Sam, and daughter, Lucy, who were flooded with love and support. John's held emotional poignance for Tim, whose father, Ronny (1947), and daughter, Lucy (2012), also attended the College. Tim was amused and delighted to find, on Lucy's first day at Cambridge, that she was given the same room in Cripps Court that he had lived in forty years earlier. Reacquainting himself with the College brought him great joy. In his typical cheekiness, he took amusement in taking up the millennial phrases for college life, going out of his way to reference the 'plodge' and 'pidges'. Tim brightened the world with his goodness. He is dearly missed.

1974 WILSON, The Rt Rev Dr Alan Thomas Lawrence, died 17 February 2024, aged sixty-eight. He was undertaking a sabbatical to prepare for retirement from a long ministry as Bishop of Buckingham. He will be deeply missed by Lucy and their five children. Alan read History at St John's from 1974. His ministry was shaped by theological training at Wycliffe Hall, a doctorate in History at Oxford, long service in parish ministry in Berkshire and a formative spell as prison chaplain. His was a prophetic and creative voice for justice, heard and appreciated inside and outside the church. Alan was an advocate for the ordained ministry of women, for LGBT+ equality and for the voice of survivors of abuse. Time spent with Alan was never dull. He was exceptionally well read and brought his deep knowledge to bear in a distinctive and often

hilarious way. A passionate advocate for the parish church, an enthusiast for the church's role in education and a wise pastor, he will be missed by the parishioners and clergy of Buckinghamshire.

1975 ASHBY, Bishop Godfrey William Ernest Candler, died 29 December 2023, aged ninety-three.

1977 FOGG, Andrew, died 7 July 2023, aged sixty-five. Andrew came up to St John's from Workington Grammar School to read Engineering. Selected for the University Air Squadron, he thoroughly enjoyed learning to fly but left the Air Squadron after one year to concentrate on his degree and graduated with a First in 1980. He started his career as an analogue engineer for Racal-Dana instruments and in 1982 he moved to the first of many jobs in engineering consultancy with PA Technology. He subsequently worked for TTP Communications, TAG, Peratech, TTP Communications again and Cambridge Design Partnership. He retired in January 2015 and began supervising first- and second-year engineers for Christ's College in 2016. He took his Private Pilot Licence in 2001 and enjoyed flying from Fowlmere Airfield before a health issue intervened. He was very involved in his community in Great Gransden and enjoyed singing, sailing and travelling, in particular to Germany to visit his friend of fifty-two years, whom he'd met on a school exchange. He is survived by his wife and three children.

1978 COOKE, Patrick 'Pat' Ian Hayward, died 3 October 2023, aged sixty-three. After attending King Edward VII School, King's

Lynn, Pat read Natural Sciences at St John's. He spent much of his leisure time participating in and organising activities of the Automobile Club, becoming a highly respected rally co-driver and making many lifelong friends. After St John's he first worked on the JET fusion research project for the UKAEA at Culham and, with their project partner, the University of California, in Los Angeles, before taking an MBA. Admired by friends and colleagues for his sincerity and his advice, delivered with a disarming smile, as much as for his brilliant mind, he directed his analytical skills to the field of life sciences and the practical implementation of new medical discoveries. He retired from GlaxoSmithKline in 2016, where he had held a senior position in corporate strategy. He loved sport, particularly cricket and skiing, and is much missed by his wife, Jacquie (née Auckland, Newnham 1976), their sons, Michael and Robbie, and all his relatives and friends.

1981 LUANDA, Professor Nestor Notker, died 18 September 2017, aged sixty-four.

1981 MARSHALL, Jeremy Samuel John, died 13 August 2023, aged sixty. He was an evangelical Christian, philanthropist, historian, author and banker. After working at Barclays and Bank of Montreal, and an MBA at INSEAD, Jeremy joined Credit Suisse, working in London, Zurich and New York, eventually leading UK Private Banking. He became the first CEO from outside the C Hoare & Co family. When cancer forced his retirement, Jeremy devoted his time to evangelism and philanthropy, becoming senior statesman of the UK's

evangelical movement and serving as Chairman of Pastor Training International, Christian Books Worldwide and Christianity Explored. In 2020 he led the acquisition of the Kingdom Bank. Jeremy authored books on his experiences of cancer, *Beyond the Big C* and *Hope in the Face of Suffering*. He was the first Chair of the St John's Development Committee and was instrumental in achieving the £50 million funding goal, the largest of any Oxbridge college at the time. In 1987 Marshall married Jeanette Bonsels, a nurse, who survives him with their children, Nathaniel, Samuel and Naomi.

1985 CHAUDHRY, Dr Mubarak Ahmad, died 15 June 2023, aged fifty-eight.


1988 CHUAUTHUAMA, The Revd Dr Pachauu, died 4 January 2024, aged seventy-six.

1989 BLACK, Dr Jonathan Andrew, died 14 April 2023, aged fifty-four.

1989 TURNER, Dr Neil, died 12 October 2023, aged fifty-two, after two and a half years of treatment for a rare cancer (mucosal melanoma). A keen diver since college days, £5000 was raised for the RNLI in his memory. His funeral was attended by many colleagues from Edwards, now part of Atlas Copco, where Neil had worked since 1996. A Senior Technologist at Edwards, he had seventy-seven invention records accepted during his time there, recording patentable ideas for vacuum pump technologies, and several patents that were pursued by the company and awarded. Neil was married to Alison Turner (1989), and their sons are at

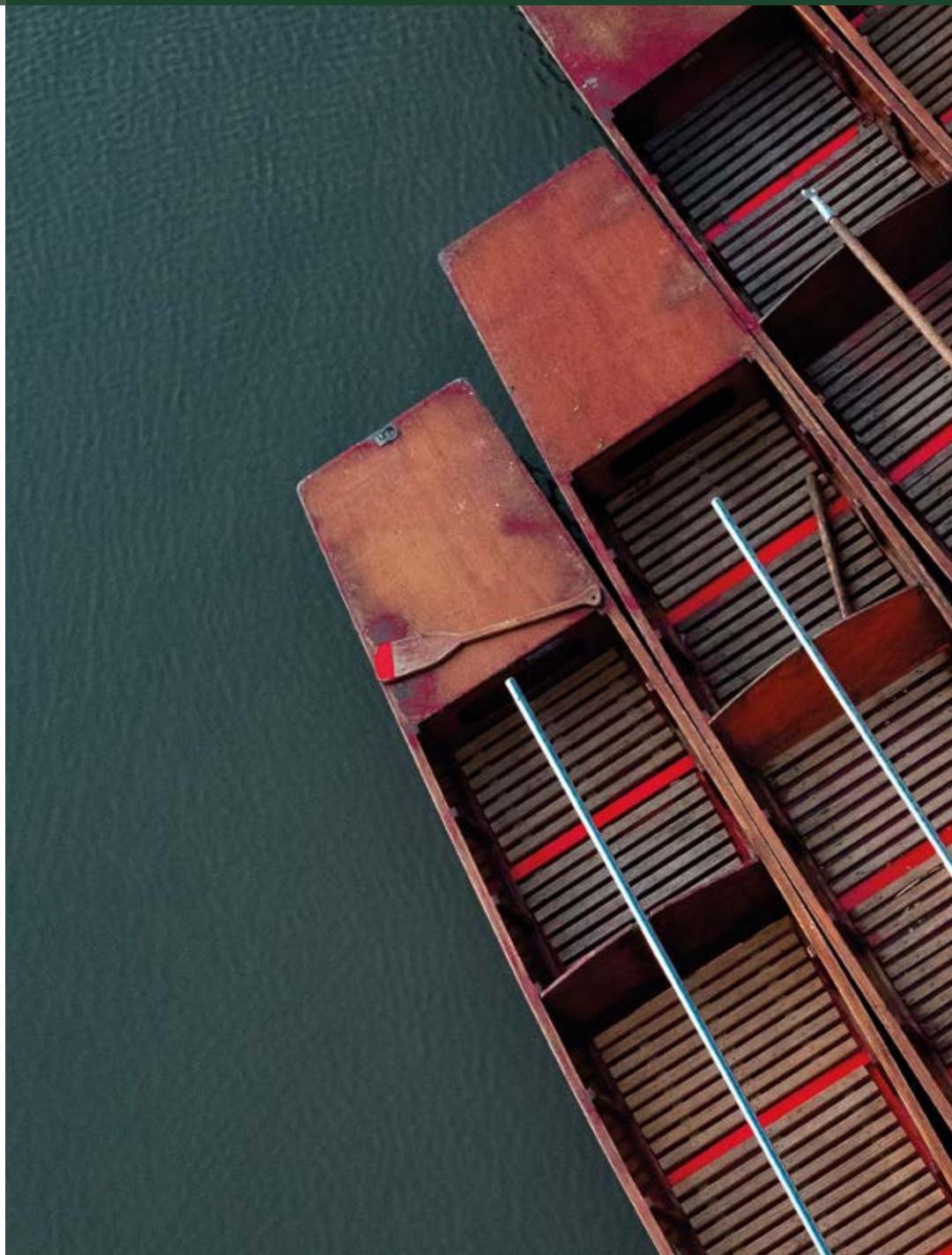
university, one reading Physics and Astrophysics at York and one reading Mathematics at Lancaster. In his last few months Neil tried to contact as many friends and colleagues as possible from all stages of his life, to thank them all for contributing to his very happy life. If the message did not reach you then, please accept Neil's thanks and 'keep up the good work for the people who surround you now'.

1996 ALLEN, Emma Mary, died 30 September 2022 aged forty-four. After Belfast Royal Academy, Emma read Music and enthusiastically engaged in College musical life, serving as President of the St John's Music Society. That theme extended to her first job, as online Editor digitalising Grove's monumental *Dictionary of Music and Musicians*. Much of Emma's professional life was spent at The National Archives, in a variety of rewarding roles, but in 2015 she moved to become Director of Digital Development in Parliament and in 2019 took up a post as Head of Digital Capability at Arup – work she enormously relished. She was also delighted to put her expertise to use in the voluntary sector, as Board Trustee of the National Museum of the Royal Navy. Her approach to life was, to the end, characterised by a cheerful and thoughtful concern for others. In 2021 Emma was diagnosed with a recurrence of the cancer that had first afflicted her some fifteen years earlier. She was married to Dr Alec Mulinder, who survives her.

2012 GOLDBERG, Professor Alfred Louis 'Fred', died 18 April 2023, aged eighty. 



Inside the Chapel, July 2023



SOCIETIES AND SPORTS

Photo: Punts at St John's, June 2023

Credit: Marcell Hunyadi (2020)



The Johnian Society



Credit: Jean-Luc Benazel

Johnian Society Centenary Weekend Garden Party, September 2023

Established in 1923, the Johnian Society fosters connections among members of the College, particularly those no longer in residence. Membership of the society is extended to all Johnians upon completion of their first term, making us one of the largest and most active alumni societies across the Cambridge colleges, with over 10,000 members. Our focus lies in supporting a vibrant community that extends beyond College walls, organising alumni events and funding opportunities for current students. This year, under the leadership of Chair Claire Griffiths (1985) and President Nigel Topping (1985), the society ran a broad calendar of events:

- Johnian Society Centenary Weekend, 23–24 September 2023:** To commemorate a century of the Johnian Society, we welcomed Johnians and their guests back to College for a celebratory weekend. Saturday afternoon commenced with afternoon tea and a fascinating lecture by conductor Stephanie Childress (2015). After the talk guests enjoyed a champagne reception and a wonderful concert by ‘Not the Gents’, an ensemble of former Gentlemen of St John’s, led by professional baritone and former Choral Scholar Andrew Rupp (1985). The day ended with a memorable dinner in Hall, with almost 200 in attendance. Sunday’s festivities

continued with more than 100 Johnnians and their families gathering for a party in the Fellows' Garden, featuring classic garden games, a wonderful story time from Past President Mark Wells (1981) and live music from a Johnnian-led jazz band.

- **Johnnian Society at Sadler's Wells, 11 January 2024:** Forty-two Johnnians and their guests were warmly welcomed by the team at Sadler's Wells to enjoy an enchanting evening of ballet. Sir Alistair Spalding, Artistic Director and Co-Chief Executive, along with Rebecca Fogg, Head of Individual Giving (whose father is a Johnnian), joined for a glass of champagne prior to the performance. The show, Matthew Bourne's dance adaptation of the beloved film *Edward Scissorhands*, was a pop of colour on a January evening. With exquisite choreography and vibrant staging, the production captivated both seasoned admirers of Matthew Bourne's work and newcomers to the ballet scene alike.
- **Virtual Interview with David Williams, 30 January 2024:** Past President Mark Wells interviewed Dr David Williams (1982) about his research, practice and teaching in veterinary medicine at the Royal Veterinary College and Cambridge University. David described how he came to specialise in veterinary ophthalmology, performing ground-breaking cataract surgery on a wide variety of animals, from Scottish halibut to Sumatran tigers. The virtual talk, filmed in front of a glowing fire in the Senior Combination



Johnnian Society Centenary Weekend 'Not the Gents' performance, September 2023

Room, was well attended, including by a cohort of David's former students eager to see which of his trademark bowties he would choose for the occasion. The vet school's master of sartorial elegance didn't disappoint.

- **Summer Social, 9 August 2024:** Following the popularity of our 2022 Summer Social, the Johnnian Society returned to Vinegar Yard, London Bridge, for another lively evening of food, drinks and socialising.

As well as bringing Johnnians together at our alumni events, the society is also committed to funding opportunities for current students, a goal made possible through our membership income and endowments. This year, we pledged £1000 towards student travel bursaries.

In sporting news, the Johnnian Golf Society had a busy year. The annual match against Christ's College at Huntercombe, competing for the Lady Margaret Beaufort Trophy, resulted in a narrow win for Christ's by 4½ to 3½. The Cambridge meeting kicked off with



Cambridge Inter-College Alumni Golf Competition, April 2024

a friendly match against the College staff who were victorious. Simon Adelman (1999) won the Marshall Hall Cup at John O’Gaunt, while John Loosley (1959) was victorious in the Posnett Salver, even scoring a hole in one. In October they enjoyed a wonderful game against Sunningdale, with the strong home team winning 4-2. The match between the Johnnians and the Aularians (St Edmund Hall, Oxford) – believed to be one of the longest-standing Oxford vs Cambridge

College matches, dating back to the 1950s – ended in a win for the Johnnians at Huntercombe. Despite achieving a better score than in 2022 (when we won) and 2023 (when we finished second), the Johnnians slipped to third place in the Inter-College Alumni competition played at Gog Magog. For more information, visit: sites.google.com/site/johniangolfsociety/home

We are proud to share that our committee reflects the wider Johnnian community: we have representatives from every matriculation decade from 1957 to 2018, with members drawn from a range of backgrounds and career paths. The committee is dynamic, electing two new members each year – if you are interested in joining, please reach out to johnnian-society@joh.cam.ac.uk

With many exciting plans already in the pipeline for the upcoming academic year, the committee look forward to welcoming you to our events in 2024/25. 🍷

Liz Broom, Honorary Secretary
johnnian.joh.cam.ac.uk/
johnnian-society



Credit: Jean-Luc Benazet

Mark Wells (1981) storytelling at Johnnian Society Centenary Weekend Garden Party, September 2023

The Choir



Credit: Keith Heppell

Choral Scholars in Chapel, October 2023

Recent years have seen much change for the College Choir as it rebuilt following the pandemic, introduced girls and women to its ranks for the first time in its 350-year history, and welcomed a new director.

In 2023/24 changes continued with the appointment of a new Dean of Chapel and three new staff joining the Choir Office. The stage is now set for a full return to the Choir's established schedule of touring, recording and commissioning new works. These exciting plans align with a new strategy, approved by Council, to uphold the Choir's musical excellence, develop new initiatives in response to a changing recruitment landscape, and better serve the community within and beyond College.

Personnel

At the beginning of the academic year, we welcomed Tingshuo Yang (2023) as the Junior Organ Scholar, along with Alex Weiss and George Bird (basses), and three Probationers.

In December we bade farewell to The Revd Canon Dr Mark Oakley, who was subsequently installed as the Dean of Southwark, having served for five years as Dean of Chapel at St John's. Dr Oakley was succeeded by The Revd Canon Dr Victoria Johnson, previously Canon Precentor at York Minster and Ely Cathedral.

A month later we bade farewell to Caroline Marks, who served for almost twenty-five



The congregation and Choir at the Epiphany Carol Service, 21 January 2024

years at St John's, first in the Bursary and then at the heart of the Choir Office. Generations of Choir members are grateful to Caroline for her unwavering dedication and care, and we wish her well in her retirement. The Choir office also said goodbye to James Beddoe, Choir Marketing and Communications Officer. Later in January a new Choir Office team started: Andrea McDermott, Owen Elsley and Isabelle Freeman.

Choir activity

The Advent Carol Service was broadcast on BBC Radio 3 in December and featured the first part of a triptych by award-winning composer Joanna Marsh, commissioned specially for the Choir and setting poetry by Malcolm Guite. The second and third parts were performed at the Epiphany Carol Service and Lent Meditation, respectively.

Michaelmas term also included a matriculation service, an Evensong in memory of Alan Mould (Headmaster of St John's College School, 1971–90), an Evensong attended by the Papal Nuncio to Great Britain, His Excellency Archbishop Miguel Maury Buendía, a service to commemorate the two-hundredth anniversary of the founding of the Anti-Slavery Society, and requiems for All Souls' Day (Duruflé) and Remembrance Sunday (Fauré). The term culminated in a sold-out Christmas concert.

After a brief post-term rest, the Choir embarked on their first tour since 2019. The first stop was a sold-out concert in the stunning Philharmonie in Luxembourg. Next was Amsterdam, where they performed in the iconic Het Concertgebouw to another appreciative audience; this concert was broadcast live in thirteen countries, including on BBC Radio 3 in the UK, and it can be viewed on YouTube. Further sold-out concerts followed in Utrecht, Vlissingen, Haarlem and Nijmegen. The tour was a resounding success.

In Lent term the Choir enjoyed collaborating with Musician-in-Residence Professor Margaret Faultless and the St John's Sinfonia for a Bach Cantata Evensong. Some very special music-making took place during three services in which the Choir was led by guest conductors Dr Christopher Robinson and Dr Barry Rose. On 9 February 2024 the College marked the centenary of the birth of the legendary Dr George Guest, who directed the Choir for

forty years (1951–91), and it was wonderful to see dozens of Choir alumni in attendance.


The Easter term saw special services for Ascension Day, the Choir Association Annual Reunion Evensong and the Graduation Service.

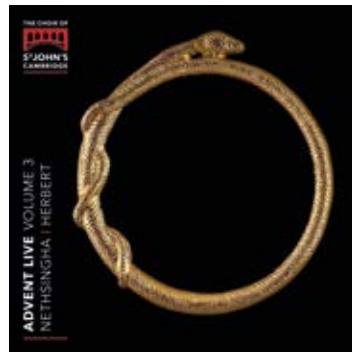
During the year we welcomed four visiting choirs for joint services: the Girl Choristers of Truro Cathedral, the Choir of Clare College, the Choir of Sidney Sussex College and King’s College Choir. Additionally, sopranos from other Cambridge colleges joined the lower voices for a Sunday morning Eucharist, and the Choir enjoyed their annual joint service with St John’s Voices.

In May we had the pleasure of collaborating with award-winning British ensemble The Gesualdo Six for a concert in the Chapel. The concert is available to watch on YouTube.

Recordings

Since the last Choir report, three albums have been released: *New Millennium*, *Advent Live – Volume 3*, and Andrew Nethsingha’s last CD with the Choir, *Magnificat 4*. In April and July the Choir began recording their first album under the direction of Christopher Gray. Scheduled for release in 2025, the album features music by Joanna Marsh, James MacMillan and other contemporary composers.

As the year ends we bid farewell to outgoing Choir members, thanking them for their contributions and wishing them well with their futures. 



This year’s two ‘St John’s Cambridge’ label releases: *New Millennium*, released August 2023, and *Advent Live – Volume 3*, released November 2023

Credit: Simon van Boxtel



The College Choir in concert at the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, 17 December 2023


Adams Society



This year marks the beginning of the next hundred years for the Adams Society. We began our academic activity by inviting our former Master, Peter Goddard, to present on the legend of Paul Dirac (1923), the greatest theoretical physicist of all times. Professor Goddard is the mathematical descendent of Dirac. Not only did he share his personal anecdotes about Dirac, but he also presented rich historical records of Dirac in and beyond St John's. The talk captured the attention of the student body, which boosted attendance threefold. The strong start kept the society popular throughout the year.

Our later talks included those given by Fields Medalist Wendlin Werner and mathematicians Professor Sean Hartnoll (1997) and Professor Po-Ling Loh, all of

whom are new academics in Cambridge. We also appreciated the return of old friends to the society Dr Jack Smith and Professor Nick Manton (1971), whose lectures were particularly engaging for the lower year groups.

In Lent term we invited the President of Clay Mathematical Institute, Professor Martin Bridson, from Oxford to deliver a pre-dinner lecture and address. He gave a talk, based on his own research, about how essential curiosity is to mathematicians. Professor Bridson also emphasised the pride and honour of doing mathematics: 'Once a mathematician, always a mathematician.' 

Franklin Shiyi Wang, President

Classics Society




Classics Society talk by Peter Stothard

The St John's Classics Society has had another great year of talks and events.

In Michaelmas term we were pleased to host Sophie Odenthal for a careers talk on Classics and public policy. It was attended by people from across the faculty, and we had an interesting discussion at the end about all the skills we gain from studying Classics.

In Lent term we were honoured to host Peter Stothard, former Editor of *The Times* (1992–2002) and author of many books on Classics. We heard about his life in journalism, particularly about how Classics cropped up in interesting places during the Thatcher and Major years, and we discussed the interesting ways of making Classics relevant to people today.

The annual Classics Society Dessert was a triumph again. The Wordsworth Room was buzzing with classicists of all generations, warmed by lots of cheese and wine. It was as enjoyable as ever to hear the anecdotes of the Fellows and be reminded of the strength of Johnian Classics. This year we also held the inaugural Classics Garden Party in May Week. Classics, Philosophy, Theology, Archaeology, ASNC and History of Art undergraduates were all invited for an afternoon of Pimm's and nibbles, which we hope will prove to be the first of many Classics Garden Parties. 

Ned Chatterton, President

Economics Society




In the 2023/24 academic year, the St John's College Economics Society arranged its traditional calendar of events. The committee this year was led by President Sarah Ouyang, Junior Treasurer John Chang and Senior Treasurer Dr Petra Geraats.

In March the Annual SJC Economics Society Black Tie Dinner was hosted in the Senior Combination Room of St John's College. Special guest Dr Antonis Ragkousis, the Joan Robinson Research Fellow from Girton College, delivered an end-of-dinner speech on the philosophical origins of economics and the roots of neoclassical economics.

In May the society partnered with the educational charity Prometheus on Campus,

as well as Trinity College Economics Society, to host an interactive and interdisciplinary event featuring a panel of speakers, an interactive audience discussion and refreshments from Harvey's Coffee House. Speakers included Barbara Kolm, former Vice-President of the Austrian National Bank, and Dr Eamonn Butler, Director of the Adam Smith Institute.

In June the society hosted its annual Garden Party as a joint event with the Winfield Society, the law society at St John's College. 

Sarah Ouyang, President

History Society



History Society Co-Presidents after the Sidney Sussex Formal

This year the History Society put on a variety of events in order to promote History within St John's. In summer 2023 Ben and Mary hosted the History Society Summer Garden Party, held in the Fellows' Garden, to celebrate a year of hard work for Johnian historians. It was a fitting end-of-year event for the society and a great chance to bring everyone together one last time before the Long Vacation.

The Society hosted a 'swap' with the Sidney Sussex History Society, Confraternitas Historica. Dr Jean-Michel Johnston gave an enlightening talk titled 'Broken Empires, Contested States: Europe's Unfinished Nineteenth Century'. Dr Johnston's talk was engaging and hugely informative and provided a great opportunity for Johnian historians and non-historians alike to learn more about this pertinent period in history.

Afterwards, we attended a fantastic formal at Sidney Sussex, who did a brilliant job of hosting. It was a successful evening and a great chance to broaden the remit of the society to inter-collegiate events.

In April we had the History Society Annual Dinner, with guest speaker Dr Magnus Ryan (1985) giving an interesting talk titled 'Finding a Beginning'. He discussed the extensive possibilities of history and how, while they might seem daunting and overwhelming, there is extensive freedom to be had in delving into the subject. The dinner was a fantastic opportunity to bring together Johnian historians and faculty in celebration of the subject. 🍷

**Mary Brown and Ben Cooper,
Co-Presidents**

Johnian Entrepreneurs



The Johnian Entrepreneurs' Club (JEC) has held multiple events and collaborations with the University Entrepreneurs (CUE) and the Technology and Enterprise Club (CUTEC) this academic year. The President, Olivia Dovernor, has been working hard to establish key cross-university connections and hopes the next President will continue this.

One of our newest connections – introduced to us by David Bailey (1969), a member of the Johnian Society – is the Trinity Postdoctoral Society. Trinity invited our President to speak about entrepreneurship within the College and kindly hosted eight JEC members at their Christmas formal. There we learned about the academic and industrial advancements of their research between the joyous Christmas carols. Following on at the bar, most conversations centred on STEM-based entrepreneurship, although we also talked about sales and

marketing. It was a memorable night full of joy, delicious food and great company.

Although Trinity's food was a contender, the highlight of the year was the first event in the Co-Founder Matchmaking Series that we hosted with CUE and CUTEC in February 2024. We welcomed more than 150 participants, with 20 founders (including 2 of our own) pitching for teams. The pitches were delivered by a wide range of start-ups, and the evening closed with opportunities to network, pitch new ideas to the audience and connect with students with entrepreneurial aspirations.

Our final event of the summer was an 'Entrepreneurship get-together' in June, to which we invited the Johnian Society and alumni involved in business and entrepreneurship. 

Olivia Dovernor, President

Lady Margaret Players

The Lady Margaret Players enjoyed a varied and exciting year, continuing to be a major player in the Cambridge theatre scene. A successful Scratch Night, featuring a range of comedians from across the University, kickstarted the year and certainly brought some brightness to the rainy Michaelmas term.

Throughout the year we continued to fund a wide range of student shows across Cambridge. From the comedic *The Complete Works of Shakespeare* and *Britfoot*, to the more thoughtful *Swear it on His Graves* and *It's You or Me*, and many more, we have been proud to support some excellent student-run plays. Additionally, we renewed our annual Fringe Fund, offering bursaries to students involved in any show at the Edinburgh Fringe, or any of the other fringe festivals over the summer, and we are proud to say that this has benefited five groups so far.

Looking ahead to next year, we have some exciting projects planned, including the return of the annual pantomime and the production of a play written by a Cambridge student in the 1950s. We especially look forward to seeing more students get involved with the dramatic arts and the new productions that emerge. 🎭

Joanna Burgess, President



Larmor Society



Annual Larmor Society Dinner

Our year is below summarised, in longstanding Larmor tradition, through adapted poetry (taken from Wordsworth's 'The Prelude' – *Book III*). We are grateful for Sir Roger Penrose's (1952) consciousness lecture, for which seats were fully booked within five minutes. This year saw the most contested election since time immemorial, with one role attracting six applicants and won by only a few votes. The Annual Dinner, at which the committee roles were handed over, filled the Senior Combination Room with candlelight, wine and conversation:

The terms went roundly on
 With formal swaps, suppers, wine and drink,
 Smooth bookkeeping within, and all without
 Indulgent, and suiting a Natsci's array.
 The freshers, poor simple school-children, now hung round
 With problem sheets and pKas: in New Court
 Their new family, revellers and philosophers,
 Hailed them with lifted glass; In Winter
 Of Sir Roger, of the Divinity School
 All studded round, as thick as chairs could stand,
 With loyal neeks faithful to their Ankis,
 Panopto layabouts, wannabe Mathmos,
 And honest dunces—of important days,
 The Election, when the Natsci is weighed
 As in a balance! of false promises,
 Treachery withal and campaign flyers,
 Close contest, and triumphs good or bad,
 Such glory was much sought by us,
 And much won.

We would like to thank the last committee for the enthusiasm of the members, and Professor Amanda Sferuzzi-Perri and Dr Paul Wood for all their support throughout the year. We look forward to the year to come. 🍷

**Alice Monksfield and
 Ryan Vowles, Co-Presidents**

Glossary:

pKa = a number that describes the acidity of a molecule
neek = hard worker – portmanteau of nerd and geek
Anki = flashcard revision software and the cards themselves
Panopto = lecture-recording software
Mathmo = a maths student

Linguistics Society



This year the Linguistics Society held a range of exciting events and schemes. We expanded our committee, welcoming a secretary to raise our engagement with non-linguists interested in the subject. With this came the establishment of our Instagram page, where we advertise upcoming events and share news that is relevant to the discipline.

In November we invited outgoing President and current PhD candidate Núria Bosch to present a talk on her MPhil thesis investigating children's acquisition of syntax. This fascinating talk introduced members to cutting-edge research and was followed by a Q&A session on Núria's experience of postgraduate study so far. We'd like to thank Núria for her brilliant presentation and for all she has done for the society. LingSoc celebrated the festive season by decorating a Christmas Syntax

Tree – a sparkling model of sentence structure, complete with baubles representing nouns, verbs and grammatical elements. This was the centrepiece of our end-of-term pub crawl.

In Lent term we held a start-of-term social, attended by none other than the Chomsky-pillar: an edible, insect-shaped homage to famous linguist Noam Chomsky. Towards the end of the year, LingSoc hosted a series of group revision sessions, where linguists of all year groups came together to prepare for upcoming exams, sharing tips and notes.

It has been a pleasure to preside over our small but mighty society this year, and to demonstrate what the study of Linguistics has to offer to our fellow Johnians. 🐞

Oliver Cooney, President

Medical Society



St John's College Medical Society is proud to have successfully achieved and exceeded its aims of facilitating academic, social and welfare support and enrichment throughout the year. The pinnacle was undoubtedly the Annual Lecture and Dinner, with the talk delivered by the former CEO of NICE and President-elect of the Royal Society of Medicine, Professor Gillian Leng. This followed on beautifully from the College's Linacre Lecture, delivered by Professor Charles Swanton, Deputy Clinical Director of The Francis Crick Institute, whom the committee had the pleasure of hosting for the annual Linacre Dinner. These events marked the culmination of a successful academic year, which included opportunities ranging from Part II subject advice to introductory sessions for the freshers in Michaelmas term.

Our welfare initiatives, such as therapy dog visits and cake decorating sessions, were

highly praised and provided much-needed breaks during Week 5. Our social calendar was diverse, featuring events like a Bridgemas celebration and inter-collegiate swaps with the medical societies from Emmanuel College, with whom we went bowling, and formals with those from Gonville & Caius and Downing College. Finally, we were able to extend beyond the society itself: Arnav (Co-President) and Aimée (Secretary) delivered, on behalf of the society, a Medicine-specific summer outreach series to prospective state-school applicants, which saw approximately 150 sign-ups per talk. Building on this year's successes, the society aims to sustain its momentum and deliver bigger and better initiatives in the upcoming year. 🍷

**Amy Cooper and Arnav Sharma,
Co-Presidents**

Music Society



This year the St John's College Music Society has been filled with incredible musical experiences. We enjoyed a year full of fabulous lunchtime concerts that have showcased the immense talent within our community. We also hosted three major orchestral concerts in the Chapel, featuring pieces such as Bach's *Mass in B Minor*, Rimsky-Korsakov's *Capriccio Espagnol*, and Mozart's *Symphony No. 41*. One of these concerts was a unique multimedia event that combined live drawing with musical performance, creating an unforgettable artistic experience. Additionally, our Chapel Lates continued to thrive, including choral music, an a cappella group, jazz and chamber music.

A significant new addition this year was the Evening Soloists Concert, held in the Old Divinity School, providing a platform for individual performers to shine. Also

new this year, we introduced fun events in the Bar, including lively karaoke nights, live music performances, and even a music quiz night, adding a new dimension to our social calendar. In Lent term we were delighted to welcome American soprano Claire Fedoruk and British pianist Ian Pace for a concert titled 'Music of the Wars and Pandemic' in the Old Divinity School. Following this, they conducted a composition workshop featuring works by three talented Johnian students.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to everyone who attended our events and to our brilliant and hardworking student committee. Your support and dedication have made this year truly special. We look forward to seeing you at our future events, which remain free for College members and open to the public! 🎵

Juliette Richards, President

Palmerston Society


The past academic year has been a brilliant one for the Palmerston Society, one of St John's largest societies. Within the walls of this great College, we fostered our interests in politics through amiable (although sometimes gritty) conversations, nurtured our friendships and welcomed a new cohort of freshers.

First, we minimised the divide between students and academics at our Garden Party, held jointly with the History Society.



Dozens of Politics and History students attended a Pimm's-fuelled gathering in the Fellows' Garden with our amazing supervisors and tutors. Members of the University's wonderful Jazz Band provided musical entertainment, which really tied the event together!

We held Freshers' Midterm Drinks in Michaelmas for the incoming freshers. Older students offered the freshers academic advice, as well as general tips to make the most of their experience at St John's. The blending of year groups was truly great to witness!

However, the best event of all was the Palmerston Society's Annual Dinner in Lent term. The Rt. Hon Adam Holloway MP joined us for a splendid four-course meal in the Senior Combination Room, prepared and served by the College's amazing catering team! Both stern and humorous political conversations took place between our guest and members of the society. The event finished with us handing over the presidency to Caitlin and Zoe, our brilliant successors. We wish them luck. And great thanks are due to the membership for making this year a memorable one! 


Armand de Lambilly and Louis Marc, Co-Presidents

Parsons Society



The Parsons Society had another successful year. The society exists to provide opportunities for St John's Engineering students to socialise and to further their understanding of Engineering. This year the society pursued its aims at champagne receptions, talks, dinner, the annual 'Dessert' and a dinner with the Trinity Engineering Society (who owe us a return dinner after their college hall's roof fell in – *fiat justitia ruat tectum*).

The most popular event of the year was the Parsons Dinner. Held in the Senior

Combination Room, it was the best attended in living memory, and arguably the most lavish. It was followed by an evening in the College Bar, for which the society generously paid the tab. The May Week Garden Party (organised jointly with the Natural Scientists and Mathematicians) was another notable success: the Parsons Society won the croquet competition by a tactical application of careful angles and strategic forces. 

Dom Harrington, President

Philosophy Society


Whether an academic talk or a discussion in the bar, the Philosophy Society (SJPS) has hosted a variety of events this year. We covered many areas of philosophy, from ethics to metaphysics, and co-hosted events with other subject societies such as the Classics Society.

This year we were fortunate to welcome two prominent philosophers, Gabrielle Johnson and Anna Alexandrova, as our academic speakers. Dr Johnson teased our minds with questions about machine learning programmes and the use of proxies for socially sensitive attributes, while Professor Alexandrova investigated the use of ‘thick concepts’ in science. Both talks were followed by active discussions.

Moreover, in keeping with our aim of widening access to Philosophy, we hosted two more student-led events. The first was on the nature of love, given by me, the SJPS President, while the second was on pragmatism and moral objectivity, given by the SJPS Secretary, Theo Langslow. In the future we hope to welcome students from outside the committee to lead discussions on their topics of interest.

Our social events were of great variety this year. From discussions at the College Bar to garden parties with other humanities and arts students, we capitalised on many opportunities to create a social space for Johnian philosophers.

A notable accomplishment this year was the release of the first-ever SJPS merchandise. And, to celebrate, we hosted a mini-competition, giving away an SJPS hoodie to one lucky winner.

Having had a remarkably successful first year, we look forward to hosting many more events in the future and growing the society evermore. 

Gerard Kornacki, President

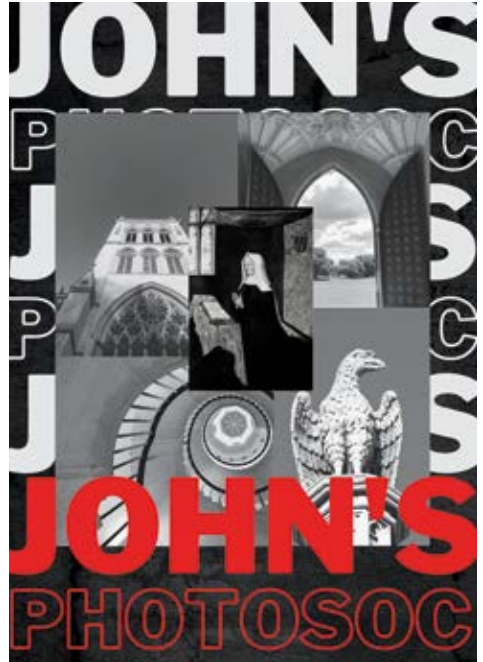
Photographic Society

The College darkroom has been developing Johnian memories for generations. We are excited to be reviving it and sharing film photography with a new generation. Our facilities include all of the necessary materials to develop film from scratch, free of charge. We are thrilled to see more members of the College take up this lost art and experience the joy of developing film.

Our committee is made up of passionate individuals who are dedicated to providing a space for photographers of all levels to come together and share their love of the art.

This year we held our first annual St John's PhotoSoc Competition. We received twenty-four entries. It was amazing to see so many College members pick up a camera and to see College through their eyes. We gave away six film photography bundles to the winners, encouraging the use of different photography mediums. We have also built a presence for this new society through regular features in bulletins and established a social media presence.

Our ultimate aim is to make film photography accessible to all College members. I am very grateful that we have been able to keep the darkroom open and well stocked in order to do this. Photography is often prohibitively expensive for individuals, so reviving the College darkroom is a legacy that we are very proud of.



Keep up to date with us @johnsphotosoc on Instagram and get in touch if you would like to use the darkroom. Thank you for your support! 🐦

Imogen Arden-Jones, President

Poetry Society

The 2023/24 academic year saw the St John's Poetry Society return for a second year. The society met regularly to read, share and discuss poetry that members had read or written. These meetings usually take the form of responding to a theme: a particular topic or idea is chosen in advance and everyone is invited to bring along a piece of poetry or literature that relates to that theme in some way. For example, in one session we spoke about the theme 'artistic intersections', thinking about how poetry and literature relate to other forms of art, particularly visual art (through ekphrasis, for example) and music (through the close link between lyrical poetry and song). In another session we focused on the theme of translation.


We looked at some poetry in foreign languages, alongside translations, to think about the benefits and limitations of translating poetry. In particular, we discussed how a translator of poetry must navigate between the preservation of form and content in order to retain a sense of overall meaning, speculating about what it means for a translation to be 'faithful'. We also took a look at a language aptitude test, trying to decipher an imaginary language to further our knowledge of linguistic patterns, independent from proficiency in a specific language. We hope to continue the society next year and invite all new members to join and share in the appreciation of poetry. 🎨

Francesca Bentley, President

Punt Society

The St John's Punt Society has worked alongside College staff, especially our wonderful Porters, to provide the opportunity for the College community to enjoy the river we are lucky enough to have on our doorstep. With our new committee leading the way, the society is now one of the largest in College. Many have enjoyed the recent introduction of night punting. Students have reported seeing a host of wildlife from the river – most prominently, many, many bats. For such punting adventures, one must be equipped with the appropriate outerwear, and the recent release of Punt Society merchandise has come in handy! It is fantastic to see so many members proudly wearing their Punt Society 'stash': fleeces, joggers, shoes and hats, to name a few.

Thanks to our Treasurer Will, we have also updated our old booking system to a new online version, which has been successful so far. Moreover, thanks to the generous Annual Fund, we are now looking to add additional punts to our fleet. In doing so, we hope we will be able to provide punting to all those who desire it!

Looking ahead, we are hoping to work collaboratively with the Music Society to host a 'Jazz from the punts' event, and we will also continue to support various access initiatives where prospective students can try their hand at punting. Our first port of call, however, will be attending the Freshers' Society Fair in October 2024, hoping to welcome our next batch of punting-passionate undergraduates. 

Alexandra Shepherd, President

St John's Voices

The Michaelmas term began confidently with a performance of a short work by the Russian composer Nikolai Golovanov at the Matriculation Dinner. The regular pattern of evensongs began soon afterwards, culminating in the ever-popular Christmas Carol service, which starts by candlelight with a solo soprano singing 'Once in Royal David's City'. At the end of the term, we joined forces again with the London Mozart Players, performing Mozart's *Requiem* to a full Chapel. As always for our performances, the soloists were drawn from the choir.

The Lent term focused on the music of Golovanov and his friend Rachmaninov, as we prepared for recording. Despite some difficulties, this exciting project came to fruition in late March, and it produced

some of the most beautifully spell-binding singing I have ever heard. The College has taken the decision to close the choir at the end of the academic year, and that decision gave a certain focus to our music in the Easter term: many old favourites were being performed throughout the term, and we ended with Handel's *Messiah*, the first major work we ever performed.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincerest thanks to all the members of the choir, past and present, and to those members of the College community who have shown us such support over the years, but especially in recent months. It's been an enormous privilege to work with this amazing choir. 🎭

Graham Walker, Director et al.



Wilkes Society



At the start of the year we held a resoundingly successful board-games night, at which our fellow students tried their hand at social deception and manipulation, ironically building more trust than ever before. Despite struggling to decipher the game manuals, vibing to miscellaneous playlists and devouring one too many pizzas, we would like to think they enjoyed each other's company.

In Lent term the society opened its doors to Computer Science students from all year groups, inviting them to the annual dinner, which was held at Peterhouse. Dinner was

accompanied by our handpicked stress toys, intended to ease pre-exam nerves, although many students amusingly mistook them for edible appetisers (no harm was caused).

Looking ahead, we are excited about another year of entertaining and enriching events. We would like to continue our tradition of organising activities that bring our members together, foster learning and create lasting memories. Thanks are due to everyone who participated and contributed to making this year a blast. 🍀

Carol Khor, President

Winfield Society



The Winfield Society is the student-run law society of St John's College, led by Co-Presidents Bernice Cheung and Samson Chan. We aim to foster a closer legal community within St John's and support both Law and non-Law students interested in a legal career. The 2023/24 academic year was a record year for our society, with a range of social and career events for members that also engaged our vast alumni network. As always, the highlight of our year was the annual four-course, black-tie Winfield Dinner attended by students, Fellows, alumni and guest speaker Lady Rose of Colmworth (Supreme Court Judge). This year we also arranged a visit and tour to the Supreme Court in London, workshops and networking events with various magic and silver circle law firms.

We invited prestigious speakers, including Annabel Darlow KC (1988), the first Johnian

woman to become King's Counsel, and a legal careers panel with alumni including private, public and criminal barristers, solicitors and in-house counsel. We also hosted a start-of-year social for Law students to meet the incoming freshers and an end-of-year Garden Party.

In terms of mooting, we had an active calendar of intra- and inter-college moots, including with Christ's and Trinity, which was judged by an alumna serving on the Court of Appeal. Participants and members interested in a bar career dined with the judges after the moot and gained valuable insights and advice about life at the bar. This year has been a great success, and we are hopeful the Winfield Society will continue to grow and thrive. 🍷

**Bernice Cheung and Samson Chan,
Co-Presidents**

Athletics



This year has been remarkable for our club, showcasing exceptional performances, dedication and sportsmanship across various competitions. Our members have excelled in diverse athletic disciplines, achieving significant milestones and bringing pride to our club.

We are thrilled to announce that our men's team emerged victorious in the prestigious Cupper's competition. This triumph is a testament to the hard work, strategic planning and relentless training put forth by our athletes and coaching staff.

Our club has maintained a formidable presence in the Athletics Varsity, with several standout performances that have set new


benchmarks and garnered accolades. Ikechi Mere's exceptional skills in the discus throw were on full display as he clinched the top position. Satoki Shimamune has had an extraordinary year, achieving remarkable feats in sprinting events. He played a crucial role in our team's success in the 4x100m relay, displaying unmatched speed and co-ordination. Additionally, Satoki's personal best of 11.16 seconds in the 100m earned him the title of the third-fastest person in Oxbridge. Clare Flory has made significant strides in the high jump, marking a new personal best that meets the Half Blue standard. 

Satoki Shimamune, Men's Captain
Annabel Poon, Women's Captain

Badminton

This year the College Badminton team has become a stronger community, with members going from strength to strength. Semi-formal training sessions held in the Palmerston Room every Wednesday have been a contributing factor, and it has been a gratifying experience to see players improve over the year.

With a stronger sense of team spirit, there seems to have been an increased interest in the club. Occasional impromptu social events are well attended, with members enjoying their time off the court just as much as on. Having a welcoming environment will be especially important in the new academic year, where new members will hopefully feel comfortable enough to join the society.

The club has a strong core of university-level players, with four of us representing the University's main squads. This helped the College team put together a successful Cupper's run, where we were able to vanquish other strong college teams like Robinson's, before we lost to the eventual champions of the competition, Clare Hall/Wolfson. Hopefully, next year with the help of new members we can go on to win the competition. 

Alex Lewis, Captain

Basketball



Following on from last year, the St John's Yales Basketball Club started in the 3rd division of the inter-collegiate basketball league, with the first game against the Queens'/Fitzwilliam team. Starting the season with a Johnian victory, morale was high for the remainder of the term. Not a single team stood in our way, with even Balliol's team performing a 'no-show' at the Oxford sports day to avoid an embarrassing defeat. Bringing an end to Michaelmas term, we defeated Lucy Cavendish with an intense one-point difference to remain undefeated and gain a division promotion.

We made sure to show everyone that we deserved our spot in Division 2 by beating Jesus, Corpus/Sidney and Hughes Hall in quick succession, ultimately being promoted to Division 1. With a potential double ace ahead, we clashed against

Robinson for the top spot; however, this resulted in the untimely end of our winning streak.

Finishing the season with Cuppers, in the first game we were matched against our old rivals from Division 3 – Lucy Cavendish. Although we had no subs against their fifteen, after going neck and neck and forcing the game into extra time, John's managed to snag the victory with Alexis' 'buzzer beater'! A memory none of us will forget.

Unfortunately, Girton proceeded to knock us out of the tournament, putting an end to what has proven to be a year the whole team can look back on with pride. I cannot wait to continue the legacy of the club next year. 🐉

Alexei German and Samuel Seyoum, Co-Captains

Cricket

It is with considerable pride that I reflect on our season. Our campaign in Cuppers was commendable, with both triumphs and a nail-biting near miss keeping us on our toes.


Our victories began with a win over Christ's College, where highlights included a strong 50 not out by Ben Craig and a bowling attack and 5-wicket haul from George Chadney. We enjoyed a walkover win against Girton College, fielding eleven players for St John's and incredibly another seven for an underprepared opposition! In classic Johnian style, all eighteen players participated competitively and energetically.

Subsequently, we faced the Trinity College side, who boasted a number of Blues and University players. In an intensely competitive contest, we narrowly lost despite an admirable 77 undefeated red-ink partnership by Alfie Beckett and Joseph Meisner. Eager to bounce back, we secured a convincing victory against St Edmund's. These performances propelled us into the Cuppers quarter-finals.

Since COVID, we have also enjoyed post-game drinks, team curries and sports swaps. This has fostered team spirit, creating a cohesive group of friends and enhancing collaboration on the field.

Finally, with the help of a kind alumni donation and our skilled Head Groundsman Keith Ellis, we invested in a state-of-the-art bowling machine, two top-quality bats and new playing kit.

We aim to make cricket accessible and enjoyable for all Johnian students, encouraging participation at a high level and as a recreational break from exam stress.

It has been a privilege to captain SJCCC this year, and I would like to thank the players, supporters and Keith for their dedication to the club and an excellent season. 

Nikhil Gour, Captain


Eagles and Flamingos



The year started with a dinner in Hall, followed by drinks at an inferior club over the road, The Hawks' Club. The highlight of the social calendar was undoubtedly the Annual Dinner in the Combination Room, with a record number of members attending. This meant that for room cricket the batting order was a little longer than usual, and the Old Music Room was almost at bursting point with fielders. Both clubs had good innings, but the tail enders, The Master and Dr Harvey, sealed the victory for the Flamingos. In Easter term a lunch was held in the Wordsworth Room and many Eagles and Flamingos flocked to Colours Dinner for another record turnout. The year was rounded off with our Garden Party, where the new club blazers were proudly worn.

There have been many great achievements by Eagles and Flamingos this year, as they

continue to be the very best sportspeople of the College. Some highlights include the following; Eagle Mere adding to his Athletics Blue with a Rugby Union Blue; Flamingos Matthews and King and Eagle Marsh earning their first Openweight Rowing Blues and winning their Boat Races; Eagle Bligh captaining the Sailing Club to win the Team Racing Championship; and Flamingo Angwin winning countless cycling competitions while being President of the Cycling Club.

The Eagles and Flamingos have also continued to champion College sport this year. Despite some unfortunate Cuppers results, the College clubs are in good health, thanks to our committed captains and passionate players. 

Jenny Dunstan, Flamingos President
Ben Foster, Eagles President


Men's 1st Football



SJCAFC 1st Football team had a successful season this year, finishing second in Division 1 with 12 points (4 wins and 2 losses). With several of the squad graduating this year, including last year's Captain and Vice-Captain, Lucca Pereira Martins and Matthew Ball, the club pushed hard. After a tough start to the season, we bounced back in Lent term, winning every game.

During Cuppers we beat the favourite, Fitzwilliam, in the semi-finals 5-3 to advance to the final. Unfortunately, we fell just short against a deserving St Catharine's College, losing on penalties. Despite this disappointment, it has been a very successful season, with Vice-Captain, Elliot Karaalp, providing twenty goals and assists. The team also had several triumphs over top-division sides, notably an 8-1 victory over Pembroke and a 5-0 win against Jesus.


After being voted 'Captain's Player' last season, Yiannis Katsos once again demonstrated his commitment to the club and was this season's 'Players' Player of the Season.' Jai Bannister initially excelled in the 2nd team before being promoted to the 1st team, where he made invaluable contributions and won 'Captain's Player of the Season.'

Socially, the club has thrived, with traditional matches against the Old Boys and Old Old Boys continuing, as well as the longstanding friendly match against the Liverpool Ramblers. After plenty of social events and dinners, a sensational season ends, and we are in no doubt that the club is in good hands with newly elected SJCAFC Club and 1st-team Captain Aineias Arango. 

Benedict Pearce, Captain

Men's 2nd Football

A slow start to the season saw us narrowly lose our first two league matches and exit the Cup at the hands of Jesus' 2nd team in a tight match. This might have reflected a lack of cohesion at the start of the academic year, but once the squad gelled we embarked on a five-match unbeaten run. This commenced with a hard-fought (literally, at points) 1-1 draw with Corpus Christi's 1st team, thanks to a wonderful volley to equalise from Calum Ramsden. The 2nd team at our Oxford sister college, Balliol, allowed half our team to make the scoresheet, as we comfortably turned them over for the third year running, 8-2 this time. We finished Michaelmas term with a 3-2 victory over St Catharine's' 2nd team, courtesy of a last-minute free-kick winner from Ben Conway.

Lent term started with an impressive 1-1 draw with Christ's' 1st team, and continued with our first (and only) clean sheet of the season in a 3-0 away win over Fitzwilliam's 2nd team, utilising our ability at set pieces and their inability to defend them. A defeat to Clare's 1st team ended this run and our season, after which awards were given to Jai Bannister (Players' Player) and Ed Brewer (Captain's Player) for their exemplary defensive performances and commitment to the team. Co-Captains Ben and Ben are confident that the team will continue to succeed under the leadership of 2024/25 Co-Captains Lion Malhamoub and Matteo Amar. 

**Ben Herring and Ben Conway,
Co-Captains**

Men's 3rd Football



The St John's 3rd Football team experienced a full spectrum of results this year, while propping up the Cambridge University Football League pyramid in Division 6. Most notably, the team won two comprehensive victories against freshly relegated Christ's College 2nd team, both in the league and a friendly match. Along with the (relatively) consistent matchday turnouts and a successful fresher recruitment drive, these results were the highlights of the team's year.

Despite these successes, the team also experienced some bitter losses: a beating from the newly formed Islamic Society team (whose roster involved a few 1st team College players), a disappointing defeat against Fitzwilliam's 3rd team, as well as a trio of losses against the strong Jesus College 3rd team. It must be noted that as the season progressed and the team spirit grew, the third Jesus match was fought valiantly, and our defence managed to

keep their prolific striker away from the scoresheet for most of the game.

Victories were also achieved against Abbey College and Medsoc, neither of whom showed up, and we were awarded three points.

Off the field the team took part in numerous weekend kick-arounds, as well as a mixed team social with the John's/King's Girls' team at Tortilla and the Baron of Beef.

Following a season of ups and downs, one thing remains clear – the team's resilience and passion for the beautiful game should stand us in good stead for seasons to come, when we will continue to pursue 6th division glory. 🍀

Joseph Morris and James Wilbourne, Co-Captains

SBR Football



The 2023/24 season has been another fantastic one for the SBR Football team. We welcomed some new faces into the team and adjusted our playing system to achieve a more balanced structure on the pitch. These changes meant that it took time to settle into our first few games, but we began to see signs of quality that would become constant. After these games we went undefeated in the league, recording 5-3 and 6-1 wins against St Edmund's and Anglia FC, respectively, ultimately finishing second. Looking back on this run, it is just unfortunate that we played the league winners so early in the season – one loss is all it takes for the title to slip away in the MCR League.

Our run to the MCR Cup Final was testament to our growth as a team

throughout the year, navigating the early knockout stages with relative ease. In the final we gave an incredible account of ourselves in a very even game against league-winners Cambridge Assessment, just coming up short to a last-gasp goal. While this result was painful for everyone involved, I could not be prouder of the team's performance. The team has shown incredible belief in themselves all year, combining an inclusive atmosphere with an insatiable desire to win – fully embodying the spirit of sport at St John's. It has been the greatest honour of my time at St John's to captain the team over the last two years, and I cannot wait to see where the team goes in the future. 🦅

James Clark, Captain

Mixed Hockey



This year we fielded four teams, more than any other college! We won the Michaelmas League and continued our dominance into Lent term, retaining our Division 1 title. Our 3rd and 4th teams were impressive, demonstrating the impact of our training on beginners. Thanks are due to George Hogg, Max Pullinger and Caitlin Kinch, who led and encouraged these teams. We were also lucky to have several College hockey veterans, including Bilal Qureshi, Ben Foster, Hannah Lowrie, Ben Craig and Kubs Murugesu, whose skill and experience were invaluable.


We fielded three Cuppers teams, allowing fifty of our sixty members to compete. Our 2nd and 3rd XVIs had an unfortunate first round against Trin/Fitz and Robinson/Lucy Cav/Corpus/Peterhouse. However, our 1st XVI sought revenge with a 18-0 defeat of Downing/Churchill. In the quarter-finals our 1st

team unfortunately lost 2-1 to St Catharine's/St Edmund's, who went on to win the tournament.

Eight players and one team manager represented Cambridge in the Varsity matches at BDotY.

The Mags and Mogs enjoyed the Annual General Meeting, where seven esquires and twelve mice graduated to Mog/Magship. The introduction of new Boonies allowed the Mags to join the Mogs in sporting elaborate headwear. Further highlights included Magmas, Old Mogs and Colours Dinner.

We held the inaugural SJCHC Movember charity tournament, raising more than £300 and concluding a (somewhat) successful month of moustache growing.

We look forward to handing over to Tabitha McCulloch, President-elect; Aarav Shah, Men's Captain-elect; and Scarly Knight, Women's Captain-elect. Thanks are due to Keith Ellis, Head Groundsman, the committee, who supported us tirelessly, and alumnus Mark Wells (1981) for his support. 

Will Gibbens, President
Alex Clarke, Men's Captain
Charlotte Cotterell,
Women's Captain

Mountaineering



Mountaineering Club at Colours Dinner

The St John's College Mountaineering Club had a very successful year, with the team placing third in the Michaelmas Cuppers and winning the Lent competition! We've had some strong individual performances, both in Cuppers and at University level, especially from the women in the club – with St John's women Jade Westfoot, Rosa Muller

and Izzy Gardner taking all three podium places in the Lent Cuppers. They also competed for the University, with Jade and Rosa both obtaining Half Blues for their performances at BUCS, and contributing to the Varsity win against Oxford. 🏆

Jade Westfoot, Captain

Women's Netball



Women's 1st Netball team at Cuppers

The 2023/24 season had its ups and downs, but it started well with lots of new members, ranging from complete beginners to experienced university-level players.

Although it was sometimes difficult to fit netball into busy schedules, we successfully fielded two teams throughout Michaelmas and Lent terms. Michaelmas got off to a good start following the Fresher's Sports and Societies Fair, where over fifty people expressed interest. Following a fun training session at the start of the year, the 1st and 2nd teams started their weekly matches strongly. The term's highlight was our trip to Balliol, our sister college in Oxford, where we emerged victorious following an intense and competitive game.

After a lot of cancelled games due to poor weather, the sun shone down on us for the

group stages of the Cuppers tournament. We had a good turnout from our 2nd team. Although they didn't make it to the finals, they finished third in their division overall. Our 1st team won their group stage, progressing to the finals. Having won 14-1 over Downing in the quarter-finals, they unfortunately lost an extremely tight game against Emmanuel, who went on to win the tournament. We are very proud of how the girls performed and came together as a team. The season finished with the annual Colours Hall, at which we awarded six netballers colours for their great commitment and performance throughout the season. We are very excited to see where the next year takes St John's Women's Netball team! 🏆

Orlane Vanmarcke and Sophie Denny, Co-Presidents

Pool



St John's College Pool Club saw some interesting matches this year, winning their first-ever match in the 3rd division of the College Pool League with a score of 6-3 against Emmanuel College's 1st team. Sadly, this was followed by a loss against the Trinity College 1st team, 7-2 to Trinity. The team also played matches against Robinson's 4th team, Girton's 1st team and Cambridge University Women's team.

While the fixtures of the league were being set, St John's College Pool Club managed to organise a few friendly matches against St Catharine's College Pool Club following matches in the league against them last year. The club looks forward to future matches. 🎱

Priyanka Gopalkaje, Captain

Rugby



The Redboys began the 2023/24 season with the inter-collegiate touch tournament, where an experienced core bolstered by a strong fresher cohort ensured a decisive victory. Spurred on by our recent domination of the league and Cuppers alike, we set out to defend our titles and extend the mounting unbeaten streak.

Before Christmas we had comfortable wins in all eight fixtures, albeit with hard-fought wins against Queens'/Jesus and Robinson testing our resolve. Our success was testament to our squad's depth; plagued by injury and competing as one of only two single-college teams, we emerged on top. Our Cuppers campaign started strong, triumphing over Downing/Caius.

Following training on the slopes of Tignes, we returned eager to emulate the success of Michaelmas. A 29-0 victory over Fitz/Sidney

helped us to defend the league title, while Mere, Allinson, Gour, du Roy de Blicquy, Gibbons and Cooke all contributed to CURUC's clean sweep of Varsity wins. The Redboys concluded Lent term with an unbeaten streak of thirty-seven wins over two years, one month and nine days, a commendable feat.

Unfortunately, this couldn't last, and our loss against Jesus in the Cuppers semi-final dashed hopes of winning for a third year running. Undeterred, the garçons rallied, beating Fitz/Sidney to claim the plate and wrap up an overwhelmingly successful year.

It has been a privilege to captain the Redboys, and I would like to thank all the players for their dedication and an excellent season. Next year we hope to defend our league titles and reclaim the Cuppers trophy. *Ad gladium.* 🏉

Finn Dawson, Captain

Squash

A new generation of squash players represented the sport at College level this year, with several individuals looking to represent the sport at University level next year. After celebrating a league win last year, the team got off to a strong start once more, with strong wins both home and away. Excellent progress has been made with both 1st and 2nd team squad players, who have trained in regular league matches and coaching drills. The 1st team put in an excellent effort in Cuppers, missing the finals by a single point!

With a strong cohort of freshers, the squad is young, and the future of St John's squash looks bright. Next year, we are looking to bring in both social and competitive squash nights, to form a tight-knit community spirit among the squash team and expand our horizons, both on and off the court. We narrowly missed the title spot this year, but with extra training and an ever-expanding team, we endeavour to return next year stronger than ever. 🏸

Dharma Muthalagappan, Captain

Tennis

This academic year has been a standout one for St John's College Tennis Club. Year on year, the club's numbers have grown, with thirty-six members now playing at a team standard and a staggering eighty-four members on our social tennis group chat. This is partly due to our Social Media Officer, Kevin Huang, who has done so well in advertising the club on our Instagram page, [@stjohns_tennis](#).

The standard of our 1st and 2nd teams is demonstrated by our successes in the inter-collegiate tennis league, with both teams winning their divisions (1 and 4 respectively) in both Michaelmas and Lent terms. We train once a week in Michaelmas and Lent, and twice a week in Easter term, with training sessions led by our very own LTA-qualified Armand De Lambilly.

Moving into the summer, as the weather got warmer and the days longer, we had many more social players, for whom our Social Tennis Captain, Annabel Stone, leads sessions weekly. This is always fun, with lots of games and teaching mixed together. At St John's we are extremely lucky to our own grass courts, which many have never played on before. We are grateful to Keith Ellis, the St John's Groundsman, who has contributed greatly to the club by maintaining the courts and helping us to source rackets and balls for tennis training. We are excited for next year, when we hope to continue our winning streak! 🏸

Emilia Murray, Captain

Ultimate Frisbee



Although niche, Ultimate Frisbee is a beginner-friendly, non-contact sport that has attracted many enthusiasts, with several players now training and competing at Blues level. Many courageous freshers have joined the team this year and have had shout-outs on the St John's College Frisbee Instagram account (see [@sjc.ultimaterizzbee](#) for pictures of weekly training, matches and socials!). We encourage people to join us at any point in the year. The team loves a good social, and this year we've had a board-games night, bowling at Tenpin and a Frisbee formal in Hall.

Unfortunately, we remained in Division 2 in the 2023/24 season, but our team chemistry has continually improved, with newer players having significant game time on the

field. Indoor Cuppers at the end of Michaelmas term is always a great day, where every college team gathers in the University Sports Centre from 9am to 4pm to compete in a single-elimination tournament. We sadly fell short of the semi-finals after a close 5-4 loss, but the team celebrated the end of term together. Fortunately, we were able to showcase our strength and our improvement over the year at Outdoor Cuppers, which concluded in Easter term. The St John's College Ultimate Frisbee team has always fought against the odds, and we pride ourselves in being one of the most welcoming sports teams at St John's. 🍷

**Naina Reddy and Jacky Weng,
Co-Captains**

Volleyball



St John's Volleyball Club, in only its second year since official formation, made a significant impact in this year's Cuppers tournament. With roughly forty members, over half of the club represented St John's in the competition, demonstrating the club's rapid growth and competitive spirit.

Fielding two teams, St John's A and St John's 1, the club achieved notable success. St John's A finished in the top sixteen, showcasing their resilience and teamwork. Meanwhile, St John's 1 made club history by finishing fourth, the highest placement ever achieved by the club in the tournament.

This year marked the first time the club benefited from weekly two-hour training sessions, thanks to generous College funding. These sessions were pivotal in developing tactics and greater team cohesion, which translated into the strong tournament performance of both teams.

Looking forward, St John's Volleyball Club will build on this momentum, aiming for even higher achievements in future competitions. 🏐

**Lucy Walker and Anya Rebrova,
Co-Captains**

Lady Margaret Boat Club – Men

After the 2022/23 season, the LMBC's men's side had a lot to live up to this year, and it has done so unquestionably. Beginning with a different roster of seniors from last year, the LMBC has gone from strength to strength, culminating in M1's historic 'Double Headship' achievement!

The focus in Michaelmas was training almost fifty enthusiastic novices. Fairbairns was the culmination of weeks of hard work. The M1 IV and M2 VIIIs finished in 2nd place. With three top ten finishes, NM1 and NM2 placed 9th, while NM3 blazed through to finish 6th in its category. Our annual alumni invitational VIII, the Lady Somerset Boat Club, came in an admirable 12th place in its category, despite the line-up's first outing beginning at the starting gun!

Lent term saw continued success. M1, M2 and M3 remained consistently top of their classes in the Winter Head to Head in January, and in Newnham Head and Pembroke Regatta in February. M2 and M3 dependably outpaced other college M1s and M2s, and M1 won every race it entered.

Despite adverse weather conditions that led to the cancellation of lower divisions in Lent Bumps, M3 did exceedingly well as the only college third boat racing that week, finishing 11th in the 3rd division. M2 maintained its position as highest college second boat, at the top of Division 2. Lent Bumps saw M1 defend its Headship, which it has held since 2020, with a week of comfortable row-overs.



M1



M2

The term was capped off on the Tideway. M1 and M2 competed in the Men's Head of the River and, despite setbacks, finished a respectable 98th and 252nd overall out of 318 boats. Thomas Marsh and Harry Fieldhouse also contributed to the men's Blue Boat and lightweight Blue Boat victories on the Thames – demonstrating the phenomenal Maggie talent represented at CUBC.

At the start of Easter term, the CUCBC Small Boats Regatta saw wins for Turner (1x) and Scuttler-Hughes (2-). During Spring Head to Head and Champs Head, M1 had the fastest overall time in both races. M2 placed 8th in Head to Head and in Champs and was the second-fastest college second crew, while M3 finished 4th in its division.

A highlight of the term for M1 was the Metropolitan Regatta, as it earned a place in

the B Final. M1 finished as 3rd Academic VIII+, and 15th overall, competing among some of the best crews in the country. Meanwhile, on the Cam, M2 finished 2nd at X-Press Head, a mere 4 seconds behind Downing M1. M3 finished 5th in its division.

May Bumps was the crescendo of a year of victories. The LMBC raced a total of nine crews. M1, M2 and M3 were joined by an M4 composed of the Rugby Club, an M5 consisting of sports captains from the Eagles Club, and an M6 Fellows and Staff Boat, resurrecting a tradition and allowing all College members to get involved.

M6 put in a hard shift across the week, unfortunately being bumped by Selwyn M3, Jesus M5 and Sidney Sussex M3 before bumping back on the final day. M5 had a fantastic week, achieving technical blades

with a row-over behind Lucy Cavendish M2 and bumping Magdalene M4, Fitzwilliam M3, our own LMBC M4 and Darwin M2. M4, which did not have to 'Get-On,' was perhaps a victim of its previous success and unfortunately slipped from the 4th to the 5th division.

M3 maintained its position in the 3rd division with a row-over in front of King's M2, being bumped by Caius M3 and Lucy Cavendish M1, and finishing the week with a gutsy row-over in front of Corpus Christi M2. M2 had a phenomenal week. Despite being bumped by Selwyn M1 on the first day, it rowed over in front of Robinson M1 and bumped Queens' M1 and Clare M1. By the end of the campaign, M2 finished 12th on the river.

Finally, in an historic moment, M1 bumped Caius M1 on the first day to reclaim the

Mays Headship title lost in 2019. After three days of comfortable row-overs, the LMBC celebrated Double Headship in Lents and Mays!

The extraordinary successes of the LMBC men's side demonstrate the commitment of its rowers and coxes and the support of our coaches (Pere Gisbert, Jon Rhodes and Rory Clarke), countless other students and alumni, Boatman Lance Badman, and the LMBCA, College and all those who devote their time, energy and passion to the Maggie community. We are grateful and dedicate our victories to them. We hope to continue to make them proud as we head into our 200th anniversary year.

Viva Laeta 🎉

Billie Williams and Theo Langslow, Men's Captains



M3

Crews

May Bumps

M1

Cox: Billie Williams
 Stroke: Theo Langslow
 7: Alex Cooper
 6: Harry Fieldhouse
 5: Freddie Ancliff
 4: Janik Schüttler
 3: Thomas Marsh
 2: Peter Wildemann
 Bow: Rupert Gardiner
 Coach: Pere Gisbert

M2

Cox: Kitty Henderson
 Stroke: Rob Powell
 7: Will Gong
 6: Jago Strong-Wright
 5: Orson Ye
 4: Ethan Findlow
 3: Pavlo Shkuropatskyi
 2: Calum Ramsden
 Bow: Jamie Turner
 Coaches: Jon Rhodes, Paul Wright

M3

Cox: Lewis Bryan
 Stroke: Christianos Burlotos
 7: Harry Gee
 6: Florentin Weibel
 5: Gabriel Bath
 4: Callum Kennedy-Mann
 3: Luke Hamilton
 2: Alexander Corbett
 Bow: Tomas Brown
 Coach: Rory Clarke

M4 (Rugby Club – ‘Redboys’)

Cox: Theo Sadler
 Stroke: James Preece
 7: Dan Van Blerk
 6: Nik Gour
 5: Max Satchell
 4: Tomos Davis
 3: Arnaud du Roy de Blicquy
 2: Ojas Supe
 Bow: Ben Symes
 Coaches: Nordin Catic, Florence Bradshaw,
 Jago Strong-Wright

M5 (Eagles Society)

Cox: Ashley French
 Stroke: Jan Derlatka
 7: Ben Foster
 6: Ikechi Mere
 5: Jack Allison
 4: Freddie McElwain-Johnn
 3: Satoki Shimamune
 2: Lucca Martins
 Bow: Luke Bligh
 Coaches: Rupert Gardiner

M6 (Fellows and Staff Mixed Crew A)

Cox: Herbie Hancock
 Stroke: Alison Cox
 7: Michael Boemo
 6: Austen Lamacroft
 5: Alexander Bird
 4: Rakesh Arul
 3: Vasileios Kotsidis
 2: Laura Volonakis
 Bow: Victoria Harvey
 Coaches: Arnav Sharma, Alex Cooper

Lady Margaret Boat Club – Women



W1

This year has showcased the power and determination of the LMBC women's side. They were consistently among the fastest crews on the river and fielded four novice boats in Michaelmas. Michaelmas saw an influx of novices who started strong, with NW1 and NW2 both reaching the QERGS final. NW1 went on to perform well in Emma Sprints, winning its first race and qualifying for the quarter-final. Unfortunately, bad weather limited training for the lower boats, but nonetheless both NW1 and NW2 rowed competitively in Fairbairns, with NW2 placing 8th in a large division.

Not to be outdone by the novices, the senior women sent boats to Small Boats Head, Autumn Head and Winter Head. The W1 IV+ came 3rd at Autumn Head and an impressive 4th out of 10 at Winter Head. University IVs was a highlight this term, with the W1 IV+ decisively winning three races to reach the final, where it fell to the victorious Jesus boat. To wrap up the term, W1 and W2 took part in Fairbairns, with W1 coming 3rd in the IVs category, while W2 dominated the lower division, finishing 2nd!

Lent term saw four senior boats take to the water despite tough weather conditions.



W2

W1 and W2 started the term off with tough races in Winter Head to Head, Newnham Head and Pembroke Regatta. W1 placed 7th out of 17 competing W1s in Winter Head to Head and 7th again in Newnham Head. W2 performed admirably in Winter Head to Head and was the sixth-fastest W2 at Newnham Head. Our training and determination paid off when W1 secured a speedy 2nd place in the second leg of Winter League.

Lent Bumps saw two women's side boats racing, with the poor weather cancelling the Getting On Race and depriving W3 of its Lents campaign. However, the Talbot Cup gave the crew the chance to showcase their ability. W2 started off with a strong row-over on the first day but unfortunately was bumped by an exceptionally strong Wolfson W1, despite gaining on Hughes Hall W1 in front of them. The next day saw another

solid row-over, followed by being bumped again on the last day to finish 17th in Division 2. W1 had an incredibly successful campaign, with the first bump of Lents for Maggie against Newnham W1. W1 followed this success with a bump on Emmanuel W1, placing it 2nd – the highest it has been since 1994. Friday saw a strong row-over behind Jesus W1, although it was caught on the final day to finish 3rd – the highest W1 have finished since 2002!

The strength of the LMBC women wasn't only evident in college rowing events, as this year we also had three members putting in excellent performances rowing for CUBC. Gemma King and Joanna Matthews were part of the victorious Women's Blue Boat in the 2024 Boat Race against Oxford, while Rowan Saltmarsh rowed with Blondie, who narrowly lost to Oxford's Osiris after an exciting race.



W3

The success of the LMBC women's side continued into Easter term, with W2 and W3 entering the Spring Head to Head race, finishing an impressive 3rd and 7th respectively. These achievements were swiftly followed by another win at the Nottingham City Regatta for W1 (for the 3rd year in a row) and the W2 IV+ coming third, representing the strength of Maggie off the Cam. As May Bumps was rapidly approaching, all of our women's crews continued to show their skills in the X-press Head Race, with W1 and W3 coming 1st in their categories and W2 being the 3rd fastest W2 on the river.

As ever, the highlight of term was May Bumps. W1 rowed exceptionally well on day one to bump Caius W1 and become 2nd on the river! Day two saw a strong row-over and, while sadly the crew were bumped by

Caius on day three, another great row-over on the final day saw them place a very impressive 3rd on the river. W2 was unfortunately bumped by very strong crews on days one and two, but it made an impressive comeback, rowing over on the final two days and gaining heavily on the crews that had bumped it. W3 put on a stellar performance during Bumps week to bump up on two days, rounding off another very successful Bumps campaign for the Maggie women!

Many thanks to everyone who has coached, bank partied and cheered for the women's side this year – we couldn't have done it without your support!

Viva Laeta 🎉

Eleanor Laughton and Rebecca Pickering, Women's Captains

Crews

W1

Cox: Daisy Holbrook
Stroke: Emma Beniston
7: Rowan Saltmarsh
6: Eliza Leake
5: Joanna Matthews
4: Gemma King
3: Luise Grosche
2: Eleanor Laughton
Bow: Chloe Felton

W2

Cox: Katie Cassin
Stroke: Alice Warrington
7: Rebecca Pickering
6: Emily Towner
5: Jenny Dedman
4: Alice Monksfield
3: Edie Carter
2: Anna Strazda
Bow: Caitlin McDermott

W3

Cox: Caela Ibata
Stroke: Alyssa Kouyate
7: Lily Fisher
6: Arianna Samaria
5: India Grigson
4: Abigail Hall
3: Mia Shaw
2: Hannah Mountford
Bow: Sofiya Devine



Photo: Beaufort Society
Lunch, October 2023
Credit: Ben Minnaar

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The Development Office has made every attempt to ensure the accuracy of this list (as of 1 July 2024). If you discover an error, please contact us at development@joh.cam.ac.uk. Please accept our sincerest apologies for any inaccuracies or omissions.

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 Professor David Whitford
 Mr Philip Wild

1977

Dr Nigel Bew
 Mr Nick Brown
 Emeritus Professor Gilbert Cockton
 Mr Andrew Crossley
 Professor Peter Dowben
 Mr Mark Evans
 The late Mr Andrew Fogg
 Mr Tim Foster
 Mr Phil Hodkinson
 Mr Roger Howell
 Mr Adam Jollans

Dr Roger Jones
 Mr Peter King
 Dr Stephen Lamont
 Mr Garth Lindrup
 Dr Simon Powles
 Mr Nigel Salisbury
 Dr Robert Stroud
 Mr Andrew Tomlinson
 Dr Matthew Witt

1978

Dr Julian Allen
 Mr Edward Archer
 Mr Tim Arnold
 The Revd Dr Andrew Cameron
 Mr Nick Corfield
 Mr Alistair Davison
 Professor John Dear
 Mr Shayne Deighton
 Mr David Edney
 Mr Andy Foster
 Mr Mark Harris
 Mr Richard Hytner
 Mr Stephen MacDonald
 Mr Colin Massey
 Mr John McCulloch
 Mr Warren McDavid
 Mr Richard Pierce-Saunderson
 Mr Jervis Rhodes
 Mr Paul Shearer
 Mr Jonathan Steffen
 Mr David Thompson
 Mr Paul Torrington
 Professor Richard Verrall

1979

Mr Ben Andradi
 Mr John Bracewell
 Mr Keith Bridgewater
 Mr Phillip Brown
 Mr Trevor Burton

Mr Nick Busvine
 Mr Kevin Curtis
 Mr Gilbert Dunlop
 Mr John Fishwick
 Mr Devon Flynn
 Mr Mark Gould
 Mr Anthony Hui
 Mr Andrew Lamb
 Mr Andrew Lawson
 Dr Michael Leach
 Mr Bruce Leckie
 Dr Hin Low
 Mr Andrew Moore
 Mr Anthony Moran
 Mr Steven Smith
 Dr Hugh Tooby

1980

Brigadier Bill Aldridge
 Mr Duncan Bigg
 Dr Duncan Blackburn
 Mr Mark Briegal
 Mr David Budenberg
 Dr Steven Bunkhall
 Mr Andrew Carrier
 Dr Joddy Chapman
 Mr David Croft
 Mr Geoffrey Davis
 Mr Hugh Dunlop
 Mr Stuart Fowler
 Mr David Gould
 Mr Neil Gregson
 Mr Mark Halliwell
 Mr Jeremy Hunns
 Mr Fred Leiner
 Mr Ed Matthews
 Mr Jeremy Mercer
 Mr Julian Molyneux
 Mr Paul Nicholas
 Dr Emmet O'Connor
 Mr Charles Pott

Mr Justin Ripman
 Dr Derek Roberts
 Mr Richard Sealy
 Mr John Smith
 Mr Colin Stone
 Mr Richard Watson
 Dr Robert Whitlock

1981

Mr Martin Bedford
 Mr Adrian Brown
 Mr Gordon Butler
 Dr Tami Davis Biddle (née Davis)
 Mr David Game
 Mr Kevin Gardiner
 Mr Bruce Hamilton
 Professor Graham Hillier
 Mr David Hughes
 Mr Jonathan Lancashire
 Professor Marc Lipman
 Mr Christopher Lumsden
 The Late Mr Jeremy Marshall
 Mr Rory O'Brien
 Dr Robert Ritchie
 Dr Nick Robinson
 Mr David Rogerson
 Mr Keith Scott
 Mr Peter Steven
 Dr Frederick Stoddard
 Dr Will Watkins
 Mr John Zealley

1982

Mr Murray Scott
 Dr Carrie Walsh
 Ms Maria Garcia
 Mrs Henrietta Butler (née Shaw)
 Professor Paul Digard
 Dr Emad George
 Mr Roger Hill

Mrs Dalla Jenney
 Mr Patrick Lane
 Mr Patrick Litton
 Mr Clive Moody
 Miss Joanna Pitman
 Mr Robert Samuelson
 Mr Peter Udale
 Mr David Guest
 Mr David Seers
 Mr John Nellist
 Mr Eamonn Price
 Dr Sue Heenan
 Mrs Vicki Wienand (née Robinson)
 Mr Oliver Jory
 Mr Robin Wilson
 Mrs Meg Cooke (née Holdsworth)
 Mr Ed Naylor
 Professor John Kerrigan

1983

The Revd Victoria Barrett
 Mr David Bertram
 Mrs Nicola Bibby (née Shanks)
 Mr William Bibby
 Mr Stephen Boxer
 Mrs Tanya Castell
 Dr Stephen DeVincent
 Dr Heidi Doughty
 Mr Steven Fobel
 Dr Vivienne Fowler
 Mr Guy Freeman
 Ms Alexandra Gethin
 Dr Dimitrios Hatzis
 Mr Andy Humphries
 Mr Duncan Jubb
 Mr John Krumins
 Dr Catherine Le Sueur
 Mr Stephen Munday
 Dr Chris Perks
 Mr Jeremy Podger

Ms Brid Rodgers
 Mr Mark Thomas
 Mr Martin Tod

1984

Dr Tim Allison
 Mr Tom Backhouse
 Mr Paul Baker
 Mrs Pippa Bowden (née Weatherhead)
 Dr Catherine Bryant
 Dr Helen Bungay
 Mr Brian Cahill
 Mr Richard Chapman
 Mr Ian Cumming
 Mr Christopher Dawe
 Dr Helen Duncan (née Wood)
 Mr Iain Gibson
 Mr David Gould
 Mr Jon Gray
 Mr Nicholas Gregory
 Mrs Tessa Leuchars (née Graham)
 Professor Peter Nienow
 Mrs Susan Palmer (née King)
 Mrs Annamarie Phelps (née Stapleton)
 Mrs Jodie Podger (née Jones)
 Mrs Melanie Pointer (née Shone)
 Mr Andrew Sandars
 Professor Thomas Smith
 Mr Stephen Spall
 Mr David Stoyle
 Dr Caroline Styles

1985

Dr Alison Ball
 Ms Alexandra Citron
 Dr Julius Clayton
 Mr Jonathan Davies-Jones
 Mr Piers Dennison
 Mr David Eagles
 Mr Anthony Fobel

Mr Dominic Fortescue
 Mr Andrew Goodbody
 Ms Claire Griffiths
 Mr Andrew Ground
 Mr David Hale
 Mr William Harcourt
 Miss Clare Hardy
 Dr Mark Hayter
 Mr Andrew Holt
 Mr David James
 Mr Neil Jefferies
 Mr Patrick Kho
 Dr Kit Kilgour
 Mr Iain McIntyre
 Mr Akhil Shah
 Mr Ian Simm
 Mrs Rebecca Stäheli (née Evans)
 Mrs Cathy Stubbs (née Davies)
 Mr Peter White
 Mr Ian Wilson

1986

Colonel John Adams
 Dr Barry Appleton
 Dr David Banks
 Mr David Barr
 Mr Richard Beales
 Ms Rosemary Bichard
 Mr Todd Buchholz
 Dr Tom Carrell
 Mr Mark Collinson
 Mrs Amanda Davies (née Wilkinson)
 Dr Andrew Gates
 Dr Siobhan Gee (née Netherwood)
 Mr Neil Hampson
 Mr Richard Huntington
 Mrs Catherine McDermott (née Crook)
 Mr James Miller
 Mr Denis Mustafa
 Ms Caro Newton (née Redmond)

Dr Kamlesh Pithia
 Mr Graham Pointer
 Mr Piers Pressdee
 Mrs Louise Rich (née Littlewood)
 Ms Vanessa Richards
 Mr Jon Saltmarsh
 Mr George Schlich
 Mr Ross Sharpe
 Mr Nav Sheera
 Mr Justin Tivey
 Mr Pete Webster

1987

Miss Lisa Burton
 Mr Robert Carey
 Mrs Katy Cherry
 Mr Richard Cobb
 Mr Martin Davies
 Professor Giampiero Esposito
 Mr Hilary Gee
 Mr Colm Gibson
 Mr Alistair Hancock
 Mr Steven Harrold
 Mrs Victoria Kitcatt (née Bishop)
 Mr John Louth
 Mr Sotiris Lyritzis
 Ms Catherine Mangan
 Mr Andrew Nethsingha
 Dr Jo Prigmore
 Mr David Thomson
 Mrs Hester Turton (née Froggatt)
 Ms Kathy Ward

1988

Mr Adam Belton
 Mr Andrew Brindle
 Group Captain Anthony Cann
 Dr Rachel Carol (née Cowling)
 Mr Tim Chambers
 Mrs Theresa Collier (née Salter)

Dr Khaled Dawas
 Mr Edward Foster
 Mr Fabio Galantini
 Professor Fiona Kelly
 Mr Dan Kershaw
 Dr Charlie Line
 Mr Rohan Malhotra
 Mr Ian Nichols
 Dr Brett Patterson
 Ms Nicola Rushton
 Mr Duncan Sinclair
 Dr Feargal Supple
 Dr Claire Sweeney
 Dr Karen Wiemer

1989

Mr Mike Allan
 Dr Vickie Curtis
 Dr Nikki Deards
 Professor Stephen Finnigan
 Ms Sophie Green
 Dr Karen Harman
 Mr Alec Haydon
 Professor Rik Henson
 Ms Shareen Khattar
 Mr Simon Lacey
 Mr Simon Morris
 Dr Liam O Súilleabháin
 Mr Guy Rubin
 Mr Steve Senior
 Mr Stuart Shilson
 Mrs Christine Smith
 Mr Christian Taylor
 Dr Sián Thompson
 The late Dr Neil Turner
 Mrs Alison Turner (née Sanderson)
 Dr Dan Wilkins
 Mr Paul Williamson
 Mrs Lindsey Wood (née Scutt)

1990

Dr Jocelyn Adams
 Professor Hiro Aragaki
 Mr Andrew Bound
 Mr Robert Bratby
 Dr Rachel Budge (née Benamore)
 Mr Kenneth Chiu
 Mr Sue Wan Chua
 Mr William Clements
 Mrs Johanna Donaldson (née Jones)
 Mr Darren Evans
 Professor Andrew Grace
 Dr Jonathan Halls
 Mr Perran Horrell
 Mr Andrew Jurgenson
 Dr Dherminder Kainth
 The Revd Catherine Lomas (née Farris)
 Dr Julian Lomas
 Ms Niamh McKenna
 Major General Anthony Milton
 Mr Matthew Moss
 Mr Salim Nathoo
 Mr Gautham Radhakrishnan
 Mr John Sheekey
 Mr James Staniforth
 Mr John Vincent
 Mr Charles Wilson

1991

Mr Ali Ali
 Mrs Anne-Frances Ball (née Foster)
 Mr Ian Ball
 Mrs Anne Campbell (née Martin)
 Mr Declan Costello
 Mr Doug Davis
 Mr Xabier Echevarria
 Group Captain Andrew Gibbons
 Mr Paul Gooden
 Mrs Emma Gooding (née Butler)
 Dr Nicholas Holliday

Mrs Claire Horwood (née Broadbent)
 Dr Alistair Lumb
 Miss Nicola Mullett
 Dr Hannah Quirk
 Mrs Catherine Shepherd (née Martin)
 Mr Ben Thorpe
 Mr Stephen Tunncliffe Wilson
 Dr Christopher Van Houten
 Mr Toby Watkin
 Mr Keith Webster
 Dr Ursula Weekes
 Dr Samuel Williams
 Mr Paul Wuensche

1992

Mr Aaron Armstrong
 Mr Jay Barot
 Dr Harjoat Bhamra
 Mr James Bowden
 Mr Jon Burgess
 Mr James Burton
 Dr Craig Goldsmith
 Mr Jamie Griffith
 Mrs Zanna Hooper (née Storey)
 Professor Matthew Juniper
 Mrs Katharine Kent (née Aubury)
 Mr Adam Kilgour
 Mr Jonathan Lim
 Mr Rob Mann
 Dr Cathy McClay
 Mr Graham Robertson
 Mr Jim Standing
 Dr Graham Stewart
 Mr Tom Stokes
 Dr Joan Tumblety
 Mr Vires Vireswer
 Mr Francis Walden
 Mrs Alison Wedgwood (née Poole)
 Mr Andrew White

1993

Mr Talib Ali
 Mr Daniel Bennett
 Mr Deepak Bhadri
 Mr Matt Bonetti
 Mr Thomas Cairns
 Dr Rudolf Cardinal
 Mr Stefan Crampton
 Mr Jonathan Craven
 Mrs Gemma Harrison (née Watts)
 Mr Markus Irngartinger
 Miss Sian Jones
 Mr Adam Knight
 Mr Russell Lethbridge
 Professor Manucha Lisboa
 Mrs Rachel Lord (née Tipping)
 Ms Shiona MacPherson
 Mr Peter Mallin-Jones
 Mr Jon May
 Dr Paul Milligan
 Dr Rob Milner
 Professor Reza Motallebzadeh
 Dr Mark Muller
 Mr Tosin Oguntayo
 Miss Karen Parkes
 The Revd Dr James Saunders
 Mr Timothy Savage
 Mr Jonty Shipley
 Mr Nicholas Studer
 Mr Gavin Taylor
 Mr Tom Tweddell
 Dr Sam Waddy

1994

Mr Phil Allison
 Mr Jeremy Bassinder
 Professor Steven Brenner
 Mrs Lucy Carver
 Mr Peter Davis
 Mr Methun De
 Dr Thomas Hulme

Mr Peter Jones
 The late Mr Ian Kegel
 Mrs Elizabeth Knight (née Potter)
 Mr Philip Makinson
 Ms Catherine Milward
 Mr Alex Moir
 Mr James Samworth
 Mr Brian Sivour
 Miss Elizabeth Sywyj
 Ms Amelia Torode
 Mr Nick Wallum

1995

Mrs Jenny Banerjee (née Conran)
 Mr Rob Cadwallader
 Mr Tom Dare
 Dr Graham Davies
 Dr Keith Davies
 Mr Niklas Evans
 Mr Paul Foster
 Mr Malcolm Gates
 Mr Nick Geddes
 Mrs Nikki Geddes (née Brotton)
 Mr Julian Gould
 Mr Tom Grafton
 Mr Mark Hanley-Browne
 Dr Kieren Hollingsworth
 Dr Ross Hutchison
 Ms Ming-Lee Lim
 Mr Alex Massey
 Dr Philippe Masson
 Dr Susan Masson (née Haywood)
 Dr Paula Meth
 Dr Paul Overton
 Mr Matthew Pettifer
 Dr Luke Purshouse
 Dr Mark Radon
 Dr Ed Rowe
 Mr Martin Towns
 Professor Roddy Vann
 Mrs Sarah Waring (née Boardman)

Mrs Sarah Wightman (née Abramson)
Mr Graham Wynes

1996

Dr Sibs Anwar
Dr Lizzie Babister (née Rosambeau)
Miss Caroline Boddy
Mr Mark Brand
Mr John Brolly
Dr Emma Brooker
Dr Oliver Choroba
Dr Adèle Cochran (née Langlois)
Mr Mike Daley
Mr Christian Forsdyke
Mr Soujit Ghosh
Mr Christopher Godfrey
Dr Nadia Godin-Heymann (née Godin)
Dr Ivan Guevara-Bernal
Mr Timothy Hawkins
Dr Amy Hill (née Scott)
Mr Andrew McDonald
Dr Koye Odutola
Mr Christopher Perrell
Dr Nagulan Saravanamuttu
Mr Graham Walker
Mrs Clare Wiseman-Clarke (née Hume)
Mr Choon Wah Wong

1997

Mr Richard Avery
Mr Andrew Bostock
Dr Clare Bostock (née Palmer)
Mrs Eleanor Brown (née Davis)
Mr Ben Corlett
Mr David Cox
Dr Samantha De Silva
Mr James Ede-Golightly
Commander David Evans
Dr Yfke Hager (née Van Bergen)
Ms Nabila Jiwaji

Mr Matthew Jukes
Mr Ronnie Khan
Ms Lizzy Mace
Mr Ian Macho
Mrs Alik Misyrli
Mr Philip Moore
Dr Tom Nielsen
Mr David Richards
Dr Petra Scamborova
Mr Jim Scott
Mr Nimar Sehmi
Mr Sunil Sharma
Mr Andrew Veitch
Mrs Rebecca Waldron

1998

Mr Thomas Blathwayt
Dr Daniel Bor
Ms Heather Critchlow (née Greig-Smith)
Mr Will Critchlow
Dr Richard George
Mr Paul Gurnham
Mr Simon Leslie
Mr Amir Nathoo
Mr Christopher Nichols
Mrs Fiona O'Neill
Dr Hannah Oram (née Fuller)
Dr Joel Pitkin
Dr Iain Southern

1999

Dr Daniel Cooney
Mrs Joanna Cooney (née Barnsley)
Mr James Dee
Mr Johan Duramy
Mr Tom Edwards-Moss
Mr Tim Foster
Miss Emma Gargitter
Dr Richard Gunton
Ms Lindsay Hufton

Ms Sarah Langslow
 Mr Tom Meyer-Mallorie
 Dr Benedict Russell
 Dr Kathryn Spencer
 Mr David Tompson
 Mrs Meyrem Tompson (née Hussein)
 Ms Rebecca Tree
 Mrs Catherine Vallejo Veiga (née Jones)

2000

Mr Rehaan Anjum
 Mr King Bhattacharyya
 Mr Adam Cloherty
 Mr Michael Dudley
 Dr Neryssa Glithero
 Mr David Harding
 Ms Alice Honeywill (née Coopman)
 Mr Ali Kazmi
 Mrs Francesca Lane
 Mr Gareth Lane
 Dr Rajeev Mathew
 Mrs Catherine McDonald (née Robinson)
 Mr Angus Murray
 Mr Brendan Palmer
 Dr Chia-Ling Phuah
 Mrs Natalia Spalding (née Abrosimova)
 Dr Robert Wells
 Mr Bao Xiao
 Dr Denis Zuev

2001

Mr Marc Bale
 Mr Sorin Basca
 Mr Benjamin Carton de Wiart
 Mr Alan Cunningham
 Miss Laura Dix
 Mr Tim Froydenlund
 Dr Debashis Haldar
 Mr John Hartley
 Mr Kenneth Ingram
 Mrs Lauren Killian Ning (née Killian)

Mr Yacoob Kurimbokus
 Mr Christopher Milton
 Mr Stuart Moore
 Mrs Megan Morys-Carter (née Morys)
 Mrs Roya Motalleb-Zadeh
 Mr Robin Ogilvy
 Mr Max Parry
 Mr Elliot Read
 Mr Gareth Roberts
 Miss Christine Schoenzart
 Mr Stephen Shorter
 Dr Gerald Weldon
 Mr Robert Wiygul

2002

Mr Mike Adams
 Ms Candida Caldicot-Bull
 Mr Will Cartwright-Hignett
 Mr Gary Chan
 Mr Nick Charlwood
 Mr Toby Coleman
 Mr Mark Colley
 Mrs Zip Colley (née Jila)
 Dr Fiona Danks
 Mr Tom Dye
 Mr Andrew Fenn
 Mr Matt Fittall
 Dr Stuart Fraser
 Ms Lizzie Gibney
 Mr James Greene
 Mr Michael Gun-Why
 Mr Andrew Hicks
 Mr Rocky Hirst
 Mr Karim Jetha
 Dr Chris Kelly
 Mr Lennard Lee
 Mr David Myhill
 Dr Jenny Oates
 Mr Christian Percy
 Mr David Reid
 Ms Felicity Robinson

Dr Peter Scott
 Miss Isobel Smyth
 Miss Sonja Stoffels
 Miss Sali Toms
 Mr Ben Tyers
 Dr Liisa van Vliet
 Mr Conrad Williams

2003

Mrs Catherine Abecassis (née Kitsis)
 Mr Jonathan Abecassis
 Ms Emma Agyemang
 Dr Samit Ahir
 Mr Aseer Akhter
 Mr Tim Angliss
 Mrs Susan Armstrong (née Kendall)
 The Revd Dr Laura Biron-Scott (née Biron)
 Mr Matthew Cannon
 Dr Shelley Chapman
 Mr Nirup Chawhan
 Miss Antonia Da Silva Teixeira
 Mr Alex Dixon
 Mrs Emma Dixon (née Jacob)
 Dr Thomas Foley
 Mr Alex Groot
 Mr Christopher Hancock
 Mr Mike Horridge
 Miss Allyson Ke
 Mr Greg Lowden
 Mrs Emma McMurray
 Mr Monjur Miah
 Mr Craig Morrison
 Dr Robert Pugh
 Mr Ed Russell
 Mr Andrew Wheatley-Hubbard
 Mr Alexander Williamson

2004

Mrs Laura Bispham (née Sturdee)
 Mr Warwick Bloore

Mr Mark Curling
 Mr Edward Drage
 Mrs Hannah Drage (née Lane)
 Mr Daniel Fallon
 Mr Ross Flanigan
 Ms Chiara Garofoli
 Mr Michael Griffiths
 Mr Thomas Griffiths
 Mrs Susannah Hardyman (née Clark)
 Dr Arabella Hunt
 Mr Gareth John
 Mr Jonathan Knight
 Mrs Juliet Knight (née Courtney)
 Dr Myles Lavan
 Mr Duncan Lowth
 Commander Mark Metcalf
 Mr Peter Morton
 Mrs Isabelle Scott (née Käufeler)
 Dr Hilary Stroh (née Larkin)
 Mr Dale Winter
 Mrs Anne-Marie Wheatley-Hubbard
 (née Brewer)

2005

Mr Chris Charles
 Mr Edward de Minckwitz
 Mr Tom Dearing
 Mr James Diggle
 Mrs Almaz Ismayilova
 The Revd Thomas James
 Mr Rishi Khagram
 Dr Patrick Marti
 Mr James Martin
 Dr Lindsay McMorrnan
 Miss Angharad Thomas
 Dr Blaise Thomson
 Dr Kyle Williams
 Ms Charlotte Wheeler-Booth
 Mr David Wood

2006

Mr Yasir Dahir Alihassan
 Dr Daniel Andrews
 Dr Dunstan Barnes
 Mr Theodore Birks
 Mr Paul Boot
 Miss Clare Briscoe
 Mrs Carol Charles
 Mr Thomas Chigbo
 Dr Alice Eldred
 Mr Will Gray
 Mr Aled Jones
 Mr David Lewis
 Mr Kan Lu
 Mr Jacky Luk
 Mr Richard Lum
 Mr Charles Marshall
 Mr Duncan McCombe
 Ms Michaela Merlin-Jones (née Bacon)
 Mr David Nissenbaum
 Dr James Park
 Miss Victoria Raymond
 Mr Pavel Spirine
 Mr Alex Tatton-Brown
 Mrs Rebecca Tatton-Brown (née Nelson)
 Dr Belen Tejada Romero
 Mr Michael Totton
 Ms Sarah Turner

2007

Mr Ben Baker
 Mrs Sarah Beament
 Mr Rob Bell
 Mr Jonathan Beresford
 Mr George Dyesmith
 Mrs Hannah Dyesmith (née Smith)
 Mr Peter Hughes
 Dr Morgan Macleod
 Miss Claire Mason
 Dr Polly Mitchell
 Dr Cristina Pierro

Dr Ian Ralby
 Dr David Reindorp
 Dr Linus Schumacher
 Mr Carlo Scott
 Mr Bradley Smith
 Mr Alexander Torrens
 Mrs Claire Torrens (née Bush)
 Mr Adam Wawrzynski
 Mr Andrew Wheelhouse
 Mr Francis Williams
 Ms Ingrid Zhang

2008

Mr Ben Alden-Falconer
 Lieutenant Calum Bambro
 Mr James Bown
 Dr Lukas Brantner
 Mr John Challenger
 Mr Dominic Collingwood
 Mr Charles Draper
 Dr Kirk Ellison
 Dr Robert Emberson
 Dr Asger Jakobsen
 Mr William Johnston
 Dr Sahil Kirpekar
 Dr Julia Li
 Dr Simon Lock
 Ms Hermione Mackay
 Dr Basil McDonald
 Ms Mirina Paananen
 Mr James Robinson
 Commander Jason Scott
 Mr Mathonwy Thomas
 Mr Matthew Turner
 Miss Simone Wetherall
 Mr Oliver Withers

2009

Mr Lewis Cannon
 Mr Waheed Chaudhrey
 Mrs Jenny Couldridge

Mrs Sarah Ellison
 The Revd Dr Alun Ford
 Mr Tom Harrison
 Mr George Hunter
 Mr Philipp Legner
 Mr Huw Leslie
 Miss Zoe Li
 Mr Zhuo Min Lim
 Dr Jess Matthews
 Dr Echo Ouyang
 Mr Julian Parmar
 Ms Anisha Polson
 Ms Anna Reid
 Mr Jay Shah
 Dr Cameron Taylor
 Miss Laura Thomas
 Mr Oscar Williams-Grut
 Dr Adrian Woon
 Mr Alexander Young

2010

Mr Tom Blackie
 Miss Alexandra Bright
 Mr Sam Cockton
 Dr Darya Deen
 Mr Charlie Emerton
 Miss Heather Farmer
 Dr Wilf Genest
 Mrs Flick Goodlet
 Mr Aaron Helfand
 Dr Mekhola Hoff (née Mallik)
 Mrs Laura Hunter (née Grossick)
 Mr Hugo Macklin
 Dr Jolyon Martin
 Mr Husein Meghji
 Mr Chris Montague-Jones
 Mr Sam Oladeinde
 Miss Grace Onions
 Mr Moss Pepe
 Miss Fleur Siswick
 Mr Thom Sutcliffe

Mr Owen Waugh
 Mr Paul Young

2011

Dr Bence Börcsök
 Mr Thomas Bumberger
 Mr Patrick Calvert
 Mr Andy Chen
 Mr Daniel Forde
 Ms Lisa Furtwängler
 Dr Alexander Garton-Eisenacher
 Dr Michael Ha
 Mr Reece Harrison
 Mr Jonathan Horne
 Captain Tim Hulme
 Mr Matthew Huxtable
 Mr Max Jenkins
 Dr Tim Jones
 Mrs Sally Moulard (née Bowell)
 Miss Cris Navarro Sanchis
 Mr Malte Poppensieker
 Mr Bhupinder Sachdev
 Miss Fiona Stainer
 Mr Max Thompson
 Dr Andi Wang
 Mr Chris Wheelhouse
 Miss Sarah Wood

2012

Ms Susan Abbott
 Mr Ashwin Ahuja
 Mr Quintin Beer
 Dr Deborah Brown
 Dr James Devine-Stoneman
 Mr James Forsythe
 Ms Jessica Hinton (née Gorman)
 Mr Joshua Hinton
 Mr Plamen Ivanov
 Dr Benjamin Lin
 Dr Moritz Matthey
 Mr Hamish McLaren

Mr Joseph Rich
 Mr Florian Schnurr
 Miss Amy Spruce
 Mr Samuel Thompson
 Dr Tengyao Wang

2013

Dr Liliana Antunes
 Mr Pavel Berkovich
 Mr Jas Birk
 Mr Baba Bob-Soile
 Dr Katharina Clausius
 Dr Rosannah Cormack
 Miss Lydia Hudson
 Mr David Jones
 Mr Matthew Kennedy
 Mr Richard Ladley
 Professor Gavin Low
 Dr Varun Nadkarni
 Mr Ashley Newson
 Mrs Sarah Parnell
 Mr Thomas Saunders
 Mr Theo Sharrock
 Mr Alek Sinha
 Mr Martin Tang
 Mr Sam Tarver

2014

Mr James Alvey
 Miss Sarah Ashcroft-Jones
 Mr William Ashford
 Mr Louie Brook-Gandy
 Fr Dan Burton
 Miss Chantelle Doran
 Mr Markis Duggan
 Miss Linshu Feng
 Mr Charlie Fisher
 Mr Jack Fulcher
 Miss Candace Graham
 Mr Jacob Heath

Mr Demitri Moros
 Mr Paul Myatt
 Mr Adam Parkes
 Dr Hayk Saribekyan
 Mrs Nora Saribekyan-Kalinskij
 (née Kalinskij)
 Dr Anna Savoie
 Mr Charlie Selway
 Miss Jasneet Sian
 Mr Jon Stafford
 Mr Henry Stevens
 Mr Harvey Uy
 Mr Sam Watts

2015

Mr Alexander Aits
 Mr Robert Blyth
 Mr Alex Darch
 Mr Mark Deng
 Mr William Drake
 Miss Skye Fletcher
 Frau Sarah Garton-Eisenacher
 (née Eisenacher)
 Miss Lauren Holmes
 Mr Alexander Johnstone
 Mr Joe Miles
 Miss Kelsey Miller
 Mr Shoaib Omar
 Mr Patrizio Parrini
 Mr Jack Payne

2016

Miss Teuta Day
 Mr Siyang Fu
 Mr Ben Jones
 Ms Rosie McKeown
 Miss Willa Prest
 Mr Michael Smith
 Mr Sam Willis

2017

Mr Kabeendan Murugesu
Miss Nancy Ni
Mr Ryan Walker

2018

Mr Jonathan Chan
Mr James Hogge
The Revd Sion Hughes Carew
Mr Nicholas Janisch
Miss Thea Krumins
Dr Ian Park
Dr Matthew Seah

2019

Mr Owen Ayers
Mr Jack Burt
Miss Elizabeth Caffrey
Mr Cameron Mumtaz-Wong
Miss Katie O'Flaherty
Mr Joseph Paskiewicz
Mr Oliver Rodgers
Miss Rowan Saltmarsh
Mr Koji Shukawa

2020

Mr Evan Ball
Mr Declan Boyd
Mr James Bridson
Miss Emily Came
Mr Ben Conway
Miss Joanna Crapper
Mr Jacob Davies
Miss Naomi Jennings
Miss Danielle Jump
Mr Eddie Kembery
Miss Lois Kildea
Mr Suleyman Noordeen
Miss Hetty Opayinka
Mr Abiram Ramesh

Miss Muqaddas Shahzadi
Mr Matthew Shi
Mr Satoki Shimamune
Miss Christie Yeu

2021

Miss Keya Banerji
Mr Elliot Barker
Mr Simon Brooks
Miss Aribah Chaudhry
Mr Adam Choudhury
Mr Keelan Colechin
Mr Oliver Cooney
Ms Mya Craig
Miss Blessings Doherty
Miss Tasnim Ince
Mr Amir Kadkhodaei
Miss Khushi Krishna
Miss Annissa La Touche
Mr Andrew Lim
Miss Neha Manoj
Miss Caitlin Morgan
Miss Lucy Mucklow
Mr Kerem Mumyakhmaz
Mr Jack Murfitt
Miss Angelica Oxford-Campbell
Miss Juliette Richards
Miss Jenny Ryan
Miss Lydia Tang
Miss Catalina Taylor
Miss Christina Tzenios
Mr Joe Whitby
Mr Tom Williams
Mr Ben Wolstenholme
Miss Skye Wong
Mr Zi Wu
Mr Ming Yang

2022

Ms Ava Levin

Former Chaplains

The Revd Carol Barrett Ford

Organisations

Lord Burghley 500 Foundation

Global Talent Lab

Google

The Helen Davis Family Foundation

The Herbert Howells Trust

The MaLisa Foundation

Private Individuals

Mr Sam Bancroft

The late Mrs Marion Batchelor

Dr Hubert Burda

The Revd Christopher Carson

Ms Erin Charles

Mr David Coleman

Mrs Jean Coops

The late Lady Birthe Cradock

Mr Christophe Czajka

Mrs Dori Dailey

Mrs Caroline Dix

Dr Abigail Gill

Miss Elizabeth Goodman

Mr Rolf Harrison

Dr Paul Kemp

Mrs Samantha Kilgour

The late Mrs Esme Lees

Mrs Ann Lindsay-Cashmore

Dr Claire Litchfield

Mrs Jeanette Marshall

Mr Stuart McMurray

Mrs Mary Morgan

Mrs Umeeda Nathoo

Ms Nadelina Naydenova

Mr Graham Payne

Mrs Mary Radford

Miss Amy Reeve

Mr Jerry Rehm

Ms Angie Reynolds

Mr Will Romeu-Evans

Ms Adele Singer

Mrs Charlotte Smyth

Professor Jim Storr

Ms Vicki Tung

Mrs Irene Vest

Mrs Virginia Ward

Mrs Meg Weston Smith

Mr Jerel Whittingham

Mrs Joyce Willcocks

Mrs Anna Wood

Visiting Scholars

Professor Ned Cooke

The late Professor Alfred Goldberg

Dr Jef Laga

Professor Eric Maskin

Dr Eugene Trani

Professor Nicole Woolsey Biggart

With special thanks to the following people, who have performed or spoken at, or helped to arrange, one of our events in 2023/24

Mr David Austrin

Mr Tom Blackie (2010)

Dr Charlotte Bolland

Professor Patrick Boyde (1953)

Miss Liz Broom (2015)

Dan Brown

The Lord Browne of Madingley (1966)

Mr Aaron Burchell (1999)

Ms Stephanie Childress (2015)

Mr Declan Costello (1991)

Miss Zoe Cullen

Miss Blossom Durr (2022)

Ben Durrant

Dr Stephen Gadd (1983)

Mr Nick Gedge (1987)

The Gents of St John's

Mr Charles Gibbs

Mr David Gill

Mr Chris Gray (2022)

Ms Claire Griffiths (1985)

Mr Timothy Hargreaves (2021)

The Honourable Frank Iacobucci (1962)

Mr Meng Ru Kuok (2006)

Mr Dauwood Malik (1996)

Ms Catherine MacLeod

James Morgan

Mr Tom Mustill (2002)

Ollie LePage Dean Jazz Quartet

Mrs Annamarie Phelps (1984)

Professor Erwin Reisner (2011)

Mr Andrew Rupp (1985)

Mr Louis Singer (1973)

Dr Nigel Snaith (1979)

Mr Ormon Sultangaziev

Mr Simon Wall (1995)

Mr Toby Watkin (1991)

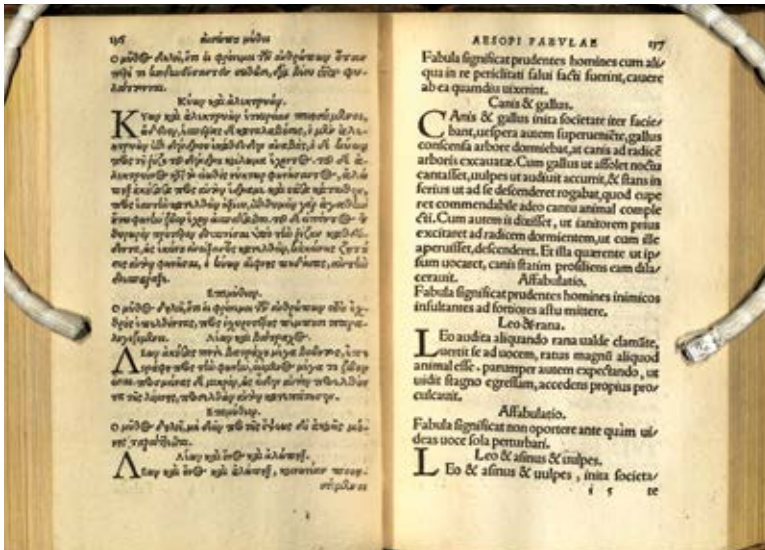
Mr Mark Wells (1981)

Dr David Williams (1982)

Dr Brett Wilson (2013)

An early Fellow's book, reshelved

A generous bequest from Noel Marshall (1957) has for some years enabled the acquisition of rare items for the Old Library. We recently purchased, via the Marshall Fund, a sixteenth-century volume that belonged to an early Fellow of the College: a book of moralising tales, not much like the one that follows.



The Fable of the Muntjac, the Goose, the New Book and the Old Library

Once, in the grounds of a college, and in an old library called the Old Library, a muntjac was looking at a book.

The muntjac's friend, a goose, had been outside, getting the lawn just the way he liked it. Now he had wandered indoors to see how the muntjac was faring. And to be

admired. He fancied that he looked somewhat like an eagle when he puffed himself up.

'What's that?' the goose, checking his wingspan, asked the muntjac. 'A book?'

'That's right,' she said, not sure if the question really warranted an answer. 'A new book.'

'Hmm.' The goose craned, or was it goosed, his neck. 'It doesn't look new.'

‘It’s very old,’ said the muntjac. ‘Older than the Old Library, even. It was published in 1534. But it’s new to us. Sort of.’

‘Why “sort of”?’

The muntjac did like the goose, in small doses and at certain times, but he asked a lot of questions and it could be a bother. Sometimes she wondered if the goose would interrogate her so much if she were big and dangerous-looking like one of the yales on the College crest. Even if she were a boy muntjac and had antlers, she wouldn’t be able to swivel them like a yale could its horns. What a treat that would be! Still, unlike a yale, she was really real. And she did have a nice swivelly chair.

‘Well, goose,’ she said, swivelling the chair back and forth, ‘we acquired this book partly because it probably spent some time in the College, long ago. A thoughtful bookseller contacted us after he’d been studying the book and had encountered this signature.’ She pointed, not without difficulty, with a hoof.

The goose attempted to read the signature from the wrong side of the desk. ‘Wil... el... mus... greyn... dall... us...’

‘William Grindal,’ said the muntjac. ‘He was a student and a Fellow here in the 1540s, and he had a knack for Ancient Greek. Roger Ascham thought he was terrific, and he got him a job tutoring the future Elizabeth I in the language. He succumbed to the plague in 1548. We don’t have any other examples of his signature, so we can’t guarantee that this



book belonged to that same William Grindal, but it seems likely given the period and the book’s contents.’

‘Which are?’ The goose wasn’t looking at the book any longer; the muntjac presumed he wished neither to continue reading upside down nor to acknowledge that it was a challenge, and so he was turning this into a test of her knowledge. Oh (as it were) deer.

‘Well, goose,’ she said, ‘printed at the top of this page, above Grindal’s signature, is “Aesopi Phrygis Fabellae Graece et Latine,” which is the Greek and Latin fables –’

‘Fables, yes, indeed...’

‘– of Aesop the Phrygian.’

‘Aesop, yep, yep.’

‘Yes. It’s Aesop’s fables in parallel Ancient Greek and Latin texts. Very much the sort of thing Grindal might have owned; and probably quite useful as a teaching tool, even if you don’t think imaginary conversations between animals are a good way of conveying information.’

The goose had turned his head to investigate the state of his feathers.

‘Excitingly, because it was published in the right period, we’re going to shelve the book in the Upper Library, along with books that have been up there for centuries! Which is a lovely reminder that what we have in the Old Library remains a living and developing collection. At a stretch,’ the muntjac continued, ‘you could even argue that the book’s authorship chimes with other areas of institutional interest. I mean, I say authorship, but there’s scant evidence that the alleged Aesop actually existed, as you probably know.’

‘Of course I know that,’ said the goose, preening. ‘I was talking about it with my cousin, also a goose, just last week. How “Aesop” is an authorial label applied to a body of fables told and retold over an extended period of history, and refers to a brand of storytelling as much as to a specific storyteller.’ The goose grinned, which is not an attractive thing for a goose to do. ‘My cousin the goose and I wrote the Wikipedia entry.’

The muntjac thought this unlikely, but didn’t wish to squabble, quibble or be gobbled at. ‘Anyway,’ she said, ‘my point is that the narrative around the “Aesop” character has him as an enslaved person who won his freedom through storytelling. That scenario is so improbable it’s borderline offensive, of course, but there’s arguably a throughline to the Library’s later collections on the Atlantic slave trade and the abolition movement. It’s nice when these little connections, however tenuous, arise; they can be worth bearing in

mind for public events and educational visits and the like. We could open this at the title page for exhibition. Oh! I wonder if there are any other openings that might work...’


In some excitement the muntjac reached for the book; her nice swivelly chair unexpectedly swivelled though, and she stumbled, and her hoof pushed the Aesop volume, and the beany cushion on which it was resting, off the desk and onto the floor with an upsetting flutter and clonk.

The goose and the muntjac looked at the fallen, old, expensive book in horrified silence for a few long seconds.

‘A muntjac,’ the goose said, ‘might not be the best choice for dealing with such delicate work. Not that I, a goose,’ added the goose, looking glumly at his suddenly inelegant and uneaglelike wings, ‘would be much more adept.’

‘True,’ said the muntjac. She dismounted the chair. With her mouth she lifted the beany cushion back onto the desk, and then she levered the book carefully onto one hoof with another and returned it to the cushion. ‘But there are worse possibilities.’

‘There often are, I find.’ Imagine if he had been so unlucky as to be a swan.

‘Oh, far worse,’ said the muntjac. ‘You should see who’s writing the article about it for the annual magazine.’ 

Adam Crothers, Special Collections Assistant

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THE LAST WORD

Photo: St John's College May Ball
fireworks, June 2023
Credit: Jonah Walker



A good thing

Ifeoma Chike (2022) is going into her third year as a Geography student. During her time at Cambridge, she has been the Computing Officer for St John's College JCR and the Cambridge University African Caribbean Society. Here she talks about how AI is affecting the student population and why putting your skills to good use is so important.



Ifeoma Chike (2022)

My name, Ifeoma, means in Igbo: 'A good thing'. In Igbo culture your name can be an expression of the hopes your parents have for your life. So, I try to take an optimistic approach to new opportunities, viewing them as a good thing.

I joined the JCR Committee as the Computing Officer in my first year. While the St John's JCR always encourages first years to get involved, making oneself so visible in an unfamiliar environment requires bravery. Thus, it brings me joy that my recently

appointed successor is also a first year. During my tenure as Computing Officer, my primary responsibility was to ensure that the JCR website, committee emails and the health supply form remained operational; so there was a lot of work behind the scenes.

My interest in all things technical arose during the pandemic, when we had to grapple with doing everything online. For me this meant supporting my parents, who are both clergy, with delivering church services online. My dad is from the generation that learned about this new thing called a 'computer' at university – in my generation, having multiple personal computers is considered a necessity. Today it seems as though the technological progress that used to happen over a generation now happens within a few short years, and it can be hard to keep up. However, teaching myself to use streaming software and operate cameras and microphones for the church boosted my confidence to take on technical endeavours. I was motivated by my Christian theology, that everyone has gifts they can use to do 'a good thing'. You don't have to be directing a charity before you can utilise your skills to make a positive difference, and I applied this lesson to my role as JCR Computing Officer.

I am by no means a computer scientist. My academic loyalties lie with Geography. So, being given the role of Computing Officer required some persuasion. The position was far more technical than my lockdown experience. It required me to teach myself to understand Python, a coding language, what Git Version Control is and a variety of other technical jargon. Luckily for me, I had

one of the College's (if not the University's) best undergraduate computer scientists at my disposal when I needed help. Therefore, I consider my tenure successful, because after a year under my responsibility the website still works!

I believe I thrived more in the social aspect of my role, especially in welcoming new students. For many people, including myself, it can be hard to see oneself in the grand landscape of St John's, which is far removed from my neighbourhood in East London. This is especially the case because I moved from the most diverse borough in London, and indeed the most diverse area of the UK, to a university where ethnic minorities are continually under-represented. So my experience as JCR Computing Officer encouraged me to take on the same role for the Cambridge University African Caribbean Society (CUACS). It was a move inspired by my dad's advice; even technical skills that may seem rather mundane can be utilised to make a positive difference.

In March 2024 I attended CUACS's celebration of International Women's Day. We were graced by the presence of black female role models such as Chelsea Kwakye and Ore Ogunbiyi, Cambridge alumnae and authors of *Taking Up Space*. I was shocked to hear that in their 2018 cohort there were only a meagre number of black people. In my cohort just a few years later there are far more of us. I feel privileged not just to be making up the numbers, but also to be trusted with positions of responsibility, both in St John's and in the wider black community of Cambridge. My feelings are

reflected in the words of Professor Gus John, an educational campaigner and academic whom I met while on the CUACS Committee. He advised me and my peers that when an under-represented person enters a position of responsibility, there is a legitimate expectation that they will make positive change. The small yet flourishing black community in St John's – including Darold Cuba (2022), who established the College's bicentennial race initiative, Rayyaan Hector (2020), who has gone on to study a Master's degree at Oxford, and Annissa La Touche (2021), recently named a national young leader – are the Johnian shoulders on which I stand. And these are just the academics I know personally. My hope is to support and inspire others in turn. My heart warmed when the black freshers of 2023 told me I had played a part in helping them to feel welcome. I therefore reflect on my impact as a member of the JCR Committee as a good thing.

As my time on both committees came to an end, I was invited to conduct research with the Cambridge Centre for Governance and Human Rights (CGHR). Working in a multidisciplinary team of academics, I am investigating the ways in which protesters are responding to expanding environments of surveillance amplified by artificial intelligence (AI). I really enjoy this work, not only because it combines my interest in technology with my social science skills as a human geographer, but also because this kind of research forces technological innovators to think twice about AI's implications. As a student learning about AI and technology from the relative safety of Cambridge, it can

be difficult to empathise with the issues faced by protesters in an authoritative surveillance state. However, such resistance exists within our borders, and it would be an error to begin by looking at developing countries wrestling with the politics of AI surveillance when domestic introspection is long overdue.

'The cohorts currently graduating will face these changes head-on, entering a job market where their applications will likely be read by AI before they are seen by a human.'

Despite the very real risks and burgeoning fear, my research has shown me that AI can also be used powerfully for good in the right hands. The most recent place my technological journey has taken me is the Cambridge Amnesty International Society, where I volunteer as a Digital Verification Corp. We use open-source data to collect information about the abuse of journalists at protests globally. Our work utilises AI technology such as reverse image verification, which matches images to similar ones found online. The usefulness of AI in this case is that technical ability is no longer a barrier to entry for pursuing work that changes people's lives. Having never taken a computer science course, our team of geographers, physicists, political scientists and others can proactively make a difference with digital investigations.


For most students at St John's, however, the most immediate implication of AI will not be the challenges of a digital surveillance state or open-source investigation, but rather the



Ifey and the ACS Committee, with Baron Woolley at the Homerton Black History Month formal, October 2023

everyday implications for our studies and career outlook. Like many of my peers, my exams this year will be closed-book exams for the first time, meaning I won't be able to access any of my revision material during the exam. The College is supporting students as many departments reform their courses to address the opportunities and challenges posed by AI. While such rapid change may seem unnerving, the cohorts currently graduating will face these changes head-on, entering a job market where their applications will likely be read by AI before they are seen by a human. This is just another development in a series of novelties for the cohort of students who were among the first to face social media at school, experienced online schooling during

the pandemic and witnessed the introduction of closed-book exams brought on by AI.

The College is, in my view, priming itself to be on the right side of history by embracing change. Although a successful society doesn't ignore its pessimists. As I've learnt from my research with the CGHR, AI carries risks that tend to hit marginalised groups the hardest. A surveillance state, a digital apartheid society and a 'replaced' army of labour are all possible futures. Risk shouldn't equate to fear but rather encourage curiosity, caution and questions. With my optimistic approach, I therefore believe AI can cautiously be harnessed as 'a good thing', and I continue to utilise it in my investigations, research and studies. 



Credit: Dasha Tenditna

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