

# Sundial



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# Welcome

## From the President Dr Helen Moore



It has been a pleasure to meet a wide range of Corpus old members at the many alumni events I have attended over the past year, and I have been touched by the strength of affection expressed for the college. Many have told me of the transformational effect Corpus exerted on their early lives, with particular praise bestowed on the tutors who treated their young charges with a degree of equality and mutual intellectual respect that was unusual at the time. In this issue, we showcase the work of two of our current tutors, Pawel Swietach in biomedical research (page 3) and Michael Joseph in history (pages 4-5). Both articles demonstrate how actively engaged Corpus fellows are in pushing the boundaries of knowledge, generating new insights that change our disciplines and encourage the next generation of students in search of further breakthroughs.

There has also been much dynamism of a different kind evident on our main site this summer. Visitors to Corpus will have seen the Fellows' Building shrouded in scaffolding while the original Georgian sash windows of this landmark Grade 1 listed building were being restored. The window of the President's office had been under attack over a long period of time by a particularly tenacious squirrel who has now beaten a rather ignominious retreat and is being given sanctuary somewhere in the college grounds by our gardener, David Leake. David's siding with the squirrel in the matter could not diminish the pleasure I felt at the beginning of this term when I presented him with a gift to mark 40 years' service as the college gardener – a remarkable milestone.

The sound of hammers was also to be heard emanating from the college kitchens where a long-overdue refurbishment was completed in time to feed a new cohort of hungry freshers.

We now have a thoroughly modern kitchen suitable for our thoroughly modern head chef, Jimmy Hinton (page 6). I hope that you will be able to experience some of Jimmy's wonderful cooking when you next return for a college celebration.

Paying for these refurbishments to our historic fabric depends on our capacity to increase our endowment at a steady rate. The challenge of ensuring that we do falls to our Bursar, Nick Melhuish, who has now been with us for just over a year; during that time he has been busy reframing the way we manage our investments (page 15). The long-term stewardship of the college's assets is a vital task, and we are fortunate to have someone of Nick's calibre in this role. As you will see from the feature on the Special Collections Centre (pages 10-11), the college is delighted to announce that Governing Body has approved a remarkable new design for this long-planned building. Thanks to the generosity of the major donor, Michael Spencer, the new Centre will not only secure our significant collection for many centuries to come, but will also provide the opportunity for a transformative re-scoping and enhancement of study and teaching space across the central college site.

The cover of this issue of the *Sundial* features 'Bosnian Family', a carving in Ham stone by noted sculptor Ken Smith. It depicts a family group comprising individuals who were displaced during the Bosnian War and was generously donated to the college by Corpus alumnus Paul Vaight and his partner Su. Former President, Sir Tim Lankester, who had visited the conflict area at the time as a senior British civil servant, recalled that experience during the unveiling earlier this year. Staying with the theme of sculpture, we also say farewell in this issue to Nick Thorn, who will be leaving at the end of Hilary term after 18 very successful years as Corpus Development Director to pursue a new career in stone-sculpting (page 7). Happily, he has agreed to continue as Keeper of the Pictures for the foreseeable future and will therefore maintain a regular presence in the college, no doubt keeping an encouraging eye on the various projects his efforts over many years have made possible. We all send our grateful thanks and best wishes to Nick for his new career.

*Helen Moore*

## Sundial

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COVER: Bosnian Family (Ken Smith)  
Photograph: Nick Read

## Profile

### Professor Pawel Swietach Handa Fellow and Tutor in Physiology

Pawel Swietach proudly identifies himself as a physiologist and says that Oxford is among the best places in the world to be working in this ancient but still evolving discipline of medical research.

I always look forward to coming into Corpus for lunch because I get to talk to my colleagues about the exciting work going on in my lab, and learn about what they have to say about their busy day. The 'seating lottery' adds an element of suspense, as any such discussion has to be promptly tailored to the background of my distinguished friends and their guests. It is often hard to set aside time to talk, yet communicating with people, whether it's clinicians, patients, collaborators or funders, is what helps us chart the next steps in our research. My biomedical research is driven by identifying the unmet needs in healthcare, ranging from the more tangible deliverables in diagnosis and treatment, to the often more cryptic mechanisms of disease. I'm excited about research, so I couldn't turn down this opportunity to write an article for the *Sundial* about our science.

I proudly identify myself as a physiologist, and Oxford is among the best places in the world to be working in this ancient but still evolving discipline of medical research. Physiology is about putting together information about genes and proteins in the context of cells and tissues to understand how these produce the functions of organs and the body, and explain what goes awry in disease. I argue that now is the best time ever to be a physiologist, because we currently have access to a lot of information about the elements of biological life, such as the genetic code, but are still unable to assemble a working model of cells, let alone the body, from such building blocks.

My overarching interest relates to the effects of acid-base chemistry on biological processes in health and disease, and although this might sound like a niche area, it is relevant to a vast range of diseases. This scope

has given me the privilege to work on a diverse mix of projects with some of the most inspirational mentors, peers and students. Acidity (or low pH) is a chemical signature of disorders such as cancer, heart disease, inborn errors of metabolism, and haematological conditions, which are among the topics covered by our research. Cancer cells become genetically mutated to ignore normal checks and controls, enabling them to grow and invade body organs. Growing cancer cells typically form a solid tumour that have a characteristically low pH because metabolism, which is necessary to fuel growth, releases acidic end-products. This sour environment is not tenable for most cells, but some of the more aggressive ones adapt to thrive, and eventually make the cancer worse for the patient. My lab is investigating the mechanisms which render certain cancer cells resistant to acid, and how best to break the process of selection that produces more aggressive cancers.

The heart, which is expected to pump a pint of blood every four seconds (faster than you can pull a beer!) is also very metabolically active. Normally, the heart is equipped with proteins that export acid and a rich vasculature to carry away this acidity. However, these proteins as well as the coronary vasculature can become dysfunctional in cardiac diseases. If these natural mechanisms for removing acid are in any way disrupted, the effects on the heart can be devastating and include weakened contraction, arrhythmia and aberrant growth. We are looking at how the heart responds to acid challenges, and how these are altered in various diseases that can lead to heart failure. In the body, the causes of acidity are

not necessarily the final end-product of metabolism but occasionally can arise from the blocking of one of the many enzymes that partake in metabolic pathways. If an enzyme is missing because of a genetic condition, the build-up of intermediates can lead to acidosis, which is a common presentation in so-called inborn errors of metabolism. Although very rare, their effects can be lethal and patients often do not survive to adulthood. We are studying propionic acidosis, a disease in which several organ systems fail due to the accumulation of a peculiar but biologically potent intermediate in blood. Ultimately, acids that are produced in tissues must be shuttled off to the kidneys and lungs for excretion, and this transportation is provided by red cells, which account for one in five of our cells. We are interested in how red cells are optimised to transport and exchange large volumes of acids. Intriguingly, many haematological disorders affect the fitness of red cells to carry acids by altering their finely evolved shape and composition.

We live at a time when people expect to live long and healthy lives. At Corpus, we make our small contribution to this aspiration by teaching outstanding medical students, training the brightest biomedical scientists, and fostering a community of researchers to collaborate with one another. I'm delighted to be part of this team, and am truly appreciative of the support Corpus has given me to continue active research work, alongside teaching. As always, I am grateful to the European Union, British Heart Foundation and Cancer Research UK for funding, and to all people who actively support these generous funders.



# Research

Dr Michael Joseph

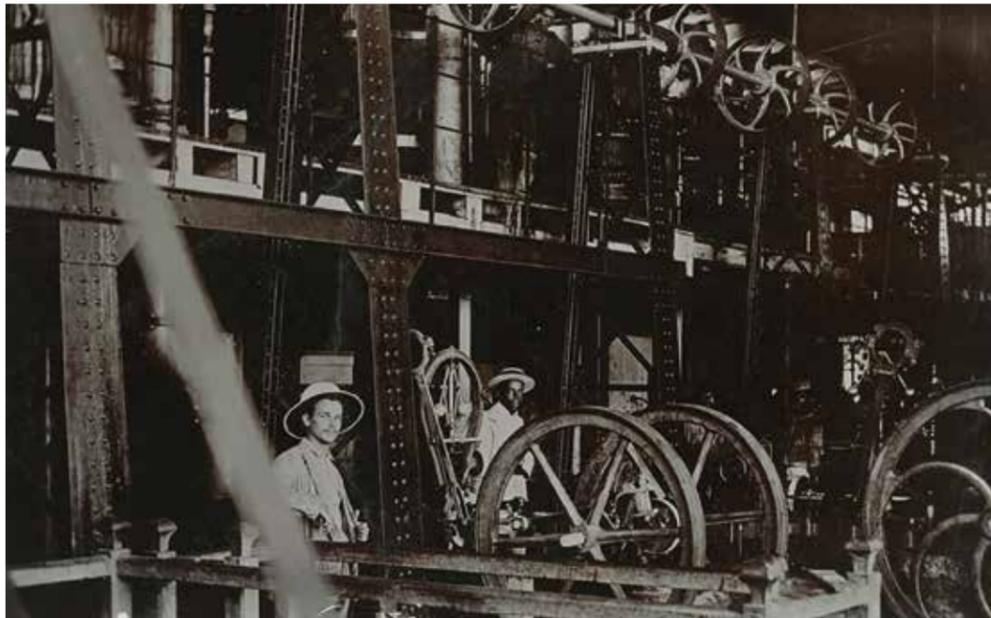
M.G. Brock Junior Research Fellow in History

## THE GREAT WAR, THE CARIBBEAN, AND THE WORLD

The commune of Marigot clings to Martinique's north-eastern coast. Closely-grouped sugar cane plantations, known in the French Caribbean as *habitations*, once clustered along the narrow strip of flat land which borders the Atlantic. One Friday in February 1917, around the start of the annual sugar harvest, Joseph Martiny and the other cutters at *Habitation Charpentier* suddenly downed their tools, left the *habitation*, and stayed away from work the next day. That week, the same thing happened at neighbouring Lagrange, Duhaumont, and Pain-de-Sucre. Charpentier's manager, Joseph Lagarrigue de Meillac, had an explanation. 'I was told', he reported, 'that people were spreading a rumour that everyone there who had been employed to cut cane would be mobilised'.

France had extended compulsory military service to its Caribbean colonies in 1913. During the First World War, it was not uncommon for some 40-50% of those called for examination not to attend, and for 80% of those who did to receive temporary or permanent exemptions on health grounds. A nineteen-year-old Martiny had been given a temporary exemption in June 1916 on account of his 'insufficient physique'. It was not implausible to believe that the military authorities had come to see cutters' long, arduous hours in the fields as proof of their hardiness. Martiny, however, also had personal reasons to be anxious. In October 1916, an older brother, Julien, had been killed in action at Belloy-en-Santerre on the Western Front.

Reflecting shifts in the wider profession, historians have recently become increasingly interested in the First World War's global dimensions. Above all, this has meant a focus on the likes of Julien rather than Joseph. A clash of empires brought millions of colonial soldiers into military service, and spread fighting across multiple continents. Even the Western Front, that paradigmatic space of Europe's 'doomed youth', has been revealed as a site



DEGOUVERTE LIBRARY, SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY



The politics of rum and sugar were tied to the politics of empire

of cosmopolitan connections, colonial anxieties, and interracial intimacies.

Although important, these histories have often been more additive than disruptive. Here, colonial histories nuance the familiar narrative without challenging its key premise: that the war should be understood as a military conflict with a (now 'globalised') European core and extra-European periphery. But those at the periphery of this story were at the centre of others. Grasping the war's globality means recovering a multiplicity of different narratives in which the likes of Martiny can be understood to have experienced the conflict no less authentically than those shipped overseas to fight. For behind military mobilisation lay sprawling networks of commodities; global supply chains which had existed long before 1914 were transformed by the demands of total war. The effects at their sources in Malayan tin mines, Chilean nitrate fields, and Antillean *habitations* were often as deep and enduring as the trenches which cut swathes across the Western Front.

In the Antilles, the war fell upon islands which had been in decline for some time. The French Caribbean's fading fortunes owed much to the decline

of its staple crop: sugar. Once the jewel in the imperial crown, Caribbean cane sugar had increasingly lost out to state-subsidised beet sugar from continental European powers like France and Germany. For islands which were essentially monocultures, entirely dependent on their exports of sugar and its by-products, the effects were devastating. During the 1890s, the area of land cultivated in cane in Martinique halved, the value of the island's commerce plunged, and agricultural workers' real wages plummeted to well below one franc per day.

The war was the *deus ex machina* which promised to solve this seemingly insoluble problem. At a stroke, beet sugar's heartlands in northern France became a morass of mud, blood, and barbed wire. At the same time, the state began to requisition vast quantities of Antillean rum, used as an industrial alcohol in manufacturing munitions. Absorbing between a quarter and a half of the islands' output each year, and carried out at irregular intervals well below market rate, requisitioning encouraged speculation, and so precipitous price rises. Adjusted for inflation, the unit price of rum on the French market rose by 860% between 1913 and 1919. A conflict to which Martinique and Guadeloupe were supposedly peripheral, then, revived the industries which together directly employed at least 60% of the islands' workforce, and accounted for some 85% of their exports by value. Rum and sugar became nothing less than war industries.

Economic mobilisation reshaped production patterns, such that the entire basis of the islands' economies shifted. Rum, now more profitable, overtook sugar as the islands' chief export. Martinique's rum exports increased by 42% between 1913 and 1917, while its sugar production almost halved. The number of distilleries, meanwhile, nearly doubled between 1913 and 1920, from 73 to 141 in Martinique, and from 56 to 105 in Guadeloupe. The majority of these new industrial operations were so-called *distilleries agricoles*: small to mid-sized, independent of the *usines* (sugar factories), and manufacturing rum using cane juice rather than molasses. The *usines* also poured more and more of their cane into their subsidiary distilleries. And the great industrial distilleries imported vast quantities of molasses to fuel their expanding production.

These changes were inescapably political. Antilleans saw them in the rippling fields of cane which extended their reach over the landscape once



more. They witnessed them in the evictions which followed, as *habitation* managers forced tenants off the land and replaced their homes with cane. And they felt them in their pockets, as local food production stalled, and imports grew scarcer and more expensive. In leaner times, most *petits planteurs*, agricultural workers who owned or leased their own plot of land, would hire themselves to a local *usine* or *habitation* as wage labourers. Now, with cane fetching such high prices, many found that they no longer needed to take on this onerous and, many believed, degrading work. Instead, they could make a living cultivating cane for the *distilleries agricoles*, most of which had no agricultural land of their own. The racial and social dynamics of this shift were profound. For a cutter like Martiny, it meant independence from a plantation complex which perpetuated the inequalities of slavery. These workers had, one letter to Guadeloupe's socialist daily *Le Nouvelliste* celebrated, been 'liberated' from the *usine*.

The politics of rum and sugar were tied to the politics of empire. As war industries, both were subject to state intervention to secure supplies and rationalise production. Above all, the French state sought to tip the balance back in favour of sugar. From October 1917, a raft of measures sought first to requisition all colonial rum at basement prices, then to end the flow of imported molasses, and finally to suspend the importation into France of Antillean rum altogether. Collectively, these measures threatened the very changes heralded by *Le Nouvelliste*.

A complex set of concessions and agreements ultimately saw the government back down, but this was not before serious doubts had been raised about the imperial relationship. Antillean politicians and commentators had understood the introduction of compulsory military service in 1913 as the last substantive step towards their recognition as full French citizens. Here, though, was apparent proof to the contrary. As Joseph Lagrosillière, one of Martinique's elected representatives in the French parliament, asked in his *La Démocratie coloniale*: 'Which French region would be so ruined, from one day to the next, without any consideration whatsoever, even if the national interest demanded it?' Hildevert-Adolphe Lara, a fellow socialist, agreed in the pages of *Le Nouvelliste*: 'Let the State requisition rum, it is its right. But that it requisitions it at a derisory price and especially that it pronounces the death of the distilleries situated around the *usines* or established since the start of the war, that is something which our patriotism cannot accept!'

Much ink has been spilled on the war's significance to the end of empire. But focusing too intently on military service, Versailles, and so on risks eliding how most of the world actually experienced this world war. These Antillean political struggles, and the wartime economic and social changes which provoked them, continued to unfold into the 1920s, 1930s, and beyond, shaping the path to decolonisation. Understanding the war's legacies, then, means rethinking it from its 'peripheries': in this case, the *habitations* of Marigot.



BNF, DIST. RMN-GRAND PALAIS



TOP: Cover for a school exercise book depicting a cane *habitation* in Guadeloupe, 1892

ABOVE: Michael Joseph

BELOW: Cane cutters in Martinique, early 20th century

FAR LEFT: The interior of *usine Vivé*, Martinique, c.1902

# College Faces

**Jimmy Hinton**  
Head Chef



“

Food is  
evolving  
all the time

## Cooking up a storm

Over the summer vacation, a new kitchen has been installed at Corpus. We asked Jimmy Hinton for his reaction.

**Could you tell us a bit about how you came into your current role and your vision for Corpus cuisine?**

I have worked at Corpus for just over four years. I arrived with the job title of Second Chef with a view to succeeding the then Manciple, Mike Curran. At the time, it was a bit of a sideways step for me but I saw it as a way in to a much-coveted role – running a College kitchen. I worked with Mike for three years and am just coming to the end of my first year in charge. It has been a challenge trying to change the team's mindset and I have enjoyed putting my own stamp on things. My aim is for Corpus to have the best College kitchen in Oxford. There is a lot of competition amongst the College Chefs; many of us have Instagram accounts so that we can show what we are doing.

**The kitchens have been completely renovated and re-equipped this year. What particular improvements have worked well?**

The new kitchen has provided us with equipment far superior to what we had before. We now have a Pressurised Bratt Pan and a Thermo Mix Heated Blender for making crème anglaise. New crockery has helped improve presentation. Our cooking is more precise and our results are better. We have been able to introduce new cooking techniques – dehydrating, cooking sous vide – and I now feel I can expand the menus. I am looking around the globe for new ideas and new techniques. For example, yesterday we cooked Ethiopian stew, which was extremely well received.

➔ **The students are increasingly aware of what they are eating. The trend is towards healthy eating rather than quantity.**

**Do you have a particular food philosophy?**

Yes. I use fresh ingredients. Bulk cooking is fantastic but I particularly enjoy planning the high-end plated dinners. My aim is always to be innovative and to produce the best. Corpus is really friendly and both students and Fellows are engaged with the food. We get a lot of complimentary emails. I believe in a calm kitchen. It is my job to lead by example. I expect high standards and I make sure to give as much praise as possible in return. Food is evolving all the time. I am gradually changing the culture in the kitchen to one of innovation. I encourage my chefs to make suggestions and I accommodate new ideas. My Second Chef does a lot of menu planning as well. One of the constraints of my job is that I have to spend more time in the office than I would like. The Second Chef is in the Office on Wednesdays so that I can cook – Wednesday night is one of the College Guest Nights.

**What are the challenges of catering for such a wide range of events from student breakfasts to presidential dinners?**

I particularly enjoy using the range of skills required when catering for the needs of every member of an Oxford College. Menu planning is key. For the student menus, the limitations are largely affordability, but it is not difficult to offset an expensive item on the menu against a less costly one.

**It seems that over the past ten years there has been an increasing awareness of the need to cater for special diets. How has this affected your menu planning?**

On one occasion last term, we had a formal hall attended by 84 people with 24 different dietary requirements. It is all about trying to condense those into two or three different dishes at any particular meal. The students are increasingly aware of what they are eating. The trend is towards healthy eating rather than quantity – we have just introduced fresh smoothies at breakfast. At both lunch and dinner, the students now have a choice of two meat dishes, one vegetarian and one vegan dish, all variations of one another and the student food rep receives a weekly menu which is circulated to the JCR and MCR. Keeping up to date with new food types is especially important. We use a lot of tofu, tempeh, seitan and vegan bacon. Food intolerances are an important concern as the consequences can be so serious. We use no peanuts and we are aiming at a nut-free kitchen. Particular care has to be taken for Coeliacs – having a separate gluten-free fryer and toaster, prepping in a separate area to avoid cross contamination.

**Does cooking in an Oxford College offer the same satisfactions as working in a commercial kitchen?**

Emphatically yes. The challenges are rather different, but we treat all our Corpus diners as we would the most discerning customers.

**Nick Thorn**  
Development Director

## Carving a new path

Nick Thorn, the College's Development Director, has announced that he will be stepping down next March after 18 years in the role. Nick established the first professional development office at Corpus at the end of 2001 and over that period he has been responsible for raising over £25m in gifts from alumni and other generous-spirited individuals. He will be leaving to devote more time to his passion for stone-carving and to prepare for the next exhibition season. Nick will stay on at Corpus in an honorary capacity as Keeper of the Pictures.

Reflecting on his time at Corpus and as the longest-serving college Development Director in Oxford, Nick said, "I have been privileged to meet many Corpuscles over the years, here and around the world, and to work with a number of them more closely in our endeavours to bring increasing amounts of

vital philanthropic support to the College. I am hugely indebted to all of them for their generosity and their advice."

Nick worked alongside four Presidents and travelled with them to meet Corpuscles and other donors across the globe. Corpus is the most convivial of colleges and Nick has always tried to reflect that spirit in the way that he has engaged with Old Members. "I hope that Corpuscles have enjoyed meeting me as much as I have enjoyed meeting them. I have made many new Corpus friends over the years and I will miss them greatly."

At the time of going to press the College is in the process of recruiting a new Development Director, who will build on the successes of Nick's tenure in the role.

Nick's work can be seen at [www.nickthorn.co.uk](http://www.nickthorn.co.uk)



# The Big Picture

## TORPIDS – 1885: Head of the River

Last summer, during the refurbishment of The Mitre on the High Street, a couple of oars were found lying under the floorboards. One belonged to Lincoln College, but the other commemorated Corpus as Head of the River at Torpids in 1883.

The crew were almost all sons of clergymen or teachers and all studied Classics or Law. However, although Robert Chomley, James Michell, Cyril Carter, Gerald Hornby and Leonard Furneaux then became school masters, John Godley ended up as Under Secretary to the Government of the Punjab. Godfrey Mosley and Thomas Arkel became solicitors and John Mitchell became a Canon of Liverpool Cathedral. However, their lives were not all Victorian respectability. One seems to have been blackmailed over a relationship with a woman, another wrote books supporting women's suffrage and a third translated French novels. There will be more information on the lives of this celebrated crew in the forthcoming *Pelican Record*.

RIGHT: Corpus VIII in 1883 with the Torpids Cup



### Corpus Christi College Boat Club Captain's Report – Torpid 1885

*The last night of the races needs little description. The torpid rowed splendidly, in a manner worthy of their proud position. Having no wash to row in they gained about 87 lengths on B.N.C. and being thus sure of their place, they paddled tranquilly home.*

*We must conclude by again congratulating the torpid on a success which was as great as it was well merited. No crew ever worked harder to get together, or paid more attention to the coaching they received. We hope the example they set will not be easily forgotten.*



NICK READ

# Fundraising

Fundraising

## Special Collections Centre

Update

The College is pressing ahead with a much-changed design for its long-planned Special Collections Centre. Thanks to a £5 million gift from Michael Spencer (Physics, 1973), the largest in the College's history, Governing Body was able to give the project the green light at the beginning of Hilary Term.



ABOVE: Proposed Garden Quad Elevation  
RIGHT: Model created by Wright and Wright Architects  
OPPOSITE PAGE: Proposed Reading Room

Specialist library architects, Wright and Wright (whose previous work includes libraries at St John's, Magdalen and Corpus Cambridge) were asked to come up with a scheme that minimised the impact on the College's historic character, while delivering the highest standards of modern storage and reader space. A new façade will be created looking onto the College car park that will replace the existing twentieth-century garage and flat.

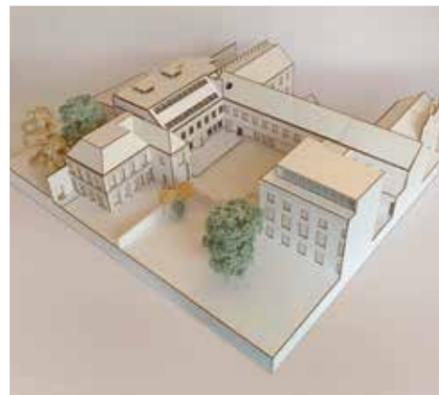
A new entrance to the enlarged library will be created at the current entrance to Staircase 6 (affording first floor access to the existing library for users with mobility needs). Three new general reading rooms will be created alongside a secure area where Corpus's unique collection of manuscripts and early printed books can be read in ideal climatic and lighting conditions.

The new building will create 24 new reader spaces for Corpus members and four additional spaces within the Special Collections area for researchers. An additional 167m of shelving will be created for the storage of our manuscripts and early printed books. The relocation of books currently stored in the lower rooms in the old library will free these areas for use as high quality teaching space.

The biggest change to the previous scheme is that the new build is to be entirely above ground (rather than excavating below the car park and small garden). In addition, the

Edwardian frontage to Staircase 6 will be retained. These measures have reduced costs by over 50%.

Commenting on the new project the President, Helen Moore, said, "I cannot express my thanks too warmly to Michael Spencer for his generosity in making this gift. It enables the College to realise our long-held dream of providing a suitable home for our remarkable historic collections. I am also grateful to all the other donors who have supported this project over the past few years. Our architects have produced a scheme worthy of the original vision of our Founder when he set out his plans for his new trilingual library five hundred years ago."



# The Corpus 11 Papers

## LOOKING AFTER THE LIBRARY'S HORTICULTURAL COLLECTIONS *Dr Carolyn Boulter, Master Clothworker 2017/2018*

In September 2019, my husband Hugh Boulter (CCC 1959, History) and I visited the Conservation Studio to see the work being carried out on four important books from the Corpus Library – it was hugely impressive. We have a mutual love of books and during fifty-one years of marriage, our collections have increased enormously and now we have a huge library. For my part, I studied Biological Sciences at the University of Birmingham and have maintained my interest in science, recently researching and writing about Charles Darwin, and in particular the classification of barnacles to which he devoted eight years of study prior to the publication of *The Origin of Species*.

The previous year I was elected the First Lady Master of a City of London Livery Company, the Clothworkers. In the lead up to the year I sat on the Clothworkers Conservation Committee and was an active trustee. During my year as Master we attended functions connected to the craft of finishing cloth as well as supporting many charities. We also arranged a visit for the Clothworkers Court and a lunch at Corpus for which thanks must go to Head of Alumni Relations, Sarah Salter.

In July 2018 at the end of my year in office, Hugh and I were invited to choose a charity to which a modest Clothworkers donation could be made. With our love of books in mind, my interest in botany and classification, and Hugh's in history and theology, in

which he decided in 1997 to study for a PhD at Bristol, we contacted Joanna Snelling, the Corpus Librarian, to identify a conservation project in the Library. She had the perfect suggestion: a project to conserve two early printed herbals, an Italian history volume with botanical specimens, and a 13th Century Vulgate Bible.

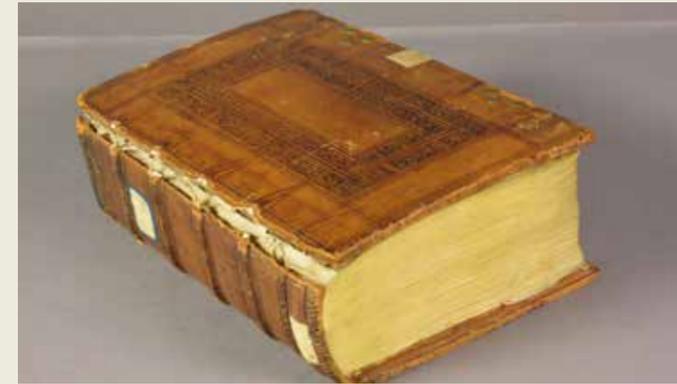
Corpus is a founder member of the Oxford Conservation Consortium to which seventeen other Oxford colleges also belong, with Jane Eagan at its head. Maria Kalligerou, one of the eight conservators, was chosen to undertake the painstaking work on the conservation of these significant books from the Corpus Library.

The 13th Century Bible has a 16/17th Century leather binding which had become almost completely detached. This meant that it could not be safely opened; in such a condition, the wonderful work of the scribes' handwritten text in Latin on vellum, with marginal illustrations, had become inaccessible. The Bible's cover has staple marks providing evidence that it was once chained in the college library, as well as the remains of catches that once kept the volume closed. With the use of paper hinges and conservation quality cloth, the detached binding was carefully reattached to the spine while preserving the original sewing thread. It is now safe for the work to be consulted.

Two of the three other texts are botanical and contain pressed flowers or leaves; these pages required special conservation treatment to allow users to access them without the risk of damage.

The most widely used botanical reference work for a hundred years before Linnaeus introduced the binomial classification system using morphology was the work of Rembert Dodoens (1517 to 1585). He published his first herbal in 1554, and throughout his life edited and extended it through thirteen editions in several languages. The Corpus copy was published in Latin in 1616 and was presented to the College by William Clayton in 1667. With each successive edition, Dodoens had refined the ordering of the plants

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THIS PAGE CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: The illuminated initial of Jerome writing (CCC MS 3 fol.1r)

The binding of CCC MS 3 before treatment

Two botanical specimens in the Corpus copy of Dodoens' work (N.7.2), one loose and now protected, the other secured in its page tabs

OPPOSITE PAGE, LEFT: Maria Kalligerou, OCC Conservator, working with a loose botanical specimen

OPPOSITE PAGE, RIGHT: Painstaking work repairing the binding of CCC MS 3

so that by the time of the Latin translation of 1583 he had ordered his subjects into twenty-six groups, illustrated by 1,309 woodcuts on 900 pages. Dodoens' work is forward-looking and interesting because it shows the gradual evolution of the classification of leaves and flowers from the alphabetical listing of names to categories based on structure and form.

The Corpus copy of this significant reference work has fine hand-painted woodcuts and, unusually, thirty-five botanical specimens inserted within its pages. Most of these were attached on the text-leaves with paper tabs, and many are annotated. A few rather large specimens were loosely inserted in between text-leaves. In other places, fragments were to be found in the gutter between pages where specimens had become detached from their tabs, or become brittle over the centuries. As part of the conservation treatment, Maria secured and stabilised the specimens which were still attached using new paper tabs where necessary. The loose specimens and fragments were either fixed on archival quality paper sheet and/or protected by handmade pockets of archival tissue paper, each according to the size and shape of the specimen. The loose specimens remain in their original location while a detailed documentation sheet now provides guidelines for safe consultation of the volume with its plant insertions. All thirty-five of

the leaves containing botanical specimens were then digitised, to provide further assistance for future users.

Readers consult many of the over one hundred medical texts William Creed left to the Corpus Library in 1711. Amongst them is a catalogue of the trees and plants of the Oxford physic garden at the time – what an absolutely wonderful trove it is. The volume has an original early 18th Century binding and contains handwritten notes, presumed to be Creed's own, referring to the structure of the plants listed, and the fly leaf lists no fewer than thirteen hundred specimens he collected. The single botanical specimen in this book, of the Campion family, has been beautifully preserved.

Part of a large bequest from Henry Hare, Baron Coleraine, who died on 1749, is a history of Milan written in Italian. This volume had a large number of flower petals pressed between its pages which had caused staining and the petals themselves had become very fragile. Conservation of the pages and fixing of the petals will now enable scholars to consult the book.

Bespoke boxes of acid-free card have been made for extra storage protection and the books, their boxes and invaluable history will all sit in the air-conditioned College strong rooms.

Both Hugh and I have found it a privilege and a joy to participate in this project.



# The Dial

## Law

### Law Society Dinner

The Frederick Pollock Law Society Day began with afternoon tea in the auditorium, giving old friends time to reunite and students and alumni the opportunity to get to know each other in an informal setting. It was a lovely to see students and alumni engaging so well, a wonderful example of the ever-thriving Corpus community.

This was followed by a Symposium on Truth in Criminal Law, chaired by Professor Liz Fisher. The panel comprising Alison Morgan (now QC), Edward Fitzgerald QC and Dr Matt Dyson all delivered insightful speeches on the subject. The discussion was then opened up to the room and insights into what truth is in criminal law were offered from professionals in areas across the field of law. One discussion about the practical and philosophical arguments of what truth is was particularly interesting.

After the symposium everyone moved to the Rainolds Room for drinks before convening in the Hall for the annual Law Society Dinner. The Dinner itself was peppered with stories from past and present Corpuses. The evening was, for me at least, one to be treasured from my time at Oxford.

**Rhiannon Ogden-Jones**  
Retiring President of the Law Society

## Business and Finance

### Business and Finance Drinks

This year's Business and Finance Drinks, which took place on 23 May, was very generously hosted by Lord Nash (Law 1968) in the elegant surrounds of the Atlee Room at the House of Lords. Over fifty Old Members networked over drinks and canapés, whilst enjoying views of the Thames through the Gothic windows.

Next year's Drinks will be in at Dechert's London office near St Paul's. If you work in business or finance and would like to join the group, please email [development.office@ccc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development.office@ccc.ox.ac.uk)



## Legacy Society

### FROST SOCIETY LUNCH

Named after Bishop Fox's steward, who left the first legacy to the College, the Frost Society has been formed so that the College can acknowledge those who have let us know that they plan to leave a bequest to Corpus. On Friday 5 July, its inaugural meeting took the form of drinks in warm sunshine, followed by lunch in Hall with the President. Dr Moore expressed the College's gratitude for the generosity of all present and said that legacies constitute a very important contribution to both maintaining and transforming the College as it makes its way through the 21st Century.

## Celebration

### BENEFACTORS' GARDEN PARTY



On the afternoon of Saturday 7 September, over 150 Old Members and their guests joined the President for sparkling wine and a delicious tea. The Quad had been specially decorated for the occasion with bunting criss-crossing above the tables and looping under the Library windows. This event is an opportunity for the College to gratefully acknowledge the kindness of those who have supported it over past years. This year, it also provided a specific opportunity to thank those who had given so generously to the refurbishment of the JCR and, after a brief ribbon cutting ceremony, donors were invited into the JCR to see the new Donor Board.

Another alumni-funded project to be warmly recognised was the renovation of the 400-year-old Library Presses. It has taken over six years to restore all the presses but to the College's great satisfaction, this has now been done and plaques on the ends of the presses commemorate the donors' generosity.

It was a very happy and congenial afternoon with old friends meeting up and enjoying the beauty of the Quad in the September sunshine.

# New Arrivals

## Nick Melhuish Bursar



“  
I wasn't expecting to be discussing the merits of sixteenth-century Hebrew fonts

Nick Melhuish joined Corpus in September 2018 to take up the position of Bursar. Prior to returning to Oxford after a 27-year hiatus he worked as an investment manager for various companies on both coasts of the US and in Asia. Most recently he was Head of Global Equities at UBS and then Amundi. He serves on the Boards of a number of charities, including Trusthouse Charitable Foundation, a grant giving foundation focused on alleviating urban and rural deprivation where he chairs the Finance Committee and the London Clinic, a medical charity and private hospital where he serves as chair of the Audit and Risk Committee. He read Modern History at New College where he took a First in Final Honour Schools.

Nick says 'it has been exciting to come back to Oxford after many years away and to get to know Corpus, a college I visited but did not know particularly well as an undergraduate. I was fortunate to be taught for two terms by James Howard-Johnston but this was really my only prior connection with the College. I have enjoyed investigating Corpus's fascinating history: it has been a welcoming and friendly community to join and I have enjoyed getting to grips with a new and wide-ranging

job. Of course, the focus is the financial health of the College and particularly the stewardship of the Endowment which is so critical to Corpus's mission. But the Bursar is lucky enough to get involved in many different aspects of the College's life, from governance to the exciting project we have to install an engraved window between the library and chapel to commemorate the Quincentenary. I wasn't expecting to be discussing the merits of sixteenth-century Hebrew fonts and the problems of translation of biblical texts but it has been a great reminder of the richness of Oxford life.

The big projects we have in front of us are the Special Collections Centre and making sure that we are able to devote more significant resources to access and the student experience and I will be devoting considerable efforts to these over the coming year.

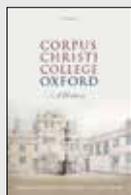
I've also been lucky enough to be appointed Director of the Asset Management Masterclass Program at the Saïd Business School which will give me some exposure directly to Oxford graduate students and to try my hand at some practical teaching which I have not done before. Oxford and Corpus bring lots of new challenges which is very exciting.'

# Listing

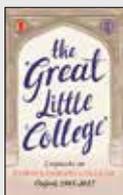
►► **Did you know that we regularly send out College news and invitations to events by email?** Please be sure to let us have your current email address if you want to keep in touch.

## Merchandise

These products are available through our website: [www.ccc.ox.ac.uk/Merchandise](http://www.ccc.ox.ac.uk/Merchandise)



**Corpus Christi College – A History**



**The Great Little College**



**Daring to be Wise**



**Corpus Silver – Patronage & Plate**



**The Fox, The Bees and The Pelican**



**Raising the Ladder**



**Corpuscles**



**An Oxford College At War**



**Key Ring**



**Earrings**



**Mug**



**Stylus Pen**



NICK READ

## Expanding Horizons Scholars

The Expanding Horizons project was launched by the College in its Quincentenary year. It offers students the opportunity to work or volunteer in the USA or in a non-OECD country. The scheme, generously funded by alumni, is intended to be of broad educational value. This year's scholars, pictured above, went to Albania, Madagascar, Lebanon, Ghana, Washington and New York.

## Telethon 2019

This year, we once again ran our Telethon in-house and eight talented students made calls over eight days, raising a magnificent £156,046 – £4,000 more than last year. We received 168 donations from Old Members. Both students and alumni seemed to enjoy making contact more than ever and we have had very enthusiastic feed-back about the conversations.



NICK READ

## Rugby Cuppers 2018/19

Corpus/Somerville Men's Rugby Team has made massive progress over the last few years. The team started Michaelmas 2018 brimming with confidence and excitement. By the end of term they had finished second in the league, having missed out to Keble by only one point. Hilary saw another string of victories but, weakened by injury and illness, the team lost again to Keble 43-36. Fortunately, however, enough points had been earned to win the division and the title. The

Cuppers' Campaign proved more challenging but Corpus/Somerville managed to see off Balliol and Hertford and then in the semi-finals convincingly defeated St John's/St Anne's in front of a large crowd. With Corpus now in the first Cuppers' Final since the 1950s, tension was very high. After a difficult first half, with Corpus/Somerville down 15-0 to St Edmund Hall, Corpus managed to fight back in the second half, but still lost 18-12 to a very strong Teddy's side. Hopes are high though for winning next year's title.

## Corpus Christi College Alumni events 2020

For more information on all these events and to book please go to: [www.ccc.ox.ac.uk/Events-Calendar](http://www.ccc.ox.ac.uk/Events-Calendar)

### March 2020

#### Thursday 5 March Corpus in New York

To mark his departure from Corpus, Nick Thom will be hosting a Farewell Dinner at the Harvard Club. More details to follow.

#### Saturday 7 March Corpus in San Francisco

Nick Thom will also be hosting a Farewell Dinner in San Francisco. More details to follow.

#### Saturday 21 March Gaudy for 1986-1990

A very special night is assured. Invitations will be issued in the New Year.

### April 2020

#### Friday 17 April Oxford University Intercollegiate Golf Tournament

The annual tournament at Frilford will be followed by dinner at Merton College. All golfers welcome. Contact [sarah.salter@ccc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:sarah.salter@ccc.ox.ac.uk) to secure your place.

### May 2020

#### Saturday 30 May Eights Week Lunch

Corpus rowers are going from strength to strength. Come and cheer them on!

### June 2020

#### Friday 26 June Gaudy for 2000-2003

A midsummer night's dream. Invitations will be sent out in March.

