



Martlet

Newsletter of Pembroke College Cambridge
Issue 24 Spring 2020

Challenges and Developments

The Master, Lord Smith of Finsbury

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As our Director of Development Matthew Mellor always reminds me, within a year or so of Pembroke's foundation in 1347 we survived the Black Death. And we're still here, and flourishing, more than 670 years on. So for all the challenges that coronavirus and the traumas of Brexit and all sorts of other difficulty throw at us, we will carry on steadily doing what we are here to do: provide the very best education for some of the brightest and best students. And to do so within a nurturing and supportive community that helps to welcome and sustain everyone.

I started writing this before the full lockdown response to Covid-19 occurred, and since then our lives and our students' lives have been fundamentally (though we hope temporarily) changed. This term all teaching and all exams is being done remotely, and the writing-up of dissertations and preparation for exams will be rather different from the norm. But we will come through it all. And we can reflect on how, during the past term, our students have been doing extraordinary things beyond the academic. Our women's first football team have won Cuppers for the second time in a row – and appropriately, did so on the day before International Women's Day. Our men's first boat came up to second on the river in the Lent Bumps. Our rugby team (now joint with Girton – something you couldn't possibly have said back in my day!) had an outstanding run of games. The Choir have just released their first commercial single, *Media Vita*, available on iTunes, Spotify and Amazon. Pembroke Players put on a fabulous 'smoker' evening, full of 1920s costumes and brilliant stand-up comedy and happily no smoke. One of our fourth-year engineers, Daniel Jackson, gave a sparkling virtuoso piano recital of Beethoven, Prokofiev and Chopin.

And recently we had a glorious weekend with a Festival of Voice in Pembroke, organised by our College Musician Joseph Middleton, where he accompanied a number of superb lieder singers in a series of three concerts. The final concert gave us Ian Bostridge singing Schubert's *Winterreise*; and in the intimate setting of the Old Library, our original medieval chapel with its beautiful 1690 ceiling, it was the most compelling rendition I have ever heard. At the end, there was complete silence for some two minutes, before a storm of applause broke out. An occasion to savour for years to come.

In the past few years we have greatly enhanced the visual art in College. Our Henry Moore sculpture, *Figure in a Shelter*, on loan from the Henry Moore Foundation, makes the perfect addition to Foundress Court lawn, the curvaceous form of the sculpture complementing well the geometrical rectangularity of the building behind. As predicted in last year's *Martlet*, we now also have John Farnham's *Crescent Figure* – donated by a 1953 alumnus – sitting proudly on the corner of Library Lawn. John Farnham worked closely with Henry Moore, and the work looks perfectly situated, set against the Chapel and Library, and especially when viewed as you come along the Avenue beside the great plane trees. Indeed, it looks so good there that the original intention of moving it in due course to the Mill Lane site will almost certainly be abandoned, and it will remain where it is, in perpetuity. The same generous alumnus is also giving us an Austin



Wright sculpture, which in due course will be set – we hope – on the external wall of Foundress Court.

It is with this rather good recent track record in mind that we are approaching with enthusiasm the challenge of creating a public art strategy for our new Mill Lane site. It is a requirement of our planning consent that we do so, but we want to do it anyway; and we want to make sure that it's good. After a competitive process and interviews we have appointed a Lead Artist, Alison Turnbull; she will both contribute artistic interventions herself and will also curate and coordinate others to provide moments of artistic delight through the new site. In preparing for her role, she has been immersing herself in the College's history and archives and gardens and traditions; and we are confident that her influence on our new development will be really effective.

The Mill Lane development continues to be a truly exciting prospect. We will be starting on Phase One of the building work in September this year – and as a result, all of a sudden, it is real, and imminent. The first phase will include the renovation of the United Reform Church into an auditorium for 220 people, the creation of the new 'foyer' building alongside the church, the new entrance from Trumpington Street, the exhibition gallery above it, the small first courtyard, and the transformation of both 4 Mill Lane and the old Careers Service building. It's tricky work, involving some demolition, some renovation, and some new build, and in the heart of existing buildings. But the result will be transformational. And it will be wonderful to see it happening, before our very eyes, over the next couple of years.

Community in Lockdown

Mark Wormald on working through Covid-19 measures



One of the real pleasures of working at Pembroke these last twenty-eight years, as a Fellow in English, as Senior Tutor and, for the last four years, as Secretary of the Senior Tutors' Committee, has been the environment I've been blessed to walk through every day. I guess that none of us ever takes it for granted: the fine old buildings, the open courts, the gardens, are as much an oasis as the people we share them with.

Writing this in early April 2019, on what should have been the last day of a family holiday in Germany, I have been hard at work – harder, perhaps than ever in my career – for the past month. The meetings that have filled my day, as a member of the University's COVID Gold team, have been vivid, intense, productive, purposeful. I have spent hours in Dan Tucker's company, comparing notes, reviewing documents of guidance and information that, in his capacity as Senior Tutor and as Chair of the University's Advisory Group of Communicable Diseases, have helped deliver humane, practical guidance at a time of intense crisis for us all.

And yet I've only been in to Pembroke once in the last three weeks, to retrieve a document I had left on my desk. My son and I cycled in as part of our hour's daily exercise. The oasis was entirely deserted, except for one chance encounter with our heroic catering team at the social distance that has become our norm – respectful, but warmer and more genuinely friendly than ever before – and an intended meeting with the duty Porters, to whom I needed

to hand an envelope for a colleague in Finance

who would be coming in herself in

t w o

days' time: the College's key workers. For the rest, the streets of this beautiful city were populated only by the homeless, themselves more vulnerable than ever now that the tourists and even the locals with houses to shelter in were gone.

It's odd how quickly we acclimatize to this strange, terrible, and yet peaceful time. I live in a village. We can walk, and cycle, out into the fens, generally after a day of working in my smallish study at the back of our house. The spring is alive. Indeed, it seems more alive than ever; what the poet Philip Larkin called 'the natural noise of good' is all the noisier for the quietness on our roads and in the upper atmosphere.

But during the day I am within preternaturally immediate reach of other people's once private spaces. My study has, through the wonders of technology – and a determined afternoon fiddling with kitchen cabinets, carpets, and bookshelves to thread a 25-metre ethernet cable from our router via our kitchen and utility room into my laptop port – become a kind of Tardis. I see colleagues and students via Zoom and Microsoft Teams, neither of which I'd even heard of a month ago. A Master of a College dials in from Florida and he is with me. And I appear on his screen from a sunny and calm trout lough in County Sligo, where Ted Hughes loved to fish: my 'virtual background', a photograph I took five years ago. I'm encouraging students to think of using their own virtual backgrounds, to avoid revealing more than they choose to when, this coming Easter term, they meet for supervisions not in the professional space of some College office but, though the conversations they have will be as intellectually substantial as ever, in conditions which our pre-pandemic selves would never have contemplated.

A greater wonder than this enhanced accelerated way of working is the speed with which an altogether looser and generally cumbersome network – that of the University and its Colleges – have come together. Exams are so last year, if you mean things that you endure in an invigilated Hall. The new assessments which our Faculties and Departments have now shared their plans for with our students, will, we hope, give Cambridge undergraduates anywhere in the world the chance to show what they have learned and, supported by safety nets and allowances, to get the classed degree they need to go on into the world when the world as we know it returns. But students for whom home is already proving hard, even if they have internet connections, and those for whom the closure of a lab or an archive means the suspension of their research, need more than resourceful good will.

For the four thousand or so students still in Cambridge, either because the city or College is their home, or because they now can't travel safely, every College has, thanks to Dan Tucker and his team, found a way of working with our remainers as well as reaching out to our leavers. (A year after that first threatened no deal, the language of one crisis has been repurposed for another.) We are redefining households; we are doing our best to meet, and soften, the challenges of self-isolation and lockdown even as we have to respect protocols most bright young questioning minds would have thought inconceivable in January. As we do so, every college, and the collegiate University as a whole, is proving itself as real a community as it ever was, true to the same values, but is expressing those, making them work, in ways we will never forget.



Pembroke's Medieval Manuscripts

Rod Thomson on his descriptive catalogue of the College's manuscript collection

Not many fellows of medieval Oxbridge Colleges even know that their institutions contain large collections of medieval and renaissance manuscripts. That was true at Pembroke. The College has more than 300 complete manuscript books, and a thousand-odd fragments. Together they are the most valuable movable objects in the College's possession. The three best would each fetch well over £1,000,000 in the saleroom. The remainder would average out at over £100,000 each. One reason why they are not better known is because they are invisible; housed under special restricted conditions in the University Library, only consulted by accredited scholars.

What is a manuscript? It is any handwritten book, from ancient Egypt to the present day. But before 1454, the year in which western Europe's first printed book – the Gutenberg Bible – was published, all books were completely hand-made. Almost all of the Pembroke books were written prior to that date, or at any rate before 1500. Being hand-made, each copy is unique, since it is physically impossible to create two identical hand-made copies. Medieval book-makers rarely tried to produce even similar copies of the same work, and broadly anything goes between the two covers. One doesn't expect the modern norms: title and author on the spine or on a title page, date of publication, table of contents and index. Some of these items may appear, or none at all. An individual book may contain a single item, or a hundred. Several of the Pembroke books contain 50-100 sermons. More than one book, of widely different dates and contents, may be bound up together, in the late middle ages or in modern times. And so one could go on – the only limits are your imagination.

That given, how does one know what's in a particular manuscript, or conversely, whether the work of a particular author or artist is to be found in one of the Pembroke books? One can't search every item in the collection; a guide is needed, and that's where the Descriptive Catalogue comes in. It makes easy access possible. The Descriptive Catalogue is a book-length study of each item, preceded by an introduction introducing the collection and providing a history of the College library from its beginnings in 1346, and followed by the vital indexes and plates. The description of each book is, in effect, a mini-history of it, very concisely written in a kind of code. Few non-specialists would want to read the majority of the Catalogue, but its Introduction (and 150-odd plates, all in colour) should be of interest to past and present fellows.

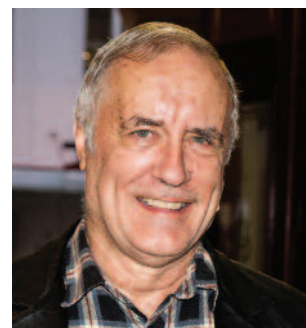
So what can be said about the Pembroke College collection? First of all, it can be divided into two parts. 106 books came, in one lot, in 1599, as the gift of William Smart, alderman of Ipswich. In the Middle Ages they were in the library of the great Benedictine abbey at Bury St Edmunds. How Smart got hold of them after the abbey's dissolution in 1539, and how he came to give them to the College, are not easy to discern, but what can be known about them is laid out in my Introduction to the Catalogue. They are a splendid collection, mainly of biblical commentaries, most dating from the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, and most are in excellent condition, some still in their original bindings. Many of them date from the time when the abbey was making books in its own 'scriptorium', and they give us good examples of the writing and

decoration done 'in-house'. But the most splendid of the Bury books wasn't given by Smart. MS 120, the so-called '*Bury Gospels*', is a beautifully-decorated twelfth-century Gospel-book, prefaced by a quire of framed full-page miniatures of events in the life of Christ. It was given to the College by Edmund Boldero, Master of Jesus (1663-79). The pictures are in the style, perhaps by the very hand, of the 'Alexis Master', a well-known professional artist responsible for other great books from Bury and from St Alban's Abbey.

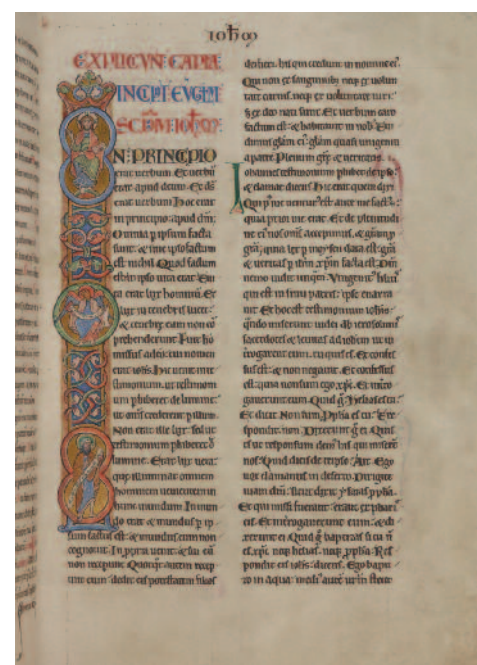
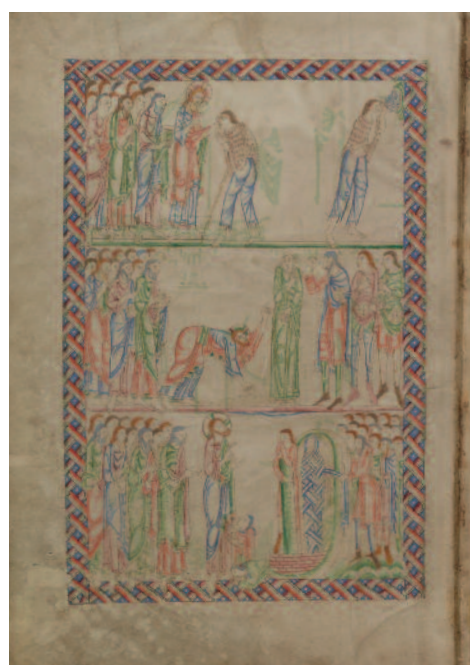
Almost all of the remaining books were in the College library from early on. They can be recognized as such because they can be identified in surviving donation-lists or because they carry the ex dono inscription of a former Master or Fellow. For this was how the College (Pembroke Hall, as it was then) acquired its books – as with all the Oxbridge medieval colleges, almost entirely by donation. This was not as inefficient as it may at first seem. The number of texts needed for university study was small, they changed little over time, and multiple copies were welcome. Many donors specified (in their wills) that their books could be sold if they were not thought useful.

In contrast to those from Bury, these books are a dull-looking lot: little or no decoration, indifferently written, and containing mostly 'standard' texts that differed little between colleges or even universities. What makes them interesting is the circumstances of their donation, and the annotation that appears in their margins (showing how they were used).

And finally, we must not forget the handful of books given to the College in the seventeenth and eighteenth century, for among them are the finest of all the gifts, not only the '*Bury Gospels*' mentioned earlier, but two Anglo-Saxon Gospel-books, each containing pages of decoration awash with gold and brilliant colour.



Rod Thomson is Emeritus Professor of Medieval History at the University of Tasmania, Hobart. Since the early 1980s one of his special interests has been the cataloguing of manuscript collections. In addition to Pembroke, he has completed catalogues for Lincoln, Hereford, and Worcester Cathedrals, for Merton and Corpus Christi Colleges, Oxford, and for Peterhouse, Cambridge.



Pages from the Bury Gospels: scenes from the life of Christ (left); and the opening of St John's Gospel (right)

Snapshots of an Acquaintance with Clive James (1939 – 2019)

Ian Fleming (1956)



Emeritus Professor Ian Fleming came up to Pembroke in 1956, reading Natural Sciences. He was elected as a Research Fellow in 1962, and from 1964 to his 'retirement' in 2002, he supervised and directed studies in Chemistry. He still teaches, and the 7th edition of one of his books was published this year.

Clive James published an article in 1965 in the *Cambridge Review*, a don's weekly magazine. It was not donnish at all – here was a compelling voice writing about serious issues in a forceful and simultaneously entertaining style. By now we are all familiar with it, but at the time it was astonishing; I had no idea who he was.

The article was called 'Cats in the Culture Gap'. It began with a long quotation from an article about using cats to study sleep deprivation. This was a springboard for a discussion of how easily scientists had been persuaded to carry out deeply offensive experiments. Clive was not against science as such; it was only an introduction to a discussion of the ease with which the Nazis had been able to recruit people to carry out their atrocities. Scientists were only people. From this base Clive stepped seamlessly into the altercation between C. P. Snow and F. R. Leavis in 'The Two Cultures' war, which had been raging for a few years. Clive's case was that Snow was wrong, and not romantic, and Leavis was right, but not attractive. He nailed the problem impressively, and I was stunned to find someone at last articulating, in vivid words, issues that I had only been groping towards.

His name reappeared two weeks later, answering a letter that had appeared in the *Cambridge Review* the week after 'Cats in the Culture Gap'. In it he extended his argument, and ended: 'In this enormously complicated question of the political control of creativity, Dr Leavis isn't much more use as a guide than Snow is. But he has got the drop on a hired torpedo like Snow, and he does recognise the stink that comes off a cat when it is terrified'. Wow.

A month later, in the same magazine, Clive wrote a letter commenting on an article from a week before, about Antonioni's 1963 film *l'Eclisse*. Mary Bernard and I were reviewing current films regularly for the *Cambridge Review* that year, but the article he was responding to was not by us; and it was about an earlier film by Antonioni. Clive attacked the article for its style and its reading of the film, beginning: 'When Antonioni so deliberately wrings the water out of the towel, I suppose it has to go somewhere. But it isn't pleasant to find it swelling the critical vocabulary of Dudley Young. Noumenal ontology yourself, my good man'. Again he went on to nail the essence of *l'Eclisse*, a film I already knew well, and was glad to see being defended so amiably. Both of Clive's letters gave his address as Pembroke.

I asked Roy Park, our new Fellow in English at the time, who Clive was. Roy was one of the editors of the *Cambridge Review* that year, and it was he who had recruited Mary and me. It turned out that Clive was an affiliated student reading English, and Roy was one of his supervisors. Roy introduced us, bringing him down to

my set on X10 after one of their supervisions. We talked, I praised the *Cats* and *l'Eclisse* pieces, and he commented that he liked our reviews – which was a relief.

Mary and I invited Clive to dinner at home some months later, and he came. He was especially keen to use our telephone to talk to Pru in Oxford, and was quite distracted from our conversations by whatever his exchange with her had been. He was polite but keen to leave; the dinner was not a great success.

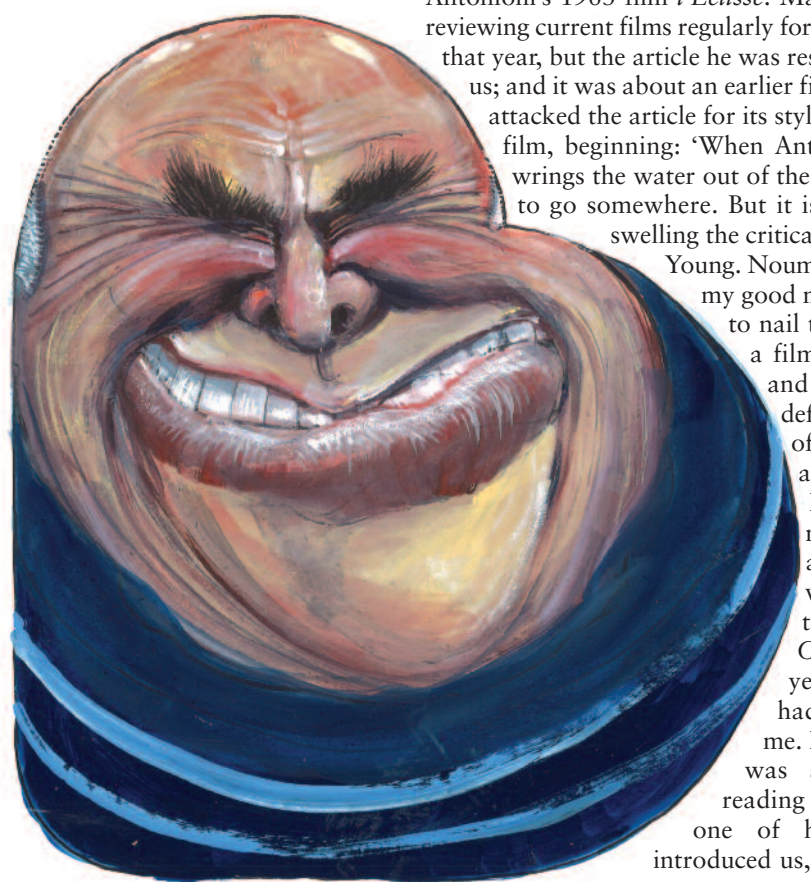
Later again, he organised a 'smoker' in College, with a standout performance by Germaine Greer that upset a number of people in the audience, as she has been wont to do ever since. Still later, I saw him at the railway station, both of us going to London, and we travelled together. I had some journals to read, and Clive told me that he had some poetry that he was reviewing (anonymously, back then) for the *TLS*. The extraordinary thing was that both of us had caught sight of W. H. Auden boarding the same train. Clive was itching to beard him, but did not quite have the courage to go to the first-class carriage that Auden was in. As we left the train at King's Cross, Clive ran off to find him. I wish I could have been there if they met.

I saw him again when he came to dinner on High Table a couple of years later. He had just started as a graduate student, and was now doing the film reviews himself. I told him that I thought he was much too clever to constrain himself into the straitjacket of a PhD; and sure enough he abandoned that plan quite soon after.

I saw little of him from then on, except occasionally when we were both crossing Jesus Green, or shopping in M&S. But I learned a lesson at a party in London that related to him. A young woman whom I had just met asked me which college I belonged to. I made foolish noises that knowing which college I was in was hardly useful information to someone like her who I knew had no connection to Cambridge. She poked me in the chest and said pointedly, 'I might know someone you know'. She was right, and I've never taken that line since. We both knew Clive, who had spent time sleeping on her floor when he was down and out shortly after he came to England.

By this time, Clive had made a name for himself as a reviewer, no longer anonymously, and as a performer on TV. I remember Meredith Dewey saying to me at dinner one night, less than half in jest, that we probably ought to make him an Honorary Fellow. This was long before the time when that idea would have had any chance of success, but I was impressed by how early and how sharply Meredith had read the serious component of Clive's achievement. I saw little of Clive's TV work, but did not greatly enjoy what I did see. However, I had been reading his occasional pieces in the *New Yorker* and elsewhere. They were fully serious; and they notably introduced me to the writing of Nadezhda Mandelstam, among others, in a long sympathetic review of Primo Levi's last book. Many years later, on the Fellowship Committee myself, I was able to introduce his name at a time when it might prosper, and in due course it did; he was made an Honorary Fellow.

I last saw Clive a year ago in M&S, a rare outing for him by then. I reminded him who I was, and said that I had been picturing him over the last few years, ill at home like General Sternwood, kept alive in a greenhouse full of orchids and living on heat. He smiled in recognition, and said he admired anyone who admired Raymond Chandler.



Why Investors Might be Climate Allies: The Third Stage of Corporate Governance

Jon Lukomnik, Pembroke's Visiting Professor of International Finance, gives a digest of his 2020 Adam Smith Lecture

Twenty-five years ago, I had an epiphany. I was the New York City official in charge of investing the City's defined benefit pension funds. I was responsible, in large part, for the retirement security of more than half a million active and retired teachers, clerks, police, firefighters, sanitation workers, mechanics, bus drivers and other city workers. I had a staff of almost 60; reported to five boards of trustees of the funds; hired, fired and oversaw scores of outside money managers; and dealt with custodian banks, actuaries, lawyers, accountants, NGOs, etc. It was incredibly rewarding, but also a bit frenetic.

My epiphany? I faced a straightforward if difficult task hidden by all that activity: I needed somewhere to invest \$80 billion to earn a rate of return above inflation forever. That meant I needed a healthy society and economy, and functioning capital markets. The problem is that Modern Portfolio Theory (MPT), which dominates investment thinking, tells us to diversify idiosyncratic risk (Company X versus Company Y), but does not suggest how to deal with systematic risk, which determines 75%-95% of your investment return. I needed a healthy economy and healthy capital markets. MPT provided no tools as to how to achieve that.

I turned to corporate governance, a distinctly non-MPT activity that engages with companies, rather than buying and selling their shares. At first corporate governance focused on stopping abuses like greenmail, where a company paid off a corporate raider by buying back its shares at an inflated price, in return for a promise to go away and leave the extant CEO comfortably in charge. Thereafter, corporate governance started to focus on underperforming companies, enabling us to play offense as well as defence. It was like going after the slowest zebra to get the herd to run faster.

In 2005, then UN Secretary General Kofi Annan invited 20 large investors to design what would become the Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI). PRI ushered in stage two corporate governance, with environmental, social and governance (ESG) concerns sharing centre stage. The purpose remained the performance of firms, but the definition of performance broadened from a narrow, purely financial performance, to a more macro-economic view. What did not change was the focus on individual companies. Yes, there was a hope that we could 'get the herd to run', but we did that by targeting slow zebras. We didn't give the herd vitamins.

Today, however, we have entered the third phase of corporate governance. It differs in that investors directly target systematic risks that affect the risk/return of the market. Beta activists (investors call the overall risk/return of the marketplace beta) target market-wide risks, not individual companies the way corporate activists do. For instance, in 2017, the Japanese Government Pension Investment Fund, the world's largest asset owner, hired specialty investment managers to improve the Japanese economy, rather than to trade to beat a benchmark.

Third stage corporate governance works. In 2014, New York City's pension funds announced the 'Boardroom Accountability Project' to improve the ability of shareowners to nominate corporate board members directly in the United States. The Securities and Exchange

Commission had proposed a 'proxy access' rule to do that, but a lawsuit overturned it. However, the court did allow that shareowners of each individual company could, if they so wished, adopt proxy access. No one thought that would happen. As of 2014, only six American companies featured a proxy access rule.

The New York City funds announced an attempt to establish proxy access as a new market standard by filing resolutions at 75 companies. The announcement itself caused a 53-basis point excess return in the shares of those 75 companies. Today, proxy access has become a de facto market standard among large capitalization US public companies. More than 600 US public companies have adopted some form of the policy.

Which, brings us to the question of 'Why investors might be climate allies'.

A little more than twenty-five years after my 'aha moment', a more consequential figure in investing told us of his firm's epiphany. In early 2020, Larry Fink, the Chief Executive Officer of BlackRock, told the world that 'Climate Risk Is Investment Risk'. This was not news. Mark Carney, former Governor of the Bank of England, has been warning for years about a 'Minsky Moment' when the values of carbon-related assets could collapse. The Bank for International Settlement, the bankers' bank, has said that central bankers can't save the world's capital markets from climate risk.

What was news was the fact that BlackRock was saying it. BlackRock, the world's largest asset management company, had been criticized by some for not walking the walk when it came to environmental issues. It had not joined Climate Action 100, though 350 of its peers had. Some of its votes on shareholder resolutions were inconsistent and, in the view of many climate activists, not helpful.

Then, BlackRock joined Climate Action 100. Two days later, Mr Fink wrote: 'Climate change has become a defining factor in companies' long-term prospects'. He announced, 'a number of initiatives to place sustainability at the center of our investment approach'. He asked companies to start reporting ESG data according to the voluntary Sustainability Accounting Standards Board (SASB) and Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosure standards.

BlackRock's attempt at private-sector standard setting seems destined to be a game-changer. Within days of Mr. Fink's request, SASB was inundated by inbound inquiries.

As noted, BlackRock was not a leader in the climate fight. That is not to criticize BlackRock, but to emphasize just how strongly its announcement confirms that 1) we are now in the third stage of modern corporate governance, and 2) climate change is the key systematic risk investors care about.

That BlackRock wasn't the first large investor to cite climate change isn't a reason for consternation. Rather, it's a reason for hope. It shows that beta activism is now mainstream. It suggests that investors – though not uniformly nor as vigorously as some would like – can be climate allies.



Forbes calls long-time institutional investor **Jon Lukomnik** one of the pioneers of modern corporate governance. Jon is the managing partner of Sinclair Capital LLC, a strategic consultancy to institutional investors, and a Senior Fellow at the High Meadows Institute. Jon served for more than a decade as the executive director of the IRRIC Institute where he oversaw more than 75 academic and practitioner research projects.



Re-evaluating our Approach to Treating Dementia

Mark Halliday, Ron Thomson Research Fellow, discusses his research



Mark Halliday is the Ron Thomson Research Fellow at Pembroke and a research associate at the UK Dementia Research Institute in Cambridge. His research focuses on developing a treatment for Alzheimer's disease and related disorders.

We are currently living through challenging times. The effects of climate change are beginning to be felt around the world and the COVID-19 pandemic has brought into stark focus how quickly normal life can change. We are also facing another growing problem that doesn't get as much media attention. The world's population is aging, and in nearly every country the number and proportion of older people is increasing. This means that worldwide the number of people living with dementia is predicted to increase by over 200% in the next 30 years; from 50 million currently, to 152 million by 2050.

Dementia is a general term for a number of neurodegenerative diseases characterised by cognitive impairment and memory loss. Many diseases cause dementia, with Alzheimer's being the most prevalent, but Parkinson's, Huntington's, and Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) all also have large societal impacts. Dementia not only devastates lives, but creates enormous cost to the wider economy – an estimated £26 billion a year, which is predicted to rise to £65 billion a year by 2050 in the UK alone.

Currently a quarter of hospital beds are occupied by people with dementia, a proportion that will only continue to rise. We are in desperate need of disease-modifying treatments – a drug or intervention that can slow down or stop the progressive degeneration and death of brain cells that underpins the development of all the aforementioned disorders. Unfortunately, to date only treatments that help manage the symptoms of dementia have been developed.

The biggest hurdle to developing a cure is our lack of knowledge of the underlying causes of Alzheimer's and related disorders. Alzheimer's is associated with the build-up of amyloid- β , a protein that clumps together in the brain and forms deposits called plaques. The prevailing hypothesis is that this directly causes the brain cell death observed. This has led to the development of a number of treatments that can remove amyloid- β from the brain. Unfortunately, these treatments have not led to the desired results in large-scale human clinical trials. That is not to say

that the treatments were ineffectual, for they did potentially a n d

successfully lower amyloid- β levels. In spite of that effect, though, no clinical benefit on memory or cognition was observed. These failures directly challenged the current dogma surrounding Alzheimer's and have led to a re-evaluation of our current assumptions and approaches.

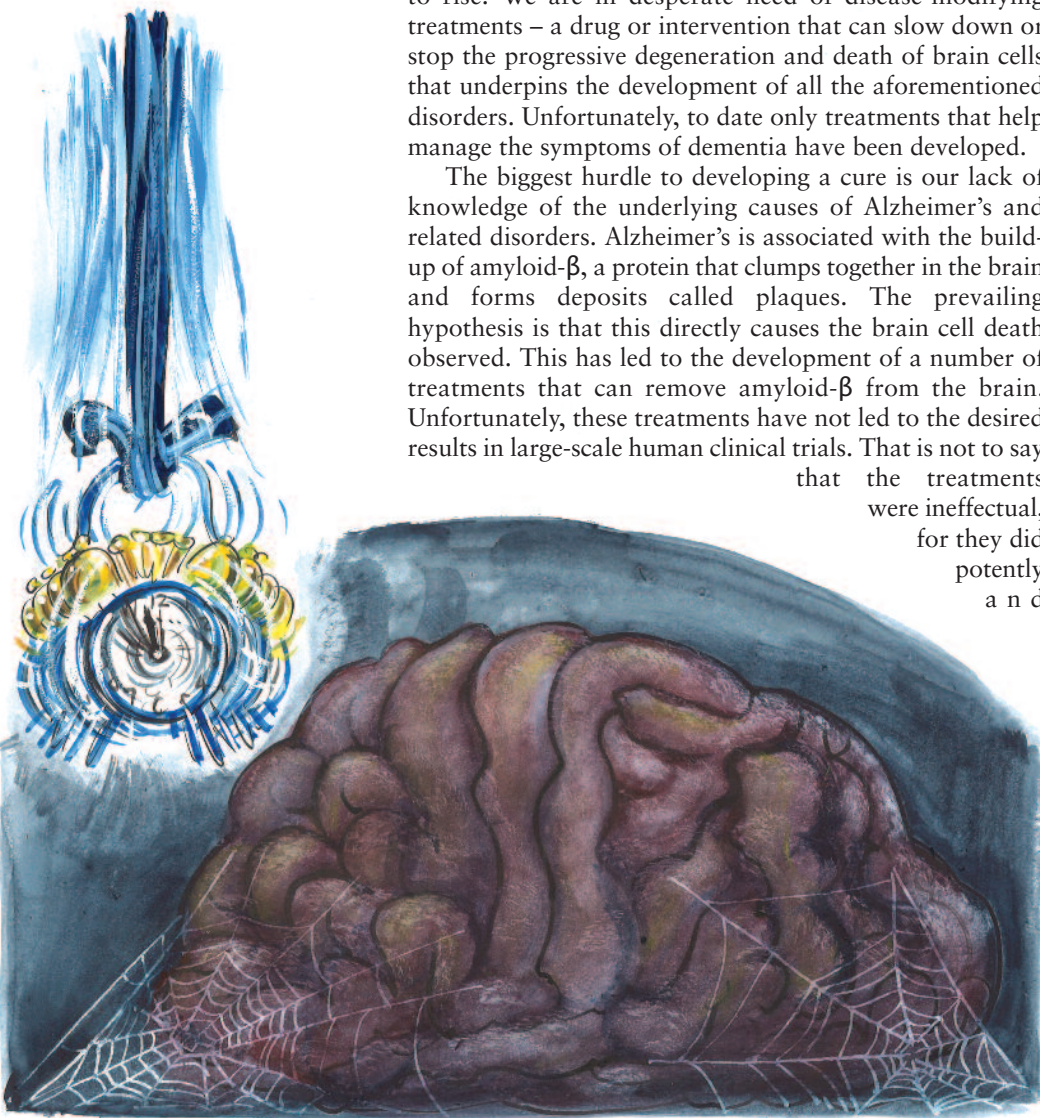
Knocking amyloid- β off its pedestal as the favoured culprit to blame for Alzheimer's has allowed numerous other ideas to flourish in its place. Research that my colleagues and I have previously performed suggests that it is the brain's response to the presence of proteins such as amyloid- β , rather than a directly toxic effect of the proteins themselves, which is the driver of the brain cell death observed in dementia. The brain responds to amyloid- β by switching off the production of new proteins, in the hope that this will allow the source of the problem to be found and fixed – rather like a factory shutting down production after noticing a fault in one of its products. However, for unknown reasons the original fault cannot be found and rectified, and protein production halts for extended periods of time. This means brain cells are slowly starved of the essential proteins they need to function correctly and survive.

Experiments that my lab and other around the world have performed have demonstrated that if you switch protein production back on, brain cells are protected, memory is improved, and lifespans are extended. It turns out that in our brain factories, a constant supply of regular product, even if it contains occasional faults, is more important than 100% fidelity.

My research at Pembroke is focused on developing a drug treatment for dementia. I have identified a drug called Trazodone that I hope can become this prospective treatment. It stimulates protein production and protects the brain in models of Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. Trazodone is also currently used as a treatment for depression, so it is known to be safe for long-term use, and it is even recommended for use in elderly patients who have sleep disturbances. As it has already gone through comprehensive testing, new safety trials do not have to be performed, greatly speeding up and cutting the costs of the development process.

We are currently performing a small study in human patients, using PET scanning to measure protein production rates in the brains of control patients and patients with Alzheimer's, and then giving both groups Trazodone to see if protein production is increased. That would be the first evidence of our approach working in human disease. If successful, we would move on to a longer clinical trial that tests cognitive outcomes in patients treated with Trazodone. Excitingly, if Trazodone works, it could be given not just to individuals with Alzheimer's but to sufferers of nearly every form of dementia, as the reduction of protein production has been demonstrated to be near universal in these diseases.

The failure of previous clinical trials has made some researchers despondent about finding a cure anytime soon, however I believe there is now cause for optimism. Advances are being made almost daily, and inventive treatments are being trialled around the world. Nevertheless, I do implore governments and society to start planning for how they are going to care for the rapidly increasing number of people predicted to get dementia.



Pembroke Societies before 1939

Dominic Janes (1992)

Pembroke has had a vibrant tradition of student societies with academic and social aims. The Edwardian minute books of the Classical Society and the Historical Society, preserved in the College archives, provide evidence of the reading of many sober and worthy essays. The same may be said of the minute books of the Stokes Society, founded in 1909, which catered for all things scientific and which was originally to have been called The Germs. The first paper was on 'the general powers of matter which influence vegetation', but others ranged widely into what we would now think of as matters of social and personal life, as in the essay delivered on 27 October 1911 which argued that 'war should be treated as a natural phenomenon'. It was not until the mid-1930s that such innovations as formulae and diagrams made their way into the records.

The Medical Society, founded in 1919, had a jocular side. On 21 October 1930 a former Pembroke man who was a GP related a variety of mildly spicy anecdotes such as one concerning a visit to his surgery of two chorus girls 'reeking of scent'. The next patient, a don who was then a Proctor, sniffed and remarked, 'this is a familiar smell. I can't think what it reminds me of'. There were societies that more clearly mingled academic and social interests. One such was the Benedick Society, the records of which begin in 1927, and which was devoted to reading plays. Ben Jonson's *The Alchemist* 'had little in it that suited the humour of the society' and was abandoned on the evening of 4 December, but Noël Coward seems to have gone down a treat. On 27 January 1929 they read his *Fallen Angels* (1925) and then moved on to discuss Marie Stopes's *Enduring Passion: A Continuation of Married Love* (1928).

In the nineteenth century clubs were sometimes formed with the specific intention of providing opportunities to drink beyond those sanctioned by College authorities. The College Library preserves the somewhat erratic 1880s minute book of the Cigar and Sheep-Farming Club. This makes occasional reference to debates about sheep-farming in Australia and missionary affairs, but it was clearly a social club, complete with 'branding in' of new members. The evening of 27 March 1886, to give one example, consisted of supper with oysters, marrow bone, stout, and whisky. The Boat Club members also attended – apart from two of them who were burying a relative in the Isle of White, and another three who had been gated at nine o'clock 'by the unprincipled and tyrannous authorities of the College'. Everyone attending 'made exceeding merry until two minutes to twelve', when those living in College had to leave. But one of the guests who lived at 12 Mill Lane, where this jolly event was held, 'sang vociferously until about 2am ... many songs and choruses that infuriated the landlady' until the whisky ran out and his last health had to be drunk in water. The Club last met in February 1887, probably having been shut down by the Forces of Tyranny.

Most colleges developed a debating society. Undergraduates would have been familiar with them since they were a fixture at many public schools. Both school and college debating societies were more or less self-consciously modelled on the House of Commons. One of the surviving minute books (from the late 1870s) records such motions as that 'the electoral disabilities of women should be removed' (seven for and twenty against), that

'undue influence is attached to athletic prowess' (six for and fifteen against) and that the 'government of the University is not satisfactory' (nine for and six against). The young gentlemen disliked the French Revolution, narrowly disapproved of vivisection, and narrowly approved of Darwin's theory of evolution. From the 1880s the public and private business of the Debating Society was recorded separately, and it appears to have begun to function as a sort of Junior Parlour *avant la lettre*. Sources beyond the official records hint quite strongly that proceedings were by no means always prim and proper. For example, an article on the 'Essence of the P.C.D.S' published in the College newsletter *Pem* on 4 December 1893 reflected on a debate about the evils of intemperate drinking: 'Considered it myself a shocking subject, and was not a little relieved when gentlemen on both sides avoided it entirely' (p. 13).

The extensive records of the essay-reading society The Martlets, which began in the 1870s, also make clear that the student urge to party was as strong in the Victorian period as it was later. On 21 February 1921 the Bursar, N. P. McClelland, produced a letter and two photographs of a fancy dress ball held in May 1878 to inaugurate the club. The assembled students duly pretended to be shocked by the frivolity. This may have been the inspiration for the paper read by the historian G. P. Moriarty on 24 October 1921 entitled 'Victorianism: Its Cause and Cure'. The records of most of the societies other than The Debating Society and The Martlets are somewhat scanty. This is partly because there was an element of luck as to whether minute books made their way to the College Library in the first place, and also because the survival of each society was contingent on the interests of each new generation of undergrads. Thus, at the end of Michaelmas Term 1928, the five remaining members of the Historical Society, all of them 'devotees of the Mathematics Tripos', agreed to wind things up: 'So died, unregretted, and indeed unnoticed [the Society]... Long may its bones rest undisturbed'. Historians, however, have notoriously little respect for the dead.



Dominic Janes is a Professor of Modern History at Keele. He was a PhD student at Pembroke (1992 – 1995), and then a Drapers' Company Research Fellow (1996 – 99). More recently, he was a Visiting Scholar at Pembroke in Easter Term 2019 to research a book on student attitudes to gender and sexuality in the period 1875-1939.



Members of The Martlets Club and some of the guests at the Fancy Dress Dance, 1878

Keep Faith

Harum Mukhayer (2016)



Harum Mukhayer is a final-year PhD student completing a dissertation on 'Territorial Sovereignty and Boundaries in International Law' in the Faculty of Law.

I plug away at my thesis from my procrasticlean desk at home, almost three weeks after the University announced its closure in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. I catch myself trawling through my mind to recall a verse from the Quran that my Mum always quotes at times like these. I close the three Coronavirus news tabs, and opening a fresh tab, I let my fingers type a paraphrased version of the verse which leads me to the words that have often brought me comfort: *'la yukallifullahu nafsan illa wus'aba'* (Surah Al- Baqarah 2:286). That translates into: Allah doesn't burden anyone with more than they can bear. A quote my Mum follows with the proviso that when things get really tough, cut yourself some slack and allow good-enough to be sufficient.

My relationship with Islam is fairly visible: I wear a headscarf, I hold an Islamic name which means 'sanctuary' in Arabic, and I'm quite vocal about my faiths. In addition to identifying as a Muslim and subscribing to most of the dos-and-don'ts of Islam, I incorporate elements of Buddhism into my practice.

Having grown up in Dubai before moving to Scotland in 1994, the shift from Arabic to English also included a cultural transition which allowed me to appreciate Christianity. My parents encouraged my siblings and me to attend Christian assembly in the mornings before class

rather than attend the Muslim alternative sittings. They believed that our Islamic education could be done at home and that, as a bonus, the morning assembly would be part of our learning experience. I think this openness and religious curiosity has vastly influenced my relationship with faith and paved the way for my efforts towards inclusivity at Cambridge.

I recall in my first year at Pembroke, I was really made to feel at home. Michaelmas was so refreshing and Bridgmas was an experience like no other for me; in Cambridge, Christmas starts in November, who knew! I remember the freshly-baked mince pies in Old Library and the Christmas Party and singalongs hosted by the Dean and Choir. By the time Lent kicked off I was gaining familiarity with the Christian influences in College life as reflected in the academic calendar. Easter was vibrant, the Pembroke gardens were in full bloom by mid-April and I recall the egg-hunt was one among many fun activities organised by the Graduate Parlour.

By the end of exam season, and after my first year viva, I felt completely at home in Pembroke and settled into my new life in Cambridge. That is until two weeks before May Ball season, when Ramadan was about to start. Something about celebrating Ramadan and fasting the days alone made me feel really isolated, and that was exacerbated by horror stories I heard about Muslim students being targeted by Prevent policies. I felt scared and almost ashamed to be so openly practising a religion that no one else seemed to care about. It was at that moment that I recalled Freshers' Week and the Dean's invitation to all students to enjoy the facilities in Chapel as a site for interfaith practices. So, I scheduled a meeting with the Dean for advice on how I could alleviate my anxieties about Ramadan and reconcile my practice of Islam with life at Pembroke.

As I walked up the staircase to Dr Gardom's office he greeted me at the door with a smile and welcomed me in. After an hour of talking through things he encouraged me to lead interfaith activities and promised his support. As a consequence, I started an annual Ramadan Iftar which invited all members of the Pembroke Community into an experience of Ramadan. Catering prepared a delicious menu of Ramadan-specific cuisine and the Old Library was arranged to simulate seating arrangements I associate with Ramadan in Sudan. The first Ramadan feast was in 2017, and the tradition has since continued. With the support of College and the positive reception of my interfaith inclusivity work at Pembroke I was inspired to kickstart additional initiatives through Gates-Cambridge.

In 2019, I was honoured to receive acknowledgement of my efforts through the University's Outstanding Student Contribution to Education Awards. I was Highly Commended in the Inclusive Practices category, and I owe it all to the love and support I've received at Pembroke at the start of my PhD. Cambridge can be a really tough place for students from non-Cambridge traditional backgrounds, especially BAME students, so I've been very thankful for the wonderful people who made up the Graduate Parlour at the time, and for the other magical humans who make College life what it is – from the Porters, Bedders and Catering Staff to the Fellows whom we look to for support and inspiration.

As I enter my second month in self-isolation, almost at the end of my PhD, I look back at the past four years at Pembroke and think: *Alhamdulillah!*



2017 Ramadan Iftar, the photo includes Dr Gardom and catering staff



The 2018 Ramadan Iftar in the Old Library

Sir Harold Ridley (1906 – 2001)

Nicholas Ridley writes of his father's life and pioneering achievements to mark the twentieth anniversary of Harold's knighthood

Nicholas 'Harold' Lloyd Ridley was born in July 1906 as a scion of a long-standing clerical family that claimed ancestry to Bishop Nicholas Ridley – Master of Pembroke (1540 – 1554) and Bishop of London (1550 – 1553) – who, with Anglican Bishops Latimer and Cranmer, was tried and burned for heresy by Queen Mary in 1555.

Nicholas Charles, Harold's father, was the first generation to practise medicine and was commissioned in 1889 in the Royal Navy as a Ship's Surgeon but, due to haemophilia, was discharged aged 30 when he commenced practising ophthalmology.

Harold was the elder of two sons and was educated at Charterhouse, during which time he decided to follow his father into medicine. On entering Pembroke in 1924 he read Natural Sciences, coming down from Cambridge in 1927 with an Honours degree. In the same year he began his medical training at St Thomas's Hospital, London, where he completed his basic training in 1930. In 1932, at the youngest eligible age of 25 – and perhaps due to his natural dexterity – he was elected a Fellow of The Royal College of Surgeons.

In 1938 Harold was elected as the youngest ever consultant to Moorfields Eye Hospital, London, where he accepted the majority view that consultants were appointed to undertake surgery. This view was stoutly rejected by Sir Stewart Duke-Elder, the then 'doyen' of ophthalmology, who was of the opinion that a consultant need not be a surgeon (Duke-Elder had a poor record in surgery) and could also be a physician. He considered Harold's lack of support on the issue to be both impertinent and unsupportive.

With the Battle of Britain, Harold was posted to Emergency Medical Services to treat service casualties. On 14 August 1940 he was presented with Flight Lieutenant 'Mouse' Cleaver of 601 Squadron RAF for treatment. Cleaver had abandoned his Hurricane after the canopy of his aircraft was severely damaged by gunfire and he was blinded in both eyes. After performing nineteen surgical procedures on Cleaver's eyes Harold discovered, to his surprise, that tiny particles of the aircraft's canopy did not adversely affect his patient's immune system, and thus Harold began to think about the possibilities of designing a lens that could replace the natural lens extracted in the cure of cataract blindness. He was acutely aware that little, if any, medical advance had been made in the cure of cataract blindness for nearly 200 years since Jacques Daviel had first surgically extracted the lens of an eye.

After the Battle of Britain, and at the instigation of Duke-Elder, Harold was commissioned in The Royal Army Medical Corps and posted in 1941 to Ghana as the Latrine Officer of an army training camp. During two week's leave, Harold persuaded his commanding officer to allow him to take two Army lorries on an expedition to Funsì to investigate blindness in a large number of people being attended to by a missionary doctor named Trip Saunders. On arrival at Saunders's medical camp, Harold was able to examine the eyes of the blind patients with the use of a slit-lamp powered by the lorry's twelve-volt battery. The results were the first steps in the cure of River Blindness (Onchocerciasis).

In 1941 Harold married Elisabeth Jane Wetherill and in the following year they purchased 53 Harley Street,

London W1, from Henry Stallard, a fellow ophthalmologist and middle-distance 'Chariots of Fire' runner. That house remained both their home in London and Harold's consulting rooms for over forty years.

By 1949 Harold had designed his first intraocular lens (IOL) in the cure of cataract blindness, and on 29 November this year he performed his first IOL operation in great secrecy at St Thomas's Hospital. Thus began not only the very beginning of bioengineering – which was later used for replacement hearts and hips surgery, amongst other things – but also a storm of personal criticism against him and his supporters from Duke-Elder and others who upheld the maxim of 'never place anything within the eye, always remove it'.

In 1967 Harold formed The Ridley Eye Foundation as his charitable legacy, and today the Foundation is about to undertake its first surgical field camps in some of the most remote parts of Nepal to cure cataract blindness there. Its chief executive is Alistair Wood LVO, MBE.

By the mid-1970s IOL surgery was accepted as 'the way forward' for cataracts, and in 1976 Harold ceased surgery aged 70 and retired to his house near Salisbury where he spent much time fly-fishing and travelling. He was fortunate to have had his own pioneering eye treatment performed on himself and thus did not suffer from cataracts in old age.

Over the years before his death in May 2001, aged 94, he received numerous honours around the world, which included being elected a Fellow of The Royal Society in 1986 and, most notably, being knighted by HM The Queen in 2000. Pembroke College graciously commemorated both Harold and his episcopal forebear by erecting a plaque to name a section of New Court as 'Ridley's Walk'.



Nicholas Ridley's career has been spent in corporate property and finance, together with serving as a trustee of Faith and medical-related charities, particularly The Ridley Eye Foundation. He lives in Lincolnshire with his wife and three Border Terriers.



Beryl Trist's oil on canvas portrait of Sir Harold Ridley, 1958

'Putting Gatsby to shame..'

Hannah Kilcoyne (2017) on the Pembroke Players



Hannah Kilcoyne is a third-year English Literature undergraduate and President of Pembroke Players.

Theatre is an integral part of Cambridge life, with Pembroke New Cellars operating as one of the major theatrical venues across Cambridge. I remember that on my very first day in the College, fellow students on my corridor were already preparing lines in order to audition for a Pembroke Players production. This was exactly what I'd been hoping for – Pembroke Players and its stellar reputation was one of the key aspects that had drawn me to the College.

Since that first day, the Pembroke Players has been an essential part of my Cambridge experience: in my first year (2017), I directed the Pembroke Players' Fresher Show, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; in my second year (2018) I became treasurer of the Pembroke Players Committee; and in my third and final year (2019) I have been lucky enough to be the President of this esteemed society. I have been able to see Pembroke Players flourish over these three years, and have seen it set the stage (literally!) for an astounding level of creativity and theatricality. In short, Pembroke Players has ultimately created a space in which theatre is not only a creative outlet but a community that extends beyond the College.

Pembroke Players is often cited as Cambridge's most active, friendly, and dynamic college drama society, and this year we have certainly lived up to our reputation. Continuing on from last year's focus on themed seasons – with our 'Queer Season' and 'Alternative Season' – this year has seen an array of shows in our 'Black Box Season' (focusing on the unique 'black box' space of New Cellars) and 'Green Season' (aiming for a term of zero waste). Some honourable mentions include: the Cambridge Annual French Play, Molière's *Le Misanthrope*, performed simultaneously in French and English; the student-written Freshers' Play *Madame Bovary*, which retold Flaubert's classic novel from a female perspective;

and *Riddikulus: A Magical Sketch Show*, whose

Harry Potter-based humour sold almost 200 tickets in its three-show run!

Up until the impact of Covid-19, this academic year has been one of the most successful and profitable for the Pembroke Players in recent years: across Michaelmas and Lent terms, we put on seventeen productions and in total sold over 1,800 tickets. A large part of this success has been thanks to the resurgence of the 'Smokers' (comedy nights) that put our drama society on the map back in 1955. All four of our Smokers evenings this year completely sold out, culminating in the 'Black Tie Smoker' that occurred on 6th March 2020. Using the 2020s as an excuse to look back to the fabulous flapper dresses and sleek suits of the 1920s, the Smoker was 'Speakeasy' themed. Putting Gatsby to shame, we moved from our usual spot in New Cellars, and dotted the Old Library with fedora hats and feather boas. We even served wine in teapots and tea cups! If that wasn't enough, we were delighted to welcome Bill Oddie and Alex Macqueen as our special guests – both of whom were kind enough to say a few words about their fond memories of Pembroke.

This year also saw our committee reflecting on our society's past, as 2020 marks twenty-five years since the death of comedy icon Peter Cook, whose take on satire shaped the way we perform and interpret comedy to this day. Our society's 'Peter Cook Fund' has assisted Pembroke students for years in their theatrical excursions to the Edinburgh Fringe, but this year our committee specifically took some time to scour Pembroke's archives, and learn more about the committees and productions that came before us. We uncovered an inspiring range of material, including recordings of Smokers in the 1960s that feature names like Clive James and Germaine Greer, production pictures spanning several decades, and promotional material for Japanese tours of Shakespeare productions in the early 2010s. We were left in awe of the rich history of our society, and the impressive list of alumni that cultivated it.

As a female president of the Pembroke Players – and following a great woman before me, Ellen Skipper – I cannot help but mention and appreciate the growing influence of other women in Cambridge theatre. Whilst our archive adventures were amazingly fun, they also reminded us of the unfortunate lack of female presence in the College until 1984. Because of this, I am especially proud of the Pembroke Players for promoting female and queer productions. For example, the Lent production *Blue Stockings* was set in 1896 and explored the process of Girton college becoming the first college to admit women, and our 'Queer Season' allowed for a variety of queer, LGBT+ narratives to be staged. Pembroke Players prides itself on staging what would often be considered 'fringe' productions, and I am thankful that part of the focus of this society remains on staging 'fringe' narrative, and 'fringe' voices.

Pembroke Players was once a society that put on one or two productions a term, and involved a dozen or so people. Now, we put on nine shows a term, and continue to extend our influence further and deeper across Cambridge and beyond! I am proud of Pembroke Players' past, have been fortunate enough to be a part of its present, and I look forward to seeing how it progresses into the future.



The Difference Engine

Matthew Mellor, Development Director

I wrote this piece a good while before the world rather turned upside down with Covid-19, so please excuse the subsequent lack of reference to the crisis. I have been a tutor to Pembroke medics for the past few years, and I wish them, and all the other generations of Pembroke people in the front line of this, all the very best and send them my personal as well as our institutional, thanks. While the full impact of this crisis on Pembroke cannot at this time be assessed, nor the likely significant financial hit be accurately predicted, there is some solace in knowing that in the College's very earliest infancy it survived one of the worst plagues in human history. I am sure that it, as a place and as a community, will come through Covid-19 wiser and, eventually, stronger.

The organisation to which I and most other members of my profession belong, our 'GMC' if you like, is called CASE. While it actually stands for 'Council for the Advancement and Support of Education', in practice, as some wags call it, it is regarded as meaning 'Copy And Steal Everything'.

In the interests of observing best practice, then, I note very closely what other institutions are doing, how they convey their messages, what they actually say, and what media they choose for their communications. I have seen countless excellent examples. That said, even the greatest establishments do not always get it right. And as with so many aspects of working life, seeing how things should not be done is a helpful guide for how to improve one's own efforts.

A case in point is our series of video communications about the 'Time and the Place' campaign. Pembroke's Development Office is staffed by excellent fundraising and alumni relations professionals. While we are not PR specialists, nor marketers, nor accountants, nor financial wizards, we do need to have a modicum of each of those skills to be effective. I doubt that our most recent videos are as polished as those that universities or colleges with more money may create, but they are honest and they speak to the truth about our ambitions not just for the Mill Lane development but for the College's future more generally. For that reason, I urge you to visit the Pembroke College Cambridge YouTube channel and watch the 'Time and the Place' video on Student Experience, as well as the interview with Pembroke Fellows about Mill Lane.

I am thinking about this because I have recently seen one such video from another institution, of a similar ilk to Pembroke, with very ambitious goals and an enviable academic history. It fascinated me to see the contrast in our approaches not just to how we use the means, but also to what the ends might be. During the course of this other place's video, one of the speakers talks about how, when the work is complete, 'you won't, I think, notice any difference'.

That is not what we would say about Mill Lane – how could we?

The ambition is, of course, to stay true to the spirit, tradition, and values of Pembroke – open spaces, inviting meeting areas, eating and talking together, support and encouragement, friendship. Mill Lane will bring

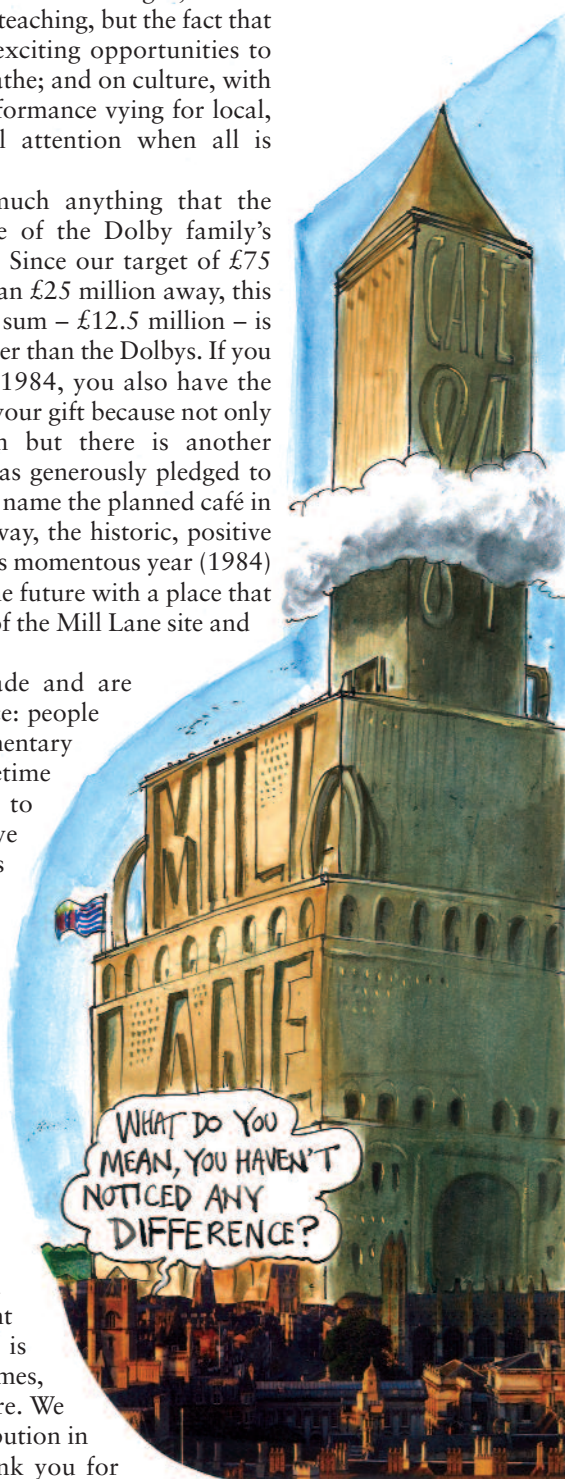
innovations in approaches to wellbeing, teaching, and technological intervention. What you really value about Pembroke will not be lost. It would be a crying shame if the only difference as a result of these monumental efforts, which I am so grateful to so many of you for supporting, were simply that a few more students live closer to the College. That is just not how it will be; the College's vision is so much greater.

The videos we have produced so far have focused on the difference that our new facilities will make to a 'Pembroke education' and on the inspiration that new and conducive spaces will give to the teachers and the taught; on the 'student experience' – not just the teaching, but the fact that new spaces will mean new and exciting opportunities to perform, learn, meet and eat, breathe; and on culture, with music, fine art and theatrical performance vying for local, national and even international attention when all is complete.

Regular readers of pretty much anything that the College publishes will be aware of the Dolby family's generous matching contribution. Since our target of £75 million to be raised is now less than £25 million away, this means that half that outstanding sum – £12.5 million – is needed from Pembroke people other than the Dolbys. If you are from the matriculation year 1984, you also have the chance to *quadruple* the value of your gift because not only does the 'Dolby match' obtain but there is another matching donor out there who has generously pledged to turn every £1 into £4 and thereby name the planned café in Stuart House, 'Café 84'. In this way, the historic, positive effect on the College body that this momentous year (1984) had will be celebrated long into the future with a place that will be central to the community of the Mill Lane site and Pembroke as a whole.

The matching gifts have made and are making a huge palpable difference: people are bringing forward their testamentary provision in order to make lifetime gifts and they are committing to bigger gifts than they ever have before. This is fantastic – donors are responding both to the scale of the target and the incentive of the match.

And when this is all done, the effect of Mill Lane will mean that Pembroke is definitely different, but in the sense that it is going through the next, and admittedly biggest, stage of its physical evolution. An area many times the size of the medieval college is being developed, and so one is tempted to think of this as a kind of refoundation. In being different it will be better. Not only is Pembroke adapting to modern times, it is setting standards for the future. We will all be thanked for our contribution in the centuries to come and I thank you for yours, now.



Gossip



From the Gossip Editor

Pembroke College takes its responsibility under the GDPR for processing your personal data safely, appropriately and with transparency. Please be aware that as the *Martlet* is published online any contribution to the Gossip will be publicly accessible. If you would like to know more about our data protection policy and privacy notices please go to www.pem.cam.ac.uk/dataprotection. If you have any questions or concerns please contact dpo@pem.cam.ac.uk.

I have used the form of names with which letters have been signed, and have throughout omitted titles. The date above each entry is the date of matriculation.

N.B. When sending in news (180 words maximum please!), do please indicate your matriculation date, and, if possible, that of other Old Members you mention. Deadline for contributions to the 2021 *Martlet*: 19 March 2021.

Gossip should preferably be sent to me by email cgw20@cam.ac.uk

Alternatively, send by post to: Colin Wilcockson
Pembroke College
Cambridge, CB2 1RF

Notification about published books should be sent to: Nick McBride
The Editor
Pembroke Annual Gazette
Pembroke College
Cambridge, CB2 1RF
Or by email to him at: njm33@cam.ac.uk

With best wishes,
Colin Wilcockson

1928

Chris Birch writes: 'I was saddened to hear that Bill Grimstone had died. I met him soon after my uncle B.E. King, Fellow 1928-74, died in 1987. I knew my uncle was gay and eccentric (after dining in College, he would lie on the Senior Parlour floor and perform his stretching exercises), and wanted to know how widely these two things were known at Pembroke. Bill was very guarded and told me nothing, but on a subsequent visit to Pembroke he told me that in his final years my uncle had been a burden on the College. Whatever the truth, my uncle had become disenchanted with mainstream law and increasingly preoccupied with jurisprudence and philosophy, saying he no longer knew what the law was about. But he knew that he was a West Indian, although he was white and had lived most of his life in England; he knew that West Indian culture was his culture, that West Indian people were his people. He became much involved with the Caribbean Artists Movement and became known as the Godfather of West Indians in Britain.' (Chris is not a Pembroke graduate, but is a friend of the College.)

1944

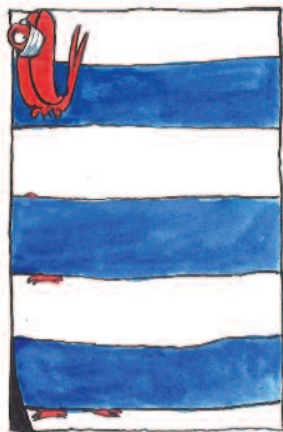
Dennis Crompton writes: 'After working in education, I have started a new career. Between 2016 and 2020 I have written dramatic monologues based on controversial figures: Richard III, Oliver Cromwell, Lord Byron, and recently Sir Walter Raleigh. These scripts are performed by an actor friend in various venues throughout the North West. In each case he assumes the persona of the character so as to give an account of himself that is both challenging and at times humorous. N.B. my scripts are not as yet published but performances (April to November) may be booked on line at www.tickersource.co.uk/dean-taylor-productions.'

1948

(Stuart) John McInley writes: 'My French wife, Alice (whom I met whilst teaching in Nice) and I celebrated 65 years of marriage in April 2019. Never a cross word. Not in English anyway!'

1950

Robert Yates writes: 'I have had notification that I have been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Biology. It pales into insignificance compared to an FRS but I still feel a pleasant honour. It's a bit late, though, at the age of 89, to have any effect on my long closed career. After graduating at Pembroke, I did a spell at Aberystwyth followed by 10 years as a Field Botanist and lecturer in East Africa. I finished my career a long way from East Africa as Chairman of the School of Science at City of Liverpool College of Higher Education/Liverpool Polytechnic.'



1953

Brian Richmond writes: 'I have very much enjoyed reading the latest edition of *Martlet*. I was up at Pembroke from 1953 to 1960, reading Veterinary Medicine. In fact I think that I might be the oldest Veterinary graduate from Pembroke! And I was a supporter of Pembroke House in Walworth. So I was very pleased to see the contributions from both **Fiona Shuttleworth** and **Sarah Howden**. Fiona will find her experience on the rugger field will come in very useful if she goes into large animal practice with cattle! And I have happy memories of my visits to Walworth, most of all taking part in the Christmas stage show! So I wish them both well with their careers; and please pass my regards on to them both.'

1954

Peter Ball writes: 'I am preparing to write my Mémoires. It has struck me that my grandchildren can be fascinated by stories of the experiences of my life. My life pre-

war, boarding school, the army, Pembroke stories, accounts of negotiations with trade unions in my working days, my OBE which they didn't know about, and many other aspects of my life. In my own life I asked my father about his early life and his forebears too late when he could no longer properly talk and I deeply regretted that loss of information about my ancestry so I intend to avoid that myself. I have attended a Memoir writing course run by the local, Merton, USA which further stimulated me by learning what some others were doing. I hope I last long enough to achieve my aim!'

1957

Bruce Wall writes from Lyon in France: 'I was a francophile before coming up to Pembroke, largely through having spent a month in Paris on a "cours de civilisation française" which introduced me to experiences such as drinking good coffee at a pavement café, or buying soup at 3 a.m. in Les Halles, as well as improving my knowledge of France and her culture, history and language. Over sixty years on, having lived in Lyon since 2003, I have consummated my love of the country by taking French nationality, the catalyst being, inevitably, the prospect that the UK was prepared to turn its back on Europe. The process was made easier by my having a French wife, but even so it has taken nearly two years from my first enquiry until the arrival of the email telling me that I am now a French citizen. Later on I shall be invited to a ceremony where a number of us will shake hands with the Préfet and sing the Marseillaise.'

1961

Colin Richards has just been appointed a parish councillor for the Cumbrian parish with the longest name – Egton cum Newland, Mansriggs and Osmotherley. He was hoping to be appointed as privies councillor but unfortunately the only public conveniences in the parish have been converted into a fish and chip shop.

1962

Michael Llewellyn-Smith has received the Vice-Chancellor's

Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Adelaide for 2019. He has also been appointed as the Independent Chair of the Local Government Committee advising the South Australian Minister for Planning.

1964

Farrukh Dhondy writes: 'TV producers are, at last, bidding for the rights of my early-years' autobiographical fiction called *Poona Company*. My literary agent will try and flog them the second in the trilogy called *Cambridge Company*, my account of three years at Pembroke. In those days I was one of three students from the subcontinent and the Caribbean in my year. There were no British-born Asians or West Indians and the shibboleth of "diversity" was decades away. We were all scholarshipwallas. It was my first time anywhere abroad. I adjusted to Britain but never suffered "culture-shock" in those hectic, happy years. Does that sound boring? It wasn't, as it contains the story of my elopement with the Indian Army Chief's daughter and the consequences of that precarious, rewarding, intense romance. And then, if these pages allow blatant advertisement [*They do!* – Ed.], there's the third in the trilogy, *London Company*, about my activity in fringe "black" politics as a pamphleteer and agitator in the British Black Panther Movement and in the group Race Today – and the story of my passage to professional writing.'

1965

Michael Bullivant was awarded the OBE in the New Year Honours List 'for services to Music, to Education and UK/Zimbabwe relations'. He was at Milton High School, Bulawayo for thirty years, teaching mainly history, and retired as deputy headmaster at the end of 2005. He took over as Principal of the Zimbabwe Academy of Music in 2006 and hopes to stay there a while longer – no one can afford to retire in Zimbabwe these days! He has been Chairman of Performing Arts Bulawayo, a concert-promoting body, for 41 years and in that role largely responsible for eight Bulawayo Music Festivals. He has brought many distinguished



British musicians to Zimbabwe including Pembroke's Emma Johnson (three visits), Tasmin Little (four), Kathryn Stott (three), Leslie Howard (thirteen!), Piers Lane (four), Peter Donohoe, Raphael and Elizabeth Wallfisch, Dame Felicity Lott, Graham Johnson, the Choir of Trinity College Cambridge and many more. Others over the years have included Joaquin Achucarro, Jorge Bolet, Marc-André Hamelin, Mischa Maisky, Hagai Shaham and the Vienna Boys Choir.

1967

Gilbert Reid writes: 'In 2019 I published a 666-page historical novel set in the Italian Renaissance, *Son of Two Fathers* (House of Anansi Press, 2019), co-authored with the late **Jacqueline Park**, as well as two collections of short stories, *Lava and Other Stories*, and a new edition of *So This Is Love: Lollipop and Other Stories*, both with my own imprint, Twin Rivers Productions. So This Is Love had previously been published by Key Porter in Canada and St. Martin's Macmillan in the United States; the new edition features some changes and an interview with me. I delivered a talk on "Joseph Conrad and Globalization" (a review of the Maya Jasanoff biography of Conrad) at the University of Toronto's Massey College in the Fall of 2019. I will publish several science fiction novels early in 2020'.

1970

Tim Sketchley writes: 'Besides continuing my work as managing director of Old Park Lane Management Limited, which is the European family office of a British family that has been based in Hong Kong for the last 140 years, I have also recently joined the Canal and River Trust as a member of the investment committee. The Trust was launched in 2012, taking over the guardianship of British Waterways, canals, rivers, reservoirs and docks in England and Wales – and heralding the next chapter in the renaissance of the waterways'.

1972

Jonathan Mantle is the co-founder and owner of PhotoTriggers, a new online

learning tool for primary and secondary schools, colleges of further education and prisons. Three years in development, PhotoTriggers uses black and white 'social action' photos taken by Tony Othen in 1968 and a series of multiple choice questions to trigger responses in the learner into comparisons between life then and now, and has been accredited nationally for the educational curriculum and approved for user funding by the Government Skills Funding Agency. 'A wonderful way of learning about the past' – Dominic Sandbrook. In charge of marketing is **Simon Hilton** (1984). The first responses from young offenders in prison are enthusiastic, indicating a nationwide roll out to schools, colleges, and prisons in 2020. In 2016, the College purchased Tony Othen's unique black and white photos of Ted Hughes (1951) as part of its Ted Hughes collection.

1973

Robert Cleave has now completed his bike ride around the world, cycling 18,425 miles through twenty-nine countries in eighteen months. There was a wonderful homecoming in Nottingham. Family and friends, old and new, from near and far came to welcome him back. Many strands of his life were represented: family, work, church, university, sporting and charities. The 18,000-mile mark was passed at Osaka castle in Japan. Robert is now attempting to return to normal life, 'whatever that means'. Over £26,000 has been raised by very generous donations to the two charities Traidcraft Exchange and Cancer Research UK. Further details and photos can be found on his website www.robertsride18000.com

1978

Edmund Yorke retired from his position as a Senior Lecturer in the Department of War Studies and as a lecturer and Consultant for CHACR (Centre for Historical and Conflict Research) last Christmas (2019), following a thirty-year tenure which included membership of an MOD team researching the cultural origins and causes of Insider Killings in

Afghanistan (2012-14). This year he was awarded a two-year Research Fellowship at the University of Reading in the Department of Politics and Government. He is currently researching his ninth book provisionally entitled *Breaking Red Lines: War, Authority and Overstretch in Britain's Empire, 1838-1967*. He retains fond memories of his many great and enduring friendships formed at Pembroke, especially within the College 1st VI and Pembroke 2nd soccer Eleven and as a member of the Graduate Parlour. He is currently residing in Yateley, Hampshire with his wife and two young daughters.

1981

David Holland writes: 'I am very proud that my daughter, Lucy, has just matriculated to read geography'.

1984

Rebecca Caroe published her third collection of anecdotes from the sport of rowing. *Rowing Tales 2019* is an anthology sourced from her podcast guests, RowingChat and from reader submissions. Rebecca writes: 'If you have a rowing tale, or know a raconteur, please send them my way. Any CUBC member who remembers James Crowden's 'Two Swans' Boat Club Dinner speech, please write it up!'

Rory MacLeod, Minister of Strath and Sleat, Isle of Skye, writes: 'I cannot claim any significant rites of passage, though I did recently win a prize for creative writing in Scottish Gaelic run by the University of the Highlands & Islands. But it was very low key'.

1987

Anna Wanders writes: 'With many of my Pembroke friends (and myself) turning 50, we decided to get together last July to celebrate Pembroke 1987 turns 50!! **Libby** and **Will Duckett** hosted fourteen alumni and their families at their lovely home in the New Forest. We enjoyed a fun Pembroke trivia quiz (won by the Maclean family), a "Pembroke Blue" themed dinner, French cricket and lots of reminiscing. Alumni present were **Libby** and **Will**, **Ian** and **Jessica Maclean**, **Emma Stopford**,

Charlie Proddow, **Matthew Marques**, **Andy McKay**, **Nina** and **Ed de Salis-Young** (Ed is Pembroke 1988), **Francis Boundy**, **Paul Hodgkinson**, **Sue Southern** and myself'.



1988

David Gilinsky writes: 'I am now working as a lawyer in Tel Aviv at Caspi & Co. Following a life-long interest, and my BA critical edition of Chapter 26 in 1992, I am ploughing ahead with what may prove to be a few years' work to prepare a comprehensive critical annotated edition and English translation of a well known, but never before published in full, Judeo-Persian epic poem, approximately 6,500 lines of verse, the *Ardashir Nameh*, by Shahin-i Shirazi, which was written in 1333 CE during the reign of Abu Sa'id the Ilkhan. It is based upon a felicitous combination of the Biblical Book of Esther and the Book of Ezra with Iranian historical stories and myths. This of course brings me back into contact with Professor Charles Melville (1969), who has a focus on the history of that period. Unfortunately, the manuscripts that have survived and reached the major public libraries are not as close to the date of authorship as one would ideally like. If anyone owns, or knows of anyone who owns, a manuscript of Shahin's work, whether whole or a fragment (even a single page), and believes it to date before 1680 CE, I would be delighted to hear from them by this email address: dgilinsky@rocketmail.com. (Unlike Schechter and Firkowicz, I am not in the market to buy!')

James Wood received the British Columbia Writer's Award for 2018.

His *Building a Kingdom* was published by The High Window Press (Leeds, UK) in late 2019.

1989

Walid Iqbal was elected to Pakistan's Upper House of the Parliament, the Pakistan Senate, as a representative of the ruling Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) (Pakistan Movement for Justice), which is led by Prime Minister Imran Khan. As Senator, Walid is also serving as Chairman of the Pakistan Senate's Standing Committee on Defence.

1999

Caroline (née **Charlwood**) and **Nick Handley** (Christ's, 1999) welcomed baby Alexander, brother to Amelia and William, on 28th September.

2000

Andrew Morris has received an honorary award from the Royal School of Church Music for his work of national significance in church music, choral music, and music education.

Claire Murphy (née **Dancer**) writes: 'We welcomed our second baby in April 2019, Alexander William Timothy Murphy, a brother for Thomas who is now 3. We are very happy to have expanded our family and looking forward to visiting Pembroke with them both soon – though I suspect we'll have a job keeping Thomas from running on the lawns!'

2002

Miriam Dierenbach-Kläui (née **Dierenbach**) (2002) and **Mathias Kläui** (1999) have the pleasure of announcing the birth of their second son, Nicolas Johannes Kläui. Miriam writes: 'Everyone is well and we are getting to know each other'.

2013

Chelsea Sylva writes: 'I'll be taking up the position of Assistant Professor of British Literature at Oklahoma State University this coming autumn, after finishing my doctorate in medieval literature at UC Riverside. My final year of graduate study benefited immensely from a few terms spent back in Cambridge on a Visiting Studentship in 2013.

Poet's Corner

THE TENACITY OF DUST –

lodging itself
between the window panes,
along the skirting boards,
on the forgotten,
underneath the bed –
even the lampshade furred.
The air is filled
with particles
of light.

DEEP SKY OBJECTS

Every night the telescope reveals
another galaxy,
a faint star cluster near Sirius,
the Pleiades in Taurus,
spiralling Andromeda.
My heart turns to distant Eridanus,
winding river of stars,
path of souls:
every night
they are moving
further from us.



Mina Gorji is a Senior Lecturer in the English Faculty and a fellow of Pembroke College. She is also co-director of the Centre for John Clare Studies. Her published work includes a study of John Clare and essays on awkwardness, mess, weeds and rudeness. Her poems have appeared, among other places, in *Magma*, *PN Review*, *London Magazine*, *The International Literary Quarterly* and *New Poetries V*. Her first collection of poetry, *Art of Escape*, was published by Carcanet in January 2020



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