

Winter 2017 Magazine for Members and Friends of King's College, Cambridge

KING'S PARADE



BACK IN OPERATION:
THE MINE THAT'S
PRODUCING SLATE
AGAIN AFTER 50 YEARS
THANKS TO KING'S

SECOND CAREERS:
THE BURNING
RESEARCH QUESTION
THAT DROVE ASHLEY
MOFFETT TO BECOME
A SCIENTIST AT 40

KING'S PEOPLE: MEET
OUR NEW FELLOWS AND
A NOBEL LAUREATE

WELCOME FROM THE VICE-PROVOST, PROFESSOR NICHOLAS MARSTON

One of the red-letter days of Michaelmas Term is the Annual Congregation of the Governing Body, held on the final Thursday of Full Term. Congregations are held throughout the year, but the Annual Congregation is special (and not just because it's followed by a good lunch): this is the occasion on which we elect Honorary Fellows, for example, and decide the membership of the twenty or so committees through which the College will conduct much of its business over the coming years. Every so often, too, the Annual Congregation elects one Fellow as Vice-Provost, to serve usually for five years from the following 1 January. The meeting on 1 December this year marked the first anniversary of my own election in 2015; I know now in full what I knew then only in part!

The College Statutes offer very little guidance on the role, save that it's my duty "to attend, under the Provost, to the good government of the College . . . , to act as the Provost's deputy in his or her absence [the clue's in the name] . . . , and to perform all such other acts as are prescribed . . . " By tradition, though, the Vice-Provost is considered to be the principal spokesperson for the Fellowship, and to have oversight of Fellows' welfare and wellbeing. That's a major responsibility in a College where the Fellowship now numbers nearly 130, and I couldn't do it without the huge commitment, experience and uncanny sixth sense of my PA, Jenny Malpass, who deals expertly and cheerfully with day-to-day business and so much more.

In particular, the Vice-Provost is charged with organising Fellows' accommodation, both residential and non-residential. One of my biggest challenges in 2017 is going to



be finding alternative space, from within the very small stock of currently unoccupied rooms and elsewhere, in which the current occupants of E staircase can continue their teaching and research while the first phase of the internal refurbishment of the Gibbs' Building, due to commence next summer, is carried out. If successful, and if funds allow, we hope to repeat this exercise with the other three Gibbs' staircases; by the end of my tenure (Easter 2020), then, my inner estate agent should be fully exercised (or, better, exorcised).

The Vice-Provostship also entails *ex officio* membership of a good number of the standing committees referred to above: most importantly the College Council, but also Fellowship, Development, Research, Catering . . . even Wine. Then there are the many one-off working parties, the latest being that considering the proposed redevelopment of Chetwynd Court and its proximate buildings. It's all undeniably time consuming, sometimes

frustrating; but for the most part I feel privileged to have such a chance to shape the life of an institution which, I often think, would seem totally unviable if one proposed it *de novo* in its present form.

The Catering Committee (which I chair) brings me into regular contact with our wonderful staff in the Catering Department, and gives me an important say in an aspect of our communal life which I hold very dear. That extends to arrangements for High Table, at which, when dining, I preside unless the Provost is present. This in turn brings me into close contact with NRMs (an increasing number of whom I have assisted to graduate, in my role as Praelector). It's always a pleasure to meet you and your guests, and I encourage you to make full use of your High Table rights as one way to keep in touch with King's, and to learn at first hand how we are steering this extraordinary foundation toward the end of its sixth century of existence.



SPATIAL AWARENESS

King's Fellow Felipe Hernández is interested in the way excluded communities create liveable environments. He's also the College's Admissions Tutor, a role that could present fresh challenges in the light of Brexit.

As an architect interested in social issues, it was, perhaps, inevitable that Felipe Hernández should choose King's.

"I was attracted by the ethos of inclusion and diversity," says the College Fellow, "and the profile of the other Fellows, such as Nick Bullock, who explores social issues in architecture. It seemed to be a suitable place to pursue my research interests."

Felipe trained and practised in Colombia before moving to the UK 20 years ago to pursue a PhD at Nottingham. His research explores how architects can use their knowledge of space and urban planning to address complex questions about poverty, conflict and segregation.

In particular, Felipe is interested in areas of spontaneous "conflict suspension" – urban spaces where people have created unspoken agreements that conflict is to be avoided. One example is a particular neighbourhood in the Colombian city of Cali that has a reputation for violent gangs.

Despite being very territorial, the gangs have tacitly agreed to avoid violence in certain spaces. In the presence of women, children and the elderly, for example. Or at church and the local college attended by young adults, including gang members. The gangs even play football together in local parks. Outside these spaces, however, they can be very violent.

"I've created a landscape of conflict suspension," explains Felipe. "It's an urban plan, along with a timetable for activities, which articulates corridors where residents could potentially go from one space to another without experiencing violence."

"The idea is to help minimise conflict simply by articulating the peaceful activities people already do and the treaties they have achieved tacitly. They don't realise they have these pacts, but because the pacts happen in space, they are very evident to me as an architect."

At the time of writing, Felipe is about to take a

group of MPhil students to Colombia to explore architecture in a specific social and geographical context. It's the third student trip to South America he's arranged and this one will involve meetings with high-court magistrates involved in Colombia's ongoing peace process. Specifically, they plan to discuss the negotiations with the last remaining guerilla movement and ways to reincorporate guerilla members into the fabric of the city.

"We ought to anticipate different conflicts," says Felipe. "The government is aware of that, but we hope to help them analyse the problem spatially. The students will also get to design community spaces that will make a real difference."

On top of his teaching and research, Felipe has been the College's Admissions Tutor for the past two years.

"The role is challenging and time-consuming," says Felipe. "But it's made pleasant by the absolute commitment of the Directors of Studies to making decisions based on candidates' promise and academic quality. It's very satisfying and reassuring, and it seems to happen naturally that three-quarters of our students come from the maintained sector."

One potential source of uncertainty, however, is the effect of Brexit on student applications.

He says: "The government was quick to guarantee that current students wouldn't be affected so the decrease in the number of European applications has been quite marginal."

"But we may see more dramatic changes. If European students have to pay overseas fees, we'll be in more direct competition with US institutions, who have a greater ability to offer grants."

"At the moment we're addressing these questions while making sure we maintain our very satisfactory access standards, admitting UK and overseas students from all backgrounds."

"I was attracted to King's by the ethos of inclusion and diversity, and the profile of the other Fellows, such as Nick Bullock, who explores social issues in architecture. It seemed to be a suitable place to pursue my research interests."

THOUGHTFUL GESTURES

New King's Junior Research Fellow Marwa Mahmoud is teaching computers how to decode facial expressions – in humans and in sheep.



Three months into her JRF and computer scientist Marwa Mahmoud is revelling in the interdisciplinary atmosphere at King's.

"At High Table you can talk to psychologists, anthropologists, classicists. So it really broadens your thinking," she says. "Aside from the social aspect, it's really useful for my field because there's high potential for collaboration down the line."

That field is affective computing and social signal processing – in other words teaching computers to recognise human emotions. In recent years, computers have become able to identify parts of the face, such as the eyes or the mouth, and to map changes or movements in them to certain emotions.

For her PhD, Marwa took the idea one step further by exploring how a computer might interpret gestures in the non-verbal expression of emotions. Specifically, she integrated the touching of the face with the hands into the research.

"That's a hard technical problem because the hands and face are the same colour and texture. But we created a system that detects when the hand occludes the face and whether it's static or moving, hands open or closed."

"Such gestures have lots of applications – in children's emotions, for example. A study of curiosity and problem solving in children discovered they touch their faces a lot so it's one of the cues that's interesting."

Marwa is currently working on a Jaguar-Land-Rover-funded project to train computers to detect drowsiness or other mental states such as distraction and confusion in a driver's face. Next year, she will begin to apply similar concepts of automatic detection of non-verbal signals to the medical field.

"It has lots of applications, especially in mental health," she says. "I don't think a computer will replace a psychiatrist, but we can create tools that will give psychiatrists or experimental psychologists quantitative measures of non-verbal signals that can help as part of a diagnosis."

And as a side project, Marwa is interested in the facial expressions of sheep – which vets often use for pain detection.

"It turns out there are cues," she says. "When a sheep is in pain, the most important part is the ears, but the eyes and the nostrils also change shape."

WELCOME TO OUR OTHER NEW FELLOWS!

Alice Blackhurst, JRF, French & Visual Arts, who is researching the use of clothing in contemporary art projects.

Aline Guillermet, JRF, Art History & Theory, who is investigating the ways in which digital visual culture has impacted upon painting practices since the 1980s.

Caroline Van Eck, Professorial Fellow, History of Art, who was featured in the summer 2016 issue of *King's Parade* – available for download from the King's website.

Oscar Randal-Williams, Fellow, Mathematics, whose research interests are in algebraic and geometric topology, most recently in high-dimensional manifolds and their automorphisms and in positive scalar curvature metrics.

Mark Gross, Professorial Fellow, Pure Mathematics, whose research is in

algebraic geometry, in particular a new area heavily influenced by string theory.

Gareth Austin, Professorial Fellow, Economic History, who has worked at a range of institutions, including the University of Ghana, the LSE and the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva.

John Arnold, Professorial Fellow, Medieval History, whose research mostly focuses on ordinary medieval people, and who is working on a study of local religion in southern France, before the Black Death.

Laura Davies, Fellow, English, whose research focuses on the relationship between sensory experience and its textual representation in British literature of the eighteenth century, and who is working on a book about dreams and dreaming before Freud.

Goylette Chami, JRF, Medical Sciences, who will theoretically and experimentally examine how best to establish social network interventions to increase the distribution of and compliance with mass treatment.

BYE-FELLOWS

John Filling, Bye-Fellow, Philosophy, who works on political philosophy and the history of philosophy, and is writing a monograph on the concept of domination.

Charlotte Summers, Bye-Fellow, Physiology, whose research aims to define the role of neutrophil-endothelial cell interactions in regulating pulmonary inflammation.

Charis Olszok, Bye-Fellow, Asian & Middle Eastern Studies, who is examining the depiction of animals in modern Libyan fiction and broader Arabic fiction.



MY PHD: MAKING A MATERIAL DIFFERENCE

A new studentship funded by the chemicals firm DuPont is giving Eugenia Biral the opportunity to pursue a PhD on the durability of polymers.

What's the connection between drilling for oil and implanting a prosthetic heart valve? Both require a material that can withstand the stresses and strains of millions of repeated movements, be it the pumping of a drill or the pumping of the heart.

And that's where Eugenia Biral comes in. A chemical engineer who joined King's in October 2016, Eugenia will spend much of her PhD in the lab stretching, cracking and trying to break elastomers. Elastomers are polymers, such as natural or man-made rubber, whose potential for use in drilling and medical implants has long been recognised but not exploited to the full.

Eugenia's goal is to understand the limits of such materials in the face of repeated stress – and the precise mechanics of their durability. Such an understanding is necessary because, once you've implanted a medical device, say, you probably don't want to have to ever go back in and replace it if it fails.

"Compared with what we know of metals, the research into fatigue failure of elastomeric components is very limited," says Eugenia. "Many polymers are non-linear elastic materials with large deformations so assumptions typically used for metals don't usually apply."

As well as being able to predict when such materials fail, Eugenia hopes to shed light on the best – and most reproducible – processing techniques for creating high-performance elastomers.

Eugenia first became interested in the special

qualities of polymers during her undergraduate studies at the University of Padua, Italy. She came to Cambridge in the summer of 2015 on an Erasmus studentship, while writing her Masters thesis. For that project, she worked on polymer testing with King's Fellow Geoff Moggridge, who is engaged in a project to develop clinically viable prosthetic heart valves.

For her PhD, Eugenia will extend her research from artificial heart valves to embrace other applications for polymers, including their use in the oil industry. Her PhD is being funded by DuPont, one of the world's largest chemical companies, which had donated money to the College in honour of Professor Sydney Brenner CH, FRS, the Nobel-prize-winning biologist who is a King's Fellow.

DuPont is keen to maintain strong links with Eugenia and she plans to spend some time working in their labs.

"As a company driven by science, we are excited to accompany a talent like Eugenia as she takes on the challenges of her PhD project," says Erik Thiele, Global Technology Manager, Dupont. "I have every confidence in her ability to deliver insights about the behaviour of these materials that will open the door to more innovative materials and systems."

In the meantime, Eugenia has been settling into life at King's. "It's very different from Italy, but I really like the people and the atmosphere here," she says. "Some of the other Colleges are a bit intimidating, but at King's I like the way you don't have to wear a gown and you're made to feel a part of the College."

"Compared with what we know of metals, the research into fatigue failure of elastomeric components is very limited."

EXPLORING

Professor Ashley Moffett has transformed scientists' understanding of the placenta's role in complications of pregnancy. Her scientific achievements become all the more impressive when you realise she didn't become a scientist until her forties.

"For years, people thought I was barking up the wrong tree. The idea that anyone would be interested in the immune system in the uterus was completely alien to people. When I go to immunology meetings, half of them don't even know where the uterus is."



Ashley Moffett never intended to be a scientist. For the first two decades of her career, she worked in the NHS. By the 1990s she was, in her own words, a "jobbing pathologist" at the Rosie, Cambridge's maternity hospital.

"I had three children and in pathology you don't have to get up at night," she says. "So I was just doing biopsies and reporting things."

But staring down her microscope for hours each day, Ashley became aware of a particular type of cell she'd only ever seen in the lining of the uterus where the placenta implants – and she felt it warranted closer study.

The cells appeared to be related to so-called "natural killer" (NK) cells, a type of lymphocyte in the blood that is particularly adept at fighting viral infections. She had a feeling the cells were implicated in the onset of pre-eclampsia, the potentially fatal condition that can affect women in the later stages of pregnancy.

Intrigued, Ashley approached King's Fellow Charlie

Loke, a placental specialist who had taught her when she had been an undergraduate at Newnham.

"I said to him, 'I think we need to look at these cells. Can I come and work on them?' His initial response was, 'I've never had a doctor on my research team'. I wasn't academic at all. I was forty and I had no PhD. I still don't have a PhD. It was a bit crazy in retrospect."

Nevertheless, Charlie took a chance on Ashley and she decided to take a break from pathology, with every intention of returning to the NHS after three years.

"But after I'd been here for about a month, we found they were NK cells and Charlie said, 'You know, you're never going back to clinical medicine.'"

He was right – she never did return. For the NK cells discovery had been profound – not least because until that time, there had been a distinct lack of scientific interest in pre-eclampsia and the placenta.

"Pre-eclampsia is a very major disease and it's not really been studied, probably because it's a disease of women," says Ashley. "Likewise, the placenta – it's an organ that's just been chucked in a bucket and

HUMAN BOUNDARIES

everyone has ignored it.”

Ashley's big insight was that pre-eclampsia has its basis in the way the immune system in the uterus regulates how the placenta becomes established in the very early weeks of pregnancy. Importantly, the placenta is created by the baby – and because of that, it contains the father's genes. If the mother's body does not respond correctly to these paternal signals, the supply line from mother to placenta is deficient and the placenta can become stressed, triggering pre-eclampsia.

“It became so obvious that this was a fascinating new system of what we call ‘allorecognition’, which is recognition of something that is different from you.”

“But in fact, it's not new at all – it's probably adapted from ancient mechanisms found in invertebrates. Even a simple animal like a sponge in a rock pool that meets another growing sponge has to be able to say ‘OK, that other sponge is not me.’”

“It's similar to what goes on in the uterus – the placenta draws a boundary between the mother and the baby. It's not like a transplant where you reject or accept an organ. It's drawing a territorial demarcation line. So it's quite different.”

Ashley's discovery of the link between the placenta and the immune system was groundbreaking at the time.

“For years, people thought I was barking up the wrong tree,” she says. “The idea that anyone would be interested in the immune system in the uterus was completely alien to other scientists. When I go to immunology meetings, half of them don't even know where the uterus is.”

Since Ashley began her second career in research, Cambridge has become the world leader in placental biology, largely thanks to her mentor, Charlie Loke, who donated money to the University for the founding in 2007 of the Centre for Trophoblast Research (‘trophoblast’ being the cells of the placenta).

Thanks to Ashley, the impact of Cambridge's research on maternal health is extending far beyond the walls of the University's laboratories. In 2008, she was approached by Dr Annettee Nakimuli, a lecturer in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Makerere University, Uganda, to do a PhD.

Ashley and Annettee have since collaborated on research in Africa, where – for both social and physiological reasons – diseases of pregnancy are far more prevalent than they are in the UK. The pair

are currently writing a textbook of African obstetrics, which they plan to make available to clinicians across Africa, online and for free.

Ashley has also worked with King's Fellows Sharath Srinivasan and Sebastian Ahnert on a Maternal Health Project for Africa's Voices, a Cambridge-created project that uses radio shows to gather the opinions of citizens of various African countries.

The maternal health project sought to understand socio-cultural beliefs about problems in pregnancy by inviting Ugandan listeners to share their views. Their opinions will inform research that will improve maternal care in Uganda.

Back in Cambridge, Ashley's colleagues at the Centre for Trophoblast Research are working on the next big leaps in placenta research. One advance will be to identify the different “markers” on the various types of NK cells. Such a development will give researchers a better idea of what's going on – at the cellular level – in pre-eclampsia by comparing women who experience complications in pregnancy with those who don't.

Another advance will be to grow placenta cells in the lab. Scientists have, for some time, been able to grow “mini” human organs, such as the liver or the gut in a dish. But it's something that's so far yet to be achieved with the placenta, even though, in the body, it's by far the fastest growing human organ.

“It's a very big challenge but we're nearly there,” says Ashley. “It will be a major breakthrough that will transform the field in all sorts of ways.”

These days, Ashley herself spends little time at the laboratory bench. But just like that jobbing pathologist who made that initial link between the immune system and pre-eclampsia, she continues to explore interdisciplinary boundaries.

“This morning I was editing a paper resulting from a collaboration with engineers who are using these amazing new devices based on microfluidics to monitor how cells migrate, which could be used in all sorts of ways.”

“I couldn't understand a lot of it, but the great thing about doing science as opposed to being a clinician is you never do the same thing. You're always on a learning curve.”

For more on the Africa's Voices Maternal Health Project, visit africasvoices.org/case-studies/university-of-cambridge-makerere/

“The placenta draws a boundary between the mother and the baby. It's not like an organ transplant where you reject or accept something. It's drawing a territorial demarcation line.”

HARD BARGAINS

When a contract is incomplete, who has the right to decide what should happen? It's a problem that fascinates Kingsman Oliver Hart – and his work on it won him the 2016 Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences.

Imagine you own a power plant and I own a coal mine. Let's say, too, that you want a long-term supply of my coal. How do we strike a deal we can both live with for the next fifty years? Specifically, how do we capture that deal in a contract that accounts for all possible future developments?

For example, what if you decide down the line that you want to switch to low-ash coal, but I'd rather continue supplying high-ash coal because it's cheaper for me to produce? Do you have the right to insist? Do I have the right to refuse? Or, at least, the right to charge you for switching?

This is the type of conundrum with which Oliver Hart has been grappling – and for which he and his collaborator Bengt R. Holmström were awarded the 2016 Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences.

Oliver – who is Andrew E. Furer Professor of Economics at Harvard and studied Maths at King's as an undergraduate – says the answer to the coal problem doesn't lie in trying to anticipate every possible eventuality. Such a task would be impossible anyway.

"All contracts are going to be incomplete because they cannot speak to what we should do in unforeseen circumstances," he says.

"And when contracts are incomplete, residual control rights are what matters – for example, the right to determine the things the contract doesn't specify."

As the power plant owner, one way to control your right to a secure supply of coal might be to buy the mine off me and appoint me to manage it. But, Oliver points out, that approach is problematic: as a manager rather than an owner, I would no longer have the incentive to invest in the efficiency of the mine.

"The benefits that the power plant gets are benefits the coal mine manager loses – and this is the kind of trade off I've explored," he says.

This theory of incomplete contracts extends beyond the example of the power plant and the coal mine. It can be used, for example, to think about the allocation of control rights in corporate finance.

Oliver believes that debt contracts can be better than shares for balancing the interests of companies and those who invest in them, because debt contracts allow the investor to maintain a degree of control without reducing the management's incentive to perform.

The theory can also be applied to questions of privatisation. In the case of prisons, for example, the benefits of public versus private ownership depend on the level of control the government finds it acceptable



Photography: Martha Stewart. © Harvard University

to cede. With a higher-security prison the government may prefer to maintain greater control rights over the hiring of staff, but be more willing to forgo those rights with a low-security prison.

Oliver even sees the theory of incomplete contracts as relevant to big political events such as Brexit.

"A lot of politics is about incomplete contracts," he says. "If I'd been able to vote in the referendum, I'd have voted remain, but I could see an argument for leaving. People like to keep control. It matters to them."

MY KING'S: SHANE ALEXANDER, CLERK OF WORKS

King's College is keeping its Clerk of Works, Shane Alexander, busy until at least 2025. Here he talks to *King's Parade* about his working life.

How did you come to be at King's? After moving to Cambridgeshire from London in 2001, I was fortunate to manage a varied selection of projects for many of the colleges and schools in Cambridge, including four for King's. I then got the opportunity to manage one of the many projects on the new North West Cambridge development. During this time I was contacted by the College, asking if I'd be interested in the position of Clerk of Works. I decided to apply, and here I am.

What does being the Clerk of Works entail? The duties involve looking after the College's many historic buildings, which require daily maintenance. It's an ongoing challenge to ensure they are as pristine and elegant as the day they were built, while ensuring they operate and run smoothly to the demanding daily use as expected by the College.

But I have a double role because I'm also project managing current and future projects. At the moment we are putting an exciting programme together which should take until around 2025 to complete.

What do you enjoy most about the job? I have always enjoyed the excitement of completing demanding projects during my career in construction. Being able to do this within the College is very demanding, yet very enjoyable. The College has a wonderful feel and is quite unique compared to life on a construction site. It's pretty much a dream job for a project manager.

What are the job's biggest challenges? Completion deadlines, which are determined by the commencement of terms. Quite often a realistic period for a construction project within any college would be longer than a period dictated by term dates, so the project has to be condensed and programmed extremely well. A further challenge is the College environment and ensuring the works don't affect and disturb the College's day-to-day running.

What do you do when you're not at work? I'm generally training for the Maastricht Ironman – to be held in the Netherlands this year. It consists of a 2.6 mile swim and a 112 mile cycle, followed by a full marathon. So I'm either running or cycling – on an indoor trainer during the winter.

What do you like most about King's? Even though I've been walking through the back gate every morning for the past 16 months, I can't help but stare in awe at the amazing architecture as I walk along, glancing over at the Chapel and Gibbs' as the sun rises over the buildings, with Bodley's Court sitting quietly in the corner, backing onto the river Cam. Then realising that I'm one of the many Clerks of Works responsible for maintaining the College's appearance since 1441. It's quite special.



COLLYWESTON SLATE MINE RE-OPENS FOR BODLEY'S REPAIRS



A Northamptonshire slate mine that's been dormant since the 1960s has been brought back into operation, thanks to King's. The mine promises to yield a ten-year supply of Collyweston slate, a material found in many buildings in and around Cambridge, including the Round Church on Bridge Street.

One such building is Bodley's Court, which since its foundation in 1893 has housed hundreds of students, including Alan Turing. Today, the roof of Bodley's is in serious disrepair and needs replacing. However, Historic England, the public body that champions historic places, has stipulated that, to preserve Bodley's listed status, the new roof must be made of Collyweston slate.

So toward the end of last year, Collyweston mine was re-opened after half a century – with the support of King's and expressly to extract slate for Bodley's roof. The new seam holds approximately

ten years' supply of slate, of which two years' worth will be needed for Bodley's. Extraction began in mid-January.

Traditionally, newly mined Collyweston slate is left on a bed of shale in the open air, where a natural process of freezing and thawing causes it to split into separate layers. For new batches of slate, this lamination process will be replicated using old supermarket refrigeration vans. As a result, a process that typically takes three years can be reproduced in as many weeks.

Georgia Crick-Collins, a member of the King's Development team, visited the mine in December, along with Shane Alexander and Phil Isaac, King's Domus Bursar, who oversees the College's building projects.

Georgia said: "It was really interesting to learn about the history of the mine and the same family that has run it for decades. It's exciting to see the mine repurposed and up and running after so long."



RENOVATION, RENOVATION, RENOVATION

The renovation of the exterior and interior of Bodley's is among the numerous projects planned as part of the College's Strategic Infrastructure Programme.

Many of the works scheduled to be completed over the next twenty years range from boiler replacements to roof replacements for the Library and the Great Hall.

Our more ambitious plans which depend on philanthropic support include new accommodation for Graduate students and a revamp of the Keynes Lecture Theatre and Chetwynd Courtyard.

The Porter's Lodge will be refurbished during the summer of 2017, and architect Atelier Ten has been commissioned to design a lighting scheme in the Chapel. Look out for updates in future issues of *King's Parade*.

If you want to learn more about any of these plans or find out how you can support the buildings projects at King's, please contact Lorraine Headen, Director of Development, at lorraine.headen@kings.cam.ac.uk



Graduate student accommodation proposal.

CHAPEL HOSTS *NOCTURNE FOR 21 PIANOS* – A PIECE BY KING'S COMPOSER RICHARD CAUSTON



In February, the Chapel hosted a late-night performance of *Nocturne for 21 Pianos* by composer and King's Fellow Richard Causton (pictured). As its name suggests, the piece was performed by 21 pianists sitting at 21 pianos.

Constructed entirely out of quotations from each of Chopin's 21 Nocturnes, the piece was first performed outside London's Guildhall in 2010, as part of the bicentenary celebrations of Chopin's birth.

"The piece is a collage of fragments from each Nocturne so I feel more like a

curator than a composer," says Richard.

The pianos were supplied by Millers, the Cambridge music shop that celebrated its 160-year anniversary last year.

Millers has a warehouse of old pianos that will be given away to local schools after the performance.

"As with the first performance, they're slightly out of tune with each other," says Richard. "But, as long as they're no more than a quarter tone out, it actually enhances the overall effect!"

LATEST CHOIR RECORDING: DURUFLÉ'S *REQUIEM*

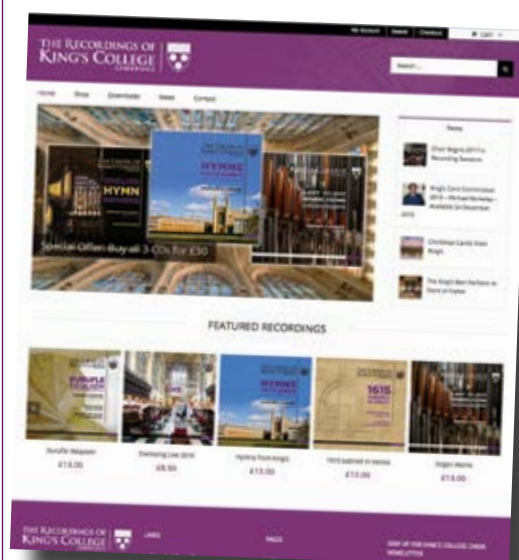
King's College's recording of the Fauré *Requiem* was one of the best-selling classical albums of 2014. For this new recording featuring another great French Requiem, the Choir is reunited with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment to perform Maurice Duruflé's 1947 *Requiem*, in the composer's own version for soprano, choir, organ and small orchestra. The album is completed with

the *Messe Cum Jubilo* for male voices and the Four Motets.

The Choir is joined by Patricia Bardon – youngest ever winner of the Cardiff Singer of the World Competition – for the *Pie Jesu* of the *Requiem*, with the other solo sections sung by the Choral Scholars of the Choir. Former Choral Scholar Ashley Riches returns to the Choir as soloist in the *Messe Cum Jubilo*.

NEW ONE-STOP-SHOP FOR KING'S RECORDINGS

The Choir's latest recordings, released on the College's own label, are now available to buy from a dedicated website kingscollegerecordings.com



DURUFLÉ: *REQUIEM* £13

Patricia Bardon mezzo-soprano
Ashley Riches baritone-bass
The Choir of King's College, Cambridge
Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment
Directed by Stephen Cleobury



"You'll get a real sense of the drama, the dynamic range of the recording, the colour and that famous acoustic of the baleful period trumpets."

– BBC Radio 3

A LETTER FROM AMERICA

The College recently acquired a letter from Kingsman EM Forster to Graham Greene. Here, Patricia McGuire, the College Archivist, recounts the charming tale of the letter's journey from a US auction house to the Library at King's.

Last autumn the Archive Centre received an email from Paul Hirshorn (KC 1964), Professor Emeritus in the Department of Architecture and Interiors at Drexel University in Philadelphia. He had spotted a letter from EM Forster (KC 1897) to Graham Greene, for sale in an auction on 30 September. He asked if the College would be interested in adding it to the Forster papers. We accepted enthusiastically!

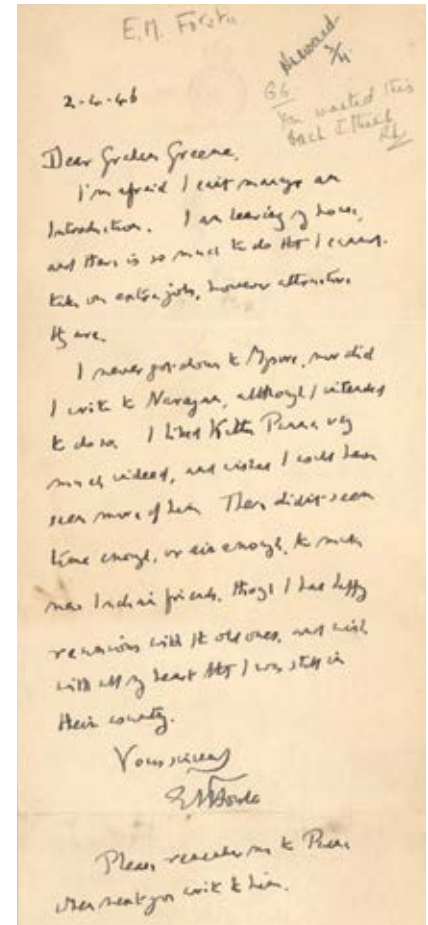
Paul's bid was successful and he acquired the letter. Now the problem arose of transport to the Archives. Director of Development Lorraine Headen emailed all the Fellows, asking if any of them were travelling to the East Coast and willing to act as courier. Several offers were immediately extended, including one from Professor Nicky Zeeman whose colleague Rita Copeland (a Professor in the Classical Studies, English, and Comparative Literature department at the University of Pennsylvania) was coming to Cambridge to deliver a lecture at Trinity

College. She was chosen because she was local to Philadelphia and her travel plans were coming up soon.

Paul was instructed how to pack the letter, Rita was advised to prepare herself for the inevitable "And are you carrying anything that someone else has given you?" question at the airport, and they were put in touch with each other to arrange the handover in Philadelphia.

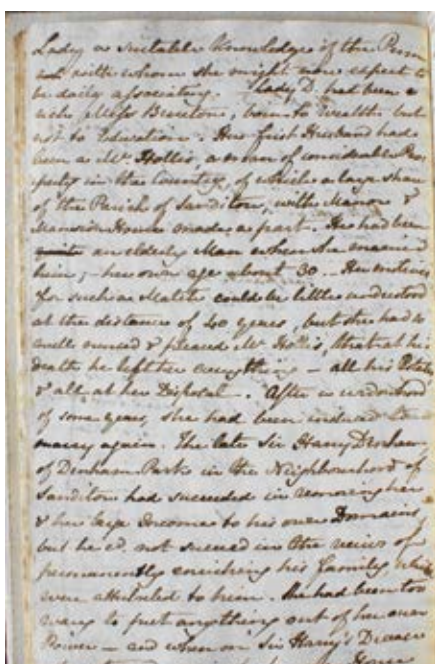
Rita and Paul then discovered they live in the same old Philadelphia neighbourhood, separated by just a few streets. Their paths will have crossed any number of times in the past – undoubtedly they will continue to do so, with meetings enhanced by this shared experience mediated by EM Forster, who advised us all to "only connect".

We hope that the serendipitous benefits to Paul and Rita have made up for their costs, and are very grateful for their generous gifts to the College.



KING'S LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CELEBRATE JANE AUSTEN

By James Clements, College Librarian



Page from King's autograph manuscript of *Sanditon*

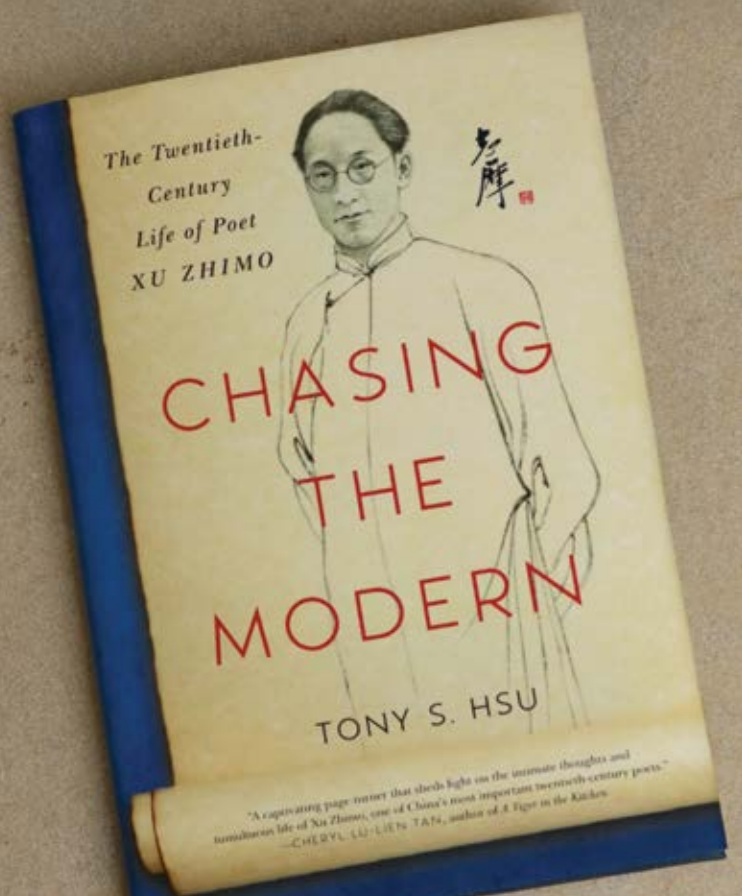
This year marks the bicentenary of the death of Jane Austen (1775–1817) and events are being held worldwide to celebrate her life and work. In this special year, thanks to a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, King's College Library and Archives will join the festivities by hosting various events showcasing many of our Austen-related rare book and archive treasures.

In addition to having first and early editions of her world-famous novels, King's Library also holds the autograph manuscript of Austen's unfinished novel *Sanditon* (1817). The manuscript was given to King's in 1930 by Jane's great-great niece Isabel Lefroy (1860–1939) in memory (as she wrote at the time) "of my sister, & brother in law she the gt gt niece of 'Jane' & he the gt nephew, & the most popular Provost, & Provostess 'Kings' has ever had." She was referring to Florence Emma (1857–1926) and Florence's husband Augustus Austen-Leigh (1840–

1905), Provost of King's, 1889–1905.

In addition to these events, the College will also be loaning some Austen treasures elsewhere during 2017. An autograph letter written by Jane Austen will be loaned to the University Library in March for an exhibition coinciding with a conference about *Sanditon* taking place at Trinity College, and part of the *Sanditon* manuscript will be on loan to the Bodleian Library in Oxford from June to October as part of their exhibition "Jane Austen: A Writer in the World".

Events in King's to look forward to include an open day on 18 July (the anniversary), a two-day exhibition in September as part of Open Cambridge and a talk about Jane Austen in the autumn. Full details will be posted on our Special Collections blog, "King's Treasures" (kcctreasures.wordpress.com).



A POET IS BORN

By Tony Hsu, grandson of Xu Zhimo

In the centuries since King's College was founded, thousands of students have flocked to the campus searching for one essential thing: transformation. Xu Zhimo, a special student from 1921 to 1922, was among them. The young Chinese scholar, who would rise to become one of China's most celebrated 20th-century poets, had journeyed to Cambridge with dreams of studying with Bertrand Russell. During his two-year residence, Xu became a close friend and mentee of King's College Fellow Goldsworthy Lowes Dickinson. He also took great inspiration from friendships with Russell, Roger Fry, EM Forster and Arthur Waley.

His study of literature, philosophy and history, and his conversations with some of the period's most influential thinkers sparked Xu's radical evolution. He had arrived as a profoundly confused and unhappy young man in an arranged marriage, a person crippled by the duty he felt to his parents, his country and the often archaic traditions of his culture. He left the university as a modern intellectual, a single man, a poet.

This excerpt, from the new biography *Chasing the Modern: The Twentieth-Century Life of Poet Xu Zhimo* traces Xu's emotional and intellectual awakening at King's College. The experience ultimately led the young scholar to write the beloved Chinese poem "A Second Farewell to Cambridge."

AN EXCERPT FROM *CHASING THE MODERN* BY TONY S HSU

After months of internal torment, Xu Zhimo, 24, made the decision to leave his Chinese wife, Zhang Youyi, 21, who was then living with him in a humble cottage in Sawston, outside Cambridge. For Xu to even consider divorce – for the sake of romantic love, no less – was bizarre, even shocking, at the time. Chinese society would have viewed the choice not as a personal act but as one with great social and political symbolism. While he had been contemplating this radical social decision, fate threw Xu another curve: Youyi became pregnant with their second child. He tried desperately to convince his wife of their incompatibility. At one point the normally even-tempered Xu even shouted at her, "Bound feet and western dress do not go together." And that was despite the fact that Youyi was actually the first woman in her family to escape having her feet bound. Feeling increasingly trapped, Xu left the Sawston cottage one morning and never returned, leaving his young pregnant wife alone.

Xu moved onto the university campus, six miles away from Sawston, where he finally was able to immerse himself in Cambridge life. He spent his days doing what most privileged students in the West did: strolling through the countryside, punting down the river Cam, bicycling, smoking, chatting with friends over tea and pastries, and indulging his love of reading. "Only then did I have the opportunity to be in close touch with

the real Cambridge, and simultaneously discover Cambridge – a greater pleasure than I have ever known," he wrote.

It was during this time that Xu, then 24, wrote his first formal poem. Dated November 1921, "The Dewdrops on the Grass" reflects, among other things, that Xu had begun to see himself as a literary artist.

Years later Xu would look back on this period and consider the life-changing transformation that had taken place at Cambridge. The loss of Lin Huiyin, the young woman he had fallen in love with, combined with his immersion in nature and his blossoming as a poet, had caused him to change in profound ways.

Of this time at Cambridge he wrote: "I came across a strange wind, or was shone on by some strange moonlight, and since then my thought has turned to the expression of words in lines. A profound melancholy finally overpowered me. This melancholy, I believe, even gradually permeated and transformed my temperament."

Xu could feel himself changing as he began to understand the strange artistic power growing within him. Allowing other half-formed identities of banker, economist, and family successor to fall off his shoulders, he had now settled on a new identity and a fate: that of a poet.

Chasing the Modern is available at The Shop at King's: <http://shop.kings.cam.ac.uk/Chasing-the-Modern-p/20000205.htm>

GETTING STUFF DONE



KCSU president Ceylon Hickman talks to *King's Parade* about why she chose King's – and how she plans to make sure students' views are represented in upcoming changes to the College's buildings.

"As soon as I came to Cambridge I knew I wanted to do stuff," says KCSU President, Ceylon Hickman, and she's wasted no time in doing so. Ceylon stood for Access Officer in the first term of her first year: "We lost by only seven votes!" But she subsequently won the post in the next round of elections. Since then, she has always been involved with the Union in one way or another, whether it's student campaigning on rents or working on the Union's executive council. It seems natural that such enthusiasm would propel Ceylon to the top job.

So what was the thrust of her election campaign?

"It was to continue the good work of the previous president including continuing to oppose any rent hikes. I had an advantage, having a history of opposing the hikes, and, thanks to my involvement in the Union, I already had working relationships with many of the College's Fellows and officials."

She recently fulfilled another of her campaign promises by leading the Union in persuading the College Council to vote for gender-neutral toilets in the bar.

"We wrote a paper and argued for it in discussions with the Council who then passed it unanimously."

Ceylon's enthusiastic involvement with the student union is no surprise when you learn why she was drawn to King's. She was originally going to apply to Oxford to do Philosophy, Politics and Economics, but, at the last minute, discovered Cambridge's Human, Social, and Political Sciences degree.

"I thought it was way better for me. It's more modern, it doesn't have the economics or as much of the old-white-man philosophy. I then researched which college to go to and fell in love with King's."

"It suited me perfectly with its number of state school applicants, its diverse student body, and its history of political

engagement. I thought 'that's the place I want to be if I'm studying politics.'"

Not content with simply studying politics and, incidentally, playing for the University's women's football team, Ceylon also has plenty more to do as this year's KCSU president. The College is talking about a major redevelopment, which might see the bar moving or even Chetwynd Court being covered with a glass roof.

"The most important thing is the students are represented in any consultation about the plans and that student space is given priority," she says. "We've never had a JCR at King's, for instance. We want to make sure we get our own non-alcohol social space. We're also currently surveying the students to see whether they'd like to use the coffee shop after hours as a kind of JCR space as a compromise."

Ceylon gets a great deal of satisfaction from her role, even though she won't be able to enjoy the fruits of her own achievements as president, since she's in the final year of her degree.

"It's very satisfying being able to listen to people's concerns and having the means to act on them. And knowing the right way to go about that."

"You also get to keep abreast of what's going on in other colleges. We get to help each other, which is satisfying because you get to make a difference elsewhere, not just at King's."

So has King's lived up to Ceylon's expectations?

"Definitely! I think that's because the students and Fellows who come here come here for the same reasons. People who are attracted by King's reputation for diversity and political engagement are also the people that contribute to its reputation. It's a self-fulfilling prophecy in a way. Everyone cares about the College and the College community. So it's a really nice place to be. I will miss it."

"King's suited me perfectly with its number of state school applicants, its diverse student body, and its history of political engagement. I thought 'that's the place I want to be if I'm studying politics.'"

SAVE THE DATE MEMBER AND FRIEND EVENTS

11 Mar

International Women's Day Celebration

18 Mar

Foundation Lunch

8 Apr

20th, 25th & 30th Anniversary Reunion (1997, 1992 & 1987)

6 Jun

King's Golf Day

14 to 17 Jun

May Bumps

16 Jun

Brighton Drinks

17 Jun

KCBC May's Dinner

21 Jun

King's Affair

24 Jun

10th Anniversary Reunion Lunch (2007)

1 Jul

Legacy Lunch

22 to 24 Sep

University of Cambridge Alumni Festival

22 Sep

50th Anniversary Reunion (1967)

23 Sep

Members' Tea

23 Sep

35th, 40th & 45th Anniversary Reunion (1982, 1977 & 1972)

25 Nov

1441 Foundation Dinner

Coming from overseas and interested in attending an event that is not specific to your year or subject? You are always welcome, but please give us plenty of notice. More details about King's College events at www.kingsmembers.org Contact the King's Development Office at: events@kings.cam.ac.uk or +44 (0)1223 331 313

CONCERTS AT KING'S

18 Mar, 5.30pm

Foundation Concert, King's College Choir, The Grier Trio, Roderick Williams, Sarah Jane Brandon and CUCO – Chapel

22 Mar to 3 Apr

The Choir's tour of North America – concerts in Berkeley, Vancouver, Seattle, Logan (Utah), Salt Lake City, Midland (Texas)

11 Apr, 6.30pm

JS Bach St Matthew Passion, King's College Choir with Academy of Ancient Music – Chapel

12 Apr, 7.30pm

Messiaen Quartet for the End of Time with Elena Urioste, Mark Simpson, Guy Johnston and Tom Poster – Chapel

13 Apr, 7.30pm

Love was his meaning – the spirituality of Julian of Norwich. An evening of words and

music. Stephen Cherry with The King's Men and Joy Lisney – Chapel

14 Apr, 7.30pm

Brahms' *Ein Deutsches Requiem* with Simon Keenlyside, Sarah Jane Brandon, King's College Choir, Philharmonia Chorus and BBC Concert Orchestra – Chapel

15 Apr, 7.30pm

JS Bach St John Passion, Mark Padmore, Jacqueline Shave and Britten Sinfonia – Chapel

17 Apr, 5.30pm

Grand Organ Recital, Thomas Ospital – Chapel

19 Jun

May Week Concert

25 Jun

Singing on the River

More events are expected to be added throughout the year. Please visit www.kingsmembers.org

ONLINE EXHIBITION ON MOTHERS OF KINGSMEN

Every term the Archive Centre creates a new online exhibition. As Mother's Day in Britain falls at the end of the Lent term (26 March), the archivists have chosen "Mothers of Kingsmen" as the subject of their latest exhibition.

To find out about the relationships Rupert Brooke, Julian Bell, EM Forster and John Maynard Keynes had with their mothers, please visit the exhibition here: www.kings.cam.ac.uk/archive-centre/exhibition/mothers-of-kingsmen

Particular attention is paid to terms of address used in letters home, the topics the letter writers discussed and what they thought of each other. The exhibit includes:

Mary Ruth Brooke (1848-1930) – Rupert Brooke (1887-1915, KC 1906)

Vanessa Bell (1879-1961) – Julian Heward Bell (1908-1937, KC 1927)

Alice Clara 'Lily' Forster (1855-1945) – Edward Morgan Forster (1879-1970, KC 1897)

Florence Ada Keynes (1861-1958) – John Maynard Keynes (1883-1946, KC 1902)

www.kings.cam.ac.uk/archive-centre/exhibition/mothers-of-kingsmen

KING'S FELLOWS AWARDED TEACHING PRIZES

Two King's Fellows, social scientist Dr Jude Browne and classicist Dr Ingo Gildenhard, have both won Pilkington Prizes this year for their substantial contributions to teaching.

The Pilkington Prize recognises those individuals who have made an outstanding impact on teaching and learning at the University of Cambridge. It is awarded annually to 12 members of staff who have achieved excellence in the field of teaching.

Other King's Fellows who have won in recent years include Dr Matt Candea, Dr Rob Wallach, Dr Nick Bullock, Professor Bill Burgwinkle, Dr Tim Flack and Dr Geoff Moggridge.

KING'S CRA WINS SOFTWARE SUSTAINABILITY FELLOWSHIP

King's alumnus and College Research Associate Dr. Krishna Kumar has won the Software Sustainability Institute (SSI) Fellowship for 2017.

As an SSI Fellow, Krishna will be an ambassador for promoting and developing tools for sustainable research. Krishna's own research involves large-scale open source computational tools for understanding landslides, earthquakes and other geophysical hazards.

KING'S COLLEGE CAMBRIDGE 

King's Parade is published by King's College, Cambridge CB2 1ST.
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