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KING'S PARADE

THE MAGAZINE FOR MEMBERS & FRIENDS OF KING'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE

In this issue

**MY PHD WITH
YARA KYRYCHENKO**

GEOFFREY LLOYD

**IN CONVERSATION
WITH GILLIAN
GRIFFITHS**



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Welcome

from the new First Bursar, Ivan Collister



For much of its history, the bursars at King's were three Fellows, "apt, trustworth and circumspect", tasked with collecting money owed to the College and keeping it "securely in a chest".

It turns out that this could be rather dangerous. Richard Hatton, bursar from 1479-80, was out on his rounds one summer, when his servant set upon him with a knife. Hatton had fallen asleep under a tree, "with a good store of money about him", when the man scored his face, seemingly aiming for the neck. Hatton somehow wrestled his attacker to the ground, and managed to march him to the next town, "where the Law had its course" – presumably fatally.

Fortunately, the job is now rather different. From the late eighteenth and early nineteenth-centuries the work became more complex and less dangerous. Bursars stayed in post longer and were more likely to die in their beds than at the hands of a robber. There are some daunting names in the list of more recent First Bursars, not least that of John Maynard Keynes, who held the role from 1924 almost to the end of the Second World War. Keynes' legacy to the College (let alone the wider world) is visible every day in our buildings, our art, and in the Arts Theatre – the plan for which he developed, and which stands on King's land.

It is important to see the bursar's role in historical perspective. I am the 317th bursar at King's. The creation of a 'First' bursar is harder to trace but, crudely, I am the 154th person to be the senior bursar since 1441. All these antecedents bring home the main part of the job: of making sure that the College is here in another five hundred years. The history is also a good reminder for me of how special a place King's is. The College has its own feel, values, a wonderful sense of openness and welcome, and a mixture of tradition and radicalism I've not experienced in any other place. I feel extraordinarily lucky to be here, and thanks to our wonderful Fellows, students, and staff, I already feel at home.

RAISING THE ROOF

Visitors to the College over the next year will notice the remarkable temporary structure assembled over the Chapel allowing for the replacement of its lead roof.

The renewal of the lead covering will represent the first time in over 150 years that such extensive works have been carried out on the main Chapel roof, and addresses the rapid deterioration in its condition which has been threatening the roof timbers below. Emergency repairs over the past three summers have tackled the most serious decay and water ingress, but with the leadwork now thinning considerably, the roof requires a more significant overhaul to prevent further rot and make the building watertight.

Undertaking such extensive work on a roof which is nearly 300 feet long – all while maintaining access to the building for visitors, daily services, and the annual Christmas broadcasts – represents a considerable challenge. In order to carry out the work safely and limit its impact on the daily life of the Chapel, a temporary protective roof has been erected above the

leadwork, supported by the structure of the building and engineered without the need for any major fixings into its historic fabric.

Given the 100-year expected life span of the new lead covering, the works are a rare chance for the College to explore opportunities to implement environmental strategies, in light of the commitment of both the University and Church of England to achieving net-zero emissions. Foremost of these opportunities is the installation of photovoltaic panels on the Chapel roof, following the example set by cathedrals in Gloucester, Salisbury and elsewhere. While having minimal visual impact on the historic building, the panels would provide an estimated 100,000 kW hours per year in renewable energy and reduce the College's carbon emissions annually by an average of 23 tonnes.



Proctor's Orders

Undergraduate History and Politics student Fariya Umer took part in this year's Summer Research Programme, conducting an investigation into the Spinning House system which – under the authority of an Elizabethan charter dating back to 1561 – gave the Proctors of the University of Cambridge the authority to arrest women 'suspected of evil'.

Throughout the nineteenth-century, the Proctors would patrol the streets at night looking for townswomen who they suspected to be prostitutes, apprehend them and take them to a prison called the Spinning House, situated on St Andrew's Street. In the morning the women would be presented before the Vice-Chancellor in a trial, where it would be decided whether they would be released or imprisoned for a longer period – usually up to 14 days. These trials were conducted behind closed doors, witness statements weren't taken on oath, and supposed guilt was largely already decided on the basis of whether the women had already been tried before.

"About 80% of the women were imprisoned for 'streetwalking', which wasn't even an official crime in English law at the time, but many were also arrested for the misdemeanour of 'walking with a member of the University', which was seen as quite a serious offence because of the corrupting effect it was deemed to have. Certain Proctors made around 50 arrests in a year, whereas others made only a handful, and the main factor which seems to have influenced the length of a sentence was simply which Proctor had made the arrest and how they were feeling that morning."

In the late 1840s, 19-year-old Elizabeth Howe was taken into the Spinning House for being considered a prostitute. Fariya explains what happened next: "After being taken in she became ill, after complaining that her bed was damp and that she hadn't been given any warm clothes. The next day she was taken to a lodging house but died about a month later, with coroners concluding that she had contracted rheumatic fever at the Spinning House. The later inquest into her death came to the same conclusion after a series of testimonies from both her mother and other girls who has been at the Spinning House at the same time, all with similar stories about how the rooms were cold, beds damp, and food inadequate."

Howe's death garnered a lot of controversy, with the public nature of the case leading to local protests about the system and a reassessment of the practice: "The jurors, after hearing these testimonies, were not only critical about what Elizabeth Howe had been subjected to, but also started to question the legitimacy of the system as a whole. They requested for the coroner to write urgently to the Home Secretary, Sir George Grey, but with little effect: Grey's only recommendations were that the arrested women should receive more religious instruction, and that the Spinning House Keeper's wife should take a more central role."

Fearful of another scandal, the Proctors and Vice-Chancellor became more cautious and the number of arrests declined from the 1850s onwards, with townspeople also frequently helping the girls escape from the Spinning House. In 1891, however, the arrest of Daisy Hopkins – only 17 at the time – precipitated an extraordinary chain of events that saw national women's associations quickly mobilise and Hopkins sue the University for false imprisonment:

"Even though public opinion had turned against the Spinning House system, it was very rare for a girl to try to sue the University, and inevitably the case attracted a lot of interest in the press. Even though Hopkins lost the case, the fact that it had reached the Queen's Bench and gained a lot of traction in the press meant that there was at outpouring of public sympathy, not least because of the revelations of how the Proctor, Reverend Wallis, had beaten Hopkins, forced her to do menial labour, and confined her to unsanitary conditions. The trial made a significant impact, and in December of that year, Hopkins' lawyer moved a resolution which would allow the town council to appoint delegates to promote a public bill to Parliament with the aim of abolishing or limiting the University's powers. The Spinning House system was abolished three years later, in 1894."



IN CONVERSATION WITH

GILLIAN GRIFFITHS

During Gillian Griffiths' years as a PhD student at the Laboratory of Molecular Biology in Cambridge, it seemed almost every year that a scientist at the Lab was awarded a Nobel Prize: "First it was Fred Sanger, then it was Aaron Klug, and soon afterwards it was my supervisor César [Milstein]. The atmosphere at the LMB in those days was very supportive and egalitarian – everybody was interested in what you were working on and was wholly dedicated to scientific research. What I really liked about César was his concern for the details of experiments and the care he would take in setting them up. I remember rushing anxiously off to him when I heard that other researchers were working on a similar project to mine, and he just said with a smile of satisfaction: "ah, but

they're not doing it properly". It was his way of saying that if you care most about being the first to publish then you're risking the quality of the research. You feel like you're living dangerously by taking longer, but when you do get the paper out, it's a better paper for it. So it's a different kind of danger that we choose to live with."

After completing her PhD, Gillian moved to Stanford where she spent a frustrating five years trying to find homing receptors that instructed immune cells about where to go in the body. Towards the end of her time in California, however, Gillian's interest was piqued during an exceptionally dull project examining rheumatoid arthritis samples. "In between doing experiments I was reading *Molecular Biology of the Cell*, which had just

"People do much better science if they're happy: that was something I could see when Max Perutz was running the LMB and it's always stuck with me."

come out, and in it was a chapter talking about how some proteins were sent to special secretory granules within cytotoxic 'killer' T cells. One of the things that fascinated me was how those killer proteins got into the granules, let alone got out of them, and it turned out to be *even more* interesting because these secretory granules emerged as a modified lysosome. The lysosome is an organelle where proteins are usually sent to be degraded, and not something that's generally used to secrete outside of the cell – so that had me hooked."

Gillian's next move took her to the Basel Institute for Immunology, a decision that came somewhat out of left field: "I was aware that my postdoc hadn't gone well, and it really felt like my last chance. Moving to Switzerland didn't make a lot of sense, but the Institute offered to purchase a state-of-the-art confocal microscope to help with my work, and that clinched it. Around that time a friend of mine, Paul Travers, was writing the textbook *Immunobiology*, and asked if we had any images of T cells he could use. That was the point I began making movies of the killer cells engaging their targets, which really helped drive the science forward. The images were much grainier in those days, but now in Cambridge we can use a spinning disc to image the whole cell in 3D in a matter of seconds, and that's really transformed the quality of the movies."

The ability to show, visually, the process by which the killer T cells were acting upon antigens helped Gillian's work get more recognition, but it wasn't until she moved to the Dunn School in Oxford that her research started to attract a significant amount of attention. What were the reasons behind that? "There were two sides to it: the first was really that I'd just had my first child and I was not only very *happy* but also very *focused*; I had limited time in the lab and consequently became much more productive – there was no time for dithering!

"The second was that we'd hit on quite a fashionable area of scientific research. There was a lot of excitement about the fact that when a T cell met its target, it made this incredible reorganisation of receptors known as the immunological synapse, which looks a bit like a dartboard, with adhesion proteins around an outer ring, and proteins involved in target recognition within the inner ring. But nobody really knew why they made this structure and they'd been arguing in circles about it for years. In the midst of all this I'd been wondering how the secretion of the killer proteins happened, and what we found was that secretion took

place at the centre of this structure – at the bullseye, if you like. So we essentially discovered that the function of the immunological synapse was to create a focus for secretion, and when we published the paper in 2001 it completely took off."

In 2007 Gillian swapped Oxford for Cambridge, where the Griffiths Lab has developed an excellent reputation, with Gillian herself fulfilling a childhood dream by being elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 2013. But what's occupying the Lab at the moment? "One of the things we've recently been trying to identify is the mechanism that allows T cells to refill their secretory granules and keep on killing. What we noticed was a surprising causal connection to mitochondria, which we've found are able to make some of their own proteins and instruct the cell as to how many of its other proteins can be made to refill the granules. So to 'top up' your granules, you need healthy mitochondria. That was a completely unexpected link, which is what I really love spotting!"

Another unforeseen parallel was found when Gillian was looking at granular secretion at the centrosome of the cell: "The centrosome usually nestles by the nucleus of cells, but we found it right by the membrane. So I talked to a colleague who worked on the formation of cilia and flagella, which act as sensing organelles, and he said that this was something that only happened during ciliogenesis. These immune cells don't make cilia, but morphologically there are so many intriguing similarities. The difference is that immune cells can't afford to make a stable extended cilium because they need to respond very quickly before moving onto the next pathogen."

There's an evident sense of collaboration and camaraderie in the Griffiths Lab, with Gillian eager to foster a positive environment for the students under her wing: "People do much better science if they're happy: that was something I could see when Max Perutz was running the LMB and has always stuck with me. As educators we can do something that seems like a relatively small action but which can open the world for a student, and they just light up. I love those moments when a student finds the thing that excites them and that they're going to pursue with their lives – to see them flourish is wonderful."

Gillian Griffiths (KC 1980) is a Fellow of King's and Professor of Immunology and Cell Biology at the Cambridge Institute for Medical Research.



Q&A *with Edgard Camarós*



Edgard, you're a College Research Associate at King's; could you summarise your research interests?

I'm an archaeologist with a particular interest in how people died and what their deaths can tell us about human evolution. At the Department of Archaeology I study the role of traumatic mortality, or death by violence, but in my research at King's I'm looking more at the pathologies found in the medieval skeletons recently excavated on the College's site at Croft Gardens. I'm especially interested in what bones can tell us about cancer and how it's evolved across the whole of humanity, from australopithecines found in Africa to people from Cambridge in the Middle Ages.

What kind of knowledge can we deduce about pathologies from this osteoarchaeological work?

Bones display pathologies which are very specific to a time and a geography, so they can tell us a lot about the historical context and how diseases have evolved. In the medieval period, the evidence of lots of infections means we can make certain assumptions about hygiene, lifestyle and medical knowledge. It's interesting to compare this with prehistoric societies and to map how the prevalence of disease changes with societal shifts such as the domestication of animals, which leads to a marked increase in interactions with pathogens.

Although we often think of prehistoric societies as having poor health, we also find less evidence nutritional problems among children, for instance. Human evolution has a cost, and that cost is the disease that we carry through history.

How have the technological advances in medical equipment transformed the field over the last 20 years or so?

Even in the last five or ten years there have been rapid advances. As archaeologists, bones have traditionally been the only window through which to study disease, and new techniques such as Micro-CT scanning allow us to search for evidence of cancer intrinsically within the bones. Thanks to this, we can see that cancer was much more common in older societies than we previously thought, and we can even now search for diseases in sites where there are no bones: by taking samples of sediment, for instance. In some cases we're able to extract ancient DNA from that sediment, sequence the genome, and search for diseases present – even though we're really dealing with just a shadow of the human living there.

You recently held a two-day workshop at King's bringing together archaeologists and medical scientists to discuss the evolution of cancer; how important is that interdisciplinarity in your work?

It's essential, and paleopathology is a field that naturally sits at the intersection of several disciplines. If we want to understand these diseases we need to look at them from different perspectives, and it was very interesting to hear from colleagues in other departments but with a common interest in cancer. As archaeologists we can learn a lot from oncologists that can help our understanding of the past, and because oncologists don't generally see the effects of cancer without the intervention of medicine, they too can get new insights from the archaeological work into the evolution of disease within the body.

Last term you brought some 3D printed replicas of skulls into College as part of the "lunch with a fossil" initiative. What was the idea behind that?

I really believe that through materiality we can learn things in a different way, and the idea was to try to normalise access to evolutionary knowledge in a friendly environment over lunch in the Hall. Here at King's we have students and Fellows from all disciplines, so we were having discussions about fossils with philosophers, biologists and psychologists, all with different outlooks and questions. We learned a lot and had fun in the process!

You've been studying the skeletons found at Croft Gardens, the site of new College accommodation for graduate students, Fellows and their families. What have you found so far?

The skeletons are currently waiting to go through the Micro-CT scanner at the Department of Archaeology, but we can already see evidence of infections and potential cases of cancer, as well as a lot of healed trauma. From this we can make inferences about their daily life and activities, and after we produce our DNA analysis we'll then put that evidence into a more global context of the evolution of disease. There's also an interesting personal connection for me as I'm now living in the new accommodation at Croft Gardens, and I've been able to plot the architectural plans against the archaeological excavations. It turns out I'm living directly above some especially interesting tombs – a discovery which I personally find very motivating, but I don't think my kids like the idea so much!



MY PhD

with Yara Kyrychenko

In the US and other Western democracies, political polarisation appears to be on the increase, gradually seeping into our everyday life and decisions, hindering democratic conversations and reducing our capacity for compromise.

There are different types of polarisation, but what I'm studying is *affective* polarisation, or the tendency for people to feel positively towards their own group and negatively towards others. I'm particularly interested in the extent to which social media is facilitating this affective polarisation, and what interventions we might be able to implement to reduce that contribution and make social media a more politically productive space.

I started approaching this topic from the perspective that social media has a positive social role to play. We'd seen, through the Arab Spring and the Euromaidan revolution in my own country of Ukraine, a glimpse of the opportunities that social media could bring to the democratic process: how citizens would be better able to keep their politicians accountable; could conduct collaborative action more productively; and could take a more active part in political debate, regardless of geographical location and socio-economic status. Today, however, the dialogue around social media is primarily focused on its downsides – its adverse effects on wellbeing, its contribution to the spread of misinformation, and its role in polarisation.

Assessing the role of social media in these matters is especially difficult because of the limitations we have in accessing the data and mechanisms underpinning the various platforms. At any given point, what our results reflect is really just a snapshot of whatever the platform's algorithm is doing at that time. Because of the architectural secrecy around anything proprietary, we don't truly know how the flow of information is controlled, or how content is ranked and disseminated, so it's hard to fully unpick their possible influence.

One of the dominant theories is that affective polarisation is a consequence of a wider tendency towards partisan sorting, where one's affinity to a political party is bound up with other ideological issues – particularly those which are more morally charged, such as immigration, abortion rights, and gun control. Where in the past those political cleavages used to be cross-cutting and reasonably conducive to tolerance – for instance, an individual could be both liberal and Republican, or conservative and Democrat – in the recent past we appear to have started grouping ourselves into more monolithic 'mega-identities' which dictate how we should feel about a wide range of discrete issues and in which it becomes harder to identify with anyone in the opposing camp.

“If social media algorithms are prioritising and amplifying more outrageous content, this could create a feedback loop that makes us increasingly polarised.”

I'm interested in how social media contributes to this alignment of identities, and in the effects of the different ways of structuring social networks and feeds. For example, one finding recently showed how morally emotive words, particularly those expressing moral outrage, were most likely to go 'viral' on social media. If social media algorithms are prioritising and amplifying more outrageous content, it follows that this could create a feedback loop that makes us increasingly polarised.

It's important to make distinctions between the different platforms and their specific affordances. On Twitter, for example, users are encouraged to 'follow' people they don't personally know, and consequently tend to have a wider network of people than on platforms such as Facebook, which is more geared towards maintaining contact with existing friends. The effect of this is twofold, in that it provides greater potential access to a wider diversity of opinion, but also increases the ability of users to seek out like-minded communities for reinforcement of their

existing beliefs, no matter how fringe they might be. This reduction in interpersonal distance, combined with the ease with which posts can be 'retweeted', also means that Twitter is a platform on which misinformation tends to get amplified more widely than on other platforms where the sharing of others' content is less of an integral part of the system design.

Alongside the data science methods I'll be employing in the PhD, we'll also be running some field experiments and simulated environments to try to understand the psychological mechanisms that are at play when we use social media, and how we might be susceptible to misinformation in those environments. We're currently using a platform called Mastodon which enables us to separate participants into distinct servers and expose them to different content. What we're trying to determine is the causal effect of misinformation on referendum outcomes, and the efficacy of the inoculation techniques that my lab here in Cambridge has been developing to protect people from those effects. These techniques – such as educational videos and games about different manipulation techniques – are designed to work like a psychological vaccine against misinformation. The benefit of these techniques is that they're simple and scalable tweaks designed to build cognitive resistance, and don't require platforms to make the difficult judgments about whether specific content represents misinformation or not.

Later in my PhD I plan to use a famous psychological study which found that randomly assigning people to arbitrary groups induces favouritism within that group and hostility towards the other. In my study I'll artificially create group identities then assign people to different social media environments and expose them to various identity-related messages to see what has the greatest effect on polarisation. Previous correlational research has found that language indicating animosity towards the 'out-group' is a stronger driver of social media engagement, but there have also been some exciting recent studies looking at the role of in-group solidarity. Before the war in Ukraine, for instance, posts on pro-Ukrainian social media which focused on Russia and Russian identity tended to generate much more engagement than those focusing on Ukraine and Ukrainian identity. However, since the beginning of the war, engagement with descriptive language relating either to the in-group or the out-group has dropped significantly, and instead, emotionally charged words referring to in-group identity, such as 'heroes,' 'glory,' or 'brave,' have emerged as the driving force of engagement. Interestingly, words signifying out-group derogation – such as 'bastards,' 'occupiers,' and other pejorative terms for Russian soldiers have not significantly contributed to engagement. These findings suggest that in times of severe inter-group conflict, boosting in-group morale might be more important than derogating the out-group, in this context at least.



CLASSICAL REFLECTION

with Geoffrey Lloyd

Honorary Fellow Geoffrey Lloyd held a number of roles at King's before becoming Master of Darwin College in 1989. He has written over thirty books and was knighted for services to the history of thought in 1997. Geoffrey's connection to King's began as an undergraduate in 1951:

At that stage King's was still populated by people who had seen conflict in the Second World War, and the atmosphere was extremely determined and optimistic; people were there to get the most out of education. In those days there was still very much a public school air to the College; the shift away from that really took place during John Broadbent's stint as Senior Tutor, when he famously turned down the Head Boy from Eton and instigated a monumental row. Noel Annan, who was Provost at the time, was all for caving in to the Etonian headmaster, but Broadbent stuck to his guns, and we then didn't get a single candidate from Eton for the next few years!"

"In those days Classics teaching was very heavily linguistic in orientation and included writing Greek and Latin verse, which I found fairly torturous, so when I arrived I actually tried to switch to Modern Languages. It was John Raven who convinced me to stick at it; John was working on early Greek philosophy which was quite unusual and exciting – most classicists were writing about Plato and Aristotle – so I stayed the course and by my final year I was specialising in ancient philosophy. My other main inspirations were Edmund Leach and Moses Finley. Moses was an incredibly inspiring lecturer, and students – not just classicists – flocked to his lectures to hear about Odysseus, ancient political thought, and economic history."

Overcoming his initial doubts about the subject, Geoffrey went on to a PhD in Classics, although his motivations were not solely academic: "At one point I was considering becoming a doctor like my father and brother, but the thought of a further six years training wasn't especially appealing. In truth, the offer of a studentship at King's meant I could delay National Service for a little while longer. Having met Ji [Geoffrey's wife, the translator Janet Lloyd] by then, I didn't particularly want to leave Cambridge at that point."

The studentship took Geoffrey to Greece, where he spent his time living in the shadow of the Acropolis among poets and painters, learning the bouzouki and largely neglecting his PhD on the development of abstract nouns. The period did however prove pivotal in initiating his shift towards anthropological enquiry: "I'd been stimulated by reading Durkheim's criticism of Lévy-Bruhl around the question of primitive mentality. So I consulted Meyer Fortes and Edmund Leach at King's who directed me to some anthropological work, and I started devouring it and thinking how it could be applied to ancient history and philosophy."

Others in the Classics faculty were more sceptical: "I was warned by my supervisor Geoffrey Kirk, who said if I submitted my dissertation with all these references to Lévi-Strauss, he didn't know if I'd be given the doctorate. A few years later, when Kirk was invited to give the Sather lectures on Greek myth, he sidled up to me and said "Geoffrey, this chap Lévi-Strauss, could you give me a bibliography?" So that was a nice turn-up for the books!"

The PhD complete, Geoffrey's National Service could be delayed no longer, and he passed his Viva while in basic training with the Northamptonshire Regiment, followed by a stint as an officer in the Intelligence Corps, with whom he ended up as Port Commandant in Famagusta. By that stage Geoffrey and Ji were married with their first child, and he returned to Cambridge to take up a research fellowship at King's, during which he began revising *Polarity and Analogy*, published in 1966. "That really started me off on the most important area of my work: human cognitive faculties, their cross-cultural variations and uniformities, and how we might understand people who use a completely different conceptual framework from ourselves. A major break came when on my return from a trip to China in 1987 I set out to learn Classical Chinese to undertake a close comparative study of Chinese and western philosophy and science in the wake of, but largely critical of, the work

continued overleaf



of the great Joseph Needham. By the time I wrote *Cognitive Variations* in 2007 I was also using evolutionary biology and psychology, and that's what I continue to do."

A desire not to be constrained by a particular discipline is a thread that runs through Geoffrey's intellectual output. Was it a conscious choice to work in the margins between established subjects? "Absolutely. I've always been excited by the challenge of getting away from the conventional stuff, challenging the existing conceptual framework and debunking the myth of Western rationalism. Most of my research circles around the same fundamental problems about cognition, but it's looking at the question from diverse perspectives that interests me – whether that's employing ancient Greek philosophy, sinology, or even more recent fields such as artificial intelligence. When I started out, Moses Finley had been doing comparative work on Odysseus but it was rare to find anyone operating at those intersections; without Moses I don't suppose for a minute that people like Myles Burnyeat and myself, who saw the possibility of doing Classics in a different way, would have stood a chance."

After three years as Assistant Tutor to John Broadbent, during which he and Ji held legendary weekly parties at their house on Prospect Row, Geoffrey was sent on a fact-finding mission to America before taking on the Senior Tutor role in 1969. "Edmund Leach, who was Provost then, wanted me to get some experience of other institutions, so I went to Columbia and Berkeley, and talked to some very

radical students there. Some of them suspected I was a police mole, so I had to prove my credibility by joining in their demonstrations!

"There was a degree of anti-establishment sentiment around Cambridge too at that time, and Ken Polack was the Senior Tutor during the sit-in at the Senate House about representation on faculty boards. King's already had undergraduates and graduates on the College Council by that point, so we knew there was everything to be gained from having student representation and, frankly, nothing to be lost."

As Senior Tutor Geoffrey also played an important role in the admission of women to the College in 1972, and the discussions that preceded it: "The real drivers of co-residence were the graduate students, but within the College there was very little resistance to the admission of women – after all, for years we'd been receiving female students from Queen Mary College during the Long Vacation without any problem. The reluctance was more from other Colleges – both women's Colleges who feared they would lose some of their talented students, and some of the men's Colleges who vehemently opposed the admission of female students in any capacity, at any time. The effect of that was to send a lot of Colleges into denial but King's, Clare and Churchill remained steadfast, and it was thanks in large measure to the tactful manoeuvring of our Admissions Tutor Jim Turner that we secured a satisfactory agreement."



The SWEET Life



Pastry chef Poppy West had just turned 19 when she arrived at King's in 2014, making her the College's youngest chef at the time. Eight years later, she has risen from commis chef to chef de partie, helps to train new apprentices coming through, and is the longest-serving chef in the kitchen.

"The environment in the kitchen is really good; there's a nice team and a good balance of men and women, which isn't always the case in this industry. My son Ralph just turned one and I'm working part-time at the moment, and King's have been really accommodating about my working pattern since I came back from maternity leave."

Although she's spent the morning making 100 Christmas puddings, a more normal day for Poppy consists of cooking up a selection of hot and cold desserts for lunch, as well as the preparation for formal halls and High Table dinners.

"We usually make five or six options for lunch, so nearly 40 different cakes each week. I like making things which people enjoy – which taste good and look nice as well – and you can't beat a dessert!"

Using seasonal produce has long been important to the College's catering team, and Poppy thinks this is key: "It's common sense really – if you buy ingredients out of season they're just not as good quality. In the autumn I like to use seasonal fruits, and I've just put a new Bramley apple tart with candied pecans on the menu, which seems to be going down well."

During term-time, the regular formal halls for around 200 students present a different kind of task to the usual lunchtime service. How does Poppy embrace that challenge?

"I really enjoy the formal halls because we can go all-out and get creative – recently we've had formals on the theme of Diwali, Hallowe'en and Bridgerton, so it's a good test of our skills. I'm not sure what I'm going to do for the Moulin Rouge one coming up though!"

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

In October we welcomed the first residents to our new accommodation at Stephen Taylor Court on Barton Road. The site, formerly known as Croft Gardens, provides 84 homes for graduate students, Fellows, and their families, and is designed to rigorous Passivhaus standards with a very low carbon footprint.



The site consists of three gault brick crescents and a red brick villa which together provide the residential accommodation, along with the refurbished and extended Victorian Holmcroft building which provides a library, laundry room and common room area which spills out onto a sunny terrace and allotment garden.

The pair of crescents whose gables face onto Barton Road are home to 12 two-bedroom and 12 one-bedroom apartments for Fellows and their families. The third crescent – named the Adkins Building after our Life Fellow and former Senior Tutor Tess Adkins – is home to 48 graduate rooms, while the single villa building on Barton Road is home to a further 12 graduate rooms.

Domus Bursar Philip Isaac commented: “At King’s we are delighted with the results of the Stephen Taylor Court development, which is a credit to the vision, commitment and skill of all those who have worked hard to bring the project to completion. The buildings represent a major step in the College’s ongoing efforts to decarbonise our operations in the context of the climate crisis, and in our aspirations to provide high-quality and affordable accommodation to our students, academics, and their families. It has been a pleasure to welcome the first residents to this inclusive and dynamic community, and we hope that the buildings will be enjoyed by many generations to come.”

Save the Date

2022

24 December

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

25 December

Christmas Day Eucharist

2023

16 February

Equality and Diversity in Football: A Conversation with Anna Kessel and Ceylon Hickman

4 March

Henry VI Circle Lunch

8 March

Women’s Dinner

18 March

Foundation Lunch

25 March

20th, 25th & 30th Anniversary Reunion

28 April

Alan Turing Lecture Event

11 May

King’s Golf Day

10 June

10th Anniversary Reunion

24 June

50 Years of Women at King’s Festival

12 August

50th Anniversary Reunion

16 September

35th, 40th & 45th Anniversary Reunion

23 September

1441 Foundation Dinner

Get in Touch

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For up-to-date information about events:
www.kings.cam.ac.uk/events/calendar