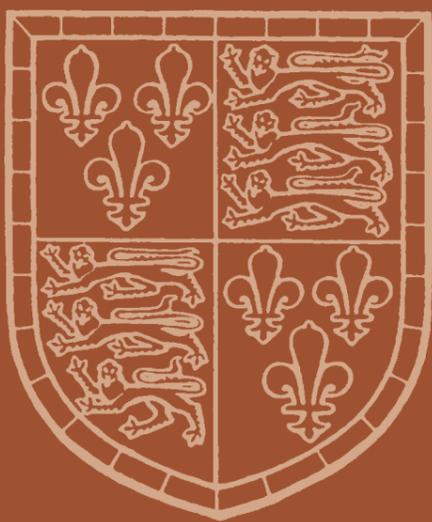
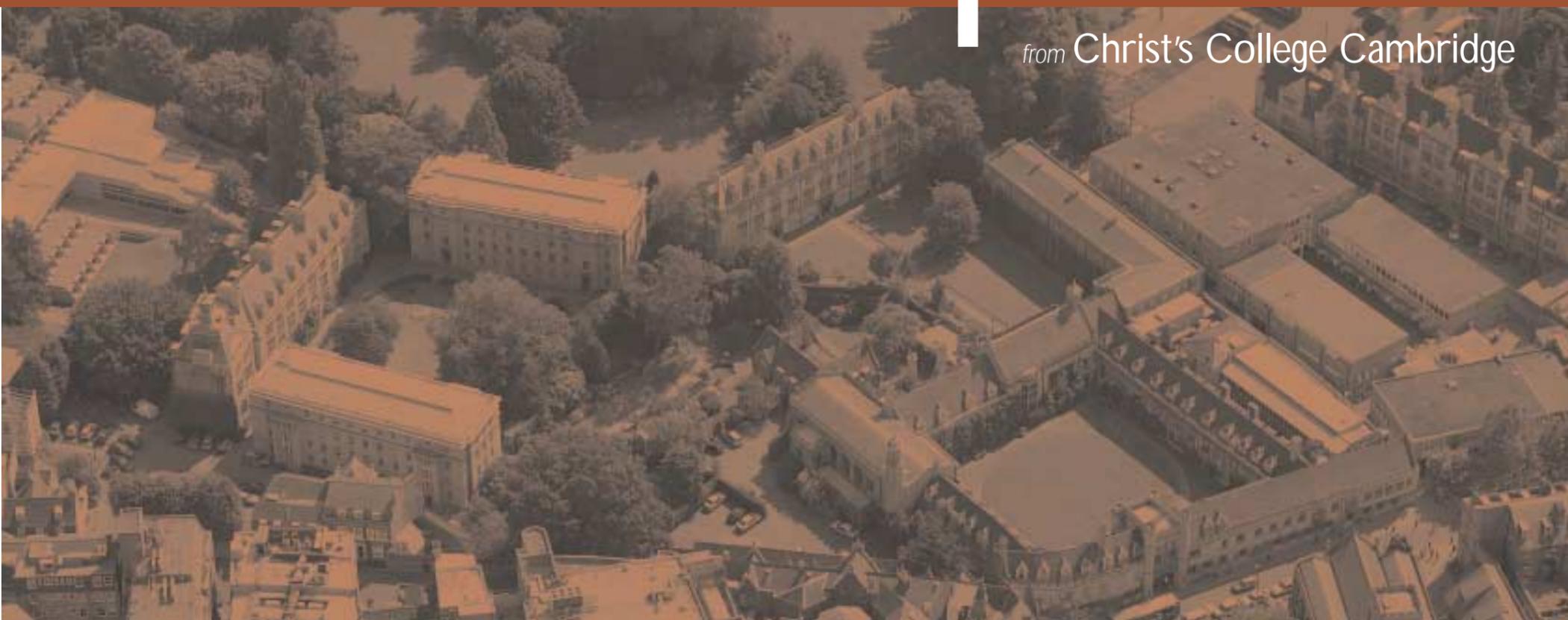


Issue 7 Lent Term 2005



pieces

from Christ's College Cambridge



2005: Christ's College
Quincentenary Year

Filming History
David Reynolds and Russell
Barnes

Dick Clements on
Engineering and Knots

www.christs.cam.ac.uk

Events and reunions

Saturday 5 February, 7.30pm

Come and Sing (open to all)

All singers are encouraged to participate in the concert. Rehearsals will be 2.30-5pm on the day followed by a light meal in college. All are welcome to purchase tickets for the concert at 7.30pm. Please contact Rachel Kingston (rsk27@cam.ac.uk) for tickets and rehearsal enquiries.

Sunday 13 February, 4.00pm

Quincentenary Concert I (open to all)

Joseph Tong and Waka Hasegawa, Piano Duo, perform a selection of Brahms, Mozart, Ravel and Rachmaninov at the West Road Concert Hall. Please use enclosed form to order tickets.

Thursday 17 February, 6.00pm

Business Briefing "21st Century Pensions" (open to all)

For information please contact the Alumni Officer, Katy Joubert (cvaj2@cam.ac.uk).

March (date to be confirmed)

Christ's in the City

For more information please contact the Alumni Office.

Friday 11 & Saturday 12 March, 8.00pm

Christ's Music Society 1505-2005 (open to all)

Two student-organised concerts, featuring performances by Christ's chapel choir, the Beaufort Ensemble and Christ's Voices.

On **11 March**: music from around 1505, 1605 and 1705.

On **12 March**: music from around 1805, 1905 and a new composition for 2005 (composed by a member of college)

For further details please contact Rachel Kingston (rsk27@cam.ac.uk).

Saturday 2 April, 11.45am

MA Congregation

Members who matriculated as undergraduates in October 1998 will be entitled to proceed to their MA.

Saturday 9 April, from 4.00pm

Sports Dinner

Those involved with sports in any capacity during their time at Christ's are cordially invited to a reunion, including dinner in Hall with guest speakers.

Please use enclosed form to reserve your place.

Events and reunions

Wednesday 18 May, 5.00pm

Lady Margaret Lecture I (open to all)

Professor Daniel Dennett (Free, £10 for supper). For tickets and information please contact the Development Office.

Tuesday 31 May, 3.00pm

Lady Margaret's Birthday (open to all)

Wreath laying ceremony at Westminster Abbey. For enquiries please contact the Development Office.

Sunday 12 June, 6.00pm

Procession & Evensong followed by Dinner at High Table (Members of College only) Please contact the Steward's Office for information (01223-334962).

Saturday 18 June

May Bumps Picnic (open to all)

Osier Fen, Fen Ditton. For information please contact the Alumni Office.

Wednesday 22 June, 5.00pm

Lady Margaret Lecture II (open to all)

Professor Sir Paul Nurse (Free, £10 for supper). For tickets and information please contact the Development Office.

Saturday 25 June from 12.45pm

Reunion Buffet Lunch & Garden Party

For members who matriculated 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995 (& Guests) Fellows' Garden (Hall if wet).

Saturday 2 July 6.45 for 7.00pm

Christ's College Association Annual Dinner

To request an application form, please contact the Alumni Office. Master's Garden (sherry), Hall (dinner).

Wednesday 6 July, 5.00pm

Lady Margaret Lecture III (open to all)

Sir Mark Tully (Free, £10 for supper). For information and tickets please contact the Development Office.

Saturday 9 July

Quincentenary Ball (all welcome). Please use enclosed form to order tickets.

Saturday 16 July, 1.30-5.00pm

Family Day (open to all)

An afternoon of entertainment for children and adults, including storytelling and magic, followed by High Tea.

Fellows' Garden (Hall and Upper Hall if wet)

Reserve your place with the Alumni Office; early booking is advised.



Editorial

Welcome to 2005 - The Quincentenary Year!

Christ's College is an ancient institution, which excels in the present and looks forward with ambition to the future. This issue of *pieces* celebrates ways in which students of Christ's have gone on to fulfilling and exciting careers. To quote from the act of commemoration of benefactors, Members of Christ's have "enriched the College by the honour which they have brought it: some by uneventful constancy in public or in private life; others by their devoted work for the College and for the University".

In this issue of *pieces*, Dick Clements talks about his research at Bristol. Far from limiting himself to research in engineering *per se*, Dick has involved himself in all manner of other activities (p8). Chris Cossey, a retired journalist, shares his memories of his work, and tells of his current projects and his passion for education (p10). The Chaplain, Philip Harbridge, talks about his ministry to the College (p5), and Paul and Sarah Webb tell of their careers since they married in College in 1989 (p9).

Also included are features on two projects. One (completed) is that of swimming the English Channel: Julian Critchlow describes the wonders of cold-water swimming (p11); the other project (yet to be released) is a collaboration between David Reynolds and Russell Barnes, to produce a BBC documentary film about Churchill's post-war years (p7).

The Quincentenary Year is an ideal time to celebrate the diversity of talents of those who have passed through Christ's before us, and of those who are here now. With your support, Christ's can plan for the education of future generations of students and remain at the pinnacle of learning and research.

Acknowledgements

Christ's College is very grateful to Sir Martin Sorrell, Group Chief Executive, WPP Group plc, for facilitating the original design of *pieces*; and to John Murray, President and CEO of Globalbrander.com, for additional advice. Thanks are also due to Dick Clements, Paul and Sarah Webb, Julian Critchlow, Sam Venn and Russell Barnes for permission to reproduce photographs.

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The editor welcomes

all comments on *pieces* and suggestions or material for future editions. Please contact:

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Front cover picture

Christ's College from the air, June 2004

in the news

Readerships

Two College Fellows have been promoted to Readerships in the University:

Dr Jonathan Gillard has been a Fellow of Christ's since 2002 and works in the Radiology Department. His research has included the development of ultra-fast MRI scans.

Dr David Klenerman has been a Fellow since 1994, and is developing a range of new biophysical methods, based on laser spectroscopy and scanning probe microscopy, with applications to important problems in chemistry and biology. He works on single molecule fluorescence, studying individual biomolecules, molecule by molecule, and on imaging of living cells using a nanopipette.

New Year's Honours

Dr Alan Smith (matriculated 1964) was appointed CBE for services to biotechnology research and to British trade development in the USA.

Philip Leverhulme Prize

Dr Alex Shepard, Fellow in History, has recently won a Philip Leverhulme Prize. This is a very prestigious research award (worth £50,000), for outstanding young scholars whose work has already been recognised at an international level. Dr Shepard's book *Meanings of Manhood in Early Modern England* was published by OUP in 2003. The Prizes commemorate the contribution to the work of the Leverhulme Trust made by Philip Leverhulme, the Third Viscount Leverhulme.

www.leverhulme.org.uk

IEEE Award

Professor Frank Kelly has been awarded the 2005 IEEE Koji Kobayashi Award, for "contributions to the development of fundamental theories for the understanding, performance evaluation, and enhancement of telecommunications networks". The award was established in 1986 to recognise outstanding contributions to the integration of computers and communications. Former winners of the award include Tim Berners-Lee, inventor of the World Wide Web, and the developers of public key cryptography. Frank Kelly has been a Fellow of Christ's since 1976, and is Professor of Mathematics of Systems in the Statistical Laboratory.

Top 100 Intellectuals

To mark its one hundredth edition, *Prospect* magazine compiled a list of Britain's top one hundred public intellectuals. Christ's is delighted that the list included three Former Fellows, two Honorary Fellows and one Current Fellow:

Professor David Cannadine, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother Professor of History, Institute of Historical Research, London University. (Former Fellow)

Professor Linda Colley Shelby Davis 1958 Professor of History, Princeton University, New Jersey. (Former Fellow)

Professor Niall Ferguson Herzog Professor of Financial History, New York University. (Former Fellow)

The Most Revd Rowan Williams Archbishop of Canterbury and Primate of all England. (Honorary Fellow)

Professor Simon Schama University Professor, Columbia University, New York. (Honorary Fellow)

Professor Quentin Skinner Regius Professor of Modern History, Cambridge. (Current Fellow)

Christ's at 500

By the time you receive this edition of *pieces*, many of you from all over the world will have attended the inaugural event of this special Quincentenary Year at Guildhall, London. 2005 is here!

Christ's College is an ancient institution and we can look back with pride at its outstanding success. However, our half-millennium is not a time to be complacent! 2005 is a time to plan for the future. Funding arrangements for higher education in Britain are changing and we need to ensure that our reputation for excellence continues to flourish by continuing to recruit the best students, whatever their economic situation, to retain the best teachers and to provide improved facilities for sport, music and the arts. College has a duty to continue cutting-edge research and to educate generations of young people as yet unborn, enabling them to fulfil their potential and go out into the wider world to work and serve in all walks of life - but it needs your help to do that. Please give whatever you can afford to the Quincentenary Campaign. The target is £15 million.

There are many ways of giving that are tax efficient, both for the donor and for the College. A form is included overleaf to help you make your gift but, if you are considering a larger donation and would like to discuss naming opportunities or the Lady Margaret Beaufort Fellowship scheme, please contact the Development Director, Elizabeth Norris.

Amount
left to
raise

£5.87m

Amount
raised

£9.13m

Progress of the
Campaign as of
January 2005

Gift-Aid: Tax-efficient Giving for UK donors		
Your Gift	Christ's receives	Final cost to you *
£100.00	£128.21	£76.92
£200.00	£256.41	£153.85
£500.00	£641.03	£384.62
£1000.00	£1,282.05	£769.23
£2500.00	£3,205.13	£1,923.08
£5000.00	£6,410.25	£3,846.16
£10,000.00	£12,820.50	£7,692.31
£25,000.00	£32,051.25	£19,230.78
£50,000.00	£64,102.50	£38,461.55
£100,000.00	£128,205.00	£76,923.10
Lady Margaret Beaufort Fellow	£320,512.50	£192,307.75

* this column only applies to higher-rate taxpayers.

Gift Aid allows the charity to reclaim the basic rate tax on the donation from the Inland Revenue. This means that the donation is worth an extra 28% to the charity. Donors who are liable at the higher rate of income tax can claim the difference (18% in 2004) between the higher rate of 40% and the basic rate of 22% on the *grossed up* donation.

See page 4 for other tax-efficient ways of giving and for USA/Canada.

Your support

Your gift to Christ's makes a genuine difference. If you would like to help guarantee the future provision of the key aspects of College life – financial help for students in need; College-based, small-group teaching; and up-to-date facilities for extra-curricular activities – by contributing to the Quincentenary Campaign, please use the form below, or contact the Development Director, Elizabeth Norris, who will be delighted to hear from you.

Gift Form

I would like to help future generations of students to benefit from a Christ's College education

Name _____ Matriculation year _____

Address _____

I would like my gift to support:

Bursaries Teaching Sports, Music & Arts Unrestricted Endowment

UK Please return this form to The Development Office, Christ's College, Cambridge CB2 3BU

I enclose a cheque made payable to Christ's College Cambridge

Please charge my Visa Mastercard

Card number _____ Amount £ _____

Expiry date _____ Signature _____

Please treat this donation as a Gift Aid donation. I have paid, or will pay, an amount of tax equal to the amount I am asking the College to reclaim (currently 28p for every £1 given under Gift Aid).

Signature _____ Date _____

USA Please return this form to Cambridge In America, 100 Avenue of the Americas, 4th Floor
New York, NY, 10013.

I enclose a check made payable to Cambridge in America

I recommend that the Directors of Cambridge in America exercise their discretion and allocate my gift to support Christ's College.

Please charge my Visa Mastercard Amex

Card number _____ Amount \$ _____

Expiry date _____ Signature _____

Canada Please return this form to The Cambridge Foundation, 10 Trumpington Street, Cambridge
CB2 1QA, United Kingdom

I enclose a cheque made payable to the University of Cambridge

Please send me a receipt for income tax purposes. This gift is intended for Christ's College.

Other Please return this form to The Development Office, Christ's College, Cambridge CB2 3BU,
United Kingdom

I enclose a cheque made payable to Christ's College Cambridge

Please charge my Visa Mastercard

Card number _____ Amount _____

Expiry date _____ Signature _____

Please send me information on leaving a legacy to Christ's

Thank you for your support

For further information on any aspect of the Quincentenary Campaign please contact
The Development Office, Christ's College, Cambridge CB2 3BU, UK

Tel: +44 (0)1223 766710, Fax: +44 (0)1223 766711, Email: campaign@christs.cam.ac.uk
www.christs.cam.ac.uk/quincentenary

UK

Christ's College welcomes gifts of listed **shares and securities**. Measures which came into force in April 2000 make donations of this kind particularly attractive to donors. Gifts of listed shares and securities by UK taxpayers attract full relief from Capital Gains Tax and, in addition, allow the donor to claim Income Tax relief on the full value of the shares or securities at the time they are transferred to the College - a double tax saving. For further information, please contact the Development Director, who will be pleased to assist.

You can also nominate Christ's to receive any of your **tax repayment**. Our code is XAA24KG.

USA

If you are resident in the USA, you can make a tax-efficient gift to CAMBRIDGE IN AMERICA (CAM). Simply send your check, made payable to 'Cambridge in America', to: Cambridge in America, 100 Avenue of the Americas, 4th Floor, New York, NY 10013, USA

and suggest that the Directors of Cambridge in America exercise their discretion and allocate your gift to support Christ's College.

Canada

In order for a charitable gift to be tax-deductible in Canada, it must be to a 'prescribed university outside Canada'. The University of Cambridge is prescribed for this purpose in the Canadian tax code. To make a donation, please use the form opposite.

Contact Details

Telephone +44 (0)1223 766710

Fax +44 (0)1223 766711

Email campaign@christs.cam.ac.uk

Website

www.christs.cam.ac.uk/quincentenary/campaign

Ministry of Presence



Philip Harbridge, Chaplain, Christ's College since 2002. Born 22 December 1965. Studied Theology at Christ's College 1996-98.

“Everything that happens to us in life is foundational”

For Philip Harbridge, Chaplain of Christ's since 2002, his job is about more than simply running the worship in chapel, it's about being “a confidant or advocate or friend to those in need, whether they are students or staff - whatever their religion in fact.” He aims to meet as many members of College as possible on a regular basis, by inviting them to visit him in his room, walking around the grounds, or actively participating in student activities by playing in the football and tennis teams. He also instigated a “Yours for a Day” scheme, where he shadowed a member of staff such as a porter, a butler, a librarian and a maintenance man, for a day. This has helped him to understand the different roles played by those in the complex College environment, and has led him to the conclusion that “everyone's an expert.”

“What I enjoy most is working with the students in a creative and imaginative way.” Chapel also plays a crucial part in bringing a feeling of support and community to the College. One of Philip's most engaging projects was a Harry Potter themed service in which theological ideas were drawn out by playing out one of the scenes from the film. This aspect of “making connections with our present culture...seeing how this can be a way into faith or how it can illuminate it” helps Philip to get students involved and to bring ideas of their own to the College's religious life. The placement of modern ideas in the historic chapel offers a unique insight into Christian ideas and ensures that a broad range of individuals play a part in chapel life.

Philip was ordained in 1999, after eighteen months spent in Madagascar, working on a project with an orphanage through a church missionary society. “It was during the year

there that I felt my vocation was tested.” He worked with a Scottish bishop “who had a diocese about the size of England” and on one memorable occasion spent a night in a Malagasy prison cell, having been mistaken for a bone thief who had desecrated a local tomb.

“Things have come full circle”. Philip now resides in A1, the room in which the former chaplain, Martin Percy, supervised him during his undergraduate years studying the Theology tripos. He also acted as a chapel assistant during this time. Following ordination, Philip worked in a parish church in south west London, but an invitation to preach at Christ's sowed the seed which ultimately saw him returning to Christ's as chaplain. He is now the one providing a friendly ear, tea and biscuits on the sofa, a change from his student days when he has a memory “of perching awkwardly on the edge, not being quite able to answer the supervisor's question.”

“Everything that happens to us in life is foundational.” Philip's time in Madagascar also plays a major role in his life today. In December 2002 he married Honorine, whom he met during his time there, and the marriage was subsequently blessed in Christ's chapel in July 2003. He hopes to maintain strong links between the College and Madagascar, and maybe offer students the opportunity to work on charity projects on the island.

In his spare time Philip avidly follows Lincoln City FC, and writes a regular column for their match-day programmes. His life is necessarily busy, but ultimately extremely rewarding, and he considers it “a huge privilege to meet so many able and interesting, creative people” at Christ's every day.



Filming History

David Reynolds,

Professor in International History, University of Cambridge, and Fellow of Christ's College.

Russell Barnes,

Film Director & Producer. Born 25 September 1968. Read History at Christ's 1987-1990.

"History will be kind to me for I intend to write it."

W S Churchill

Issue four of *pieces* (Michaelmas 2002) described Professor David Reynolds' forthcoming book on Winston Churchill, *In Command of History: Churchill Fighting and Writing the Second World War*. David's study of how Churchill came to write his memoirs, and their impact on our understanding of the war, has recently been published by Penguin. But this is not the end of the story. David has teamed up with Christ's history graduate Russell Barnes to produce a feature-length television documentary, *Churchill's Forgotten Years*, for the BBC. The film offers a distinctive new take on Churchill and investigates what drove this immense, difficult personality as he continued striving for power and reputation right into his eighties.

Since leaving Christ's with a degree in history in 1990, Russell Barnes has worked in television and produced and directed some twenty documentaries. In the last few years he has returned to some of the historical themes he studied at Cambridge, working with former Christ's Fellow, Niall Ferguson, for the major Channel Four series *Empire: How Britain Made The Modern World* and *American Colossus*. After all that 'big' history, he has enjoyed working on a more intimate, biographical film: "It was fascinating to get into the little-known detail of Churchill's domestic life. I think the film succeeds in looking beyond Churchill's extraordinary but quite familiar achievements to explore some of the more difficult family and health issues that rumbled on in the background but that few people know much about".

David was working with Russell on a project for the Discovery Channel when he told him some anecdotes about Churchill after 1945. Russell thought that they were interesting and new - and could be a strong basis for a film. David says: "It works only if you have a lot of vivid material -

and if you have a story to tell. I think we have both of these." The film deals with the last twenty years of Churchill's life; his gloom after the electoral defeat of 1945 and his determination to be heard again. Above all it examines Churchill's obsession with his place in history and the lengths to which he would go to secure it. As David says: "What interested us is why someone who had achieved so much by 1945 didn't just put his feet up at the age of seventy and say 'that's it' - why he had to keep on going, as a politician, an orator and a writer. This film is a way of getting into Churchill's psyche - not just telling a story of his last twenty years but asking what they show us about the man."

Filming took place in evocative locations, including the House of Commons, 10 Downing Street and Churchill's country house in Kent, Chartwell (pictured opposite), where some of the shooting was done from a 45-foot crane and from a hot air balloon. "Chartwell is a wonderfully atmospheric place," says Russell, "but quite well-known. So we thought we'd look at it from a fresh angle!" Russell and David also gained access to places that have never been filmed in before, such as La Pausa, the atmospheric, secluded estate of Churchill's literary agent near Monaco, where Churchill, as a very old man, liked to go to be pampered. But it turns out, says David ruefully, that "nowhere, however secluded, is very far from an airport flight-path." And, adds Russell, "if the planes ever stop, somebody usually starts up his lawn-mower. You have to learn to be very patient when filming."

Churchill's Forgotten Years will be shown on BBC4 on several occasions from 16 February 2005 and in BBC2's 'Aftermath' season in August 2005.



The Navy, knots and some engineering

Dick Clements, Reader in Engineering at Bristol University. Born 3 April 1948, Studied Mathematics at Christ's College, 1966-1969 & Engineering (for PhD) 1970-1973.



Sennit Knot (as illustrated by Wright and Magowan in the *Alpine Journal* Volume 40, 1928), a knot for which Dick has developed a fairly simple method of tying.

"After leaving Christ's with a degree in Mathematics, Dick went to Leicester University to take a PGCE course. His initial experience of the PGCE was of 'sitting cross-legged on the floor in little circles playing with bits of Lego and other mathematical toys. I remember at the end of my second week there thinking 'this is enormous fun, but presumably they are going to teach us something sometime' - and then at the end of the third week I realised that what they were doing was not only teaching us about discovery learning, but we were actually doing the learning. After going to terribly traditional primary and secondary schools, and doing a terribly traditional first degree, suddenly I discovered what fun learning could be!"

After his PGCE, Dick returned to Christ's, this time to pursue a Doctorate in Engineering. "My experiences with the PGCE persuaded me that really I'd like to spend the rest of my career discovering things, so I came back to do a PhD, and did what I'd really wanted to do in the first place, Aeronautical Engineering." After completing his doctorate, Dick applied for several jobs before being offered one at Bristol, where "it's been downhill ever since!" Dick's current work mainly involves "teaching mathematics to engineering students, which is exactly what I want to do because I'm not a mathematician's mathematician. I love being in the whole range of it, you know, bridges, aeroplanes, even microchips; they're all fantastic!"

At Bristol, Dick continued to research Aeronautical Engineering, although he found that, because there was such a broad range of opportunities available, he quickly branched out into other fields. "I got very interested in novel ways of teaching mathematics in an engineering environment - so I published a few articles and a book in that sort of area." Dick has also been

involved with electrical engineering - a particular interest was pulse-width-modulated control of heavy electrical machinery and of electrical induction motors in particular, which was a "fantastically interesting and exciting way of trying to control an induction motor."

A major influence on Dick's career has undoubtedly been his involvement with the Royal Naval Reserve. For the last 18 years he has been a RNR officer with the Bristol University Royal Naval Unit, which is the naval equivalent of the Officer Training Corps and the University Air Squadron. When Dick first became involved, the training programme wasn't particularly well organised, as the Navy had come to the idea of having these University units much later than the Army (1907) or the RAF (1920s). The Navy started University Units in the 1970s, with the result that Dick helped to develop much of the national syllabus for the training programme. "I like to think that I took a lot of skills from the University into the RNR, and by the same token, I have taken an enormous amount from the RNR back into the University. For example, I've run a number of final-year undergraduate projects based around navigational systems requirements." Dick's work on developing the national syllabus for the Royal Naval Unit led to his being appointed MBE (Military Division) in 1999.

A further consequence of Dick's involvement with the RNR is his remarkable interest in knots. "When I was developing training materials for the midshipmen, part of the training is about making sure that the students are competent in basic seamanship, and teaching them to tie knots is part of that. And then - this is a typical mathematician thing - you think 'I wonder what happens if I do it this way instead...'" Dick's interest in knots has led him to undertake formal research in the subject - "what really interested

me was the question of how you actually tie the knots: some people take the view that 'if I can draw the diagram of the knot, then all you have to do is follow the diagram and I have the knot.' Now as a practical seaman, I know that that really is not an answer. You have to say, 'how can I remember how to tie this knot, how can I tie this knot quickly and efficiently, in the dark, with my eyes shut, on a moving ship?' This led me on to pose the question of whether there is a mathematical way of defining not just the knot, but also of how you tie the knot." Dick's research has also been leading him to look at such questions as 'Why does this knot stay securely tied when it is subject to vibration or oscillating loads whereas that knot shakes itself apart?' and 'How exactly is the load transferred through a knot from one rope to another rope?'; questions which are tackled neither by classical knot theory nor by the newer field of ideal knot theory. Dick reassuringly calls this 'real knot theory' - "because they are real knots!"

"How does that knot relate to this knot?"

Working for others



Sarah Webb, part-time language teacher. Born 25 January 1966. Studied Modern and Medieval Languages at Christ's College, 1984-88.

Paul Webb, Finance Director for a group of five charities. Born 2 August 1966. Studied Economics at Christ's College, 1984-87. Married 22 July 1989.

For Paul and Sarah Webb, who met at Christ's when they were both undergraduates, 2004 has been a year of change. This time last year Paul was working up to eighty hours a week for a plastics company in High Wycombe - he now works as the Finance Director for a group of local charities, including the local church. For Sarah, this change has meant taking on more hours teaching at the local comprehensive school. In addition to their jobs, Paul and Sarah balance caring for their two young daughters.

"Juggling is the right word." Paul and Sarah have to plan their hectic lives one day at a time. For Sarah, teaching secondary school pupils German from scratch right up to 'A' Level is extremely rewarding. However, Sarah views motherhood as "the hardest thing I've ever had to do but also the most important" and believes that "compared to keeping someone alive all day in the early stages and then forming their values, their beliefs and determining what course their life is going to take" any other job pales into insignificance.

The lifestyle changes recently undertaken have not meant that Paul's life is any less busy. However, Paul's new job has enabled him to enjoy fatherhood more, as his employers "value family life" and are supportive of their employees spending time with their children. He has also been able to get more involved with children's work at the local church.

"The Christian Union had a permanent and long-lasting effect on our lives." Their time at Christ's provided the Webbs with a multitude of valuable experiences that prepared them well for their future lives. For Sarah, who came to Christ's from a comprehensive school in Luton, she feels that her time in Cambridge set her up for a life time of meeting people

from different backgrounds. This was partly due to Christ's having an admissions policy that gave the College a "very good mix of people." In addition to meeting each other, the Webbs made several deep and enduring friendships.

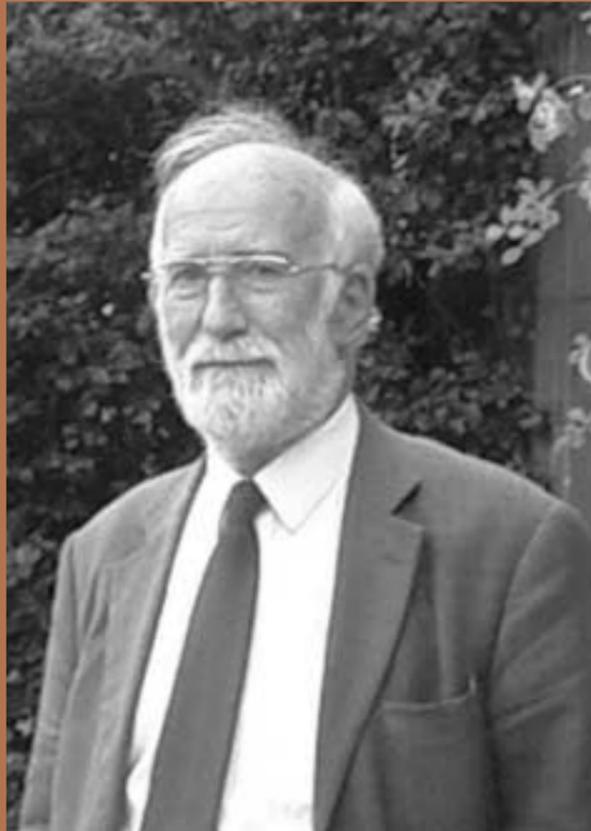
Their strong Christian beliefs have shaped their lives together since they were at Christ's. After six years of working full-time, Paul and Sarah both took a year's break from work to study at Bible school for a year before they had their two children. Paul's beliefs influenced his decision to give up working for the commercial sector and move into charities. He is now pleased to be "making a more direct impact on people's lives than selling plastics." The group of charities for which he works comprises three churches, a shelter for the homeless in Windsor and a group that provides overseas development work and Christian groups with support, by sending money to deprived countries including Burkina Faso and Sri Lanka, so badly affected recently by the tsunami.

"The best thing I got out of Christ's was Paul!" Since Christ's first admitted women in the late 1970s, there have been a number of intra-collegiate marriages. Paul and Sarah were one of the first all-college couples to get married in the College Chapel, where they tied the knot in 1989. They met when they were both living on the same floor of the Lasdun Building, where Sarah was the only woman on a staircase of men! They have fond memories of the people they met at College and remember it as being a "formative time" due to the relationships made and experiences shared. They remain open to the possibilities offered by further changes, and probably echo the views of many Christ's alumni when they say "life is a journey - you just have to stay flexible."

"Quality of life is more important than luxury."

Politics, Philosophy and Language

Chris Cossey, retired journalist (since 1994). Born 9 June 1934. Studied Modern Languages at Christ's College, 1953-57.



"In the 1950s I became deeply fascinated by existentialism, and thought I was being very advanced, very avant-garde. Looking back I wasn't; it was the thing that everybody was doing in the 1950s, but I read about it with great interest. One of the ideas that can be simplified in existentialism is that we make ourselves; we are not made. There are no excuses; it is up to you to do things, and you are responsible for your actions. I embraced that philosophy, and I still do."

Having spent the vast majority of his working life as a journalist (except for 11 months as a Civil Servant "six months finding my feet and the next five trying to get out again"), Chris has no regrets whatsoever about the course his life followed. The study of Modern Languages was for him the right choice, and it is in part his fascination with the use of language that led him to journalism. He feels that "through reading and through broadening one's understanding of other cultures through languages, one suddenly gets a much wider idea of other cultures and even other arts, like painting and music and literature. My education gave me that understanding and it has remained with me every day of every week."

Early on in his career Chris developed, and has since maintained, an interest in local government. He spent fifteen years editing the Municipal Journal of Companies followed by sixteen years as Publicity Officer for NALGO (the then local government white-collar union). As a socialist, the 'Thatcher era' was an interesting time for Chris to be involved with the Trade Unions, but he believes that "the most important thing is social cohesion, and people who are narrow and only mix in their own circles don't participate in social cohesion.

Mixture and tolerance and honesty are all extremely important."

Since retiring in 1994, Chris has turned his energy and enthusiasm to projects in his local community. "The greatest reward for me is now operating locally, and being able to walk along the streets and see the results of what I have been working on and what I have succeeded in." Not only has he championed a 10,000 strong petition to save his local branch library, but along with his wife he established a branch of Crossroads, a charity that provides care and support for carers of the elderly. His modesty makes it seem that these things are all in a day's work, but there is no doubt they have had a profound effect on the lives of many of those around him.

"John Osborne's play *Look Back in Anger* (1956) expressed so much of what I felt in the mid 1950s. I regarded myself as an 'angry young man', a 'working class hero', trying to get a hold on society shaped by narrow bourgeois rules and standards, which I regarded as objectionable. Throughout my life I have remained conscious of how lucky I was. I started my secondary schooling in 20th century Britain's golden age of education, available to all to the level of one's ability and regardless of any family wealth. If I had been born earlier it is certain that I would not have had the same opportunity. If I were 18 today, coming from the same family circumstances, I am sure I would be persuaded not to gamble my future on a pile of debt. That is why I am politically angry at the age of 70. My view remains that education should be valued by the priceless benefits it brings not just to the individual but also, more importantly, to society as a whole."

"Education should be valued by the priceless benefits it brings not just to the individual, but to society as a whole"

"A mere ditch that shall be leaped"

Julian Critchlow,
Partner, Bain & Co.
Born 12 January 1965.
Studied Natural
Sciences and Chemical
Engineering at Christ's
College, 1983-87.

Swam the Channel,
4 September 2004



On Saturday 4 September 2004, Julian Critchlow successfully swam across the English Channel.

During his time at Christ's Julian swam regularly, and in fact "was the Christ's swimming team one year" when no one else volunteered. On graduating he joined Bain as an Associate Consultant and progressed to Partner six years ago. His dream of swimming the Channel formed after enduring two painful London Marathons in 1997 and 2002 for which he freely admits he had "absolutely no aptitude". A chance meeting with a client who had swum the Channel persuaded Julian to get in touch with Freda Streeter, who, for the past twenty years, has stood on a beach in Dover Harbour every weekend to train all comers without any financial rewards for her efforts.

"More people have climbed Everest than have swum the Channel." Julian has joined an elite community of fewer than 700 people who have completed this astonishing achievement since Matthew Webb first succeeded in 1875. With the support of his company, he took an eight month sabbatical starting at the beginning of 2004 to complete the gruelling training. From January to April Julian was training in a local swimming pool before switching to the sea in May.

On 1 May, everybody who intended to swim the Channel in 2004 assembled at a point on Dover Harbour identified by the statue of a Kent miner. For many, this was the first time they had swum in the Channel. At first the swims were only ten minutes long, which "seemed ridiculous until you discovered it was 51°F (11°C) in the water - then most people

shook physically for the next hour and a half". Undaunted, Julian continued his training regime, increasing the time in the Channel, until he was spending up to 15 hours every weekend in the icy sea.

Julian had his swim scheduled for the week beginning 5 September, but unpredicted weather brought it forward at the last minute. At midnight on Saturday 4 September, Julian left his home in Sevenoaks for Dover. Three hours later, in the pitch black, he entered the water to start his swim to France. Accompanied by an experienced crew in a specially-adapted boat, and guided by their navigational lights, it was three long hours before the sun came up. The next eleven hours were punctuated by half-hourly feeds.

"There were a few swear words," and the low-point of the swim came after eleven hours when France was "looking really quite close" and optimism was running high. At this point the tide changed and started pushing Julian back towards England. He was advised by his pilot that he had to sprint for an hour if he was going to stand any chance of getting across the current to France. Encouraging text messages from his family were translated onto giant whiteboards and held up by the boat crew for Julian to see. These helped motivate him to make the final push.

At 5pm that evening, Julian "crawled up the shore after fourteen hours swimming". He landed in Sangatte, where he managed to persuade a local French lady to post a letter his crew had been carrying for him. During his very last training swim in Dover, Julian had come across a bottle containing a message which a little boy from Birmingham had

thrown into the sea from north west France when on his holidays. By sending back his message, Julian ensured that it crossed the Channel three times in three weeks.

Julian's efforts have so far raised over £16,000 for Diabetes UK and his village's primary school. To our knowledge, he is the only Christ's alumnus to have achieved this gargantuan feat, but he encourages other alumni to take over the mantle - "Meet at the Miner in Dover Harbour for the first weekend in May and take a refreshing dip in the English Channel!"

For more information see
<http://www.critchlow.info>

"After their first ten-minute swim in the channel, most people shook physically for about an hour and a half"

New Faces

"Since I started at Christ's in October I have been struck by the high level of enthusiasm demonstrated by everyone in the College community, whether they be alumni, students, Fellows or staff. There is a strong sense of pride in the College and evidence of many feeling a lifelong commitment to Christ's.

Coming to the College as the Quincentenary celebrations get underway is extremely exciting. We have a multitude of events planned and I would urge you all to consider joining in at least one of these occasions over the year. If you ever need any information do get in touch with me in the Alumni Office; I am always happy to answer questions!"

Katy Joubert, Alumni Officer



"I have joined the Development and Alumni team this year to help with the increased activity caused by the Quincentenary celebrations, and believe me, there is a lot going on! My main focus will be some of the smaller college-based events such as concerts and lectures, and the Quincentenary merchandise, which has been created especially to commemorate this occasion. Feel free to chat to me about any of these; I will be only too happy to help.

We feel sure that there is something for everyone, so I look forward to meeting many of you in the coming year. I am very lucky to be part of such a beautiful and prestigious college in this important year - with your support it will be truly memorable."

Alix Cork, Development & Alumni Assistant



If you move house, please do let us know. You can write to the college, email alumni@christs.cam.ac.uk or fill in an online update form by following the links at www.christs.cam.ac.uk/alumni