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Welcome to the spring 2015 issue of Petrean News. The College has enjoyed an extremely busy and exciting start to 2015, beginning with the telephone campaign in early January, which marked the start of our new fundraising campaign. This was followed by the most eagerly anticipated event of the Lent term; the opening of the Whittle Building, which took place on Monday 23 February.

Lent term also saw a number of other interesting events at the College; the first annual Boat Club drinks evening took place in early February and another successful careers evening was held in March. We also hosted the first in a series of Geo-Politics lectures, as part of a programme to underpin the establishment of a ‘Centre for Geopolitics’ and Grand Strategy.

Please read on for more College news, as well as ‘what’s coming up’ for the year.
RECENT EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Development Office Telephone Campaign, January 2015

This year’s Telephone Campaign took place straight after the New Year between the 2 and 12 January. We were assisted by eleven student callers who made 277 calls to members. 72% of those called were generous enough to contribute to the campaign, which is one of the highest percentages for any College telephone campaign in Cambridge and Oxford managed by our Associates, Rux Burton. Cash donations and pledges received totalled just over £164,500. In this year’s Telephone Campaign we launched the ‘1284 Circle’. Almost £53,000 was raised from this new initiative which was established to recognise donors who make a significant donation of £1,284 or more in a single year. Donors in the 1284 Circle will be invited, along with a guest, to a special garden party in College to hear College updates, meet other major donors to the College, and in particular to see the projects that their generosity has helped to fund. In addition those who qualify for the 1284 Circle will be recognised in a special section of the annual List of Donors.

If you are thinking of making a donation to the College in the future, please do not hesitate to contact us if you require assistance. If you would like to make a regular donation we can arrange for a Direct Debit to be set up with your bank. Alternatively if you wish to make a single gift you can do so by cheque, or by making a donation on the Virgin Money Website, www.virginmoneygiving.com, adding Peterhouse as the Charity at the top of the first page.
**Boat Club London Drinks, Thursday 5 February 2015**

The Development Office and Peterhouse Boat Club hosted a drinks evening in London on Thursday 5 February. It was a wonderful opportunity for ‘Boaties’ spanning almost 60 years of Boat Club history to meet and share stories and memories of their time rowing at the College. We hope that this will become an annual event and look forward to seeing more Petreans there next year.

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**The Whittle Building Opening, Monday 23 February 2015**

His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales formally opened the new Whittle Building. The new building comprises 22 student rooms, the new JCR, bar, gym and a conference room, as well as a Fellow’s set and a Fellows guest room.

The Master, Professor Adrian Dixon, spoke about what the new building means for the students, before His Royal Highness unveiled the commemorative plaque:

“Our undergraduates have through the centuries gone on to do great things and it is with great pleasure that we can say all of them can now remain within Peterhouse throughout their studies”.

Read the full Cambridge Evening News report on the [Cambridge Evening News Website](http://www.cambridgeeveningnews.co.uk).
After the success of the first Peterhouse careers event in Michaelmas term 2014, we were excited to invite more Petreans back to the College in March to meet with current students. The evening began with introductions, providing students with an insight into a wide variety of careers, from Charity work, to jobs in accounting and finance. This was followed by drinks and canapés, giving current members a chance to chat to Petreans about their career aspirations.
We are incredibly grateful for the time and effort put in by Petreans in helping us to provide these opportunities for students. If you would like to be part of the next careers event please get in touch with Holly Ashcroft (ha365@cam.ac.uk)

**London Drinks, Thursday 26 March 2015**

This year’s City of London drinks was again held at The Pitcher and Piano in Cornhill. It was wonderful to see so many Petreans of different ages at the event, giving everyone the chance to reminisce and chat about their time at the College. The venue for next year’s drinks is to be announced.

**COLLEGE NEWS**

**Research fellowships**

The College will have two new Research Fellows starting in October 2015:

Laura Kilbride (English, Murray Edwards)

Clarice Poon (Mathematics, Trinity Hall)

**Research Leave Grant**

Dr Elizabeth Drayson (matric. 2002) has gained a Newton Trust CTO research leave award for the academic year 2015-16 and will be working on her new book, which will be on the life and legend of Boabdil, the last Muslim King of Granada.

**The Large Hadron Collider**

Cambridge University
After two years of maintenance the Large Hadron Collider at Cern was restarted on Easter Sunday. Professor Andy Parker (matric. 1989), Head of the Cavendish Laboratory and Fellow at Peterhouse, has been playing a major part in the project and recently spoke about what the latest improvements could mean in terms of research and new discoveries:

“The current Standard Model explains the known particles and forces, and the discovery of the Higgs completed that picture. But the Standard Model does not explain dark matter, which is believed to make up most of the Universe, nor Dark Energy, a mysterious force driving the galaxies ever further apart.”

The full article is available on the Cambridge University Website

Philosophical Transactions Journal

The world’s oldest scientific journal, Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society, celebrated its 350th anniversary on 6 March 2015. Two special anniversary issues have been published, in which some of the journal’s most groundbreaking papers are revisited by modern experts.

We are pleased to announce the following Petrean contributions to the two special editions:

Professor Sir John Meurig Thomas (matric. 1993) ‘Sir Humphry Davy and the Coalminers of the world: a commentary on Davy (1816) ‘An account of an invention for giving light in explosive mixtures of fire-damp in coal mines

Professor Chris Calladine (matric. 1953) ‘An amateur’s contribution to the design of Telford’s Menai Suspension Bridge: a commentary on Davies Gilbert (1826) ‘On the mathematical theory of suspension bridges’

Peter Rosenthal revisits Dr Tony Crowther’s (matric. 1981) 1971 paper in:

‘From high symmetry to high resolution in biological electron microscopy: a commentary on Crowther (1971) ‘Procedures for three-dimensional reconstruction of spherical viruses by Fourier sunthesis from electron micrographs’

For more information on any of these papers or the celebrations around the 350th anniversary please visit The Royal Society Website.

The Zewail Gold Medal

On 24 March 2015, Professor Sir John Meurig Thomas (matric. 1993) was presented with the Zewail Gold Medal at the American Chemical Society Convention in Denver, by Professor David Clary, Master of Magdalen College, Oxford.

The prestigious accolade was awarded for Professor Meurig Thomas’s outstanding contributions to the fundamental understanding of the structures of solids and development and application of the concept of single-site heterogeneous catalysis.
PETERHOUSE BOAT CLUB

Fairbairn’s Cup 2014 & Lent Bumps 2015, Boat Launch
By Tim Beach (matric. 2012), Boat Club Development Officer, 2015-2016 (Captain 2014-2015)

Fairbairns’ Cup 2014

After having gone up two in the Men’s 1st Division and holding our position Women’s 1st Division of May Bumps, Michaelmas term began with a real determination to replicate if not exceed Easter term’s success.

The Men’s section was divided into a 1st IV and 2nd VIII early on. The 1st IV began drawing the attention of other crews after winning both Autumn Head (a comfortable 6s ahead of Robinson) and Winter Head (finishing 20s ahead of all other crews); not to mention the spanking new bow-loader they were doing it in! However, with a couple of weeks left before the Fairbairn’s Cup and having not entered the Uni IV’s races, we were yet to prove we were the fastest college IV on the river! On race day itself, conditions were cold but ideal with a slight tail-wind on the reach. Confident the rudder was not going to let them down a second year running, the crew fully committed to the race settling into an inexorable rhythm that secured them the win by a huge 17s margin. M2 also had a successful term finishing ahead of most other 2nd VIII’s in both Autumn and Winter Head as well as Fairbairn’s, demonstrating the maturity and experience of the boat.
Meanwhile the Women’s section divided themselves into two IVs. The A4 got off to a good start finishing 2nd in Autumn Head (9s behind Queens’) and then winning the Winter Head Student 4+ category. Keen to prove they were one of the fastest college IVs as well, the A4 raced Fairbairn’s with real fortitude finishing 2nd in 13:05.4 (peculiarly 9s behind Queens’ again!). The B4 also had an enjoyable term of racing and although they did not have many other college B4s to contend with, were happy with how they had developed as a crew over the term.

In stark contrast to last year’s relentless flooding, thunderstorms and gale-force winds, Lent term this year was more forgiving on the weather front, although this did not translate into a less intense term’s training! With a fresh crop of novices entering the senior squad, the Men’s Section took to the river in full force successfully entering 3 boats into the Lent Bumps. Having dropped to 10th in last year’s races, this was M1’s chance to re-establish themselves as a serious crew amongst the bigger colleges. Day 1 and the message couldn’t have been clearer, in under a minute M1 had bumped St Catz having closed them down to less than a boat length off the start. Day 2 and M1 were chasing Christ’s - with another good start, they were soon inside station and gaining, a chase that was to end spectacularly on the Long Reach with two and four clashing blades with Christ’s seven and five bringing both crews to a halt amid a fountain of water. Day 3 and it was First and Third ahead - the race was excruciating to watch as M1 moved in and out of a boat length from FaT, each crew pushing the other to its limit but with no avail. Day 4 - FaT had escaped once but did they

Lent Bumps

Summary
- M1 – up 2, from 10th to 8th in 1st Division
- W1 – no change overall, 14th in 1st Division
- M2 – down 4, from 4th to 8th in 3rd Division
- M3 – up 2, from 6th to 4th in 4th Division

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have the endurance and discipline to hold us off again? M1 closed down the distance early and were close to a boat length by Grassy; a push out of the corner saw them to inside a boat length but FaT responded with a push of their own, denying us our two whistles. With another push out of Ditton, FaT went wide to avoid the onslaught. However, they were now gaining on Lady Margaret who were unable to hold off the charge being bumped by FaT just past the railings and leaving M1 to row over BUT WHAT A RACE! Meanwhile, M2, a largely novice boat were unfortunate to suffer from their inexperience in the 3rd division being bumped by Clare M2, Clare Hall M1, Hughes Hall M1 and Lady Margaret M3. M3 were also unlucky to be caught behind a scuffle between Clare M3 and Jesus M3 at the bottom of the 4th Division. However they were finally granted justice with a bump on Clare M3 at Grassy on Day 3 followed by a bump on Fitzwilliam M3 in the Plough Reach on Day 4.

The Women’s section also benefited from a fresh intake of oarswomen that saw the return of W2. However, they faced stiff competition in the Getting-On-Race and unfortunately did not secure a place in the Lent Bumps. W1 on the other hand were on top form and ready to do battle in the 1st Women’s Division. Day 1 and they were chasing Lady Margaret - with a good start they soon ate up the distance on Maggie through the corners; then on the Long Reach the girls made their move coming alongside Maggie to make the kill in the form of a boat stopping crab just past the White House. Day 2 and W1 were chasing Pembroke – a long and hard battle was fought between the boats with Pembroke crossing the finish a boat length ahead of W1. Day 3 and W1 were unlucky to be caught in a re-row after having closed down Pembroke to a boat length by Grassy. Feeling cheated out of what might have been their second bump; W1 faced further misfortune after being bumped by Churchill W1 on the Long Reach. Day 4 W1 was out to prove Churchill had just been lucky - they managed to close the distance down to a boat length yet again; however in extremely windy conditions on the Long Reach they could not muster the power to make the finishing move, rowing over but to remain 14th on the River for a second running.

Boat Launch

Holly Ashcroft
Sunday 19 April 2015 saw the launch of two new boats for Peterhouse Boat Club, a new heavyweight IV and a new men’s VIII. We are grateful to all those who give to the Club, both of money and time, but in particular this year we wish to pay tribute to Professor and Mrs Dixon, and to Frank Suess. The Master and his wife are both tireless in their support of the Club, both down on the river and in College, and have also generously contributed towards the cost of these new boats. It is an honour therefore to name the new VIII *The Dixons*. Frank has been a stalwart supporter of the Club since he first rowed here, coaching many of our alumni over the years, and in naming our new IV *Frank Suess* we both recognise and pay tribute to this support, and continue the tradition set up in naming our existing IV’s; *Danny Taylor* and *Gordon Hewlett*.

For more Boat Club news please visit the [www.peterhousebc.org](http://www.peterhousebc.org) or the Boat Club [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com) page.

**YOUR NEWS**

**Queen’s Honours**

Our congratulations go to Dr Michael V Williams (matric. 1967) who was awarded a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) for services to Oncology. Dr Michael Vaughan Williams is a Consultant Clinical Oncologist at Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge.
The London Marathon

Commander Timothy Boycott and Mr Peter Boycott (matric. 1963), both eminent Petreans and generous donors to the Whittle Building fund, sadly lost their battle to pancreatic cancer within 6 months of each other in 2013 and 2014. Their children have spent the last 12 months raising awareness for the disease and in April of this year they ran The London Marathon as a team, all completing the Marathon in under 5 hours.

Peter Boycott’s children, James, Isabel and Rosalind along with Timothy Boycott’s stepson Jonathan Baker, raised an incredible £30,000 between them, which they will donate to Pancreatic Cancer UK. Pancreatic Cancer UK’s aims are two-fold: to double the five-year survival rate and to change the NHS experience of patients from being one of the worst to one of the best. For more information please visit their Just Giving page.

(Jonathan completed the marathon in just over 4 hours, Rosalind finished in around 4 1/2. Isabel and James both crossed the finish line in 4 hours 45 minutes.)

National Academy of Sciences

On 28 April 2015 Professor Jonathan Jones (matric. 1972) was elected as a member of the National Academy of Sciences as a foreign associate. Elections are made in recognition of distinguished and continuing achievements in original research.

Professor Jones is a staff scientist at the John Innes Science Center, Sainsbury Laboratory; Norwich.
Peterhouse Quiz Teams - When will there be good news?

As Richard Molineux (matric. 1961) reminded us in the autumn 2014 issue of Peterean News, Peterhouse has been somewhat unlucky in televised quiz shows. Once again, when the original University Challenge team from 1962 was re-assembled for the BBC program ‘Egg Heads’, a stroke of misfortune saw the team unfairly knocked out of the competition.

John Maskell (matric. 1960) recalls the unfortunate episode.

‘In 2006 I discussed the matter (of entering ‘Egg Heads’ with Mike Lunan and after some time we managed to track down Brian Russ, who was the one member with whom we had lost touch. We applied and were selected but had to find a fifth person and a reserve, in case one of us went mad during the programme or were too drunk to perform. We bullied Peter Borrows into being the fifth and John Mallinson agreed to be the reserve. We were all from the 1960 year.

Mike Spittal agreed to be our captain, as before, and he suggested the Team name of “Senior Moments”. The program aired in 2009.

I was the first victim on the subject of food and drink and was asked a question about a “Scotch Bonnet”. Was it a chill or a mushroom? I had no idea so plumped for mushroom only to be told I was wrong. Eventually, after a number of tie-breaks, I was eliminated. The rest of the team did well and going into the final round the teams were three each. Eventually we were beaten, but only after a number of tie-breaks. The half hour programme took over one and a half hours to record so you can see how tight it was.

We were not worried. We had had some fun and a good meal after ensured that all was well. We were, therefore, somewhat surprised to be contacted by the programme makers three weeks later to be told that my answer was correct and that a Scotch Bonnet was both a chill (most popular answer) but also a mushroom. Had my answer been allowed that would have meant that there would have been four of us against two of them. Since I am not sure that my presence in the final round would have made any difference, the behaviour of the programme makers was very honourable.’

Peterhouse Quiz Teams - Hope at last!

Many congratulations to Paul Beecher (matric. 2013) and his team ‘The Orienteers’, who, on 30 March 2015 won Only Connect. The final of “the toughest quiz show on TV” (The Guardian) saw ‘The Orienteers’ defeat ‘The Chessman’ in a close fought battle of wits and intellect, with a final score of 20 points to 16. Watch the final episode on BBC iPlayer.
Petreans in Paris (cont.)

Following on from the Petreans in Paris article in the Autumn 2014 issue of Petrean News, Sir David Wright recalls his time with a number of Petreans in Paris during the 1970’s and 1980’s:

‘From 1975 until January 1980, I served in the British Embassy in Paris where I first did a year at the Ecole Nationale d’Administration and then worked in the political section in the Embassy where for the majority of my time I was responsible for reporting on developments in French politics. In this role I was in frequent contact with Charles Hargrove who proved to be a mine of information and commentary on the subject for which I was responsible. He became a good friend and while there I also saw Nicholas Lorriman frequently who was a year ahead of me at the College and who occupied the rooms at G6 the year before I had them (1965-1966).

Nicholas’s works for two Presidents is well known and it is ironic that I should just have returned from the Barclays Asia Forum in Hong Kong where I had the privilege of interviewing on stage former President Sarkozy for the third time (and in French).

I think the Cercle to which Neville refers is the Cercle Interallie which is next door to the Embassy buildings in the Rue du Faubourg St Honore. The Cercle was generous enough to Britain to close its swimming pool in the Autumn of 1988, when I was responsible as the Private Secretary for the official visit to France of The Prince and Princess of Wales, hence allowing Her Royal Highness to have a daily swim there out of sight of the intrusive press cameras.’

Sir David Wright (matric. 1963)
BBC ‘Point of view’

Philosopher, Professor Roger Scruton (matric. 1969), presents a series of fascinating articles for the BBC, exploring ideas about what constitutes ‘real art’ in the modern age.

Part 1: ‘How modern art became trapped by its urge to shock’

Examining ‘the cult of fake originality’ in modern art.

Read or Listen

Part 2: ‘The strangely enduring power of kitsch’

How modern art rejected the notion of ‘kitsch’ in an effort to show modern life as it is, only to revisit it.

Read or Listen

Part 3: ‘How do we know real art when we see it’

A look at beauty, form and redemption in art.

Read or Listen

John Ashton Cannon Memorial

Ms Sue Cannon remembers her father, Petrean, Professor John Ashton Cannon (matric. 1944). A bench in memory of John is now situated in the Herb Garden at the College.

‘My late father, John Ashton Cannon (1926-2012), maintained extremely close links with Cambridge and Peterhouse (1944-1947) throughout his life, attending Petrean gatherings and events whenever he was able to and enjoying enormously staying in halls and having meals in the dining room as he had done when a student. In Newcastle, where he lived from 1976 after his initial appointment as Professor of Modern History and Head of Faculty, he was also Chair of the regional Cambridge Society for many years. Members remember his flair for arranging talks and outings and generally being at the heart of things.

I was fortunate enough to accompany him on what was sadly his very last visit to Cambridge in May 2012, a few short months before his sudden death in October of that year. We took a stroll around Cambridge and of course paid a visit to Peterhouse as well as the Herb Garden of which he was particularly fond.

He continued vigorously with his own work following his official retirement in 1992 from the University of Newcastle where he had gone on become Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Pro Vice-Chancellor. During all that time, he visited Peterhouse on a regular basis never missing the opportunity to spend several hours at the Library.

But back to my father’s last visit to Peterhouse. It was yet another project which had taken him there. He was working on a final draft of a book on Education in the 18th Century, which is currently in the pipeline for publication, having been taken on by the Institute of Historical Research.
So, the idea of a memorial bench in the Herb Garden almost wrote itself. It seemed a natural choice given the significance of Peterhouse and Cambridge to my father’s own education and subsequent academic career. The staff at Peterhouse were gracious in accepting the donation of a memorial bench and I would like to thank Dr Pattenden, who was most helpful in the practicalities of making it a reality. It is something which can give a simple every day pleasure to others whilst being a reminder to those who knew him personally as and when they are able to visit this lovely spot.

Congratulations

**Lord Guy Black** (matric. 1982) who received the Freedom of the City of London at the Guildhall from the Remembrancer of London.

**Mr Anthony Pick** (matric. 1958) celebrated his marriage to Catherine Kent in June 2014.

**Mr Alan Mak** (matric. 2002) has been elected as a Member of Parliament, having retained the Conservative seat of Havant. Read the full story as reported in the [*South China Morning Post*](#).

**Book Donations**

The following books have kindly been donated to the Peterhouse Collection of the Ward Library:

**Dr Berthold Kress** (matric. 1999)
Divine diagrams: the manuscripts and drawings of Paul Lautensack (1477/78-1558)
By Berthold Kress
Publication info.: ©2014
Series: ([Library of the written word volume 34])
Series: ([Library of the written word : the Manuscript world ; volume 6])

Mr Ivar Alastair Watson (matric. 1961)

Glimpses of deep Spain: tales from Spanish life far from the tourist hordes
By Ivar Alastair Watson
ISBN: 9781783064830

Dr Paul Lewis (matric. 1989)

Commerce and community: ecologies of social cooperation
Edited by Robert F. Garnett, Jr., Paul Lewis and Lenore T. Ealy
ISBN: 9780415810104

Professor John Beer (matric. 1964)

D.H. Lawrence: nature, narrative, art, identity
Palgrave Macmillan
2014
ISBN: 9781137441645

Professor Mallory Factor

Big tent: the story of the Conservative revolution...
Edited by Mallory Factor and Elizabeth Factor
ISBN: 9780062290694

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Camerata Musica, ISABELLE FAUST, violin, and ALEXANDER MELNIKOV, piano,
Saturday 13 June 2015

To book tickets please visit the Camerata Musica Website Camerata Musica Website

The Friends of Peterhouse Theatre, 5 p.m., Saturday 13 June 2015.
May Week, 2015

Petreans are welcome to attend the College May Week Concert. Please contact Pat Grassick for more information, pat.grassick@pet.cam.ac.uk:

The Friends of Peterhouse Theatre, Tuesday 16 June 2015.

Support for the Peterhouse Boats is most welcome at the May Bumps:

The River Cam, Wednesday 10 to Saturday 13 June 2015.

The Peterhouse May Ball, for ticket information please contact Holly Ashcroft:

Peterhouse, Cambridge, Wednesday 17 June 2015

Annual Gathering, Saturday 27 June 2015

The provisional programme is now available on the Peterhouse website, along with a booking form.

Peterhouse, Cambridge, 10.30 a.m. onwards, Saturday 27 June 2015.

Petrean Dinner, Saturday 19 September 2015

Petreans who matriculated between the years 2001 and 2005 inclusive are warmly invited to attend the ‘Petrean Dinner’ on Saturday 19 September. Invitations and further details will be circulated in early summer to all members who matriculated in those years.

Peterhouse, Cambridge, Dinner 8.00 p.m., with pre-dinner drinks from 7.30 p.m., Saturday 19 September 2015.

Peterhouse Family Day, Sunday 20 September 2015

The Peterhouse Family Day is a wonderful opportunity for Petreans to bring their families to enjoy the College and its gardens in the company of friends. In previous years this event has been fully booked so we would advise an early reply. A booking form is available on the Peterhouse website
PUBLICATIONS

Redmond Széll (matric. 1988)

*The Blind Man of Hoy:* In 2013 Redmond Széll became the first blind person to climb the Old Man of Hoy, the 449 foot ‘sea stack’ of the coast of Scotland. He has documented his journey in his recently published book *The Blind Man of Hoy* (Sandstone Press Ltd), available from Amazon. Read more on his amazing achievement in a recent article published in *The Independent.*

Ivar Alastair Watson (matric. 1958)

*Scotland the Brave: A Tragedy* is a thematically contemporary novel featuring the running down of the Clyde shipbuilding industry and the question of Scottish independence. Watson’s fictional story is highly relevant to the current situation in Scotland and takes, as its starting point, the murder of Charlie Armstrong in 1950s Inchnadamph. Charlie, the manager of a salmon fishery and local ‘tough guy’, faced an increased threat from poaching and out of this true tale of intrigue and murder emerges Watson’s story of the disintegration of Scotland and the current political climate. The book is available from Amazon.
Adrian Clark (matric. 1976) (co-authored by Jeremy Dronfield)

*Queer Saint: The Cultured Life of Peter Watson* tells the story of Peter Watson, a renowned connoisseur who fuelled the engine of mid-20th century art with his enormous wealth. Without his patronage, Bacon and Freud might have failed before they’d got started. He also founded the influential British arts journal Horizon with Cyril Connolly and Stephen Spender, and was one of the core founders of the Institute of Contemporary Arts, and organised most of its early exhibitions. From the mystery of his obscure family origins to the enigma surrounding his premature death, this book follows Peter Watson through an odyssey of the middle 20th century, from high society to sweaty underworld, and discovers a man tormented by depression and doubt; he ultimately wanted love and a sense of self-worth but instead found angst and a squalid death. The book is available from Amazon.
Daniel Batovici (matric.2009) (Co-Editor)

Reactions to Empire: Sacred Texts in their Socio-Political Contexts (Ed. by John Anthony Dunne and Dan Batovici). The authors of this volume explore various instances of theo-political visions of authoritative texts in Second Temple and Rabbinic Judaism and Early Christianity, and as such offer a broader perspective on the topos "sacred texts in their context." Instead of a narrow exploration of the "political intent" of a singular text or group of texts, the volume contains the treatment of a wide range of texts, out of different corpora, with their discrete contexts. Their juxtaposition, as well as that of the respective scholarly approaches of the essays, offers fresh insights on the matter. Each of the essays in the collection addresses the issue of oppressive imperial ideology and the extent to which the authors of sacred texts engaged their political contexts, and eight of the essays specifically present reactions to the Roman Empire. The book is available from the Mohr Siedbecks Website.

Lee Gatiss (matric. 2009) (Editor)

Confident & Equipped: Facing Today's Challenges in the Church of England. This concise book focuses on some of the key challenges facing those who seek to be faithful to the biblical gospel within the Church of England. It covers the significant pressure points of gender and same-sex attraction. But it also addresses the deeper long-term need to lead the way on evangelism within the structures of the denomination. These stimulating chapters, edited versions of addresses first delivered at the Junior Anglican Evangelical Conference (JAEC) in September 2013, will help you to be both confident in the gospel, and equipped to face the challenges of remaining faithful in an increasingly hostile environment.
Distinctive Principles for Anglican Evangelicals: Church Association Tracts by JC Ryle (edited by Lee Gatiss). JC Ryle's new book is now out on general sale. Before now, this brand new edition of previously uncollected tracts by the prince of tract-writers has been available exclusively to donors to the Ryle Fund. This handsome limited edition hardback has now gone on general release to all. See a video of Lee Gatiss introducing this new edition.

Both books are available from the Church Society Website.

Guy Collins (matric. 1996)

Faithful Doubt, The Wisdom of Uncertainty examines whether the doubts and denials of atheists might have something of enduring value to contribute to Christian faith and theology. Through close readings of three philosophers (Derrida, Žižek and Agamben)
Collins argues that there are significant lessons to be learned for people of faith. Illustrations from popular science fiction (*Battlestar Galactica, Star Trek,* and *Star Wars*) help frame the way in which postmodernity offers new ways of relating science and religion. By ‘doubting wisely’ and engaging with the ‘faith of the faithless’ Collins argues that theology can resist the simplistic certainties of fundamentalism. The book is available from Amazon.

**James Stevens Curl (matric. 1992) (Co-Author)**

*The Oxford Dictionary of Architecture, Third Edition*: This extensively revised, expanded, and critically acclaimed dictionary contains more than 6,000 meticulous entries—900 entirely new—including hundreds on landscape architecture. Written with clarity, brevity, and wit, this authoritative edition covers a broad, concise sweep of architectural and garden history. Beautifully illustrated with over 270 original drawings, and complemented by an extensive bibliography. The book is available from Amazon.
Mari Jones (matric. 1993) (Editor and Author)

*Endangered Languages and New Technologies.* At a time when many of the world’s languages are at risk of extinction, the imperative to document, analyse and teach them before time runs out is very great. At this critical time new technologies such as visual and aural archiving, digitisation of textual resources, electronic mapping and social media, have the potential to play an integral role in language maintenance and revitalisation. Drawing on studies of endangered languages from around the world - Europe, Asia, Africa and North and South America - this volume considers how these new resources might best be applied, and the problems that they can bring. It also re-assesses more traditional techniques of documentation in light of new technologies and works towards achieving a practicable synthesis of old and new methodologies. This accessible volume will be of interest to researchers in language endangerment, language typology and linguistic anthropology, and to community members working in native language maintenance. The book is available from Cambridge University Press.

![Endangered Languages and New Technologies](image)

*Cambridge University Press*

*Variation and Change in Mainland and Insular Norman.* King John of England’s defeat by the French in 1204 led to the territorial fragmentation of the Duchy of Normandy. Henceforth, the Norman mainland, allied to France, and the Channel Islands, allied to England, would find themselves on different sides of an ever-widening linguistic gulf. In *Variation and Change in Mainland and Insular Norman*, Mari C. Jones examines the way in which contact between the Norman dialect and its two typologically different superstrates (French and English) provides optimal conditions to study the linguistic mechanisms of ‘dialect contact’ and ‘language contact’. Through the analysis of extensive and original phonological, morphosyntactic and lexical data, set in their historical and sociolinguistic contexts, this fascinating study explores how advergence with its superstrates has led Norman to diverge linguistically within these territories. The book is available from the BRILL website.
Robert Middleton (matric. 1957) (Translator)

Recently translated into English:

Swiss History in a Nutshell by Gregoire Nappey (Author), Mix & Remix (Illustrator): This concise history shows Switzerland’s surprising past as a leading power in Europe; how Swiss democracy matured; the origins of Swiss cultural differences; how Switzerland’s direct democracy, consensus politics and good industrial relations were achieved. Cartoons illustrate this kaleidoscope of key events that have created today’s Switzerland. This book is available from Amazon.
Swissness in a Nutshell by Gianni Haver (Author), Mix & Remix (Illustrator): What is Switzerland? With more than two hundred full-colour cartoons, photos, and works of art this accessible guide illuminates the unique alpine nation. From William Tell to Heidi, Swiss Army Knives to cheese, litter-free streets to punctual trains. This book is available Amazon.

CORRECTION

In the last issue of Petrean News we incorrectly stated that John Sankey had written the autobiography of sculptor Sir Thomas Brock. The book was written by Frederick Brock and edited by John Sankey. We apologies for any confusion caused. Please refer to the Autumn 2015 edition for more information about the publication. The book is available from Amazon.
We hope you enjoy reading this edition of the *Petrean News*. Please email any stories or pieces of interest to ha365@cam.ac.uk, for inclusion in the next edition. Don’t forget to add us as a friend on FACEBOOK and to follow us on TWITTER.