The Master Writes

We all know that the rhythm of College life in Cambridge follows the drumbeat of the University terms, and into my third year as Master I am now attuned to its rise and fall: from the frenzy of freshers’ week and the apprehensiveness of new arrivals, through the mounting intensity of the following weeks and months packed with supervisions, essays and lab work, and on to the urgency of revision as Easter Term looms, the pressures of Tripos exams and finally the celebratory relief of May Week.

Every October a new cohort of undergraduate and graduate students, shivering with anticipation in the chilly October sun, line up in rows on tiered benches in Old Court to have their group picture taken, and then file into the Combination Room. There they promise to obey the Master in all things right and proper, sign the big red book as directed by our Praelector, Dr James Carleton Paget, and shake my hand. This moment of becoming a Petrean, I tell them as I welcome and congratulate them, confers a status and a membership which will never leave them, a new and indelible part of their identity.

This year’s latest batch of new entrants are, as always, lively and engaged, enhancing a College which always feels cohesive and strong, both close-knit and open-hearted, both inward and outward looking. Not for nothing are all Petreans inordinately proud of being part of this community. It is a privilege that we all share, an invisible network which binds us together wherever we are, over whatever time and distance.

This was brought home to me numerous times this last year as I met Petreans both in Cambridge and beyond. Our regular alumni gatherings in London, for a dinner in the spring, a drinks party in the autumn and a beautiful carol service in December, are opportunities to catch up with old and new friends. But there are of course many more UK-based Petreans beyond the metropolis. And so we are now trying to arrange meetings and dinners in other parts of the country.

In March an event in Manchester was an opportunity for both Amanda and myself to spend a very pleasant evening with Petreans brought together from both sides of the Pennines. In December there will be a dinner in Gloucestershire, and in the coming months further gatherings are planned for Hampshire, Surrey and the Edinburgh area. If I have occasion to travel somewhere to deliver a talk or lecture and there are Petreans nearby, I shall do my best to meet you.

And the ties that bind us together stretch across the globe. This summer was a chance to visit the west coast of America with the Development Director, Dr Saskia Murk Jansen, to spend time with alumni based there. From start to finish, the trip was an absolute pleasure. In Los Angeles and San Francisco, in Seattle and Vancouver, and with a side trip to Minneapolis, our Petrean hosts and guides could not have cared for us more attentively. Thank you so much, all of you who looked after us.

The point of the West Coast trip was to update members on what is happening in College and what our future plans are. And there is plenty to talk about, as you will find in the pages of this newsletter. There is also plenty to celebrate. The Tripos results show that many of our undergraduates continue to excel. This year there were no Baxter tables to offer a formal league table of Cambridge colleges, but unofficial estimates put Peterhouse in fourth or fifth place out of the whole university – the highest ranking the College has seen for some time. Approximately a third of our students achieved Firsts and a large proportion of the rest – upper Second Class degrees. We are very proud of them all.

This year’s latest batch of new entrants are, as always, lively and engaged…
Among other highlights of the year was a wonderful reunion of the victorious crew who won the title of Head of the River in 1956. The weekend celebration in April brought back crew members from North America, France and parts of the UK, alongside more recent Boat Club members from all the generations since, spanning an astonishing 60 years and more of College rowing. The occasion also launched a new campaign committee under the chairmanship of Dr Gordon Hewlett, to look ahead and start preparing for 2028. That anniversary – which will be upon us all too soon – will mark 200 years of the College Boat Club, and the centenary of the Boat House.

Another area to single out is the flourishing state of the College’s music. The traditional concerts by the musicians in our College Music Society have now been amplified by lunchtime concerts on Mondays, brief musical interludes to break up the hours spent in lab or library. And under the direction of Dr Simon Jackson, the College choir goes from strength to strength. Do go to the music section on the website to find some examples of their performances, as well as videos of their summer expedition to Copenhagen and an intrepid foray into the North Atlantic for a memorable singing tour of the remote Faroe Islands.

In addition, the Camerata Musica concerts organised by Dr John Adamson continue to bring some of the world’s top musicians to perform in the College Theatre to packed audiences. Thanks to the generosity of donors many of our students are there too, beneficiaries of discounted tickets that give them ringside seats to enjoy world class music.

For our thespians, a further highlight was a special event under the auspices of the Heywood Society which brought back to the College the award-winning film and theatre director and now Honorary Fellow, Sam Mendes. In an extended question and answer session, he mesmerised students crammed into the College Theatre by recalling how a Peterhouse freshers’ play in that very auditorium had launched him onto the remarkable career which would win him an Academy Award and the chance to direct two James Bond films, as well as numerous other accolades. Who knows which of our students might follow in his footsteps?

One star of the small screen, however, is already building something of a fan club in College. Some of you will already know that the third resident at the Master’s Lodge besides myself and my partner Amanda is our tabby cat Mimi. I am now beginning to realise that for our student body she has far more appeal than Amanda or me. For the past year or so she has had her own Instagram account, courtesy of Amanda (peterhouse_pet). Now when graduates and undergraduates come to the Lodge, it is Peterhouse Pet they really hope to see. We are just her handmaidens. Unfortunately, just like any imperious Hollywood starlet who is oblivious of the public image shaped and curated by her PR agent, Mimi the cat has no inkling of her online persona. On Instagram she is warm and engaging, constantly talking to ‘her students’. In real life she tends to stare quizzically at visitors and walk off. I do hope they are not too disappointed.

Approximately a third of our students achieved Firsts and a large proportion of the rest – upper Second Class degrees. We are very proud of them all.

Mimi meets Uzbek musician, Dr. Razia Sultanova
Fellowship News

Hunter Dukes
My research examines the value that literature accords to handwritten signatures throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and how the invention of new technologies, legal procedures, and media formats change this value. Signatures and their related fantasies appear in a multitude of settings, literary and otherwise. Graffiti artists sign buildings as an indication of ownership, an act of appropriation. To study someone’s autograph (as graphologists did in the nineteenth century) is to imagine correspondence, whereby handwriting correlates with moral character. When lovers carve initials into trees, they tacitly perform a type of encryption, preserving their feeling within a living surface. Despite the signature’s capacity to enable imaginary relations of this kind — and the manifold literary depictions of similar ideas — there has not been a definitive study of the form. I am grateful for the opportunity to develop this project as a Junior Research Fellow at Peterhouse.

Francesca Day
My research is at the intersection of particle physics and astrophysics. I use telescope observations to uncover new fundamental physics. My work focuses on a hypothetical particle, the axion, which could make up 85% of the matter in the universe as the elusive Dark Matter. I am using new techniques in astronomy, such as X-ray polarimetry and machine learning, to search for signals from axions. I am also interested in using extreme astrophysical environments, such as black holes and neutron stars, to search for dark matter. I am simulating the behaviour of axions in such environments, and comparing with observations. This gives us access to new effects that we could never observe in an experiment on Earth. Outside of research, I perform stand-up science comedy around the UK.

Ewan Macdonald
I studied for my undergraduate degree at the University of Edinburgh and completed my MA and PhD degrees at SOAS between 2012 and 2016. My primary interests lie in Chinese narrative literature, and in particular the vernacular fiction of the late Ming and early Qing dynasties (ca. 1573–1661). My doctoral thesis focuses on didacticism and entertainment in the short stories of Ling Mengchu (1580–1644), arguing that his collections represent a turning point in the development of the vernacular short story. I am currently revising my thesis into a book manuscript, and examining responses to the traumatic Ming-Qing dynastic transition in the short fiction of the period. I joined Peterhouse as Carmen Blacker junior research fellow in October 2017.

Sam Kennerley
I completed my MA degree at the University of St Andrews (2012) and my MPhil and PhD at Trinity College, Cambridge (2012–2017). My interest is in the transmission of knowledge, specifically as it correlates with moral character. When lovers carve initials into trees, they tacitly perform a type of encryption, preserving their feeling within a living surface. Despite the signature’s capacity to enable imaginary relations of this kind — and the manifold literary depictions of similar ideas — there has not been a definitive study of the form. I am grateful for the opportunity to develop this project as a Junior Research Fellow at Peterhouse.

Dr Pattenden
The first act of the Governing Body in the academic year 2017/18 was unanimously to elect Dr Philip Pattenden to an Emeritus Fellowship. Dr Pattenden, or ‘Dr P’ as he is known by students and staff alike, read Classics at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge and took a DPhil in Oxford on Byzantine Greek texts. He joined Peterhouse in 1976 as a William Stone Research Fellow from Corpus Christi and Hertford Colleges in Oxford. In 1982, having been a Bye-Fellow, he was elected official Fellow in Classics and directed studies in Classics for almost 40 years. Most Petreans, however, will remember him as Senior Tutor, Tutor and Graduate Admissions Tutor – posts he held for over 30 years. As Senior Tutor he served on the Council of the Friends of Peterhouse for 25 years – the longest serving Council member. During the 1990s he occasionally deputised for the Praelector and became Praelector in 2004. In that capacity he presented many generations of Petreans for their degrees at the Senate House, having been master of ceremonies at their matriculation as well as at the Admission of Scholars and the Admission of Fellows. Members of the Heywood Society may recall having to take the proposed text of their plays to be scrutinised by him as Theatre Administrator. He obviously enjoyed serving the College as Garden Steward from 1982 to 2017 and took that role very seriously – he could frequently be seen walking around the gardens discussing matters horticultural with one or other of the gardeners.

Dr P will also be known to many as the Editor of the Peterhouse Record. He offered to continue as Editor without stipend after his retirement, and suggested that the stipend be used to create a new fund for students of Classics, Divinity and History to be called The Jeremiah Markland Fund in memory of a famous 18th-century classical scholar of this College. Governing body accepted this generous offer and the fund has now been established. Under his editorship, the Record has become a mine of information about Petreans and the College.
The Chapel and the Organ

Restoration update

The Chapel is currently shrouded in scaffolding and it is likely to remain so for most of Lent Term as well. The work this summer was to replace the aluminium roof which had started to fail; we had hoped to replace it with lead and for the Chapel to be back in action for the Michaelmas Term with the external scaffolding being removed in the Christmas Vacation. However, it was not to be.

We took advantage of the extensive scaffolding inside and out to do other maintenance and restoration projects, notably the restoration of the east window and renewing the heating and lighting in anticipation of the restoration of the organ.

We are currently in discussion with the Diocesan Advisory Committee to obtain a faculty for the restoration of the pipe organ; works which create dust need to be carried out before we undertake any major restoration. As Petreans will remember, the organ, built by Snetzler, was given to the College in 1765 by Horatio Mann, an alumnus. It was expanded by Hill in the 1870s and then by Mander in the 1960s, but it still contains ten of the original fourteen ranks of Snetzler pipes. As such it is one of the largest collections of Snetzler pipes in the country that remain almost untouched.

Plans for the restoration of the organ have to take into account the importance of the organ as an historic instrument while making sure that it will be a pleasure to play when accompanying Chapel services. A beautiful organ will also help to attract excellent applicants to be our organ scholars. A key input will be a detailed inventory of the pipes, so we took the opportunity this summer to remove them from the Chapel for the summer and store them in the squash court. The pipes were there the organ builders made a list of them which will inform the precise plans that will be put forward for approval by the Diocese. It was fascinating to see the pipes, each carefully engraved with its name by the original builder, laid out in ranks on shelves in the squash court.

Close inspection of the east window earlier in the summer had revealed that it was starting to bow in places under the combined weight of the lead and the glass. When the external scaffolding went up, a firm of experts in the restoration of historical stained glass took careful drawings of the east window and then spent the summer creating a clear glass version of the original using hand-blown glass. This was installed on the outside of the window in September at which point the original was removed and taken to their workshops to be restored. The clear glass will remain in place when the coloured glass is put back to provide protection for the 17th century window. Anyone who was in Peterhouse during the war will be familiar with the effect of daylight streaming into the Chapel from the east as the glass was removed then in case of bomb damage. For example, we were fascinated to see that the ceiling is not a completely uniform dark brown. Many of the cross pieces and even sections of panel are a much lighter warm chestnut colour. Unfortunately we were able to enjoy the effect for only a few days before the Chapel was once again out of action.

Other work in the Chapel over the summer involved renewing the heating and installing the necessary electric cabling in advance of the restoration of the organ. We also took advantage of the scaffolding to undertake repairs to the decorative masonry on the outside of the Chapel and to improve the lighting. The inventory of goods in the Chapel in 1659 lists “1 greater hanging candlestick containing 16 branches; 1 lesser hanging candlestick containing 12 branches”. We hope to replace these in due course and strengthened the ceiling this summer to take their weight.

Plans for the restoration of the organ have to take into account the importance of the organ as an historic instrument while making sure that it will be a pleasure to play when accompanying Chapel services. A beautiful organ will also help to attract excellent applicants to be our organ scholars.
All in all it was a very ambitious timetable and everyone involved was wholly committed to having the Chapel back in action for the first service of the academic year on 30 September. The organ pipes were replaced, the organ was tuned, the rolls of lead were delivered ready for installation, and all appeared to be going to plan when the builders uncovered a void at the top of one of the walls! The first Chapel services of the academic year took place as planned but we called a halt to the works while we assessed the impact of this discovery.

Further investigative work was done, revealing further voids. The structural engineers were called in to subject all the walls to ultrasound analysis and this revealed that there were many significant voids at high level. The engineers’ advice was clear: the walls would not support the increased load of the proposed lead. We were then faced with a choice – cover the roof in a lighter material and monitor the walls, hoping for the best, or stabilise the walls now while the scaffolding was in place and then reconsider the best material for the roof. With the advice of our engineering Fellows, including Emeritus Fellow Professor Jacques Hyman much of whose professional career was dedicated to keeping the cathedrals of Europe standing, we decided on the latter course of action. Professor Hyman explained that finding such cavities in the upper part of medieval walls is not unusual. Apparently many churches suffer from a similar condition – the dust, sand and smaller stones in the wall cavities gradually fall to the bottom as the buildings are shaken, initially by ox carts and latterly by HGVs, leaving cavities between the larger stones.

Further archival research revealed that the Chapel walls were never subjected to the weight of a lead roof as demanded by current building codes. Photographs from the archive show that the lead used on the roof in the 1930s was significantly thinner than current code requires – which helps to explain why it failed within 30 years. We have therefore reluctantly decided that we will have to cover the roof in terne coated stainless steel, which looks like lead but is much less heavy. Fortunately this represents a saving compared to the cost of lead which slightly off-sets the cost of these unanticipated works!

The Chapel is therefore once again closed, the organ has been covered in plastic sheeting, and the internal scaffolding is once again filling the Chapel. Any Petreans returning to dine on a Sunday in Term will find that the Chapel service is taking place in the Theatre. Daily services are being held in the Davidson Room in the Whittle Building. Little St Mary’s, where members of Peterhouse worshiped before the Chapel was consecrated in 1632, has again opened its doors to Peterhouse and will be hosting our Advent and Christmas Carol services.
On the cover is a picture of The Brewhouse. It stands behind a high wall between the Master’s Lodge and the Pembroke Library so many people are barely aware of its existence. Part of the original building was given to Pembroke in exchange for the land on which the Hostel now stands. At one time the home of the Beaumont family while the present Master’s Lodge was under construction, it has most recently been used, somewhat ingloriously, as an up-market garden shed. Our previous Master, Adrian Dixon, and his sons spent many hours clearing it out and getting it ready for a new role in the life of the College.

The Brewhouse appears as an independent house on a map of 1592 and was grade 2 listed in 1972. By the mid-eighteenth century the building had been turned into a Brewhouse and in 1875 the Brewhouse was shortened to make room for the new Pembroke library; by 1886 it is designated simply ‘shed’ on a map of the city drawn up by Willis. The most recent alteration was the addition of Crittal windows in the mid-20th century. During Adrian Dixon’s Mastership various possible uses for the building were considered but none seemed quite right – constrained as it is by its fabric and its proximity to the Master’s Lodge.

The architects came forward with three different design proposals and the College has chosen the one that is least disruptive to the external appearance of the building – fortunately that option is also the least expensive!

Then in 2017 the College appointed its first Director of Music since 1947 and it soon became clear that the College was in need of additional practice and performance spaces for musicians and for the choir. Prompted initially by the difficulties we (and other Cambridge Colleges) had experienced in attracting organ scholars, Dr Jackson’s appointment has reinvigorated the musical life of the College. It has not only enabled us to maintain a high quality of organ music in the Chapel, but it has encouraged the choir to ever greater attainment and has created a focus for more general musical activity in the College. In the past, the Music Room provided an alternative rehearsal space but it was converted into student accommodation as part of the Whittle Building project (it is now M Staircase).

By happy coincidence our current Master and her partner are music lovers and strong supporters of music in College, so when the subject of a role for the Brewhouse came up for discussion again, the Master was happy to encourage its use as a centre for College music. The plans drawn up by a firm of restoration architects create a large rehearsal space on the upper floor that can also be used for recitals, receptions or other social gatherings, an office for the Director of Music and a music practice room on the ground floor as well as a lift for disabled access, a small kitchen and other facilities.
The architects came forward with three different design proposals and the College has chosen the one that is least disruptive to the external appearance of the building. For example, the large double doors that were once used to bring sacks of hops into the building for brewing the beer will be used as the first floor entrance to the recital space with access from an external staircase. The current door at the rear of the building will provide wheelchair access to the ground floor and the lift.

Our aim will be to effect the changes to the building in such a way that we retain and enhance as much of its original character as possible, as we are currently doing in Tunwells Court. For example, we plan to add insulation to the exterior of the building and between the timbers so that the frame remains visible internally. Vapour permeable insulation materials such as wood fibre board, hemp board and possibly sheep’s wool will be used with lime render externally and lime plaster internally to ensure that the building will be able to “breath” as it would have done when originally built. The use of such materials does however place constraints on when the work can be done – Historic England recommends that lime mortars are applied only between May and September!

The floor surfaces are currently very uneven, reflecting the building’s recent semi-industrial use. The architects confirmed that it was likely that a new limecrete or glasscrete slab would have to be laid to ensure the space was dry; the existing floor surface or an alternative could then be laid onto this.

We would very much like to complete the work and have the Brewhouse fully functional as the College’s music centre while Bridget is still in post, ideally by Michaelmas 2022. The architects are currently working on drawings to enable the College to take this to the City planners for pre-planning advice. We hope to get planning approval in the spring of 2019 and, subject to raising the funds, starting work in 2020.

* The College’s last Director of Music was Hubert Middleton D Mus (Oxon.). He was Director of Studies in Music from 1926–33 and Director of Music 1933 to c. 1940. He was a composer but was principally known as an educationalist and in 1945 he successfully established the Music Tripos.
The Masterplan
The story so far

Petreans who have been back to College recently, or who have met with the Master in other places, will know that we have been consulting widely on ideas for how to enhance the experience of students at Peterhouse. One idea, originally proposed by an alumnus, has gained a lot of support – namely the creation of a flexible social space where members of the different parts of the College can meet and which facilitates collaborative working. The College has many wonderful social spaces but they are each the primary preserve of one particular section of our community and there is nowhere where, for example, a Fellow, an undergraduate and a Research Associate could meet and share information. Professor Simms, with his interest in late 18th and early 19th century British political history, suggested that it should be called a ‘coffee house’ after the places in London where news was exchanged and business was done.

Petreans also remarked on the rather un-loved feeling of the Cosin Court site. Over the years, the east side of Trumpington Street has become an integral part of the College with many Fellows and junior members having rooms there but, as the Master remarked, it is not really somewhere you show your visitors when they come to visit the College! The College owns almost all the properties on Tennis Court Terrace, Tennis Court Road to Fitzwilliam Street, the north side of Fitzwilliam Street and the east side of Trumpington Street from Fitzwilliam Street back to the Master’s Lodge. Fitzwilliam House, on the corner of Fitzwilliam Street, will come back into College use in 2019 having been let to the University for many years so this seems a good moment to give some thought to how we could enhance that side of College.

Other ideas that were mentioned by the Fellowship in the course of discussions were the need to create a place to store and consult our modern and medieval archives and the need for additional seminar/meeting rooms for teaching and academic conferences. Logically the archive should be in the vicinity of the Ward Library. Fortunately there is no evidence that the much heralded demise of the printed book will actually occur and the Library continues to be in great demand as a place to work so to provide a location for even just the modern archives would involve expanding the Library. If the Library were to expand the only place for it to do so is by taking over the basement which, in turn, would displace Maintenance. Maintenance is currently divided between two locations – under the Ward Library and in Canham’s Yard adjacent to Cosin Court and the Hostel. This is far from ideal and there has long been talk about consolidating the offices, stores and workshops in a single location – the difficulty has always been identifying a suitable site.

It was at this point that we decided that, with so many moving parts, it was time to commission a masterplan to think creatively about the use of the whole site. A working party of Fellows was set up to draw up a brief in consultation with Fellows, students and staff and a firm of architects was commissioned to bring forward some proposals in Michaelmas. The masterplan does not include the work on the Chapel, the Brewhouse or indeed the Boathouse – all of which are discrete projects. Nor does it consider possible uses of the site of the Doubletree Hilton Hotel (previously the Garden House Hotel) which is likely to come to College towards the end of the current lease in about 80-90 years’ time. That, of course, has huge potential for the College and will be an exciting opportunity for the Fellowship when it occurs. The aim of the masterplan is rather to ensure that we do not embark on any building projects that reduce our options in the future and that we undertake them in the most logical order. It is very much a work in progress but we wanted to let you know the direction of travel so that you can let us know your thoughts. We look forward to being in touch.
**Student Bursary Scheme (CBS).** The current bursary scheme only applies to those with a total household income of less than £2,080 (with no other factors taken into consideration). This leaves many students in significant difficulty, especially as access to other forms of financial support is often contingent on being in receipt of a bursary. Rather than allowing students to increase their loans and add to their financial worries, we are introducing our own bursary scheme. The bursaries will be worth up to £1,500 per year (£500 per term) and will be awarded after matriculation. Donors can contribute to subject specific or general bursary funds. To name a bursary the donor must pledge £1,500 per year for at least three years. We got off to a great start with donations to this new fund in this year’s Telephone Campaign, and raised a total of £31,772, two of which are named bursaries. Bursaries are now being allocated to incoming freshmen and we are in discussion with other Colleges about support for the Vice Chancellor’s recent announcement concerning the University’s Student Support Initiative.

**Student Hardship:** some of our older hardship funds are limited to particular disciplines or to other special cases, but there is a lot of flexibility within the Student Hardship fund to provide support where it is most needed. Money raised for the Student Hardship fund is normally used for one-off cases, but can also be used to supplement the student bursary scheme if required. We have a number of funds which have been created to provide support to undergraduates in cases of financial hardship or for extra-curricular activities. Contributions to these funds, or the endowment of new ones, are very important and allow us to act quickly, enabling the students to focus on their studies rather than their financial difficulties. Further information on Student Hardship funds can be found at: www.pet.cam.ac.uk/financial-support.

**Graduate Studentships:** this has been one of our top fund-raising priorities over the past few years. The research produced by our graduate students has been outstanding, and we want to be able to continue this support. Two new funds for Graduate Studentships were established in January 2015, one for the arts and one for science, and the contributions to these funds has increased steadily year on year. The Graduate Studentships Committee met in March of this year and were able to award 12 studentships, three of which have been directly supported by donations raised through these two funds. This fund also benefits from unspent research allowances amongst the Fellowship, resulting in an additional £12,190 for the fund this year.

**Admissions:** one of our more recent concerns has been the number of highly talented overseas students unable to meet the financial requirements of entry, and this year we have allocated £25,000 from the Telephone Campaign to help our Admissions Tutors with a fund to use at their discretion to assist in such circumstances. This supplements the £25,000 the College allocates for this purpose from the endowment each year.

**Graduate Sports’ Scholarships:** three women rowers were sponsored through last year’s allocation to the Graduate Sports’ Scholarship fund, all of whom took part in this year’s victorious wins at the Oxford and Cambridge Boat Races. £15,000 has been allocated for next year, and £5,000 each will be awarded to three rowers who will be starting their research in Michaelmas Term 2018.

**College Music:** under the leadership of the new Director of Music, Dr Simon Jackson, the choir has gone from strength to strength, producing various recordings and online videos. Dr Jackson’s initiatives have also encouraged applications by potential Organ Scholars, and we are delighted to report that a new Organ Scholar has been selected for this academic year. The choir can be heard singing ‘A Prayer of King Henry VI’ by Henry Ley on video of a flyover of the College, which was produced at the end of last year, https://www.pet.cam.ac.uk/petreans. A further £3,000 has been made available to Dr Jackson from the Telephone Campaign to continue the enhancement of the musical life of the College.

**Boat Club:** plans are now underway for the redevelopment and extension of the Peterhouse Boat Club. A Committee has been formed and a recent survey of the site has been circulated asking for helpful suggestions. The Committee will be meeting again this term to take proposals forwards.

**Friends of Peterhouse**
As always we are most grateful to the Council of the Friends of Peterhouse for their support during the past year. They contributed to the College’s hardship funds and academic prizes as well as supporting the College’s initiative of having a Student Counsellor in College one day a week during Term. This year the Council also supported two Superhalls; one for the JCR and the other for the MCR.

**The 1284 Circle**
Membership to the 1284 Circle is open to anyone for the year in which their donations total between £1,284 and £5,000. This year members were invited to a lunch in College in September and received preferential bookings for a number of events/occasions including dinner at the Carlton Club in February. The Circle attracted 73 members this year, and through the generosity of the Circle the College raised just over £127,000.
The London Carol Service,
Thursday 7 December, 2017
The 2017 Petrean events calendar was brought to a close by the annual London Carol Service at St Vedast-alias-Foster; a beautiful Wren church close to St Paul’s Cathedral. Almost 100 Petreans attended and the congregation was bolstered by a choir made up of current members from the College plus Voces Petrensium (the Peterhouse alumni choir). Carols and hymns were followed by drinks in the Church Hall.

Peterhouse at the Carlton Club,
Thursday 22 February, 2018
On Thursday 22 February 2018, Petreans and their guests enjoyed a memorable dinner at the Carlton Club in London by kind invitation of The Rt Hon. Lord Howard of Lymne (m. 1959), Honorary Fellow.

Following dinner there was a discussion on the Conservative 1922 Committee, generously hosted by Lord Lexden (m. 1963), Politician, Official Historian of the Conservative Party and Petrean.

The dinner provided an opportunity for Petreans to gather together for a most enjoyable evening in an outstanding setting. The 2019 London Dinner will take place in May at the Garrick Club, more details will be available in Lent term.

Spirit of ’56 Weekend, Friday 20 April to Saturday 21 April, 2018
After the success of the Ladies Plate 60th Anniversary Weekend in 2016, the members of the 1956 crew organised a repeat for 2018. Boaties past and present joined the crew to celebrate all that the Boat Club has achieved over the last 60 years and to look to the future of rowing at Peterhouse.

It was a weekend of celebration; a private dinner for the ’56 crew on Friday, was followed by a dinner in Hall for all members on the Saturday and the weekend was rounded off with the launch of the second new scull, ‘The Martin Bartlett’, purchased with funds from the 2017 Scull Appeal.

The weekend also saw the launch of a new fundraising body: The 1828 Committee. This new Committee, consisting of alumni and current members of the Peterhouse Boat Club, will be working closely with the Development Office to advise on the changes needed to the Peterhouse Boat House over the next few years.
The Peterhouse Society Annual Gathering, Saturday 30 June, 2018

The 2018 Gathering repeated its format of previous years, with Petreans enjoying a programme of tours, lectures and talks. Saturday morning began with a tour of the art collections of the Fitzwilliam Museum, followed by lunch in College. Talks in the Theatre took place in the afternoon, with three fascinating lectures from Peterhouse graduate students. The afternoon was rounded off with a presentation by Petrean, Captain Geoff Dyer, who gave a rousing account of his time as a bomber pilot in the Cold War. The glorious summer weather allowed for afternoon tea to be taken outside, with Petreans enjoying the beautiful Fellows’ Garden in bright sunshine. Dinner in Hall followed and accommodation was also available, allowing guests to take full advantage of their weekend in Cambridge. We hope to see you at next year’s Gathering on Saturday 29 June, 2019.

Petrean Dinners Pre 1960 Matriculation and 1986–1990 Matriculation, Thursday 20 September and Saturday 22 September, 2018

In 2018 the College hosted two reunion dinners for Petreans. On Thursday 20 September Peterhouse welcomed back alumni who matriculated in the years up to 1960, followed by a dinner on the following Saturday for alumni who matriculated 1986–1990. It was wonderful to see so many Petreans of different generations return to College. The 2019 Petrean dinner will be for those who matriculated 1996–2000 (inclusive) and will take place on Saturday 21 September, 2019.

The Master’s Travels 2018, July 2018

The Master embarked on a trip to the West Coast of USA and Canada in July this year to meet with a great many Petreans. After a wonderful lunch in Minneapolis, Bridget then enjoyed the company of local Petreans at drinks receptions, lunches and dinners in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle and Vancouver. Her talks on “Russia’s Place in the World” also proved popular, being very well attended by both Petreans and wider Oxbridge alumni alike. Bridget was very well looked after and entertained by a great many of you throughout the trip and was delighted to hear your memories, and thoughts about the future of the College.

Pre 1960 Petreans assembled
Peterhouse