any past and present members of the St Catharine’s College Boat Club braved the elements to gather on 16 March for the official opening of the newly refurbished and extended boathouse. Their excitement was understandable: until six months ago, the building had barely changed in over 90 years.

By happy coincidence, 2013 marks 55 years since the boathouse was acquired from the 1st & 3rd (Trinity). Until 1958 SCCBC shared a rented ramshackle boathouse with Sidney Sussex and Fitzwilliam.

“In 1956/57 the club made a marked turn around after languishing in the doldrums for some time.” recalls David Bailey (1954), then Captain. “1st VIII produced sterling results, crowned with the 1st VIII winning their oars in the Lent Bumps. SCCBC was back on the map! So much so, that after the 1957 May Bumps we were approached by the Captain of 1st & 3rd (A A M Mays-Smith) with the offer of the 3rd Trinity boathouse, which fell out of use. 1st & 3rd were offering it to us, as they felt that St Catharine’s showed the most spirit and drive of those boat clubs without their own boathouse. In Michaelmas of 1958 SCCBC moved into its new home.”

The “new old” boathouse boasts separate male and female changing rooms, and is fully fitted with lockers, a new sanitary block, a kitchen and an office-cum-meeting room. The boat-bay has also been given a new lease of life: sliding racks have been repaired, new lighting installed and the workshop’s asbestos cement roof has finally been replaced.

The fundraising and re-design was led by the Boat Club stalwart and long-term sponsor, Herb Bate (1963), who delivered a perfect address followed by the Master cutting a claret tape to the cheers of an appreciative crowd. While not yet fully funded, the project has thus far found support in generosity of many former members of SCCBC and their names are commemorated in the main club area.

It was a great pleasure to share this moment with Fred Thompson (1932), now in his 100th year and tremendous spirit. When asked if he would hop into the boat in the afternoon, he retorted “Maybe next year!” And as Fred made his way home, many Members took to the river to test their rowing prowess against current students and survived to gather again in College for dinner in the evening.

The opening of the boathouse coincided with the second Alumni Rowing Day, organized by the current SCCBC Committee. Contact Jemma Kehoe if you are interested in getting involved.
HELLO FROM THE MASTER

It is always a pleasure to welcome you back to St Catharine’s.

THE ITALIAN RENAISSANCE — A ‘SECULAR AGE’?

Dr Abigail Brundin is one of three principal investigators on a ground-breaking interdisciplinary research project: Domestic Devotions: The Place of Pity in the Italian Renaissance Home. The project will aim to explore the dynamics of popular devotional home practice in the period 1400—1600 and to redefine the Italian Renaissance as an age of spiritual — not just cultural and artistic — renewal. The project is one of only two projects from the Humanities and Social Sciences to be awarded ERC ‘Synergy’ funding (£3.2m), and the only project to be led by an exclusively female team.

NORTH-WEST CAMBRIDGE DEVELOPMENT

The Regent House has given a formal approval for the start of the first phase of the North-West Cambridge development. It will see the construction of approximately 530 homes for University/college staff, 450 homes for sale accommodation for 300 students and a local centre with community facilities. This phase is due to be completed by mid-2015. All parts of the site will be built to high standards of sustainability, including a transport plan to minimise car use.

2013 VM GOLDSCHMIDT AWARD

Prof Harry Elderfield of the Department of Earth Sciences has been awarded the 2013 VM Goldschmidt Award, the premier medal of the Geochemical Society. The award recognises major achievements in geochemistry or cosmochemistry consisting of either a single outstanding contribution or a series of publications that have had great influence on the field. Professor Elderfield is acknowledged for his wide-ranging contributions to marine geochemistry and palaeoecology.

ST CATZ NEWS

THE WHEEL — the new incarnation of The Catharine Wheel. As you can see, it touches on many aspects of College life.

It is always a pleasure to welcome you back to St Catharine’s, and some of the many opportunities to meet friends and contemporaries in Cambridge — and elsewhere — are highlighted on the opposite page. I should also like to draw your attention to a special event in London, at the Royal Society, on 3 October 2013, which will showcase the academic excellence of some of our present and past young Research Fellows, during what I’m sure will be a most enjoyable social occasion. More details will appear in the next issue.

Stop press: we are pleased to announce the appointment of our new Chaplain — the Reverend David Naeum, who joins us for the start of the Michaelmas Term from the University Church in Oxford. David was ordained in 2007 after training at Westcott House in Cambridge and then served in parishes in Cambridge and Dorset before moving to Oxford. He was an undergraduate at Trinity College, Melbourne, Australia and is currently completing his doctorate at Emmanuel College, Cambridge. David will find a warm welcome at St Catharine’s.

CATZ CAREERS

STEP INTO THE REAL WORLD

Catz Careers is a student-led society that runs workshops and special events aimed at current students.

It may be a bit of exams, celebrations and their aftermath, but many will have already mapped out their first steps into the real world. For some, the Catz Careers initiative will have helped open up paths and ideas.

Catz Careers is a student-led society that runs workshops and special events aimed at current students, as much for those with clear career ideas as for those who are still feeling around in the dark. In a true collaborative effort, the society draws on the resources and expertise of the College, Members and the University Careers Service. The Annual Careers evening in Lent Term is the key event, which brings together Members and students to discuss careers options, and to share advice and insights from a wide range of industries. This year, some 20 Members shared their experiences with over 40 students.

This year, Catz Careers also ran a new event, the Values Workshop, in which students could explore potential careers that match their values and interests. The event sparked a lot of interest and we are looking to expand on these sorts of events in the next academic year.

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

REGISTER YOUR INTEREST ON THE CAREER LINK

WV careerlink.stcatharinescollege.org

OR CONTACT

E catzcareers@gmail.com

Christian Schnittker is the 3rd year Economics student and President of Catz Careers

ST CATZ EVENTS

MAY

BUMPS 15 JUNE

ST CATZ AT THE ROYAL SOCIETY 3 OCT

LONDON

Join us in London for an opportunity to connect with Fellows, friends and some new faces from the world of law and finance — from professionals at the pinnacle of their career to those just starting out. This year the evening is kindly hosted by Mr Nick Parker (1965) at the Peninon Corporation.

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT ALL EVENTS

PLEASE GO TO

WV caths.cam.ac.uk/events

OR CONTACT

Alumni & Development Office

events@cam.ac.uk

OR TELEPHONE

T 01223 748 164

Cambridge

Matriculated between 1900 and 1927

Join us in Cambridge to celebrate the passing years at your Reunion Dinner in College.

ST CATZ NETWORKING EVENT 21 NOV

LONDON

Join us in London on an opportunity to connect with Fellows, friends and some new faces from the world of law and finance — from professionals at the pinnacle of their career to those just starting out. This year the evening is kindly hosted by Mr Nick Parker (1965) at the Peninon Corporation.

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT ALL EVENTS

PLEASE GO TO

WV caths.cam.ac.uk/events

OR CONTACT

Alumni & Development Office

events@cam.ac.uk

OR TELEPHONE

T 01223 748 164

Cambridge

Matriculated between 1900 and 1927

Join us in Cambridge to celebrate the passing years at your Reunion Dinner in College.

ST CATZ NETWORKING EVENT 21 NOV

LONDON

Join us in London on an opportunity to connect with Fellows, friends and some new faces from the world of law and finance — from professionals at the pinnacle of their career to those just starting out. This year the evening is kindly hosted by Mr Nick Parker (1965) at the Peninon Corporation.

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT ALL EVENTS

PLEASE GO TO

WV caths.cam.ac.uk/events

OR CONTACT

Alumni & Development Office

events@cam.ac.uk

OR TELEPHONE

T 01223 748 164

Cambridge

Matriculated between 1900 and 1927

Join us in Cambridge to celebrate the passing years at your Reunion Dinner in College.
Perhaps the most harmful Ponto-Caspian invader we currently have in Britain is the zebra mussel. From damage by grey squirrels. First introduced into Rotherhithe Docks in 1984 as a contaminant of imported timber, the pest has become widespread throughout the rivers, lakes and reservoirs of much of England, and parts of Wales and Scotland. Rather like the maritime mussels that we eat, zebra mussels produce a ‘beard’ (byssus) which it uses to attach to solid surfaces. Zebra mussels can live in densities of over 700,000 individuals per square metre and form crusts of up to 15cm deep. This results in the occlusion or reduced capacity of pipes and tunnels of waterworks and cooling systems of power plants. In 2008 one UK water company removed 780 tonnes of zebra mussels from a 5km pipeline at a cost of £500,000. Zebra mussel fouling costs the UK water industry over £25m per year, and fouling of boat hulls and propellers results in increased drag and greater fuel consumption. In North America, where zebra mussels appeared in the 1980s, this pest is estimated to cost US$2bn per year, through its fouling of power plants, waterworks, and irrigation systems. Zebra mussels not only harm industry. They can soothe our native mussels leading to local extinctions. Their huge filtration capacity (a single zebra mussel can filter two litres of water each day) removes algae and sediments from the water column, driving invaded ecosystems towards a clear water state. This turns in results in dramatic and often unwanted changes to biodiversity.

Managing zebra mussels is not easy. The most widespread technique is to use chemotherapy. However, zebra mussels are clever and can sense such control agents in the water, closing their shells for up to three weeks to avoid exposure. Chlorine is also a major carcinogen when it reacts with organic material in the water. We have developed a simple and highly effective solution to this problem — the BioBullets. We encapsulate a control agent in a tasty coating that the mussels eat. The coating is just the right size and shape for the mussels to filter the water while retaining they have swallowed a poison pill. The mussels die straight away and any unseen material degrades within hours, meaning there is no harm caused to the wider environment. Our simple, patented solution has regulatory approval for use in UK drinking waters, and has been successfully tested in a number of UK waterworks as part of a £1.15m commercialisation grant. Our ‘green’ solution has won a number of awards, including the Ericet Medal for contributions to the environment. We have a manufacturing plant that can produce sufficient material to treat 2000 fouled waterways a year and we are looking to move into the USA this year.

Invasive species receive a lot of bad press, but my team is keen to embrace some of the positive effects that they might provide. We are currently working with the water industry to encourage zebra mussel growth in reservoirs that have already been invaded. By encouraging mussels to grow on ropes around intakes we can dramatically reduce the level of nuisance algae entering the waterworks. Harvested mussels can be fed to chickens, producing wonderfully yellow yolks, happy chickens and additional revenue.

As global trade continues to increase invasive species will become ever greater issue of concern. And what invader is next on the horizon for Britain’s freshwater? Well, we think it is something called the quagga mussel — the zebra mussel’s even naughtier brother. But don’t worry — BioBullets can kill them, too!
Follow @ivanscales on Twitter

The last five years have seen a rapid expansion in the cultivation of crops for biofuels, with foreign investors purchasing or leasing large amounts of land. This raises troubling questions about using precious land resources to produce fuel rather than food in areas that struggle to feed themselves. At present it is unclear how much of an impact biofuel investment is having on rural livelihoods. While much has been written on ‘land grabbing’ in the media, there is a dearth of empirical research on what is happening on the ground and the underlying political and economic dynamics.

The emerging politics of agriculture in Africa are complex, tying at the intersection of food security, energy security, and climate security. They involve a vast array of stakeholder groups, from smallholder farmers to governments, agribusiness, aid agencies, biotechnology firms and transnational capital. They raise the classic questions of political economy: who gains the benefits, who pays the costs and who controls the process? How will rural livelihoods be affected and what are the implications for food security? These are the questions driving my work in West Africa.

As the Nobel Prize winner Amartya Sen has argued, food shortages often occur not because there is not enough food to go around, but because people can’t access it. This happens either because food isn’t in the right places or because people can’t afford it. Food security is therefore not simply a question of total food production but also food distribution. Famines can be as much about market failure as they are about droughts, pests and crop failure.

Both the Gambia and Senegal have economies that are heavily reliant on the cultivation of peanuts as an export cash crop. This dates back to the colonial period (French in the case of Senegal and British in the case of The Gambia). Both nations are now trying to diversify agricultural production.

The most recent development in many parts of sub-Saharan Africa has been the promotion of biofuels. Advocates claim that biofuels will not only help ease demands for dwindling global supplies of fossil fuels and ‘decarbonise’ economies, but will also help rural farmers and African states produce valuable commodities. In 2006, Senegal’s president announced plans for the formation of ‘Pays Africains Non-Producteurs de Pétrole’, a group of 15 African nations aiming to reduce dependence on foreign oil and boost rural development by increasing biofuel production.

The apparent simplicity of the concept of parliamentary sovereignty is deceptive. Confronting these questions, as students of Constitutional Law must, facilitates the exploration, and a deeper appreciation, of the peculiarities of the UK’s constitutional arrangements. In most countries, such questions would be answered (at least at some level of abstraction) by a written constitution. In contrast, the absence of such a text in the UK means that there is inevitably a degree of ambiguity about the source and extent of Parliament’s authority to make law (and others’ obligations to recognise Parliament’s enactments as valid). Hence the lack of clear-cut answers to the questions sketched above, and the resulting headache for first-year law students seeking to come to terms with the idea of parliamentary sovereignty.

However, understanding the intricate niceties of this area of constitutional theory is arguably less critical than grasping two aspects of the wider context. First, the fact that Parliament is legally sovereign is made less important (perhaps even unimportant) by the fact that it is politically incapable of doing certain things. Even in the absence of legal restraint, egregious laws generally remain unenacted thanks to non-legal factors such as legislators’ own sense of morality and baser calculations of a purely political character. And, second, even if the UK’s Parliament is regarded as sovereign as a matter of national constitutional law, the UK, as a state, is subject to the constraining effect of international law. That explains why, for example, Parliament must change British law when it is found by the European Court of Human Rights to breach standards by which the UK is bound as a matter of international law. And so, in an increasingly interconnected legal world, the notion of parliamentary sovereignty begins to look somewhat parochial. This does not mean that new generations of Law students should not know about this feature of the British constitution — but it does make it imperative that they appreciate the bigger picture of which parliamentary sovereignty forms a part.

Anyone who has read Law will recall — sometimes with fascination, sometimes with horror — confronting the topic of parliamentary sovereignty early on in their study of Constitutional Law. The apparent simplicity of the concept is deceptive. The UK Parliament, it is said, has unlimited legal power; it can make any law it wishes. And the courts (it follows) have no authority to refuse to apply laws that Parliament has made.

Yet the more this proposition is examined, the more question-begging it becomes. For instance, if Parliament can really do anything, does that mean that it could destroy its own sovereignty by prohibiting future Parliaments from repealing a given law? May it give its sovereignty away — for example, by permanently relinquishing its legislative power in relation to a former territory or colony? And could it exercise its sovereign law-making power in a wholly oppressive way — making laws that undermined fundamental human rights or subverted the democratic system? Would the courts really consider themselves bound to enforce such a law?

Follow Dr Elliott on Twitter @DrMarkElliott
Men’s First XI football promoted to Premier League.

**RUGBY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MICHAELMAS</th>
<th></th>
<th>LENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Catz</td>
<td>13 – 14</td>
<td>Catz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sidney Sussex</td>
<td>5 – 33</td>
<td>Catz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Churchill</td>
<td>14 – 18</td>
<td>Catz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girton</td>
<td>0 – 31</td>
<td>Churchill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catz</td>
<td>0 – 50</td>
<td>Catz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girton</td>
<td>30 – 15</td>
<td>Girton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catz</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jesus</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robinson</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old Leysians</td>
<td>2 – 1</td>
<td>Catz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Downing</td>
<td>3 – 1</td>
<td>Catz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catz</td>
<td>3 – 1</td>
<td>Selwyn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catz</td>
<td>1 – 1</td>
<td>Jesus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robinson</td>
<td>0 – 0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christ's (Cuppers)</td>
<td>40 – 5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jesus</td>
<td>27 – 14</td>
<td>Catz (Cuppers)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catz</td>
<td>VS</td>
<td>Caius</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FOOTBALL**

**MENS**

St Catharine’s College Cambridge
CB2 1RL UK

T 01223 338 300
F 01223 338 340
W www.caths.cam.ac.uk

This newspaper uses an FSC certified woodfree offset paper.
The Society Reunion is the only occasion when all Members, from the oldest to the youngest, can return to St Catharine’s and enjoy the best that a weekend in Cambridge has to offer. The welcome extends to partners or guests, and Associate Members. The Reunion therefore is a gathering that spans generations and is a diverse mix of experience and memories, but all rooted in affection for a place and a community that has been a formative influence in our lives. I hope you will be there this September.

A special welcome is extended to those who started at College in years ending in "3" (1953, 1973, 1993, etc.), and to those who matriculated in 1960 — the same year as our Society President, Prof Tony Watts, who looks forward to meeting his contemporaries.

In addition to our normal festivities the Master has agreed to become our President for our 90th year, we will be using the newly opened McGrath Centre, and on the Sunday morning there will be the University’s Chariots of Fire Race in front of our own College!

David Peace (1966), Honorary Secretary, St Catharine’s College Society
BOOKING FORM

ST CATHARINE’S COLLEGE SOCIETY REUNION WEEKEND

21–22 SEPT 2013

100 rooms, mostly en suite, have been reserved and will be allocated on a first come first served basis. We are unable to accommodate Members in specific rooms but prior to 1 September we will endeavour to meet special requests, e.g. for ground floor rooms, as far as possible.

Please book online at www.caths.cam.ac.uk/events or by post using this booking form.

I/We would like to attend

☐ Seminar
☐ Annual Meeting
☐ Alumni Choir Practice

Booking

☐ £52.00pp Place(s) at dinner on Saturday night (price includes wines)

☐ £30.70pp Single room(s) and breakfast for Friday night

☐ £30.70pp Single room(s) and breakfast for Saturday night

Total enclosed £

I/We would like

☐ en-suite room(s)
☐ room(s) close to a lift

To book please complete this form then send it, with a cheque made payable to ‘St Catharine’s College’, to Charlotte Granville, Alumni & Development Office, St Catharine’s College, Cambridge CB2 1RL, enclosing an SAE if receipt is required.
### THE PROGRAMME

**ON SATURDAY 21 SEPTEMBER**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12.15</td>
<td>Committee meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.30</td>
<td>Seminar in the McGrath Centre — Colin Higgins, A history of the College Library through its collections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.30</td>
<td>Afternoon Tea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.15</td>
<td>Annual Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17.00</td>
<td>Choir Practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.00</td>
<td>Evensong, Chapel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.00</td>
<td>Pre-Dinner Drinks in the SCR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.30</td>
<td>Dinner in Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22.15</td>
<td>Social in the new College Bar</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition, there will be a Special Exhibition from the Library and Archival collections during the afternoon, and an opportunity to view the newly-opened McGrath Centre.

**ON SUNDAY 22 SEPTEMBER**

- Holy Communion
- Breakfast

The Chariots of Fire Race — can be viewed from College: some 200 relay teams racing round the Backs, Silver Street and Kings Parade during the morning

College Lunch available in Hall, payable at the desk

---

All bookings and queries will be handled by Charlotte Granville in the Alumni and Development Office.

T 01223 748164
E events@caths.cam.ac.uk