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FOR MEMBERS OF ST JOHN'S COLLEGE

The Eagle 2014



ST JOHN'S COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

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Photo: Lottie Ettling Photography

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Faces on the pinnacles of New Court.

Editorial

Welcome to *The Eagle* 2014.

Great stories are not hard to come by at St John's, and you will discover some fine examples in this issue. Rebecca Kenneison (1985) has written about the extraordinary life of Johnian Freddy Spencer Chapman, who was involved in special operations in South-east Asia during the Second World War. Visiting Scholar Dr Jian Yang describes the voyage of a precious Chinese musical work over land and sea, ending up in the College Library. And Katie Manning (2008) tells the story of her own journey as an undergraduate and postgraduate student parent at St John's.

Research under the spotlight in this issue includes a project led by Professor Richard Samworth (1996) to bring statistics to a wider audience. If you've ever wondered how many different types of Fellow there are and what they do, you will be enlightened by the 'spotter's guide' to the species by Dr John Leake (1958).

This year the editorial team has been bolstered by the addition of two students, Ed and Josh, who have represented the views of the junior membership, written content and managed several sections. The Editors have been indebted to them both for their suggestions, insights and hard work. The whole editorial team would like to thank the alumni, Fellows, students and College staff who have given their time to contribute to this issue.

Don't forget, *The Eagle* is also online at johnian.joh.cam.ac.uk/theeagle

Editors: Jennifer Baskerville, Alumni Relations Officer (Publications), and Mark Nicholls, Librarian and Head of Information Services and Systems.

Editorial Assistants: Ed Kendall (2012) and Josh Hinton (2012).

If you are interested in submitting an article for a future issue of *The Eagle*, or if you have an enquiry or some feedback, please email development@joh.cam.ac.uk or write to: *The Eagle*, Development Office, St John's College, Cambridge, CB2 1TP.



Message from the Master

There has been much to remember and many reasons for reflection during the course of the past year in St John's. As a College, we were very proud to be able to host the future King William V when he was in Cambridge taking a ten-week course on sustainable leadership. We were privileged to be invited to take part in the ceremonies marking the seventieth anniversary of the D-Day Landings in Normandy, and the College Choir sang beautifully at three extraordinarily moving events. Closer to home, we are all thrilled that the College has seen an increase of thirty-six per cent this year in undergraduate applications. And some fifteen new Fellows have been elected during the year who, along with a tremendous group of recently appointed College Research and Teaching Associates, will add vitality to all our academic activities.

In addition, a new Communications Office, headed by Tom Kirk, has been established to enable us to publicise our activities more widely and effectively. And we are delighted to have appointed Mark Wells, a Johnian of early 1980s vintage with wide experience as a CEO in the private sector, as our new Domestic Bursar. Mark succeeds Commodore John Harris, who has retired after thirteen years 'on the bridge', during which time he oversaw with tremendous success the greatest programme of building refurbishment that the College has ever undertaken. You can read about Commodore Harris's favourite College memories on page seventeen. From afar we have noted the retirement of Dr Manmohan Singh, a devoted Johnian of whom we are very proud, after ten years as Prime Minister of India. And we have mourned the passing of Dr Fred Sanger at the age of ninety-five – another loyal and exceptionally distinguished Johnian, and the only person ever to have been awarded two Nobel Prizes in Chemistry. An obituary appears on page 127 and a memorial service will be held in the College Chapel in November.

The academic year began in traditional style with the arrival of the latest cohort of Johnians, and we were able to welcome everyone in the newly refurbished and revitalised Divinity School, which has just collected an award for the best restoration of the year of any building in the Cambridge region. The Senior Tutor in particular impressed the new arrivals by taking out his mobile phone and explaining that the key technologies on which such ever more sophisticated devices are built were all (well, nearly all!) developed by Johnians. The Divinity School gives us a marvellous space in which to hold such events, and is the key



The Master takes his place amongst new Johnians for the traditional matriculation photograph in October 2013.

to our expanding admissions and access activities, which include traditional open days and now also ‘taster days’ where we can give a flavour of the excitement of individual subjects to those considering applying to study in Cambridge and particularly at St John’s.



Speaking at Donor Day in May 2014.
Photo: Lottie Etling Photography

The building also emphasises our commitment to creating an ever closer and more coherent College community. It stands on the edge of Corfield Court, which houses some forty of our graduate students close to the heart of the College, and breaks down yet further the barriers between the graduate and the undergraduate communities. Our new undergraduate accommodation model, which is now similar to that offered to graduate students, enables all undergraduates to keep their rooms from October to June, encouraging more interaction between the two communities. The Divinity School also plays host to an increasing number of academic meetings, as well as being a wonderful venue for educational summer schools and music courses. And of course many returning Johnnians find themselves being entertained within this

building. We hope that more and more alumni and their families will take advantage of our expanding bed and breakfast facilities over the summer vacations, and indeed make wider use of the College for their own events – such as anniversaries, reunions and other types of meeting. The College really is a lifetime resource for Johnnians, and not just for the all too short time that is spent as a ‘resident member’.

The activities of our undergraduate and graduate students never cease to amaze me, and I hope that this issue of *The Eagle* generates the same feeling in every Johnnian heart. Amongst other splendid achievements we note that the Cuppers rugby trophy is back this year in its rightful place within the College. The LMBC is in very good shape; the women’s first boat made two bumps in the Mays this year and the men’s first boat is still lying third on the river, waiting for its big chance next year! Participation in College and University sport remains a major

element in the lives of most students, and there are many other sporting successes to celebrate, as you will read in the Societies and sports section. Music and drama flourish at all levels, and it is very exciting to see that our splendid new auditorium is increasingly in demand for events organised both within and outside the College.

The academic year ended with a gloriously sunny day for General Admission. The week before, the May Ball Committee had triumphed again in organising yet another 'best ever' event, and we were suitably delighted by the remarks of Sir Ian McKellen, the day after the Ball, as he spoke to the assembled crowd at the Senate House on behalf of all those who had just received honorary degrees from the University. In the middle of his elegant speech Sir Ian broke off to remark, 'I saw the fireworks at St John's May Ball last night. They were spectacular and much better than those of Trinity the night before.' What more can one say?

This year over twenty-five per cent of St John's undergraduates were listed in the first class in their tripos examinations, and a remarkable number received University prizes for outstanding achievement. Our graduate students continue to excel in their courses and research projects; they too are a source of great pride. These successes reflect the ever increasing academic standards that we are now striving to achieve, in order to give our students the best possible start to their lives and careers in our rapidly changing and increasingly challenging world, but one with more opportunities than ever to make a real difference to humanity.

Finally, let me finish this brief introduction to another splendid issue of *The Eagle* with the statement that Mary and I have enjoyed enormously all the many functions that we are privileged to attend throughout the year. We are constantly inspired by our brilliant students, hugely grateful to our wonderful staff, thrilled by the achievements of our distinguished Fellows and delighted by the enthusiasm and generosity of returning Johnians. And we are tremendously appreciative of the many kindnesses that we receive every day from members of the diverse community of St John's, both within the College and in the wider world. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone associated with the College for making it such a very special institution that gives us enormous pleasure and a tremendous sense of pride.



Professor Christopher Dobson



The Tour de France swept through Cambridge city centre in July 2014 and the College Chapel tower provided a fantastic viewing point to see the peloton!
Photo: Kathryn McKee

ARTICLES

ARTICLES



ST JOHN'S COLLEGE
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Photo: Nic Marchant

Shipspace and Cambridge fashion

Commodore John Harris joined the Fellowship at St John's in 2000 as Domestic Bursar, and retired in April 2014.

When I joined the College in May 2000 after thirty-two years in the Royal Navy, a frequent question was whether I missed the Navy. The answer was that, after having been fortunate to command three submarines and a frigate, I missed going to sea, but the College had very many similarities with the Navy, so I felt at home very quickly. Both institutions have a strong sense of their own identity and history (although a navy as such has been around longer than the College!), have adapted with the times, and are 'people organisations' in that they depend very much on the qualities and skills of those who work there. They both have their own language, and I quickly learned about 'gyps' and 'bedders', while the College similarly adapted to 'going round the buoy' and 'hoisting in' various things. There were also two significant differences: discipline in the Navy is under the auspices of the Naval Discipline Act, which, when I joined, still had punishments such as 'death ... or any such lesser punishment as the Commanding Officer may decide', which is somewhat more draconian than the College's Statutes; and of course the food and wine in the College are immeasurably better!

I had much to learn, as my exposure to Cambridge had been limited to spending my wedding night in the University Arms after our wedding at my parents-in-law's farm outside Thaxted forty years ago. So there were early mistakes in not fully hoisting in the collegiate environment. One such incident involved the fitting of ultra-violet film to the windows in the Combination Room in order to prevent sun damage to the curtains. This seemed to me to be pretty straightforward so I made it so, only to have it pointed out to me that this required the approval of the Governing Body. At the relevant meeting I had to own up to my transgression, but since no member present could identify the windows on which the film was fitted, objections to its visibility were somewhat irrelevant and it is present to this day!

The visit of Her Majesty The Queen on 27 April 2011 was a particular highlight of my time, as I was naturally deeply involved in its planning and execution. The date was only approved shortly before Christmas 2010, which meant that time was short to flesh out the actual details of the visit, including liaising with the County, City and University authorities as to how their requirements could be

incorporated with those of the College. Once that was done, there were further complications in that the detailed programme for the day itself could not be promulgated until a matter of days before the visit, which was further compounded by the fact that this was only a day or so after the start of the Easter term. Given that the programme involved all senior and junior members and staff of the College, together with pupils from the College School, there was always the frisson as to whether everybody would be in the right place, at the right time, in the right dress. There was also the need to call in favours behind the scenes: the Commanding Officer of the Officers' Training Corps found (in typical Army style) a regimental band to play at the garden party, the helicopter pilot had to be prevailed upon to fly over the College with the Queen on board on departure, and there was the Royal Standard to procure. The search for a suitable implement for the Queen to cut the College's birthday cake went from the College's silver vault to my naval sword (which had done duty with our wedding cake and on commissioning ships and submarines), until it was finally agreed that Her Majesty would use an ivory-handled knife that had been a wedding present to my wife's grandparents. Needless to say the weather behaved itself, everybody was in the right place at the right time and correctly dressed and, apart from a police sniffer dog who fouled the carpet in the Combination Room shortly before the arrival of the royal party, all went well. It gave me enormous pride to see the Royal Standard flying over the Great Gate.

The other key highlight was being allowed to take on the refurbishment of the College's buildings. An early action was to commission surveys of the buildings, from which it was clear that refurbishment was required, and it is to the College's great credit that this was recognised, the funds obtained and the College's Maintenance Department entrusted to carry out these works – uniquely among any other college to my knowledge. This capability actually grew exponentially and from small beginnings, as the College team had already been in the process of conducting refurbishments of single staircases. From that it was a logical extension – although still a substantial increase in the scale and complexity – to move to refurbishing whole buildings, albeit in phases in order to be able to house the junior members who were displaced. This phased schedule had the added bonus of allowing us to learn about the technical and construction issues that arose, leading to a substantial saving in both time and money. This technique will result in the Cripps Building refurbishment being completed a year earlier than originally planned. The refurbishment of the Divinity School was on a different scale and complexity in the design, structural, archaeological and construction challenges – on a very cramped site – and again it is to the College's great credit that it allowed our team to undertake this work. More has been written on this project, but I speak for all the team when

I say it gives us pleasure every time we enter the building. I will never forget the sight of looking down into the excavations of the basement and seeing the number of whole skeletons awaiting retrieval. In all this I have been magnificently supported by the Superintendent of Buildings, Mr Steve Beeby, and all his team, who deserve enormous credit for giving the College a unique capability.

As I have approached my second retirement I have been asked whether I will miss the College. The answer is of course that I will miss the people. I have been enormously privileged to work with Fellows, junior members and staff across the years: the Fellows with their intellectual rigour, companionship and welcome; the junior members with their enthusiasm; and the staff with their ever cheerful and professional support in every aspect of the College's operations. However, I am honoured to have been elected a Fellow so I very much look forward to continuing to be associated with the College in the future, albeit in a more leisurely capacity, as after having lived in eleven different locations in forty years of marriage we do not intend to move again.

So I wish Mark Wells, my successor, well in his exciting role, and finish with my last Naval term in saying to him: 'You have the ship!'



Commodore John Harris



The gift of sight

Dr Miranda Buckle (2004) studied Medical Sciences as an undergraduate at St John's.



One million. That is the number of people who were blind in both eyes from cataracts in the province of Bihar, north-east India, in the year 2000.

50,000. That is the number of cataract operations that are performed each year at the Akhand Jyoti Eye Hospital (AJEH). To put this into context, in the UK hospital where I work, we perform around 4,500 cataract operations per year, and we are considered an efficient unit!

Thirty. That was the number of trainee optometrists in my class at AJEH, looking expectantly at me as I prepared to teach my first lecture in Ophthalmic Anatomy, Diseases and Examination Skills, when I visited AJEH in February.

Earlier in the year, while thinking about ways to use my skills abroad, I read a book titled *A runaway goat*, written about the hospital by one of its major charity supporters, Lucy Mathen, of Second Sight (www.secondsight.org.uk). I was immediately drawn to volunteer my skills at AJEH because I was so impressed with their sustainable programme of taking in students from the surrounding villages and apprenticing them to become optometrists, theatre assistants and health-care assistants.

Bihar is one of the poorest states in India, and very traditional. Many families cannot afford to send their children to secondary school (primary education is free) and so teenagers have to work, or are given in marriage, as parents cannot support them. Knowing that most of the female students I was teaching would have been married





before the age of eighteen if they had not been accepted into the hospital optometry course was very challenging for me. I was so happy to be contributing to their vocational education – an opportunity to become adults in their own right with skills and a sense of self.

There was a significant cultural gap between us; several times I was asked, hesitantly: ‘Are you the English surgeon?’ Because as a twenty-eight-year-old, mixed-race female, I didn’t exactly match their expectations! I struggled to find common ground with local women my age. Our life experiences

differed in terms of upbringing, education, gender equality, opportunities, family life, and employment. The list goes on.

When I wasn’t in the classroom, I was able to work with a few more advanced students in supervision-style groups. The students took turns to examine patients while I watched and gave advice on their examination technique or points to note in the examination. It was a chance for me to see some rather dramatic pathology, including multifocal choroiditis (inflammation of the choroid, which



is the layer behind the retina) with localised detachment and ‘fellow eye’ (preferred eye) traumatic corneal scarring. Many patients came to the clinic having previously lost vision in the fellow eye and had usually tried alternative remedies before coming to the clinic.

Patients were assessed in their communities and then brought to the hospital the day before their surgery. The staff at AJEH work incredibly hard six days a week, whether in an outpatient clinic seeing adults and children with eye problems, or in the operating theatre. The turnover of patients

was remarkable, with over 170 patients operated on daily by three surgeons (compared to sixteen per theatre per day in the UK). The fifteen surgeons at AJEH were skilled at cataract surgery using a technique known as sutureless extracapsular cataract extraction. It does not require electricity or expensive equipment. The technique is also very rapid in experienced hands, and so I watched in amazement as they were able to cure blindness by removing cataracts in less than five minutes flat! The surgeon would have two operating tables; auxiliary staff would prepare the next case while the surgeon operated, and he would swing the microscope across upon finishing, beginning the next case straight away. On prompting, I discovered that one of the surgeons had a personal best of 300 cataract operations in a single day! The surgeons all found the workload heavy physically, having to maintain operating posture for long periods of time.




I was able to learn the basics of sutureless extracapsular cataract extraction technique from Dr Ajit Poddar, the Medical Director at AJEH. First of all I practised on the model eyes that John Ferris (Cheltenham Ophthalmology Consultant) has developed. Then Dr Poddar demonstrated the steps of the technique slowly on a patient, and finally I was able to try my hand at the technique on a patient, with Dr Poddar sitting close by. I am happy to say that



my operation was successful, and I have since added a few more patients to the growing number that have been cured from blindness at AJEH.

I hope to practise ophthalmology in resource-poor settings once I have completed my training, and so I found the trip to AJEH very useful in seeing first-hand how a successful, sustainable charity

functions. I realised afresh how valuable it is to have committed team members with a united vision – in this case, AJEH staff were all committed to treating one million patients before 2020. I also realised that, despite surgery being my first love, I also love clinical teaching. This surprised me as during my university years I did everything possible to avoid supervisions, presentations and teaching! It is exciting to lay the foundations for future health-care workers. I would recommend a visit to AJEH for anyone who is interested in teaching English, Ophthalmology, Orthoptics or Optometry skills. 

Dr Miranda Buckle



John William Colenso (1814–83): archetypal heresiarch?

Dr Nathan MacDonald joined St John's as a Fellow in 2013, having previously worked at the University of St Andrews and the University of Göttingen. He is a College Lecturer in Theology and a University Lecturer in the Hebrew Bible.

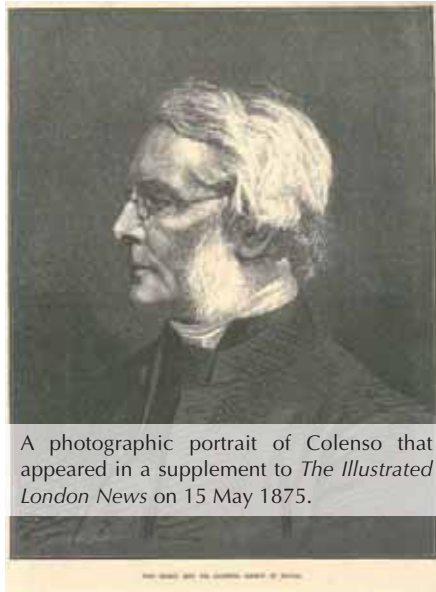
Though with a scornful wonder
Men see her sore opprest,
By schisms rent asunder,
By heretics distrest,
Yet Saints their watch are keeping,
Their cry goes up, 'How long?'
And soon the night of weeping
Shall be the morn of song.

On 24 January 2014 the College celebrated the life of John William Colenso on the 200th anniversary of his birth in a service of choral evensong. There was also a well-received exhibition on his life and times in the College Library. A courageous, liberal, humane individual, an intelligent scholar and a tireless defender of justice and truth, Bishop Colenso embodied many of the virtues that the College has sought to inculcate throughout its history. It is an injustice that Colenso is usually only recalled in the Christian Church as a faded allusion in Samuel Stone's hymn, 'The Church's One Foundation'. Apparently, it was the controversy around Colenso's universalistic theology and his historical-critical work on the Pentateuch that inspired the lines 'by schisms rent asunder / by heretics distrest'. For many in nineteenth-century England, Bishop Colenso was the archetypal heresiarch. Or, as poet and literary critic Matthew Arnold put it, 'that favourite Pontiff of the Philistines'.

A thumbnail sketch of Colenso's life would offer up no clue to explain this apparently contradictory perception. Born in Cornwall, he came up to St John's as a sizar,¹ eventually becoming Second Wrangler.² In 1837 he was elected a Fellow of the College, before leaving Cambridge in 1846 to marry and become vicar of Fornsett St Mary in Norfolk. In 1853 Colenso left England and was consecrated the first Bishop of Natal. He died in the bishop's residence thirty years later, half a year shy of his seventieth birthday.

The three decades as missionary bishop in southern Africa did not see Colenso disappear into obscurity, which beckoned most clergy flung to the farthest

reaches of the empire. Instead, on two separate occasions Colenso rose to public notoriety with views that antagonised his fellow colonialists and disconcerted the authorities in England. The first surrounded the publication of his works on the Bible in the early 1860s and led to his isolation in the Anglican Church. The second occurred when he championed the causes of the Hlubi and Ngwe tribes, and later the Zulus, in the 1870s and 1880s, support that eventually led to criticisms of the precipitous conduct of colonial officials and also to a deepening of Colenso's isolation in the colony of Natal.



A photographic portrait of Colenso that appeared in a supplement to *The Illustrated London News* on 15 May 1875.

While it might seem convenient to distinguish the religious controversialist from the political advocate, it is clear that both activities stemmed from Colenso's religious convictions. In the 1840s, partly through the influence of his future wife Frances Bunyon, Colenso came to embrace the romanticism of Samuel Taylor Coleridge and the universalist Frederick Denison Maurice. In this way Colenso left the evangelicalism of his youth for the broad church party. God was not found in the evangelical certainties of a literal reading of the Bible, but encountered in the subjective experience of all humanity. Armed with this theological perspective the young Colenso was able to hold together a belief in the scientific enterprise and a commitment to Christianity and the Church. Later in Natal these views meant Colenso could assess the contradictions and difficulties in the Bible without religious qualms, and they also explain his respect and openness towards native Africans.

Colenso began his time in Natal in controversial style by publishing a journal on his first visit to the colony: *Ten Weeks in Natal*. He expressed his unease with the hell-fire preaching of other missionaries and questioned the dissolution of polygamous relationships for new African converts. However, it was only with the publication of a commentary on Romans in 1861 that Robert Gray, the Bishop of Cape Town, felt he had no other option than to react. Colenso's commentary on Romans espoused a universalistic theology. The free grace of the Gospel did

not require faith to effect salvation; rather, faith was the joyful acceptance of what Christ had done. Christ's death was not a substitutionary sacrifice; rather, all humanity was taken up into Christ. As a result there was no such thing as eternal punishment, and the sacraments were a sign of the divine blessing bestowed, rather than essential for salvation.

In Cape Town, Gray believed his letters patent from the Crown gave him the authority to try Colenso for heresy. He did so and found Colenso guilty. Colenso meanwhile had travelled back to London and took his case to the Privy Council, at this point the final arbiter in ecclesiastical matters, which found that Gray had acted *ultra vires*. But by the time this judgment was made Colenso was courting further controversy by the publication of the first volume of *The Pentateuch and Joshua Critically Examined*. His frontal attack on the veracity of the Scriptures met with a furious response, and numerous replies were published seeking to rebut the heretical bishop. Any sympathy that Colenso might have received from the English clergy for his treatment by Gray was set to nought.

There is no doubt that Colenso's labours on the Pentateuch had been inspired by the publication in 1860 of the provocative broad-church salvo *Essays and Reviews*. Colenso was sure that a revolution in the Church's view of the Bible was taking place. Having become convinced that he had penetrated the truth of the matter, he appears to have found it difficult to understand the different perspectives, sensibilities and commitments of others. As a result the tone of the work was quite misjudged, as many of his friends warned him at the time. Although subsequent volumes were to make more positive contributions to the delineation of the different authors of the Pentateuch and the interpretation of different passages, the first volume was nothing more than a direct attack on the logical coherence and historicity of the Pentateuch. Colenso pursued a remorseless mathematical logic, demonstrating the Pentateuch's inconsistencies and the difficulties in understanding the narrative literally. It was an appeal to the common sense of the public, and, consequently, an affront to a Church that derived its authority from the Bible. It allowed him to be caricatured as the mathematician turned biblical interpreter, and it is hard not to escape the impression that he lacked a literary sensitivity, though in this he kept company with many other nineteenth-century interpreters.

The hostile reception of his work on the Pentateuch made Colenso's return to Natal not quite the triumph that legal victory in England should have ensured. Colenso's continued notoriety ensured that Gray felt compelled to maintain course. He excommunicated him and installed a new bishop in his place,

ensuring that the diocese of Natal was in schism for almost twenty years. Abandoned by the mission societies, which received most of their support from the High Church or Evangelical wings, Colenso could not afford to employ any clergy. Increasingly, he became the Queen's Bishop in name only, cutting a rather lonely and isolated figure. This loneliness only increased through the sympathy he showed to native Africans, which alienated him from most of the colonists in Natal.

It was friendship with native African leaders that was to lead to his return to the public eye. He took up the case of Langalibalele, king of the Hlubi, who had been banished to Robben Island after a travesty of a trial. Shortly afterwards Colenso got drawn into resisting the attempt to establish a federation in South Africa. The avaricious agenda of Natal officials led to the disastrous invasion of Zululand against the express wishes of London. Closer to the action, Colenso found himself frequently deceived as a pretext for war was created. By the time he realised what was afoot, Colenso was too late to prevent the inevitable conflict. Abandoning what little standing he retained with his fellow colonists, he was industrious in seeking the release of Cetshwayo, the Zulu king, and exposing the conduct of figures like Sir Theophilus Shepstone and Sir Bartle Frere. The textual analysis that Colenso had employed on the Pentateuch was put to good effect as he pored over official colonial reports, piecing them together with reports from Zulus and his knowledge of Zulu culture in order to provide a detailed criticism of colonial policy and action.

Critical though he was of his fellow colonists, and despite his sympathies for native Africans, Colenso remained committed to the imperial endeavour. Nevertheless, his belief that truth, mercy and justice embodied core British values was regularly disappointed by the empire's representatives in southern Africa. Ironically, the universalistic beliefs that allowed him to see the humanity and dignity of native Africans prevented him from recognising the disreputable ambitions and actions of his fellow countrymen until it was too late. Or, to put it in the terms of Christian theology, Colenso lacked a robust account of human sinfulness to set alongside his generous universalism.

Like so many missionaries before and since, Colenso was a pioneer rather than a leader. His Pentateuchal criticism was twenty years premature. He found almost no following and his name remained an opprobrium even after most of his observations had been widely accepted within the Church. In the affairs of Natal and Zululand he was often regarded in London and the colony as a meddling nuisance. For many years he was isolated within Natal with only his wife and

daughters as committed supporters. Yet despite all this we should not forget that he was rightly admired by the natives of Natal and Zululand. In their greatest times of need they turned to him for help. To them Colenso was *Sobantu* – father of the people.



Dr Nathan MacDonald

- 1 A 'sizar' is a student, often from a poorer background, who undertakes menial tasks such as waiting at High Table or specific cleaning, administrative or library duties in return for a reduction in fees.
- 2 A 'wrangler' is a Cambridge student who receives first-class honours in the third year of their undergraduate Mathematics degree. The highest-scoring student is the Senior Wrangler, the second highest is the Second Wrangler, and so on.



A *Vanity Fair* portrait of Bishop Colenso from 1874.

Sharing new life: altruism and IVF

Dr Kamal Ahuja (1977) studied for a Natural Sciences PhD at St John's. He is Managing Director of JD Healthcare Ltd and Chairman of Reproductive Healthcare Ltd, and is also a member of the College's Development Board – a group of Johnnians who offer advice and strategic insight on fundraising and alumni relations.

Just over ten years ago here in *The Eagle*, the then President of St John's College, the philosopher Professor Jane Heal, explored the idea that a good deed may be done for the wrong reason. In the spotlight of her reasoning were the benefactors of St John's College and the reasons why 'they did right when they supported and strengthened the College'. Were their motivations purely altruistic? Was their commitment only to knowledge and intellectual integrity? Of course, it may have been that the benefactors knew only too well that their gestures would be praised by one generation to the next, and thus that self-interest was just as strong a motivation as altruism. This 'genial self-interest view', Professor Heal proposed, assumes that for each of us 'our interest in the rich shared good derives wholly from our interest in the part we can play in it'.

Of course, one cannot say what lay behind the motivation of a benefactor from long ago, or indeed from recent years. Their reasons are likely to be too various for generalisation. But it is true to say that both the Benefactors' Scholarships of St John's College and the idea of genial self-interest have each shaped and dominated my own adult life. For I was the recipient of a Benefactors' Scholarship, which enabled not just my doctoral studies and later career but also an enduring association with St John's; this association culminated last year in a scientific meeting in College to celebrate the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine awarded to the reproductive biologist Professor Sir Robert Edwards.

Even when I began considering postgraduate studies back in the late 1970s, Bob Edwards towered over the science of reproduction like a colossus. Long before he and Patrick Steptoe pioneered the birth of the world's first test-tube baby, he had explained the mysteries of oocyte maturation (the timing of egg release from the ovary, the extrusion of both polar bodies) and actually achieved human fertilisation *in vitro*, a prelude to the birth of Louise Brown in 1978. For me, a young reproductive biologist studying in India, these were achievements of visionary inspiration.



Kamal in 1978 in front of the Marshall Laboratory, shortly after arriving in Cambridge.

So it was to Bob's Physiology Laboratory at the Downing site in Cambridge that I applied. And – remarkably to me as an undergraduate at the Banaras Hindu University, who had never left India – I was accepted, my research recorded as 'mammalian fertilisation' and my accommodation provided under the terms of my scholarship from 1 October 1977. That scholarship, of £1,475 per annum, which was said to 'follow the level of state studentship grants', also provided £100 per term payable to the College Office 'towards meeting bills which you may have'. The Senior Bursar further wrote to say that travel from Delhi to London ('at student rates') would be arranged by the College.

When I finally arrived in Cambridge I had £27 in my pockets, and in my two red suitcases was a stash of food supplied by my mother back home in Benares. I was hungry and cold – and anxious at the prospect of joining what was then the world's leading laboratory in reproductive science. The lab was, not surprisingly, a buzzing hive of enquiry and research. Everyone, including Bob himself and my own supervisor Professor C. R. 'Bunny' Austin, was wrapped up in their own projects, and had limited time, or laboratory space, for a young graduate student from India. There were just two incubators in the lab, and on most days neither was available to me before 3pm. So my day would usually start mid-afternoon, and end towards midnight – with sparse input from my supervisors. Progress was slow, but during my second year, with a further grant awarded from the Ford Foundation and with more tangible support from the lab, I began to make progress and set about experiments on the interactive mechanisms between the sperm cell and egg; this work would eventually add up to a catalogue of almost forty published papers, nine of which would make up the body of my PhD. Together, the thesis proposed: a model of how sperm 'capacitation' (an essential form of sperm maturation) works; that special molecules regulate sperm/egg

fertilisation; and a diagnostic method to assess the degree of maturity in different sperm populations. It was a fantastic end to almost five years in Cambridge, and – for me at least – testimony to the beneficence of the scholarship scheme.

My career would inevitably take me into reproductive medicine and into the burgeoning IVF clinics that the achievements of Edwards and Steptoe had inspired for the treatment of infertility – for infertility was now indeed amenable to treatment. And one group of infertile patients has defined my working life since then. There are many women who cannot conceive simply because their own store of ovarian eggs is depleted, often because of age or some dysfunction of the ovaries. Their only solution is an egg provided by someone else, in a fertility technique known as egg donation.

Despite an offer from Bob to stay on in Cambridge and accept a post at his private clinic, Bourn Hall, I settled in London; first at the Cromwell Hospital under the direction of Professor Ian Craft, and later as Scientific Director of the London Women's Clinic. However, it was while working at the Cromwell Hospital in the late 1980s that I encountered the first of a long catalogue of ethical challenges we faced over the donation of eggs for the treatment of others. Our first egg donation pregnancy was announced in 1990, when a patient at the Cromwell's satellite clinic in the north-east of England gave birth to a baby conceived from a donor egg. The forty-year-old Newcastle woman had made a public appeal for a donor, and one had come forward with an offer of help. She had agreed to take part for no other reason than she wanted to help another couple to have children.



End of term at the Marshall Laboratory in Cambridge, 1983. Bob Edwards (centre) is surrounded by research students, including Kamal (second from left) and many others who would go on to be noted figures in the progress of IVF.

But despite this isolated success, the shortage of egg donors continued, with little hope for the infertile women who needed donor eggs.

However, it was not egg donation that caused our next ethical challenges, but a similar technique in which a patient already having IVF gives some of the eggs collected during her treatment to another patient who has no eggs of her own. This technique of egg sharing helps solve two difficult problems at the same time: one faced by those women who have eggs but can't afford the cost of IVF treatment and the other by women who can afford the treatment but need donor eggs.

When the idea of egg sharing was first suggested to us, by three IVF patients, we immediately found it attractive, because donor eggs were simply not available. And why should they be? Egg donation literally meant giving eggs, and that meant drug treatment and hospitalisation to produce them, just as in conventional IVF. Not surprisingly, there were very few women at the time willing to undergo – out of pure altruism – the drug treatment and hospital procedures necessary to produce the eggs; so egg donation invariably meant asking the patient to find a donor, or advertising. Neither was very appealing, to donor or patient alike, and egg donation – despite progress in its clinical application – remained a backwater treatment, indicated for a very small group of infertility patients and frustrated in its appeal by a paucity of donor eggs.

Yet here, out of the blue, came the idea of egg sharing and the possibility that the shortage of egg donors



Kamal in 1983, on the verge of completing his PhD.

could be resolved. We could see few objections to egg sharing. It would reduce egg wastage – in normal treatment as many as fifteen eggs can be retrieved at egg collection, and, although some can be fertilised and frozen for future use, many are wasted. It would match one woman's surplus with another woman's shortage of eggs. It would remove dependence on the donation of non-patients. And most importantly, we thought, it would work to the mutual benefit of both parties and promote 'practical altruism'.

The authorities, however, thought otherwise. Their first concerns arose from an interpretation of the 1990 Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act (HFEA) and its accompanying Code of Practice for fertility clinics, which specifically declared 'that no money or other benefit shall be given or received in respect of any supply of gametes [eggs and sperm] or embryos'. What concerned the authorities, other clinics and even us, was that subsidised IVF treatment in return for donating a random portion of eggs could be seen as 'payment'.

Another criticism – which was scotched by subsequent studies – was that egg sharing favoured the recipient. Study results have consistently shown that the success of egg donation treatment depends more on the age of the egg donor than the recipient. Indeed, the key to successful treatment with egg donation – especially in patients of an older maternal age – lies in the fact that the uterus of recipients seems receptive to the implantation of an embryo whatever their age, while the quality of eggs and subsequent embryos declines as women grow older.

The controversies were not finally resolved until 2004, when a review for the HFEA concluded that 'egg sharers were not motivated by money', but rather – as we had claimed all along – by a desire to help. This was a positive act of mutual, practical altruism, not unlike Professor Heal's idea of 'genial self-interest'.


There are now many clinics throughout the world offering egg-sharing schemes. Their results – like those of the London Women's Clinic – reveal few differences when compared to the live birth rates achieved in donors and recipients. At last, egg sharing has entered the mainstream of fertility treatment. And studies also show that many women choose egg sharing because they want to help other women to have children of their own.

So today egg sharing is far removed from any concept of 'eggs for sale' or 'trade' in eggs. Indeed, egg-sharing arrangements have been approved as legitimate practice by the HFEA, which has also laid down strict regulations to prevent any exploitation and to make the procedure transparent for both donors and recipients. A study performed in 2012 by the Centre for Family Research in Cambridge found that the main motivation for all egg sharers was the desire to have a baby. However, there were many other motivations for donors, notably

cheaper IVF treatment, but also the desire to help someone else have a child. Although many recipients felt that this was their last chance to have a child, they too were motivated by the desire to help another in the process.

Payment to non-patient donors, of course, may be a factor in some economies. In the US, where fertility treatment operates entirely in a commercial market, there are stories of young, well-educated donors being paid up to \$10,000, but in Britain a 'compensation' fee of £750 simply ensures that egg donors are not out of pocket. Indeed, a recent study of egg donors in Europe found that altruism was the most frequent motivation; there were financial motives, but predominantly in poorer countries and in younger age groups. Moreover, as one of the investigators said, the fact that a donor receives compensation does not mean that she is motivated by that money. My own view is that any increased payments to egg donors may well encourage healthy, young women who don't need fertility treatment to become risk-taking 'patients' who do. Egg sharing, by contrast, relies exclusively on real patient (and not non-patient) volunteers.

The ethical debates around modern fertility treatment were clearly seen by Robert Edwards. Indeed, even before the birth of Louise Brown it was Bob who led many of those debates on the moral predicaments that these new technologies might produce, and supported the findings of the committee that paved the way for our current legislation in IVF and embryology. Religious leaders, ethicists and scientists insisted that Bob's work was unethical and grants were refused on the grounds of immorality. Yet none of this deterred him.

Today, with five million babies born, IVF clinics in most corners of the world, and complete public acceptability, there are few who must fight the battles that were fought three decades ago. Yet the circumstances of today are those that were shaped by people with the determination and vision to secure the place of IVF in modern medicine. 

Dr Kamal Ahuja

Freddy Spencer Chapman: from John's to the jungle



Rebecca Kenneison (1985) studied Geography as an undergraduate at St John's. She is currently working on a PhD at the University of Essex on the role of the Special Operations Executive's Force 136 in Malaya during the Second World War, and the impact of the intelligence thus gathered on British counter-insurgency during the Malayan Emergency. She is the author of *Playing for Malaya: A Eurasian Family in the Pacific War*.

In the middle of 1929 a young man went down from St John's in some discontent, having been awarded a Third in his finals. This result would bother him for the rest of his life but, when set against his other accomplishments, it fades into insignificance. His name was Freddy Spencer Chapman; observant, intelligent, highly articulate and mercurial of character, he would leave behind him a body of writing that attests to an extraordinary life.

His mother died within a few weeks of his birth in 1907. His father left England to farm in Canada, and was killed on the Somme in 1916, and Freddy and his brother were reared first by relatives and then by guardians. By the time he left his prep school, Freddy regarded organised sports as 'a waste of a fine afternoon'; fortunately for him, during his teenage years an enlightened housemaster let him off cricket provided he made good use of his time. Freddy, a keen naturalist, revelled in the opportunity thus presented, collecting wild flowers and birds' eggs. Willing to push himself to his physical limits, he also taught himself compass navigation and explored the fells around the school, laying the foundations of the fieldcraft that would later be key to his survival. In 1926 he arrived at St John's and was billeted in F1, Third Court.

While at College he developed an interest in climbing, tackling such ascents as the West Face of Third Court and – he was defeated here by bad weather – the Chapel Tower. It was via a climbing connection that, in 1930, he was invited to join an expedition to Greenland, the aims of which were to take meteorological readings to establish the viability of an Arctic air route between Europe and

America and to carry out some early mapping work. The expedition built a good rapport with the local Inuit and learned from them about Arctic survival. Nonetheless – even though they weighed the risks and benefits – theirs was a dangerous undertaking; on one journey, to relieve a member of the party stranded at the weather station on the ice cap, rations ran so short that some of the sled dogs had to be fed to the others. Freddy loved his time in Greenland and returned for a follow-up expedition in 1932.

Needing an income, Freddy turned to schoolmastering between his various adventures, and was generally an inspiring and popular teacher. Yet, despite his accomplishments, he considered that he had an inferiority complex, and he was prone to bouts of depression. Nonetheless, he radiated self-confidence, and it was perhaps this that landed him a job as a private secretary on a British Mission to Tibet in 1936. He had taken some time off work to go climbing in India, and the Tibet trip was an unexpected bonus. He also became the mission's photographer, capturing images of a feudal, distant Tibet.

Freddy was able to obtain permission from both the Tibetans and the Maharajah of Bhutan to climb Chomolhari, a mountain lying on the border between the two countries. After a fearsome climb, he and his Sherpa companion, Pasang Dawa



Members of the MPAJA 5th Regiment parade in Slim River, September 1945.
Photo courtesy of C. E. Foss.

Lama, became the first men ever to reach the summit.¹ The descent was even worse, a series of near-disasters beginning with a long fall down snow and ice towards a precipice, arrested only by ice-axe after several attempts. Freddy's grim determination came into play through the difficulties that followed, and Pasang later credited him with getting them off the mountain. Freddy had first ventured into print with a book about Greenland; now his travels to India and Tibet resulted in another book, several climbing articles and a lecture tour.

By the late 1930s Freddy – now working at Gordonstoun – was among the many who were concerned that war was brewing. He joined the Seaforth Highlanders as a territorial, and once war was declared his experience in Greenland saw him moved to a ski battalion. However, when Finland capitulated, the battalion was disbanded, and Freddy became an instructor at a training centre, Lochailort, about thirty miles from Fort William. The demolitions instructor, Jim Gavin, had been a company commander in the ski battalion, so he and Freddy must have already known each other. Their job was to prepare men for commando operations, though Freddy felt that regular soldiers were not ideal for irregular operations. Probably as a result of this, some of the men found him aloof, and perhaps ascribed this to snobbery. Yet Freddy was no snob: he didn't like looking down any more than he liked being looked down upon. Always aware of how people treated other people, in India he had disliked the way some Europeans behaved towards the Indians. It was said of him at this time: 'He talked like a liberal and acted like an anarchist.'

His independence of mind suited him to special operations, and to readying men for them. From Lochailort he transferred to Australia, to a very similar job, but in September 1941 he moved on, for Jim Gavin, now running a training school, 101STS, in Singapore, had asked for Freddy to be his second-in-command.

101STS was a part of Oriental Mission, which was the first move of the Special Operations Executive (SOE) into East Asia.² Oriental Mission's remit was to lay the groundwork for special operations, lest Japan enter the war, and it enjoyed several successes during the course of its short life. The levies it raised in Burma delayed the Japanese advance by over a week; three years later, these same levies played a key role in the recapture of Rangoon. Oriental Mission also organised an intelligence link out of China, which operated for the duration of the war. Yet it is better known for its failures, particularly its inability to convince both the military and the civil authorities in Malaya of the wisdom of forming ethnically mixed 'stay-behind parties', ready to be inserted into the jungle in the event of an invasion to harry enemy troops behind their front line. Of course, as we know, Japan invaded Malaya in early December 1941, and suddenly Oriental Mission's ideas found favour.

However, it was too late for the careful recruitment of mixed groups, with ideal campsites and well-concealed dumps of stores. Everything had to be done in a frantic rush, in the teeth of the rapid Japanese advance. One of the first jobs was to obtain intelligence to assess what would be feasible, so at Christmas 1941, accompanied by a member of the Federated Malay States Volunteer Force, Freddy – helped by the Volunteer’s local knowledge – carried out a reconnaissance behind Japanese lines.³ Freddy reported back that ample opportunities would exist for stay-behind parties to harass the advancing Japanese. He was keen to take part himself.

European and Chinese stay-behind parties were recruited, trained and inserted. The European parties often contained one or two local Asians alongside half a dozen Europeans with long Malayan experience. The Chinese were members of the previously proscribed Malayan Communist Party, and their remit was to form guerrilla units in the jungles. Freddy found these young communists to be excellent guerrilla material and, as he trained them, he showed them a scar behind his knee: ‘If you ever need to identify me,’ he said, ‘look for this.’ Due to the speed of the Japanese advance, the pace of training was frenetic and in January 1942 Freddy entered the jungle with a European group. He would remain there for more than three years.

This is the story told, in detail, in what is perhaps his best-known book, *The Jungle is Neutral*. For a few weeks – ‘the mad fortnight’ – Freddy’s party caused havoc: blowing up bridges, derailing trains and ambushing Japanese convoys, conclusively proving that the initial, rejected scheme would have been highly effective. After Singapore fell, Freddy and his companions, with the help of the Chinese guerrillas of the Malayan People’s Anti-Japanese Army (MPAJA), made a break for the coast, but this ended in disaster, with most of the group being taken prisoner. For much of the rest of the war, Freddy lived with the MPAJA, evading the Japanese. His contacts from 101STS stood him in good stead; early in his time in the jungle, he was roused from sleep by someone pulling off his blanket and searching for that scar behind his knee.

Freddy did his best to be a ‘good comrade’, training the guerrillas in the use of their assorted weapons and in basic military techniques such as ambush, and at various times he produced posters and news-sheets. Although he was often ill – the diet was poor and malaria endemic – he was sometimes so bored and restless that he set off on long jungle journeys to visit distant guerrilla camps, enduring extreme physical hardship along the way. On one of these journeys he was captured by the Japanese, but he managed to escape by wriggling out of a tent in the night.

For an outsider, he had an unparalleled knowledge of the MPAJA. He understood its structure – the guerrillas in the jungle supported by helpers in the villages along the jungle fringe – as well as its day-to-day routines, and its stress on political instruction.

At the end of 1943 the guerrillas brought him into a camp in Perak, in the north of the country, where several operatives of the SOE's Asian arm, Force 136, were in residence; they had arrived in Malaya by submarine. They were struggling to achieve radio contact with South East Asia Command in Ceylon. Once this was accomplished, they were keen to get Freddy out, for he was seen as a valuable source of intelligence that would help with the planning and prosecution of the expected military reconquest of Malaya from the Japanese. The report that Freddy wrote, after he arrived in Ceylon by submarine, is detailed and precise. Looking back on what he said then, with the benefit of decades of hindsight and access to the memoirs and reports of dozens of other people, one has the impression of a man who rarely missed a trick. This was also the impression he gave at the time. George Hess'e, a young Eurasian engineer and a reluctant guest of the



Tibetan dignitaries descend from the Potala at Tibetan New Year. Photo taken by Freddy Spencer Chapman. Photo courtesy of Pitt Rivers Museum, University of Oxford, 1998.157.91.



Freddy with his wife Faith Townson on their wedding day.
Photo courtesy of Nick Spencer Chapman.

MPAJA, encountered Freddy in central Selangor. He said of him that 'he had those eyes that one could not tell lies to', and that his manner of speaking 'was the only slow thing about him'. He found Freddy both charming and ruthless, with 'a retentive mind'.

This retentive mind is evident in the long report that Freddy wrote following his exfiltration. It is immensely detailed and at the same time analytical, clearly and logically laid out. Reading it, with the Malayan Emergency in mind, is a rather daunting experience, for much of what Freddy noted then prefigured what was to come. In general, he liked the guerrillas, and he believed that they would help the British in the short term, but now and then some mistrust of them seeps through. At one point, he describes how they told him that they had been fighting bandits, around Gua Musang in the northern state of Kelantan, but Freddy has 'bandits' in inverted commas, as if he doesn't quite believe them. Indeed, he was right not to, for other accounts make it clear that these 'bandits' were also guerrillas – but allied to the communists' hated rivals, the Guomindang.

He noted too the desire of the leadership for a Malayan Republic – a desire which ultimately fed into the unrest that sparked the Emergency, which was declared in 1948. It was clear to him that the MPAJA was almost entirely Chinese in its ethnic composition, although Malays formed almost half of the country's population. Indeed, this was to prove one of the failings of the Malayan communists during the Emergency: the Malays identified them with the Chinese, they were scared of Chinese domination, and thus they were prepared to side with the British to resist them. Another weakness identified by Freddy – and subsequently by those involved in counter-insurgency during the Emergency – was the vulnerability of food supply lines. Food was always short within the jungle, leading to dietary deficiencies that left those who suffered them vulnerable to jungle ulcers, scabies and the worst ravages of malaria. The Japanese, Freddy noted, worked out that it was more effective to strangle a guerrilla camp's food lines than to attack it directly; this was, in essence, the approach eventually taken by the British during the Emergency. To read about counter-insurgency during the Emergency is to be reminded, at frequent intervals, of the observations made by Freddy in that long report.

In the aftermath of the war he married, returned to teaching, and had three children. He never lost his taste for adventure, nor his independence of mind. In *The Jungle is Neutral*, he was blunt about Malaya Command's attitudes towards special operations in 1941; this did not make him popular with Lieutenant-General Arthur Percival, one of those who had scotched the plans for the stay-behind parties, and the two entered into a pithy correspondence, with Freddy refusing to back down. In the late 1950s, when he was working as a headmaster in South Africa, he was critical of the development of apartheid and in June 1961, on the day that South Africa left the Commonwealth, Freddy resigned, even

though he had young children and no plans for the future. He felt, he said, that South Africa was developing along the same lines as Nazi Germany had done.

By the mid-1960s, Freddy was the warden of one of the halls at the University of Reading. In 1971 he asked to be allowed to stay on for an extra year, beyond his sixty-fifth birthday. This request was rejected and he became increasingly anxious about his future direction. Since his undergraduate days, Freddy's depressive moods had manifested themselves in digestive upsets, and these recurred with great intensity. Back problems, which had bothered him for years, also flared up again, and he worried that he was heading for complete physical collapse. On 7 August his doctor prescribed a course of anti-depressants; perhaps this step was taken too late for, the following day, he killed himself.

It is a platitude to say that this was a tragic end for a remarkable man, but it is nonetheless true. The first hymn sung at his memorial service was 'Who would true valour see'. It was nothing if not appropriate.

The information in this article is sourced from Freddy's own book, *The Jungle is Neutral*; Freddy's private papers at the Imperial War Museum; Ralph Barker, *One Man's Jungle*; Brian Moynahan, *Jungle Soldier*; reports on files held at the National Archives (Freddy's exfiltration report on HS1/109; the History of Oriental Mission on HS1/207; information on the Guomindang guerrillas in the report by J. K. Creer on HS1/121); records held by the College; and an interview and emails with George Hess'e. I would like to thank Freddy's son, Nick Spencer Chapman, for his input.



Rebecca Kenneison

- 1 Pasang Dawa Lama went on to work with Sir Edmund Hillary in the 1950s.
- 2 The SOE in Asia was known, eventually, as Force 136, and operated as part of South East Asia Command.
- 3 The Malayan Volunteers operated much like the Territorial Army, and included Europeans, Malays, Chinese and Eurasians.

Big Data: a new era for statistics

Richard Samworth (1996) is a Professor of Statistics in the University's Statistical Laboratory, and has been a Fellow of St John's since 2003. In 2012 he was awarded a five-year Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council Early Career Fellowship – a grant worth £1.2 million – to study 'New challenges in high-dimensional statistical inference'. This year, he was elected a Fellow of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics.

'Big Data' is all the rage in the media these days. Few people seem to be able to define exactly what they mean by it, but there is nevertheless consensus that in fields as diverse as genetics, medical imaging, astronomy, social networks and commerce, to name but a few, modern technology allows the collection and storage of data on scales unimaginable only a decade ago. Such a data deluge creates a huge range of challenges and opportunities for statisticians, and the subject is currently undergoing an exciting period of rapid growth and development. Hal Varian, Chief Economist at Google, famously said in 2009, 'I keep saying the sexy job in the next ten years will be statisticians.' This might raise eyebrows among those more familiar with Mark Twain's 'lies, damned lies and statistics', but there's no doubt that recent high-profile success stories such as Nate Silver's predictions of the 2012 US presidential election have given statisticians a welcome image makeover.

Let me begin by describing a simple, traditional statistical problem, in order to contrast it with today's situation. In the 1920s an experiment was carried out to understand the relationship between a car's initial speed, x , and its stopping distance, y . The stopping distances of fifty cars, having a range of different initial speeds, were measured and are plotted in Figure 1(a). Our understanding of the physics of car braking suggests that y ought to depend on x in a quadratic way, though from the figure we see that we can't expect an exact fit to the data. We therefore model the relationship as

$$y = ax + bx^2 + \varepsilon$$

where ε represents the statistical error. Our aim is to estimate the unknown 'parameters' a and b , which reflect the strength of the dependence of y on each of x and x^2 . Here we don't need to include a constant term in the quadratic, because a car with zero initial speed doesn't take long to stop.

We would like to choose our estimates of a and b in such a way that the curve $ax + bx^2$ reflects the trend seen in the data. For any such curve, we can imagine

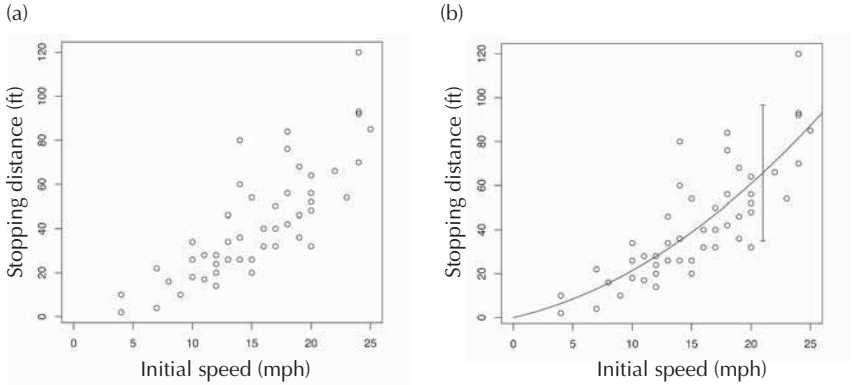


Figure 1: Panel (a) gives the stopping distances of 50 cars having a range of different initial speeds. Panel (b) also shows the fitted curve, as well as a 95 per cent prediction interval for the stopping distance of a car having an initial speed of 21 mph.

drawing vertical lines from each data point to the curve, and a standard way to estimate a and b is to choose them to minimise the sum of the squares of the lengths of these lines. For a statistician, this is a straightforward problem to solve, yielding estimates $\hat{a} = 1.24$ and $\hat{b} = 0.09$ of a and b respectively, and the fitted curve displayed in Figure 1(b). From this, we can predict that a car with an initial speed of 21 mph would take 65.8 feet to stop. In fact, we can also quantify the uncertainty in this prediction: with 95 per cent probability, a car with this initial speed would take between 34.9 feet and 96.6 feet to stop. (Incidentally, a modern car would typically take around 43 feet to stop at that initial speed.)

Of course, one can easily imagine that the stopping distance of a car would depend on many factors that weren't recorded in this experiment: the weather and tyre conditions, the state of the road, the make of car, and so on. Such additional information should allow us to refine our model, and make more accurate predictions, with less uncertainty.

My point is that, by contrast with the 1920s, in today's world we can often record a whole raft of variables whose values may influence the 'response' of interest. In genetics, for instance, microarrays (see Figure 2) are used in laboratories to measure simultaneously the expression levels of many thousands of genes in order to study the effects of a treatment or disease. An initial statistical model analogous to our car model, then, would require at least one variable for each gene. Interestingly, for microarray data, there may still be only around fifty replications of the experiment, though many other modern applications have vast numbers of replications too. Suddenly, estimating the unknown parameters

in the model is not so easy. The method of least squares we used with our car data, for example, can't be used when we have more variables than replications. What saves us here is a belief in what is often called 'sparsity': most of the genes should be irrelevant for the particular treatment or disease under study. The statistical challenge, then, is that of 'variable selection' – which variables do I need in my model, and which can I safely discard?

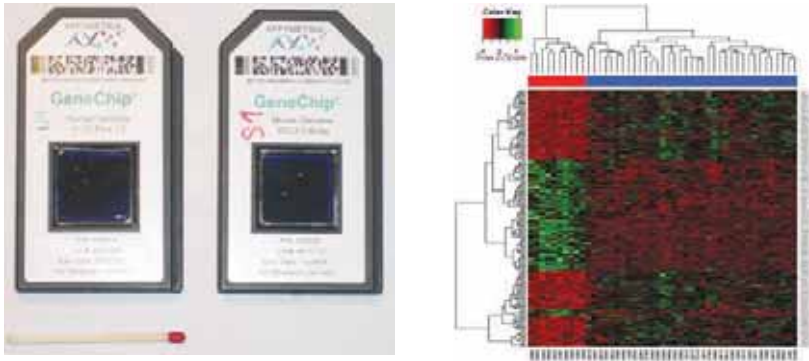


Figure 2: The left panel shows a photograph of a typical microarray. The right panel shows the complexity of the output from a typical microarray experiment.

Many methods for finding these few important needles among the huge haystack of variables have been proposed over the last two decades. One could simply look for variables that are highly correlated with the response, or use the exotically named 'Lasso' (Tibshirani, 1996), which can be regarded as a modification of the least squares estimate. In Shah and Samworth (2013), we gave a very general method for improving the performance of any existing variable selection method: instead of applying it once to the whole data set, we showed that there are advantages to applying it to several random subsamples of the data, each of half the original sample size, eventually choosing the variables that are chosen on a high proportion of the subsamples. We were able to prove bounds that allow the practitioner to choose the threshold for this proportion in order to control the trade-off between 'false negatives' and 'false positives'.

Another problem I've worked on recently is 'classification'. Imagine that a doctor wants to diagnose diabetes. On a sample of diabetics, she makes measurements that she thinks are relevant for determining whether or not someone has the disease. She also makes the same measurements on a sample of non-diabetics. So, when a new patient arrives for diagnosis, she again takes the same measurements. On what basis should she classify (diagnose) the new individual as coming from the diabetic or non-diabetic population? From a statistical point

of view, the problem is the same as that encountered by banks that have to decide whether or not to give someone a loan, or an email filter that has to decide whether a message is genuine or spam.

One can imagine that an experienced doctor might have a notion of distance between any two individuals' sets of measurements. So, one very simple method of classification would be to assign the new patient to the group of his nearest neighbour (i.e. the person closest according to the doctor's distance) among all n people, say, in our clinical trial. Intuitively, however, we might feel there was too much chance about whether or not the nearest neighbour happened to be diabetic, so a slightly more sophisticated procedure would look at the patient's k nearest neighbours, and would assign him to the population having at least half of those k nearest neighbours. In Hall, Park and Samworth (2008), we derived the optimal choice of k , in the sense of minimising the probability of misclassifying the new individual. For those interested, it should be chosen proportional to $n^{4/(d+4)}$, where d is the number of measurements made on each individual.

An obvious drawback of the k -nearest neighbour classifier is that it gives equal importance to the group associated with the nearest neighbour as it does the k th nearest neighbour. This observation prompts us to consider weighted nearest neighbours, with weights that decay as one moves further from the individual to be classified. In Samworth (2012), I derived the optimal weighting scheme, as well as a formula for the improvement attainable over the unweighted k nearest neighbour classifier. It is between a 5 and 10 per cent improvement when $d \leq 15$, which might not seem like much, until it's you that requires the diagnosis!

Five years ago, I set up the Statistics Clinic, where once a fortnight any member of the University can come and receive advice on their statistical problems from one of a team of helpers (mainly my PhD students and postdocs). The sheer range of subjects covered and the diversity of problems they present to us provide convincing evidence that statistics is finally being recognised for its importance in making rational decisions in an uncertain world. The twenty-first century is undoubtedly the information age – even Mark Twain would agree!



Professor Richard J. Samworth

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A Johnian in Japan

Robert Hirst (1967) is Chairman of FinTech Global Incorporated, an investment bank in Tokyo.

I came up to St John's in 1967 on a scholarship to study Classics with the vague idea of a career in academia afterwards. No one could have guessed, least of all myself, that forty-seven years later I would be the chairman of (and the only non-Japanese person in) a wholly Japanese financial institution listed on the Tokyo Stock Exchange, and focused very much on domestic Japanese business.

My involvement with Japan dates back to 1971 when I spent two months in Tokyo as a summer intern with NTT, Japan's public phone company as it then was. The internship fitted neatly between the first and second years of the MBA course I was taking at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, which I had embarked upon straight after graduating from Cambridge, the appeal of business having won out over academia. The appeal of Tokyo also won out over New York or London, where many of my fellow MBA classmates chose to do summer internships. Back then, before the advent of gap years and budget air fares, Asia was for most Europeans a faraway place, and the powerhouse of Asia in those days was Japan – different, exotic, at times scary and to most 'Westerners' quite inscrutable. For me that was part of the appeal. I was also drawn to the dynamism and energy I saw in Japan, which contrasted sharply with the mood in the UK at that time, where industry seemed to be in permanent decline and strikes and industrial action were an everyday occurrence. Japan in those days was dominant in steel production, shipbuilding, consumer electronics and photographic equipment, and its car industry was also beginning to take off. The Japanese people I met seemed conscientious, hard-working, honest, welcoming, generous and polite, and in a very nice way were as curious about me as I was about them. There didn't seem to be anything particularly inscrutable in any of that. In short, I had a memorable two months and became hooked on Japan and the idea of making my business career there.

And so, at the end of my two years at Wharton, I turned down job offers in the US and UK and headed back to Tokyo to embark on an intensive one-year course in Japanese. At the end of that I had a job offer from a major US bank that had just opened a Tokyo branch, and a charming Japanese lady who had agreed to marry me. International marriages, as the Japanese like to call them, were far less common then than they are now. Outside the more cosmopolitan parts of Tokyo, foreigners were rare and constantly subjected to stares by young and old, and international marriages were not good for one's career, warned my old boss from my NTT internship. I suffered no adverse consequences from ignoring his advice.

After five years in Tokyo I was transferred by the bank to its New York head office to work on the Japanese desk there. It was not nearly as much fun as Tokyo had been. Within a year I left to join the World Bank group in Washington DC, where for five years I worked on private sector project finance transactions in South and East Asia. My job involved a lot of travel, with Tokyo a frequent stopover destination. I maintained my contacts there and thanks to an ex World Bank colleague was wooed back to Tokyo in 1983 to work in a new, pioneering area of finance called derivatives. These were exciting days when currency and interest rate swaps were in their infancy and derivatives were still legitimate tools used to mitigate genuine foreign exchange and interest rate risk. Japanese financial institutions were slow to master the techniques required to manage derivatives, so they outsourced the work to a handful of US and European banks. I was thus kept very busy. I was well paid for my efforts and well known to the Japanese institutions that used our services.

In the mid-1990s the derivatives market expanded from Japan to other Asian countries that were beginning to take off just as Japan's economy went into reverse. I thus found myself in Hong Kong for a six-year break from Japan. This coincided with the 1997 handover of Hong Kong to China and the beginning of China's own boom years. Meanwhile, Japan was left treading water as deflation eroded business and consumer confidence, and the manufacturing industry moved offshore to take advantage of lower wages in other parts of Asia, notably China. The derivatives business had also changed, with ever more exotic (and dangerous) products being devised. It was time to do something else. An advisory role at a Japanese investment banking boutique with which I had previously done business led to a seat on the board soon after the company went public. Chairmanship of the board followed a year or two later. And I am still there in true Japanese style, where, in long-lived Japan, it is not unusual to meet company chairmen in their seventies and eighties. So on that basis I still have a few years to go, and, thanks in part to 'Abenomics' – the economic policies of Japanese Prime Minister Shinzō Abe – the Japanese economy finally seems to be perking up. I have never been busier, for, even as chairman, I am actively involved in the day-to-day running of the company. Current projects include a theme park we are establishing in Japan for the Moomins – fictional characters created by the late Finnish artist and writer, Tove Jansson, the centenary of whose birth is celebrated this year. Then there are several new start-up ventures in 3D scanning for medical and commercial applications; biomass electricity generating plants that, if the technology works as well as we hope, will leach out radiation from soil polluted by the Fukushima nuclear accident; and a novel way of transporting meat, fish and other perishables without the need for refrigerated vehicles.



Robert is representative director on his company's project to create a Moomin theme park in Japan.



Robert's garden combines the best of traditional British and Japanese elements.

Last year our group helped a Cambridge-based company involved in geo-spatial positioning, which I met through the Cambridge University Enterprise Unit on one of my periodic pilgrimages back to College, to acquire a company in Japan that will greatly increase its business opportunities throughout Asia. The list goes on. And every week something new is added, usually a cross-border transaction.

Company hours in Japan are typically long. It is rarely light when I go home, and, because of Japan's location, calls with contacts in Europe or North America usually occur early in the morning or late at night. Boozy nights in Ginza hostess bars at company expense are much less common now than they were before deflation struck. In this and in many other ways Japan has become less exotic and more 'normal'. When I first came to Japan, good Western-style restaurants were in short supply while Japanese restaurants in London were almost non-existent. Now there are more Michelin-starred restaurants in Tokyo than in Paris, and rightly so. Japanese chefs are perfectionists. Whether producing Japanese or Western cuisine, they select their ingredients with the utmost care, choosing only

the best. They cook with unrivalled skill and imagination, and cannot be beaten for the way they present their food. Nor is the attention to detail and pride in workmanship limited to chefs. Buy someone a gift in a department store and it will be wrapped by the sales staff with a precision and neatness unimaginable in any other place I have visited. Repairmen come to your house at exactly the time they said they would come, and, of course, if they are working inside, the first thing they do is take off their shoes. People abroad marvelled at the discipline and stoic patience of those left homeless and traumatised by the earthquake and tsunami that hit the coastal regions of Northern Japan two years ago. Here in Japan no one was surprised; it is how people are expected to behave.

Over twenty years ago my wife and I bought as our weekend retreat an old and almost derelict Japanese farmhouse on the outskirts of a castle town, with panoramic views of Japan's Northern Alps. Our neighbours grow the most enormous and delicious apples and dessert grapes. Over the years we have restored the property in a way that has allowed us to retain desirable Japanese features while incorporating the comforts and conveniences of a Western-style home. The large garden is equally a mixture of Japan, with carefully placed stones, a stone lantern, brushed gravel, bamboo and Japanese pine, and then on a lower level, tea roses and a very English lawn. Japanese and non-Japanese visitors alike find the place enchanting. And that in a way sums up my existence in Japan. I am fully at home here; I have a deep understanding of, and respect for, local culture and traditions, but at the end of the day I am still British, which is what I want to be and also what my many Japanese friends and business acquaintances want and expect me to be too.

The Japan that I have experienced is a country of paradoxes: ultra-modern yet steeped in tradition, quick to embrace new ideas yet often painfully slow to reform outdated practices. Corporate governance, compliance and accountability to shareholders are all relatively new concepts for Japanese companies, and are not always well understood or rigorously applied. Company boards are usually made up of company insiders, 'yes men' who have worked their way up from within the company and who are beholden to the chairman or president. Throughout Japan, women are woefully underutilised. Bright, young, female university graduates who join large Japanese companies or institutions will be expected to serve the tea and are usually on a lower pay scale than their male counterparts. Prime Minister Abe has vowed to change all that, but meaningful actions have yet to follow words. It is certainly unusual for someone like myself to be at the top of a listed Japanese company; it would be a great deal more unusual if my role were taken by a Japanese woman. In 1967, when I went up to St John's, we were an all-male college. In my final year the idea of taking in female undergraduates was first mooted. I did not expect it to gain much traction, but here we are today with a good mix of both sexes and the

College is undoubtedly better for that. Maybe eventually corporate Japan will follow suit, and who knows, maybe in a future number of *The Eagle* you will be reading about a College graduate who is chairman or president of a listed Japanese company and she will be telling you all about her experiences. I certainly hope so.



Robert Hirst

Art and Photography Competition 2014: 'Gate from the Backs' by Christina Farley (2011)



So, what is a Fellow?



Dr John Leake (1958) studied Physics at St John's and then carried out research in crystallography and on the inelastic scattering of X-rays and neutrons. He joined the University's Department of Metallurgy (now Materials Science & Metallurgy) in 1968 and, although retired, he is actively involved in producing the Department's newsletter, *Material Eyes*. John served as President of the College from 2003 to 2007. He now supervises Engineers in Materials and acts as Study Skills adviser for undergraduates across the science-related subjects.

Not infrequently one is asked, 'What is a *Fellow* of the College?'; a simple question to which a simple answer might be an individual with high academic qualifications who performs duties for the College dependent on those qualifications – for example, teaching – but that answer barely scratches the surface. After a brief look at some history this article outlines the present-day range of Fellows: where they come from, what they do, what benefits they may enjoy and so on!

The history of Fellows

There have been Fellows since the College's foundation, known then as *Socii* because the original Statutes were in Latin. But their circumstances have changed dramatically over the centuries. For a long time they were all male, they were not permitted to marry, they mostly lived in College and almost all were in holy orders. The Universities of Oxford and Cambridge Act 1877 led to the abolition of the requirements for ordination and celibacy. The colleges soon began to permit their Fellows to marry, incidentally creating a house-building boom in the town (city status was not granted until 1951). The first Fellow of St John's to retain his Fellowship on marriage did so in 1880. In that period a Fellow's income came from the College rather than the University. The financial difficulties that arose as a result of the First World War led to the setting up of a Royal Commission to review the universities and colleges of Oxford and Cambridge. Following the Commission's report, new Statutes were approved for the College in 1926 and these form the basis of our current governance, although some significant changes have been made since. These Statutes set out, among other things, the present structure of the Fellowship. It is important to recognise that changing a Statute of a college or of the University involves a formal legal process, ultimately requiring approval by the Privy Council. There have to be strong reasons for



Quia

Ortamus dei gratia
Anglie ff. antie et
hiberne Rex fidei
defensor ac in terra
ecclie Anglicane
et hibernie &
supremi Capit
Silectio nobre
Magistro socijs et
scholaribus collegi
sancti Johanne
Euangeliste in
vniuersitate Cantabrigie

Exce...
...
...



Quia nobilissima
et clarissima femina Som
nia Margareta Comitissa
Richemondie et Serbie aua
nostra Collegium hie diu
Joanne Euangeliste quod
inclinauit morte preuente
bonis legibus et statutis
fundare et absoluece non po
tuit et que statuta iusticia
sancta sunt ea cui sic tem
poris imperfecta alij ambi
guitatis controuersarijs
plenissima esse reprehende
buntur propter quorum

A fair copy of St John's College's Statutes given by King Henry VIII (1545-9) [C1.4].
Image courtesy of the College Archives.

seeking to change Statutes, as there were, for example, with the decision to repeal the Statute that prohibited the admission of women to the College.

The present position

These days Fellows hold their Fellowship under one of five Titles: A, B, C, D or E; a brief description of each is given below. As of April 2014 the numbers of Fellows under each Title are: A 9, B 56, C 20, D 37 and E 25, a total of 147. Reflecting two of the major changes of the last half-century in Cambridge, the admission of women to the formerly all-male colleges, and the internationalisation of teaching and research in world-leading universities, thirty of the 147 (just over twenty per cent) are female and a similar number have come from approximately twenty countries outside the UK, with Germany the most strongly represented. The increase in the numbers of tripos courses, and the ever-advancing nature of their content, combined with external pressures on the academic staff of the University to concentrate on their research, has led to an inexorable increase in the size of the Fellowship (by almost fifty per cent since 1970) in order to provide proper coverage of the College's responsibilities for teaching. These days relatively few (some sixteen per cent) are resident in College and, as a result of another social change, some of those have a home closer to where their partner works and generally spend the weekends there.

By Statute all Fellows are members of the Governing Body, save that those who do not hold a Cambridge degree are not permitted to vote on changes of Statute. That restriction is of limited duration because such Fellows are entitled to take a Cambridge MA after being a Fellow for three years. All Fellows are eligible for election to the College Council, which is elected by the Governing Body. The Council – the Master and twelve Fellows – oversees most of the business of the College, including the election of Fellows. Following election a Fellow is admitted at a formal ceremony in the Combination Room; the Fellow-elect makes a declaration (in English) prior to admission by the Master (in Latin). Seniority on the Roll of Fellows is determined by date of admission, with Fellows admitted at the same time ranked according to the 'seniority of their degrees'. Interpreting this phrase requires care and so some years ago the College Council agreed a Standing Order to settle the matter. (Standing Orders constitute the rule book by which the College runs; unlike Statutes they can be changed by internal decision, mostly by the Council, a few by the Governing Body.) Normally the Roll plays little part in the daily life of the College apart from the dining list each evening; Fellows dining are listed in the order of their position on the Roll.

The Titles

Several (usually four) Title A Fellows are elected each year for their excellence in research in any subject. The rules of candidature limit the competition to individuals shortly before or shortly after completing the PhD degree. Many candidates are carrying out their research in Cambridge or Oxford,

although that is not a requirement. The rules for the current competition appear on the College website annually. The competition for election is intense. Following a thorough, multi-stage process of assessment, including the use of expert external assessors for all candidates placed on the longlist, the Council digests the evidence and proceeds to elect. The initial limit of tenure is three years. A feature of these Fellowships is that the Fellow is not required to work in Cambridge in the first year – and the Council is generally sympathetic to applications to work away in other years instead – providing an opportunity to experience research elsewhere, often in different countries, so establishing international contacts. Title A Fellows are increasingly called ‘JRFs’ (Junior Research Fellows) although it is not an official title in St John’s where all Fellows, no matter what their Title, have an equal voice in the government of the College, subject to the matter of the Cambridge degree mentioned above. The quality of those elected is such that it is not unusual for a Title A Fellow to be appointed to a more senior post in Cambridge or elsewhere before the expiry of their Fellowship. Sometimes this leads to their election to a different Fellowship in St John’s.

Many Fellows, including the President, the Deans, the Tutors, the College Lecturers (Fellows who supervise for a specified number of hours), and the Bursars, hold Fellowships under Title B. Their posts are termed ‘Qualifying Offices’, the significance of which will emerge in the description of Title D. Many Title B Fellows also hold University posts but that is not a requirement. ‘College Teaching Officers’, Fellows who do not have a University post but have

more substantial College teaching duties, may be elected under Title B or Title E.



Professor Ray Lyttleton, Fellow 1937–95.

Until quite recently professors were not permitted by the University to teach for colleges but they (and a small number of other senior University Officers) were allowed to hold College Fellowships. In St John’s these are Fellowships under Title C, loosely called ‘Professorial Fellowships’. Fellows under other Titles appointed to a Cambridge professorship and wishing to continue to be a Fellow – as they generally did – had to transfer to Title C. With the change in

University promotions policy in the late 1990s, the career grade inexorably changed from Lecturer to Professor and the old restriction on professors teaching for colleges had to be rescinded. This has meant that an increasing number of Fellows promoted to Professor continue as Fellows under their existing Title (usually B). Nowadays, those who opt to transfer to Title C, and professors coming from elsewhere elected to Fellowships under this Title, are expected to carry out some College teaching.

On or after reaching the age of sixty, a Fellow who has held a Qualifying Office for at least twenty years can choose to transfer to Title D, tenure of which is for life. As a result of the appreciable increase in expectation of life in recent decades the proportion of Fellows under Title D has increased significantly. A rarely used provision in the Statutes permits the Council to transfer to Title D ‘any Fellow who has held his Fellowship for twenty years’ – a famous example in recent decades being the Nobel laureate Professor Paul Dirac. Because there is no requirement of residence in or near Cambridge for Fellows under Title D, Dirac was able to retain his Fellowship after retiring to Florida, whence for many years he used to return regularly for brief visits to the College.

The Title E Statute includes a valuable provision that allows the Council to elect ‘any other person whom it shall appear to the Council to be in the interests of the College to elect as a Fellow’. Unlike elections under the other Titles, where a simple absolute majority of votes on the Council (i.e. seven) is required, election under Title E requires nine votes in favour so that this special provision cannot be used lightly!



Record-holding Fellow, Professor Sir Harold Jeffreys in 1959.

By now, if your eyes have yet to glaze over, you may be wondering, ‘Has anyone ever held a Fellowship successively under each of the post-1926 Titles?’ Thanks to a very diligent search by the College’s Biographical Librarian, Fiona Colbert, it can be revealed that the answer is ‘Yes, but only one’: Professor Ray Lytton, a Fellow from 1937 to 1995.

In addition to the Fellows, there are almost fifty Honorary Fellows elected by the College Council for their distinction in ‘learning or public service’ (interpreted

broadly). All the present ones were already members of the College before election, but that is not necessary. Honorary Fellows have no duties in the College but are invited to a number of events each year and are always very welcome at other times too.

Other responsibilities, benefits and duration

What else may be expected from Fellows and what benefits may they receive in return? Briefly, Fellows are entitled to rooms (on a scale proportional to need, ranging from a residential suite to a shared single room) and some meals in College. They get paid for what they do and, thanks to the College's endowment, are able to get some additional support, for example, towards attending academic conferences. Fellows are expected to recognise that involvement in the College community is an important part of being a Fellow. Naturally, different individuals will prefer to contribute in different ways. Some will be happy to serve on the Council, others will be on one or more of the myriad committees that oversee the College's activities, some will enjoy meeting returning members of the College, and so on.

Nothing in this world is permanent and that is true of Fellowships, although some are held for very many years; the record-holder is Professor Sir Harold Jeffreys, a Fellow for seventy-five years from 1914 until his death in 1989. Some Fellowships are of limited tenure or of tenure conditional on holding some other post that is itself time-limited, and so these naturally come to an end. And in principle, the Council has the power to terminate a Fellowship for grave cause, a power that has not been used in living memory.

The Master

Eagle-eyed readers will have noticed that little mention has been made of the Master – because the Master is not a Fellow. The Foundation of the College consists of the Master, the Fellows and the Scholars. The Master dines at High Table by invitation of the Fellows, an invitation made just once – when a new Master takes up office. On retirement from office a Master automatically becomes a Fellow under Title D.

So, the simple question asked at the beginning of this article has turned out to have a lengthy answer! It is a pleasure to acknowledge help and advice from Dr Mark Nicholls and Fiona Colbert, to say nothing of the riches to be found in the quinquennial tome *St John's College, Cambridge: A History* edited by Dr Peter Linehan.

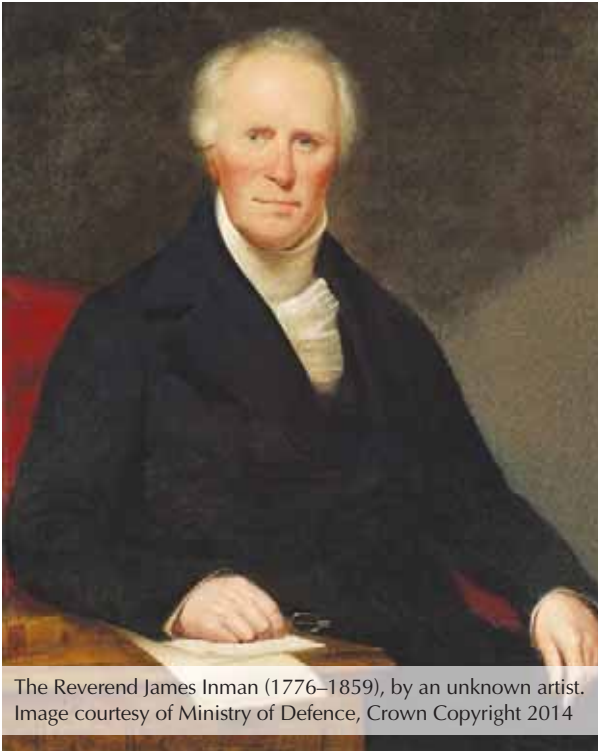


Dr John Leake

Lost and found

Dr Jian Yang is an Associate Professor at Nanjing University of the Arts in China and was a Visiting Scholar in 2013/14 at St John's College and the University's Faculty of Music.

A small volume of ancient Chinese musical notation was recently rediscovered after sleeping silently in the Old Library of St John's College for nearly 210 years. In December 2013 Dr Joseph McDermott, an expert in Chinese history and a Fellow at St John's, suggested I should examine 'that odd little Chinese book' in the Old Library, and with great curiosity I did so the next day. When Kathryn McKee, the Special Collections Librarian, carefully brought the book to me, I realised almost immediately that it might be a very rare volume of *Gongche* notation printed in China around 1770. According to some specialists in Chinese music, including Professor Yingshi Chen and Professor Yuqing Zhao, the book may be unique.



The Reverend James Inman (1776–1859), by an unknown artist. Image courtesy of Ministry of Defence, Crown Copyright 2014

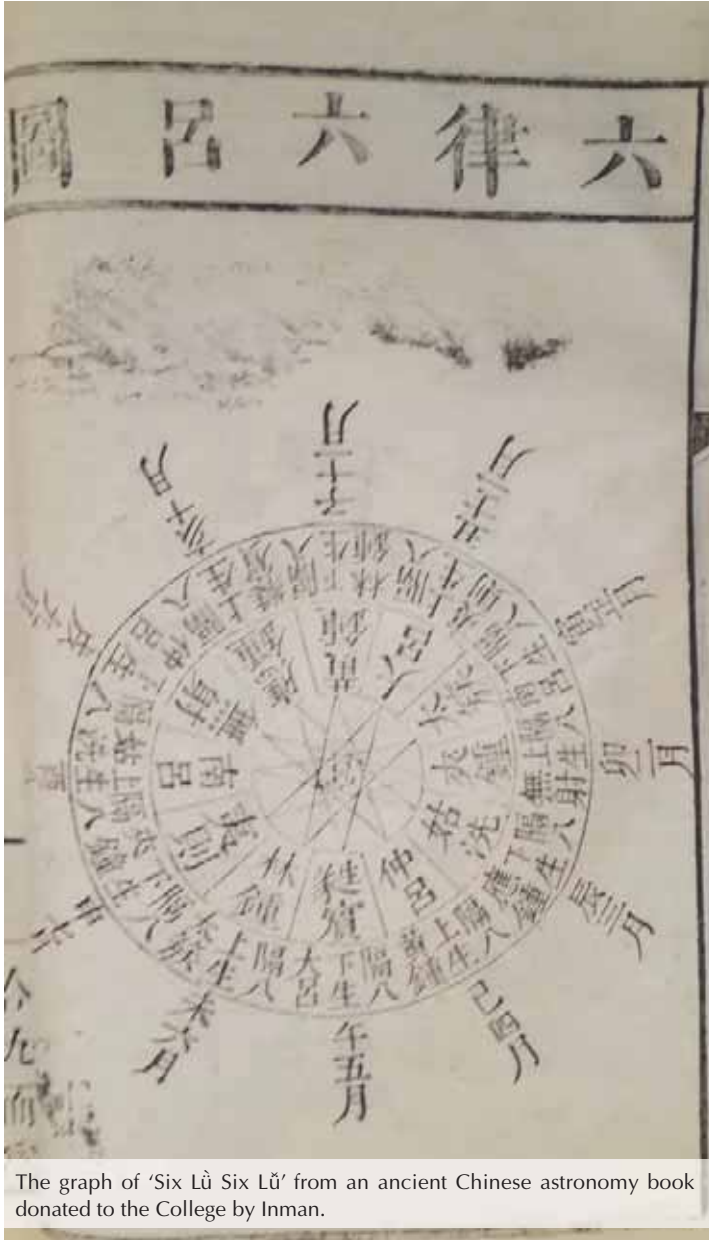
How did such an unusual Chinese book end up at St John's? From the information on his Wikipedia page and his entry in the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, James Inman, who signed and donated the book to the Library, was a mathematician who seems to have had nothing to do with China or music. Further research, however, reveals that he was 'appointed as replacement Astronomer (the original astronomer, suffering from severe seasickness, was discharged en route to Australia) on HMS *Investigator* under Captain Matthew Flinders charting Australian waters in 1803–4'. Life was far from uneventful:

When the officers and men of the *Investigator* were transferred to HMS *Porpoise*, Inman remained at Port Jackson with his instruments, later joining the ship *Rolla*, commanded by Mr Cumming, which participated in rescuing the men of the *Porpoise* and *Cato* ships lost at Wreck Reefs.¹

The *Rolla* picked up the survivors and cargo and headed for China² from Port Jackson (Sydney Harbour), Australia, on 22 September 1803, arriving at Whampoa in Canton (present-day Guangzhou), China, on 14 December.³ After staying there for a few weeks Inman returned to England early in 1804, with most of the crew, on the East India Company's ship *Warley*, as part of the British



Defeat of Admiral Linois by Commodore Dance, 15 February 1804, by William Daniel. Image courtesy of National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London.



The graph of 'Six Lü Six Lü' from an ancient Chinese astronomy book donated to the College by Inman.

ARTICLES

China Fleet. During this voyage, the fleet's valuable trading cargo made it a target for Napoleon's forces in the Indian Ocean, resulting in a confrontation with a French squadron under the control of Admiral Durand Linois at the entrance to the Straits of Malacca on 15 February 1804.⁴ Typically, a lightly armed merchant fleet would have turned and fled, but instead its commanding officer, Commodore Nathaniel Dance, manoeuvred his ships into defensive formation and ordered several to hoist the British ensign in an effort to trick the French into thinking they were facing British warships.

Amazingly, the ruse worked – Linois turned tail and fled, and was pursued by Dance until the convoy was safe. Dance was later knighted by King George III, while Linois had a less illustrious career: after being reprimanded by Napoleon, he returned to sea, where he suffered a series of humiliating defeats against weaker opponents before being captured in 1806, ironically after he mistook a British naval squadron for a merchant convoy.

Meanwhile, Inman and the *Warley* arrived safely back in Britain on 14 August 1804.⁵ Having gained a BA at St John's College in 1800, achieving the highest

The cover of the music book and the notation of the first piece 'Si Da Jing'.



score in the final Mathematics examination, Inman returned to the College in 1805 to study for his MA and was elected a Fellow.⁶ During his years at Cambridge he donated a box of Chinese books, including the music volume, to St John's College Library. It is almost certain that he acquired them during his stay in China.⁷

Why was an astronomer and later a professor of Mathematics at the Royal Naval College attracted to this small music book? I think that besides Inman's wide range of interests, which we can easily infer from his biography, the subtle relationship between mathematics, astronomy and music in Western as well as Chinese traditional culture might have been another important reason.

As in ancient Greece and medieval Europe, the Chinese people once believed that mathematics, astronomy, calendars and music, especially the musical temperament, were all closely associated. The graph of 'Six Lù Six Lǚ', from an ancient Chinese astronomy book also donated by Inman, typically interprets such a special relationship. The character '宮' in the centre of the graph represents the tonic 'do' with a symbolic meaning of kingship, and the characters in the twelve grids of the middle circle are the pitch names of the twelve semitones ('黄钟'=C, '大吕'=C#, '太簇'=D, etc). The characters in the outer circle represent the sequence of generated pitches indicated by the lines in the inner circle, which can be calculated mathematically. For example, '林钟'G is a fifth higher than '黄钟'C, '太簇'D is a fifth higher than '林钟'G, and so on. The characters outside the circles are the names of the twelve months in a year that were believed to be related to the twelve musical pitches (e.g. January corresponds to '太簇'D), and of course the movement of the stars. By the way, in China, the Pythagoras-like tuning was first recorded around the seventh century BC in a thesis on edaphology called 'Guanzi Diyuan'.

Consequently, it is not surprising that Inman acquired a small music book together with large volumes about Chinese astronomy, geography and history. The music book is titled *Xian Di Pipa Pu*, which means 'the music score for Chinese flute and pipa' (also known as the Chinese lute). There is a table of contents with a short foreword, and then a page containing a condensed introduction to three instruments: *Xiao* (a kind of Chinese recorder), *Di* (Chinese flute) and *Sanxian* (three-stringed Chinese lute). The following eight pages include scores of thirteen pieces of music in *Gongche* notation, one of the popular notation methods in traditional China, which used Chinese characters to represent musical notes and was named after two of the characters frequently used: '工' *gōng* representing 'mi' and '尺' *chě* representing 're'.⁸ The first piece is called 'Si Da Jing' (Four Seasons) and there is an online video⁹ that shows how it sounds, although there might be significant discrepancies between different versions of notation and interpretation.

‘The discovery of this rare volume of pre-modern Chinese musical notation might contribute a great deal to current research and performance of traditional Chinese music’, according to Zhiwu Wu, my former classmate and a Professor of Chinese Music at Xinghai Conservatory in Guangzhou. One of the most frustrating problems in Chinese music is the shortage of reliable scores handed down from the past, so this book will be a valuable addition to the existing pool of literature. We should rejoice that James Inman survived his difficult voyage bringing these books from China to Britain. Certainly, we should also be grateful that the Library of St John’s College has carefully kept this book for centuries, not only serving the relevant scholars but also, after 210 years of silence, providing us with a good opportunity to learn more about Chinese culture and music.



Dr Jian Yang

- 1 <http://cudl.lib.cam.ac.uk/view/MS-RGO-00014-00068/357>
- 2 [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rolla_\(1800\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rolla_(1800))
- 3 http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/a2a/records.aspx?cat=059-iorlmar_4&cid=-1#-1
- 4 <http://www.oxforddnb.com/view/article/14425>
- 5 [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Warley_\(1796\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Warley_(1796))
- 6 <http://venn.lib.cam.ac.uk/cgi-bin/search.pl?sur=&suro=c&fir=&firo=c&cit=&cito=c&c=all&tex=INMN794J&syeye=&col=all&maxcount=50>
- 7 There is a 3D film that roughly reproduces what Inman’s life in Canton might have been like at <http://youtu.be/iHiH8GbjMcl> and http://v.youku.com/v_show/id_XNjExNjAxMTQ4.html.
- 8 http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gongche_notation
- 9 ‘Si Da Jing’ (Four Seasons) played and sung in Chinese by the musicians from Okinawa Prefecture, Japan, formerly Ryukyu Kingdom: <http://youtu.be/Ead34feMC2w> or http://v.youku.com/v_show/id_XMza0NjIwMTgw.html



The Old Library of St John’s College at Cambridge dates from 1624.

Crocks and cooks

Dr Jim Charles has been a Fellow of St John's College for more than fifty years and is University Emeritus Reader in Process Metallurgy; the late Dr P. G. Stovin was a ceramic collector.

We are familiar with the plates that we use in Hall day by day, carrying the College crest on the rim. In the early nineteenth century, however, the crockery was often very decorative. It was supplied by those contracted to produce meals in the roles of Fellows' Cook and Scholars' Cook, and was their property. They frequently had their names printed and glazed onto the crockery. When they moved or retired, this crockery could find its way into the public domain. Thus, in the antiques market today there are examples of plates purchased by James Prior, Fellows' Cook at St John's 1824–46, from Charles James Mason, Lane Delph, Staffordshire. These are either in a highly decorated and gilded chinoiserie coloured wall pattern (plate one, see over) or another with peonies and daisies. Prior's name is on the back but not on the front of plates, and is on the underside of jugs, i.e. where Fellows could not see it when dining (plate two).

David James Scott was Scholars' Cook at St John's from 1838 to 1861. His crockery for student use was by Davenport, transfer-printed in blue and white with his name on the front and initials on the back. After his death in 1861, the post of Scholars' Cook was abolished by College Order and in 1873 the duties of Fellows' and Scholars' Cook were entrusted to one Desire Bruvet, who was required to oversee all cooking. Plate three, top, shows small shards relating to Bruvet. When he left in 1879 to run a Cambridge hotel, the College took charge of all kitchen activities under the Steward. The purchase of crockery became direct and items were marked only with a College crest.

A particular puzzle has arisen with shards of pottery (plate three, bottom) found by Cambridge City archaeologist Craig Cessford recently in the footings of a wall in the basement of the College's Divinity School. Previously, the site accommodated stables, a brew-house, a bake-house and some cottages. Together the shards bear attribution to the College in 1861 on the back and the full crest on the front, but with no cook's name. It may be, of course, that it was on a different part of the plate. At that time the Fellows' Cook was Owen John Jones (1846–71), Prior's successor. The plate is identified as 'Copeland, late Spode' with a rim pattern known as 'Warwick', introduced by Spode in 1833. There are no other examples of this Spode pattern on crockery attributed to St John's existing in the College today, and none has been seen on the antiques market locally. The question is, what was this plate for?



Plate one

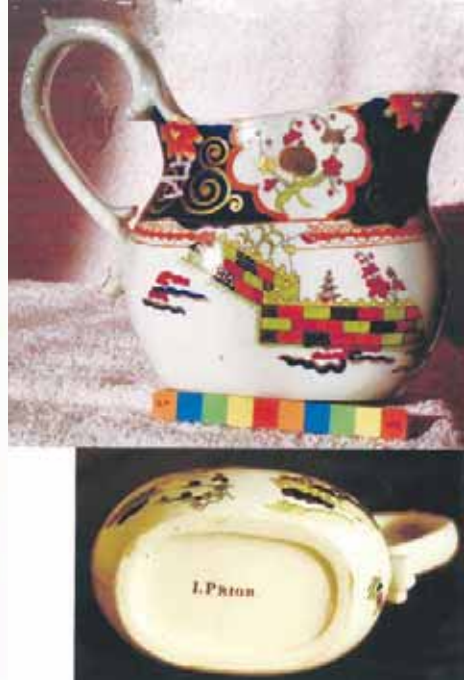


Plate two

The Junior Bursar's accounts for September 1861 contain the interesting entry that he was charged one shilling for 'carriage of pattern plates to Mr Copeland', and then shortly after '£23-5-0 to Mr Copeland for crockery'. As an example of costs in the early nineteenth century, auctioneers Christie's and Phillips both list reserve prices of £23–£26 for full table settings of 142 pieces, enough for twelve table places. It is possible, therefore, that the purchase from Copeland was of a full table set to an already approved pattern (Warwick) for private use in the College, perhaps in the new Master's Lodge. The College would have been aware of the significance of the date on the crockery, as 1861 marked the 350th anniversary of the foundation of St John's – a fact referred to in sermons at the time (see, for example, *The Eagle* 1871).

Another major puzzle is the absence of whole crockery attributable to Jones, to Bruvet or to holders of the cook posts other than Scott and Prior. A great deal of Mason or Copeland origin was purchased for the rest of the nineteenth century. What is noticeable is that crockery was increasingly being purchased through local retailers such as Barrett's or Matthew and Gent, rather than directly from




Plate three



Plate four

Staffordshire. Plate four shows continuing use of the coloured wall pattern from Mason, presumably to maintain existing stock, with back markings indicating a date between 1885 and 1905.

In the early nineteenth century some manufacturers produced crockery with St John's and other college views printed on as decoration. These were commercially available, but were not purchased by the College. Examples are the engravings of the cloister front of New Court from R. B. Harraden's 1830 *Illustrations of the University of Cambridge* and of the Kitchen Bridge in R. Ackermann's *History of the University of Cambridge*, 1815. 

Dr Jim Charles and Dr P. G. Stovin

1955 and all that

Major Colin Robins was commissioned into the Royal Artillery from Sandhurst in July 1953, shortly after taking part in the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. After Cambridge he was involved in the Cyprus emergency, and in 1961 in Kuwait during the ‘nearly-war’, when Saddam Hussein’s predecessor threatened to invade. He was adjutant of his regiment when they were converted to the commando role. After Staff College he fulfilled a number of staff and regimental appointments, but separation from his young family led to early retirement. Major Robins then investigated serious tax fraud in Northern Ireland, for which he was appointed OBE. After a second retirement he developed his interest in military history and edited the journal *The War Correspondent* for ten years. He has written several books and was elected a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society for his work on the Crimean War. He has lectured on cruises and now speaks to audiences in aid of Army charities.

In autumn 2013 my granddaughter hoped to come up to Cambridge to read Law. Fleetinglly, I considered passing on to her my memories of my own daily life as an undergraduate, but having matriculated in 1955 I realised that the equivalent for me would have been memories from someone who had arrived in the University in 1897! Nevertheless, those memories of College life may still be of interest to future historians.

I was a serving Royal Artillery officer when I came up to Cambridge. From before the Second World War a number of Royal Engineer officers had been admitted each year to read for the Mechanical Sciences Tripos, the Engineering degree, and occasionally an officer from another arm managed to do the same. I was fortunate to do that and to be accepted at St John’s. A few Royal Navy and Royal Air Force officers were also at Cambridge, spread, like the soldiers, across different colleges. Nowadays, most of those entering Sandhurst are already graduates, so the scheme, as far as the Army is concerned, exists no more.

In 1955 National Service still affected most young men, and St John’s seems to have preferred undergraduates who had completed this before coming up, except for those holding scholarships, who, it was presumably feared, might lose the habit of studying by contamination with the world outside. All colleges were single sex, with women at Girton, Newnham and New Hall – the last just building up to full strength. Some of the men had experience of active service in Korea or Malaya but were now returned to little more than slightly improved schoolboy status.



Undergraduate accommodation was limited, and only scholars could hope to live in College for all three years. Others would be in lodgings out of College for at least one year. These lodgings were licensed and restrictions were at least as irksome as those in College itself. Thus, the front door was locked at 10pm and entrance was thereafter noted by the landlady and sent up to College in a 'gate bill' every week. A return after 11pm (horrors!) was reported by her to College the next day. The regulations allowed army officers to live in unlicensed lodgings and a Royal Signals officer in his third year managed a masterstroke when he took up residence in unlicensed lodgings that were in fact licensed – rooms over a pub!

We were required to wear gowns after dark on the streets of Cambridge and this was enforced by occasional patrols by the Proctor, in cap and gown, accompanied by two Constables or 'bulldogs' (College porters under another name) wearing tall, silk top hats. If the Proctor saw a young man gownless, yet appearing to be an undergraduate, he would approach him, doff his square and enquire, 'Excuse me, sir, but are you a member of the University?' Honesty was essential. A lie, if discovered, was a very serious offence and would certainly involve rustication, if not being sent down permanently. On the other hand, an instant admission was considered tame, so any spirited young man would hesitate and then cry 'Yes' as he sprinted off, hoping for a few yards head-start on

the bulldogs, who would pursue him and whose intimate knowledge of back alleys and shortcuts made up for any lack of athletic ability. If apprehended the offender would admit his name and college, and the next day he would be summoned to appear before his College Dean. Tame admission of University membership to the Proctor the night before brought a fine of 6s. 8d. – one-third of a pre-decimal twenty-shilling pound – while the undergraduate who had fled but had been apprehended would pay 13s. 4d. The higher fine was considered worth it for the sport of the flight and one's reputation.

Gowns were also worn at all lectures except by engineers and medics, as their laboratories were thought to place a gowned individual in danger. All wore gowns to dinner in Hall, which was, at St John's, obligatory for five nights a week in full term. Indeed, one's degree depended more on 'keeping terms' than one's contest with the examiners. There were three classes of honours degree, plus a pass degree for anyone who was a complete duffer, had forgotten to attend the occasion, or perhaps through unfamiliarity with the University buildings had been unable to find the examination hall.

Whereas one's friends reading arts subjects consulted at the start of each term a mysterious periodical that apparently listed all the lectures that were to be given and, if conscientious, selected one or two for each week to attend, a typical weekday for engineers consisted of a full morning of lectures and practical experiments. So, while the arts 'dilettantes' (as we engineers saw them) rose late and strolled to the Copper Kettle on King's Parade for a leisurely coffee, we cycled down Trumpington Street (I imagine every undergraduate in Cambridge then had a bike) to the Engineering Labs and spent the morning there.

As well as lectures, embryo engineers learned to draw plans (with T-squares and pencils: no computer programs then) and we also performed experiments. There was a motorcar engine that my partner and I accidentally set on fire and we managed an even more spectacular coup with an enormous electrical motor that had been taken from a captured German U-boat, and which had powered the boat's silent, underwater movement. Controlling voltages or some such by means of a hand wheel, my (different) partner confused clockwise with anti-clockwise and there was a sudden, enormous flash and loud bang that tripped the power throughout the lab and brought the aged and distinguished professor of Electrical Engineering running from his office. However, our University careers were unharmed: one partner went on to be Captain of the LMBC and both graduated (as did I).

Luncheon followed the morning at the labs, perhaps at the restaurant run by the Union Society, which was notable for a waiter who would take only one order

from a table of four or six, and eventually return with the food and take a second order. And so on. One thus developed patience, which we are told is a virtue.

The Union Society was, of course, not there just to provide lunch, but for its weekly debates on political subjects. The President, elected to serve for but one term and resplendent in white tie and tails, would chair each debate. It was he, for women were not admitted at this time but could watch the proceedings from the gallery, who selected the subject and invited two famous speakers from outside the University – one to propose and one to oppose the motion. Undergraduate speakers then followed; the principals were named on the printed order paper and were allowed to sit on the front benches at future debates – a valued privilege.

Most days, after lunch, were spent on one sport or another. Undergraduates at St John's who had not attended rowing schools were fortunate as the LMBC taught them to row. In those days it was not unknown for a complete beginner to be taught to row in his first year and make the Blue Boat in his last. The annual Boat Race with that other place was then a contest between undergraduates, and all the better for it. At the LMBC, the talented oarsmen who crewed the first three boats were expected to row every day from Monday to Saturday, and anyone not able or prepared to do this could aspire only to the Fourth VIII, or lower, where only three days of practice were expected. Up to eleven College boats would participate in the Lent and Easter term bumping races.

Rowing thus, as a mere three-day man, allowed me to partake of other sports as well, and I managed to play tennis and to fence. I represented fencing on the College's General Athletic Club committee, which was responsible for allocating the money received from every undergraduate. As fencing required no money at all, one could, therefore, with a clear conscience, vote so that the LMBC received the lion's share of the budget – essential with a boathouse and expensive racing boats to maintain and a boatman to pay. The LMBC were then still noted for the beautiful long finish to every stroke, which contrasted with the graceless and crude (but sadly efficient) Jesus jab. As a non-serious oarsman I was able to change sides in the boat from one term to the next and was lucky enough to win two inscribed oars, one facing each direction, which look particularly decorative in my hall. True oarsmen are not impressed as they never change sides.

In the early evening, supervisions were held, and once a week one saw one's supervisor to discuss problems. Engineers attended supervisions in pairs. These meetings were either in College or at the labs, and at least one don reduced his workload by always claiming afterwards that he had been waiting at the other location. One supervisor was the University's 'Special Pro-Proprietor for Aeroplanes



and Motor Vehicles'. I do not know about aircraft but permission to keep a car depended on a valid reason for mobility and the favourite excuse, sorry, reason, was membership of the Sailing Club, which boasted many dozens of members who ran cars but never risked wet feet.

One also had a tutor and called on him at the beginning of each term, and again at the end before going down. Mine was the one-time Olympic athlete, R. L. Howland, a Classics don, and there was a bond between us as his own son had just come up after National Service as an officer in my regiment.

Dinner in Hall was taken on wooden benches at long, oak tables, with some benches positioned against the walls so that to reach a seat there it was necessary and the custom, no doubt lost in the mists of time, to step up on a bench and walk across the table. Among the changes that one now sees in College life, the loss of that practice – perhaps as ladies might have thought it immodest to expose their lower limbs in climbing up – prompts a metaphorical tear.

There was no College cafeteria, nor a bar as such, but in the corridor between Hall and the kitchens there was a small room, the Buttery, where beer to drink in Hall could be bought. It was small and crowded and there was no place to sit down.

The University had a thriving Officer Training Corps. They had an Officers' Mess, and the Commanding Officer kindly invited all army officers in residence to be honorary members of that Mess. Sadly, it was there that an infantry colleague of mine imbibed too enthusiastically one evening and formed the mistaken impression that he had acquired the power of flight. Unselfishly he felt that he was obliged to demonstrate this to his colleagues. He launched himself from the first floor window and found, too late, that a former Trinity chap called Newton had been on the right lines after all. He fell heavily to earth, putting at risk his plans to attend Henley Week a few days later.

At St John's we were proud that our College porters wore tall, silk top hats while those at all other colleges, including Trinity, wore bowlers. Ugh! We thought that

the hats, plus our cobbled courts and the organ repairs (with installation of the magnificent ‘trompeta real’), caused – even if they did not justify – the highest establishment charges in Cambridge. Rumours that fine wines were being laid down for the Fellows’ High Table were probably not true, but my generation now does its level best to return for reunion dinners, just in case. We have not been disappointed, and age brings an increase in the frequency of invitation as the College thus subtly checks if we are still alive.

There was nothing then behind New Court except squash courts and squalor. The magnificent new buildings of Cripps Court and the Merton land were still years away. The Library, still in its historical but cramped quarters, had not yet encroached on the Master’s Garden. The Backs of every college were open and it was possible to stroll from St John’s to Queens’, pausing perhaps on Trinity Bridge for the sport of teasing punters. If a careless punter raised his pole close by, one only needed to touch it momentarily to confuse the fellow enough for him to lose his balance and abandon ship. On our own lawns, in front of New Court, croquet was played.

Finally, the maturity of undergraduates in 1955 was clear, with the majority two years older than today due to National Service and in many cases experience of battle. Returning to Cambridge ten years or so later, when all were coming up straight from school, I was disappointed to find the atmosphere had become so puerile. Fortunately, after another ten or so years, women had come up in large numbers and most colleges had admitted them. The atmosphere, thanks to their greater maturity, and sense, had been restored, and remains today. We owe a huge debt to our women undergraduates and I am sure that they would have taken stepping over the dining tables, like everything else, in their stride.



Major Colin Robins



Faithful remembering

The Revd Dr Teresa Morgan is Nancy Bissell Turpin Fellow and Tutor in Ancient History at Oriol College, Oxford, and a self-supporting priest in the parish of Littlemore. Her publications include *Literate Education in the Hellenistic and Roman Worlds* (CUP, 1998), *Popular Morality in the Early Roman Empire* (CUP, 2007), *Roman Faith and Christian Faith* (OUP, 2015), *Seasons of the Spirit* (BRF, 2010) and *Every-Person Ministry* (SPCK, 2011). She was a Title A Fellow of St John's College 1994–7. This article is a transcript of the sermon Teresa delivered at the Commemoration of Benefactors service on 4 May 2014, in St John's College Chapel.

Just over a century ago, in 1913, the poet Rupert Brooke took a trip to North America to get over a love affair, and wrote there an essay about the Canadian Rockies. It is, he says, an empty land:

A European can find nothing to satisfy the hunger of his heart ...
There walk, as yet, no ghosts of lovers in Canadian country lanes. This is the essence of the grey freshness and brisk melancholy of this land. And for all the charm of those qualities, it is also the secret of the European's discontent. For it is possible, at a pinch, to do without gods. But one misses the dead.

The whole essay breathes that combination of imagination, lyricism and sentiment, which is Brooke's trademark (and we may wonder why it did not strike him that the Rockies might have plenty of native American ghosts). But it captures something that many of us share: a sense that our landscapes are the richer for our ghosts – for our memories and stories of all the people who have lived and worked where we live and work today.

It is a sense that it is hard not to have in a Cambridge or Oxford college. It is one of the fine things about colleges that we do remember those who lived and worked here in the past, or made it possible for others to do so. St John's remembers those who made our life and work possible with every postprandial grace: 'Pour your grace, Lord God, into our hearts, that we may use these gifts, given by Margaret our Foundress and other benefactors, to your glory ...'

Above all, we remember them today: a great cloud of witnesses to the glory of God and education, which stretches back half a millennium to Lady Margaret Beaufort and her advisor, Bishop John Fisher. Who founded St John's College to be a house of renaissance learning, broadly conceived, in which Fellows



ARTICLES



and scholars would read grammar, and mathematics and philosophy in preparation for the study of theology or medicine.

Their vision was twofold: the worship of God and the service of society. They wanted people to stay and study – and leave, and teach, and heal. In other ways too, their vision was close to that of the modern College. They wanted to improve access and outreach, so poorer candidates for admission had preference over richer ones. Half the scholars were to come from the north of England, where there were no universities.

In other ways again, no doubt, the shape, size and activities of the modern College would astonish John and Margaret. Women students, and Fellows! Engineers and economists! And, though the first hints of the Protestant Reformation were already rumbling round Europe, Margaret cannot have dreamed of the day when her grandson would repudiate the authority of the Pope, when Fisher would go to the scaffold for his faith, and services in Chapel would follow the Reformed rite.

When, though, we remember our benefactors – all of them, through time – we celebrate the fact that for all the changes that have intervened, we are still intimately connected: by the buildings we live and work in; by the books in the Library; by our stories and rituals. Above all, we are linked by our unbroken commitment to education, learning and research.

Today we celebrate the fact that as a college, we are one body; one community through time, as well as at every moment in time.

Having said that, as a historian, I can't help thinking of all the people who have not been – have not been able to be – members of this community through time. 'Let us now praise famous men,' says Ben Sira, and, apart from Margaret, most of the people we remember today are men. I look forward to the day when we have more women to celebrate! (I half wish Margaret and John had had vision out of all proportion to their time and founded a women's college too, but one can't blame them for not thinking what was unthinkable in 1511.)

Of course, it is not just women who have only lately been able to join this community. Until recently, most men – however clever or curious about the world

– did not learn to read and write, let alone to dream of Cambridge. On this day of commemoration, they too deserve to be remembered. And, in 2014, there is another group whom we can't help remembering. They are those who won a place here, or came up briefly between 1914 and 1918, or during other wars, but then joined up and did not come back, and are commemorated on our war memorials.

I think a good deal about those young men (and women), now I'm a Fellow of a college and a supervisor myself. I try to imagine what it would be like to send my students – my clever, funny, disorganised, delightful students – away to a monstrous war that would destroy them and millions like them. It is more horrible than I can say.

But I believe that remembering all those who were members of the College all too briefly, or who would have been members if they had lived, or who could not even have dreamed of being members, is also part of what we do today. Because benefactions come in many forms.

Some of those we praise, as Ben Sira reminds us, were renowned for their power and wealth. Some were known for their 'learning meet for the people'. Others 'found out musical tunes', or 'recited verses'. Others were among the merciful and righteous. Beyond these, everyone who has ever been part of this College has passed on something; added something to who we are and what St John's means in the world. Even those who were never here, or in their lifetime could not have dreamed of being here – they too have given us something. They remind us that half the reason why we look back to our benefactors is to look forward. To ask ourselves whether we, as current members and friends of St John's College, are doing everything we can to fulfil our benefactors' vision for the future.

Are we doing everything we can to widen access to Margaret's foundation, which gives its beneficiaries such life-changing opportunities? Are we serving the needs of our society for teaching and healing, as Margaret wanted Johnians to serve, by what we learn, teach, research and go out into the world to do?

In a perfect world, those are questions we would all ask ourselves every day. In the complex materiality of a modern university, we're working out how to respond to the latest government initiative, or how to get the edge on our competitors; trying to frame our research so it fits this year's fashions in funding; and persuading students that they are not consumers, in much the same way as a university is not a sweet shop. In the midst of all this, it is not always easy to get round to thinking about whether we are doing everything we can to fulfil our benefactors' vision.

Today, however, offers us one day, one moment in the year, to stop and think. To reflect that we are not only beneficiaries of this foundation, but that we can



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and should be benefactors ourselves. In 2014 we are Margaret's executors: her hands and feet. And the time and energy that each of us invests in this College will shape it for years to come.

In the process, it will cost us something too: a portion – for some of us, the greatest portion – of our lives.


As we look back, therefore, and celebrate the gifts of all kinds that others have given to this College, we may also reflect on the gifts that we are making today, and pray that future generations will have reason to thank us as heartily as we thank our benefactors. Which takes us back to Margaret and John, and their remarkable initiative.

In some ways, the most remarkable thing about it is what an act of faith it was. Margaret gave great gifts, and John drew up three sets of statutes. Then they entrusted the College to the future, leaving it to develop organically: to reimagine itself in every generation, in ways that would often be new and unpredictable, but would always, they hoped, be connected with their original vision.

That was a great act of faith, and hope, and love: the kind of practical, community-forming love which was at the heart of both John's and Margaret's life. And that is no accident, since, as people of faith, both Margaret and John were living in conscious imitation of Jesus Christ. To whom any act of remembrance in a chapel, on the third Sunday of Easter, must finally return.

In this Resurrection season, we celebrate the gift that Christ gave to the world: the gift of his own life, which he gave hoping and trusting that the God of love would bring a future out of it that would transform the world. And we celebrate the inspiration that created this College as part of the abundance of life that grew out of the self-giving of Jesus Christ.

As we celebrate, we remember that the God who raised Jesus to new life is also the God who remembers. God is the God in whom nothing and no one is lost or forgotten, but everyone is remembered and held in love. In whom there is hope for everyone of new and more abundant life.

To whom, with Margaret and John and all our benefactors, we join in humble thanks for all the blessings of this life; and ask for grace to show forth his praise not only with our lips, but in our lives, through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost be all honour and glory, world without end. 

The Revd Dr Teresa Morgan

Left to right: Nicholas Metcalf (first Master of St John's), College Foundress Lady Margaret Beaufort and her executor Bishop John Fisher, painted on the oak-panelled interior roof of the College Chapel.

Correction to *The Eagle* 2013

Please note that the caption for the image of the Divinity School plans on pages 36–7 of *The Eagle* 2013 was incorrect, as a result of a late design change. It should have stated that north is at the top of the page, not the foot of the page. The description of the building in the text needs to be read in conjunction with this correction.



Art and Photography Competition 2014: 'Chapel through the shamrock' by Panagiotis Barkas (2012)

THE ACADEMIC YEAR

THE ACADEMIC YEAR



ST JOHN'S COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Message from the Senior Tutor: the foundations of excellence – teaching and academic performance

Supporting and developing teaching and education are among the most fundamental of endeavours for St John's. They were laid down by Lady Margaret Beaufort's executors in 1511 as two of the four aims of our wonderful College, and yet over the last fifteen years we have had some concerns about our students' academic achievements, as well as the College's image in terms of undergraduate academic standing.

The College's overall undergraduate academic performance is key to our future success and I am delighted to say that improvements are appearing across many, if not all, areas. Our exam results in 2013 marked a milestone in these recent positive developments and our overall ranking was the highest it has been in the last seven years. Our overall score as a College and our percentage of Firsts were both placed above the University's average.

We saw improvement not only in our examination results but also in the number of undergraduate prizes awarded to all those achieving First class honours. Since 2007 the number of prizes has risen by just over a third. Wright Prizes are awarded to those who have been ranked in the top third of all Firsts in their tripos, and in the last six years the proportion of Wright Prizes has increased by almost sixty-five per cent. As such, not only has our overall number of Firsts massively increased but Johnnians have now received a significantly above-average number of Firsts at the top end of the class lists. As a result of the increase in undergraduate prizewinners, there has consequently been an increase in the annual cost of prizes, which shows a continued investment in the academic performance of our students, in every year of their undergraduate studies.

Investment in academic ethos and performance has become a driving force in the College in recent years, and we have been able to identify and act on a number of areas for improvement. These include promotion and maintenance of the teaching establishment; increased support and development of academic research programmes; and development of international exchange links across the globe.

The teaching establishment in the College requires constant monitoring and updating. Over the past two years we have developed a clear five-year teaching plan, to be updated annually, to identify the College's teaching needs and vacancies. We now have a strategic process for formally recognising and recording immediate, medium- and long-term teaching needs. The implementation of this plan would not have been possible without the



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creation of the Senior Tutor's Office in 2013 – created as a sub-office in the Senior Tutor's Department – with particular responsibility for the development of strategy and policy in teaching and education. I am very happy to report that, since early 2013, twelve new teaching Fellows have been elected by the College, with seven more in the pipeline. This is wonderful news for our students, as their success feeds off the accessibility and strength of those who teach them. Maintaining and improving our teaching establishment has been fully supported by a number of our donors, and we are grateful for their continued investment in the future of our teachers and students.

The College's teaching strength and cohesion is of the utmost importance but we also wanted to develop our undergraduate students' education beyond the tripos. The Undergraduate Academic Research Project Scheme started in 2009 to encourage and help undergraduate students to carry out research projects at higher education institutions during the long vacation. In the beginning it mostly helped students wanting to stay in Cambridge over the summer to work in laboratories and departments on home ground. But since then we have been able to almost triple the funding for the scheme, and projects now stretch around the world. International experience for our students, both academic and cultural, is of undoubted importance in the modern climate, and our aim is to continue to increase the funding available for this scheme.

International links for the College are also being made through the development of our undergraduate exchange programmes. Our well-established schemes, with institutions such as CalTech and MIT, have allowed our students the opportunity to further their skills, experience a culture beyond their own, and develop themselves in new and exciting ways. However, places have always been limited and it has long been our hope that we could increase the number of opportunities available. We currently have at least four new exchange programmes planned in China, the USA, Europe and Japan. Our aim is not only to provide these opportunities for our students but to be able to provide them with full financial support. In order to ensure that these exchange programmes are accessible to all our undergraduate students, independent of financial need, the College is committed to covering the costs of these new ventures, either through existing funds or new donations.

In my message for *The Eagle* 2013 I explored the topic of student funding and the need to identify ways to help our undergraduates, particularly our home students, in the face of increasing tuition fees and rising living costs. I am delighted to say that we have now formed the Undergraduate Bursaries and Scholarships (UBAS) Working Group. This group will meet regularly to identify and formulate

programmes that help allay the financial worries of our undergraduates. We have been working closely with the Development Office to begin the fundraising process for the work of the UBAS Working Group, and will continue this over the coming year.

Our academic results have been steadily improving over the last few years and there are clear indications that the measures we have put in place are beginning to take effect. We are strengthening our academic values and, at the same time, seeing our students benefit from the scholarly-driven opportunities offered by the collegiate environment. Our vision for the future is that we will be able to educate highly able students with strong academic research interests, independent of any financial needs. This is combined with a secondary vision to educate students possessing a range of interests and talents who enjoy opportunities both within the College and beyond its walls to broaden their skills and interactions. 

Dr Matthias Dörrzapf

What about the graduate students?

Dr Sue Colwell (1970) is Tutor for Graduate Affairs at St John's, and a Director of Studies and College Lecturer in Mathematics for Natural Sciences.

The graduate students at St John's form a large, vibrant and diverse community. When the outside world thinks of a Cambridge student, it usually pictures an undergraduate, but St John's has more than three hundred graduate students and so they make up around forty per cent of the student body. They come from more than sixty different countries, and range in age from their early twenties to over sixty; some are doing one-year taught courses with no intention of studying any further, and some are working towards PhDs with the aim of pursuing an academic career. Their degree of engagement with the College varies, as does the nature of their experience. Most choose to live in College accommodation, in hostels close to the College, but some live in privately rented accommodation. Most are single, but many have families, and some are combining academic study with bringing up children on their own. Those with families often have a very different perspective, as the next article shows.

In general, graduate students are much less visible in College than undergraduates, as they spend most of their time in their departments, but they

The Dr Manmohan Singh Scholarship students in 2013.
Photo: Nic Marchant





Graduate students have use of the Samuel Butler Room in First Court for recreation and studying.

Photo: Nic Marchant

are here all year round and their needs are different to those of undergraduates. Much of my work as Tutor for Graduate Affairs consists of saying, 'But what about the graduate students?' at various committee meetings. Two of the biggest graduate issues at the moment are numbers and funding.

Whereas the number of undergraduates is relatively stable, the University has committed to increasing the number of graduate students by two per cent per year for the next few years. This increase will mostly be in those doing one-year taught courses, and so may significantly change the balance of our graduate community. People taking these courses may spend only nine months in Cambridge, but they often regard their time here as a very special period. We need to welcome them and ensure we provide what they need, and there are currently significant intercollegiate discussions taking place on how to enhance college provision for Master's students. On the other hand, the essence of a Cambridge education is that, as a member of a college, you are part of an interdisciplinary academic community and have many opportunities to interact with people in different subjects. St John's is already a large college, and we do not wish to grow so large or unbalanced that the sense of academic community is destroyed.

Funding is no less of a challenge for graduate students than it is for undergraduates. There is no overarching funding system, and although many

graduate students are funded by Research Councils, the Gates Foundation, the Cambridge Trust and other organisations, the whole business of getting funding can be very difficult. St John's is fortunate in being able to offer approximately ten fully funded scholarships per year, and this is one reason we can attract such good students. Not only do we have our Benefactors' Scholarships, but we also have an increasing number of more targeted awards, such as the Dr Manmohan Singh Scholarship for Indian students and the Louis Cha Scholarship for research in Chinese history. These awards have been made possible by generous donations, and often represent a life-changing opportunity for the recipient. Despite the planned growth in their numbers there are very few funding opportunities for MPhil students. The University is finally working to address this and to harmonise the various existing funding schemes, but with the planned changes to the structure of University and College fees, graduate funding remains a significant challenge for the College.

The Samuel Butler Room Committee (see their report in the Societies and sports section) represents graduate student members of the College and organises several events; one of the Fellows, Pat Boyde, as the Graduate Liaison Officer (aka Fellow Borderer), organises many events to encourage graduates to interact with the Fellowship. Nevertheless, many choose not to participate in the formal events because of the pressures of work, or merely because they have established friendships outside College and feel they have outgrown College life. Many of our graduate students act as supervisors for our undergraduates and make extremely effective teachers, and many contribute in other ways, such as outreach work. To some the graduate students are our hidden constituency, but there is actually a great deal going on.



Dr Sue Colwell

Being a student parent

Katie Manning (2008) is studying towards a PhD in Psychiatry at St John's.

I've been fortunate enough to spend the last six years at St John's, first as an undergraduate and now as a graduate student. When I originally applied back in October 2007, having just completed my A levels, it was to study Social and Political Sciences, with the intention of taking the Psychology stream and pursuing a career in Clinical Psychology after graduation.

Coming to St John's a year later was an exciting, but slightly nerve-racking, experience. My situation stood me apart in some ways from many other undergraduates: I still had to get to lectures, write essays and attend supervisions, but I was also the mother of a beautiful daughter, Skye, who was about to turn four. Consequently, the move from Norwich to Cambridge had the added complications of finding suitable accommodation and nurseries, and making sure my daughter was happy and settled.

I applied to St John's after conversations with a number of colleges about what support might be available if I needed it, largely because the staff in the Admissions Office at St John's were so friendly and reassuring. They arranged for me to visit with my daughter after being offered a place, and we were made to feel very welcome. Throughout my studies, the support and friendliness of the College has been a common theme.

The first term was undeniably challenging. The short, intense programme of lectures, reading and essays had to be combined with running a home, travelling across town to nursery at each end of the day – made all the more difficult because I wasn't confident on a bike until Easter term, so we were reliant on buses – and other things not featuring on most first years' 'to do' lists, such as getting to swimming lessons and completing primary school applications. Initially, I also felt somewhat isolated, since I was in the house on my own once my daughter was in bed, even on the rare occasions when there wasn't work to be done. Impromptu nights out weren't part of the deal and sleeping all morning after late-night essay writing wasn't an option with a young child! At the end of the first term I felt burnt out, and considered not returning – a decision I'm glad I didn't make, but one that certainly made me realise I'd need to be a little kinder to myself.

However, as the year went on, I got better at juggling it all, or at least at realising that it doesn't all have to be perfect all the time! I became a master of finding little ways to make life easier, such as making sure we walked past the coffee shop before it closed so that my daughter could have some warm milk while waiting



Katie and Skye Photo: JET Photographic

for the bus home. I made some brilliant friends in the College and on my course, who embraced us as we were and would help out when needed – my Saturday-morning lectures in the second year sometimes involved a museum trip for my daughter with one of them – as well as planning nights out far in advance for me. Things became easier still when my daughter started school around the corner from home and settled in happily, and playdates cemented friendships with other local parents.

I took full advantage of the trips system, enabling me to pursue my developing interests by switching to the Natural Sciences Experimental Psychology stream for my final year. By the time I graduated in June 2011, I felt I'd achieved a good balance between working hard and enjoying life in Cambridge. I left

feeling a valued part of the College community, very honoured to be a recipient of the Larmor Award, and proud of how both my daughter and I had grown during our time here.

For the year following graduation, I took a post as a research assistant in the Cambridge Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Group in the Department of Psychiatry. Finding I enjoyed the research, I was successful in getting the Pinsent Darwin studentship in Mental Pathology to do a PhD, which gave me the opportunity to develop my own project within the research group, looking at the structural and functional connectivity of the brain in people with Prader-Willi syndrome.

Being a graduate student has afforded me a different view of the College. St John's has a vibrant graduate community, with lots going on, including frequent family-friendly events in recognition of the fact that many more graduate students arrive with different circumstances to the 'typical' Cambridge undergraduate. I come into College much less frequently than I did as an undergraduate and am instead based largely in my department, where I'm fortunate to share the company of a fantastic group of fellow graduate students and other early career researchers.

And since the graduate academic year doesn't run according to the short-term system, I don't find my friends disappear for large parts of the year!

However, different challenges have arisen during my time as a graduate student. The quirks of the Cambridge undergraduate system are less helpful for those with other commitments: the Thursday to Thursday working week hints at the lack of weekend, as do the Saturday lectures; but the Isaac Newton bursary system and student finance provisions, which include grants to pay for childcare, offset the high living costs of the city while I was an undergraduate student. In contrast, I had serious concerns about my ability to cover my living costs if I were to continue studying at graduate level, which St John's reassured me would not become a barrier to pursuing my PhD studies. This generosity on the part of the College, for instance, the policy of providing help with childcare costs for all student parents at St John's, will become ever more valuable to students to cover shortfalls in living costs as other sources of funding are increasingly eroded. A lot of work has also been done recently by the student unions, including the creation of a new student parent representative role to improve the links between student parents across the University. I am hopeful that this will help mitigate the potential for student parents to feel isolated.

I feel incredibly lucky to have been given the opportunity to spend this time in Cambridge. It's a beautiful city and a wonderful place to bring up children – full of green spaces, brilliant (and free) museums and lots of events for families. My daughter enjoys coming into College and she has always been made to feel welcome, from punting with friends, Family Hall and the annual Christingle service and visit from Father Christmas, to being talked through the portraits by Professor Dobson at a lunch in the Master's Lodge. Being in Cambridge has also allowed us to stay reasonably close to family, enabling regular visits and a lifeline at times when work has made demands that childcare can't cover.

Being a student parent isn't easy; it entails some challenges that many other students don't have to think about and sickness bugs doing the rounds at school can disrupt even the most well-organised plans, but it's also hugely rewarding. I want to succeed in my studies and provide a good role model for my daughter, but I also want to be available to support my daughter. For me, studying has had the enormous benefit of being flexible, enabling me to be there for the school plays, sports days and concerts and allowing me to work around our precious time together. St John's has offered me fantastic opportunities that I think a lot of people had assumed would be closed to me, and made us feel a valued part of the College community, and for that I am exceptionally grateful. It takes some determination, and there will always be days where I'm simply 'getting by', but I'm so pleased I applied all that time ago!



Katie Manning

Student awards

Student awards, prizes and scholarships as notified to the College and conferred between 1 May 2013 and 30 April 2014.

- 1998 NANGALIA, Dr Jyoti had a paper accepted on a new cancer gene that she discovered in July 2013 during the course of her PhD in Haematology. The American Society of Haematology also received an abstract from Jyoti, which was released online by the *New England Journal of Medicine*.
- 2006 BUTLER, Richard has won a Fulbright Scholarship to the University of Wisconsin, Madison.
- 2008 MOORE, Ursula won the prize for best poster presentation at the Altitude Medicine Conference in November 2013.
- 2009 BELFIORE, Francesco was a joint winner of the BP-Nevill Mott Prize in 2013.
- 2009 GRAHAM, Calbert was awarded an International Speech Communication Association (ISCA) grant to present a paper at the Interspeech Conference 2013 in Lyon, France. Interspeech is the world's largest and most comprehensive technical conference focused on speech and language processing and its application.
- 2009 KLEIN, Nina was awarded a First Class in her Part III results for the Natural Sciences Tripos (Materials Science Master's) examinations, and also received the Armourers and Brasiers AWE Prize from the department.
- 2009 MALONE, Hannah has been elected to a Junior Research Fellowship at Magdalene College.
- 2010 BANERJEE, Neeloy came top of his year in 2012/13 in Part II of the Materials Science Tripos, and also received the Armourers and Brasiers Award.
- 2010 GODARD, Thomas was awarded the Vivien Law Prize for his essay titled 'A new grammar by Joseph Priestley (1733–1804)'. The prize was established by the Henry Sweet Society and is given for the best essay submitted on any topic within the history of linguistics.
- 2010 JAMES, Freddie has been awarded the W. T. Best Memorial Scholarship 2014–16 by The Worshipful Company of Musicians.

- 2010 MALLIK, Mekhola was awarded the Medawar Medal for best scientific paper at the seventeenth British Transplantation Society Annual Congress for her paper titled 'Regulatory B Cell Therapy in Transplantation'.
- 2010 SAUMAREZ-SMITH, Otto has been elected to a Junior Research Fellowship at Lincoln College, Oxford.
- 2010 STANSBURY, Anna was a joint winner of the Adam Smith Best Overall Performance Prize for the 2013 Economics examinations.
- 2011 BELLEI, Francesca was awarded the John Stewart of Rannoch Scholarship and also a Henry Arthur Thomas Book Prize.
- 2011 BOK, Priscilla won the Winchester Reading Prize in 2013, administered by the Faculty of English, for reading aloud a selection of biblical and poetical passages.
- 2011 DERVAN, Ruadhais was awarded a Smith-Knight and Rayleigh-Knight Prize in 2014 for his essay titled 'Applications of K-Stability'.
- 2011 FREEMAN, Rosemary won the Turner Prize in Economics for the 2013 examinations.
- 2011 KIRK-EVANS, Hannah was awarded the Henry Arthur Thomas Travel Exhibition 2013.
- 2011 PAIGE, Kirsten won the Thurston Dart Research Grant from the Royal Musical Association in spring 2013.
- 2011 RABY, Jonathan won the Medical Tripos PfPC Distinction Prize, awarded for the best overall Preparing for Patients C coursework.
- 2011 REDMOND, Joan has been awarded an International Placement Fellowship to study at the Huntington Library in southern California for four months, by the Arts and Humanities Research Council. The competition awards PhD students and early career researchers fellowships of up to six months at research institutions around the world.
- 2011 STAINER, Fiona was the overall winner of the 2013 *Vogue* magazine Talent Contest for young writers.
- 2011 TAM, Andrew received a BP Prize for outstanding performance in Part IB Chemistry B in June 2013.

- 2012 KEATING, Laura received the Isaac Newton Studentship for 2013/14.
- 2012 MURUIKI, Peter won the Engineering Department Prize for his IA Engineer in Society report.
- 2012 SZOKE, Martin was awarded the Henry Arthur Thomas Travel Exhibition 2013.
- 2012 WANG, Tengyao received the Wishart Prize for achieving a Distinction in his examination for his Master's degree in Pure Mathematics.
- 2012 ZIMAREV, Daniel was awarded the Pat Burnell New Investigator Award at the Drug Delivery to the Lungs Conference.
- 2013 FLAGMEIER, Patrick won the Römer-Preis 2013 at the Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, where he undertook research for his Master's thesis. The award is given for excellent scientific achievements.
- 2013 SCHNEIDER, Sabine was awarded the Ellen MacArthur Scholarship in Economic History, together with a Prize Research Studentship from the Joint Centre for History and Economics at Cambridge and Harvard. Sabine also received an Ellen MacArthur Grant to cover expenses for research and archival visits for her MPhil dissertation in Economic History.

MASTER AND FELLOWSHIP

College Officers

The College Officers, as of 1 October 2014, will be:

The Master	Professor C. M. Dobson
The President	The Reverend D. J. Dormor
Senior Tutor	Dr M. Dörrzapf
Senior Bursar	Mr C. F. Ewbank
Dean of Chapel	The Reverend D. J. Dormor
Dean of Discipline	Dr D. M. Fox
Domestic Bursar	Mr M. N. Wells
Librarian	Dr A. M. Nicholls
Praelector	Professor P. T. Johnstone
Director of Music	Mr A. M. Nethsingha
Fellows' Steward	Professor M. Schofield
Chaplain	The Reverend E. Adekunle

The College Council

Members of the College Council, as of 1 October 2014, will be:

The Master

The President	Dr Dörrzapf
Dr Hughes	Miss Tomaselli
Professor Evans	Mr Ewbank
Dr Watson	Professor Rink
Professor Kinmonth	Professor Toland
Dr Nicholls	Dr Wilshaw

The Fellowship

The Fellowship of the College, as of 1 October 2014, will be (in order of seniority):

The Master (Professor C. M. Dobson)
 The President (The Revd D. J. Dormor)

Dr E. D. James
 Professor R. A. Hinde

Dr R. H. Prince
 Professor Sir Jack Goody

Dr J. A. Charles
 Dr D. J. H. Garling
 Professor R. N. Perham
 Dr G. A. Reid
 Professor P. Boyde
 Dr J. A. Leake
 Dr P. A. Linehan
 Dr A. J. Macfarlane
 Professor D. L. McMullen
 Dr E. K. Matthews
 Mr R. G. Jobling
 Dr A. A. Macintosh
 Professor J. Staunton
 Dr C. M. P. Johnson
 Professor M. A. Clarke
 Dr A. G. Smith
 Professor J. A. Emerton
 Professor J. Iliffe
 Professor M. Schofield
 Dr G. A. Lewis
 Professor R. F. Griffin
 Professor T. P. Bayliss-Smith
 Professor S. F. Gull
 Dr H. P. Hughes
 Dr P. Goddard
 Professor P. T. Johnstone
 Professor I. M. Hutchings
 Professor H. R. L. Beadle
 Dr J. B. Hutchison
 Professor S. F. C. Milsom
 Dr D. G. D. Wight
 Professor Sir Richard Friend
 Dr R. E. Glasscock
 Professor R. P. Tombs
 Dr R. E. McConnell
 Professor D. R. Midgley
 Professor P. H. Matthews
 Dr M. Richards
 Professor J. F. Kerrigan
 Professor G. J. Burton
 Professor G. C. Horrocks
 Professor Sir Partha Dasgupta
 Professor Sir Mark Welland
 Dr H. R. Matthews

Professor B. J. Heal
 Dr T. P. Hynes
 Professor I. N. McCave
 Dr A. C. Metaxas
 Colonel R. H. Robinson
 Professor S. Conway Morris
 Professor E. D. Laue
 Dr S. A. Edgley
 Professor R. A. Evans
 Dr S. M. Colwell
 Dr H. E. Watson
 Dr J. P. McDermott
 Professor C. O. Lane
 Dr C. J. Robinson
 Professor Y. M. Suhov
 Professor S. R. S. Szreter
 Professor D. J. Howard
 Professor M. M. G. Lisboa
 Professor U. C. Rublack
 Professor B. D. Simons
 Dr K. C. Plaisted Grant
 Dr M. Ní Mhaonaigh
 Professor D. C. McFarlane
 Professor C. D. Gray
 Dr I. M. Winter
 Professor N. S. Manton
 Dr N. S. Arnold
 Dr S. Castelveccchi
 Professor A.-L. Kinmonth
 Dr J. M. Lees
 Professor A. D. H. Wyllie
 Professor S. C. Reif
 Dr D. M. Fox
 Dr D. M. A. Stuart
 Dr A. M. Nicholls
 Dr M. Dörrzapf
 Dr P. Antonello
 Dr P. T. Miracle
 Professor A. W. Woods
 Commodore J. W. R. Harris
 Professor S. M. Best
 Dr P. M. Geraats
 Dr P. T. Wood
 Dr E. J. Gowers

Professor U. C. Goswami
 Professor R. J. Samworth
 Professor G. W. W. Barker
 Dr D. L. Williams
 Miss S. Tomaselli
 Mr C. F. Ewbank
 Dr F. E. Salmon
 Dr C. G. Warnes
 Dr C. D. Jiggins
 Mr S. W. Teal
 Mr A. M. Nethsingha
 Dr T. Larsson
 Dr R. D. Mullins
 Dr T. P. J. Knowles
 Dr J. J. W. A. Robinson
 Dr G. L. Evans
 Dr M. Atatüre
 Dr A. B. Reddy
 Professor Z. Ghahramani
 Professor J. S. Rink
 Dr T. E. C. Button
 Dr E. Reisner
 Professor J. Toland
 Professor O. Paulsen
 Dr N. L. Roberts
 Dr I. Palacios
 Dr K. Franze
 Dr A. Lamacraft
 Dr J. P. Slight
 Dr U. Paszkowski

Dr N. MacDonald
 Dr A. O. Wilshaw
 Dr J. R. Taylor
 Dr P. Murray
 Dr A. Bouayad
 Dr M. J. V. P. Worthington
 Dr A. K. Arsan
 Dr M. T. G. Humphreys
 Dr R. S. Weatherup
 Dr S. I. A. Cohen
 Dr M. A. Crowley
 Professor S. J. Peacock
 Dr M. F. L. De Volder
 Dr H. J. Joyce
 Dr S. Shao
 Dr T. M. Adamo
 Dr O. Da Rold
 Mr M. N. Wells
 Mr S. H. Martin
 Dr S. McDowell
 Dr A. Albors-Llorens
 Professor T. J. G. Whitmarsh
 Dr E. T. Tipper
 Dr E. M. Steiner
 Mr T. J. Watts
 Dr A. Y. Chua
 Dr E. Bexley
 Mr M. G. Elliot
 Miss H. S. Knowles
 Miss F. Vella

Honorary Fellows

The Honorary Fellows of the College, as of 1 October 2014, in order of seniority:

The Revd Professor W. O.
 Chadwick
 Sir Jonathan Miller
 Dr Manmohan Singh
 Sir Douglas Wass
 Sir David Wilson

Sir Bryan Cartledge
 The Rt Hon. the Lord Griffiths
 Sir Derek Jacobi
 Professor Sir Roger Penrose
 Professor Sir John Horlock
 Professor Sir David Cox

The Rt Hon. Lord Mustill
Mr Justice R. J. Goldstone
The Rt Hon. Lord Hope
Sir Timothy Lankester
The Rt Hon. the Lord Browne
Sir Mervyn King
Mr J. M. Brearley
The Hon. Mr Justice Frank
 Iacobucci
Ambassador A. J. Jacovides
Sir Michael Scholar
The Most Revd P. F. Carnley
Sir Mark Moody-Stuart
Mr D. M. Burt
Mr C. N. Corfield
Professor E. S. Maskin
Professor Lord Renfrew
The Rt Hon. the Lord Justice Aikens
Professor Sir John Ball

The Rt Hon. Sir Jack Beatson
Professor J. G. A. Pocock
Sir David Hopwood
Sir Roger Palin
Mr D. W. Pountney
The Rt Hon. the Lord Crisp
Mr S. J. Keenlyside
Professor R. M. Goody
The Rt Revd Professor S. W. Sykes
Professor L. Cha
Professor Lord Hennessy
Professor A. D. Hamilton
Professor D. W. Harvey
Miss J. C. Egan
The Most Revd B. Ntshoturi
Professor B. J. Stapleton
Mr M. A. Feigen
Mr T. J. E. Adès

MEMBERS' NEWS



ST JOHN'S COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

FOCUS ON A FELLOW

Dr Máire Ní Mhaonaigh has been a Fellow of St John's College since October 1995; she is also Reader in Celtic in the University's Department of Anglo-Saxon, Norse, and Celtic.

As a medieval scholar whose work focuses primarily on Ireland's relations with Britain, Scandinavia and the wider European world, my research creates ripples rather than waves. I was unprepared, therefore, for the torrent it unleashed earlier this year when reaction to a densely argued academic piece I wrote, involving close reading of Irish, Norse and Latin texts, included a two-page spread in the Irish edition of *The Sun* newspaper. When indignation had subsided at the manner in which my 'sensational assertions' had been presented and Irish family members had stopped spluttering into their teacups, I took heart in the fact that medieval history matters; it informs our view of ourselves and our place in the modern world.

The research that travel-weary *Metro* readers were also offered in summary, subjective form concerns the Battle of Clontarf, fought somewhere north of Dublin a millennium ago in 1014. In popular belief it is deemed to be a quasi-nationalistic clash between Irish forces led by the ageing Munster king, Brian Boru, and Dublin-based Vikings, augmented by Leinster forces, along with Scandinavian allies from overseas. The image of Brian being slain while praying on the edge of the battlefield contributed to his depiction as a martyr. It is claimed as an Irish victory, though the losses were great. Scholars have long shown that the reality was more complex. The outcome – which seems something of a gory stalemate – is just as doubtful as its nationalistic connotations. Irish and Vikings fought on both sides and the encounter can only be understood within the context of the power politics of tenth- and eleventh-century Ireland, in which the Norse of Dublin were key players.

Difficulties in understanding the battle itself are compounded by the lack of contemporary sources. No archaeological remains of it have survived and there is no consensus on where the battle was actually fought. Chronicle accounts generally provide a date and a list of the dead. For detail, we are dependent on later, literary narratives in Irish and Norse. Of these, the most influential was a biased pseudo-historical tract, *Cogadh Gáedhel re Gallaibh* (The War of the Irish against the Foreigners). It was written a century or so after the battle at the behest of Brian Boru's great-grandson, a powerful king in his own right, Muirchertach O'Brien, who died in 1119. The partisan tone of this 'Life of Brian' is audible; as a skilful work of sophisticated propaganda, it bolstered the place of Brian Boru's descendants in the political pecking order, serving as a reminder to all of former glory.



Samuel Watson, before 1867, 'Brian Boraimhe [Brian Boru] at the Battle of Clontarf'.
Image courtesy of the National Library of Ireland.

In cultivating a specific image of Brian and the *de facto* military leader at Clontarf, his son, Murchad, the author of the *Cogadh* produced a carefully constructed, brilliant work of literature, drawing on a variety of other texts. His depiction of the battle itself betrays his close familiarity with the story of the Trojan War and specifically with an Irish translation of a fifth-century Latin account of Troy by Dares Phrygius. This vernacular text, *Togail Troí* (The Destruction of Troy) is preserved in the same manuscript in which the earliest, albeit fragmentary version of the *Cogadh* is preserved. Whoever wrote the latter clearly had it to hand. Moreover, he used it and other sources in highly original and deeply learned ways.

Murchad's son is portrayed as Hector in the Irish text. By presenting Hector and Murchad as the beginning and end points of a glorious warrior age, however, with four heroes in between, the sophisticated writer goes further and consciously



Church at Killaloe, County Clare, the heartland of Brian Boru's home territory.
Photo: Dr Fiona Edmonds

evokes the common Christian chronology of the Six Ages of the World – each age representing a distinct stage in human life, from infancy to old age. The ageing of the world (*senectus mundi*) is then dramatically depicted by him in terms of the decline in valour between Hector and Brian's son, Murchad, the latter being the last great hero the world will ever see. His use of this concept was creative and new; yet its ultimate inspiration was the intellectual world of medieval Europe, of which he and his learned contemporaries formed an integral part.

As a significant part of the European story, Troy shaped the battle-narrative of the *Cogadh* author. In modelling sections of his narrative on an account of the Trojan War and with reference to medieval philosophy, he produced a rhetorical masterpiece designed to place Ireland's legendary past within a grand classical tradition. Furthermore, he and his twelfth-century audience may well have read the fate of Hector and the Trojans as resonant of that of Murchad and Brian and their allies at Clontarf. Defeated in battle like the fallen heroes of Troy, the Munstermen and their supporters ultimately triumph through the supremacy of their descendants. And in that subsequent triumph, the power of the written word, as exemplified by the *Cogadh*, played a crucial role. The influence of writing thankfully endures and recent discussion of this research in a variety of newspapers and other media will, I hope, stimulate further debate. Whatever happens, and in whichever direction future research will lead me, I suspect that I've had my day in *The Sun*.



Dr Máire Ní Mhaonaigh

FOCUS ON A FELLOW



Professor Andrew Baum was a Fellow of the College from 2011 to 2014 as Director of Studies in Land Economy. This was a new position funded by a generous donation from alumnus Aubrey Adams (1967). It is now endowed as a permanent role and Dr Eva Steiner will build on Andrew's work as Director of Studies from the academic year 2014/15.

To this particular sixteen-year-old, more than forty years ago at a comprehensive school in Leicestershire, the prospect of Oxbridge seemed remote. In retrospect, it was not completely out of the question, as my headmaster encouraging four attempts at Latin O level (only one of which was successful!) seems to suggest, but Thomas Hardy's *Jude the Obscure* had made quite an impression.

Although Jude wishes to attend the university at Christminster (Oxford), he cannot afford to pay for a degree and lacks the rigorous lifelong training necessary to qualify for a fellowship. He is therefore prevented from gaining economic mobility out of the working class.


This theme of unattainable education was personal for Hardy since he, like Jude, was not able to afford a degree at Oxford or Cambridge, in spite of his early interest in scholarship and the classics. Several specific details about Jude's self-directed studies actually appear in Hardy's autobiography, including their late-night Latin readings while working full-time as a stonemason or architect, respectively.

Having been put on a 'fast track', sitting my A levels at the unripe age of sixteen, the 'third year sixth' set aside for Oxbridge entrance exams was not something I seriously contemplated. Off I went to Reading University to study Land Management (including a bit of stonemasonry and architecture), graduating at the still unripe age of nineteen. What next?

Brasenose College, Oxford, perhaps, to study for a postgraduate certificate of education? A postgraduate certificate of education was hardly on my to-do list, but the dreaming spires (and, equally important, Wembley Stadium) were

shimmering into view after I had been spotted by the Oxford soccer coach playing in goal for British Universities and encouraged to try out for the Oxford team, who were due to play Cambridge at Wembley in the 1974 Varsity match. So I applied, but was turned down. Clearly I did not understand the system ...

Many years passed, including an academic career, and a chair at Reading, running alongside a business career (not as a stonemason), and several brushes with Cambridge – dinner at Magdalene with Bamber Gascoigne (inevitably, thought my father), examining an MPhil for a fee that I remember did not quite cover the train fare, and giving the odd lecture. Then, at a now-ripe age, I was appointed to be a visiting lecturer, then an honorary professor, and then a Fellow of St John's College. Glory be! Being asked to join the Buildings Committee and then to review the new stonework repair at the School of Pythagoras seems – in retrospect – symbolic.

My three years as a Fellow here are now drawing to a close and I am bound for Christminster. But my quintessential Oxbridge experience has been (and always will be) St John's College, Cambridge. Those glorious dinners in Hall; that wonderful Combination Room; the sheer professionalism and standards of the staff; the glories of true fellowship; and that remarkable Chapel Choir, mean that this Jude has enjoyed a much happier ending than Thomas Hardy allowed. 

Professor Andrew Baum

FOCUS ON A FELLOW



Dr Meredith Crowley is a College and University Lecturer in Economics, specialising in international trade and trade policy. She joined St John's in 2013, having previously worked at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago and as a Visiting Associate Professor at Georgetown University.

Why do countries sign trade agreements that limit their use of import restrictions? More curiously, why would a country adopt a broadly liberal trade policy but subsequently step back from that liberal trade regime by selectively introducing import restrictions on specific products or against particular trading partners?

My research is largely directed towards understanding the trade policy choices of governments. I use the framework of economic analysis to examine countries' participation in the World Trade Organization (WTO) and to understand the broad features of and developments in the use of commercial policy across countries and over time.

Most countries around the world have chosen to liberalise their import policies since the mid-1980s. Countries have chosen to reduce tariffs as part of negotiated agreements, which are administered by institutions like the WTO or unilaterally under their own national laws. Within both of these institutional frameworks, international agreements and domestic laws or administrative orders, we observe significant heterogeneity in trade policy across countries. For example, upon joining the WTO, the simple average of the maximum tariff rate on approximately 5,000 commodities that countries promised they would not exceed was 49.4 per cent for India, 31.4 per cent for Brazil, 10 per cent for China, 4.2 per cent for the European Union and 3.6 per cent for the United States. In other words, the US and European Union promise other WTO members almost tax-free access to their markets, the Chinese offer fairly low-cost access to their market, while the Brazilians and Indians retain the right to charge high and possibly prohibitive import tariffs on many products.

Although there is huge variation in the liberality of promised import regimes, the variation in what is implemented is considerably lower. Many middle-income countries institute a trade regime with tariff rates that are lower than what they promised under international agreements: in 2010 the simple average of the tariff rate applied to these 5,000 commodities was 13.7 per cent for Brazil, 12.4 per cent for India, and 9.6 per cent for China. This practice contrasts sharply with the high-income industrialised countries in which the promised tariff rates under international agreements are binding commitments. My research tries to identify the economic forces that lead to these differences in trade policy across countries, as well as to changes in trade policy over time.

To understand trade policy in the modern era, we can start with the question: why would any country impose an import tariff? This is puzzling to economists because import tariffs are a tax. As a tax, tariffs raise the price that consumers must pay for goods, provide tax revenue to the government and have the potential to create distortions, or inefficiencies, in consumption and production decisions. Other tax policies, such as a domestic value-added tax, are understood to be less distortionary and more efficient sources of government revenue.

Essentially, the body of economy theory suggests two economic rationales for positive tariffs – they can support the development of domestic ‘infant’ industries or they can improve a country’s purchasing power, or ‘terms-of-trade’, on world markets. However, pursuing restrictive import policies for either of these reasons has the potential to create new problems.

In the case of infant industries, the concern arises that the government might choose the wrong industries to protect. The result could be domestic firms that provide employment but waste human potential and capital investment through inefficient resource allocation. A challenge confronting a government that wants to get out of the business of protecting infant industries is that the short-run costs of abandoning these policies make it difficult for a government to credibly commit to lower import tariffs that could yield long-term gains.

If two large trading partners try to use tariffs to expand their purchasing power, the problem is that each country’s gain comes at the expense of its trading partner. Because import demand in a large country will comprise a large share of worldwide demand, any change in a large country’s demand for a good will have an effect on that good’s price on the world market. Specifically, when a large country’s government imposes a tariff, this reduces the quantity of imports demanded and, consequently, causes the world price to fall. This decline in import price, called a ‘terms-of-trade’ improvement, makes a country better off because it enables it to buy more on the world market. Recent empirical research has shown that even countries that are small in terms of population or GDP can


be large regional purchasers of certain products and thus set higher tariffs on products for which they can exert downward pressure on prices through their own tariffs. However, when two trading partners direct import tariffs against each other to extract terms-of-trade gains, the impact on import prices into each country can offset each other, yielding no net gains, but rather producing wasteful tax distortions.

In light of these two problems associated with tariff-setting behaviour by governments, economists develop theoretical models of international trade agreements to examine the extent to which the structure of these contracts can facilitate trade policy choices that generate better resource allocation and greater consumption. An important practical question in trade agreement design relates to whether, by how much, and under what circumstances a country should be allowed to raise its tariff rate after making a promise to set it at a low level. On the one hand, because the economic environment is constantly bombarded with sudden and unexpected changes in everything from technology to the weather, it makes sense to give the parties to a trade agreement some flexibility to change the terms of the agreement when something unexpected occurs. On the other hand, if too much flexibility is allowed, the credibility of the agreement could be undermined, and the agreement might provide few or no benefits.

Several of my recent papers have focused on a particular set of import restrictions that are permitted under the rules of the WTO in exceptional circumstances. These papers examine the extent to which economic incentives and economic shocks affect the trade policies of industrialised and emerging economies, especially in light of these countries' increasing engagement in the rules-based multilateral trading system. Empirically, this work documents that commitments to maintain low tariffs on many goods are 'unwound' or 'circumvented' through a set of WTO-approved contingency programmes that permit temporary tariff hikes under specific economic and legal criteria.

Using data on increases in US import tariffs against forty-nine countries over the 1997–2006 period, I have shown that these special import restrictions can be understood as a feature of the WTO agreement that ensures that the US's participation in the WTO is self-sustaining in the face of unanticipated shifts to the US's demand for imported goods and the supply of these goods by its export partners. This is an important finding because it suggests that limited flexibility to raise tariffs is a necessary feature to guarantee the smooth operation of the multilateral trading system.

Another piece analyses how trade policy was conducted by thirteen major emerging economies, including Brazil, China and India, from 1989 to 2010.

Of particular interest is the change in the conduct of trade policy among emerging economies that occurred with the advent of the WTO. The findings develop a complex picture of the nature of 'trade policy commitment' for emerging economies in the WTO. The use of temporary import restrictions in response to adverse macroeconomic shocks is evidence of countries' commitment to the principles of transparency and stability in trade policy that the WTO promotes, and yet remains a step back from the more fully liberal regime that they promised to employ. This type of empirical evidence documenting the importance of economic determinants of trade policy formation pushes beyond traditionally political motives such as income redistribution or lobbying, and suggests that allowing flexibility within international trade agreements might actually lead to better economic outcomes for the countries that participate. 

Dr Meredith Crowley

MEMBERS' NEWS

The following pages are dedicated to sharing news from all our members. You can contribute to next year's issue by adding your news at johnian.joh.cam.ac.uk/members-news or by filling in the paper form that accompanies this issue.

If you've lost touch with another Johnian, please contact the Development Office at development@joh.cam.ac.uk or on 01223 338700, and if we have their contact details we will try to help you reconnect with them.

- 1940 BRUCE-LOCKHART, Logie published his memoirs in July 2013, titled *Now and Then, This and That*.
- 1944 NYE, John recently published *Ton Up! How to be 100*, through Amazon.
- 1946 PREECE, Dr John: The false dawns of many psychological theories and counter-theories call for the employment of the bedrock evidence of history, together with human prehistory, as mirrored in primatology, as an applied science. John's new book *A Brief History of Human Behaviour, and how to Become an Enlightened Global Citizen*, which is available in print through Amazon.com/advanced search books, and electronically through all major e-book stores, shows how a knowledge of the retrospect of their species enables human beings to optimise their conduct. John has previously been a practising physician, Bart's scholar, software company chairman and patentee, national magazine editor, book author and composer. As a co-designer with IBM, he was the world's first doctor to use an operational computer system in general practice.
- 1948 ROBINSON, Dr Alfred 'Bud': Bud's family have informed the College that he passed away in October 2013 after a short battle with bowel carcinoma. They remind us of some details in a full life. In 1948 Bud was awarded a scholarship to St John's to read Medicine and he qualified from Guy's Hospital in 1953. He was Consultant Paediatrician at St Richard's Hospital Chichester and former Postgraduate Dean of the South West. Bud leaves a wife (Audrey), six children and sixteen grandchildren, who all miss him very much.
- 1949 CLARK, Professor Harold is publishing his autobiography, *A Man from Ohio*. The first volume, subtitled 'Home and Beyond', is out now, and two more volumes will appear in the next two years. The book can be ordered online at www.amanfromohio.com.

- 1949 LOCKE, Michael, Professor Emeritus of the University of Western Ontario: Michael's family have informed the College that he sadly died on 20 October 2013 before the release of his book, *Bone, Ivory and Horn* (USA: Schiffer Publishers), the following December.
- 1951 ROBINSON, Thomas Brian has reissued his memoirs, retitled *Somewhere Near Eden*. This is a revised and significantly updated version of *From Far Away Shores*, depicting life experiences from childhood in Lancashire to retirement in Nova Scotia. The memoirs cover his childhood through the Second World War; undergraduate years at St John's College; a career in the Canadian telephony industry through the technical explosion years; dealing with cancer in both himself and his wife, a former nurse at Addenbrooke's Hospital; and then eventual retirement to his personal paradise in rural Nova Scotia. The book is available through <http://lulu.com>. A copy rests in the College Library.
- 1952 DODDS, Rodney discovered, aged eighty, that he could compose tunes to go with stunning poetry from the past. These include a new Christmas carol for *The Times* newspaper competition; a poem of Edward Shillito to celebrate the centenary of the First World War; a poem of Goethe (memories of Peter Stern, past Fellow of St John's and Rodney's much remembered German supervisor); and a prayer of St Avila – both of the latter have been performed locally.
- 1952 HASLAM, Dr Michael recently published *Psychiatry then and now: A history of the Society of Clinical Psychiatrists*. He also reached the age of eighty on 7 February 2014.
- 1952 MARSHALL, Richard was elected a Fellow of the Institute of Physics in 2009.
- 1954 GRIFFIN, Professor Roger (Fellow), now seventy-eight, ran the 2014 London Marathon in four hours, forty-eight minutes – a 'personal worst' time by a large margin, but a better result than the previous two years when he did not run it at all. It is also well within the relevant 'good for age' time of five hours, thirty minutes, which offers automatic acceptance of entry to the event for the next two years.
- 1955 PRICE, David edited *History of St Mark's: Church Life in Broomhill and Broomhall*, published in September 2013.
- 1956 MACINTOSH, Dr Andrew (Fellow) was presented with a Festschrift at a dinner in the College's Wordsworth Room on 10 January 2014.

The Festschrift, entitled *Leshon Limmudim*, includes over twenty essays by Dr Macintosh's former students and colleagues covering various aspects of classical Hebrew language and literature. It celebrates Dr Macintosh's contribution to Hebrew scholarship as both a dedicated scholar and an inspiring teacher for a period of over forty years in both the Divinity and Oriental Studies faculties. The Hebrew title of the Festschrift comes from the book of Isaiah and can be translated as 'the tongue of the teacher' or 'the tongue of the learned'.

- 1956 WESTON, Anthony was created a freeman of the city of Hereford on 16 November 2013.
- 1958 BRITTON, Peter has recently produced, under his nom de plume Peter Lemesurier, a major, comprehensive biography of the historical Nostradamus titled *Nostradamus, Prophet of Provence* (Filament Publishing, 2014). The latest in a long series of works on related subjects, it demolishes a great many of the accumulated myths and is cast as a historical novel. See <http://mirrorofprovidence.blogspot.co.uk> for more details.
- 1959 AVERY, Dr Charles has recently published an article titled 'From Cathedral Bell to Equestrian Monument to Revolutionary Cannon: Serpotta's brass statue and two statuettes of King Carlos II of Spain and the Two Sicilies (1679–1684)', in C. Miner (ed.), *The Eternal Baroque: Studies in Honour of Jennifer Montagu* (Turin, 2014).
- 1960 COULSON, Dr Charles wrote 'The Barfrestone Conundrum: "Much Restored" but "Virtually Unaltered"', *Archaeologia Cantiana* 134 (2014), 153–86.
- 1960 CROALL, Jonathan has published his twentieth book, *Forgotten Stars: My Father and the British Silent Film World*. His other titles include major biographies of A. S. Neill, John Gielgud and Sybil Thorndike. Details can be found at www.jonathancroall.com
- 1960 GREENHALGH, Colin was appointed a Governor of Comberton Village College in Cambridgeshire in 2013, and a Trustee and Director of the Comberton Academy Trust in 2014.
- 1960 HOUSTON, the Revd Dr Walter published *The Pentateuch* (London: SCM core texts, SCM Press) in September 2013.
- 1960 LENMAN, Professor Bruce, Emeritus Professor of Modern History, University of St Andrews, finally published the book *Military Engineers*

and the Development of the Early-Modern European State in July 2013, which he has been editing and part writing since 2009.

- 1960 MOODY-STUART, Sir Mark (Honorary Fellow) has published *Responsible Leadership: Lessons from the Front Line of Sustainability and Ethics* (Greenleaf Publishing, 2014).
- 1960 SMITH, Jonathan's fifth novel, *Summer in February* (1995), was turned into a feature film in 2013 and Jonathan wrote the screenplay. His seventh novel will be published in 2014.
- 1961 CLARKE, Professor Malcolm (Fellow) published *International Carriage of Goods: CMR*, sixth edition (2014) and *The Law of Liability Insurance* (Abingdon, 2013).
- 1961 WEIGHTMAN, Dr Paul has put together a fifty-year update on the LMBC seventh May Boat from 1963, with help from a Fellow of the College, Professor David McMullen. The crew includes two Fellows of the Royal Society and six professors. Paul managed to reunite the crew using the Internet.
- 1962 BROWNING, Patrick is now practising as a clinical hypnotherapist in London, following a previous career in banking and finance. He sees people with cancer at Paul's Cancer Support Centre and last year ran a pain management project for people with migraine at the National Migraine Centre. He has now published a number of hypnotherapy apps, which are available from the Apple App Store, and further apps are issued every quarter. The most popular apps so far are for sleep, anxiety, confidence, motivation, weight and alcohol, but there are also apps for minority interests such as hypnotic poetry. For more information, see www.browning-hypnosis.co.uk.
- 1962 SUTCLIFFE, John published *The Colours of Rome* (Old School Press) in September 2013 – an examination of the use of colour on the facades of today's Rome, with historical and other notes, and a selection of colours copied on site.
- 1963 WATERS, Brian has been reappointed for a third year as Chairman of the National Planning Forum.
- 1964 BURT, Dan (Honorary Fellow) released his memoir, *You Think It Strange* (Notting Hill Editions), in November 2013.

- 1964 HOWARD, Professor Deborah (Fellow) has published the following books – in each case as editor, co-author of the introduction, and author of one chapter: *Architecture and Pilgrimage 1000–1500: Southern Europe and Beyond*, edited with Paul Davies and Wendy Pullan (Aldershot: Ashgate Press, 2013), and *The Image of Venice: Fialetti's View and Sir Henry Wotton*, edited with Henrietta McBurney (London: Paul Holberton publishers, 2014). In 2013, together with Dr Mary Laven (History) and Dr Abigail Brundin (Italian), she was awarded an ERC Synergy Grant for the period 2013–17 for the research project entitled 'Domestic Devotions: The Place of Piety in the Italian Renaissance Home'. This was the only purely humanities project to be awarded funding in this scheme.
- 1964 SANDERS, the Revd Michael, College Chaplain 1975–9, conducted a service of thanksgiving for the life of John Morrith GILROY (1953), who died on 28 August 2012. John spent a year at St John's as a research student studying Engineering. The service took place at All Saints, Kemble, and the Preacher was the Revd Canon Roger SYMON (1956).
- 1964 TITFORD, John, a professional genealogist and author whose latest publications have been *The Penguin Dictionary of Surnames* (2009) and *My ancestor settled in the British West Indies* (2011), recently delivered a lecture on accents and dialects to the Oxford and Cambridge Club in London. Elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries in 2011, he now serves as a trustee of the Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies and of the British Record Society, and is on the committee of the Bookplate Society, for whom he is currently compiling a book on bookplates of Johnians throughout the centuries. In a bizarre twist, in 2012 he was commissioned as an Honorary Kentucky Colonel (sharing that honour with Winston Churchill, Elvis Presley, Barry Manilow, Bob Hope, Bing Crosby, Muhammad Ali, Roy Rogers, Mae West, Pope John Paul II, Johnny Depp, Whoopi Goldberg and – of course – Colonel Sanders of KFC fame).
- 1965 ACKLAM, Steve was part of The Glorious Thirds, whose sporting highlight was the Plate of 1967 when St John's Third XI beat Queens' Seconds in the final. As the competition also included first and second teams, this was a remarkable victory. They survived Martin Green (University Rugby Captain) scoring four against them, their goalie throwing the ball into his own net and their captain dropping himself for the final! Seven members of this magnificent team met for dinner in Cambridge on 27 September 2013, reuniting in some cases after forty-six years. The spirit that won the Plate also led to their successful reunion. Steve can be contacted at steveacklam41@gmail.com

- 1966 YOUNG, Professor Robert was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in May 2013.
- 1967 QUAYLE, Nigel Dixon, Professor of English Linguistics at the École Centrale de Lille, was promoted to the rank of Professeur des Universités, Classe Exceptionnelle in September 2013.
- 1969 CHISHOLM, Nicolas has written *Menuhin's Vision – Fifty Years of the Yehudi Menuhin School*, which was published in December 2013. As its headmaster for twenty-two years from 1988 until his retirement in 2010, he is in a unique position to describe how the specialist music school was founded in 1963 against all the educational trends at the time, and how it became so well known throughout the world. The book explains what it takes to produce accomplished musicians who are also rounded human beings.
- 1969 CROOKS, the Very Revd Peter has moved from the splendour of Snowdonia to cheerful, scruffy Reading! In 2013 Peter published *Yemen: Heartbreak and Hope* – his reflections on five years working (until the end of 2013) as a priest in Aden and a director of medical clinics there.
- 1969 JONES, Gareth's new feature film *DELIGHT* premiered at the Moscow Film Festival in June 2013 and was launched at the Cambridge Film Festival in September 2013 at the Cambridge Arts Picturehouse. Gareth is now fundraising for the third in the D-Trilogy, *DENIAL*, shooting in Cambridge 2014–15.
- 1970 DE FLUITER, Ruurd achieved a Graduate Diploma with Merit in Coaching and Mentoring from Sheffield Hallam University in July 2013.
- 1971 HIGGINSON, the Revd Dr Richard had a new book published by IVP in 2012, titled *Faith, Hope and the Global Economy*.
- 1971 MENZIES, Professor Martin, of Royal Holloway, University of London, has been awarded a Distinguished Professorship by the Chinese Academy of Sciences.
- 1971 SPOONER, Graham was elected Chairman of the Johnian Society (2013–15) and Vice-Chairman of NACUE (2013), the leading UK charity that encourages enterprise and entrepreneurs at colleges and universities.
- 1973 ENNOS, Dr Richard has been appointed to a Personal Chair in the Institute of Evolutionary Biology, University of Edinburgh (Chair in Ecological Genetics).

- 1973 MANNING, Dr Paul reports that the stifle (knee) of the dog was a particular interest of his Director of Studies at St John's, the late Dr Reg Green. Paul followed Dr Green's instruction right through his clinical years and into professional practice, where he has been replacing ruptured canine cranial cruciate ligaments for over thirty years with great success. See www.astonlee.co.uk/cruciate-surgery for more information.
- 1973 PITT, Antony (Tony) retired from Hewlett-Packard Ltd in 2013.
- 1973 THOMASON, Neil has returned to live in Hong Kong after a few years in the UK. Neil is Asset Manager for a family office and flies the aviation club's R44 helicopter in his free time.
- 1974 POLLARD, David has had a new book on pensions law published: *The Law of Pension Trusts* (Oxford University Press, 2013), as well as the latest edition of *Freshfields on Corporate Pensions Law 2014* (Bloomsbury Professional).
- 1974 RILEY, David was awarded a Master of Arts in Classical Studies from the Open University in December 2013.
- 1974 SCOTT, John married Lily Ardalan at Saint Thomas Church, Fifth Avenue, New York, in May 2013.
- 1975 HIGGINS, Robert has been made an Honorary Professor by the University of Warwick, for services to the university and for transplantation research.
- 1976 LANE, Paul was appointed Professor of Global Archaeology at Uppsala University, Sweden, from 1 April 2013. Paul is also co-editor of *The Oxford Handbook of African Archaeology* with Peter Mitchell (Oxford University Press, 2013).
- 1976 REIF, Professor Stefan (Fellow) is the lead editor in the publication of seventeen essays by an international group of scholars in a volume entitled *Death in Jewish Life: Burial and Mourning Customs among Jews of Europe and Nearby Communities* (Berlin: de Gruyter, 2014). The University of Haifa awarded Professor Reif an honorary degree on 27 May 2014 in recognition of his life's work on the Cairo Genizah documents and other academic achievements, especially in encouraging the careers of young scholars, in developing warm connections with Israeli scholars, and in combining high levels of academic research with making its results available to the broader public. Among others who were honoured by the University of Haifa on the same day were the ex-President of South Africa, F. W. de Klerk, and the actor Chaim Topol.

- 1978 HYTNER, Richard has written a book, *Consiglieri: Leading from the Shadows* – a timely celebration of the done-down deputy. Published by Profile Books, Hytner (himself a former CEO and now Deputy Chairman of Saatchi & Saatchi and Adjunct Associate Professor of Marketing at London Business School) has interviewed and examined a remarkable array of powerful advisers and concludes that coming top may sometimes be second best. Available from www.amazon.co.uk/Consiglieri-Leading-Shadows-Richard-Hytner/dp/1781250464
- 1979 BRIDGEWATER, Keith conducted the first performance of his 'Concerto for Flute and Clarinet' in Birmingham during February 2013. He has also recently completed a commissioned 'Concert Piece for Piano and Strings' for Margaret Fingerhut. Keith has reduced his teaching hours as Director of Music to focus more on composing and performing his own music.
- 1979 MOLETA, Dr Vincent published *Family Business: An Italian New Zealand Story* (Christchurch: Canterbury University Press) in October 2012, and held an exhibition of fine, rare Italian art books at his home 'Fontecolombo' in Bridgetown, Western Australia.
- 1980 MIDGLEY, David (Fellow) became a professor on 1 October 2013 and is Head of the University of Cambridge's Department of German and Dutch until September 2015. His current research is focused on the German modernist writer Alfred Döblin.
- 1980 PEARCE, Dr Mark was promoted to Professor of Mediterranean Prehistory at the Department of Archaeology, University of Nottingham, in August 2014.
- 1981 RADFORD-SMITH, Dr Graham is currently Consultant Gastroenterologist at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, and Group Leader of the Division of Immunology at the Queensland Institute of Medical Research. Graham is married with triplet sons, aged sixteen years.
- 1981 WELLS, Mark (Fellow) took up the office of Domestic Bursar of St John's College in April 2014.
- 1982 GOWERS, Dr Emily (Fellow) was awarded a Leverhulme Major Research Fellowship for 2014–16, and elected a member of Academia Europaea in October 2013.
- 1983 DOUGHTY, Dr Heidi continues working as a Consultant in Transfusion Medicine for NHS Blood and Transport with an honorary post as a Consultant to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham. She has retired from the Army reserves after thirty-three years' service. However, she will

continue her association with the military, having been appointed as a Colonel Commander for the Royal Navy Medical Corps in January 2014.

- 1985 VAN RENSBURG, Katherine was appointed to the Ontario Court of Appeal on 2 October 2013, having served as a Superior Court Judge since 2006. She is married to E. J. (Buks) JANSE VAN RENSBURG (1984), who studied for his PhD at St John's College and is currently Professor of Mathematics at York University, Toronto.
- 1986 ADAMS, John was promoted to Colonel and appointed Capability Director of the Saudi Arabian National Guard Communications Programme. He married his long-time partner Anne-Marie Argile and they are living in Riyadh with their son Freddie.
- 1986 BUCHHOLZ, Todd has launched an educational software firm called Sproglit to teach Maths to children. Todd's invention, the Math Arrow, and Sproglit's apps have been featured in *The Guardian*, *The Economist* and by the Mathematical Association of America.
- 1986 HICKS, Dr Peter published *Lieutenant Woodberry, Journal de Guerre 1813–15* (Paris: Mercure de France, 2013).
- 1986 WEBSTER, Peter was elected General Committee Member of the Oxford and Cambridge Club, and appointed Chairman of the Sports and Games Committee (2013).
- 1987 OZANNE, Jayne recently set up and launched Generosity, the UK's first giving consultancy for philanthropists, to enable them to create the social changes and impact they want to see.
- 1988 LOVE, Dickon entered into a civil partnership with Przemysław Benoński on 10 May 2012. In the same year, Dickon organised the floating belfry holding the Royal Jubilee Bells and the ringers that led the Thames Diamond Jubilee Pageant.
- 1990 HENDERSON, Professor Gideon was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in May 2013.
- 1990 LANE, Professor Christel (Fellow) published *The Cultivation of Taste: Chefs' Organization of Fine Dining* (Oxford University Press, 2014).
- 1990 ROYLANCE, Colonel J. F. of the Royal Marines, relinquished command of Task Force Jaguar, the UK's joint aviation group in Regional Command (Southwest) Afghanistan, on 6 May 2014.

- 1994 SCHULZ, Professor Jennifer was an invited Honorary Research Fellow at the Centre for Law and Humanities at Birkbeck School of Law, University of London, and a faculty visitor at the Faculty of Law, University of Cambridge, in spring 2013.
- 1994 SHARMA, Dave was appointed as Australia's ambassador to Israel in June 2013.
- 1997 CASTELVECCHI, Dr Stefano (Fellow) published two books, one as author (*Sentimental Opera: Questions of Genre in the Age of Bourgeois Drama*, Cambridge University Press) and one as co-translator and editor (Abramo Basevi, *The Operas of Giuseppe Verdi [1859]*, University of Chicago Press). He gave the British Library's 2013 Annual Lecture in Italian Studies.
- 1998 ILLINGWORTH, Dr Chris has been awarded a Sir Henry Dale Fellowship to study microbial evolution using genome sequence data, and has taken up a post in the Genetics Department at Cambridge.
- 2000 KOWENICKI (née SAMWORTH), Sarah is delighted to announce the birth of her son, Adam Patrick, on 24 May 2013. Sarah and husband Richard are over the moon.
- 2000 VIRJI, Salima joined Highgate School as Development Director in September 2013. She also teaches Latin and Critical Thinking.
- 2001 DOBSON, Professor Christopher (Master) was awarded the 2014 Dr H. P. Heineken Prize for Biochemistry and Biophysics from the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the 2014 Feltrinelli International Prize for Medicine from the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei in Rome. He was elected an Honorary Fellow of Darwin College, Cambridge, and a Vallee Foundation Visiting Professor. He gave a range of scientific lectures around the world including the 2014 Searle Distinguished Lecture at Northwestern University and the 2014 Frontiers in Biological Sciences Lecture at Case Western Reserve University, and he is due to give the 2014 Philippe Wiener Lecture of the Fondation Wiener Anspach in Brussels in December. The Master and Dr Mary Dobson also gave joint talks for the 2014 Darwin Lectures on Plagues, and on 'Alzheimer's and Other Plagues' at the 2014 Hay Literary Festival.
- 2002 HICKS, Andy and his wife, Sarah (née Owen, Downing 2001), are thrilled to announce the birth of their son, Daniel Richard, born on 19 March 2014.

- 2003 CHELIOTIS, Leonidas, currently a Chancellor's Fellow in Law at the University of Edinburgh, has received the 2013 Critical Criminologist of the Year Award from the Division on Critical Criminology of the American Society of Criminology 'for distinguished accomplishments in research which have symbolised the spirit of the Division in recent years'.
- 2003 DRY, Sarah has written *The Newton Papers: The Strange and True Odyssey of Isaac Newton's Manuscripts* (Oxford University Press, 2014), which tracks the history of Newton's private writings from his death to the present day. St John's College plays an important part in this because John Couch Adams, a Fellow of the College, was one of the people responsible for cataloguing the papers in the 1870s and 1880s. More details can be found at www.amazon.co.uk/The-Newton-Papers-Strange-Manuscripts/dp/0199951047.
- 2004 STEVENSON (née HIJAZI), Hana and Richard are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter, Leila Mai, on 21 March 2014.
- 2006 PRIESTLEY, Dr Jessica has written *Herodotus and Hellenistic Culture* (Oxford University Press, 2014). The book draws on the doctoral research she carried out while at St John's from 2006 to 2010.
- 2006 SPITZER, Sebastian married Monika Blumenberg on 29 June 2013 in Habitzheim, Germany.
- 2008 KENNEDY, Dr Sarah was awarded a Research Fellowship in English at Downing College, Cambridge, which commenced in Michaelmas 2013.
- 2009 GHAHRAMANI, Professor Zoubin (Fellow) received a \$750,000 Google Focused Research Award for a project he is leading called 'The Automatic Statistician'. The project is a system that explores an open-ended space of possible statistical models to discover a good explanation of the data, and then produces a detailed report with figures and natural-language text.
- 2011 PALACIOS, Dr Isabel (Fellow) received a Project Grant for £643,270 from the BBSRC for 'A biophysical study on how the actin and microtubule cytoskeletons dynamically collaborate to regulate cellular organisation', and has written or co-written three journal articles recently: 'The auto-inhibitory domain and the ATP-independent microtubule-binding region of Kinesin Heavy Chain are major functional domains for transport in the *Drosophila* germline' by L. S. Williams, S. Ganguly, P. Loiseau, B. F. Ng and I. M. Palacios for *Development* in January 2014; 'Plasticity of both

planar cell polarity and cell identity during the development of *Drosophila*' by P. Saavedra, J. P. Vincent, I. M. Palacios, P. A. Lawrence and J. Casal for *eLife* in February 2014; and 'Hop on hop off: polysomes take a tour of the cell on endosomes' by I. M. Palacios for *The Journal of Cell Biology* in February 2014. Also, Isabel adopted a seventeen-month-old boy from Russia early in 2014.

- 2013 PEACOCK, Professor Sharon (Fellow) was elected a Fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology in March 2014 and a Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences in April 2014.



It is with great sadness that St John's College must announce the passing of the following members (listed in order of matriculation year to the University), as notified to the College between May 2013 and May 2014. Every attempt has been made to ensure the accuracy of this list.

- 1929 KNOPP, The Revd Alexander Edward Robert, 16 July 2013, aged 103.
 1930 THOMSON, Mr Kenneth Taylor, 3 March 2009, aged 97.
 1933 BULLERWELL, Dr Robert Alexander Finlay, 1 October 2013, aged 99.
 WATTS, Mr Eric Arnold Larsen, 15 September 2013, aged 98.
 1934 BARTON, Major John Holland, 14 July 2013, aged 98.
 CONSTANT, Mr Michael Brancovan, 16 November 2013, aged 98.
 1935 CUNNINGHAM, Mr Morris Anskar, 22 August 2013, aged 97.
 SCOTT, The Revd Canon Eric Walter, 5 January 2007, aged 90.
 1936 BURTON, Mr Arnold James, 21 June 2013, aged 95.
 SANGER, Dr Frederick OM CH CBE FRS, 19 November 2013, aged 95.
 An obituary appears on page 127.
 1937 WESSON, Mr Leonard Joynson, 6 January 2014, aged 94.
 1938 LISTER, Dr John, 11 November 2013, aged 93.
 1939 BARBOSA DA SILVA, Mr Edmundo Penna, 8 July 2012, aged 95.
 REID, Mr Ian Christie, 17 October 2013, aged 93.
 ROPER, Mr Richard Antony Lionel, 27 May 2013, aged 92.
 VERNON, Mr Peter Heygate, 26 January 2008, aged 87.
 WILSON, Mr James, 27 August 2006, aged 84.
 1940 SALMON, Mr Rider Gordon.
 1942 ELLIOTT-BINNS, Dr Christopher Plunkett Elliott, 16 December 2003,
 aged 78.
 JAMES, Mr Leslie Hollins Prideaux, July 2013, aged 89.
 REDDING, Mr John Hubert, 14 September 2011, aged 87.
 1943 ACTESON, Mr Henry William Alec, 25 November 2011, aged 86.
 COCKAYNE, Mr Alan Harry, 22 September 2013, aged 88.
 DOWNSBROUGH, Dr Frank Keith, 29 April 2013, aged 87.
 SHAW, Mr Donald Curtis, 1 February 2014, aged 88.
 VERNON, Mr Bryan Tom Jackson, 6 August 2010, aged 84.
 WILLIAMS, Mr (Richard) Derrick, 12 May 2013, aged 87.
 ZIMMERN, Mr Richard Frederick, 17 March 2014, aged 88.
 1944 CHAPMAN, Mr (Henry) Bryan Parry, 22 May 2009, aged 83.
 DAVIS, Mr Peter Brian MBE, 30 April 2014, aged 87.
 HOWE, Mr James Turner, 26 October 2013, aged 87.
 NUTTALL, Mr John Wardleworth, 27 September 2013, aged 87.
 STANNEY, Mr Bernard Paul, 21 August 2013, aged 87.
 STORR, Mr Christopher 'Chris' William, 26 May 2013, aged 87.

- 1945 JARDIN, Mr Dennis William, 8 November 2013, aged 86.
NUTTALL, Mr Richard Wardleworth, 22 November 2013, aged 86.
QUINN, Professor Kenneth Fleming, 18 February 2013, aged 92.
WILLIAMS, Dr Robert 'Robin' Martin CB CBE, 18 March 2013, aged 93.
- 1946 MCLEAN, Mr Robert 'Bob' Younger, 4 June 2013, aged 91.
MEHTA, Mr Jagat Singh, 6 March 2014, aged 91.
SHAW, Advocate Douglas Jamieson QC, 6 November 2013, aged 87.
- 1947 CROOK, Dr John, 22 October 2013, aged 84.
GREEN, Professor 'Sandy' James Alexander FRS FRSE, 7 April 2014, aged 88.
HUNTER, Professor John, 26 January 2013, aged 90.
JOSHI, Dr Atmaram Bhairav, 3 July 2010, aged 93.
- 1948 CARTER, Mr (Edmund) Brian, 2 February 2014, aged 86.
HALKET, Mr Peter Buchanan, 20 June 2013, aged 85.
ROBINSON, Dr Alfred 'Bud', 10 October 2013, aged 83.
SMITHSON, Mr Thomas Alan, August 2008, aged 80.
WILLIAMS, Sir Robin Philip Bt, 14 September 2013, aged 85.
WORDIE, Mr George Thompson, 25 May 2013, aged 85.
- 1949 BAKER, Mr Richard Geoffrey, 12 January 2014, aged 84.
BIRTLES, Mr Gordon Padfield, 20 September 2013, aged 83.
BUTLER, Mr Ian Edward, 21 December 2013, aged 84.
DEE, Mr Robert John, 16 July 2013, aged 84.
FUAD, The Hon Mr Justice Kutlu Tekin CBE, 25 July 2013, aged 87.
GAVINS, Mr Raymond Cedric, December 2012, aged 82.
HELLIWELL, Mr Leslie, 5 January 2014, aged 85.
LOCKE, Professor Michael FRSC, 20 October 2013, aged 84.
- 1950 BARRINGER, Mr (John) Christopher, 23 June 2013, aged 82.
HALL, The Rt Revd (Albert) Peter, December 2013, aged 83.
HARLOW, The Revd Canon (Derrick) Peter, 14 November 2013, aged 83.
HETHERINGTON, Mr Peter Brian, 26 December 2013, aged 83.
MCINTYRE, Mr Ian James, 19 April 2014, aged 82.
WILLSON, Dr Alan John, 18 January 2014, aged 81.
- 1951 HOLT, Mr (Jonathan) Ian, 19 March 2014, aged 81.
MILLER, Professor Maynard Malcolm, 26 January 2014, aged 93.
NISBET, Mr Alan Munro, 13 July 2013, aged 82.
PERRY, Mr Derek John, 26 June 2013, aged 80.
RAYBOULD, Mr Robert 'Bob' Hamblett, 26 June 2013, aged 81.
SPENDLOVE, Mr Peter Roy, 9 March 2014, aged 88.
- 1952 SHARMAN, Mr (John) Michael MBE, 20 December 2013, aged 80.
- 1953 BISHOP, Dr John Edward, 14 August 2013, aged 78.
GILROY, Mr John Morrirt, 28 August 2012, aged 84.
VALLANCE, Mr Michael Wilson, 22 October 2013, aged 80.

- 1954 BRADSHAW, Mr Maurice Desmond, 23 May 2013, aged 83.
 BUDD, Mr Roger Francis, 11 April 2013, aged 78.
 HARVEY, Professor Brian Wilberforce, 23 March 2014, aged 78.
 LAGESSE, Mr (Philippe) Pierre De Marigny, May 2013, aged 78.
 RANDALL, Mr Roger Stacey, 7 August 2013, aged 77.
 SYMONS, Mr Roger Charles, January 2014, aged 78.
 WOODHOUSE, Mr (Colin) Hugh Kieran, 29 August 2011, aged 77.
- 1955 CARTWRIGHT, Mr Christopher 'Chris' Stewart, 5 September 2013, aged 78.
 CRESSEY, The Revd Martin Hawley, 28 September 2013, aged 82.
 KEENS, Mr Douglas, 7 December 2013, aged 78.
 WALLIS, Mr William 'Bill', 6 September 2013, aged 76.
 WILLIAMS, Mr David Alexander Richard, 9 March 2014, aged 79.
- 1956 GOULD, The Revd Canon Douglas Walter, 13 April 2014, aged 78.
 HUGHES, Mr Malcolm Samuel, 21 November 2013, aged 77.
- 1957 BELL, Mr Christopher John, 20 February 2014, aged 75.
 HUNTER, Dr Kenneth Ross, 26 April 2013, aged 73.
 KARUNARATNE, Dr Wijesingha Saddhamangala, 6 August 2013, aged 89.
 NEWELL, Mr Robert Wheeler, 14 May 2014, aged 83. An obituary appears on page 141.
 ROWE, Mr John Julian Brodie, 13 June 2013, aged 75.
- 1959 APPLEYARD, Mr Jonathan, 23 April 2007, aged 66.
 WATSON, Mr George Grimes, 2 August 2013, aged 85. An obituary appears on page 133.
- 1960 CLIFFORD, Mr Terence Leigh, 20 July 2013, aged 71.
- 1961 HUGHES, Mr Alun Owen, 9 May 2013, aged 71.
 ORTON, Mr Richard Henry, 12 February 2013, aged 73.
- 1962 KAZAURA, Ambassador Fulgence Michael, 22 February 2014, aged 73. An obituary appears on page 140.
- 1963 BARRÈRE, Mr David Marie Paul, 5 October 2013, aged 69.
- 1964 KING, Mr Harold Godfrey Rudolf Vivian Theodore Dufferin, 4 July 2013, aged 91.
- 1965 HORN, Mr Geoffrey Michael, 25 May 2013, aged 69.
 JEWETT, Mr David William, 26 August 2013, aged 73.
- 1967 HUGGINS, Professor Patrick John, 30 January 2014, aged 65.
- 1968 ENSSLIN, Mr Gottfried Heinrich, 6 December 2013, aged 67.
 HILL, Mr Michael Hedley, 28 July 2013, aged 68.
 MALCOLM, Dr Neil Law, 8 June 2013, aged 73.
- 1969 BEVAN, Mr Nicholas Vaughan, 12 January 2014, aged 71.
- 1970 BUSH, Mr John Kendall, 1 May 2013, aged 61.
 SMITH, Mr Richard John, 5 October 2013, aged 61.

- 1971 HOPE, Mr Ian 'Dick' Anthony, 2 August 2013, aged 60.
SILLITTO, Mr David Warner, 21 September 2013, aged 60.
- 1973 MYERS, Mr Mervyn Edward, 16 March 2014, aged 60.
- 1976 LYNCH, Dr John Patrick, 2010, aged 55.
- 1981 NEALE, Dr Graham, 5 October 2013, aged 84.
SCOTT, Professor John Llewellyn, 6 August 2013, aged 65.
- 1982 INGRAM, Professor Colin David, 15 December 2013, aged 53.
WRIGHT, Mr Colin Bruce, 8 August 2013, aged 49.
- 1989 JUUL, Mr Jakob Astrup, 3 March 2012, aged 45.
- 1998 LAY, Miss (Tracey) Katherine (née QUINE-LAY), 13 June 2013, aged 38.
- 2001 ANDERSON, Dr Edward Milton, 15 January 2013, aged 46.
- 2003 HARRISON, Mr Michael Anthony, 25 April 2013, aged 65.



OBITUARIES



ST JOHN'S COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE



Portrait by Paul Hodgson, 2007, commissioned by St John's College.

Dr Frederick Sanger OM FRS, 1918–2013

Dr Fred Sanger (christened Frederick but known to everyone as Fred) died in Cambridge on 19 November 2013 at the age of ninety-five. One of only four people to win the Nobel Prize twice, and the only one to win it twice in Chemistry, his research was not only of outstanding academic interest but also laid the groundwork for multi-billion-dollar biomedical industries, from start-ups to multinational giants. It continues to revolutionise the molecular approach to medicine. He changed the world's scientific landscape but as a person he was unassuming and unpretentious; when he died, the tributes poured in from all over the world, full of both admiration and affection.

Fred Sanger was born in the small village of Rendcomb in Gloucestershire, the son of Frederick and Cicely Sanger. Frederick Sanger Snr was a general practitioner, but had previously been a medical missionary in China. His three children (Fred had an elder brother and younger sister) were brought up as Quakers. Fred was sent to Bryanston School in Dorset, where he liked the liberal ethos and did well. Following in the footsteps of his father and two uncles, he entered St John's College to read Natural Sciences in 1936. Part I in those days took three years and in his fourth year, for Part II, he opted to read Biochemistry, graduating with a First. The Department of Biochemistry was an exciting place under the leadership of Professor Sir Frederick Gowland Hopkins (Nobel Laureate in Physiology or Medicine, 1929, for the discovery of vitamins) and Fred was inspired to take up the subject by Ernest Baldwin (College Supervisor in Biochemistry and Title A Fellow of St John's 1936–41).

In 1940 the country was at war with Germany. A tribunal exempted Fred from military service as a Quaker and conscientious objector, and he began work for a PhD in the Department of Biochemistry, usefully studying the nitrogen content of potatoes and the metabolism of lysine in proteins under the supervision of the young (thirty-two-year-old) Albert Neuberger. Neuberger had left Germany in 1933 and was to make a distinguished career in this country as a chemical pathologist. Both of Fred's parents had died while he was an undergraduate and he was financially independent. In December 1940 he married Joan Howe, who was studying Economics at Newnham College and whom he had met through their involvement in the Cambridge Scientists Anti-War Group. Fred was awarded his PhD in 1944 and was later to state that he would always be grateful to Neuberger for teaching him how to conduct research. Charles Chibnall succeeded Gowland Hopkins as Professor of Biochemistry in 1943 and he offered space to Fred to work on the protein hormone insulin, which Chibnall and his colleagues were studying intensively. Fred successfully applied for a Beit Memorial Fellowship for Medical Research, and this supported him from 1944 to 1951. Knowledge of proteins at the time was sketchy; they were correctly

identified as the macromolecules that carry out most of the reactions in living cells, and were known to consist of hundreds, even thousands, of amino acids strung together by peptide bonds, like beads on a string. But what the sequence of the beads might be, or even whether the beads were in any particular sequence, was unclear.

Chibnall suggested studying the free amino groups in insulin and, after several unsuccessful attempts, Fred hit on the use of a reagent, fluorodinitrobenzene (FDNB), to react with them. The 'labelled' amino acids, coloured yellow by virtue of the dinitrophenyl group attached to them, could then be released from the protein by acid hydrolysis. This enabled them to be separated by the new partition and paper chromatographic techniques recently pioneered by A. J. P. Martin and R. L. M. Synge and steadily improved by Fred. In 1945 he identified the amino acids phenylalanine and glycine as occupying one end (the free N-terminal end) of what must be two polypeptide chains in insulin. Over the next ten years, he and a succession of colleagues, never more than one or two at a time, succeeded in breaking the two chains down into smaller overlapping pieces and, using the FDNB method, working out their sequences and fitting them all together. Solving the way in which the two chains were held together (by disulphide bonds between cysteine residues) took a little longer but, in 1955, the definitive sequence was published.



Accepting the Nobel Prize in 1958. Photo courtesy of The Nobel Foundation.

It was a triumph: it proved that proteins have unique sequences and threw the spotlight back on DNA as the genetic material with the need for a genetic code to convert the sequence of nucleotides in DNA into the amino acid sequences of individual proteins. Fred was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1954 and awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1958. Others introduced different methods for amino acid sequencing, and showed how they could be automated, but the breach had been made by Fred and a new stage was set. Fred became a member of the external staff of the Medical Research Council (MRC) and around him in the Department of Biochemistry gathered a group of talented protein chemists, among them Ieuan Harris, Brian Hartley and César Milstein, intent on developing protein chemistry to

help solve major biological problems, such as enzyme catalysis, the immune response, hormone action and evolutionary pathways.

In 1962, with the MRC Unit for Molecular Biology (Max Perutz, John Kendrew, Sydney Brenner, Francis Crick and associates) leaving the Cavendish Laboratory, Fred Sanger and his associates left the Department of Biochemistry. With Hugh Huxley and Aaron Klug coming up from London, together they formed the

nucleus of the new MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology at the new Addenbrooke's Hospital site on Hills Road. As Fred later said, 'with people like Francis Crick around, it was difficult to ignore nucleic acids or to fail to recognise the importance of sequencing them'. He began by trying to sequence the nucleotides in biologically important small RNA molecules, using paper electrophoretic and chromatographic methods similar to those that had served him so well with proteins. No FDNB-like reagent was applicable; instead, the nucleotides were detected by the presence of a radioactive isotope of phosphorus (^{32}P) incorporated into them. Much experience was gained in fractionating and identifying oligonucleotides and, although Robert Holley and his colleagues in Cornell beat him to the first nucleotide sequence of an RNA, he had success with the small 5S RNA from the ribosome and some fragments of the RNA genome of a bacterial virus.

In the 1970s he turned to the ultimate challenge of DNA. The approach now had to be very different, using enzymes to copy shorter regions of the very long strands and then working on them. He staggered observers by managing to establish the sequence of 5,000 nucleotides in the DNA genome of another bacterial virus. But, dissatisfied with this, in 1977 he invented a new method of DNA sequencing by introducing a chain terminator (a 2',3'-dideoxy nucleotide derivative) randomly to terminate the copying reaction. Suddenly, long stretches of DNA could be rapidly and accurately sequenced. It was electrifying and remains the method of choice forty years on. The Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1980, shared with Paul Berg (Stanford) and Walter Gilbert (Harvard) for related studies of the molecular biology of DNA, was not long in following. Later, suitably automated by others, the Sanger 'dideoxy' method permitted the determination of the complete sequence of the three billion nucleotide base-pairs in the human genome. Almost every problem in biology and medicine now looks different – the genetic basis of, and susceptibility to, disease; infection by pathogens; evolution; ecology; personalised medicine; the list goes on and on.

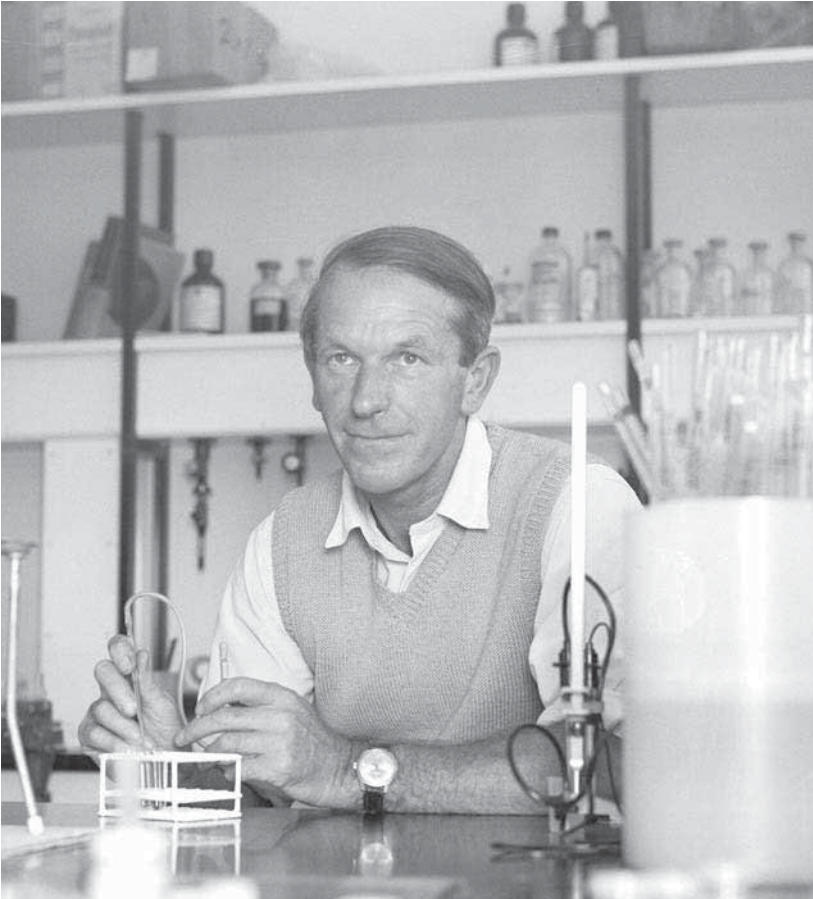
Throughout these four decades of research, Fred Sanger worked alone or with small groups of colleagues. In an article in *Nature Medicine* in 2001 he wrote, 'I have never had a very large group working with me at any one time. I preferred to work at the bench myself rather than to plan experiments for others to do.' Of the eighty-nine papers Fred published, twenty-one are single-author and only thirty-three have three or more authors. By today's standards the relatively small number of papers and the limited authorship are highly unusual.

As related by John Finch in his history of the Laboratory of Molecular Biology, when Fred reached the then statutory MRC retiring age in 1983: '[On 30 September] Fred was doing experiments – on 1 Oct his laboratory was empty and he was gone.' Fred said later that this surprised his colleagues and to some extent himself also, adding with characteristic modesty that 'if I had gone

on working I would have found it frustrating and have felt guilty at occupying space that could have been available to a younger person'. Fred enjoyed his retirement, with his boats and tending his garden in Swaffham Bulbeck ('I'm a country boy, really'). Of his wife, Joan, he said, 'although not a scientist herself she has contributed more to my work than anyone else by providing a peaceful and happy home'. They had three children together, two boys and a girl. He was devastated when Joan died in 2012 after several years of illness.

A few personal memories may reveal a little more. I graduated in Part II Biochemistry in 1961 and was lucky enough to be awarded an MRC Studentship to join Fred's group for a PhD. I had heard Fred give a lecture on insulin in the Part II course. He disliked teaching and administration and avoided both – but this was eye-opening and dazzling in its technical simplicity and elegance. I was set to work with Ieuan Harris in trying to unravel the chemistry of an enzyme, a problem opening up as a result of Fred's work on insulin. We all moved to the new Laboratory of Molecular Biology in 1962 with Fred as Head of the Protein Chemistry Division. He still worked long and hard at the bench each day, while mostly going home for lunch to 252 Hills Road nearby. An American said of him, 'Fred Sanger continues to bang his head against brick walls. And the brick walls keep falling down.' He was by then a Fellow of King's and held occasional evening meetings there, called 'bull sessions', at which we were expected to talk about our experiments. He was physically active, keen on skiing and boats, and even happy to spend an afternoon vainly trying to teach me to water-ski on the River Ouse! He was a fine squash player, with a knack of dominating the centre of the court and, even at the age of forty-five, difficult to beat. Though generous and modest to a fault, he was very competitive! He became an icon for all of us who worked in his lab and came under his influence.

Fred enjoyed a party and had an impish dry wit. A Swedish visitor to the lab (unaware I think of who he really was) asked Fred if he had ever been to Stockholm. 'Once or twice', he replied. 'And what did you do while you were there?' came the question. 'Oh, not much ... [pause] ... I danced with the Queen', he responded. In November 1962 Francis Crick threw a wild party at his home in Portugal Place to celebrate his Nobel Prize for the structure of DNA. The noise level grew and grew until eventually a member of the local constabulary came by to remonstrate about the disturbance. He climbed up to the roof and, pointing to a figure, matches in hand, crouched over a row of milk bottles with rockets in them, demanded, 'Who's that setting off fireworks then?' Quickly we replied 'Oh that's Dr Sanger – he won the Nobel Prize four years ago.' The worthy constable was a bit nonplussed by this but, better disposed and perhaps fortified with a small potation from the revellers, departed saying, 'Well, Sir, just tone it down a bit will you.' Fred declined a knighthood, remarking that he didn't wish to be addressed as Sir ('that makes you sound different, doesn't it, and I don't want to be different'). But he did accept a CH and an OM. On being congratulated about



In his laboratory during the early 1980s. Photo courtesy of the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology.

the latter, he said, 'I couldn't refuse something personal from Her Majesty'. In 1992 The Wellcome Trust and the MRC founded the Sanger Centre (now Institute) on the Genome Campus at Hinxton, and in 1997 we were thrilled that he opened the new (Sanger) building for the Biochemistry Department on Tennis Court Road. He had earlier declined an Honorary Fellowship of St John's College on the grounds that he had been honoured enough for his work, but thankfully, in 2007, he did consent to sit for a photographic portrait by the artist Paul Hodgson (it now hangs in the Hall) and in 2010 he accepted the Honorary Fellowship.

Fittingly, the graduate students of the College recently chose to have a popular new base in First Court named the Fred Sanger Room in which to pursue their work.

When the history of science in the twentieth century comes to be written, two Johnnians will stand out as towering in their achievements. One will be Paul Dirac in physics; the other will be Fred Sanger in biochemistry. The impact of Fred's work has been ranked alongside that of Charles Darwin. I think he deserves the last word, taken from his Nobel Banquet speech in 1980:

I believe that we have been doing this not primarily to achieve riches or even honour, but rather because we were interested in the work, enjoyed doing it and felt very strongly that it was worthwhile ... Scientific research is one of the most exciting and rewarding of occupations. It is like a voyage of discovery into unknown lands, seeking not for new territory but for new knowledge. It should appeal to those with a good sense of adventure.



Professor Richard Perham

For further reading, if interested, see:

J. Finch, *A Nobel Fellow on Every Floor: a History of the Medical Research Council Laboratory of Molecular Biology* (Cambridge: Medical Research Council, 2008).

G. G. Brownlee, *Frederick Sanger – Double Nobel Laureate* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014).

George Watson, 1927–2013

George Watson, Fellow in English, died in Cambridge on 2 August 2013, aged eighty-six. An Australian by birth, he came from Queensland farming stock, and was educated at Brisbane Boys' College and the University of Queensland, from which he graduated in 1948. A scholarship took him to Trinity College, Oxford, where he obtained a second degree in English in 1950, and where (by his own account) the teaching of F. W. Bateson and C. S. Lewis made a marked impression on him.

Watson spent part of the 1950s working for the European Commission as a translator; he did simultaneous translation at meetings, and checked the different language versions of publications. Most of his working life was spent in Cambridge, however, where he became a Lecturer in the English Faculty in 1959, a Fellow of St John's in 1961, and a College Lecturer in English in 1967. A life-long Liberal, his first significant publications were *The Unservile State: essays in liberty and welfare* (1957) and *The British Constitution and Europe* (1959) on European integration. Later contributions included *The Idea of Liberalism: studies for a new map of politics* (1985). Articulate and always interested in seeing how principles turn out in practice, he was attracted by the idea of a career in politics. He stood (unsuccessfully) as a parliamentary candidate at Cheltenham in the general election of 1959, and as a candidate for the European parliament at Leicester in 1979.

Watson's *The Literary Critics: a study of English descriptive criticism* (Penguin Books, 1962) became widely used as a textbook for sixth forms and undergraduate courses in the 1960s and 1970s, and was often reprinted. He edited the Everyman editions of John Dryden's critical writings and Samuel Taylor Coleridge's *Biographia Literaria*, and published monographs on English Petrarchanism and Coleridge's poetry. Much of his time was occupied, initially in collaboration with F. W. Bateson, on the compilation of the massive multi-volume *Cambridge Bibliography of English Literature* (1969–77). Though he cultivated the laid-back manner of an Edwardian bachelor don, he worked tenaciously at his writing, and the books and articles piled up. Subsequent publications included *The English Ideology: studies in the language of Victorian politics* (1973), *The Discipline of English: a guide to critical theory and practice* (1978) and *The Story of the Novel* (1979). From around the time of his retirement from the Cambridge English Faculty in 1990, Watson's writings took on an increasingly strident tone, notably in contributions such as *The Certainty of Literature: essays in polemic* (1989), and *Never Ones for Theory? England and the war of ideas* (2000). His final book, *Heresies and Heretics: memories of the twentieth century* (Lutterworth Press, 2013), speaks eloquently for itself as to his personality, and the wide range of his contacts in the political, academic and cultural life of his time.

In person, as on the page, Watson liked to provoke, amuse and perform. His conversation could be engaging, with a Wildean line in well-honed epigrams that were as penetrating as they were paradoxical. In many ways a private man, he nonetheless craved the company of others, and this built up a shell that hardened into a social posture. He was cultivated, with an appetite for classical music and a carefully chosen collection of paintings; but he knew too much about the horrors of modern history (writing incisively about Stalin and the Third Reich) to think about art and literature in a vacuum. Like other dons of his generation he had lived in the world beyond the university, and for all his strong opinions was tolerant of what he found. He was as liberal in his view of others as he was in his politics, though his urge to provoke a reaction could create a different impression, especially on the young and inexperienced. Undergraduate teaching was not always his forte. By the mid-1970s his typically offhand style of supervision, described in the following piece by Keith Barron, was outmoded, and had ceased to meet the needs of a more demanding generation of students; after 1980 he no longer supervised for the College, though he remained in his post as a University Lecturer for another ten years.

During the great upheavals in English studies of the 1970s and 1980s George Watson was firmly in the traditionalist camp, with little time for relativism and none at all for deconstruction. Unlike some others involved in the quarrel he had done his philosophical homework, and he was a capable linguist. He was remembered by many of his pupils in later life, who included such luminaries as Douglas Adams; but he never looked for disciples, though he wanted, and found, friends. His legacy goes several ways. Much of his writing was sparky and of the moment, more polemical than deeply researched, yet his labours on the *Cambridge Bibliography* helped consolidate English studies at a time of disciplinary uncertainty.

Professor Richard Beadle and Professor John Kerrigan

Thirty-nine years on – a memoir of George Watson

It had taken me nearly forty years to speak to George again since coming up as a Freshman in 1968. Having by chance met him at High Table two years earlier when taking up my dining privileges, I now felt equal to the challenge. And besides, I had heard that he had recently broken his hip and would welcome visitors.

When you enter A Staircase of New Court it is like entering a prison: stone steps and landings, plain iron railings, bare walls, and every room shut off behind heavy wooden doors. George's was at the south end. The outer door was open and the inner door had a little typed notice, 'KNOCK AND ENTER', in small





capital letters. I did. I called out. No response. Hesitatingly, I entered a sizeable, square, thickly carpeted hall. I thought I caught sight of a Zimmer frame, too. I felt as though I was visiting a long-lost elderly relative in a rather elegant care-home.

George silently emerged from a door to my left and proffered me a limp left hand, inviting me through to his sitting room. In the left-hand corner was a small, early Victorian piano with a Noël Coward score on its stand, in the centre a square table, and to the right a battered small armchair. Between the piano and the chair, a large oriel window with a padded window seat looked out over the Backs towards Trinity's Wren Library. Through another door one could glimpse part of George's own library, floor to ceiling with books. This must be one of the most gorgeous sets in New Court, if not the whole College.

Despite the tousled grey hair, the straggly beard and the flaccid throat, George was perfectly recognisable. And at least he was 'in his own hair'. I seem to remember that there used to be a postcard on his mantelpiece showing Sir Joshua Reynolds' portrait of Dr Samuel Johnson thus described. He offered me some thin green tea and then sat in his armchair (the only one in the room) in the posture I remember from so long ago: long, soft-skinned hands draped over the ends of the chair's arms. Then, he had invariably worn a thick, white, roll-neck sweater and gestured with his Lytton Strachey hands; now he was wearing crumpled, grey flannels and a creased, white shirt open at the neck under a pale cream windcheater. Dishevelled. But still Johnsonian.

So what did we talk about? As an undergraduate, one had so often been talked at: George performed. After the opening pleasantries of asking how he was – ‘Mobile, but not agile’ – and my saying how humiliating it must be, as well as painful, to fall over, we got on to age. He was eighty; I fifty-eight the next week. I said I still enjoyed teaching and feared the vacancy of retirement. He suggested writing something about Household. At first I thought he meant the author of *Rogue Male*; then I realised he meant a contemporary English undergraduate, Peter, who had shared rooms with Gottfried Ensslin in their second year and who had been arrested at the Garden House Riot. It had been a strange transformation. At our first meeting with George, then acting Director of Studies, Peter had turned up, rather uncoolly, with a College scarf wound round his neck, and persisted in calling George ‘Sir’. Even as a fresh-faced naïf from a small, provincial grammar school, I had thought that rather unsophisticated. From the outset, I thought that Gottfried, with his little Lenin beard, had a rather Mephistophelian look about him. Anyway, George suggested I contact Peter and write about him.

I said it had been some years after leaving Cambridge that I had discovered that Gottfried’s sister, Gudrun, had been a member of the Baader-Meinhof Gang. Had anyone at the College known at the time? George did not say, but seemed to intimate that it was known. This was the trigger to an explosive denunciation of them, of socialism and of anti-Semitism. Of socialist anti-Semitism. One of the Gang, Ulrike Meinhof, had said that the Jews in Auschwitz were all capitalists. And George rose energetically to fetch one of his own books to read the quotation confirming his thesis: that early socialism was rooted in anti-Semitism.



George had always been a Liberal and an anti-socialist. At that first meeting, he had nailed his colours: ‘Some people think that we live in an ivory tower. I’ve stood for Parliament; I’ve been in prison.’ He enjoyed being provocative. I remember him saying that Marx was ‘just a bearded, out-of-date, nineteenth-century philosopher’. This was typical of his dismissive, reductionist one-liners, which to an earnest and idealistic generation (we had the long hair to prove it) was so frustrating. He believed it then and has been vindicated by history. Had he believed in historical inevitability? ‘Who would have believed that the Soviet Union would collapse so quickly?’

Another of his traits, so frustrating at the time, was his love of paradox. He now denounced Labour for claiming to have established the welfare state. ‘They were the last to accept it. It was introduced by Asquith – based on an idea by Bismarck.’ So, George has been true to his liberalism. ‘The lure of socialism was its language.’ The delivery – as ever – was staccato, emphatic, dogmatic.

I think George was always more interested in ideas and provocative argument than in literary analysis. He did not so much discuss books as dismiss authors and ideas – frequently in those well-honed one-liners. After having written an intense essay about Virginia Woolf, art and death in my third year (and having written a long essay on *The Waves* for Part I), George simply said ‘I’ve never really seen very much in Virginia Woolf’, and launched into a dismissive anecdote about her sibling rivalry with Vanessa. And we did not discuss my essay. It would be impossible to translate this teaching style into school teaching – though the occasional Georgism might amuse. While discussing the gods in *King Lear* with a sixth-form group, one anti-intellectual sceptic opined triumphantly: ‘I don’t believe in gods.’ To which I replied: ‘And I don’t expect they believe in you.’ Did I learn that sort of riposte from George?

At another supervision, however, on the poets of the 1930s, he warmed to the fact that I had referred to Spender’s *Forward From Liberalism*, in which the author argues that being a Marxist was now the only logical position for erstwhile liberals. More a retreat than a step forward for George. He had also encouraged me to read A. E. Housman for the modern paper – the least modernist poet you could choose for a paper set by Raymond Williams. Was this George undermining the ideologue of the Faculty? I was attracted by Housman’s melancholia. And on this rare occasion George seemed to be expressing a personal attraction. Once when I had said to George that I did not think there was such a thing as happiness, I saw that I had struck a response in him.

In the University Library catalogue there are more than fifty entries for George. Among the bibliographies and histories of criticism lurk *The Unservile State*, *Nationalisation: the end of an illusion*, *The Lost Literature of Socialism* and the pithily titled *Is Socialism Left?* George had been a lifelong political polemicist.

A couple of times during our conversation he rubbed his hands gleefully and in a call to arms declared, 'It's time to take the gloves off'. But it struck me that the fight was won. George had been fighting it over and over again in book and pamphlet. 'Who would have thought that Clause IV would be killed off?'

Soon it was time to leave. I walked out into a torrential June rainstorm hoping to see George again, refreshed by meeting on more equal terms than all those years ago.



Between then and his funeral, I met him twice more. Two years later I encountered him in First Court on a sunny day in July. He looked as dishevelled as the last time but now the effect was compounded by the battered plastic carrier bags he was burdened with. He called on my aid, but I could not stay as I was waiting

for friends and family to arrive for my sixtieth birthday celebration in the Wordsworth Room. A couple of weeks later I received a copy of a short review of C. S. Lewis that turned into a critique of the loss of the canon, ignorance of basic literary terms and the younger generation's obsession with using literature to discover themselves. I wrote back saying I felt that this latter point described my generation, not the present, who were more pleasure-seeking than self-seeking. Was George stuck in a time warp?

Over these years I received a number of George's articles: his memoir of Hugh Sykes Davies, the Narnia article and a memoir of Douglas Adams. They are all elegantly phrased and frequently witty. I laughed aloud when I first read the Sykes Davies article:

He loved doing things he could not quite do, such as writing fiction or playing the accordion.

He was half famous and content to remain so.

I did see George one last time the next year, for lunch. He had put on a smart, greenish tweed suit and was waiting for me with Richard Beadle in the Green Room in Second Court. However, at lunch I found him harder to talk to – much more of a monologue. The privacy of our last meeting was absent.

News of George's death in the dog days of August was a shock. I tried to contact contemporaries who had been taught by him. They were unaware of his passing. I was the only one of us to attend his funeral. He must have faced death's

inevitability with a stoic equanimity. It was a dignified affair for one who had made no plans and who had no convictions.

I was not alone in feeling a passing sorrow. He was then, and still is, a fragment of our mental landscapes, and doubtless we can all still do our impersonation of his tone and intonation: 'Mm. How odd!' With possibly a dismissive gesture with the fingers of the right hand. I was not alone in my feelings about how difficult he had been. Yet even in those days I had warmed to him in a strange way – as I did when I revisited him. And I shall be eternally glad that I went to his funeral. At the end, his coffin was carried out of the Chapel to the slowly fading words of the *Nunc Dimittis*.

Moving? Yes, I found it so. How odd!



Keith Barron (1968)

Ambassador Fulgence Michael Kazaura, 1940–2014



Image courtesy of the University of Dar es Salaam

Ambassador Fulgence Kazaura, an Honorary Fellow of the College since 2007, died on 22 February 2014, aged seventy-three. Ambassador Kazaura, Chancellor of the University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, studied Economics at St John's College from 1962 to 1965. The former Ambassador to the Eastern Economic Community, the Kingdom of Belgium and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, he served in various senior positions within the Tanzanian government, including as Permanent Secretary in three ministries and as Economic

Advisor to the President of Tanzania. Ambassador Kazaura had also been Chairman of the Bank of Africa Tanzania since 1996.



Fiona Colbert

Robert Wheeler Newell, 1930–2014

Bob Newell was a committed and perceptive philosophical thinker. After taking his BA degree at the University of Virginia in 1953 he did graduate work there and at Cambridge, and obtained his first academic post as a Research Fellow at St John's, where he worked from 1961 to 1964. He then taught at the University of East Anglia (UEA) for many years, before retiring in the early 1980s. He published articles on ethics, on reason, on the philosophy of John Wisdom and also wrote two books, *The Concept of Philosophy* in 1967 and *Objectivity, Empiricism and Truth* in 1986.

After retirement from UEA he developed his interest in pottery, in particular the techniques of medieval English pottery making. He became a member of the Medieval Pottery Research Group and was published in *Medieval Ceramics*. His research involved seeking to recreate the exact processes by which medieval potters achieved their results, including all stages from digging the clay, through to shaping, glazing and firing (the last in a kiln in his garden). He gave one of the resulting pots to a friend working at the Museum of London and its presence on her windowsill provoked the Director to accuse her of having abstracted a valuable specimen from the museum, until its provenance was explained.

Bob was a notably congenial philosophical interlocutor – always insightful and helpful. Michael Ayers (an undergraduate at St John's in the early 1960s, now Professor of Philosophy at Oxford) recalls that he benefited much from talking about philosophy with Bob, as did others who were undergraduates and research students at the time. Bob was still a regular presence at the St John's Moral Sciences Society in the late 1980s, encouraging students and younger scholars with friendly but highly relevant questions and comments. It was at this point that I came to know him and was able to discuss philosophy with him and with Renford Bambrough on many enjoyable occasions.

Bob's philosophical interests were the central ones of the nature of reality, the nature of knowledge and the temptations of scepticism. His sympathies lay with the views of the later Wittgenstein, Bambrough and John Wisdom. Bob found Wisdom's ideas particularly helpful and it was through hearing Wisdom lecture at Virginia that he was encouraged to come to Cambridge in the first place. Bob added to the mix a considerable knowledge of the American Pragmatist tradition, and his writings bring out the value of seeing Wittgenstein, Wisdom and Bambrough as offering, albeit in a different idiom, ideas with many interesting similarities to those of James, Quine, Kuhn and Rorty.

It is thus a broadly pragmatist outlook that Bob advocates in his writings. It is an illusion to suppose that many, if indeed any, human judgements are 'objective', in the sense of being timelessly true representations of reality, divorced from



Photo: Rachel Newell

human interests. Rather, our judgements are made by us as finite creatures, from the standpoint of our interests and our history, and they bear the mark of this. Bob was fond of quoting William James: 'The trail of the human serpent is over everything'; but this does not mean that subjectivism and relativism are the order of the day. It is indeed true that we cannot foist off responsibility for our judgements onto impersonal standards, which impose themselves on us willy-nilly. The moral to be drawn from this is that we must ourselves take responsibility for our judgements, and in making them we can

and should strive for what Bob called 'objectiveness'. By that he meant willingness to engage in discussion, to hear criticism, to consider counterexamples, and to reflect with open mindedness and integrity. These centrally important ideas about the nature of reflection and knowledge are ones he presents and illustrates in his writings with great clarity and liveliness. And they are the ideas by the standards of which he himself lived.

As noted earlier, he was a gifted potter. His friends, to whom he generously gave some fine pieces of his work, will be particularly glad to have these mementos of him.



Professor Jane Heal

SOCIETIES & SPORTS

SOCIETIES & SPORTS



ST JOHN'S COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Field sports at St John's: the past thirty-five years

Dr Dick McConnel retired in 2014, having been a College Lecturer in Engineering and a University Lecturer in Structural Engineering. Dr McConnel is also an avid supporter of sport at St John's and was Senior Treasurer of the College Field Clubs from 1980 until his retirement.

It is easy to identify the three major changes that have affected College sporting activity, just as they have affected so many other aspects of life in St John's since the late 1970s. First, the admission of women has led to the establishment of women's teams in all major sports, and the evolution of mixed teams in, to take a couple of particularly successful examples, netball and lacrosse. Second, fashion and expert medical advice have seen a major change of ethos with respect to exercise. Thirty years ago, most students took physical exercise in team sports, but today individual exercise, very often involving a machine, is the norm. The College now has a gym with a dozen exercise machines, and the Lady Margaret Boat Club has at least eight rowing machines where a crew will 'train' together on land. While both these transformations apply across every level of sport in College, the third has affected the elite athletes in our ranks. Top-level university sport used to be at, or close to, international standard. For example, in rugby union it was not unknown to go from a good Varsity Match performance as an undergraduate at Twickenham in December to a full international at the same venue in February. Now, apart from the occasional highly talented individual, usually in a non-team sport, only men's University rowing still operates at a truly international level.

Some things, however, do not change. Sport at St John's still relies upon the skill and devotion of those who look after equipment and grounds, and who match professional skills with wholehearted commitment to their tasks. It is hard to single out individuals, but looking particularly at field sports, my own 'patch', as it were, I must mention two names. Jim Williams was the backbone of the Field Clubs, and watched over the playing fields twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year. During the great storm of October 1987, Jim was out of doors checking 'his' trees when an eddy off a corner of the pavilion twisted him around and knocked him down. However, he recovered to watch the eddy cross the cricket pitch and pluck out a single middle-sized tree from the group towards the Queen's Road gate. Even after this, as I recall, he still stayed outside hoping he could do something to help. Keith Ellis joined the ground staff straight from school in 1982 and was promoted to Head Groundsman when Jim retired in



Photo: Nic Marchant

1999. Keith has proved to be a worthy successor to Jim, and he has kept the fields to the very high standards set by his predecessor. The Field Clubs could not have been luckier with the two men who have maintained the playing fields for more than fifty years.

One of the pleasures of my role has been the conversations with these loyal College men. Keith's memories of the Assistant Groundsman, Clifford Worship, are particularly vivid. Clifford's eternal struggle with the tractor and gang mowers form the basis of one story. Over the years Clifford never quite learnt how to balance the clutch when drawing off. On one memorable occasion he got on the tractor, revved the engine up and shot forward, only to see his brand new straw hat go straight through the gang mowers. He then stopped, got off the



tractor, gently eased his hat out of the blades, put it on his head, got back on the tractor and repeated the whole exercise precisely! After yet another repeat performance, Clifford gave up on the hat.

In the 1980s, hedge-cutting involved a 110-volt generator on wheels and an electric cutter. This was sometimes a bit tricky, as the generator had a mind of its own and would roll away from you as you cut. At the beginning of the season the ground staff would have a nice new lead on the hedge-cutter measuring about twenty feet long, but gradually this would get cut and rejoined so that at the end of the season the lead would be about six feet long. In those days the hedge was at a lower height, just above the railings, and when Clifford used to cut the hedge he also used to try to cut the metal railings. Every year, when hedge-trimming reached the middle gate on Grange Road, the patient Jim would send young Keith down to Tollidays to purchase a drive cog for the hedge-cutter. It was part of the routine.

Despite the focus on individual exercise, a large College like St John's still manages to put together a commendable number of teams, as the following figures make clear:

1979 – A men-only College

Teams: 3 rugby, 5 football, 2/3 hockey, 2 cricket, 9 boats in Bumps.

2014 – A mixed College

Men's teams: 1.5 rugby union, 3 football, 1 hockey, almost 1 cricket, 4 boats in Bumps.

Women's teams: 1 netball, 1 lacrosse, 0 rugby union (did for a time have a seven-a-side team), 1 football, 1 hockey, 3 boats in Bumps.

Mixed teams: 1 netball, 1 lacrosse, 1 ultimate frisbee.

Photo: Kate Martin



The playing fields themselves look much the same, but usage, over time, has been spread more widely. In 1979 St John's and Magdalene were the principal users, with the College School a much more limited participant in the 'ground-share'. Today, Sidney Sussex has joined, and the three colleges together take around fifty-five per cent of pitch time, with the College School keen to absorb



the remainder. A major enhancement came in the form of an all-weather hockey pitch in 2011. Unlike some other ground-shares in Cambridge, the fields remain the property of St John's, with other users paying their share of the running costs, together with a ground-use fee.

Enthusiasm alone goes a long way, but excellent facilities and essential equipment both come at a cost to the College. In 1979 the ground staff were still effectively employed by the Field Clubs, with wages paid direct from the Clubs' own account. In 2014 ground staff are employed by the College and the Field Clubs' accounts have become ledgers in the College financial structure.


Funds used to be made available from a per capita 'approved fee' paid directly by the Local Education Authority and distributed to the General Athletic Club, JCR and other stakeholders by the Approved Fee Allocation Committee. This provided sufficient funds for the Field Clubs to operate in an appropriate fashion, even permitting some modest support towards end of season tours. When the receipt of this separate approved fee ceased, it was replaced by a budget for extracurricular activities provided by the College. During the early 1990s the approved fee lost value to the extent that the Field Clubs were significantly in debt. This situation was partially alleviated by the combined sports appeal in 1997, and was transformed from 2008 by extremely generous lead donations from a Johnian alumnus to support traditional field sports. The Field Clubs' finances have since been further improved by smaller but no less vital donations from other alumni, in many cases matched by the lead donor, targeted at the support of field sports. The financial position of the Field Clubs is now stable and healthy for the foreseeable future.



Good facilities and stable funding have both helped to maintain the College's reputation for high achievement on the sports field. As careful readers of *The Eagle* will have noticed, success is perhaps most marked in rugby union, where after a long absence from the top of the league and cuppers wins during the first ten or twelve years of the professional rugby union era – a period when two or three primarily postgraduate colleges prevailed – the Red Boys have in the last eight or nine years once again dominated both competitions.

As already noted, the College generates sufficient enthusiasm to put out a competitive team in nearly all inter-college competitions, and at this level the establishment of a pool of willing participants is crucial to success. The netball teams, particularly the mixed team, have consistently challenged for honours, as have the hockey and football teams. Badminton and basketball, particularly the latter when run and manned by some keen and able Cypriot Johnians, have had their successful years, and there is now a very competitive ultimate frisbee team.

I would like to say thank you to the captains, and their helpers, of all the College teams during my thirty-four years at St John's. Particular thanks must go to those who sustain second and third teams, and the only team in the less popular sports, where the very existence of such teams depends on one or two dedicated individuals. As much as the Rob Andrews of the College, the health and vitality of our College sport is hugely dependent on these young men and women.

I have greatly enjoyed my time as Senior Treasurer, and trust my successor has as much pleasure as I have found in being involved with College sport. 

Dr Dick McConnell



Photo: Kate Martin

COLLEGE SOCIETIES

JCR

I am pleased to report that 2013 was another enjoyable year for the Junior Combination Room Committee (JCRC). We took the opportunity to focus on maintaining the good relationship the JCRC has built up with the College over several years, resulting in much discussion and many improvements in a variety of areas.

In his second term on the JCRC, Vice President Simon Allan rethought the organisation of Freshers' Week. Many new events were added to the timetable, including a sell-out comedy night on the first Saturday evening, attended by approximately 170 people and enjoyed by all. I am grateful to the Senior Tutor and the Dean for their support in making these changes possible, both logistically and financially. The refreshed approach was widely appreciated and shows much potential for the coming years.

Bhupinder Sachdev entered his second term as Treasurer. Through careful budgeting and prioritisation of funds, we were able to invest where necessary, while still balancing the books. Following Bhupinder's work, the next committee will benefit from a twenty per cent budget increase. In addition, the annual increase for College fees and charges was the lowest since present records began in 2006. This will have an immediate and lasting impact on the whole College community.

The start of each JCRC's term in January coincides with the University shadowing scheme. St John's has consistently offered a large number of places for prospective applicants to experience life in Cambridge by 'shadowing' a student for a weekend. Antoni Woss, our Access Officer, was instrumental in ensuring the smooth running of the scheme. Hopefully these efforts will be proved worthwhile during admissions this year.

Daphne Dijkman played a crucial role as Ethical Affairs Officer. A notable achievement came at the end of the academic year, when a new partnership between the College and British Heart Foundation (BHF) led to the donation of 400 bags of unwanted belongings to the BHF, which would otherwise have been disposed of. Our donations provided over £6,000 of a total of £40,000 raised across the University: a remarkable contribution.

To maintain engagement with the student body, Fiona Stainer rethought our publicity campaign to ensure news and details of forthcoming events were widely

distributed. The JCRC website, Facebook page and new paper flyers in the College Bar proved useful media for this, but the highlight was almost certainly the well-regarded weekly email. This was always punctuated with plenty of humour, encouraging us to read to the end.

Sarah Wood, as JCRC Secretary, undertook administration of the Committee and ensured that our action points were reliably completed each week! As External Officer, Sarah represented one of the JCRC's votes at Cambridge University Student Union (CUSU) Council, ensuring that our voice was heard in University-wide matters, while fortnightly meetings of JCRC Presidents and External Officers across the University allowed valuable information to be shared between colleges.

This year, Chessie Lane organised several JCRC Ents, including the annual June Event during May Week and the 'back-to-school' Ent, exclusively for Freshers during Freshers' Week. An excellent time was had by all those who attended.

Ayesha Patwardhan led the JCRC's Facilities efforts, working with a number of College committees to improve the equipment available in the gym and to communicate feedback on the Bar, Buttery and Hall, which prompted the Buttery to start serving pancakes and waffles.

Cristina Navarro-Sanchis, as the Sports, Services and Societies Officer, maintained the JCR room and provided advice to several College members on navigating the process of setting up their own societies.

The Welfare and Equal Opportunities role this year was the responsibility of Ellie Hornsby, who did an excellent job in liaison with the CUSU Welfare team and the College Nurse. This included organising various events during the exam term, including a series of highly regarded mindfulness sessions.

Kristaps Ozolins implemented several new schemes in his role as Academic Affairs Officer, including the provision of dedicated space for invigilated examination practice during Easter term. He also rethought the *University Challenge* selection process and invested considerable effort to select a team for the next series. We await its broadcast later this year, where we hope these changes will prove worthwhile.

Last, but by no means least, Giles Barton-Owen was our Computing Officer. He maintained the JCRC website and provided useful input to the IT Committee, not to mention supplying home-baked bread at some of our meetings!

May I take this opportunity to express my appreciation to all the College Fellows and staff for their unfaltering commitment to maintaining St John's as a world-class location to live and study. In particular, I should like to thank the Master and Dr Dobson for the experiences we shared, including the unique opportunity to meet His Holiness the Dalai Lama during Easter term.

Robert Cashman leads the 2014 committee. I have every confidence he and his team will do a stellar job.



Matthew Huxtable, President

The SBR

The Samuel Butler Room (SBR) Society for graduate students at St John's has had another excellent, busy and successful year. I am grateful to the fourteen other members of the committee for all their hard work, especially in helping to organise our big social events and our programme for Freshers. My thanks also to those College Fellows most closely associated with the Society – Dr Sue Colwell, our Senior Treasurer; Professor Patrick Boyde, Borderer; and the Master, Professor Christopher Dobson.



Disco in Hall after our Douglas Adams/1970s themed dinner

In the past year the redecoration of the SBR rooms has been completed. New furniture for the Peter Nicholls Room arrived in June 2013, and at the same time new light fittings were installed and an old dartboard was removed to reinstate a window that it had blocked. New curtains were also fitted throughout the suite of rooms. With the help of the Green Officers, Randy Brazier and Julia Jaskolska, recycling is now available in the SBR, and is being extended across graduate houses and hostels.

The most noticeable change in recent months has been the construction of a new graduate study room opposite the existing SBR rooms, in what had formerly been a set of bathrooms and toilets. Two new toilets have been constructed – one of which is wheelchair accessible – and the remaining space has been given over to a quiet and comfortable study space, with beautiful views into First Court and the Chapel. I am extremely grateful to the Master and the Maintenance Department at St John's for, respectively, offering this space to the graduate community and for including so many of our requests during the building process. The room has been officially named 'The SBR Frederick Sanger Study Room', in recognition of the distinguished Johnian, recently deceased.

The rain held off (just about!) for our annual garden party in the Fellows' Garden. More than 200 graduate students, Fellows, supervisors, spouses and children attended, and there was a wide selection of food and drink (including two kegs of beer from a nearby brewery, which proved especially popular), music (from a local jazz band) and entertainment for children.

The Social and Dining team, headed by Kathryn Santner and Daniel Ryan, arranged dozens of Hall swaps during the year, and our BA Table dinners in Hall on Tuesdays and Fridays have been as busy as ever – with the SBR rooms used for drinks before and after. My Vice President, Paul Merchant, also organised a large swap with graduate students and scholars at Trinity College, Dublin. This was a roaring success and will hopefully be repeated in the year ahead.

Our new graduate students were welcomed to the College with a full fifteen-day programme of events, including talks about the history of the College, a story-telling night led by Pat Boyde, punting lessons and fun runs of varying length organised by Julia Powles and Tamela Maciel, as well as the traditional Matriculation Dinner in Hall with the Master and Fellows. The feedback that I received from new graduate students was very positive, and all agreed that such an extensive programme, with generous financial help from the College, made new Johnians feel welcome and instantly part of a kind and close-knit community.

The College can become very quiet in mid-December after all the undergraduates leave, and so the SBR Christmas social is always a very popular night and gives graduate students a chance to get together. This past year some 283 Johnnians and their friends came to our Christmas Hall and Ceilidh. A large number also came to our Superhall at the end of the Lent term, at which the theme was 'Douglas Adams – 1970s'. My thanks go to my Junior Treasurer, Tim Allen, for acting as our DJ for the disco afterwards.

As a former undergraduate at St John's, JCR Committee member and member of many other Johnnian societies, I have enjoyed being President of the SBR more than any of my other roles over the past eight years. It has been a pleasure representing such a diverse and engaged community at discussions and negotiations involving the College, seeking to improve the facilities for graduate students, and leading such an enthusiastic and capable committee. I wish Dan Ryan and his committee the very best for the year ahead, and I know they will continue to keep the SBR at the core of graduate life at St John's.



Richard Butler, President

The Johnnian Society



Johnnians at the Clay Pigeon Shoot in May 2014.

The Johnnian Society was established in 1923 to facilitate continuing friendship between Johnnians and to provide an enduring link between Johnnians and the College. Today, the Society has over 10,000 members, representing eighty-five per cent of all known living Johnnians. All alumni are welcome to join the society; the cost of life membership for Johnnians no longer resident in College is £25.

The society's committee members for 2014 are: Heather Hancock (President), Dr Manon Williams (Immediate Past President), Colin Greenhalgh (Vice-President), Graham Spooner (Chairman), Sir Alastair Norris (Vice-Chairman), Colin Burrows (Honorary Secretary), Emma Clutton-Brock (Finance Secretary), The Master (*ex officio* member), Professor Nick McCave (College Representative), Stelios Elia, John Wyn Owen, Stephen Teverson, Sarah Wilson, Treeva Fenwick, Dr Ivan Guevara-Bernal, Roya Motalleb-Zadeh, Oliver Choroba, Mark Wells and Danae Mercer. The committee's membership spans five decades of Johnnians, with matriculation years from 1961 to 2009, and their profiles can be read at johnnian.joh.cam.ac.uk/get-involved/johnnian-society-committee.

Our previous Immediate Past President, Ben Macintyre, completed his term of office in December 2013 when he stepped down from the committee, as did the following committee members: Fiona McAnena, Dr Jeevan Deol and Dr Louise Makin. My thanks to them all for their considerable contributions to the society.

We welcome expressions of interest from Johnnians who may wish to join the society's committee. The elected term of office is for six years and the committee meets three times a year, once in Cambridge and twice in London. Anyone interested in putting their names forward should please contact Graham Spooner at gmspooner@mentoruk.com.

The society organised three events in 2014: a Clay Pigeon Shoot in Gloucestershire on 2 May 2014; the Annual Golf Day at the Gog Magog Golf Club on 24 and 25 July 2014; and Johnnian Society Day in College on 27 September 2014, including this year's lecture titled 'Lady Margaret Beaufort – The Mother of the first Tudor King, Henry VII' by Dr Mark Nicholls, which was followed in the evening by drinks in the Senior Combination Room and the general meeting and annual dinner in Hall.

Looking ahead to 2015, we are planning to hold four events, including a spring dinner at the Oxford and Cambridge Club in London, another regional event (possibly a wine tasting in Bristol) and our annual events in College. Details of our events are listed in the events calendar at johnian.joh.cam.ac.uk/events and on the back page of *Johnian News*. Please contact Colin Burrows at colin@specialtreats.co.uk if you wish to host or organise an event for Johnians and their guests in conjunction with the society.

I would like to thank the staff of the College's Development Office for their continued support of the society and its members; Nigel Snaith for organising the Golf Day; and Colin Burrows for organising the inaugural Clay Pigeon Shoot.

Graham Spooner, Chairman



The Choir

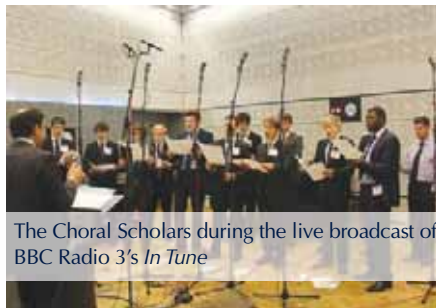
Michaelmas term started with the Matriculation Service, during which the Choir gave the new intake of students an introduction to Chapel music, singing pieces by Dyson and Jonathan Dove. Taking part in their first service were Joseph Wicks (Junior Organ Scholar), Thomas Lilburn (Alto), Benedict Inman (Tenor) and Theodore Platt (Bass), along with Choristers George Balfour, Conrad Boyle and Alexander Tomkinson. Four new Probationers also joined the Choir this year: Matthew Brown, James Buttery, Adam Chillingworth and Charles Cobb.

Just as Michaelmas term began, we were delighted to receive the news that Freddie James, last year's Senior Organ Scholar, had been awarded the W. T. Best Memorial Scholarship 2014–16 by the Worshipful Company of Musicians. This was an excellent achievement and will enable Freddie to continue his post-graduate studies in Europe.

The Choir sang at Jonathan Harvey's Memorial Service in October. Jonathan was an Honorary Fellow of the College who died in December 2012. The Choir performed two of Jonathan's compositions – 'I Love the Lord' and 'The Annunciation'. The Choir were joined by soprano Julia Doyle, who opened the service with a very moving performance of Hildegard von Bingen's 'O Ignis Spiritus'. 'The Annunciation' was one of the last pieces Jonathan wrote and was commissioned for the College's Advent Carol Service in 2011. The work was then shortlisted in the Liturgical category of the British Composer Awards in 2012.

Led again by the College's Musician in Residence, Margaret Faultless, St John's Sinfonia joined the Choir to perform Bach's Cantata No. 115 'Mache Dich, Mein Geist, Bereit' to a full Chapel later in the month.

In November, the Choral Scholars travelled to London to take part in a live broadcast of the BBC Radio 3 programme *In Tune* to promote the CD of their concert at the Royal Festival Hall with John Sheppard. After singing Sheppard's 'In Pace' and Harris' 'Holy is the True Light', the Gents performed one of their close harmony numbers, 'Miss Otis Regrets'.



The Choral Scholars during the live broadcast of BBC Radio 3's *In Tune*

The Advent Carol Services saw the Chapel packed to capacity. As usual, the second service was broadcast live on Radio 3. This year there were four pieces involving instruments other than the organ: a new commission from



On tour at the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam. Photo: Annelies van der Vegt

Gabriel Jackson, 'Vox Clara Ecce Intonat', featuring a saxophone solo played by Joel Garthwaite; 'The Call' by Roxanna Panufnik and 'Deo Gracias' from Britten's 'A Ceremony of Carols' with harp played by Alison Martin; and Gardner's 'Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day' with side drum and tambourine played by John McDonald and Lauren Fink respectively.

A week later, the Choir joined with the English Chamber Orchestra at the Royal Festival Hall to sing Vivaldi's 'Magnificat' and 'Gloria' with soloists Anna Patalong and Frances Bourne. The programme also included Vivaldi's *Four Seasons* and 'Concerto for Two Trumpets', played by Crispian Steele-Perkins and Tom Rainer, to a full house.

After a short break, the Choir reassembled to sing a Christmas concert in Chapel before setting off on tour to Germany and Amsterdam. Whilst in Munich, the Choir performed at a private reception at the Hotel Bayerischer Hof and sang a concert in the Herkulesaal, part of the magnificent Residenz complex. The Choir also performed at the launch of the €18 million appeal to rebuild the Museum Mensch und Natur, hosted by Princess Auguste von Bayern.

En route to Amsterdam, the Choir stopped off to give a sell-out concert to a very enthusiastic audience of 865 at the Stiftskirche in Stuttgart. The final concert of the tour was at the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam with an even more enthusiastic audience of more than 2,000 people. The concert was broadcast live on Dutch national radio.

At the beginning of Lent term, the Choir were delighted to welcome Blake Chen, a new Probationer from Cambridge, Massachusetts.

The candlelit Epiphany Carol Services took place during the first weekend of full term. As usual, the Chapel was packed to capacity for these services, which are a perennial favourite.

A memorial service for George Watson, Fellow of St John's College from 1961 to 2013, was held in Chapel on 1 February. At the service, the Choir sang some movements of Duruflé's 'Requiem', as well as 'My Shepherd is the Living Lord' by Thomas Tomkins.

The second Cantata Evensong of the year took place a fortnight later with the Choir performing Bach's Cantata No. 92 'Ich Hab ein Gottes Herz und Sinn', again accompanied by the St John's Sinfonia. The previous week the Choir had sung another Bach Cantata (No. 56 – 'Ich Will den Kreuzstab Gerne Tragen') with student instrumentalists, featuring four different bass soloists.



On the Chapel Tower roof for Ascension Day 2014

During Lent term, the Choir participated in two joint evensongs, first with the Choir of Gonville and Caius College, directed by Dr Geoffrey Webber, and then with the Choir of Clare College, directed by Graham Ross.

The liturgical season of Lent began with the customary Ash Wednesday evensong featuring Gregorio Allegri's 'Miserere mei, Deus', as well as Thomas Tomkins' 'Almighty God, the Fountain of all Wisdom'.

The Lent Meditation service followed on the last Saturday of term, featuring a selection of Lenten music interspersed with readings and sections of the Gospel Passion. Amongst other music, the Choir performed all four of Poulenc's *Motets Pour un Temps de Pénitence*.

Soon after Easter term began, the Choir sang a live broadcast for the BBC's weekly *Choral Evensong* programme. The service featured Kenneth Leighton's Second Service composed in memory of former St John's Organ Scholar, Brian Runnett. The anthem consisted of Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms* in the version scored for organ (Edward Picton-Turbervill), harp (Hugh Webb) and percussion (Nigel Shipway) accompaniment. Hamish McLaren sang the large counter-tenor solo.

The Easter term featured several new commissions, one of which was 'Laudes' – an organ work composed by Francis Pott, funded by the Herbert Howells Trust Organ Fund and performed as the voluntary for the Choral Evensong broadcast by Edward Picton-Turbervill. Another of these commissions was Nico Muhly's 'Dominus Regnavit', funded by a generous donation from

Paul and Joanna Lindsell. The Choir was lucky enough to be joined by Nico for some of the rehearsals prior to his work's first performance. Finally, John McCabe's 'Peace Carol' received its first performance at evensong on 15 May, attended by the composer and his wife.

The final Cantata Evensong of the year took place on 17 May and the Choir performed two Bach Cantatas: No. 10 'Meine Seel erhebt den Herren' and No. 12 'Weinen, Klagen, Sorgen, Zagen'.

The following morning, the Choir travelled to St Peter's Church, Horningsea, to sing Choral Matins in celebration of the church's 800th anniversary. The parish is a College Living: from the early thirteenth century, the parish of Horningsea was linked to the Augustinian Hospital of St John which preceded the establishment of the College. It was a gloriously warm and sunny day and the Bishop of Ely arrived at the Church by boat to preach at the service.

As Ascension Day fell during the school half-term holiday, the traditional Chapel Tower service featured men's voices only. This year, the Choir were joined by Dan Rootham, grandson of Cyril Rootham who started the tradition in 1902 when he was Organist at St John's.

A highlight of the year came in early June when, at the invitation of the Royal British Legion and the Normandy Veterans' Association, the Choir travelled to France to take part in the D-Day seventieth anniversary commemorative services in Normandy, which were televised live by the BBC. It was a great privilege for the Choir to sing in the services at Bayeux Cathedral and the Commonwealth



At the D-Day seventieth anniversary commemorative services in Normandy.



Chorister Conrad Boyle meets D-Day veterans in Normandy. Conrad's great-grandfather, Aleck Crichton, is also a D-Day veteran but he was sadly unable to make the trip to France.

War Graves Commission British Cemetery in Bayeux, attended by Her Majesty the Queen, HRH the Duke of Edinburgh, HRH the Prince of Wales and HRH the Duchess of Cornwall, along with the Prime Ministers of the United Kingdom, France and Australia, and the Governor General of New Zealand. The day finished as the Choir sang alongside soprano Laura Wright at a service in Arranches-les-Bains attended by HRH the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. More than 650 Normandy veterans took part in the event, which will be the last to be staged by the Normandy Veterans' Association before it formally disbands in the autumn.

The Choir then took part in the May Concert, which was held in Chapel in June. The Choir's contribution to the programme was Handel's 'Zadok the Priest' and John Ireland's 'Greater Love Hath No Man'. Parry's 'I was glad' was then sung jointly with St John's Voices, directed by Graham Walker. St John's Voices is the College's very successful new mixed voice choir. Founded in October 2013, the choir sings evensong every Monday. A first joint service between St John's Voices and the College Choir took place in June. The following day Professor Ross Duffin, from Cleveland, Ohio, directed a men's voices Evensong sung in just intonation.

This year the Graduation Service moved from its traditional Thursday slot to Wednesday 25 June. A packed Chapel of graduands and their families heard the Choir sing Stanford's 'Te Deum' in B flat and Wesley's 'Blessed be the God and Father'.

St John's Chapel was packed for the annual Joint Evensong with King's College on Tuesday 1 July. During the service, the Choir sang Howells' Responses and Parry's anthem, 'Hear My Words, Ye People'. Two weeks later Chandos came to St John's to record a CD of French music by Vierne, Langlais, Messiaen and Poulenc.

Following a concert as part of the Cambridge Music Festival series later in July, the Choir departed for a three-concert tour of Switzerland and Germany. The first stop was Verbier in Switzerland where the Choir sang at the Eglise de Verbier as part of the Verbier Festival. The following day, they crossed the border into Germany to sing in the Dom zu St Blasien, before returning to Switzerland to sing a final concert at the Basilica Sacro Cuore, Lugano.

The end of the tour saw the departure of Choristers Jason Cobb, Robert Murray John, Rufus Pawsey and Jed Upjohn; Choral Students Joseph Ataman, Kieran Brunt and Jonathan Hyde; and Lay Clerks Thomas Blackie, John Holland-Avery, Benedict Inman and Samuel Oladeinde. We wish them all well for the future.

For up to date information on Choir activities, and to listen to the weekly webcasts, please visit www.sjcchoir.co.uk. You can also follow the Choir on Twitter (@SJCChoir) and Facebook (www.facebook.com/stjohnschoircambridge).

The Choir would like to thank patrons, benefactors, members of the Choir Association and other supporters for their kind donations to support the work of the Choir.



Caroline Marks, Choir Administrator



The Adams Society


The Adams Society is the College's mathematical society, and remains one of the most active subject societies, hosting a wide range of talks as well as social events.



In Michaelmas, the society organised talks by Colin Wright, on the development of notation for juggling tricks (involving eye-catching demonstrations of all the tricks discussed), and by Professor Imre Leader, who kindly came up with a new topic ('Cops and Robbers') after it emerged that the Archimedeans (the University's mathematical society) had recently held a talk on a subject similar to his

original idea. In Lent, all our speakers were returning Johnnians, giving a pleasant, introspective feel to the term. Returning from Oxford, Dr David Conlon gave a talk on arithmetic progressions within the primes – an area he himself has contributed to. Perhaps the highlight of the term came after Dr Jon Nelson's talk on statistical modelling, when many distinguished, mathematically-inclined Johnnians, including another of the term's speakers, Dr Julian Holstein, dined with the society at Teri-Aki restaurant.

The annual garden party was, as usual, a roaring success, again featuring a barbecue (thanks to Henry Bottomley) and even attracting non-mathematicians with the sounds of joyous croquet. The annual cricket match returned after last year's hiatus, and we recorded a resounding victory, skittling out the Trinity Maths Society for less than half of our 134 runs. Credit must go to captain Joe Taylder. Professor Béla Bollobás, a Fellow of Trinity College, graced our annual dinner as the guest speaker in Lent term, entertaining us with tales of distinguished Johnnian mathematicians.

Thanks to the committee for helping ensure the continued good health of the society. Thanks also to all those who have sent letters detailing their time in the society for the archives. I was particularly envious to hear from Douglas Wass of talks by John Edensor Littlewood and Paul Dirac during his time at the College – hopefully one day those looking back on our talks this year will be as star-struck as I am on reading of those speakers! Similar letters continue to be very welcome, and can be addressed to the society since we now have our own pigeonhole. 

Kweku Abraham, President

Christian Union

The past year saw a great deal of change for the Christian Union, as many of our older members moved on, resulting in an inevitable change of size and dynamic for the society. Nevertheless, we have continued putting on numerous events with the aim of making Jesus Christ known to students in St John's.

Throughout Easter term, we teamed up with Trinity College Christian Union to organise weekly ultimate frisbee matches on the backs, providing an escape from the library and a chance to think about Christianity during half-time.

Michaelmas term began with a flurry of activity, as we travelled to the Norfolk coast for a few days away with the Christian Unions from Clare and Trinity Hall. This was a great time of getting to know Christians from other colleges, as well as providing an invaluable opportunity to plan for the year ahead. We returned to College excited for International Freshers' Week and Freshers' Week, during which we hosted a welcome dinner for international students and a pudding party to raise awareness of the Christian Union. Our weekly Church Breakfasts also gave Freshers the chance to attend several different churches in Cambridge with current students to help them decide which one to attend regularly.

We often organised events to coincide with those of our umbrella organisation, the Cambridge Inter-Collegiate Christian Union (CICCU), such as hosting mulled wine and mince pie parties in our rooms before the CICCU Carol Services. We also put on 'This is Pudding' in Lent term – an informal evening of cake in the JCR to introduce CICCU's 'This is Jesus', which is a week of talks examining the claims of Jesus and the evidence for them. It was great to see so many people in the JCR engaging with the questions raised by those claims.



I am grateful to my co-rep, Robin Youngusband, for the tremendous help and support he has been this year, and I look forward to seeing what the future holds for the society.




Jonathon Simpson, President

Economics Society

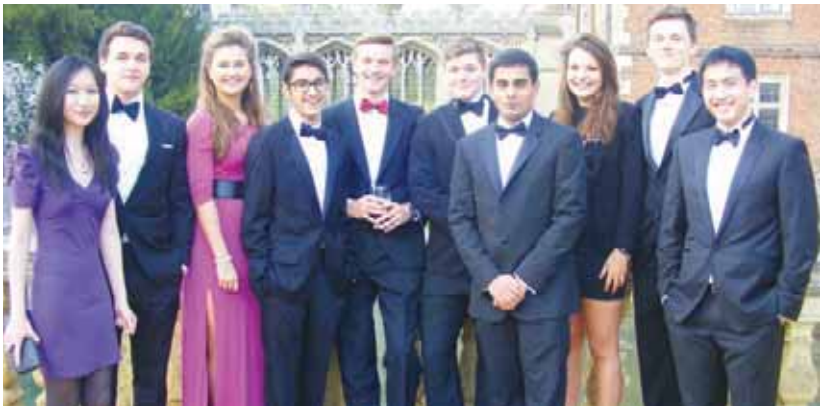
The Economics Society has enjoyed another highly successful year, beginning with the welcome evening for Economics Freshers in October. The evening consisted of a short drinks reception, with general advice on what to expect for the year being passed down from older students, and concluded with an enjoyable meal as a way of promoting discussion between different year groups.

During Lent term, the society hosted its annual AGM, Options and Desserts evening in the Wordsworth Room. We were delighted to see such a high turnout, particularly amongst the second- and third-years, for whom the evening is particularly insightful. As always, advice on Part IIA and IIB paper choices from lecturers Dr Petra Geraats and Dr Meredith Crowley proved invaluable, as well as additional information and anecdotes from the second- and third-year students present.

At the beginning of Easter term, the society welcomed Mr Adam Bailey, a Johnian and now ALM Actuary at Morgan Stanley, to attend our annual black-tie dinner as guest speaker. Mr Bailey gave an inspirational and very relevant speech regarding the importance of the often overlooked first-year exams, stressing the impact of first-year grades on summer internship opportunities, as well as offering both academic and career advice to all present. After dinner, we introduced our successors, Karthik Raghavan, President, and Dan Brown, Treasurer, to present some of their thoughts and ambitions for the society in 2014/15.

The year drew to a close with our annual garden party, this year run as an informal recruitment event with Morgan Stanley. It was fantastic to see such a large number of alumni present and it is hoped that this tradition of inviting alumni back to the garden party may long continue. 

Joshua Mustill, President, and Ian Loo, Treasurer




Humanities Society



The Humanities Society was set up last year for students reading the ‘smaller subjects’ that were not otherwise represented in College societies: Anglo-Saxon, Norse, and Celtic; Architecture; Asian and Middle Eastern Studies; Classics; Education; English; History of Art; Linguistics; Management; and Philosophy. Naturally, all other humans are welcome too.

This year we proffered a helping hand to other student groups. With the Ukrainian Society we co-hosted a talk by Oleksandr Danylyuk, a human rights activist who participated in the Orange Revolution. We also helped the Islamic Society hold an address from Ahmed Keeler: ‘Reflections of an English Muslim’. And an audience from the Humanities and Theology Societies enjoyed a debate with PhD candidate Hugh Burling on irrational but important beliefs. He asked us to consider whether, if we cannot tell God from a headache, we can tell right from wrong.

For career inspiration, Tim Skeet, Managing Director of Markets at RBS, spoke about the contribution humanities students could make in the banking sector. He graduated from Jesus College with a degree in German and French in 1981.

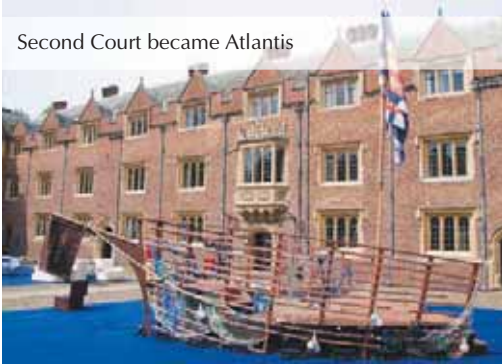
A highlight of our calendar was the annual black-tie dinner in the Senior Combination Room, which saw students and Fellows from the aforementioned subjects, as well as other junior and senior members of College, gather together to celebrate their achievements. We were inspired by the historic setting, wherein the treaty between England and France that established the marriage of King Charles I of England to Queen Henrietta Maria was signed, and, in the 1940s, parts of the D-Day landings were planned. The Combination Room is also thought to be the scene of the first Oxford v. Cambridge tortoise race, which began in 1973 and ended in 1991. The winning tortoise, Little Belter, was immortalised in stone and is now our society mascot. A small plaque in his honour can be seen on the underside of the Bridge of Sighs. 

India Matharu-Daley, President

May Ball

This year's May Ball transported Johnnians into a series of 'lost worlds'. The event was, as ever, fantastic fun to organise and we are confident that our 2,000 guests enjoyed themselves just as much as we did. The all-important reviews in the student press were quick to praise what they viewed as 'the best party in town this year'.

Second Court became Atlantis



Major transformations took place across College in the run up to the ball. Two imposing Easter Island heads were installed in Chapel Court to overlook a spectacular sandy beach. The committee were grateful for the support of a fork-lift truck in moving the twenty tonnes of sand needed to create the temporary beach!

Third Court being transformed into a Mayan jungle



Chapel Court as Easter Island



Intense, rippled blue light cast across the walls helped transform Second Court into an underwater Atlantis, which housed a shipwreck centrepiece designed and built by a talented team of St John's engineers.

If College staff had been able to vote for their favourite court, the winner would undoubtedly have been Third Court. A camouflage-covered DJ tent, exotic flower displays and a three-metre-high waterfall all contributed towards a stunning space, themed around the idea of a Mayan jungle.

Running the May Ball is always an exercise in blending what guests have enjoyed for many years with features that innovate and surprise. This was the case with the food and drink this year, where the perennial favourites – a hog roast and hot doughnuts – were served alongside freshly made sushi, camel meatball pittas and crocodile kebabs. The latter proved especially popular and led one reviewer to comment: 'perhaps crocodile is the new swan?'

College staff put many hours of work into making this event what it is, so we are eternally grateful to all those who helped us with the organisation of this year's event. The success of the May Ball is just as much theirs to celebrate as it is the committee's.



Sam Wolfe, President

The Medical Society

The Medical Society (Medsoc) has enjoyed a busy and exciting year. Michaelmas term started with a barbecue night to welcome first-years and allow preclinical and clinical students to catch up and share some beginning-of-year advice. Other social events have included the MedSoc Superhall and our annual dinner, to which we welcomed guest speaker Dr Estee Torok.

We have been delighted by a diverse range of talks this year. Amongst others, Professor Wolfram Schultz shared an insight into his renowned work on dopamine and reward signalling; Professor David Salisbury, of the Department of Health, spoke about the eradication of poliomyelitis; and Dr Fiona Cornish, President of the Women's Federation, gave an enlightening account of milestones and transitions in medicine.

Many exciting new initiatives have also taken shape. In Michaelmas term, the society launched its mentoring scheme, giving medical and veterinary students the opportunity to enjoy informal teaching sessions with their peers as a supplement to supervisions. Michaelmas also saw the launch of the society's new annual essay prize, offering preclinical students the chance to explore their medical interests and develop their writing skills. In Lent term, our new website was unveiled, with a refreshed look and a new members' area for students.

It has been a pleasure and a privilege to be involved in the work of the society and I would like to thank the rest of the committee for their fantastic work and tireless dedication – James Hartley, Neel Jain, Monicka Shehata, Helen Ye, Sophie Mead and Namir Asmar. I would also like to extend my gratitude to the Senior Treasurer, Professor Graham Burton, for his continued support. I wish next year's committee all the very best and look forward to seeing the Medical Society continue to grow and thrive.



Vicki Morley, President

The MML Society

The most notable and welcome change in the Modern Languages Society this year has been the expansion of the society to include students of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, offering us diverse perspectives in our discussions.

We have been able to maintain a busy and exciting calendar of events thanks to the support of the Associated Societies. This has included more academically focused events, such as discussion evenings with graduate students and MML alumni regarding their research and career paths since graduation; cultural events, most notably group visits to productions of Frank Wedekind's *Spring Awakening* and the triennial Cambridge Greek Play; and more traditional social events, culminating in our annual dinner and garden party in June. We were especially pleased to revive the tradition of Linguist Desserts, which has been waning in recent years. I am pleased that we were able to develop a programme of events that was both academically enriching and bridged the typical divisions between years that tend to arise as a result of the year abroad. I hope the newly enlarged society will remain both intellectually and socially stimulating in future years.

I would like to personally thank our Senior Treasurer, Professor David Midgley; Junior Treasurer, Charlotte Abell; and Tutor, Dr Mete Atatüre, for their efforts, along with all the Fellows and speakers who have contributed to a successful year.



Duncan Maud, President

The Parsons Society

Named after the former St John's graduate and inventor of the steam turbine, Sir Charles Parsons, the core mission of our society is to provide a diverse programme of social events to Engineering undergraduates, postgraduates and Fellows.

Towards the start of Michaelmas term the society hosted a drinks reception and meal to welcome the new Engineering undergraduates. Traditionally this pivotal forum enables the introduction of first-year undergraduates to their peers and helps them to gain an appreciation of College life and course expectations. The term concluded with the annual celebration dinner in Hall followed by Engineering Desserts, which involved students and Fellows meeting in the renowned, 450-year-old Wordsworth Room to enjoy cheese and savour the fine College port.

During Lent term the society hosted a series of inspiring talks delivered by five Fellows: Dr Martin Goodhand, Dr Ricky Metaxas, Dr Michaël De Volder, Dr Hannah Joyce and Dr Rob Weatherup. The talks were well attended and offered members insights into various engineering disciplines. My thanks go to the speakers and all those who attended. Lent term also gave rise to the eagerly-awaited annual dinner, held in the Senior Combination Room and consisting of a four-course meal accompanied by a selection of fine College wines. The dinner was well received by Fellows and undergraduates from all years.

Several of our members have achieved successes worth celebrating this year. Two gained places on the MIT exchange, and another became a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Network (STEM) Ambassador. Other members have been actively involved in the design and construction of the May Ball centrepiece.

A great deal of thanks is owed to our Senior Treasurer, Zoubin Ghahramani; Junior Treasurer, Amy Spruce; and Secretary, Tom Louth, without whom the society could not have celebrated such a successful year.



Steven M. Tilbury, President



St John's Picturehouse

It has been an exciting and challenging year for the Picturehouse. We've continued to provide cheap entertainment in the form of great films, shown with our classic 35mm projector. Some of the most popular titles included *Man of Steel*, *About Time* and *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire*.



Given the ancient (well ... fifty-year-old) nature of the 35mm technology, there have been many mechanical 'issues' (disasters), and I'd like to give my thanks to all the projectionists for their hard work and professionalism. The Picturehouse is

currently investigating the possibility of an upgrade to state-of-the-art digital technology in the near future – watch this space! This will improve the quality of our showings as well as helping to justify our place as one of the best student-run cinemas in the country. Classic film lovers shouldn't despair however; we remain committed to maintaining our rare equipment and skills with regular 'classic film nights' shown on glorious 35mm film.

Disappointingly we haven't been able to show any films in association with other societies this year, due to difficulties in acquiring films. These are always really thought-provoking and offer an interesting juxtaposition to many of the big-budget films we usually present. We hope that we'll be able to bring these back in the future.

The Picturehouse is indebted, as am I, to the Committee (Robin Youngusband, Daphne Dijkman, Qasim Masood, Hannah Kirk-Evans, Martin Szoke, Jess Gorman and Chris Wheelhouse) for their hard work, alacrity and sound decision making.

It only remains to say that I wish the members and committee of the St John's Picturehouse all the best, and I look forward to seeing it grow and develop in the coming years.



Chris McNicol, Chairman

The Wilkes Society

The Wilkes Society (St John's College's Computer Science society) started the year after the AGM with our garden party, which, despite being held on a very cold June day, was a lovely event with plenty of Pimm's and strawberries to fend off the worst of the British summer.

We began Michaelmas term by welcoming six new Freshers to Part IA with our annual squash, in which the Part IB students extensively discussed the cons of taking physics as the natural science option. We also welcomed new and old graduate students, particularly those returning after completing their undergraduate degree.

In Michaelmas and Lent we hosted several talks by current students on a number of interesting projects that they had completed or were working on. Lent term also hosted our annual dinner, complete with an excellent menu, and our AGM, at which our new committee was elected.

I would like to thank the outgoing committee – Michael Hsu (Treasurer), Olivia Wiles (Secretary) and Dr Martin Richards (Senior Treasurer) – for all their hard work throughout the year and for their helpfulness in organising events.

I would like to welcome the new committee: Michael Hsu (President), Alistair Fisher (Treasurer) and Sanil Roy (Secretary). I would also like to thank Dr Richards for continuing his role as Senior Treasurer.

Finally I would like to thank Malte Schwarzkopf for his excellent work as Director of Studies, covering for Dr Robert Mullins while he was on sabbatical. I wish the society all the best in the future.



Christopher Wheelhouse, President

The Winfield Society

The Winfield Society represents all Law students at St John's. We are fortunate to enjoy good links with alumni, and their support and interest over the last year has been greatly appreciated.

There were, of course, the usual events to aid students in gaining a greater insight into a legal career. These included workshops by leading commercial law firms offering advice on applying for training contracts, and a talk on a career at the bar by recent alumnus, Paul Reynolds.

Throughout Lent term we hosted the annual Winfield Society mooted competition for first-year students, giving our newest members the chance to try their hand at advocacy.



We have also had a selection of academic talks and debates, including a lecture by Johnians Lord Hennessy and Sir Richard Aikens on the legal and political implications of Scottish independence. Furthermore, our newest Fellow, Dr Philip Murray, organised a talk with Professor David Ibbetson on the importance of legal history and a discussion with Dr Máire Ní Mhaonaigh on medieval Irish law.

From a more cultural perspective, a group of us attended the Cambridge Operatic Society's production of *Don Giovanni* and, much to the envy of other students, over the Easter vacation a dozen of us watched the Royal Ballet's production of *The Sleeping Beauty* at the Royal Opera House.

This year we also had our first event specifically for the female members of the Winfield Society, led by former student and practising solicitor, Kate Scott, with whom we discussed men and women in the workplace over afternoon tea.

The year's activities culminated in our President's Dinner at the end of Lent term. All former Law students of St John's were invited and we had an excellent turnout for the event. Our guest speaker, Sir Jack Beatson, is an eminent academic, an Honorary Fellow and former Law Fellow of this College, and currently a Court of Appeal judge. Sir Jack spoke to us about the challenges facing those wishing to pursue legal careers in the future. It was a wonderful occasion and a good time was had by all.

Over Easter, a group of us went on a trip to London to visit both the Supreme Court and House of Lords. At the Supreme Court we met with its former Deputy President and fellow Johnian, Lord Hope, and incumbent Supreme Court judge, Lord Reed, as well as attending a judgment and sitting in on a case. During the afternoon we visited the House of Lords, where we discussed the constitutional role of the House with Lord Hope and Lord Hennessy, and attended Question Time in the House of Lords Chamber.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at St John's and being President has made my third and final year at Cambridge all the more memorable. I would like to thank Dr David Fox for his support and wish him well on his upcoming sabbatical.

I am proud that the committee this year has succeeded in putting on such a diverse calendar of events. I thank the committee members for their efforts and wish good luck to our successors.



Saffiya S. R. Haddad, President

Women's Society

This year has seen the St John's Women's Society at its finest. Following a somewhat slow start in Michaelmas, the society's work blossomed to its full potential in Lent and Easter terms: we held bi-weekly discussion groups, panel debates, and social and cultural events, improved the sexual health provisions in College, and continued holding yoga classes twice a week.


In Michaelmas term we took part in an international campaign to end violence against women by fundraising to raise awareness on Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). The event featured the screening of award-winning documentary *The Cutting Tradition*, a performance piece from *The Vagina Monologues*, an original poem on FGM, and a question and answer session led by FGM expert, Dr Helen Watson.

Our two most popular Lent term symposia addressed a different, if no less controversial topic: pornography. We debated questions arising from our student speakers' prompts, including issues of censorship, the place of feminist porn, and the real-life consequences of early access to pornography.

In Easter term, we welcomed Professor Mary Beard for an exciting question and answer session on making women's voices heard, and held a charity art exhibition for Cancer Research UK.

The 2013/14 committee consisted of Francesca Bellei (President), Maria Waltmann (Vice President), Erin Kara (Treasurer), Dr Janet Lees (Senior Treasurer),



and Albi Stanley and Ellie Hornsby (Events and Publicity). We are happy to hand over Presidency and Vice Presidency to Albi and Ellie, and to welcome Ruth O'Connell Brown and Fay Davies, who are teaming up to take care of events, publicity and secretarial issues. With the new committee in place, we have every reason to hope that the society will continue to flourish. 

Maria Waltmann, Vice President



Secondary school pupils take part in a workshop with College and University lecturer Dr Christopher Warnes during an English taster day in the Divinity School in summer 2013.

COLLEGE SPORTS

Athletics

This has been an excellent season for the St John's Athletics Team. The best attended Cuppers competition I have seen throughout my time at Cambridge saw St John's rise to the challenge, being narrowly beaten into second place by a strong Emmanuel team packed with University athletes.

Watching so many different members of the College turn up from so many sporting backgrounds gave me a real sense of pride at the commitment and dedication within St John's, and I look forward to the team going one better next year.

St John's also performed incredibly well in the 4x100m relays held in May, where the men and women both came second out of the non-university sides (clearly there is a trend here!).

Finally, I would like briefly to draw attention to the strong St John's contingent that represented the University at the 150th Athletics Varsity match this year – Chidera Ota, Laura Andrews, Gabz Ejikeme, Tim Borgas and myself. I shall be very excited to see the performances over the next year and for Full Blue standards to be shattered.

Colours are awarded as follows:

Men

Gabz Ejikeme (12.3 seconds 100m, 25.6 seconds 200m)
 Sam Brodsky (12.3 seconds 100m, 25.9 seconds 200m)
 Thomas Walters (12.5 seconds 100m)
 Casey Swerner (25.7 seconds 200m)
 Ed Hezlet (53.2 seconds 400m, 29.4 seconds 200m hurdles)
 Tim Borgas (2.07 minutes 800m)
 Erlend Fleisje (1.65m high jump)
 Killian Rutherford (1.55m high jump)



Helen West, Laura Andrews, Lucy Sharples and Kellyann Burlage – the women's 4x100m relay team

Lorenzo Aversa (2.17 minutes 800m)
Max Jenkins (4.27 minutes 1500m)
George Bilclough (58.1 seconds 400m)

Women

Helen West (1.25m high jump)



Edward Hezlet

Men's Football – First Team

At the start of the 2013/14 season, SJCAFC had one goal: to achieve promotion and get back into the top flight after four seasons in the Second Division. The team achieved this emphatically, finishing the season with seven wins, one draw and one loss.

With five Freshers joining the squad, the team took a while to find its feet. Despite a 1-0 victory against Churchill in the opening match, the team stumbled through November. A late goal bumbled home by Fresher Dan Brown was needed to secure a draw against Emma in the league, whilst a loss to Selwyn in Cuppers followed by a loss to Pembroke left the team with much to do by the time Darwin




visited for the last game of Michaelmas term. A dominant performance in midfield and a precise assist from Fresher Andrea Filippa proved a kick in the teeth for Darwin's promotion hopes as SJCAFC scored two late goals to win 2-0 and re-establish themselves in the promotion race.

After Christmas, the team knew that only five wins from five would secure promotion. A win against Long Road was followed by the local derby with Trinity. A man of the match performance from Fresher Alex Gaskell and three second-half goals in a superb team performance, despite injuries to key players, secured a dominant 3-0 win. Stalwart Kassim Ramji scored his first goal for the club in four years in a 7-0 thrashing of Magdalene, leaving the team needing just three more points to win promotion. A coolly dispatched penalty from (third-time victorious Blue) Daniel Forde and a precise finish from Fresher Martin Letriliart, coupled with an outstanding defensive display, helped the team beat Queens' 2-1 to secure promotion in the best performance I have seen from any St John's side in my time here. The back five of Dan Brown, Tom Richards, Antoni Woss, Dan Salmon and goalkeeper Alex Ballard showed exactly why this year SJCAFC had the best defensive record in the league of any team in the top three divisions for the past four seasons.

Despite a hat-trick from Alex Gaskell in the final game of the season, Phil Edmondson-Jones claimed the club's Golden Boot. There was consolation for Gaskell as he was voted the club's Player of the Year, whilst Dan Brown amassed the most SJCAFC fantasy points throughout the year. The team also played two Old Boys' games this year, drawing with the class of 1996 and emphatically beating the newest set of Old Boys.

The team, as ever, would like to thank the Groundsman, Keith Ellis, and his team for all their hard work in providing us with superb training and match facilities.

This season was one of change and, with very few players leaving, the team is looking very strong to challenge for honours next season under the stewardship of Duncan Drysdale. 

Nick Hilton, Captain


Men's Football – Second Team

St John's Football Second Team had a very successful season this year. Continuing from last season's good form, we lost very few players and took on a couple of footballing first-years in the form of Jack Collier and Ollie Horan, who both made strong contributions throughout the campaign.



The season started well with a comprehensive win over Magdalene II in a pre-season friendly. We tried out a new formation that seemed to work particularly well, with our first league game resulting in a huge 5-0 win over St Cats & Cambridge School of Visual and Performing Arts. Windy conditions had a big effect on our second match of the season against Robinson II, which ended all square at 1-1, despite our dominance. Three consecutive wins followed, putting us at the top of the table, having played one more game than Anglia Ruskin I in second place. Unfortunately, a strong Downing performance ended our term with a loss, and with that, our cup run for the year.

After a successful first term, we had an up and down Lent term, which began with a loss to the St John's Graduate Team in a friendly. After that, we didn't play for almost a month due to the bad weather conditions and ended up trading losses and wins against Anglia Ruskin I, Caius III and Fitzwilliam III.

Pending a walkover decision against Trinity II, the team will finish second in the league, handing us promotion and topping off a very enjoyable year. Congratulations to Ollie Horan, who was voted Player of the Season after fantastic performances and goals from centre back. Thanks to all those who have played for us and are leaving this year; we wish you all the best for the future. 

Dan Brookes and Casey Swerner

Women's Football Team



After our promotion last year to Division One, the St John's Women's Football Team has had a mixed season. While we won only one of our five league games, results nonetheless proved enough for the team to stay in the top flight for another season. We also fell in the first round of Cuppers against an aggressive Homerton team. The standout games of the season came in our only two eleven-woman performances against Cuppers finalists Jesus and Christ's, narrowly losing 2-1 to both, and the friendly against the Gents that we unfortunately lost 11-5. On the social side, we have had a number of well-attended events with the men's team, including bowling and the end of term dinner.

This year we struggled to get a full team out most weeks but we had a number of outstanding regulars who kept the team together and showed a much appreciated level of commitment. Most Improved Player is awarded to Hayley Flood, and Eve Taschimowitz has been voted Player of the Season by the team.

I would like to thank Head Groundsman, Keith Ellis, for all his help throughout the year and for giving us our very own women's football pitch. Thanks also go to Nick Hilton for refereeing our games.

I would finally like to thank everyone that has played or supported the football team in some way this year. I have really enjoyed my time leading and developing the team, and I am sure that our new captain, Eve, will do a great job next year.



Zoe Bond, Captain

Men's Hockey

We started the season full of optimism, with a strong intake of Freshers and an unprecedented turnout to the annual training session. In fact, the turnout was so good that we decided to continue to hold sessions every week, something unheard of in recent memory.

Unfortunately it didn't seem to do the trick and Michaelmas was a frustrating term. Some disappointing performances saw us drop points against teams we really should have been beating, and the weekly training sessions were soon scrapped. Despite this, we salvaged fifth place in the top division of college hockey – a respectable result considering the strength of teams like Jesus, St Cats and the Old Leysians City Team, who invariably fight it out for the top three spots.

We were unlucky this year that a number of our squad are also quite good at cricket and were unable to play most games due to Blues commitments. As the Lent league progressed, however, we began to gel together as a team and, bolstered by appearances from some of the Women's Team, our performances improved. Once again we came fifth in Division One, and finished the season in style with an emphatic 4-2 victory over a very strong Downing side.

Our Cuppers run was ended somewhat controversially at the quarter-final stage by a very dubious St Cats 'Second' Team. In Mixed Cuppers we reached the semi-finals, with a dramatic victory over Emma on penalty strokes along the way, before losing to eventual winners St Cats.

I would like to thank Sam Gundle for his help this season and for his contributions to the hockey club over the last four years. And I'd like to congratulate Jonny Raby on his well-deserved Player of the Season award.



Adam Nightingale



Mixed Lacrosse Team



Having been informed that we were due to be promoted last season, we were surprised to find ourselves once more in the Third Division. With a handful of talented but inexperienced Freshers joining the team, we embraced the opportunity to develop the team without any threat of relegation. This approach paid dividends:

while we only managed to finish fifth in Michaelmas term, come Lent term we were one of the strongest teams in the division and pushed hard for promotion, only losing in our final match – 1-0 to promotion rivals King’s. With many of our players continuing next year, and many more to return from a year abroad, the future is looking bright indeed.

We were able to build a reputation as a particularly friendly team through our consistent enthusiasm and several acts of sportsmanship. We fielded a reduced team to match Magdalene for numbers (a match that we drew 3-3), and we allowed King’s to postpone our crucial deciding match twice – a gesture they reciprocated by lending us a player after circumstances had conspired to deprive us of a full team.

Unfortunately, as many of our players are Maths and Sciences students, Saturday lectures prevented us from fielding a team for Cuppers this year. Special mention, though, must go to Chris Wheelhouse, who was so determined to go to Cuppers that he joined up with another team, and was very nearly able to help them past the group stages, despite their having finished in the bottom two of the Third Division in both terms.

Best of luck to new Captains Amy Horrell and Chris Brook; we finish our tenure confident that the team is poised to do great things under their excellent leadership.

Kweku Abraham and Ellie Hornsby, Captains



Lady Margaret Boat Club – Men

The club has developed an unrivalled strength and depth this year. We are the largest college club on the Cam and our crews are consistently able to perform at the top of their Mays Division. We finished high in Fairbairns, Lents and Mays. Where other clubs managed to have one boat high on the river, by staying third on the river (despite having the second fastest crew!) and being head of both the M2s and the M3s in Mays we showed that the LMBC has consistent quality through all its crews.

Our successes on the Cam have been mirrored in away events, with podium finishes at Kingston and Marlow, and a confident crew preparing to row Henley Qualifiers. Indeed, this presence at national events has given members of the club experience of top quality rowing that will aid their development. We have built on and consolidated the success of previous years, and I believe the club is well placed to take the Head of the River in the next season. It is my hope that the alumni of the club will be able to contribute their experience to this momentum in order to make it happen.

Michaelmas

The Light IV

Str: Hugo Macklin
3: Thomas Godard
2: Ben Langslow
Bow: Will Handy (Steerer)

The First Coxed IV

Cox: Cara Atkinson
Str: Wilfried Genest
3: Haofeng Xu
2: Gregor McMillan
Bow: Moritz Matthey

The Second Coxed IV

Cox: Oliver Mosley
Str: Wenda Zhou
3: Kristaps Ozolins
2: Jack Emmins
Bow: Tom Carbonero

The Third Coxed IV

Cox: (various)
Str: Abdulla Al-Kamil
3: Max Paulus
2: Tom Bumberger
Bow: Adam Storrington
Spare: Ashley Newson
Spare:
Carl-Fredrik Eriksson

The First Senior Fairbairns VIII

Cox: Cara Atkinson
Stroke: Hugo Macklin
7: William Handy
6: Ben Langslow
5: Thomas Godard
4: Wilfried Genest
3: Haofeng Xu
2: Gregor McMillan
Bow: Moritz Matthey
Coaches:
Roger Silk, Jon Rhodes

The Second Senior Fairbairns VIII

Cox: Amy Spruce
Stroke: Wenda Zhou
7: Jack Emmins
6: Abdulla Al-Kamil
5: Ashley Newson
4: Thomas Bumberger
3: Adam Storrington
2: Max Paulus
Bow: Carl-Fredrik Eriksson
Spare: Steven Tilbury
Coaches:
George Irwin, Tony Pryor

Finished fourth overall.

Finished twenty-ninth overall.



LMBC men in action on day three of the May Bumps 2014. Photo: Giorgio Divitini

*The First Novice
Fairbairns VIII*

Cox: Satowa Kinoshita
Stroke: Erlend Fleisje
7: Daniel Jimenez
6: Chris Kramer
5: Christian Lund
4: Ashwin Ahuja
3: Nate Davis
2: David Jones
Bow: Brett Wilson
Coaches:
George Irwin, Wenda
Zhou, Hugo Macklin

Finished eleventh
overall (Juniors).

*The Second Novice
Fairbairns VIII*

Cox: Sarah Wayman
Stroke: Pete Cochrane
7: Francis Lake/Tom Brown
6: Andrew Britton
5: Tom Cowie
4: Chris Clark
3: Hatem Sadik
2: Paul Glade
Bow: Mathieu Chanson
(King's)
Coach: Jack Emmins

Finished as the
sixth-fastest Second
Novice VIII.

*The Third Novice
Fairbairns VIII*

Cox: Chris Wheelhouse
Stroke: Davide Martino
7: Alistair Fisher
6: James Meng
5: Tancrede Lahary
4: Varun Nadkarni
3: Soteris Soteriades
2: Sanil Roy
Bow: Yayaati Chachan
Spare: Daniel Anderson
Coaches:

Eleanor Booth,
Abdulla Al-Kamil,
John Lindsay

Lents

The First Lents VIII

Cox: Cara Atkinson
Stroke: Gregor McMillan
7: William Handy
6: Wilfried Genest
5: Hugo Macklin
4: Ben Langslow
3: Haofeng Xu
2: Jack Emmins
Bow: Moritz Matthey
Coaches:
Roger Silk, Jon
Rhodes, Rob Milner

Winter Head to Head:
fifth overall; Lent
Bumps: up two (First
and Third Trinity (FaT),
Queens'); Kingston
Head: third IM3 8+.

The Second Lents VIII

Cox: Amy Spruce
Stroke: Abdulla Al-Kamil
7: Daniel Jimenez
6: Wenda Zhou
5: Hatem Sadik
4: Chris Kramer
3: Erlend Fleisje
2: Max Paulus
Bow: Nate Davis
Coaches:
George Irwin, Tony
Pryor

Newnham Short
Course: first M2; Lent
Bumps: up two (FaT II,
Homerton); Kingston
Head: third Novice 8+.

The Third Lents VIII

Cox: Fleur Siswick
Stroke: Paul Glade
7: Francis Lake
6: Ashwin Ahuja
5: Tom Cowie
4: David Jones
3: Brett Wilson
2: Carl-Fredrik Eriksson
Bow: Clemens Loschnauer
Coaches:
John 'Fitz' Durack,
George Irwin

Newnham Short
Course: first M3; Lent
Bumps: up two.

The Fourth Lents VIII

Cox: Chris Wheelhouse
 Stroke: Pete Cochrane
 7: Ashley Newson
 6: Mathieu Chanson (King's)
 5: Adam Storrington
 4: Tom Brown
 3: Alistair Fisher
 2: Davide Martino
 Bow: Chris Clark
 Coach: Wenda Zhou

Newnham Short Course: fastest M4; Lent Bumps: down three. LMBC M4 were the only Fourth Boat to 'get on' this year. This is a credit to their work in the gym over the year.

Mays*The First Mays VIII*

Cox: Sinead Lynch
 Stroke: William George Lamb (6:15)
 7: William Handy (6:38)
 6: Chris Snowden (6:30)
 5: Carlos Schuster (b/s tandem) (DNF)
 4: Ben Langslow (b/s tandem) (6:27)
 3: Wilfried Genest (6:30)
 2: Moritz Matthey (6:45)
 Bow: Gregor McMillan (6:45)
 Coaches:
 Roger Silk, Will Gray,
 Andrew Jones, Rob
 Milner

Head of the Cam: second; Spring Head to Head: first; Champs Head: third; May Bumps: third (four long nights of rowing over, behind a Downing crew we could gain on, but not catch).

The Second Mays VIII

Cox: Amy Spruce
 Stroke: Haofeng Xu (6:55)
 7: Jack Emmins (s/s tandem) (6:57)
 6: Abdulla Al-Kamil (s/s tandem) (6:56)
 5: Hatem Sadik (b/s tandem) (6:59)
 4: Erlend Fleijse (b/s tandem) (6:43)
 3: Max Paulus (7:07)
 2: Daniel Jimenez (6:35)
 Bow: Wenda Zhou (7:19)
 Coaches:
 George Irwin, Bill
 Budenburg, Jon
 Rhodes, Chris Atkin

Head of the Cam: second M2; Spring Head to Head: third Mays Division II; Champs Head: third Mays Division II, fastest M2; May Bumps: head of the M2s (up one, Caius II).

The Third Mays VIII

Cox: Roseanna Jenks (Newnham)
 Stroke: Paul Glade
 7: Kristaps Ozolins
 6: Chris Kramer
 5: Nate Davis
 4: Ashwin Ahuja
 3: Francis Lake
 2: David Jones
 Bow: Clemens Loschnauer
 Coaches:
 John 'Fitz' Durack,
 George Irwin, Tony
 Pryor

Head of the Cam: second Mays M3; Spring Head to Head: third Mays Third Division; Champs Head: fastest M3; May Bumps: head of the M3s, up three (Girton II, Tit Hall II, FaT III).

The Fourth Mays VIII

Cox: Alicia Recuerda
(Newnham)
Stroke: Florian Schnurr
7: Adam Storrng
6: Tom Brown
5: Tom Cowie
4: Patrick Flagmeier
3: Brett Wilson
2: Davide Martino
Bow: Carl-Fredrik
Eriksson
Coaches:
Wenda Zhou, George
Irwin, Hugo Macklin,
John 'Fitz' Durack

Head of the Cam: fourth
fastest M4; Champs
Head: second fastest
M4; May Bumps: up
three (Churchill IV,
Clare Hall II, St
Catharine's V).

The Fifth Mays VIII (SJRFC)

Cox: Sophie Kelly
(Magdalene)
Stroke: Reece Harrison
7: Tom Poole
6: Jack Baker
5: Ed Hezlet
4: Patrick Calvert
3: Charlie Emerton
2: Giles Kilbourn
Bow: Adam Davies
Coaches: Wilfried Genest

Head of the Cam: third
fastest M4; Champs
Head: fastest M5; May
Bumps: up three
(Pembroke VI, Churchill
IV, Clare Hall II).

*The Sixth Mays VIII
(Fellows)*

Cox: Liz Adekunle
Stroke: Andrew Woods
7: Hugh Matthews
6: Chris Jiggins
5: Paul Wood
4: Vaughan Wittorff
3: Alex Taylor
2: Spike Lipkin
Bow: Rob Weatherup
Coaches:
Haofeng Xu, Hugo
Macklin

This list does not
represent the final crew
order. Despite arguably
being the most
experienced boat on the
Cam, the Fellows' Eight
did not get on, being
the third fastest not to.

Summer

The First Summer VIII

Cox: Sinead Lynch
Stroke: Gregor McMillan
7: William Handy
6: Wilfried Genest
5: Ben Langslow (b/s tandem)
4: Hatem Sadik (b/s tandem)
3: Haofeng Xu
2: Moritz Matthey
Bow: Daniel Jiminez
Coaches: Roger Silk, Jon Rhodes, Paul Wright

The Summer Eight is a composite of M1 and M2 oars. At Marlow Regatta they rowed through to finish clear of a number of university crews and win the IM3 8+ B Final.



The men's Second Mays VIII on day four of the May Bumps 2014.
Photo: Giorgio Divitini

The Committee

Overall Captain:	Moritz Matthey
Men's Captain:	Gregor McMillan
Men's Vice Captain:	Will Handy
Women's Captains:	Fiona Macklin/Olivia Dotzek
Chief Cox:	Cara Atkinson
Men's Lower Boat Captain:	Wenda Zhou
Men's Lower Boat Vice Captain:	Jack Emmins
Women's Lower Boat Captain:	Sophie Lawson
Women's Lower Boat Vice Captain:	Fleur Siswick
Social Secretary:	Haofeng Xu
Secretary:	Kristaps Ozolins
Junior Treasurer:	Bethan Charnley
President:	The Master, Professor Christopher Dobson
Senior Treasurer:	Tim Bayliss-Smith
Director of Rowing:	Roger Silk
Boatman:	Lance Badman

Thanks, as ever, to the Master. The College has been an invaluable support and positive influence on the club this year – the Dean and Finance Department have been notable in this dynamic. Particular thanks go to the alumni who come back every year. Thanks, of course, to the LMBCA, without whom such a successful rowing programme would be impossible.

Olivia Dotzek deserves mention for stepping up quietly and shouldering no small burden of responsibility. My personal thanks also go to Roger Silk, whose support of the club has been unrivalled by anyone else this year. Without his patient ear, honest words and kind heart the LMBC would not be the club it is.

It is with confidence that I hand over to my successor as Men's Captain, Jack Emmins, and the Honorary Secretary, Wilfried Genest. I wish them all the best in their stewardship of the LMBC next year and trust they shall push rowing at St John's College to new heights.



Viva Laeta, Margareta!

Gregor McMillan

Lady Margaret Boat Club – Women

I would like to start by saying that this Captain's report should be considered very much a co-Captain's report. This year would have been impossible to manage without Olivia Dotzek, who, as elected Vice Captain, effectively took on the role of captain, leader and inspirer to all the novices throughout the first two terms. Having trialled this year, I was not able to row with the LMBC until the Easter term. Olivia therefore should receive the vast majority of the credit for all the successes in Michaelmas and Lent terms.



The W1 boat on day four of the May Bumps 2014. Photo: Giorgio Divitini

Michaelmas

The novice turn-out this year was particularly promising and the First Novice Boat proved their strength from the outset, coming second in Queens' Ergs. They followed on with a fantastic victory at the Clare Novices' Regatta at the end of term, which rewarded them for all the hard work and commitment they put into their training. These successes would of course not have been possible without Sophie Lawson and Fleur Siswick, the Lower Boats Captains, and Lance Badman, who coordinated training and coaching. Due to many previous senior rowers having left, only one 4+ was fielded this year, who ended the term very successfully by winning Uni Fours. Head Coach, Roger Silk, took charge of coaching them throughout the term, which ensured a very beneficial continuity and a very high coaching standard.

Lent

The women's side benefited from some hard training on the Cam the week before term started, with ex-Blue Boat stroke and LMBC Headship crew member, Alison Gledhill, coaching both W1 and W2. This was a huge success and it was fantastic for the girls to have someone of Alison's experience and charisma. The Head to Head at the end of January was one of the few races that went ahead this term due to kinder weather conditions, and it was one in which both W1 and W2 produced solid times.

For the Lent Bumps, thanks to the very strong contingent of novice rowers, Olivia Dotzek ended up stroking a boat of novices, who proved themselves on the water throughout term. The girls faced another frustrating situation with the umpire on the second day as they so nearly caught Queens'; but due to bumping in front, both Queens' and LMBC were granted technical row overs. With slightly low morale carrying on into the second day, the crew let Murray Edwards get the better of them, but ended the last day with a solid row over. For W2, a completely novice boat and inexperienced due to many yellow flag days throughout the term, Bumps proved an exciting challenge, and the girls did very well to fight off the crews behind them for as long as they did.

Men's Captain, Gregor McMillan, very kindly helped to organise taking a 4+ to Kingston Regatta this year, to enable the girls to gain some off-Cam experience. The 4+ kept training after Bumps and for the week after term finished, having borrowed the spare CUWBC cox from Girton. This proved to be a thoroughly enjoyable and beneficial experience for the girls, and was a much appreciated gesture from the men's side.

Easter

Dan Janes, who coached the Lightweight Men to victory for the Boat Race, joined the LMBC as coach for both women's boats in Easter term. He continued with W1 throughout the term, in parallel with Roger. W2 have been training hard with

Hugo Macklin as their coach and W3 have enjoyed taking out quads and sculls as a small squad under Lance's coaching, before being able to train as an 8+ for the couple of weeks leading up to May Bumps. W1 demonstrated their strength and speed throughout all the races this term, especially during Champs Head, at which they drew in third place with Caius. W1 have also enjoyed some sparring with other crews during regular training – the highlight being bumping Clare W1, the headship crew, a week before Bumps. The training paid off with two bumps on Pembroke and Christ's for W1. W2 were fighting hard surrounded by W1 boats, and did well to row over on the first day. W3 sadly faced repeated technical issues each day, which led them to drop down two, but overall enjoyed the experience.

Finally, I would like to reiterate my huge thanks to Dan Janes, Alison Gledhill, Hugo Macklin and Lance Badman for all the time they dedicated to coaching our crews, and their consistent enthusiasm and help throughout term. It would be difficult to imagine the women's side without Roger Silk, who has continuously supported us with his experience, his coaching and his dedication to the LMBC.



Fiona Macklin

Ladies' Netball – First Team

The Ladies' First Team have had a brilliant year of netball. We welcomed a large number of Freshers to the team, who added strength across the court. After being promoted at the end of last year we were ready to fight to stay in League One. We started well in Michaelmas with an early 19-1 victory over Corpus. We finished in fourth place, which is testament to our reliable shooters (Sarah Thomas, Rosannah Cormack and Sophie Oulton), fit centre-court players (Hannah Mills, Charlotte Britton, Katie Wingrove, Emma Thomas, Gahyee Lee




and Francesca Lane), our secret weapon Liz Adekunle, and the towering defence of Pippa Robinson and Helen West.

With more matches we bonded as a team, increasing the fluidity of our game. Highlights of Lent term included the closely fought one-goal defeat against Downing (who won the league both terms) and a dramatic draw with Jesus. We managed to better our

previous performance by ending the term joint third in the league. Although we

were unlucky not to qualify for the finals of Cuppers, it was nevertheless a fun day of netball and it was great to have Emma Langley-Jones and Lucy Sharples, who both play for the University, playing for St John's on the day.

I have really enjoyed playing with and leading such a great team. I wish the new Captains Hannah Mills and Pippa Robinson all the best for next year. 


Helen West, Captain

Ladies' Netball – Second Team

The Ladies' Netball Second Team has showed great progression this year, culminating in coming fourth in our pool in Cuppers. Unfortunately, Michaelmas term's successes were few and far between, but this was mainly due to a lack of players. However, in Lent term we made a remarkable recovery. We came third in the Fourth Division, winning four of our seven games. We scored seventy-nine goals, most of which are attributable to next year's Mixed Captain, Charlotte Britton. We also revamped the netball stash and, in true St John's style, players now sport a vibrant red polo shirt in place of the old blue one.



There has been a very friendly vibe in the netball squad this year. The annual dinner, organised by Mixed co-Captain Dan Lu at Wildwood restaurant, was a great success. It was fantastic to see players from all three netball teams present. I would like to thank First Team captain, Helen West, for running weekly training sessions and Mixed Captains, Dan Lu and Jenny Buckley, for their great support both on the court and behind the scenes.

Next year, Pippa Robinson and Hannah Mills will be running the Ladies' Netball Teams, and I wish them and the squad all the best for next season. 

Charlotte Abell, Captain



Mixed Netball Team

The Mixed Netball Team has consistently improved this year. After successful recruiting in Freshers' week, the 'veteran' side, which consisted predominantly of third and fourth years, experienced a rejuvenation. The ranks expanded so considerably that we had cause to debate entering a second team into the league!

Training with the Ladies' First Team for the first time, our game improved no end. Moreover, with the new talents of Charlotte Britton and Lizzie Bamber joining Kweko Abraham and Sophie Taylor in attack, our fears of struggling to recruit a new shooter were unfounded. When comparing the number of goals scored to last year's figure, we were very pleasantly surprised to discover that our total had doubled!

Our centre court performance was similarly strengthened by the additions of Hannah Mills and Katie Wingrove, who played alongside the more seasoned talents of Charlie Allso and Charlotte Abell. Meanwhile in defence, for once, we fielded a relatively tall side! Some fantastic netball was played by Rosie Freeman, Matthew Naughton, John Lindsay and Chris Berrow, who were joined by new recruit Harry Bruges. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank Helen West for her endless patience and help with training sessions.

Continuing last year's trend, some of our most successful matches took place at Cuppers where, despite having a difficult draw, we held our own. With fantastic shooting from Charlotte Britton and Kweku Abraham, we challenged the dominance of teams who went on to compete in the tournament's final stages.

The Mixed Team will remain in the Second Division for next year, although we hope that bigger and better things are on the horizon! We have thoroughly enjoyed our captaincy and wish next year's Captain, Charlotte Britton, the very best of luck for the year ahead.



Jenny Buckley and Dan Lu, co-Captains

Rugby Union Football Club

The first game of the season saw St John's take on traditional rivals Jesus. Two yellow cards and a red card to Vice Captain, James Cliffe, in quick succession late in the second half saw St John's reduced to twelve men for a short period, sealing Jesus's 25-19 victory. Cliffe receiving a three-week ban for the red card offence was a major setback. Further setbacks came in the next two games where St John's narrowly lost against Robinson and Selwyn. As the team settled, we began to play with more confidence, leading to wins over Downing, Selwyn and Pembroke. In the final league fixture, Downing came out 36-15 winners and sealed their Division One title.



The second half of Lent term saw the beginning of Cuppers. St John's was one of only two colleges to field a Second XV, which demonstrated the strength and depth of the squad, but they lost out to Division One team Selwyn by a mere 15-0. The First XV were pitted against Homerton, who were touted by some as outside favourites for the trophy. The Red Boys, however, quickly put such speculation to rest and recorded a convincing 67-3 win. Robinson were brushed aside in the quarter-final 53-10, setting up a semi-final against defending champions, Downing. The Red Boys were again ruthless, pulling off a 63-5 victory. The final saw the Red Boys take on Gonville and Caius, who were undefeated, having topped Division Two earlier in the season. The final scoreline, 26-19 to St John's, did not reflect the dominance displayed but was enough to see Cuppers returned to John's for the first time since 2011.

In regaining Cuppers so convincingly, the Red Boys left little doubt as to where the strength of college rugby currently lies. We are left to lament a careless start to the season, which otherwise could have seen us win the League title as well. SJCRUFC, as ever, owes a debt of gratitude to Head Groundsman Keith Ellis for his maintenance of St Legends Park as well as his ongoing patience and support. I would also like to thank my committee, without whom I would have had a great deal of trouble in running the club.



Ad Gladium

Patrick Calvert, Captain

Ladies' Squash Team

We have had a great year and the team has continued to grow. Many novices have joined our weekly squash sessions and socials, in addition to those members who returned from last year. The novices have all improved over the year – some of them have been playing successfully in matches despite never having played before!



Due to the increase in numbers, we were able to maintain two teams in both the Michaelmas and Lent leagues and in the Cuppers tournament, allowing the novices a good deal of match experience. Caroline Ernst, Susie Abbott and Catriona Parry played most of the matches for the Second Team, while Olivia Wiles, Amy Horrell and Ayesha

Patwardhan played the majority of the matches for the First Team, who succeeded in coming fourth in Cuppers.

Hopefully the new captains, Caroline Ernst and Amy Horrell, will continue the rapid development of the team over the next year.



Olivia Wiles and Ayesha Patwardhan, co-Captains

Men's Squash Team

It has been a difficult year for the Men's Squash teams. For the First Team, the departure of most of last year's squad forced many players to be promoted to higher positions than they were quite ready for. Relegation from the Second Division was virtually assured when we lost our strongest player, Ryan Mullarkey, to captain the Blues Team. Come Lent term, though, now in the Third Division, matches became much closer and the Cuppers competition provided cheerier results: the team made it to the third round before losing to the league runners-up, King's I.



The Second Team also suffered the loss of many players moving up to fill the First Team ranks, which made it consistently difficult to field a full team. Despite these issues, the team was able to consolidate its position in the division and progress to the second round of Cuppers where, tragically, a lack of players forced us to concede the fixture.

I am confident the challenges of this year have left the team in a strong position moving into next year. With Freshers who have now gained valuable experience in the higher leagues comprising much of this year's team, both the Firsts and Seconds will surely push hard for promotion next year. The return of the college ladder tournament – now with college staff also allowed to play – and the establishment of joint training sessions for the two teams have provided opportunities for all players to hone their talents.

Particular thanks to Branden Chan, Vice Captain in all but name and coordinator of our training sessions; to Henry Nicholson, First Team Captain and the lone thread of continuity from last year for the Firsts; and to Alek Sinha, for taking over the Second Team captaincy when work overwhelmed me part way through the year.



Kweku Abraham



Tennis Team

This year saw the introduction of the College Tennis League for the first time. St John's was placed in the Second Division against five other colleges. During Michaelmas, we played five league matches, which we managed to win with relative ease. Our team depth, coupled with strong performances by all our players, guaranteed us a fast promotion to the First Division.

During Lent term, St John's entered two teams in Cuppers. Our Second Team fought hard but eventually lost against St Catharine's Seconds. Our First Team started its campaign

against Homerton. After a series of thumping performances by James, Sam, Somil, Killian and Stephen, we advanced to the second round with a 9-0 win. In the last sixteen, we played against Clare, and, being of a kind and giving nature, we gave up two rubbers and won with an overall score of 7-2. Our next opponents were Trinity Hall, who proved no match for James' monstrous serves and Sam's cheeky strokes with an overall win of 9-0. In the semi-finals, we were scheduled to play against Churchill, our arch nemesis, who had beaten us the previous two years. These losses were avenged this year as, with strong performances by Stephen, Somil, Sam and James, we managed to scrape a 5-4 win and follow this with victory in the final!

The traditional annual match against the Bar was held on Saturday 3 May, with the former St John's lawyers giving us a very strong doubles practice and a lot of laughs. Overall, it's been a very successful year of tennis at St John's: a team of great players and great individuals who will hopefully leave their mark with a Cuppers win and lots of good memories. Special mention must go to Chris Yen, our first-year Captain and an iconic figure in the team, who has built the foundations of the St John's Tennis Team as it is today!




Nick Charinos

Water Polo Team

Easter term 2013 ended successfully with St John's being crowned the lucky winners of Cuppers after a 7-3 win against Queens' College in the final. We remained unbeaten throughout the competition, winning the semi-final in a tense penalty shootout.

Unfortunately, one year on, the Cuppers trophy had to leave St John's in Easter 2014 as the team, missing some of its more experienced players, was defeated by the eventual winner Trinity in the group phase.

Moreover, our second place position in last year's College League could not be retained, as some of our key players had finished their undergraduate or graduate studies. Fourth place, however, means that the team will stay in the First Division of the College League and it gives us a good position to build from next year. 

Christoph Schmidhuber



Art and Photography Competition 2014: 'Orchestra in Hall' by Chris Watkins (2012).

ARTS

ARTS



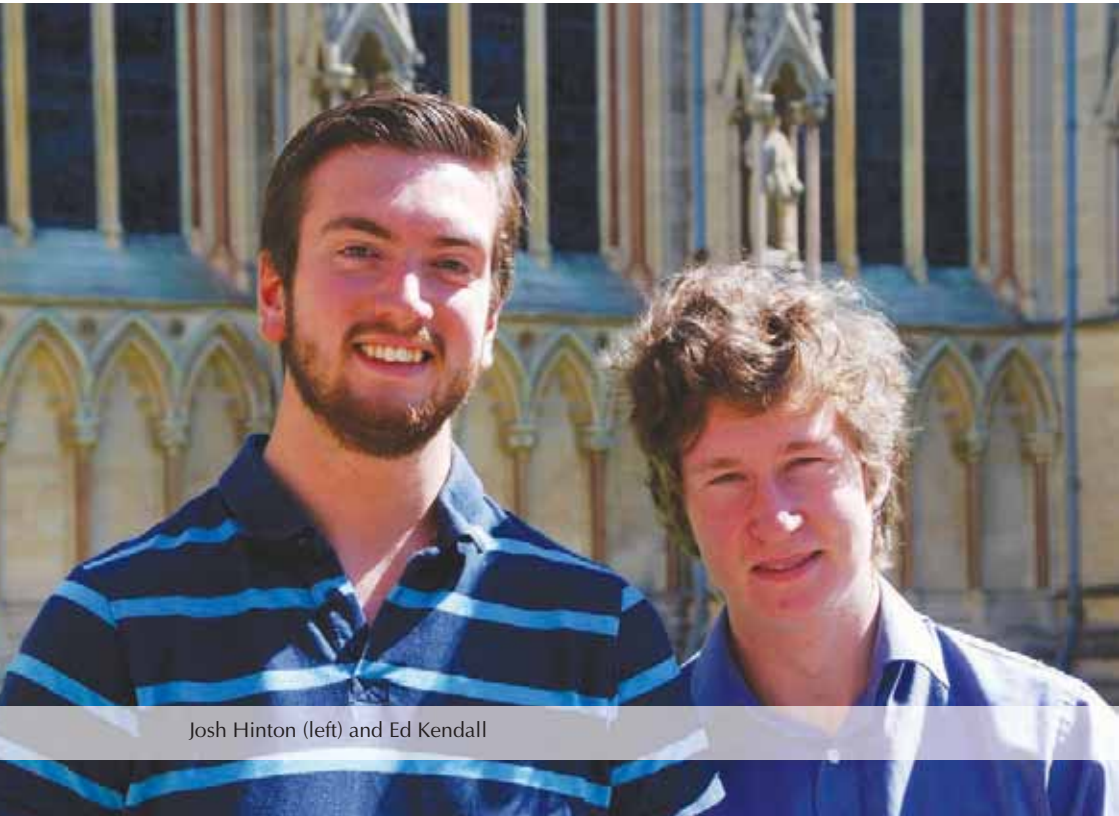
ST JOHN'S COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

In conversation with Michael Schmidt and Dan Burt

It is early March. The warm sun is making its first appearance of the year, and the air is full of the shouts and laughter of inexperienced punters. In a bright and airy New Court set, second-year English students Josh Hinton (2012) and Ed Kendall (2012) meet with Johnian poets Michael Schmidt and Dan Burt to discuss everything from lust to rage, and from caesuras to the true purpose of poetry.

Michael Schmidt is Writer in Residence at St John's, Editorial and Managing Director of Carcanet Press, and Editor of literary magazine *PN Review*. He has published seven volumes of poetry and numerous works of fiction and non-fiction, including *The Novel: A Biography*, released in May 2014.

Dan Burt (1964) is an Honorary Fellow of St John's. He read English here and then graduated from Yale in 1969, before going on to a long and highly successful career in law. His first volume of poetry was published by Carcanet in 2008, and he has since published four more, along with a memoir, titled *You Think It Strange*, of his formative years in Philadelphia.



Josh Hinton (left) and Ed Kendall

JH: We thought we'd start by talking about the relationship between you. Michael, you're Dan's publisher, and Dan, you were persuaded to publish by Michael. So who is the apprentice and who is the master?

DB: I'm the apprentice. There's no question about that. Michael is a professional. He must be the best publisher of poetry in Britain. He's done more for it than anyone else in the country alive today that I can think of, in terms of promoting it. I was staggeringly fortunate to have him take an interest when my work was shown to him, and his editing has been invaluable. So no question about who's the apprentice.

JH: So Michael, what led you to publish Dan? How did that come about?

MS: When you receive a manuscript, from anybody, usually you reject it. When I first saw your work (*turns to Dan*), I saw that it was interesting but it wasn't interesting enough to me. And then you sent some more work ...

DB: Yes, six months after I had sent the first poem I was in America, and I had an email from Michael saying, 'I'd like to come and see you in London, and do you have any more poems?' I had a few, so I sent them to him. He came down and said, 'I'd love to publish these'.

EK: Dan, we remembered you mentioning at the launch of your memoir *You Think It Strange* that rage is a driving force behind your poetry.

DB: Absolutely. I mean, that's what that book was about: lust, rage and the dream of writing well. And I believe that. And it still informs me; but if I'm too angry, I can't write, I can't get anywhere near a decent poem. You have to have a distance, a coldness and a control – at least I do – to write that stuff well.

EK: Dan, poet and Newnham alumna Elaine Feinstein described you in *PN Review* as an 'angry' poet. Michael, if you were to choose one adjective to describe yourself as a poet, what would that be?

MS: (*thinks for some time*) A doubtful poet? Not reaching certainties, probably. Whereas I think you (*turns to Dan*) know where you're going. If I knew where I was going I wouldn't go, I think.

DB: I know what I hate (*laughs*).

MS: I know what I love. That's the difference between us: I know what I love.

JH: Do you write about what you love?

MS: Well, no; I discover what I love as I write, really. I think almost all my poems move toward some positive, even if it happens to be an altar rail or whatever it happens to be. But even the ones that seem unhappy reach a good place, whereas your poems, generally speaking, reach a solid wall.

DB: One that comes down upon you (*laughs*).

EK: Changing the subject somewhat, where is God in your poetry?

(*DB laughs loudly*)

MS: God is in my poetry, not his poetry.

DB: Yes, I just think that's the biggest absurdity.

MS: I think the only thing that totally excites me about the Christian faith is the notion of the incarnation, and the notion that there is a transcendence which actually chooses to come down into the world, chooses to touch us and to be touched by us, and chooses to die. It's an interesting notion that a transcendence chooses to experience the world of the finite. And it eroticises religion too. Being raised up in Mexico, we certainly are idol worshippers – you have all these wonderful statues and icons, and some of them are extremely beautiful and sensual. It's the sense of almost a pagan Christianity, a pagan transcendence. I would never write a poem about God, but notions of Christ are quite fascinating.

DB: You'll find there are a lot of biblical references in my poetry, but it's not from a theistic point of view. It's a myth, folk wisdom generally accessible to everyone, and I'm looking constantly for the echoes, for the references that will allow me to compress the things I feel intensely about. I used to think the Bible was one of those troves you could mine. Today I'm not sure. I don't know what the young people read.

MS: Well, in Cambridge everybody seems to be a little bit theistic. I think the big difference for you of course is that you're Jewish and you have the whole of the Holocaust as it were, as yours ...

DB: Sure. That experience of Holocaust, what happens to Jews ... My mother was not Jewish, but the ethnic mix in the family was Jewish, and my great-grandparents on my father's side were all wiped out in a pogrom. In 1920 – Cossacks did the job. When you grow up in it, it focuses you, and the approach I was taught was that this happened because they did not fight, so I was taught to fight. There is no question what the message was: hit first, think later. Now that wasn't necessarily a productive way to go through school (*laughs*), or life, but it sure in hell would keep you fairly safe. And yes, that's a constant. You come out

of that experience and the possibility of belief simply doesn't exist. Even if I wasn't much more attuned to the physicists and mathematicians, who are the people I tend to hang out with; the rigour of their minds, the openness of it ...

MS: Some of them are believers, of course.

DB: I don't know a believing mathematician or physicist. I could be wrong, but I don't think so.

JH: Having mentioned the influence of Dan's Jewish cultural history, we were wondering, Michael, has your time in Mexico affected your work?

MS: Whenever I write fiction I can't write it about anywhere but Mexico. And the poetry ... I guess it informs it to some degree. Mexicans have a strong Christian cultural background, so when you go to Oaxaca, or when you go to a village in the mountains for Easter, and there's a donkey tied outside the church and they're all living close to the ground, and it's a really tight community, you can see how for them religion would be real. And the thing that I think religion does for me and for Dan is that it gives the common reference. The sense when you read the *King James Bible* or the *Book of Common Prayer* that you're reading a text that Coleridge read, that Pope read, that Goldsmith read. Some of them read it with disdain and some of them read it with great conviction, and I just love the idea that through the actual annals we can access and use today, we are in dialogue with them. We are listening to the same sounds that they heard, and it's true of the hymns as well. I think that idea most of all keeps me close to the Christian thing – the sense of communion.

JH: Talking about influences, looking through your poetry we felt that you both have a confessional element that is very similar to Robert Lowell in *Life Studies*. Do you think that Lowell, or any other poets for that matter, have had a particular influence on your work?

DB: I read Lowell when I was a young man, and I continue to read him. There was an essay, a review of one of my early works, which used Lowell comparisons. But I would argue that my work uses experience I've had, which is all you have to quarry, but it sure in hell ain't confession. I work very hard to tell you what happened and you draw your conclusions from that. I don't think you'll find much in the way of 'I fall upon the thorns of life! I bleed!' and such. And to that extent, Michael's poetry is much more personal.

MS: I don't confess. The only collection I confessed in, as it were, was *The Love of Strangers*. But I think I would agree with you. I did work with Lowell when he was at All Souls, Oxford, and I typed much of the *Notebook* for him. We talked quite a lot, and I was totally obsessed with Elizabeth Bishop, and when you put

those two in the balance with each other – Bishop’s always refining, she’s always getting rid of the dross of contingency, and he’s always bringing it in. I love contingency but I don’t like personal contingency very much. What I love is to write a poem of relationship which doesn’t necessarily include me.

JH: You do use ‘I’ quite a lot – so that’s not necessarily you?

MS: I think the ‘I’ often isn’t personal. There’s a wonderful review of early Larkin by the Scottish poet and critic G. S. Fraser, and he was looking at a poem called ‘Churchgoing’. He says the problem with this poem is that the persona is not consistent. And the whole point of the poem is that it hasn’t got a consistent persona; it’s about somebody who is changed by experience, and the poem is about the process of change in the ‘I’. So you use an ‘I’, and you don’t use an ‘I’ to say ‘that’s me’. Well, it’s like Whitman when he says ‘I dishonour myself’. He’s not writing about me, Walt; he’s giving us a libretto that we can all use for ourselves. I think that when you put an ‘I’ in a poem, it is often a subjectivity that is undergoing a transformation by an objective reality.

DB: The problem with trying not to use ‘I’ – and I’ve struggled with this a lot – is that as soon as you start using the third person singular, or second person, I find the poem’s not real. And I do try to avoid the ego, the ‘I’, because I think it distracts from what really interests me. Michael has a point, of course: the ‘I’ may not be the personal ‘I’, the ego of the poet or the writer; it may be simply that figure who is speaking at the time.

Dan Burt (left) and Michael Schmidt



JH: Michael, do you draft for as long as Dan does?

MS: Sometimes you write and overwrite and rewrite and rewrite, and sometimes you lose the poem in the rewriting; it just vanishes up itself. Whereas, at other times, the first or second draft is the one that takes. Do you ever do that?

DB: That's not my experience.

MS: Do you always revise a lot?

DB: Yes, every time. The simplest poems, even just four or five lines, will be revised extensively. And you and I've argued about – or debated – the question of meaning, form and sound ...

MS: He's a big meaning man.

DB: I've had a lot of experiences through various trades and businesses, and that gives me a store of things to explore, character and behaviour. But I do think, if something doesn't mean, then it's very hard to imagine it lasting.

MS: But you see, your notion of meaning and my notion of meaning are quite different. I think if you read a poem by Stevens – because we both love Stevens – like 'The Idea of Order at Key West', you have an experience which you can't paraphrase. It's something that happens as a result of a series of experiences, and



this brings them all together. It doesn't bring them all together in a statement; it brings them all together in an experience.

DB: Like at the beginning of the poem, if I recall correctly? 'She sang beyond ...'

MS: (*at the same time*) '... beyond the genius of the sea.'

DB: 'Oh! Blessed rage for order, pale Ramon.'

MS: No, that's the middle. 'She sang beyond the genius of the sea, the water never formed to thought or voice, like a body wholly body, fluttering its empty sleeves, and yet its mimic motion made constant cry, caused constantly a cry that was not ours, although we understood.' And I think that's wonderful. The other thing he does there, which is even more miraculous, is that he writes this long line with two caesuras. Now, nobody's ever done that before. That's brilliant. I get off on caesuras ...

JH: One thing we thought it would be interesting to discuss is the different ways you both treat the word 'poet'. Michael, you throw it around quite a lot. Dan, on the other hand, you're quite cagey about calling yourself a poet.

DB: Well, I don't think I'm entitled. I'm new, I'm a tyro.

MS: You're published by Carcanet – you're a poet, dammit.

DB: I do get published in the fancy magazines, but every day, wherever I am, I think of all who've come before. They sound – from Wyatt on, I hear them. I hear their footsteps, I can hear their pens scratching on the vellum, and it seems an act of enormous presumption to think I could be called the same thing as those people. So, I try and eschew it, because if you begin to believe in yourself, that you have a right to think that you're in the same group as people like Yeats and Larkin and Lowell, then you stop working hard enough. Then maybe the second or third draft is good enough.

MS: Yes, and I find that your poems have a very peculiar orientation – they are really, really uncompromising. They are what Rowan Williams would call naturalistic, in the sense that they don't put their thumb on the scale, and I take this to be Homeric. You know, Homer gives us somebody being slain in battle, and as they fall he says 'his parents would never see him come home again', but he doesn't sentimentalise. I just think that you deliver experience – I deliver sound and form, you deliver experience.

DB: I think the best of poetry is an attempt to give the reader the same experience I had. And I care about that, because given the changes in words, in cultures, in philosophies and politics, language becomes irrecoverable very quickly. And if anything you write is going to be of continual value and use, I think, it has to be able to convey something that is concrete in the physical world. And so I try to give the reader that experience and look for the words, the concrete imagery and sound, blended together. And what I have seen is that people remember some of my lines. And that tells me maybe I'm getting it half right. But I have a horror of lying, of hypocrisy; I really hate hypocrites. One of the things I hate about business is that you rarely say the first thing that comes into your mind – and that drives me crazy. I find it very hard not to tell people exactly what I think.

MS: You're doing very well today.

DB: I'm trying. Well, I owe you so much. Without Michael, I'm sure I would never have published.

JH: Well, actually, this is quite a nice place to finish up. Let's talk about *PN Review*, which is published out of St John's.

MS: I think any publisher who's working with new work, and who is genuinely interested not in money but in quality – not that they're necessarily inimical – needs some kind of vehicle. When you find a new writer you're excited, and so within a month, within two months, you can have some of their work in print. And then as soon as you have it in print other people start talking about it, you get feedback, and so on, which is very good as well because it becomes part of a cultural conversation. I've always enjoyed *PN Review* much more than publishing books. For example, there are young poets who I've discovered since I've been at Cambridge, and three or four of them have now appeared in *PN Review*. It's nice for them but it's also really nice for me. I think that it brings something to the College too because my postbox is always completely crammed with things addressed to '*PN Review*, St John's College, Cambridge' – so the whole poetry world knows that St John's is the centre of poetry. So you see? You're lucky to be here.



Modern Painters, by Dan Burt

He trowels whites and pewters, builds a base,
 Carves his oils, smears, brushes, pastes.
 Black strokes for bones incise a skinless face
 On an ochre field. Canvas erased,
 Heaped with paint again, again effaced,
 Bequeaths a palimpsest of skin and grace,
 Until at last the human mask's replaced
 With slabs of flesh like a filleted fish.

We look like this after things fall apart;
 The painting is the autopsy report
 From an inquest where war took the part
 Of coroner. The scalpel lifts to start:
 Invade, split ribcage, scour thought and art,
 Slit pericardium, inspect the heart;
 Grab forceps, rip the viscera apart,
 That heap of faiths and old philosophies

Covering the mean midden of descent,
 And expose in the entrails of events
 A rail-head, barbed wire ligaments,
 Wounds savage beyond both Testaments'
 Prophecies. With this dismemberment
 The curtain fell on the Enlightenment,
 Like *Luftmenschen* ash blacking Red regiments
 On their slow slog west from Stalingrad.

Matinée, by Dan Burt

*But Paradise is locked and bolted,
and the cherubim stands behind us.*

'On the Marionette Theatre' Kleist (Parry tr.)

Crouched in a punt prow closing
On a limestone landing, by lawns
Ancient in Wordsworth's time, the dons'
Daughter in jeans tenses to spring:
*Thud, scramble up the bank, unlatch
An iron wicket, and she's loose,
An ingénue flustering goose
And grebe on gravel, grass, mud patch –
Groundlings at her prepubescent
Play.*

We dog her, clap, warn, wave,
Meander under architrave
And round the Backs, two senescent
Men at dusk,
punting in Eden.

Death of the Novel, by Michael Schmidt

At Preston Station Yevgeny Bazarov
 Gave up the ghost. Having found his Russian heart,
 A medical vocation, just starting out
 For real, becoming good against his nature,
 He died. My train was late again and the snow
 Drifted across the platform. Closing the book,
 I brushed the ice off of my cheeks, blew my nose.
 I stamped my boots to get the circulation
 Going, and so returned to the present tense.
 Thomas Buddenbrook – at the height of summer,
 Arriving at St Pancras, the evening light
 In prisms playing on steel, slate and brickwork --
 Clamped his rotting teeth. His heart stopped and he slumped
 Beside me. I folded him away. I lost
 Anna Karenina under the station
 Clock in Baltimore. Speeding to Paris, Swann,
 I abandoned you. The train had broken down
 Just outside Turin when Gerald Crich arrived
 At the hollow basin of snow, slipped, and fell,
 'And as he fell something broke in his soul, and
 Immediately he went to sleep.' I have lost
 On trains, at stations, so many characters,
 Don Quixote, Mrs Ramsay, Nepomuk
 A mere child, Little Dombey counting the waves,
 Nell, and Mesdames Bovary first and second,
 Sweet Madame de Renal and her luminous
 Glow worm. And worse, the very worst, Hurstwood, who,
 Ragged and spent, in his small cold room, began
 'To take off his clothes, but stopped first with his coat,
 And tucked it along the crack under the door...
 After a few moments, in which he reviewed
 Nothing, but merely hesitated, he turned
 The gas on again, but he applied no match.'

On his tombstone Norman Douglas had inscribed,
Omnes eodem cogimur, we all reach
 The same bourne. His final words, in character:
 'Get these fucking nuns away from me.'

They die

Also, the authors, turning not into ghosts
 Like ordinary pilgrims, but into stories

As real, if they wrote truly, as what they wrote.
 Stevenson, for instance, still young when he died,
 Is told and retold. Henry James adored him,
 Man and boy, savouring him in his own words,
 Reshaping him as his song, 'a child of air
 That lingers in the garden there...' Samoa
 Made him Tusitala, Teller. There he died,
 Uncorking a good bottle of Burgundy.
Omnes eodem. Conrad called on his friend
 Stephen Crane at Dover. It was Crane's last day
 In England. He lay in a hotel bedroom
 'With a large window looking on to the sea.
 He had been very ill and Mrs Crane was
 Taking him to some place in Germany.
 But one glance at that wasted face was enough
 To tell me it was the most forlorn of hopes.'
 Crane said, 'I am tired.' Then he said, 'Give my love
 To your wife and child.' Looking back from the door,
 'I saw he had turned his head on the pillow.'
 Conrad watched from the threshold, noting how 'he
 Was staring out of the window at the sails
 Of a cutter yacht that glided slowly like
 A dim shadow against the grey sky.' He pulled
 The sea around him, tight around his shoulders.
 It was cold.

I stamp my boots. The train arrives.

American artists – from coast to coast



Imogen Slater (1995) is originally from Yorkshire and studied History of Art at St John’s. She is now based in New York.

My first published illustration was a streaky tree in worn-out felt-tip (aged eleven) and by the time I arrived at St John’s, there was a small notch in my fingers – a resting place for my pencil. So although I took a circuitous route into painting

and illustration, it was perhaps an inevitable destination. Following that paper trail took me into the pages of *Marie Claire*, newsletters for Apple’s Cupertino HQ, boxes of Parisian perfumes and onto the walls of bars and boardrooms from KL to NY – albeit illustrating ‘100 Days without Sex’ and trying to evoke the Med in Malaysia. Quite often, it brought me back home again, such as my first public commission for a Yorkshire hospital. One condition of that brief was to exclude black, but as committee meetings progressed, a surprising number of other elements seemed to symbolise mortality in a depiction of the English countryside (the poor blackbirds were erased). The constraints of a commercial brief become an enjoyable puzzle to solve – avoiding the paralysis that total freedom can cause – but also involve a loosening of control, where the final say is not your own. Any illustrator fast becomes savvy to dealing with that, but unknown outcomes can be pleasant too, as when a newspaper rejected one very sketchy draft, only to print it on the front page the following day.

Portraits are the most enjoyable, the most direct, and of course, the most social, the Internet having liberated me to work anywhere, but also without seeing or speaking to anyone at all. I know painters who might scream if a portrait is not completed entirely from life, but in practical terms, a good photograph is a necessity. Thanks to a childhood sponsored by VHS and Atari, augmenting my felt-tips with cameras and pixels seemed natural. Now, having finally studied the ‘old’ methods of painting, I don’t mind the evidence being visible.



Metrocards – oil on NYC subway cards

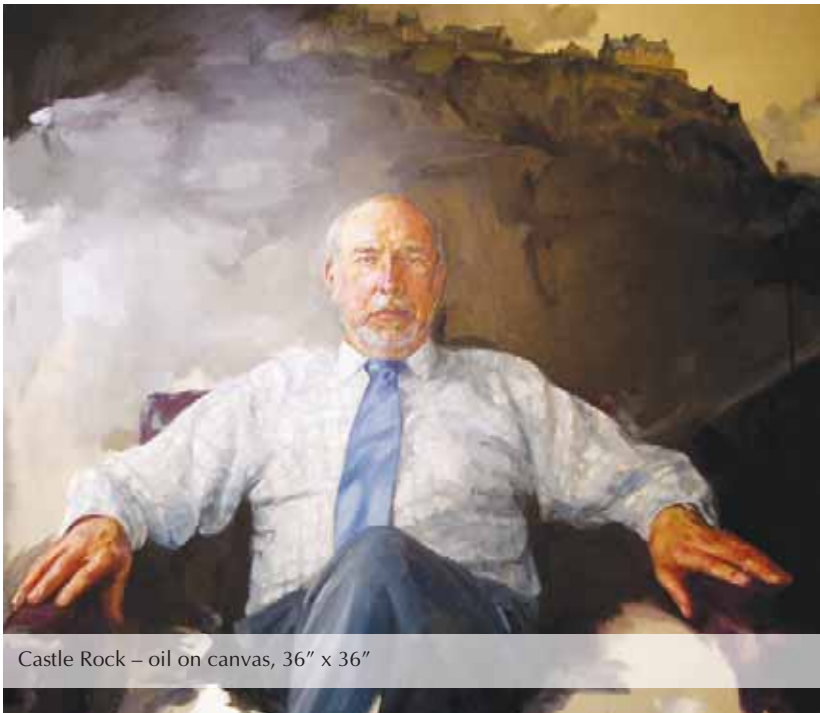


BunnyHorse – mixed media print 13" x 17"

I moved from ancient York to New York with a Prince of Wales scholarship to attend a figurative painting school, full of fumes from outdated solvents, *Gray's Anatomy*, and models on spinning plinths. My only (short) experience of an art school, The Slade, had been of rigorous measurement and quiet discipline – much like Cambridge. This new experience, like everything in New York, was unpredictable. I made tiny paintings that became somewhat larger than intended when the idea spread into *The New York Times*.

However, I did find what I had suspected from my art history days at Cambridge: those tips and tricks – from lenses and black boxes to golden rectangles and ratios, and new technology in colours and materials – adopted whenever painters could get their hands on them, were often a practical necessity to get commissions done in time. Which made me feel a little better about my entourage of overheating gadgets and addiction to Photoshop. It could be the paint fumes talking, but while a digital stylus is certainly faster and less toxic, the thrill of seeing that felt-tip tree in print is yet to be beaten.

More of Imogen's work can be found at www.imogenslater.com



Castle Rock – oil on canvas, 36" x 36"



Roger Arvid Anderson (1968) studied History at St John's and works as an artist, photographer and sculptor, based in San Francisco.

This is my fortieth year of casting bronzes. A native of St Paul, Minnesota, I moved to San Francisco in 1972 after completing a traditional liberal arts education at Dartmouth College in New Hampshire, followed by a second degree in History from St John's. I prepared for the Foreign Service, and initially worked for the San Francisco office of the National Film Board of Canada before giving in to my natural inclination to draw and sculpt. In 1974 I took my first course in bronze casting at the Berkeley Art Foundry, where

I was inspired by Renaissance reliefs and small figures. However, living on the Pacific Coast, I was soon drawn to collecting Chinese and Japanese bronzes, and my style quickly veered into another realm. Rather than modelling I began working in wax sheets and, much like a potter, began constructing sculptures with hollow interiors.

Over the years my work has been informed by my study of cubism. I also started collecting African bronzes, as well as books on the Bauhaus in Germany, Italian Futurism and Russian Constructivism. My tall bronze, 'Homage to the Cube', celebrates the cube as a building block of civilisation, while its sides, in relief, celebrate the four basic shapes: the circle, the square, the triangle and the cross. My current series of work is called 'Geological Cubism'. These are stacks of shapes that I cut and tear from raw foam. From these stacks moulds are made and bronzes cast. I refer to them as trail markers – stones piled to mark a path through the wilderness. These stacks can take on anthropomorphic characteristics, which is why many have mythological or literary references in their titles. The largest of these is called 'Emergence, The First People' and was inspired by a reading of the *Popol Vuh*, the Mayan creation story.

While at Dartmouth, I won a prize for poetry, and at St John's I won the Master's Prize for a sequence of poems. I still write poetry, but now prefer to write four-line quatrains. With a pencil grinder I can etch some of these quatrains inside the hollow sides of my bigger bronzes. I call them archaeological teases, so when my work is dug up in a few thousand years they will discover not only a sculpture but also a hidden message.



People frequently ask me how my study of History at Cambridge has served me as an artist. The experience serves me every day, and consistently informs the content of my pieces. St John's was heaven for a sculptor: in what is a fairly tiny slip of the universe you have a thousand years of architectural history. And covered with fresh snow it is as magical a place as you can ever hope to find.

More of Roger's work can be found at www.rogerarvidanderson.com



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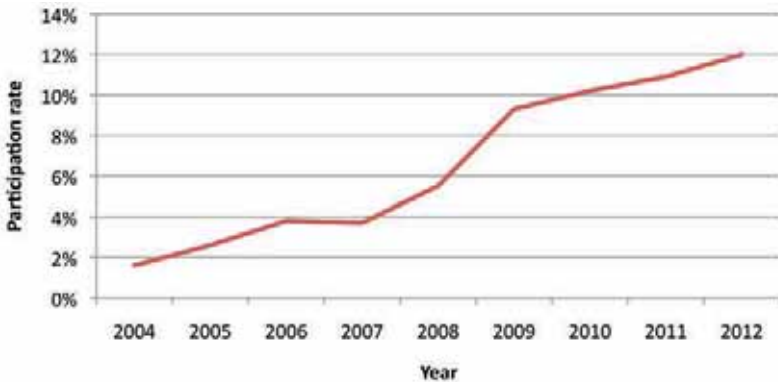
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Lessons from across the pond



Will Evans joined the Development Office in January 2014 as Annual Giving Officer, having previously worked in fundraising consultancy. Will manages student giving projects, the College Telethons and the Development Office's contact with overseas alumni.

Philanthropic giving to Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in the UK has increased dramatically in recent years. Over £774 million was donated to universities across the UK in 2013, representing an increase of thirty-three per cent on the amount given during 2012. Mounting student debt, combined with a severe decrease in government investment in HEIs, has meant that fundraising is no longer an optional activity but an absolute necessity without which many institutions, St John's included, would struggle to maintain, let alone improve, the quality of education they are able to provide.



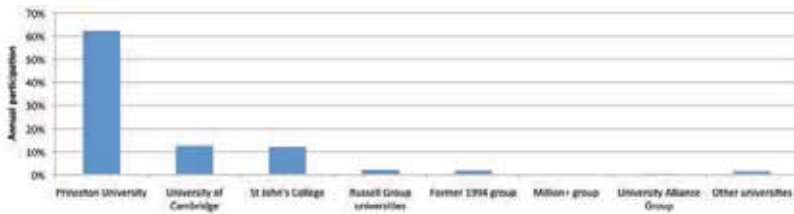
St John's annual participation

The annual participation rate is the percentage of alumni who have made a donation to the College that year, out of the total number of living, contactable alumni (currently around 12,000).

Encouragingly, support of St John’s by its alumni has mirrored this national trend. The successful completion of the College’s Campaign in 2012, coupled with a robust investment strategy, has ensured that, financially, the College is in a stronger position than at any other point in its history. As importantly, the proportion of Johnnians supporting our endeavours on an annual basis has tripled from four per cent in 2007 to twelve per cent in 2012. This is a staggering achievement – the importance of which I shall expand on shortly.

But what next? Which steps should we take to further secure the College’s future, and to ensure that our recent successes are capitalised on? Interestingly the answer may well lie not in the UK, but with our colleagues in the United States: a country where individual philanthropy has been a key driver in shaping and advancing higher education for many years.

On the face of it, fundraising for higher education in the US is remarkably similar to that in the UK. Development offices engage in similar activities, and institutions share many of the same academic and financial goals as those in the UK. The key difference, however, is that many HEIs in the US have proactively looked to their alumni for support for upwards of sixty years – approximately forty years longer than the majority of institutions in the UK. As a result, they have engendered networks of philanthropy that embrace vast proportions of their alumni communities. This has allowed institutions much younger than ours to amass endowments greater than our own with startling rapidity.



Participation during 2012

The participation rates during 2012 for selected universities and groups of universities. The Russell Group is an association of twenty-four public research universities. Dissolved in November 2013, the 1994 group was a coalition of smaller research-intensive universities established in response to the creation of the Russell Group. The Million+ Group is a university think-tank formed in 1997, incorporating twenty-two university colleges and post-1992 universities. The University Alliance group comprises twenty-two business-engaged universities whose members focus on combining science and technological research.



Conversely, monitoring trends overseas also allows us to prepare for, or even avoid, pitfalls experienced by US universities. Over the past decade, for example, US institutions have seen alumni participation in their fundraising activities practically halved, putting the long-term success of many endeavours at risk. This comes almost entirely as a result of the soaring cost of education, which over the next decade is predicted to increase by six per cent each year: almost three times the current rate of inflation. US students are receiving what is perceived to be less value for their money, and consequently are less inclined to support their *alma mater* after graduation. Needless to say, this bears more than a little resemblance to the price of education in the UK, where many universities have been driven to increase their fees by around nine hundred per cent in less than ten years as a result of reduced government investment.

Significantly, both the success and failure, or at least the risk of failure, of fundraising programmes in the US appears to be strongly influenced by one thing: alumni participation. The amount given to any particular project will directly determine whether or not it comes to fruition, but the long-term health of an institution relies to a great extent on the collective affinity of the many, and not the few.

If there is one key lesson we can learn from across the pond it is that in order to continue to provide a world-class education to those students bright and hard-working enough to study at St John's, we need the backing of those students who have come and gone before them. The recent and marked surge in Johnian support we have experienced gives us tremendous confidence, and it is through this relationship that the College will grow, flourish and remain a pre-eminent force in global higher education.



Will Evans

To donate to our Annual Fund, which supports the most urgent areas of financial need in College, please visit johnian.joh.cam.ac.uk/donate

Securing the future



Kevin Tierney (1961) read Part I History and then Part II Law, followed by the LLB, after which he held the College's McMahon Law Studentship for four years. He is a professor of Law at the University of California and Hastings College of the Law in San Francisco, and is one of the original members of the Johnian Society of the USA (JS-USA) Committee, which was set up to enable US-based alumni to network and support the College from North America.

Professor Tierney is giving \$1 million to be used for the general purposes of St John's College; the first \$100,000 of this has already been put towards means-tested bursaries to help undergraduate students starting in this academic year.

What was your journey to St John's?

I was a war-baby, born in Bristol. Ironically, my parents had moved there from London believing that they would be out of the range of German bombing, when they would have been no worse off had they stayed in Harrow! When the war was over the family returned to London and I attended Haberdashers' Aske's Boys School, as my father had before me.

What are some of your enduring memories of the College?

So far as Fellows are concerned, I remember best my Director of Studies, Harry Hinsley, later Master, who was a great character, and my Tutor, Dr Ronald 'Robbie' Robinson, who became Professor of Imperial History at Oxford while I was an undergraduate. Much later, in the 1990s, Robbie and I were both Fellows together at the Ransom Center at the University of Texas.

Apart from dons, of course, many of my contemporaries as undergraduates became lifelong friends, reflecting one of the great strengths of St John's, which is that it is a very social college.

My most enduring visual memory is the beauty of the view of the Backs that my top-floor set in New Court afforded me each morning. It proclaimed – among other things – how special it is to be a Johnian.

What started your interest in educational support?

The first person who made me conscious of the need was Gordon Williams of King’s College, who had been a diplomat at the British Embassy in Washington DC in the 1980s and who recognised that Cambridge could learn about fundraising from the Ivy League. He devoted his retirement to promoting this, and he sought me out, along with a few others in San Francisco, who had both Cambridge and Ivy League connections – I am also an alumnus of Yale Law School. He foresaw, correctly, that the UK government subsidies that many of my generation received from state scholarship and local authority grants were likely to vanish and that they had obscured the true cost of the education we had received. That didn’t happen in the Ivy League institutions. America’s long experience of private support to higher education is something from which the UK can still learn. Of course, there are differences between the two nations but they share much in common.

What made you decide to donate to St John’s?

I’d always intended to donate but what finally turned intention into action was to read in *The Eagle* in 2012 that former Head Porter ‘Big Bob’ Fuller’s widow Mary had left a generous amount to the College. Her marvellous gesture inspired me.

Why do you think it’s important for alumni to support the College financially?

It is a reality of life that no government in the future is just going to hand out money like they used to. There are just too many people with their hands out, and too many institutions, of course. Even though we may think St John’s has been here for 500 years and there’s no reason why it shouldn’t be here for another 500, actually one shouldn’t take that for granted. These institutions are very fragile and they are very expensive.

There are few better things that a Johnian can do than give to St John’s because in my opinion it is the college that has got more things right than any other. In its intellectual distinction, as well as its magnificent architecture, its music, its sport and its élan, it has a strong claim to be the collegiate ideal. There is, of course, no agreed metric by which to measure that claim, but my criteria are such things as its balance between work and play, its social mix, its beauty, and the attention it gives to all the various categories of its members: Fellows, alumni, postgraduates and undergraduates.

A brilliant example of the College's leadership is its recent commitment that undergraduates may stay in their College sets throughout the academic year without being displaced in the vacations for conventioners and conference attendees. That gets the priorities right in an exemplary way.

You chose to give for the general purposes of the College, without restriction. Why was that?

Because I don't pretend to know the needs of the College as well as the College itself and I have faith that St John's will invest and spend wisely. I am giving in annual instalments and will take advice each year about the College's particular needs.

But ultimately what I care about is that membership of St John's should remain a life-enhancing and transformative privilege, and that the College should be the one to which bright sixth-formers aspire to gain admission and to which researchers from all over the world wish to come.





Guests enjoying Donor Day 2014 in Hall. Photo: Lottie Ettling Photography.

DONORS 2013–14

St John's College is grateful to the following donors for their support between July 2013 and June 2014. We would also like to thank the fifty-eight donors not listed below who wish to remain anonymous.

Due to the way we receive data about alumni from the University of Cambridge, donors (including Fellows) are listed by their matriculation year for the University, which may be different from their admission year for St John's. Fellows who have not studied at the University of Cambridge are listed by the year they were admitted to their Fellowships at St John's.

The Development Office has made every attempt to ensure the accuracy of this list (as of July 2014). If you discover an error, please contact us at development@joh.cam.ac.uk. Please accept our sincerest apologies for any inaccuracies or omissions.

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 Mrs Candida Fittall (née Caldicot-Bull)
 Mr Matthew Fittall
 Dr Stuart Fraser
 Ms Elizabeth Gibney
 Dr Rebecca Gowland
 Mr James Greene
 Mr Andrew Hicks
 Mr Lennard Lee
 Mr Sholto Mayne Hanvey
 Mr Christian Percy
 Mr David Reid
 Miss Natalia Reoutova
 Miss Isobel Smyth
 Dr Liisa van Vliet
 Miss Hannah Williams
 Miss Joycelyn Williams

2003

Mrs Catherine Abecassis (née Kitsis)
 Mr Jonathan Abecassis
 Ms Emma Agyemang
 Dr Samit Ahir
 Mr Peter Attard Montalto
 Miss Joanne Faux
 Mr Michael Horridge
 Miss Susan Kendall
 Mr Gregory Lowden
 Mrs Lucy Peniston-Bird (née Jarvis)
 Dr Nicholas Ross
 Mr Edward Russell

Mr Andrew Wheatley-Hubbard
 Miss Emma Woolley

2004

Miss Juliet Courtney
 Mr Gareth John
 Miss Isabelle Kaufeler
 Dr Myles Lavan
 Commander Mark Metcalf
 Mr Peter Morton
 Miss Ilona Motyer
 Mr Sarju Shah

2005

Dr Moira Bowdrey (née Smith)
 Dr Raina Brands
 Mr Edward de Minckwitz
 Mr James Diggle
 Mr Samuel Furness

2006

Mr Daniel Guetta
 Dr Saba Hinrichs
 Mr Oliver Hunt
 First Lt Jessamyn Liu
 Mr Donal Moore
 Mr Yiangos Papanastasiou

2007

Dr Cristina Pierro
 Mr Stephen Teal
 Mr Francis Williams

2008

Mr John Challenger
 Mr Dominic Collingwood
 Miss Dóra Dávid
 Dr Kirk Ellison
 Dr Julia Fan Li
 Mr Basil McDonald
 Miss Ursula Moore
 Mr Adam Whyte

2009

Mrs Sarah Ellison
Mr Huw Leslie
Mr Robert Pearce

2010

Miss Felicity Bates
Mr Gavin Bennison
Mr Carl Bentham
Mr Thomas Blackie
Mr John Cockton
Mr Mark Fisher
Miss Hayley Flood
Miss Laura Gardiner
Mr Samuel Gundle
Mr Aaron Helfand
Mr Alexander Jones
Ms Stephanie Leddington
Mr Hugo Macklin
Mr Duncan Maud
Miss Rachel McCalliard
Mr Oliver Meacock
Mr Adam Nightingale
Mr Joseph O'Connor
Mr Bradley Orford-Hall
Miss Sarah Regan
Mr Benedikt Schoenhense
Mr Simon Schulz
Miss Fleur Siswick
Mr Thomas Sutcliffe
Miss Jennifer Swallow
Miss Sarah Thomas
Miss Danielle Vrubleviskis
Mr Christopher Walsh
Mr Owen Waugh
Mr Benjamin Woodhams
Mr Weiye Yang
Mr Paul Young

2011

Mr Kweku Abraham
Mr Simon Allan
Mr James Apthorp
Mr Joseph Ataman

Professor Andrew Baum
Mr Bence Börcsök
Mr Henry Bottomley
Miss Sally Bowell
Miss Abigail Brown
Mr James Browning
Mr Thomas Bumberger
Mr Andreas Chen
Miss Charlotte Constable
Miss Heeral Dave
Mr Somil Desai
Miss Daphne Dijkman
Miss Rosemary Freeman
Miss Elisabeth Furtwangler
Mr James Hartley
Mr Matthew Huxtable
Mr Jonathan Hyde
Miss Jade Jagiello
Miss Petula Jefferies
Mr William Lancashire
Miss Sophie Lawson
Mr John Lindsay
Mr Kristaps Ozolins
Mr Nicholas Rees
Mr Christoph Schmidhuber
Miss Fiona Stainer
Mr Arvin Vaghela
Miss Helen West
Mr Christopher Wheelhouse
Miss Anna York-Andersen

2012

Mr Robert Cashman
Mr Benjamin Mak

Overseas Visiting Scholars

The Honorable Guido Calabresi
Professor Nicole Woolsey Biggart

Fellow Commoners

Dr Eugene Trani

Former Chaplain

The Revd Victor Malan

Private individuals

Dr Jason Charlesworth
 Lady Elizabeth Corby
 Mr Miguel Fragoso
 Mr John Hansleman
 Mrs Anne Matthewman
 Dr Marjorie McKinney
 Professor Paul Nelson
 Dr Duncan Pirie
 Dr Madsen Pirie
 Mrs Charlotte Smyth
 Mrs Sonia Thomson

The late Miss Betty Throup
 The late Mrs Edmonde Vernon-Smith
 Lady Sarah Waterhouse
 Mr Brian Wood
 Professor Joseph Zund

Organisations

Lindsell Marketing
 The Carpenters' Company
 The Johnian Society
 The Thompson Educational Trust



Go Forward, Give Back

You may notice that more of our recent students are featured on the donor list above than ever before. That is because this year marked the launch of our 'Go Forward, Give Back' campaign, encouraging 2014 graduates to support St John's and, in doing so, to provide direct financial assistance to the next generation of Johnnians.



The campaign has been a remarkable success, and the support of those graduates has released £25,000 of challenge funding put forward by Nick Corfield (1978). This money will be used to provide a series of bursaries, called The 2014 Leavers' Awards, to some of the brightest and best students coming to study at St John's in autumn 2014.

My personal thanks go to all students who made this remarkable achievement possible.

Will Evans,
 Annual Fund Officer
 and organiser of the Go Forward, Give Back campaign

DONORS TO THE LIBRARY

The following donors supported St John's College Library between 1 June 2013 and 31 May 2014. Donors (including Fellows) are listed by their matriculation year for the University of Cambridge, which may be different from the year they started either studying or working at St John's College. Fellows who have not studied at the University of Cambridge are listed by the year they were admitted at St John's.

1938

John Wilmers QC (bequest)

1945

Professor Robert Hinde (Fellow)

1946

John Preece

1948

Dr Edward James (Fellow)

1952

Dr M. T. Haslam

1953

Mr R. F. Eberlie

1954

Professor Peter Matthews (Fellow)

1955

Christopher Cartwright (bequest)
Professor Claudio Vita-Finzi (former
Fellow)

1956

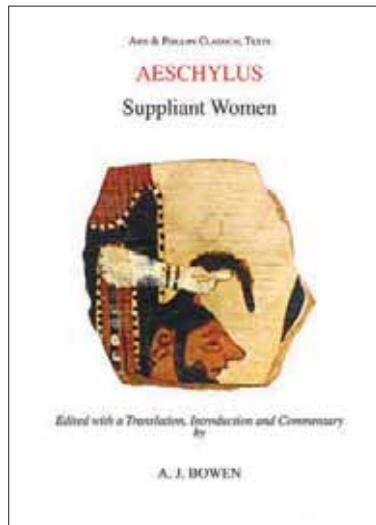
Brian Fenwick-Smith
Dr Andrew Macintosh (Fellow)

1957

Dr Ben Garling (Fellow)
Michael Lumley

1958

Anthony Bowen



1959

Andrew Ferguson
George Watson (Estate of, Fellow)

1961

Professor Malcolm Clarke (Fellow)

1962

Neil Parkyn

1963

C. J. Bradbury Robinson
Professor Garth N. Foster
Dr David Mitchell

1964

Dan Burt (Honorary Fellow)
Professor Deborah Howard (Fellow)
Professor Keith Roberts

1966

Professor Hamlyn G. Jones (former
Fellow)

1968

Dr Michael Neiditch
Professor Robert Tombs (Fellow)

1969

Professor Richard Beadle (Fellow)
Andrew Duff

1971

Julian Burling
Dr Joseph McDermott (Fellow)

1973

The Revd Dr Malcolm Torry

1974

David Pollard

1975

Professor Duncan Kennedy
A. A. Marcoff
Professor David Nicholls

1976

Dr Terence Denman
Dr Robin Glasscock (Fellow)
Professor Stefan Reif (Fellow)
Frank Wilson

1978

Miss Sylvana Tomaselli (Fellow)

1980

Professor David Midgley (Fellow)

1982

Dennis Forbes

1983

Professor S. R. Mehrotra (former
Fellow)

1986

Mark Collinson

1993

Professor Maria Manuel Gabão
Lisboa (Fellow)

1998

Simon Leslie

2000

Rosie Eade

2001

Alastair Pilgrim

2002

Dr Emile Chabal (Fellow)

2005

Dr Olga Kucherenko (Fellow)

2008

Sean Wong

2009

Aleksander Makal

Lauren Obee

Airui Zhang

2010

Charlotte Hamblin

Grace Hawkins

Grishma Shanbhag

2011

Dr Oliver Thomas (former Fellow)

2012

Sabine Becker

Juan Carlos Dastis

2013

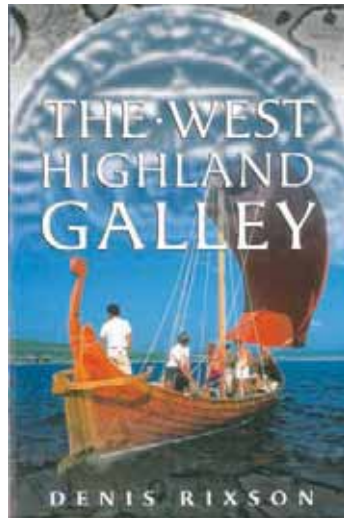
Professor Ken Hinchcliffe

2014

Professor Andrew Hopkins

Private individuals, foundations and other institutions

Balzan Prize Foundation
 Cambridge Garden Trust
 Cambridge University Students' Union
 Council for Assisting Refugee Academics
 Cardinal Cox
 Department of National Heritage, Malaysia
 Dr Mary Dobson
 Dr Laurel Fisher
 The Flemish-Netherlands Association
 Professor Philip Ford
 Luigi Giannitrapani
 Gabriel Griffin
 Philomena Guillebaud
 David Allen Harris
 Professor Verity Harte and Professor Melissa Lane
 Adrian Richard Railton Holden
 House of Lords
 Malcolm Howe
 Bertha Jeffreys (Estate of)
 Tom Kirk
 Chris Krupa
 Donata Kulviecate
 Professor Arthur J. Lesk
 Littman Library of Jewish Civilization
 Ronald J. McDonald
 Matheson Trust
 R. C. Mulcahy
 Dr Cesare Poppi
 Denis Rixson
 J. F. Roberts
 Jamie Said
 Christine Toller and family
 Dr Leonor Zozaya-Montes





Head Custodian and former Head Porter, Colin Shepherd, before his retirement in April 2014 after thirty-four years' service. Photo: Nic Marchant

SJC

THE LAST WORD

THE LAST WORD



ST JOHN'S COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

A century on

Josh Hinton and Ed Kendall are studying English, and have been part of the Editorial team for *The Eagle* 2014.

In the centenary year of the beginning of the First World War, *The Eagle* concludes by commemorating those members of the College who lost their lives in the conflict. Among the Johnians who served in the war was Robert Henry Wanklyn Cobbold (1912), a Classics scholar and member of the Eagles Society.

Robert was educated at King's College Choir School before winning a foundation scholarship to Marlborough College in 1906 and a junior scholarship the following year. After serving as Head Boy, he left in the summer of 1912 and gained a scholarship to St John's.

It is not known how or exactly when Robert joined up, but he clearly did so quickly. He was a territorial in the Rifle Brigade, attached in 1914 to the 2nd Battalion – a regular Army unit. Soon after the outbreak of war, his battalion took part in the Battle of Neuve Chappelle (13–15 March 1915) – Britain's first strategic assault of the war, during which German lines were breached and pushed back two kilometres in an attempt to destroy vital supply routes. Designed to break the

unfamiliar stalemate on the Western Front, the offensive served to establish the back-and-forth form of trench warfare that was to be employed through to 1918.

By June 1915, Robert was in front-line trenches at Fleurbaix in Flanders every second week, and frequently experienced outbreaks of fighting. During one such skirmish on 9 September, one of his subalterns fell from his machine gun post with a wounded knee. Robert climbed up to man the gun and, while holding the position, was shot by an enemy sniper. He died on the field of battle aged just twenty-two.

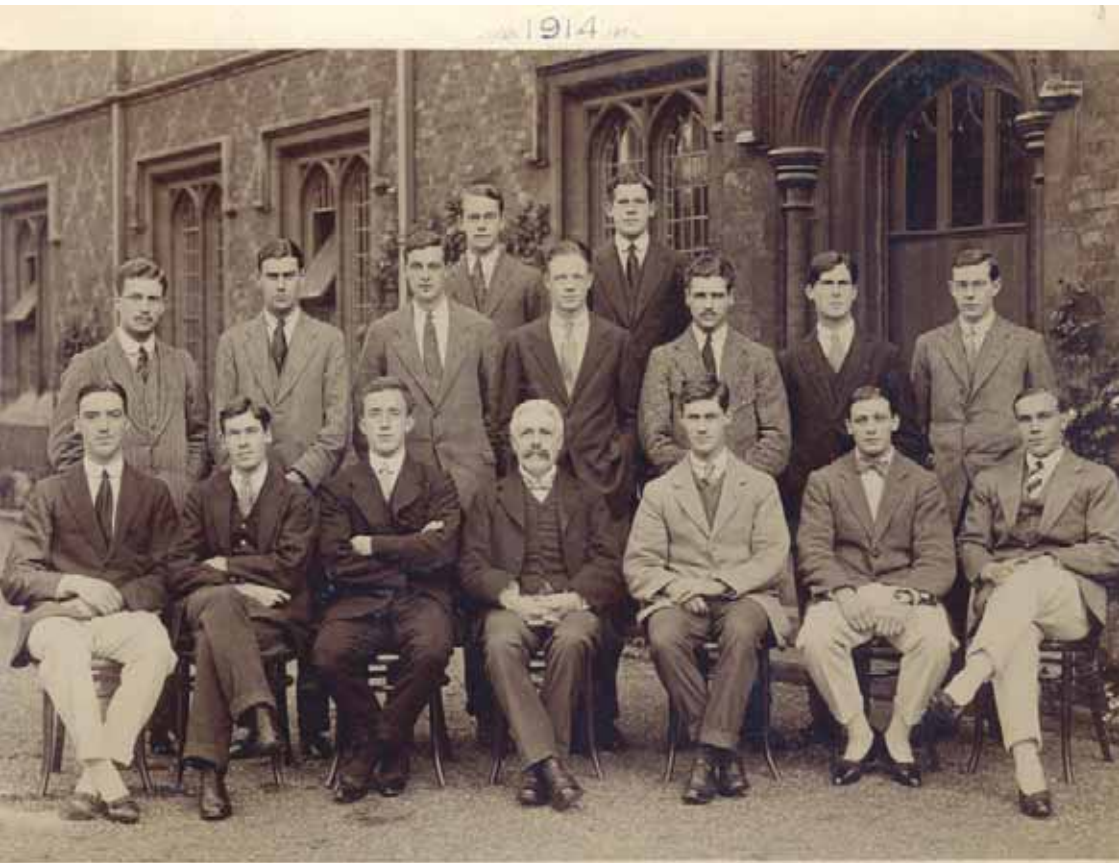


Robert Cobbold in uniform, c.1914.
Image courtesy of the Cobbold Family History Trust.

He is commemorated in the Memorial Hall at Marlborough and in the church at Earls Barton, Northamptonshire, where his father served as rector. Robert's name

also appears on the memorial to the fallen of both world wars in St John's College Chapel. Another memorial in a church in Hitcham, Suffolk, reads as follows:

In loving memory of Robert Wanklyn Cobbold, St John's College, Cambridge, Lieut. 2nd Battn. The Rifle Brigade, Killed in Action Sept. 9th 1915. Resting at Fleurbaix. Aged 22 years. Blessed are the pure in Heart.



The College's Eagles Society in 1914, with Robert Cobbold on the left end of the middle row. Image courtesy of the Cobbold Family History Trust.

The family's loss went further still. John Bain was a contemporary of Robert's at Marlborough College, and he wrote a poem for the college's magazine, *The Marlburian*, in February 1916, in memory of both Robert and his brother, Edward.

In memory of Captain R. H. W. Cobbold and
Lieutenant E. F. W. Cobbold – killed in action

In ran the boys, as purred a jewelled dame,
(Long e'er these days of guns)
"Where be *thy* jewels?" Quick the answer came,
"Thou see'st them there, my sons."

How fared thy jewels, Lady? "My sweet twain,
Tiberius and his brother,
Fought the good fight, and in the fray were slain –
Right proud am I, their mother."

O English mother, be Cornelia's pride
Thine, in thy stricken home!
For Freedom and for England thy sons died,
For Freedom hers and Rome.



Josh Hinton and Ed Kendall



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