

Editorial

The Future of The Eagle

Over the many years of its existence, *The Eagle* has undergone a gradual change in character. Originally a literary magazine run jointly by senior and junior members, it has become ever more dependent for the bulk of its material on senior and non-resident members. Literary contributions have steadily shifted away from 'creative writing' and towards College history and biography. At the same time, there has been growing demand for current news and information about the College and its members — senior or junior, in or out of residence. In short, *The Eagle* has come to assume more and more the role of what in other colleges is often called an annual record or register.

The College has decided to recognise the stage of evolution which *The Eagle* has now reached by altering the arrangements for its finance and distribution. From this year on, *The Eagle* will be regarded as the official annual record of the College, and will be distributed to all members of the College, resident or not, whose whereabouts are known. **It will therefore no longer be necessary for those who wish to receive *The Eagle* to pay an annual subscription. All you need do is to keep the College informed of your current address.** Subscribers are thus free to cancel their subscription arrangements forthwith. Any subscriptions which continue to be paid from this time will be treated as donations. They will be gratefully received and credited to *The Eagle* account.

We especially hope that *The Eagle* will expand its role as a means of promoting contact with and among non-resident members of the College. People are always interested in knowing what their contemporaries are doing now, so do please send us any news about yourselves which you would like to see in the pages of *The Eagle*. Please also consider sending us any notes, reminiscences, or even (where appropriate) full obituaries of any members of College you knew who may recently have died. Finally, do not hesitate to send in any notes or articles on matters relating to the College or its history. Any such contributions will be welcome and will be considered for publication, even if reasons of space and of the priority accorded to news and information may mean that not all of them can in fact be printed. Above all, make sure that the College has your correct present address, so that you may enjoy future numbers of *The Eagle* as much as the editor hopes you shall enjoy this one.

Editorial

Following the changes in *The Eagle* implemented last year, further changes are being introduced this year in order to expand the magazine's role in spreading news about the College and keeping members in touch with the College and each other. The most obvious is in the size and appearance of the magazine. The reduction from the idiosyncratic former size to the standard A5 format is in the interests of economy and efficiency. In addition, a new cover design has been adopted. In place of the schematic descending eagle used for the last few years, we are using the striking aerial perspective view of the College drawn recently by Jeremy Bays.

The College would like to thank all those readers who kindly sent up-to-date information about themselves in response to our request last year. Two and a half thousand replies were received, and all are being integrated into the College records. Unfortunately, only a tithe of that information can possibly be published in *The Eagle*. Constraints on space compel us to concentrate attention on material relating to the last year or so. But do please keep us in touch with your news, where possible by using the enclosed pre-paid post-card. Every effort will be made to publish as much of it as possible in future numbers — unless of course you specify to the contrary. All information contributed is stored, much of it on a newly established computerised database. The College is registered under the terms of the Data Protection Act, and of course will be happy to let any member know what information is held about him or her. However, many of you may be reassured to know that for any given person this information will comprise name, current address, an outline of the academic career at St John's, and any further details about career or life history contributed by the person in question or gleaned by the College from sources already in the public domain. The College has a strict policy of not passing such information to outside bodies. The only exception to this is a mutual agreement with the Cambridge University Development Office, by which each acquaints the other with information relating to changes of address. If you should wish to re-establish contact with old friends, the College regrets that it cannot divulge addresses, but is always happy to forward mail.

We hope that the sort of news published under College Notes and Members' News in this edition reflects what members wish to know about each other and make known about themselves. Please consider sending the Editor any notes, reminiscences or even (where appropriate) full obituaries of any members of the College you knew who may

recently have died. And do not hesitate to send in any notes or short articles on matters of College interest or history. Any such contributions will be welcome, and will certainly be retained for posterity even if reasons of space may mean that not all such pieces can in fact be published. Several of you have made helpful suggestions about the future content and style of *The Eagle*, some of which have been taken up this year. Any such ideas are always welcome.

This will be my third and last edition of *The Eagle*. Next year Suzanne Reynolds, a Fellow since 1990, takes over. I should therefore like to take this opportunity of thanking all those who have helped in the editing and publication of *The Eagle* over the past three years, especially Mr Malcolm Pratt and Dr Alison Pearn, who have compiled the College Notes and Members' News. And I should like also to express both my hope that readers enjoy this number and my confidence that they will enjoy future numbers of *The Eagle*.

The Master's Letter

I am conscious that, in writing this piece for *The Eagle*, I am departing from recent tradition. During my period in this office I have been impressed by the importance of College traditions, provided they are not taken too seriously. They help order our daily lives, mark transitions, and provide a sense of continuity with the past and the future. But that certainly does not mean that innovation is unacceptable, and my contribution is intended to mark a period of transition for *The Eagle*. *The Eagle*, first published in 1858, has changed its role several times – it has been a magazine, a chronicle, a repository for reminiscences, a literary journal, and often more than one of these. Now, to meet what we perceive as current needs, it is becoming primarily a record of what is going on and has gone on in the College – and I hope every year to contribute a short piece on what seem to me to be the most important current issues.

On some aspects of College life there is no need for me to comment. The College's sporting activities, and the doings of its principal societies, are recorded elsewhere in these pages. What those reports cannot adequately convey, however, is the high level of participation. This is illustrated by the fact that we regularly put six or more men's VIII's and three ladies' VIII's on the river.

For some reason, however, academic successes have been neglected. I hope that it is not because readers do not want to be reminded of the hours spent at desks or in libraries or laboratories! After all, that is what Cambridge is about – and the fact is that we are doing very well. Last year we were third in the so-called League Table, with 24.1 per cent of Firsts in Tripos examinations – only a whisker behind the leaders' 25 per cent, and well ahead of the average 16 per cent.

This year it is especially appropriate that something should be said about the choir because, sadly, Dr George Guest is approaching retirement. He has himself written about the choir, but I would add two things. First, when we were wondering what to do when he retired, I wrote to twenty leading organists and choirmasters to obtain their assessment of our choir. The response was amazing. Nearly all of those who replied said the St John's Choir was among the best three all-male choirs in the world, and many said it was the best. The second point concerns Dr Guest's successor. We are fortunate to have been able to appoint Dr Christopher Robinson, the very distinguished choirmaster

of St George's of Windsor. I have been told that Princess Margaret commented, 'I hear St John's has stolen our organist!'

Residents in the College will know that the outside of the Chapel has been transformed. A year or two ago, the Domestic Bursar, Colonel Robinson, was called into College by the porters, who reported that the Chapel was falling down. That was a slight exaggeration, but some stones had actually fallen into the Forecourt. This led to the repair and cleaning of the whole of the outside of the Chapel. It took two years and faced us with large bills but the result is magnificent – the Chapel, complete with refurbished gargoyles, literally glistens.

That is not the only call for major expenditure on College buildings. For a long time it has been apparent that our library provision is inadequate. The relative importance of College libraries in relation to university libraries has increased, and we are now poorly off in terms of space for both books and readers. After much deliberation the College has decided to extend the present Library round the corner, as it were, into the Penrose Building in Chapel Court. We have appointed an architect, Edward Cullinan, and the design is in hand. The plan is to leave the Penrose Building essentially intact with an extension a little way into Chapel Court, opposite the Chapel itself, and on the other side into the Master's Garden. But many hurdles remain to be cleared, including obtaining planning permission and raising the necessary funds.

Finance is indeed a problem, not only for us but for virtually all Colleges and for the university. St John's has been doing its best to help the university from its own resources. We are particularly proud that the College has made it possible for the university to set up the new Isaac Newton Mathematical Institute, likely to be of the world-leaders of its kind, on College property on the West side of Grange Road. But we do not have a bottomless purse. How, then, can the College fulfil its existing commitments while taking on the new challenge of constructing a modern library? So as not to deplete our endowment, we intend to launch an Appeal. Next year I hope to be able to write about how that is going.

For a break in tradition, that is probably enough – but I hope it suffices to convey to those of you who are no longer in Cambridge that the College is as thriving and vigorous as ever.

R.A.H.

Editorial

From the outside, this year's *Eagle* looks much the same as last year's. We have however made still further changes on the inside, principally in the Members' News section. (Of course, the cover too will have to change once the new Library is built!) Instead of listing members' news under various headings, and ordering them alphabetically within those headings, we decided to order all the entries by matriculation year, and within that year, in alphabetical order. Our aim in doing this has been to make the information we publish as easily accessible as possible. We have worked on the assumption that our readers are most, though not exclusively, interested in what their contemporaries are now up to; the change in layout should mean that tracking down news of those with whom you have lost touch is much easier.

The College would like to thank all those readers who took the time and trouble to send in up-to-date information last year. We received just over two thousand replies, which have been duly and carefully processed. This year's cards include a request for you to supply dates with your information. These need not be exact, but an indication of month, or at least year, is extremely helpful to us. This is particularly true when it comes to compiling the Members' News section, where space is an ever greater constraint. Of course, although we can in general only publish news referring to the last couple of years or so, we are always very glad to receive notice of other less recent events. Similarly, we are regretfully unable to publish the notices of births which many of you have sent in, for reasons of space, but are always glad to receive news of such events.

We hope that the information published in the Member's News accords with what members wish to know about each other and to communicate to others. We will be very glad to hear of any suggestions and ideas that you might have in this respect. If there are ways in which we can make *The Eagle* even more 'user-friendly', do let us know. We would also welcome longer contributions in the form of articles or notes. Reasons of space again mean that we cannot guarantee publication, but anything you send in will be read carefully, and, if it is not possible to publish it, will be assigned its relevant place in the College's records.

This first year of my editorship will also be the last, as I leave for pastures new. Next year, the editor will be Magnus Ryan, a Fellow since 1991. It is true to say that *The Eagle* has become an increasingly collaborative project over the last few years, and I would like to take this

opportunity to thank those without whose help and advice this issue would not have been possible. Dr Alison Pearn (Biographical Assistant) answered innumerable biographical questions and helped plan the new layout. She and Malcolm Pratt are responsible for compiling the College Notes and Members' News sections. Elizabeth Pettit provided invaluable help in preparing the text for printing and Jon Warbrick was ever on hand with computer advice.

I hope that *The Eagle* continues to be something that you enjoy reading and that it is also useful and interesting in the ways that you, the readers, expect of the annual publication of your College.

The Master's Letter

Last year I departed from tradition by contributing a letter to *The Eagle*, and I hope that this is a practice that will continue. We see *The Eagle* as primarily a record of what has gone on and is going on in the College, and one function of my letter is to highlight some issues that seem to be important. Perhaps most important is the fact that, on the whole, the College is still much as it ever was. Academically as usual we surpassed most other Colleges this year. In this year's Tripos exams we were fourth amongst the Colleges with 23.8% of candidates gaining firsts. Overall we continue to do well or very well in most sporting activities – the first LMBC men's boat perhaps not quite as successful as in recent years, but the women's first boat performed brilliantly and stands Head in both the Lents and the Mays. Details will be found elsewhere, but it gives me special pleasure to mention the success of the women's boat, since this is the 10th anniversary of the admission of women students. It took the College a long time to make up its mind to take that step, but it is now absolutely clear that it was the right move. It is good for the College, and also, I believe, good for society that those who will live and work together on equal terms should also be educated together. Joint experience of College life will, I hope, contribute to the erosion of sexual prejudice that is still sometimes to be found inside and even more beyond the University. We select from applicants strictly on merit, without favouring either sex, and this has resulted in an undergraduate body that is 34% women. It is important, I believe, that we should also increase the number of women in the Fellowship (at present only 8%): that we are making progress is indicated by the fact that, in the last 6 years, 23% of those elected have been women.

The admission of women, and our policy of trying to obtain applications from as wide a range of schools as possible, has meant that only 1 in 3 of the applicants to the College can be taken. We have to send away excellent young people to other Colleges or other Universities, but this is the penalty we pay for striving after excellence.

Although obituaries appear later, I feel that I must mention that three Johnians who did much for the College and for many generations of students, died during the year: John Boys Smith, formally Tutor, Senior Bursar and Master; John Hall, formerly Tutor, Senior Tutor and Director of Studies in Law; and Peter Stern, formerly Tutor, College Lecturer in German and an Honorary Fellow. All of them are very much missed.

During the year, work has started on two major building projects. The first involves the development of the land on the East side of Storey's Way and Madingley Road. This used to be the heart of the College Kitchen Garden – where the Head Gardener, Mr. Thoday, grew Cox's and grapes that used to win gold medals in the Royal Horticultural Show (Across the road, the part that is now Churchill College, he used to grow cabbages). The contractors are now building a mixed development of homes for sale and homes to meet the accommodation needs of the College and the University. This development scarcely impinges on life in the College, but we hope it will make a much needed contribution to the College finances.

The other development is in the very centre of the College. As I wrote last year, the College urgently needs to extend the Library and the final decision to go ahead with a new Library building was taken by the Governing Body in October 1991. This was the culmination of years of discussion, during which the option of extending the Library into the Penrose Building in Chapel Court had emerged as our clear choice. By building on this site, we will retain the link with the magnificent Old Library in Third Court – which has served us so well since its construction in the early 17th Century – as part of our extended facilities.

The challenge was to find a design which would please both the College and the planning authorities. Last year I had to be cautious in explaining that many hurdles remained to be cleared. Fortunately, our architect, Edward Cullinan, rose to the occasion with his captivating scheme. Uncertainty over planning permission was dispelled once the Director of Cambridge City Planning had written:

'The proposal represents an inspired solution to the College's brief for expanding its working library...'

Before building could start, there had to be archaeological excavations on the proposed site. It was a fascinating time as the archaeologists scraped away successive layers going down through the Middle Ages to Roman Britain. On 1 July 1992 I put on a hard hat for the ceremonial removal of the first brick from the Penrose Building. Chapel Court has now become a busy building site – and so has the Lodge garden! When you see the results on your next visit to the College I am sure you will agree that the temporary inconvenience has been worthwhile. Meanwhile, we must raise the money to help pay for it.

The fundraising campaign has got off to a fine start. Its Chairman is Sir John Quinton, the Chairman of Barclays Bank, and he has been

joined by other Old Johnnians who are ready to help the College achieve its aims. Our target is seven million pounds and we are already more than a third of the way there. The College is making its own contribution and is covering the cost of the Campaign. The Fellows themselves have so far contributed over £230,000, so you can see that the Campaign has impressive internal support. And there have been other generous gifts during this initial phase.

We have proceeded so far by personal contacts. As Master I have done a lot of travelling, up and down the country, as well as a visit to the USA. I have had a heartening response from the groups of Old Johnnians whom I have met during the last few months. Indeed, quite apart from the Appeal, it is very rewarding to those of us who are trying to maintain the College as an institution offering facilities equal to those to be found anywhere in the world to find that those who were students here in earlier years still bear the College such strong affection. I think we all realise that we have done too little in the past to nurture the links with former students and we are determined to do better in the future. This will be a permanent legacy to the Campaign, drawing the College closer to its alumni. As part of this, we will be sending *The Eagle* to all Johnnians for whom we have an address (I know this is hard cheese on those who took out a lifetime's subscription, but there it is!), so please help us to keep up-to-date on what you are doing and where you are. Obviously I can't expect to meet every Old Johnnian. During the next year, therefore, those of you whom we have not been able to contact personally can expect to receive a copy of the Campaign brochure at the same address to which this number of *The Eagle* was sent. I hope you will read it closely and respond generously.

R.A.H.

Editorial

In her editorial last year, Suzanne Reynolds explained the changes in presentation which gave rise to the new-look *Eagle*, with its re-structured list of members' news, and expressed the hope that old members would find the innovations "user-friendly". The length of this year's biographical section demonstrates more clearly than anything I can say that she was right. The response to the request for your news has been vigorous, and indicates the level of interest amongst Old Johnians in keeping in touch with the college. *The Eagle* represents one of the college's most insistent attempts to get in touch with you. As a simple transmitter of information about your contemporaries, it fulfils the role of a messenger.

But it is also a newsletter writ large, and specifically a college newsletter. In the course of the last year we have received many requests for contributions on specific aspects of the college as it now is. This is a further testimony to the continuing interest on the part of old members to be kept abreast of events, and one which we have done our best to justify in this year's *Eagle*. The annual reports of the clubs and societies are, of course, standard components of every issue, and document the fortunes of some of the most enduring college institutions. But there is clearly a desire amongst readers for monographic articles on themes of a slightly different nature. Not all of the suggestions sent in to us have found a place this time, but the important thing is to keep the pool of ideas for future material replenished, and your letters have been a great help in achieving this. The impact of the chapel on the life of the college was the most consistent subject of interest, and George Bush has therefore described the functions and peculiar challenges of the chaplain's office.

A considerable number of long articles on aspects of college history have been sent to us. Once again, it has been impossible to include everything, but I want to stress that such contributions are never wasted. What does not appear in one year's *Eagle* may appear in the next, and the richness of the unpublished work benefits not only the college archive but also helps us to identify other themes which could be given an airing in future issues.

The willingness of the current fellows to take up the pen in the service of *The Eagle* has been particularly gratifying. The entire college now receives *The Eagle*, and it is appropriate that work from both senior and junior members finds a place. The "departure from tradition" in the

shape of last year's letter from the Master is now a tradition in its own right, and he has also contributed his sermon for the Commemoration of Benefactors. Professor John Crook's article shows first, how long it can take for the accustomed eye to register details of the college fabric, and secondly, how the skills of epigraphy and classical philology may be challenged by said details. The cover of the present issue does not depict the greatest challenge, which is still a building site; next year's *Eagle* will show a new library.

I wish to repeat my thanks to all who have sent in reports and articles, and also to pay my heavy debts of gratitude to the others without whose help this year's *Eagle* would not be here. Dr Suzanne Reynolds, in editing the last issue, provided a good deal of the material for this one. She has been an unfailing source of help and advice from her new position at the University of Birmingham. The Master has been a continual fund of ideas, and has provided text for publication as well as decisive help in organizing the collective effort. Dr Alison Pearn has compiled the biographical sections in the midst of her other responsibilities resulting from the appeal. She is also the source of the mailing information which does not appear in *The Eagle*, but does appear on every envelope containing it and represents an enormous amount of work. Dr Peter Linehan took over the editor's mail-bag during my lengthy absences from Cambridge and redirected letters to me in Germany. To Mr Plumridge and his team I owe my sincerest thanks for their flexibility and professionalism in the printing of this issue. Proof-reading has never been so easy.

We only publish what we think you will want to read. Your suggestions and requests are invaluable; I hope you will continue to make them, and so allow *The Eagle* to meet your expectations and interests.

The Master's Letter

The most important issue this year is the progress that has been made with the extension to the Library. The South end of the Penrose Building (the Nineteenth Century building opposite the Chapel in Chapel Court) has been gutted, the inside is being refurbished, and two wings added. One of these, to contain the main entrance to the Library, faces the Chapel, the other forms an apse in the Master's Lodge garden. As I write I can see the roof on the latter nearing completion, and one can now see the shape of the building and begin to get some feel of what it will look like when it is finished. We are all very pleased, and are confident not only that it will look well, but that it will be an excellent Library for students.

That's not all. Chapel Court has never been entirely satisfactory, in part because of the heterogeneity of its architectural styles. In the present scheme it will be divided visually into two halves. Between the new Library and the Chapel there will be a sunken area with steps surrounding it. This is designed as a place where students can sit around in the evenings and talk. We hope it will be possible to have a marquee which can be erected over this area for parties in the Summer. This half of the Court will be separated from the 1939 Maufe Building, with the arch into North Court, by some small trees. To lessen the impact of the horizontal and elongated windows in the Maufe Building, we are going to paint the frames a blue/green, to match the drainpipes, instead of the current cream.

With all this building going on, some of the current students have had to put up with a certain amount of disturbance, and at the moment Chapel Court is little more than a builder's yard. However this part of the Library should be finished by the end of the calendar year, and open in the Lent Term. The lower floor of the Old Library is then to be refurbished. The whole enterprise should be completed in the Summer of 1994.

The Appeal has kept me fairly busy throughout the year. It has not been a good time for trying to raise money, and we have done less well than we had hoped with corporations, foundations and trusts. However, the loyalty of individual Johnnians has been wonderful. The Fellows have contributed a quarter of a million, and most of the £1.7 million that we have raised so far has come from individual Johnnians. I have been round to many meetings in different parts of the country to meet

Johnnians and tell them about what we are doing and it has been a wonderful experience to see the affection in which the College is held by those whose student days were long ago. I plan to continue with this work through the coming months, but it will not be possible for me to meet all Johnnians personally. However, all Johnnians for whom we have addresses will hear about the Appeal by mail, and I hope that you will give it your support.

The College is now rather large - 537 undergraduates, 309 graduate students and nearly 130 Fellows. We are proud of the fact that we are moving towards a position in which all undergraduates and graduate students who wish to can live in College accommodation, either within the College itself or in houses that we have acquired in the near neighbourhood. Living in College is important as it does a great deal to augment the feeling of community. I came up in the Lent Term, and for my first two terms lived in digs beyond Chesterton roundabout: I didn't really begin to feel part of the College until I moved into North Court in the Long Vac. There is another issue that makes the provision of accommodation for students in College even more important nowadays. With the proximity of a motorway to London, and the growth of small industry in Cambridge, digs have become both scarce and very expensive. Students are pretty hard up nowadays, and many of them can ill afford digs in town.

St. John's continues to maintain a high academic standard, with excellent results in the Tripos examinations. And in the context of academic issues, I would like especially to mention the award of a Cambridge Honorary Doctorate to one of our Fellows, Maurice Wilks, for his outstanding contribution to the invention and early development of computers. It is somewhat unusual for the University to confer honorary doctorates on resident members, and this is a splendid honour.

The College's record in extracurricular activities is set out elsewhere - and it's a record that we can be proud of. I want to make special mention of music in the College. The choir, which achieved international fame under George Guest, has gone from strength to strength under his successor, Christopher Robinson. And, under his direction, this year's May Concert was of an extremely high quality.

One very sad piece of news - Dr Fergus Campbell died during the year. Many Johnnians will remember with affection and gratitude his skill as a teacher and lecturer, not to mention his dramatic demonstrations of hypnosis.

Finally, I would like to say that I hope you like the new-style *Eagle*. It is designed to make it easy for you to find news of the College and of your contemporaries. Please let us know all your news so that we can keep it on file and print as much as there is room for in *The Eagle*. And I am sure that all readers will want me to express gratitude to the Editor - he has no small task.

R.A.H.

Editorial

The first change that you will notice to this year's *Eagle* is that the aerial view of the College on the cover has been revised to include the new Library. You can see the two new wings, which mark the extent of the expansion, projecting forward into Chapel Court and back into the Master's Garden. I hope that many of you will be able to visit the College and see for yourselves the new building and what has been achieved. A new building in a place such as St John's is always exciting, and it is particularly gratifying for me, as Librarian, to see the finished product after the years of planning and work that have led up to it. The official opening of both parts of the Library – the new Library and the refurbished Lower Library – takes place on September 27 and a full account of that day, and of the new building itself, will be included in next year's *Eagle*. In the meantime do come and see for yourselves if you are in Cambridge: Johnians are always welcome visitors to the Library.

As in recent years the Members' News section of the *Eagle* is still changing and developing. Dr Alison Pearn, the Biographical Co-ordinator, has produced an introduction to the News section describing some of the work of her office and providing a variety of information which we hope will be of interest to Members. In addition to the usual News we have also included a list of "missing" Johnians. If you know the addresses of any of the people listed, please let the Biographical Office know. We hope to include similar lists in future issues of *The Eagle* and thus continue to build up our connections with all Members of the College.

Since taking over the editorship of *The Eagle* in January this year I have been contacted by many Johnians concerned about the lack of LMBC information in last year's issue. First of all I would like to apologise for this omission and reassure you that, to make up for last year, we have a double helping of LMBC news this year! In addition to the club's reports, there is also an article which Johnian rowers will enjoy. Annamarie Stapleton, who graduated in 1987, won a gold medal at the World Rowing Championships in Prague in 1993 and has written about the state of women's rowing in the U.K. today.

Another article by a recent graduate which I hope will be of interest to Johnians, is the piece by Barney Hamilton on student politics in Cambridge and St John's. My aim is to set a trend in *The Eagle* by including pieces by or about members of the College in order to let other Johnians know what some of their peers are doing. The article by Malcolm Pratt, who retired as Sub-Librarian in 1990, will, I know, strike a chord in the hearts of many Johnians who will remember many of the customs and traditions he has discussed in his charmingly reminiscent piece.

An innovation of recent years which has become a tradition is the Master's Letter. This year is Robert Hinde's fourth and last letter as he retires from the Mastership on October 1st, when he will be succeeded by Peter Goddard (about whom Ben Garling has written a fascinating profile – understandable even to non-physicists!). The five years of Robert Hinde's Mastership have passed so quickly that it is hard to believe that he is actually retiring. Much has happened during this period, perhaps most significantly the building of the new Library for which the Master has worked extremely hard and with such single-minded determination. The new building which is currently gracing Chapel Court will be a lasting memorial to his period of office. A less obvious but equally significant aspect of Robert's Mastership has been the personal relationships he has forged between the College and the many old Johnians he has either met or written to through his unflagging work for the College Appeal. Perhaps these contacts will be the most important legacy that he leaves to his successor. He will be greatly missed both in the College and in the wider Johnian community and we wish him much happiness in his retirement.

I would like to thank everyone in the College who has worked so hard to make this, my first year of editorship, so relatively trouble free! In particular I owe a great debt of thanks to Alison Pearn, the Biographical Co-ordinator and her assistant, Lindi Wood, who have together compiled and produced the Members' News section. I am extremely grateful for all those who have contributed to *The Eagle*, particularly those, from both inside and outside the College, who have found the time to write such interesting articles at my request (and met the deadlines!). The Master has, as always, been extremely helpful in offering advice, for which I am very grateful. Last,

although by no means least, I thank my staff in the Library who have put up with the vagaries of having the Editor of *The Eagle* in their midst. In particular, I owe thanks to Sarah Lacey and Paul Johnson who retyped so many manuscripts but most of all to my Assistant, Toby Venables, without whom the whole operation would have been impossible.

I hope that you enjoy this year's *Eagle* and that the cross-section of different articles is of interest to you. I am always pleased to hear from the readers about both the content and appearance of the magazine and look forward to receiving your comments.

A.J.S.



The Master's Letter

As I write, I can see a number of heads bent over desks in the west wing of the new Library. It is heart warming to see how much it is appreciated by the present generation of Johnians: frequently, in this pre-Tripes period, practically every reading place is full. The Library has received much praise in the press, both for its internal arrangements and for its external appearance - its distinctive elegance has a striking individuality yet meshes beautifully with the surrounding buildings. And with the creation of a circular area between the Library and the Chapel, the planting of 4 trees, and the re-painting of the windows of the Maufe Building peacock blue, Chapel Court has been transformed. The College has much cause to be grateful to the architects for the Library, Edward Cullinan and colleagues, the builders, R.G. Carter Ltd. (Cambridge), and all those involved in its creation. I feel fortunate to have been able to watch the process from initial conception to finished product. Many have contributed selflessly to the project and it is perhaps invidious to pick out names, but from within the College I would like to pay special tribute to the Librarian, Amanda Saville; the Domestic Bursar, Richard Robinson; and the Chairman of the Library Committee, Peter Goddard, who is to be my successor as Master. I have been continuously impressed by their dedication to the project, their meticulous attention to detail, and above all, their endurance through all sorts of complexities in bringing the project to fulfilment.

Trying to raise money to cover the building costs has kept me busy for the last two or three years. As I mentioned last year, it has not been the best time for raising money, and we have not had the number of major gifts that we had hoped for. The College put in £2m from its reserve to prime the pump - a sum which, by statute, must be repaid from income over the years. So far we have raised another £2.5m, £0.25m of which came from the Fellows. So we have not done too badly, but still have a little way to go before we cover the cost of the Library (c £5.5m). In due course we will also need funds for building more student accommodation and for studentships.

There are three issues arising from the Appeal that I would like to mention. First, I want to express the College's gratitude for the generosity of Johnians. It is wonderful to receive donations from people, many of whom left the College several decades ago, or live in distant parts of the world, and many of whom can ill afford what they send – because one knows they are giving out of affection for a place that has been very important in their lives, and in order that it can do the same for others. I also want personally to thank Sir John Quinton, who was the Campaign's Chairperson, Professor Peter Clarke, who took a considerable role in organizing the later stages of the Appeal, and all those who have sat on Committees or helped in organizing the many meetings I have attended in different parts of the country and abroad. These have been wonderful occasions, and I count myself lucky to have met more Johnians than, probably, any of my predecessors.

The second issue is this. Many Johnians at first had the view that St John's is a rich College and should not need help. It is true we are better off than many Colleges, especially some of the newer ones. But the fact is that, partly because of expenses arising from necessary repairs to our old buildings, partly because of help we have given to other Colleges and to the University, and in spite of considerable economies, our accounts are showing worrying annual deficits – in other words we are in danger of eroding our ability to maintain current standards for future generations of students. I should perhaps explain that the relations between the University and the Colleges have changed in recent years, and the University has looked to the Colleges for help with new developments. It is clear that, in the future, all Colleges are going to have to depend more and more on the generosity of their members. Thus while the more active phases of the Appeal is now coming to an end, we intend to maintain a Development Office to help safeguard the future.

Third, some of the Johnians I have met have been naturally disappointed because the College had not been able to offer places to their children. It is always a matter of deep regret when we are unable to admit the offspring of a member of the College, but this is the result of the extreme pressure on places that exist these days. There are many children who deserve to be at Cambridge whose schools do not think to enter them, so we have tried to extend the

range of schools with which we have contact. Both that, and the fact that we try to give equal treatment to men and women, means that competition for places is severe. It would not be in the long-term interests of the College, nor fair to the applicants, if we were to admit on grounds other than academic excellence and promise. And this means that we can place less weight on outside interests, whether in sport, music, or what have you, than used to be the case, unless other things are equal, and that is not often.

Of the many College issues that I might mention, I would like to say that during the last five years Colonel Robinson has done wonderfully on the accommodation front – virtually all undergraduate and graduate students now live in College or in College accommodation close by. This, I am sure, contributes greatly to the feeling of the College as a community. One issue has gone more slowly than I would have liked – achieving a balance between men and women in the Fellowship. However progress has been made. In 1989 only 4 out of 123 Fellows were women, while of the 32 most recently elected Fellows, 11 are women – so at least the proportion of women elected is beginning to approach that amongst the students. Most importantly, 6 out of 14 recently elected staff Fellows are women.

For me the five years in the Lodge seem to have gone with incredible speed, and I have enjoyed my time as Master. Having seen it from the centre, I feel able to say with certainty that this really is a wonderful College, and I feel fortunate to have had this experience. My period as Head of House has been different from that of the Heads of some other institutions with whom I have spoken: I have felt that every Council and Committee meeting I have attended has involved a group of people trying to see the best way forward, never individuals trying to push their own egos. I have been particularly lucky with the College officers with whom I have worked because, I believe, our personalities have differed in ways that complemented each other and we understood, accepted and profited from the differences: some of us like to clear our desks, others to take time to think an issue through; some see the world in black and white and some in shades of grey; some like to take decisions on principles or precedents, others to be influenced by the specific issues of the

moment. (I'll leave my contemporaries to work out to whom this refers, and how!)

Because of the competition for entry to the College, there can be no doubt that Johnian Students are special, and although I would have liked more opportunity for contact with them, I have greatly valued what I have had. There have been some wonderful moments – perhaps the best was when I answered the door at 9.00 pm on my 70th birthday and found about thirty undergraduates on the doorstep singing Happy Birthday. It has certainly been a very busy time, and I would say there has never been a dull moment. I'm sure Peter Goddard will enjoy the office as much as I have, and I wish him every success.

R.A.H.



Editorial

In preparation for writing this, my second *Eagle* editorial, I thought that a good first step would be to re-read last year's piece. Having just completed this I was heartened - and somewhat surprised - to find that the two articles which I promised would be included in the 1995 issue have indeed made their way onto the page. I must be doing something right! The two articles in question are those by Richard Robinson, the Domestic Bursar, and by Colin Rice of Edward Cullinan Architects and their subject matter is, of course, the new Library. As promised last year the 1995 *Eagle* is something of a Library special. Richard Robinson's account of the opening ceremony and Colin Rice's erudite description of the thought processes behind the design of the building give, I hope, some flavour of the new Library both to those of you who have seen the changes for yourselves and those who haven't yet been able to come back to College to explore the developments in Chapel Court. After a full year of use of both the new building and the refurbished old Library, and writing both as Librarian and Editor of *The Eagle*, I am delighted to report that the project has proved itself a success in the eyes of those for whom it was primarily intended: the resident Junior Members. Student use of the Library has more than doubled since the opening of the new facilities and looks set to continue to rise. As the Master has written in his piece, the College held the first of what we hope may become more regular Open Weekends earlier this summer to thank all of those who helped to support the Library project. The weekend was an appropriately celebratory end to what has been a period of intense activity both within the College and in the wider Johnian community.

The Library is, of course, only one part of the College's many areas of endeavour. Developments have been taking place in other places, for example the Chapel. Readers will enjoy learning about the new organ in Nicholas Thistlethwaite's interesting article which includes a fascinating account of the history of the College organs. The Chapel features quite heavily in this edition of *The Eagle*, the article on the organ is joined by two pieces by former Chaplains, including a profile of the new President, Andrew Macintosh,

the Dean of Chapel, who takes up office at the beginning of October.

Malcolm Schofield who steps down as President in September is taking some well deserved sabbatical leave next year; he will be much missed as he has been such an active presence around the College over the last 4 years, but we suspect that Andrew will make the office of President as much his own as Malcolm has done. Malcolm gave this year's Commemoration of Benefactors Sermon, which, as has become the tradition in recent years, is reproduced in *The Eagle*.

I received some correspondence in relation to last year's Commemoration Sermon and would like to take this opportunity to make it clear to all readers of this journal that the views expressed in the various articles are those of the authors of the individual pieces, and not necessarily those of the College.

I am delighted to be able to include in this year's issue another wonderfully reminiscent piece by a former member of the College staff. Roy Papworth, who retired as Chief Clerk in 1993 has kindly reproduced the speeches he made whilst President of that august College institution, the Pig Club. Read the article to find out what the Pig Club really is... Roy's memories are so fascinating and extensive that his contribution will become a 'serial' over the next couple of years. Another historical piece, which I am sure that you will enjoy, is the excerpt from Stuart Priston's letter describing the antics which took place after the 1901 Bumps Supper. I am glad that as Librarian at the end of the twentieth century I have not, so far, experienced anything quite as alarming! As a continuation to the series of articles by members of the College about their post St John's lives I am very pleased to be able to include Jan Darasz's article about being a cartoonist, which is, of course, complete with an appropriate illustration.

On a practical note readers will have noticed that this year we are experimenting with a new form of envelope and cover sheet; the latter is intended to provide more space for you to send your biographical information to Alison Pearn, the Biographical Co-ordinator. You may send us information either for inclusion in

subsequent editions of *The Eagle* or to build up our records prior to the publication of a Biographical Register of Twentieth Century Johnnians, which we are currently working towards. All biographical information is gratefully received, Alison has explained the workings of the Biographical Office in more detail in her introduction to the Members' News section.

I have received many interesting letters from Johnnians as a result of last year's *Eagle* and had hoped to include excerpts from at least some of them in a letters page this year. Unfortunately the contents of this year's *Eagle* are already more extensive than in previous years and therefore there is not room for a correspondence page this time. Thank you to everyone who wrote and please continue to keep in touch.

Finally, but by no means least importantly, I would like to thank everyone who helped in the production of this year's issue, in particular all the authors who rose to the challenge of writing an article, review or obituary, sometimes at very short notice. I would also like to thank Alison Pearn and Lindi Wood, who produce the Members' News section and Jane Hamilton who compiles the College Notes. Once again I am indebted to my staff in the Library for all their help and support, in particular David Gagan, Kathryn McKee and Sarah Lacey who have done so much proof reading. Lastly, I would like to thank my Assistant, Toby Venables, without whom *The Eagle* would certainly *not* have landed.

A.J.S.



From the Master Endings and Beginnings

The academical year ends with a certain rhythm of events. On a Friday at the end of June, at about 10.30 am, the graduands follow the Praelector and Head Porter out through the Great Gate, returning as graduates in time for lunch and for countless farewells. Almost as soon as we have said goodbye to one year, on Saturday Johnnians of earlier generations return for one of the reunion dinners to which all are invited every seven or eight years (each year for those who matriculated sixty or more years ago). This year we welcomed over 200 Johnnians who matriculated between 1956 and 1958, or before 1936.

Even then the Courts do not fall silent, of course. The Long Vacation Period of Residence is about to begin and there are conferences (ever more necessary to make the internal accounts balance) and tourists. This year, a week after General Admission, something new was interpolated into the familiar rhythm. All those who had helped support the College's recent fundraising campaign were invited to an Open Weekend, together with their families and friends, to see not just the new library building but also something of the College's treasures and of other recent developments: the Fisher Building, the new organ in the Chapel, the ongoing programme of refurbishment of College rooms and facilities. About 1000 people came and, by all reports, greatly enjoyed the occasion aided by near perfect weather. Walking through from the display of silver in the Combination Room to the Upper Library, down to the renovated Lower Library, now housing special collections, on into architect Edward Cullinan's new library building and finally up to its top floor, with the John Hall Law Library and the computer room, one got a sense both of continuity and of adaptation to meet new circumstances and challenges, paralleling the College's history.

As well as celebrating the new Library, the Open Weekend also brought home to us the increased sense of community which was the other great achievement of the enormous effort that Robert

Hinde devoted to the fund-raising campaign. We are very conscious of the desirability of continuing to foster this in the years to come. The College must mean not only the buildings, which evoke affectionate memories for all of us, but, first and foremost, all its members, undergraduate and graduate, resident and non-resident. As society continues to become more mobile and pressured, we need to make more opportunities to foster our traditionally strong sense of community. We are now considering very actively how best to do this, perhaps by supplementing *The Eagle* with a newsletter, containing more topical information about what is happening in College, and the dinners for Johnians with further Open Weekends. In the meantime we hope that Johnian graduates will keep in touch and come back to see us whenever they can.

P.G.



Editorial

As I write this my third and final *Eagle* editorial I am conscious both of great changes and amazing continuity in the life of the College, even as it has been reflected in the pages of this magazine over the last three years. One of the most obvious physical changes which has taken place is, of course, the new Library building which was described in detail in the 1995 issue. I am delighted to report that since my last editorial the Library has been awarded two architectural awards, the *David Urwin Award* from Cambridge City Council and a Royal Institute of British Architects regional award.

Apart from physical changes such as the new Library these last three years have seen a number of significant changes in senior College positions, most notably of course in a new Master and new President. This year I have to report one very sad event, the death of Benny Farmer in February; a full obituary appears later in this issue. A new face (to her present post if not to the College) which will be of interest to Johnians is the appointment of a Development Officer, Catherine Twilley (BA 1992). The Development Officer and the College's Biographical Officer are now established in a new location in Chapel Court, the Johnian Office. The Master has written of these changes in his article and the work of the new Johnian Office has been described in some detail at the beginning of the Members' News Section.

The continuity of much of the life of the College is reflected in the contents of this year's *Eagle*, in particular in the articles of College historical and biographical interest. Indeed, if last year's issue was a Library special, this year's is very much a College fabric and personalities special. Perhaps the most moving and entertaining piece in this category is Peter Linehan's witty and lexically innovative article about the celebrations to mark the 50th Anniversary of the foundation of the College Pig Club. As someone who enjoyed the privilege of attending the wonderful party, so magnificently hosted by John Crook, Peter's article and the accompanying photographs taken by Stan Moorhouse, the Superintendent of Buildings, bring back many happy memories. In this issue we also have the second

instalment of Roy Papworth's *Pig Club Memories* and detailed accounts of the history of the Combination Room table and the College gardens by Clifford Evans and the College Archivist, Malcolm Underwood, respectively.

Returning to the subject of change, or at least new developments, I am sure that all Johnians will be fascinated by the three accounts we have of visits to South Africa last summer. Robert Hinde has written about the first Colenso lecture tour, which will be an annual event for the next few years at least. Christopher Robinson, the Organist, and Reuben Thomas, one of the Choral Scholars, have both written about their experiences of the choir tour to South Africa, which also took place last summer. I am also pleased to print another article by a recent graduate with an 'unusual' career, Paul Sussman (BA 1988), who has written about his experiences of writing for *The Big Issue*.

The varied life of the College, both academic and otherwise is reflected as it always is in the annual reports of the many sports clubs and societies as well as in the reviews of books of Johnian interest. A rowing theme is represented by Paul Lambah's account of Rhodes Hambridge and his influence on the LMBC of the late 1930's. I am happy to be able to reproduce, for a second year, some poetry written by two members of the College approximately twenty-five and fifty years ago.

I hope that this mixture of old and new, tradition and change will appeal to all readers of *The Eagle*. As always I would like to thank all those involved in the production of the magazine, in particular all contributors. I would like especially to thank Alison Pearn and Lindi Wood who produced the Members' News section and Jane Hamilton who compiles the College Notes. Many thanks, as usual, to my staff in the Library, in particular to Sarah Lacey for the stalwart typing and my assistant Toby Venables who managed, true to form, to keep both me and the production schedule of the magazine in good order. Finally I would like to wish my editorial successors well for future issues of *The Eagle*.

Amanda Saville

From the Master In and Out of Residence

One of the more obvious privileges of the Mastership, and one that the Master's family shares, is having the Lodge as home. Of course, there are sometimes minuses as well as pluses in what might be more aptly described as living in the shop rather than over it. Successive Masters, or perhaps more accurately successive Bursars, have brought up to date the internal arrangements in Sir George Gilbert Scott's 1865 building (which originally contained ten bedrooms and one bathroom).

But in other ways, as one contemplates today's challenges and triumphs for the College, the Lodge continually provides reminders of the College's near half millennium of history. The portraits recall not only previous Masters (is it as a warning that Alan Percy, second Master of the College, who only lasted 2 years in office, has been hung in pride of place in the Master's Study?) but also many who by their various sacrifices and achievements have played important rôles in making the College what it is today. But perhaps even more affecting are the parts of the Lodge which have been incorporated from the parts of the College which were lost, when the Hall was extended and the new Chapel built in the 1860's. These include the Hall of the Lodge, whose panelling probably comes from the old Great Combination Room, and the oak-panelled room on the first floor of the Lodge, which was part of the original Lodge in First Court and is now known as the Fisher Room because it is said to have been occupied by John Fisher on his visits to the College.

Sitting in the Fisher Room, under its magnificent main ceiling beam with its carved soffit, one's mind goes back not only to the earliest days of the College in the second decade of the sixteenth century when First Court was built, but also to the dramatic changes in the middle of the nineteenth century which led to this whole room being transported from First Court to the 'new' Lodge. We are accustomed to thinking of this century as one of rapid change but in the last century the College underwent a number of significant

transformations. The College changed from one in which Fellows had to proceed to take Holy Orders in the Church of England and remain single, with not more than two of them coming from the same county, to one in which these religious, marital and geographical restrictions (the last peculiar to St John's) had been abolished. Perhaps even of more immediate relevance for undergraduates was the change in the route to an Honours Degree. In the last century, the only route was through the Mathematical Tripos, but by 1900 undergraduates could come up to read any one of a number of Triposes, not only Classics but 'new' subjects such as Natural Science or even History.

The changes of this century are evident not so much from the fabric but from the resident members of the College: the graduate students, largely absent at the beginning of the century, who now form about a third of the student body; and women, first admitted in 1981, who now form 35% to 40% of the undergraduates, 25% to 30% of graduate students and 12% of the Fellows (although this last proportion is rising of course). Another change is evident when we welcome back Johnians from particular years to reunion dinners as we do each Easter and at the end of June every year: the number of non-resident members of the College is increasing and they are more mobile, both in terms of occupation and in terms of where they live, than they were in earlier times.

At the beginning of the century the College had considerably fewer than two thousand members. Today there are over ten thousand. This is a significant change because it is much more within one person's capability to keep track of two thousand individuals than ten thousand. Furthermore graduates move more frequently, particularly in their first few years, and work in a more diverse range of occupations, which makes it more difficult to keep in touch. As I explained in a letter I sent to Johnians in early January, this was one of the main reasons why the College decided to appoint a Development Officer. I am sure that all Members of the College will be delighted, though hardly surprised, that the Council decided that the best person to appoint was a Johnian, Catherine Twilley.

Catherine, who graduated in 1992, took up her post in April. She already has well-developed plans for helping to preserve and

enhance the sense of community in the College, among both resident and non-resident Johnians. We are sure that you will want to support and help her as she builds up links between all members of College, through alumni groups, newsletters and special events. St John's is a living College and the sense of community and belonging lasts long after Johnians have gone down. We hope you will come back to College soon to meet Catherine and catch up on recent developments.



REVIEW OF THE YEAR

Because *The Eagle* has no single editor at present, we were asked to pretend to be a collective editor and in that capacity to provide an account of interesting or amusing things that had happened in College over the last year. Accordingly we met in March and were able to agree that nothing even remotely interesting or amusing had happened in College for as long as any of us could remember. On 11 June, however, bent over our task in the College Bar, one of us said something arguably amusing, one thing led to another, and we began to recall some of the events that have retained our interest in the place over the past 12 months.

Thinking backwards, as is the College's way, we come first to the election of Dave Bagg as Master of Arundel. Since his transfer to the Porters' Lodge in March 1987 from the Buttery Bar, where he had served since June 1982, there had been constant speculation as to his next move. We are delighted to be able to report that, having been pipped at Trinity by a mere Fellow of the Royal Society, Dave is now installed at the Arundel House Hotel. While at St John's, like all our best porters over time, Dave did a Tutor's turn in the Porter's Lodge in the middle of the night when it mattered. He didn't miss much but will be much missed.



Dave the Barman 1982, Dave the Porter 1997

Then there was the saga of the Card Access Control System, which was funny in its way. Or possibly sad. Since 1516 Fellows and others had been letting themselves in and out of College by means of things called keys. Not good enough, the good Colonel decreed. Let there be cards. Accordingly, at midday on 21 April (H.M the Queen's 71st birthday) the new system went live. At 6 o'clock that evening it then went dead. Whereupon life went on as usual and no one noticed the difference.

Meanwhile, however, the Queen Mother had landed on the Paddock. That did make a difference, with bedmakers waving their loyal dusters and ideologically-wrenched undergraduates cowering from it, while secretly enjoying the spectacle. Her Majesty's appearance can of course be attributed to the College's recent interaction with the OUTSIDE WORLD. Casting aside centuries of introspection with the same verve and originality that inspired the new card system, leading College lights have found a new existence in the public glare. Matt Juniper sprinted to glory at the Atlanta Paralympics, James Martin who unscrambles anagrams and performs feats of mental arithmetic even faster than Matt can run, achieved 'housewives favourite' status as the top seed in Channel 4's *Countdown*. Then there was Rob Andrew; there always is. Desperate not to be left out, Dr Beadle offered his services to *Varsity* as a Spice Girls correspondent. . . . *The Evening Standard* could see only one possible explanation for this new Johnian dynamism, reporting that the College might be going dry, or something of that sort.

Greater prescience may have been demonstrated by *The Independent* when accusing the Domestic Bursar of being 'suitably disturbed' recently. They were one of a spate of broadsheets to feature the gallant Colonel on the front page. Dr Beadle could only weep at the publicity. The Domestic Bursar was acting as a spokesman for the millions nationwide whose lives are blighted by the sound of tourists cavorting in punts.

'Suitably Disturbed' may however be applicable in a wider context as an explanation for many of the goings on in College this year. First of all there was the College Ghost – the ghost that only knocks at twenty to one in the morning. Tentatively identified by Dr Linehan as that of the murderer John Brinkley (admitted Jan. 1746), if not that of his victim,

James Ashton (admitted Oct. 1745), it was spotted (the first known sighting) sometime in November 1996 by Olivia Browne. Engrossed though she was at the time in the Spanish Middle Ages, later on she was able to describe the phantom's raiment and to recall that he was dressed, as Aston would have been, for bed. Luke Gompels' ability to bungee jump from the top of New Court aided only by a roll of flaming toilet paper can only be understood if we assume that he too is one of the undead. The venerable copper beech tree by the kitchen bridge was, alas, permanently disturbed in the New Year. We can now see that this was necessary in order to accommodate the Queen Mother's chopper. Of course hypotheses are rarely flawless: certain things *have* gone undisturbed this year. The couple who chose to consummate their Boat Club connection on the New Court grass spring instantly to mind.

Love and passion are constant themes running through the life of any academic institution. This year has been no exception. Sean and Lawrence declared their affection for Mr Nolan by gatecrashing his Valentine's Day lecture as a fetching sheep and shepherd pairing. Simultaneously Dave Bagg was cementing his position in Johnian Folklore by cynically distributing floral bouquets to the wrong girls. In the year of Cambridge University Students' Union's 'shocking' safe sex campaign *Crippitic* (an informal College newsheet) fought back with a fantasy snog league. Participants were invited to select a football team of undergraduates whose transfer values were based on prolific strike rates (forwards) or insurmountable chastity (defenders). Unfortunately the scheme failed to attract sufficient backers, allegedly because neither Dave Bagg nor the Queen Mother was involved. Under pressure from the precocious JCR Bogsheet (the official JCR newsletter), *Crippitic* proved unable to survive this setback and folded accordingly.

Our perennially incapacitated College scandal sheet has, for once, not been alone in its handicap this year. Even at 97 the Queen Mother proved she can walk better than the President of the College who fell off Mount Sinai while attempting to procure commandments 11 to 20 and had to be rescued by a camel. Fortunately he is now on the mend and we wish him well. Furthermore she's still a fair bit more mobile than the numerous vehicles impaled on Bridge Street's new traffic control



The President Returns from his Travels (picture by permission of Martin Honeysett)

system: erectile bollards which rise spontaneously out of the road to discourage unsuspecting cars from using the route. The Colonel is presently enquiring as to the feasibility of operating a similar device on the Cam

What else? Not much. It's been a boring year. Very Johnian. Thank God. More conventional and therefore less *memorable* achievements are recorded elsewhere in these pages. In the opinion of the 'un-editors' however, it is hoped that the desire to maintain the College's precariously high position in the academic results table will not continue to impede the spread of scandal and debauchery next year.

PAL
CBH
HMG-W
DAB
CMT

FROM THE MASTER

The Eagle, whose style and content has changed over the years, can claim to be the earliest College magazine to be published, at least in Cambridge. For nearly 140 years it has provided both a chronicle and a commentary on College life. Its first editorial, in 1858, was at once both bullish and defensive. On the one hand, it sought to excuse what the editors feared (or hoped) might be regarded as a subversive enterprise, because it provided another possible diversion from mathematics and the classics, and on the other it asserted the value of the magazine as a means of encouraging the writing of reflective essays and poetry.

Although uncertain whether their creation would last more than a term or so, the first editors ventured to hope that it would eventually become as significant a part of College life as the Boat Club and the Cricket Club. They expressed the hope that *The Eagle* would be 'something to fasten College spirit upon when here; something by which we can carry it down with us when we go away'. College spirit often seems so robust as to need no fastenings and the affection for the College shown by those who return for reunion dinners and the like is an immense encouragement to the Fellows and staff.

Whilst the writers in the first *Eagle* anticipated futures as clergymen, lawyers, teachers, or perhaps the Indian service, the paths taken by Johnians are now more diverse. For some years *The Eagle* has been sent to all those Johnians for whom we have addresses in order to help us all keep in touch. This year, as you will be aware, we have supplemented it by a newsletter, *Johnian News*, which we plan to produce twice a year. And *The Eagle* itself has passed another milestone with its appearance on the World Wide Web in the College's pages at <http://www.joh.cam.ac.uk/>.

Amongst *The Eagle's* first editors was the College's great novelist and iconoclast, Samuel Butler. His earliest published work, *On English Composition and Other Matters*, was in its first issue. For all his earlier and later scepticism, Butler entered fully into the life of the College. It was the first place he had been really happy. Slight of build, he coxed and

coached and espoused traditional boat club rivalries: 'With good luck we shall remain easily head of the river, to the great chagrin of the First Trinity boat club . . . Just when matters were looking rather lugubrious for us, some freshmen got ripe under my assiduous coaching, and we now do the course in less time than any other boat.'

One recurrent theme in the early years of *The Eagle* was the finances of the Boat Club and the Field Clubs. Pressures even produced tensions between members of LMBC and those who played field sports. In 1883, a correspondent wrote 'everyone who paid the new average fee and did not row would be paying a heavy tax for the benefit of the Boat Club, while rowing men would not only not pay anything like the cost of their own rowing but would also, for the reduced fee, be entitled to take part in any other game'.

Reductions in the real value of the College fee in recent years have again placed increasing strains on the sports clubs' accounts. For the moment, through careful management, they remain solvent but only just. The Boat Club would already be in grave difficulties were it not for the support of the Old Johnian Henley Fund.

To avoid a future crisis and to enable the maintenance of high standards of facilities and achievement, the College has decided to appeal to all those who participated in College sport to contribute to endowment funds for LMBC and the Field Clubs. Separate funds are being established for LMBC (under the auspices of the Old Johnian Henley Fund) and the Field Clubs to avoid a repetition of the tensions of the 1880's. We hope that all Johnian sportswomen and sportsmen (that's the great majority of you) will support this Appeal. The events we are organising in this connection will provide opportunities for reminiscence about past triumphs and another excuse, if one were needed, for visiting College again.

Peter Goddard

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

Typical. One year after we decided to introduce The Eagle with a scurrilous review of the last 12 months, all College scandal appears to have dried up completely. St John's continues to ride inexplicably high in the academic League Tables and the College Bar has become a venue for sober contemplation and discussion over a game of Trivial Pursuit. Then the creation of the variation on a well-known game, Porter *Guess Who* (is your Porter wearing glasses? Does he have a shirt and tie??) has failed to spark confrontation and controversy. In this pervading climate of unreality it seems only natural that Lords Davies and Kay-Shuttleworth should wave 'Tax the Rich' placards at demonstrations against the Government's education proposals . . .

Some things of course never change. Dave Bagg continues his Odyssey: he's now installed over the road at Magdalene. We continue to be visited by Royals, although Prince Charles' presence was a resolutely low-key affair: not for him the helicopter-borne flamboyance of the Queen Mother's appearance last year. And there were rumours that William would be the next Royal visitor as the Press got hold of an unsubstantiated rumour that the little Prince would become a Johnian.

And it's still raining (except during exams when it's always blisteringly hot, of course). May Week was drenched apart from the Ball. The Committee presumably offered God a double-ticket if he kept the rains at bay for a night. The Bumps and an entire College cricket season were washed out. Even on the other side of the globe old Johnian Sam Davies, part of the all-woman crew led by Tracy Edwards, was driven out of the round the world yacht challenge by the weather. Still, the publicity that ensued even involved an appearance on the Big Breakfast so it was not all in vain and she also made it back in time for the LMBC Reunion.

Johnians have been forced indoors. The year-old JCR has now been thoroughly lived in and loved in. It remains to be seen what imaginative uses the state of the art new Fitness Centre will be subjected to. The Upstairs Room in The Maypole, ready in blue for the World Cup, is rumoured to be accepting Buttery Cards from next October . . .

Thirty years on from 1968, student apathy reigns supreme in Cambridge. CUSU's lecture boycott against the Dearing Report was spectacularly successful, but its picket of the Sidgwick Site could not be said to have overly intimidated the Home Secretary. Varsity gamely announced that 'Tens of Students' had exercised their inalienable right to protest. Only Giles Newell has felt duty bound to dramatise a political agenda, dressing in high heels, suspenders and a fetching blonde wig to highlight the problem of sexual harassment by local builders (or perhaps explain certain things to his friends) and became a minor media celebrity in the process.

Yet beneath the sleepy surface there is the detectable rumble of real change afoot. St John's has a female JCR President and a female overall Captain of LMBC. The BBC had the audacity to drop the Choir's fine television performance on BBC2 from its schedules merely to accommodate coverage of the Stormont Agreement, but then had to hastily reschedule the programme when the complaints came pouring in (and some of them were from outside the College . . .). The Chaplain turned tradition on its head by turning up after the bride at his own wedding and is now leaving us to become a vicar.

So perhaps next year there *will* be something new to write about.

CBH
DAB
TCF
CMT

FROM THE MASTER

Another Eagle takes flight

June in Cambridge is one of the most eventful times of the year: examinations, Tripos results, the Bumps, May Week, graduation, and the dinner for Johnians right at the end of the month, which marks, in a way, the end of the most active part of the academical year. It is time when some fly the nest and others return, at least for a visit. And naturally one begins to reflect on what has happened over the months which have just dashed by.

For many of us, the distinctive feature of the last year has been our concern over the constraints which it is proposed to place on Oxford and Cambridge Colleges which will, in effect, result in a severe reduction in the income derived from College Fees. I have written about this at some length in the Michaelmas Term issue of *Johnian News* and, although much has happened by way of discussion and representation during the last three terms, the future remains uncertain.

St John's is fortunate in the resources it possesses, which have been provided by a continuous succession of benefactors over the last five centuries, and which have been well-tended by our Bursars. In recent decades in particular, the College's facilities have been extended by the provision of hostels and other housing to accommodate all our graduate students, the Fisher Building, the new Library building and the programme, now well advanced, of refurbishing the older courts of the College. All of this leaves us well-placed for a period of great financial uncertainty such as that now facing us. But, after making prudent provision for the maintenance of our heritage, the College spends all the income derived from its endowment in the pursuit of its statutory objectives of education, religion, learning and research, and so any substantial reduction in income will have a marked effect on the College's activities. Moreover, St John's exists as part of a collegiate university and any new financial position which is reached must be one which will work for the University and the Colleges as a whole.

In the discussion in the Press of the College fee issue, considerable attention has been focused on the educational and other backgrounds of those selected for admission to the Colleges of Oxford and Cambridge. St John's throughout its history has recruited its members as widely as possible both geographically and in terms of background. College continues to be firmly committed to seeking to admit the ablest students, those who will profit most from the education the College has to offer, whatever their financial or social background. Given the problems which exist in some areas of secondary education, seeking out and encouraging the brightest students to apply, wherever they come from, is a challenge for *all* universities. The collegiate nature of Cambridge spurs greater efforts to be devoted to this end but also, it seems, places us in the firing line.

The debate often concentrates on the ratio of independent school pupils to state school pupils admitted to Cambridge and to Oxford. But, whilst this evidently has a significance, the choice between a boy or a girl from an independent school and one from a state school is not *necessarily* a choice between students who have had different educational advantages or who come from different social backgrounds. Perhaps a deeper question is whether there are very able pupils in schools in some areas, where the opportunities provided in secondary education are more limited than they need to be, and, in particular, whether there are not some number who might appropriately think of applying to this College.

To address this question, St John's is about to launch an initiative in a number of schools in the London Borough of Lambeth to encourage the educational aspirations of secondary school pupils there. Graduate students from St John's will provide encouragement and advice and arrangements will be made for additional teaching to be given to participants in the scheme, which is to be called the *Eagle Project*. The scheme has been developed in co-operation with the Department for Education and Employment and the Lambeth Education Department. Its success is not to be measured by the number of participants eventually admitted to St John's, or even to Cambridge (though of course we would be delighted to see some become Johnians), but rather by the extent to which it raises ambitions and attainment.

This College will continue to embrace and promote positive changes in the nature of further education, through such initiatives as the *Eagle Project*, but we also need to take action to ensure that St John's College and Cambridge University retain their position at the forefront internationally in the provision of higher education. Whatever the uncertainties surrounding College fees, the College is determined to continue to provide our junior members with outstanding opportunities and a unique education. This is one of the main reasons many Johnians value the life-long connection with the College and why so many come back to visit from time to time. In the past year we have seen many more non-resident Johnians returning to dine with the Fellows at High Table. I very much hope this trend will continue and I look forward to welcoming you back to your College again soon.

Peter Goddard

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

The College geese were as noisy as ever in Michaelmas; the Cambridge winter was gloomy as usual; and the daffodils on the backs had a bit of trouble with the Spring frosts. But by Easter, all fresh bloom and the aroma of Spring had arrived and the ducks (and revision-weary undergraduates) could be seen napping in the shade of the trees in the Scholars' Garden. Many noticed the particularly stunning patch of red tulips that bloomed there in April, as well as the seemingly endless variety of columbines in the New Court border. Indeed the Easter weather was often perfect this year, and many undergraduates had trouble resisting another lazy hour or two on the Backs after lunch, tossing a frisbee or just watching the clouds go by. The ambivalence of Easter Term - indoor revision versus outdoor pleasure - was epitomised by the anonymous corrections to one of the 'Easter Term' please-be-extra-quiet notices put up in the Library: 'Easter Term' was crossed out and replaced with 'Exam Term', which was then crossed out and replaced with 'Cricket Term'.

Both the JCR and SBR had computers installed this year, with email fast becoming the preferred mode of communication in College. The SBR passed several weeks with bare walls - the old paintings being deemed too stodgy for a bunch of young graduate students - before new paintings were hung, including a pretty landscape oil by the room's namesake, Samuel Butler, and a painting of the Combination Room - presumably as inspiration to would-be dons. The new JCR President has begun to put forward plans to replace the entrance to the JCR, just as the College Council are considering plans to extend the much-used and much-loved College Bar. In a less revolutionary development, the new SBR President, being of French origin, has added cognac to the BA Table drinks offerings.

Looking outward, as St John's often does, the JCR held a failed referendum on whether to condemn the NATO bombing of Kosovo. Meanwhile, Peter Manfield, a recently-graduated Johnian architect, was working in the midst of the crisis, helping to build emergency shelters.

Closer to home, the new first years settled in to life at John's and were quick to show their cultural talents. The LMP Freshers' Play was hailed as a great success. Thomas Robert Smith banded together with other

first-year English students to found InPrint, a new literary magazine. The first issue appeared in Heffers and other city bookstores in the Lent Term and, most importantly, a successful launch party was held at Po Na Na's. Since then Tom has established himself as a central figure in the Cambridge literary scene, performing with Footlights, being appointed co-editor of the May Anthologies, and, in his spare time, signing with Tom Stoppard's agent to write a screenplay over the Long Vac.

Another 'new boy', as the new Chaplain, Duncan Dormor, calls himself, could be found relaxing in the Bar on Friday nights, sporting his signature parti-coloured clerical shirts. Duncan, alas, is allergic to felines, so College remains catless; but his Maundy Thursday pancake party made up for it. Orange juice has been introduced to Sunday post-communion breakfast in Hall, leading to some theological debate on whether the luxury should be withdrawn during Lent. In Michaelmas, a visitor to College managed to toss a piece of toast, leftover from breakfast, from the Kitchen Bridge over the Bridge of Sighs - the first time the feat has been accomplished in decades - much to the chagrin of the regular participants in the weekly ritual. One of the wooden angels in Hall - the one that hangs just above the Sunday breakfast hotplate near the Victorian bay-window - came crashing down one Sunday afternoon. The Dean (of Chapel) assures us that the timing of the accident was arranged by special providence.

In the meantime life in old and new courts at St John's goes on from season to season. The New Court ivy has gone from red to brown to bare and back to green again; Freshers who began the year as strangers, meeting at Cripps staircase parties, ended the year as friends at gatherings atop Cripps roof; Finalists attended the Graduation Service in the Chapel, where they began their careers as Johnians at the Matriculation Service three or four years before; and Second Court - 400 years old this year - remains at the centre of College life, still just a step away from dinner in Hall, a pint in the Bar, Evensong in Chapel, desks stacked high with books in the new Library, and notes from friends in the pigeon-holes.

MESSAGE FROM THE MASTER

College business

As we say farewell to those who have graduated, and after the summer Johnian reunion dinner (which this year mixed the pre-war generations with those who matriculated in 1967 and 1968), Fellows look forward to the break afforded by the Long Vacation to be able to get away for a while and, even more, for some uninterrupted time for research. But July is still quite a busy month for many of us: the College Council continues to meet and various College committees strive to complete their business for the year before everyone goes into hiding.

At times it seems as though the College has a frightening number of standing committees, but these perform the vital task of sharing out the work of formulating policy and recommendations for the Council throughout the Fellowship and senior staff. In addition to the standing committees, there are a number of *ad hoc* committees whose terms of reference reflect topical matters of concern. The lifetime of such committees is variable, depending on the difficulty or duration of the tasks with which they are charged. The committee on replacing the Combination Room curtains, established by the Council on 1 March 1984 finally reported with a recommendation in January 1994. The committee established on 15 April 1999, to consider the possibility of producing a history of the College to mark our quincentenary in 2011, may well outstrip this record.

At present, the longer established *ad hoc* committees relate to more immediate concerns: one is charged with advising the Council on the consequences of the changes in fees and student funding which have followed the Dearing Report. Here some of the uncertainties, to which I referred in the *Eagle* last year, have been resolved. A settlement has been reached with the Government which will mean that the College will lose about 20% of its fee income in real terms over the coming ten years (in addition to any other cuts in real income which might be applied to the Higher Education sector as a whole). Further, as part of the settlement, the College will have to contribute substantially more to

bolster the finances of Colleges with fewer resources. These developments will be difficult to accommodate, and heavier burdens, through increased charges, are falling on our students, but the College remains steadfastly committed to ensuring that financial barriers will not prevent the College from selecting the ablest students who apply for admission.

One area where the College is considering future developments is just opposite the Great Gate. In 2001, the Divinity Faculty will be moving from the building designed by Basil Champneys, which it has occupied since 1879, to a new building designed by Edward Cullinan (who also designed our new Library building) on the Sidgwick site. A committee, advised by the architects van Heyningen and Haward, has been considering possible future uses for the Divinity School and the future development of the site bounded by St John's Street, All Saints' Passage and Bridge Street, which the College owns. The Council and the Governing Body are now discussing the issue, and reports in the press that College is about to construct a theme park across the road are premature!

Each year the College has to make a number of important appointments and the tasks of making recommendations for appointment are remitted to a committee selected for the purpose. In January, our Librarian (and former editor of the *Eagle*), Amanda Saville, who did so much to ensure the success of our new library, left to take up a post in Brighton, with the task of building another new library there. Dr Mark Nicholls, Deputy Keeper of Manuscripts in the University Library and a graduate of Corpus Christi College, has been appointed to succeed her from 1 August, and will be ensuring that the College both keeps up to date with the latest developments in information technology and takes full advantage of the heritage of previous centuries.

Some decisions, of course, are not delegated, and one that the Fellowship regards as being of central importance is the election of a new President. In recent decades, Presidents have served a four-year term and next year, after combining the offices of Dean and President since 1995, Andrew Macintosh takes some very well-earned leave. Jane

Heal, Director of Studies in Philosophy and a Fellow since 1986, has been chosen to succeed him. Not since the election of Martin Charlesworth in 1937 have the Fellows chosen as President someone who had not been an undergraduate at St John's. But then applying to St John's was not an option open to Jane, who graduated from New Hall in 1968.

Now Jane is the most senior of our 22 female Fellows and about 40% of those graduating from the College this June were women. Significant changes have occurred but, even with a female captain of LMBC and successive female Presidents of the JCR, returning Johnians of whatever generation have no difficulty in recognizing the College they knew, their College. Whether it is for a reunion dinner, an open weekend or to dine at high table, we hope that Johnians will take as many opportunities as they can to come back and find out what is going on.

Peter Goddard