

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

The sun is finally shining, the Bumps are a hazy memory and exams even more so, and soon graduation day will be upon us. Just when we think we are free to party all day and all night, we remember that the Review of the Year needs writing.

Our attempt to write our piece didn't begin well when it turned out that the email system had gone wrong and the meeting in the Bar (where else) was only attended by one of us, who tried very hard to pretend that she always sat in the Bar on her own at lunchtime. Things did improve, but only just. What we really needed was a Committee, or a sub-Committee or even an ad-hoc Committee, but we had to make do with an informal group.

The Michaelmas Term was spent preparing for the 'Millennium Bug' with all computer systems tried and tested and assurances received from suppliers of electrical goods. The working group meetings were enjoyed by all who participated and Johnians will be relieved to hear that the only systems that failed were the fridges - and in any case nobody noticed in the Buttery.

The Domestic Bursar, Richard Robinson, was in charge of the reconnaissance for the Millennium, as well as many other aspects of College life. We were very sad to see Richard go (only after a long round of retirement parties), but were pleased to gain a whole new military vocabulary with the new Domestic Bursar, Commodore John Harris. Commodore Harris comes to us from a life in submarines so it should come as no surprise that we are 'going round the buoy' and that the new urns outside the library were purchased as a result of the students 'dirtying the deck' with cigarette ends. 'Downstream' we expect the College to be 'shipshape'.

Supporters of College sport will be pleased to know that Room Cricket has returned to College after an absence of many years when the Master invited the Eagles and Flamingoes back to the Lodge for a game after the first joint dinner. We have heard that the Master participated but we do not know for which team he played. Other changes took place on the

Playing Fields where we welcomed a new Groundsman, complete with new baby, and the Chaplain introduced a mixed doubles tournament. Down at the Boathouse the LMBC are preparing to share their new improved Boathouse with members of one of the red-brick colleges. Social interaction between St John's and Robinson is expected to increase dramatically as a result, but there is some concern that if the 1st men continue to fall in the Bumps, Robinson may pose a serious threat.

St John's has never been a radical College and so it was that around 100 students signed up for a rent strike in the Michaelmas Term - *after* they'd paid their bills. Elsewhere around College students really did strike, but before Johnians had a chance to withhold their rent for the Lent Term, the JCR, SBR and College agreed on the terms of a Bursary scheme which had been in the pipeline for a while. As one student remarked 'everyone loves College so much that they wouldn't really want to rock the boat'.

If St John's is not known for its political activity, the College's graduate students are even less radical in their outlook. It came as quite a surprise to us to hear that the SBR Committee are considering de-affiliating from CUSU. We can take comfort, though, in the fact that the main issue facing them this year was whether to change the pictures which hang in the SBR.

Throughout college, both junior and senior members could be seen reading about such student issues and antics in *The Cambridge Student*, the new highbrow rival to *Varsity*. Co-founded by a Johnian, the newspaper managed to remind us that things sometimes *do* happen outside the cosy world within the college gates.

So as we enter May Week we can look back on the year and say that everything worked out OK in the end. All that remains is for the May Ball Committee to conjure up another evening of magic this year. They could learn a few lessons from Jim Scott who wowed the crowds on Magdalene Bridge and the ADC with his Houdini-style magic. He became the latest in a long line of Johnian media stars when the illustrious local radio station broadcast live from Magdalene Bridge as Jim was bundled into the Cam in a box. The Archivist and Finance

Manager wove magic of a different kind, also at the ADC, when they were cast as Scrooge and Scrooge's nephew respectively in *A Christmas Carol*. Some kind of reversal of their normal roles, but entertaining none the less.

Soon we shall be looking forward to a new intake of freshers, all eagerly embarking on their careers as Johnians. Who knows, perhaps one of them will be writing this piece next year . . .

G-IC
MARJ
LMBL-L
CMT

MESSAGE FROM THE MASTER

First Class Education

O wad some Pow'r the giftie gie us to see oursels as others see us! At the moment, in Cambridge Colleges, we only have to look in the morning newspapers to get one view of ourselves, albeit one that is more than difficult for those of us who work here to recognise. Other views we collect: from students on their supervisors (as well as from supervisors on their supervisees), from applicants for admission on the Tutors and other Fellows who have interviewed them, and so on. In some cases it is difficult to know what to make of the comments made: e.g. the applicant in engineering who wrote "I became very nervous when I saw a pencil on the desk" or the aspiring economist who thought "the interviewer was friendly and it was clear to me that he was willing to learn". On the other hand, I immediately identified with the mathematician who remarked "no one told me what to do so I just walked around the town"; it was just what happened to me thirty-eight years ago.

Even more perceptive observations came in a thank-you letter from young visitors from a school in Lambeth that is a participant in our EAGLE project there. Mr Nolan's talk on law and the way government works was clearly very informative and much enjoyed but even more striking was the Hall. It was "massive" and looked "really expensive" and, with "its long tables and gold cutlery", it reminded them of the "first class rooms on the Titanic". Even though the gold cutlery must have been in the imagination, these innocent and appreciative comments give cause for thought. It is no bad thing to be prompted in this way to consider whether we are not sitting comfortably in First Class, getting on with our reading, whilst in the gloom outside an iceberg approaches. We must keep on inspecting ourselves for any signs of malignant complacency but I think that here the bill of health remains clean. However, there is another lesson in this: even though our students are under less financial pressure and are better supported in most ways than those at other Universities, as those of us with children who have studied elsewhere know very well, we have the false image of being expensive.

When it comes to encouraging applications from as wide a field of potential undergraduates as possible, external perceptions are vitally important. Although costs here remain comparatively low, and rents for accommodation remain below both national and local comparisons, charges have been rising in real terms because of the financial pressures on the universities, and on Oxford and Cambridge colleges in particular. At the same time, local authority grants for maintenance have disappeared to be replaced in part by loans. So we must ensure that those who come from less wealthy backgrounds do not have to leave the College more in debt by way of loans than their better provided for contemporaries. (Such burdens of debt not only deter applicants but also effectively restrict the career choices of graduands because the practice of employers in some areas is to offer entrants less than a living wage, or indeed nothing at all, for extended periods of 'work experience'.)

To respond to this, the College has decided to put in place a Bursary Scheme to assist those UK students who come to the College from less wealthy backgrounds. Starting with those who matriculate in October 2001, we shall give a grant to each undergraduate equal to the part of the Government loan that is means tested. Other Colleges are implementing broadly similar schemes. In this way, we hope to ensure that there are no financial barriers to studying here, and to maintain our aim of admitting the ablest students independent of background or financial means. The Senior Tutor, Ray Jobling, has written more about this scheme elsewhere in this issue of *The Eagle*, and David Cox has added a student's perspective. The resources required to implement the scheme will be very substantial, around £150,000 per annum we estimate, but nothing could be more central to the College's purpose. Already a number of Johnians have made donations to assist with the provision of these Bursaries and we hope that others will consider this an objective worthy of support.

The portrayal of a college community, such as ours, as a narrow elite shows ignorance or prejudice: elite, in the sense of choice and highly selected, inevitably and unashamedly, but narrow in no sense at all. The diversity of those we admit is brought home to me each year when my

wife and I have the privilege of entertaining freshmen to lunch on Sundays throughout the Michaelmas Term. An increasing number come from overseas, and we should not be surprised if some students from this country seek to go the other way, although the proportion remains small at the undergraduate level. But more than half of our graduate students come from overseas. About fifty different nationalities are represented amongst our junior members and nearly twenty in the Fellowship. Inbreeding is not much in evidence.

That said, the College has been concerned for a considerable time that there are large parts of the country from which we recruit few if any students. This is not through any unwillingness on our part and the problem is not ours alone: it relates to the nature of the provision of secondary education in those areas and it is reflected in the recruitment into all parts of tertiary education, not just the leading universities. It is difficult to see how it can be addressed fully without devoting substantially greater resources to education at a national level. In origin, it may not be our problem, but it is not a problem that we have chosen to ignore. As the Senior Tutor writes, the EAGLE scheme, which we have been developing for over four years with the help of the Department for Education and Employment and in close collaboration with Lambeth Council, is not only bearing fruit, it is being used as a model for other schemes in Cambridge and elsewhere. The College is taking other initiatives to find innovative ways of promoting links with schools including a scheme, in collaboration with the Gatsby Charitable Foundation, to offer support to improve the teaching of mathematics, science and technology in schools, initially in the Eastern Region.

To make progress on these issues requires very considerable resources, both financial and in terms of personal commitment. We work hard at seeking to gather fields of applicants from wherever possible and then to choose from them those with the highest potential. These objectives remain at the top of the College's priorities not because of spotlights turned on them for the moment, for whatever reason, but because the waste of talent is a tragedy and can be ill-afforded nationally; because we believe that the excellent educational opportunities that the College offers should be available to those best able to profit from them,

independently of their background or financial means; and, admittedly, because we prefer to teach and live amongst the brightest and most interesting students that we can find. What would be motivating us to do anything else?

Peter Goddard

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

As usual, just at the last minute, we realise that *The Eagle* deadline is only 48 hours away and thankfully remember that, in a moment of weakness, one of our number agreed to write the Review of the Year. Breathing a huge sigh of relief, we tell him that it must be done by Monday. This is the result:

The year started with the annual arrival of new blood and it wasn't long before they made their mark. It's always nice to see people trying to fit in and a handful of Freshers got the year off to a storming start with their efforts to blend in with the culture. Unfortunately, not everyone found the antics to their liking and the bar lost ten of its newest patrons before the year had really got under way. Thankfully decanal judgements didn't dampen the spirits of the new Junior Members too much and they still managed to provide the usual first term entertainment for the rest of us. Promisingly the new arrivals seemed to be a dab hand at the odd game or two, and the possibility of a successful year on the sports ground set hearts aflutter in certain circles.

The College, well some parts of it, was set alight with a furious debate in the middle of term. Whole handfuls of people raged on the ethics of the Nestlé vending machine with fiery words being exchanged across the bar floor. Eventually the affair culminated with the high drama of a referendum: The chocolate won... by a single vote. Of course College politics goes beyond chocolate, at least sometimes, and the JCR was ablaze with scandal when it emerged that a motion of no confidence could be called for one of our dedicated Officers. Fortunately, it turned out the relevant constitutional point had not been violated and so order was restored. The term finished not with a bang but with a smoulder, when a small incendiary incident at the Christmas Ent left many people out shivering in the Cambridge winter as eighth week drew to a close.

After the excesses of the holiday and the 'real' millennium parties we returned in January to the start of a new century at St John's with trepidation. During the Michaelmas Term we had found out that the College was about to suffer a great and tragic loss - the Bar was closing.

Thankfully, this was to be only a temporary measure while refurbishment took place; less comforting, though, was the news that for the Lent Term our Beloved Bar was moving home to the JCR. The 'JC-Bar', as our hip and funky temporary waterhole was swiftly nicknamed, proved considerably less than busy on many occasions. It seems that the quasi-airport lounge décor and somewhat dated posters had less appeal than those unidentifiable stains on the old bar stools. However, as the term wore on and anticipation grew at what was to come it seemed the price to pay for a new bar was not too high.

The annual JCR Committee elections took place in February. Hard fought campaigns were waged over the wall-space in College, with seemingly endless batches of posters appearing each day. Though fierce debate raged over those issues at the heart of the student body, and those issues that riled the candidates, the battle concluded peacefully. No sooner than the excitement of election fever had died away than that of RAG week started up. The annual favourites of the slave auction and the custard vote lived up to their entertaining reputations and, as well as all the fun, the RAG appeal made over £3,500. The term concluded with the opening of the new bar, on the same day as the Cambridge victory on the Thames, with a Johnian in the boat.

Easter term started with its usual blend of blind panic at all the work to come and blasé partying in defiance of the perils of indolence. Opinions were varied on the renovated bar, but generally it has been met with approval. Some found it more comfortable and of greater aesthetic appeal, others were glad that it is more open without the intimidating pods of its predecessor. Of course no term should start without at least the smallest element of drama and the JCR President was kind enough to provide the necessary spectacle by (accidentally) emailing a virus to the entire undergraduate population of the College. After a few tense and nervous days we managed to fight off the attack and regain the electronic mail that is so necessary in current times. As the weeks slipped past the retreat into the Library and back to rooms grew more and more widespread, with the deathly quiet of the College grounds only occasionally punctured by aquatic birds and tourists; with a

popular outlet for tension being the devising of innovative ways to deal with these noisemakers.

Sunshine gets brighter, days get longer and exams finish. May Week is now upon us and is proving to be a fitting end to the year, as it invariably is. With the Gents having sung their songs, Suicide Sunday mere hours away and the weather managing to be obtuse yet compliant when needed it simply remains to pass final comment: I hope it's sunny for the Ball.

AWMB
S JL-R
NAV
CMT

MESSAGE FROM THE MASTER

By the time the editor of *The Eagle* convinces me that the deadline for copy is imminent, the end of the Easter Term is upon us and the familiar pattern of good byes and reunions is about to set in. Quietly, last year, a change in the pattern occurred: General Admission for St John's was shifted from early Friday morning to a more civilised time on Thursday morning, when it was finally admitted that the gradual increase in undergraduate numbers in the University as a whole had finally made it impossible for all graduands to pass through the Senate House in two days.

This change has given us all a little more time on the day itself for the rites of the graduation photograph outside New Court, graduation service in the Chapel (introduced a few years ago), marshalling by the Praelector in First Court, trip down to the Senate House, lunch with proud (and sometimes relieved) parents as guests, and finally squeezing the last bits of computer and stereo equipment into the family car before departure. More importantly, it has given the Lady Superintendent and her staff more time to get the College ready for the summer reunion dinner that traditionally takes place on the Saturday following General Admission. The guests at the summer dinner always include those who matriculated sixty or more years ago, but this year the turn of those immediately junior to them has come round and so all those who matriculated at least fifty years ago have been invited. We look like having a record attendance on 30 June.

This year has already seen some remarkable reunions. On 30 September some 300 members of the Lady Margaret Boat Club gathered to celebrate its 175th anniversary, with 13 crews racing in a regatta and a dinner being held in Hall in the evening. Those present were also able to witness the topping out of the refurbished boathouse, which is now fully functional and greatly appreciated. Not to be outdone, the Field Clubs held a well attended reunion dinner on 21 April. More is yet to come because from 6 to 8 July the College is organising its fourth Open Weekend, to which Johnians from about a dozen selected years are

invited along with their families and friends. There will be the familiar pattern of exhibitions, receptions, dinners, Chapel services, lectures, and opportunities just to look around. These Open Weekends happen every two years and we plan to invite all Johnians at least once in eight years, just as with the traditional reunion dinners, which of course continue.

At each of these Open Weekends some new features are tried out or introduced. This time we are taking advantage of the presence of a large number of those who matriculated in 1981 and 1982 to hold a reception on 7 July to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the admission of women to the College. The mixed nature of our society seems so natural that initially the President and I were in two minds about making a point about something that is now taken for granted, but I am certainly looking forward to seeing as many veterans, both women and men, of those days who are able to be there.

It may have taken the College 470 years to get around to admitting women, but the advantages of coeducation had not entirely escaped the pages of this magazine for so long. In *The Eagle* in 1889 (volume XV, pages 85-93), H Cunynghame wrote of the People's Palace in the East End of London, an institution founded to provide opportunities for practical education to the poorer sections of the community, rather than St John's:

Perhaps one of the most interesting features of the institution is the new experiment of admitting girls as well as boys. There can be no doubt whatever of the benefit of this. The physique of young women is wonderfully improved by gymnastics, to an extent even greater than that of young men. But, it is probably advisable to keep the sexes separate. The same reasons which point to the establishment of a ladies' room at hotels and stations seem to apply here, and it is better that the girls and young men should be separated from one another in all amusements of a social character except concerts or lectures, and an occasional reunion for a dance at Christmas.

Whilst, now that women have been admitted to the College, there is no evidence of the appreciation of the desirability of keeping the sexes

separate, the virtues of exercise seem to be as beneficial to female members of the College as to the men. And not just the junior members: the menu for this Term's Bump supper for the first time sported a women's Fellows eight (with the President as cox) as well as a men's Fellows eight, the only difference being that the women Fellows did not actually row in the Bumps because the timing of the races did not fit in with their other commitments. (Here I had better change the subject . . .)

The admission of women has resulted in a significant improvement to the pool of potential candidates for admission. The educational supplements of the newspapers tend these days to divide universities into selectors (those who have no difficulty in filling their places) and recruiters (who are short of applicants). For us, this is a false dichotomy; like other Cambridge Colleges, we are both. As I have made clear in these notes in previous years, we are continually extending the ways in which we try to seek out the ablest candidates for admission, those with the highest potential for benefiting from the education that the College offers.

Building on our successful EAGLE project in Lambeth, we have appointed an Access and Further Education officer, Ruth Tucker, who will take up her appointment in September. Her tasks will be to encourage applications to St John's, to other Cambridge Colleges and to other leading Higher Education institutions from students in Further Education Colleges, and also to help us develop the EAGLE project and further new initiatives aimed at widening the pool from which the College selects.

Since its foundation, St John's as much as any College has sought throughout its contacts with schools to encourage the recruitment of able students from a broad range of backgrounds. The portrait in my study of James Wood (Master 1815-1839), the son of weavers from Bury in Lancashire, whose benefactors provided much of the funds for the construction of the Chapel, is a reminder of the College's lengthy record of providing opportunities to such students. Today, we seek new ways of continuing this tradition. We are very grateful to those members of

the College who have supported these efforts through donations or in other practical ways; and we look forward to seeing as many of you who are able to visit St John's, whether for a formal reunion or a casual visit, during the year ahead.

Peter Goddard

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

'The University of Shamebridge'. A hotbed of drunken debauchery. The scene of midnight naked cavorting. Home to acts of public urination. The gastronomic capital of dog food ingestion. It appeared at the start of the year that the gutter press would never tire of observing that students at Cambridge get drunk and do silly things – though the image of female students at St Catharine's discovering new uses for whipped cream probably increased this year's applications to that College. After 'Naming and Shaming' spread from being decanal policy to page 35 of the Sunday Mirror it could have appeared to some that the College was in for a bad year, but as we look back at the last twelve months it seems the Johnian spirit still managed to survive.

The year started with an important staff change, at least from an undergraduate point of view. Our beloved Dr Linehan was going to be on sabbatical for the Michaelmas and Lent Terms and the Rev Dr Macintosh was going to be our temporary Dean of discipline. This sort of rearrangement, however temporary, has enormous consequences for those sections of College for whom a visit to the Dean is more than just an occasional activity. However, it swiftly became clear that the new Dean was as reasonable as the old, and he carried the onerous duties of his office with good humour and a sense of fair play.

The year's beginning hailed two other changes for Johnian junior members. Firstly, the JCR had been refurbished. No longer condemned for its airport lounge décor, JCR attendance leapt and now undergraduates can be found using the very comfortable couches at all hours of the day. The second major change to greet us was the brand new bar food menu. As Blanka and her staff set records for innovative use of a toaster, buttery bills soared and the ham and cheese toastie/pitta and hummus combo became the staple diet of many a bargoer. The rest of the Michaelmas Term proved to be an eventful affair. As well as the afore-mentioned press attention, the College was also ravaged by floods late in October. The waters of the Cam intruded all round the College grounds; clothes were found floating around the floor of the laundry; wine bottles lost their labels; bikes managed to drown

when they should have been in their shed. However, on the positive side the flooding of the Paddock provided a beautiful (and much used) photograph opportunity. The beauty of the College was also exploited by the BBC when they filmed the riveting Inspector Lynley Mysteries with the help of the odd Johnian wheeling bikes and walking purposefully. The term ended on a positive note when *Varsity* ran a series on the most eligible bachelors and bachelorettes in the University. No fewer than four Johnian men and one Johnian woman made the nominations and the eventual alpha male was one of our very own.

After the excesses of Christmas and the New Year we returned to the annual spectacle that is the JCR election. This year we were treated to a particularly exciting one horse race for the presidency. Now, conventional theory is that it's impossible to lose a contest with no opposition . . . in St John's, though, convention isn't always so rigidly adhered to. RON (Re-Open Nominations) took the victory forcing a re-run of the whole affair two weeks later. It seems that the young gentleman who managed to lose the election has not had his political career dampened too much – with a summer working in Washington lying ahead.

After the College made national headlines in the Michaelmas Term it appeared that many were inspired and the *Varsity* editorial team had a distinct Johnian flavour. Be it food, fashion or political insight, it seems that from the current crop of undergraduates we can put forward an expert. The Lent Term also allowed students to demonstrate their prowess on the sports fields. With St John's providing the Captain, Vice-Captain and Secretary of the University Football Club, the Varsity match had plenty of support from junior members, even though the eventual draw proved somewhat of an anti-climax. Other sporting triumphs for Johnians on the wider scene included a presence on the English Universities cricket tour and representation in the Croquet Varsity match, both notable achievements.

The Easter Term always starts as a sluggish affair; with exams looming it's hard to focus on much else. However, the year generally has spectacular closing weeks, and this year was no exception. The May Week garden parties were varied and entertaining – the spectacular

rendition of a Billie Jean / Don't Stop Moving remix at the Gents' Garden Party was a particular highlight. The big event of May Week was, as always, the Ball. The Committee this year managed to overcome adversity and problems at every turn to provide the most amazing Ball of recent years. The extravaganza was particularly sweet after a series of unfortunate mishaps at the College next door.

And so the year is over. All that remains is graduation and many, many farewells. Though every parting is tinged with sadness, all who leave can look back on another fine Johnian year to complete their collection of experiences at the College.

AWMB
NAV
CMT

MESSAGE FROM THE MASTER

At Home and Abroad

Perhaps the most remarkable evening I have spent this year was on 2 April at the Racquet & Tennis Club on Park Avenue in New York, when some 120 Johnians and their guests gathered for the Inaugural dinner of the Johnian Society of the USA. The Society has been established to strengthen bonds of friendship and support between the College and its members resident in the United States of America. A concert by the College Choir, finishing their Easter tour of the East Coast, and the Dean, Andrew Macintosh, reading the familiar pre-prandial Grace in the Club's candlelit dining room, produced a powerful evocation of the College.

True to local style, my visit to New York was conducted at quite a pace, with about fifteen meetings with members of the College within five days, providing opportunities for individual discussions with old friends and new Johnian acquaintances. But the Chairman of the Society, Marc Feigen, made sure that there were some opportunities for relaxation, including an afternoon at the Museum of Modern Art. Here too was a (very) familiar Johnian face, but this time on the wall. In a retrospective exhibition of the work of Gerhard Richter, an artist who in his formal and thematic breadth has been compared to Picasso, as an element in his work *48 Portraits*, was an oil painting of Paul Dirac. Presumably based on a photograph of Dirac, probably in his forties, it is painted in the manner of an encyclopedia illustration. One of the founders of quantum theory and predictor of the existence of anti-matter, Dirac takes his place in an eclectic array of four dozen scientists, scholars, composers and writers, including Einstein, HG Wells and Oscar Wilde.

This unexpected sighting occurred as the College was assembling the material it has connected with Dirac for an exhibition to commemorate the centenary of his birth on 8 August this year. The College's collection includes the portrait by Michael Noakes in the Hall and his Nobel Prize

medal, which is displayed below a bust, made in 1939 of him by Harald Isenstein, on the mezzanine floor of the Library. In the Lodge, we have an amateur portrait by a mathematics student, D Amarasekara, from 1947, and, in the cloakroom, now securely fixed, his PhD gown, where it has hung for over twenty years.

After he retired from the Lucasian Professorship in 1969, Dirac moved to Tallahassee, Florida (where having Dirac in the Physics Department was said to be comparable to having Shakespeare in the English Department) and returned to Cambridge occasionally for visits in the summer. Dining next to him in the summer of 1981, the Master, Harry Hinsley, asked him what he did with his gown when he returned to the USA. When he replied that he took it back with him, because he had nowhere to keep it here, Harry offered to look after it for him if he left it with the Porters with instructions to take it to the Master's Lodge. Still attached to the gown is the note in Dirac's characteristic handwriting saying 'Professor Dirac's Gown. Please take it to the Master and ask him to keep it until the next time I come to Cambridge.' Unfortunately, he was never well enough to return to College. Dirac's use of language was precise and literal (once after one of Dirac's lectures, a questioner was met with an indeterminate silence when he said that he did not understand one of the equations Dirac had written on the board. Dirac had interpreted it as a confessional statement), so it is perhaps appropriate that his request has been interpreted literally, and the gown still awaits his return.

Another reason why it seems appropriate for his gown to continue to hang here is Dirac's strong appreciation of the College as a home for him. He was unable to return to College for the celebration of his 80th birthday but sent a message: 'When the Fellows drink my health please give them my regrets that I am not with them and my thanks for their good wishes. Also tell them that for 59 years the College has been the central point of my life and a home to me.'

Dirac's devastating originality was the product of his thinking completely logically in ways unforeseen by others. This quality was something he shared with another great Johnian who is being

commemorated in a centenary this year. Samuel Butler died on 18 June 1902, just seven weeks before Dirac was born. An exhibition and symposium in College celebrated many aspects of the work of this Victorian iconoclast and polymath. Apart from his utopian satire, *Erewhon*, and his posthumously published semi-autobiographical onslaught on Victorian family values, *The Way of All Flesh*, he was a prolific photographer and painter, who also wrote controversially on evolution, conducting a somewhat bitter argument with Darwin, and on Homer, contending that the *Odyssey* was written by a woman.

Both Butler and Dirac had overbearing fathers who marred their early happiness. As Butler explains through the words of Ernest Pontifex, the hero of *The Way of All Flesh*, 'Cambridge was the first place where he had ever been consciously and continuously happy'. Writing in 1859 under the pseudonym of Cellarius in the fifth number of *The Eagle*, describing his return to his rooms in New Court after three weeks on the Continent, he makes his affection for the College clear: 'From my window in the cool of the summer twilight, I look on the umbrageous chestnuts that droop into the river, Trinity library rears its stately proportions on the left – opposite is the bridge – over that on the right, the thick dark foliage is blackening almost into sombreness as the night draws on. Immediately beneath are arched cloisters resounding with the solitary footfall of a meditative student, and suggesting grateful retirement. I say to myself then as I sit in my open window – that for a continuance, I would rather have this than any scene I have visited.'

Many of the Johnians I met in New York and elsewhere have told me of the particular place the College holds in their affections and the significant part it played in their own development. I hope that the contacts made in these sorts of ways will encourage members of College to come back to visit, not only for reasons of nostalgia but also to find out at first hand how we are getting on.

Peter Goddard

MESSAGE FROM THE MASTER

Coming and Going

I came to St John's in January 1975, having been elected as a Teaching Fellow in Mathematics the previous summer. At the time I was elected I was a Lecturer in Mathematics in the University of Durham and I had recently accepted appointment as a University Assistant Lecturer in Mathematics back in Cambridge, where I had been an undergraduate and graduate student at Trinity College. Before the invitation to return to Cambridge came, I had been planning to spend a year or two on leave from Durham at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, but Cambridge University said I had to turn up by January if I wanted the post. And so my visit to Princeton was cut short to just one term.

When I arrived in Cambridge with my wife, Helen, and year-old daughter, Linda, the College very kindly provided a house for us to rent in Portugal Place whilst we looked for a house to buy. We received a characteristically friendly welcome to the Johnian community and the College has played a central part in our lives ever since. I did not dream when I arrived in 1975 that 19 years later I might be elected Master.

At the time of my election, I indicated to the Fellows that it was my intention to serve for about ten years, because that seemed to me a suitable period for me to serve as Master. The College Statutes prescribe that the Master shall retire at the end of the academical year in which he or she reaches the age of 70, and this would have allowed a tenure of 21 years in my case, which certainly seemed too long to me. I have often been asked whether the duties of the Mastership leave time to pursue one's research. I am sure that what is expected of the Master varies from college to college and more may be customarily expected in a college where in practice (though not, of course, by requirement) up until now the Master has been chosen from within the Fellowship since the seventeenth century. The duties are extremely varied and interesting, the office residential and the day long. I have found that it is not so much the immediate duties of the office that restrict the time available for research but rather the wide range of other requests

and opportunities for service in the University and beyond that come one's way.

In my experience, this is true through much of academic life and in Cambridge the mechanism provided for dealing with the problem is to take sabbatical leave. When you do this, there is a convenient expectation that you cease all the administrative tasks, committee memberships, etc, that you have built up and the clocks are all put back to zero so to speak. However, although I think this is permitted technically, none of my predecessors as Master took leave and it did not seem to me that it would be easy to do so. I realise with a slight horror (at the passing years) that the last time I was really able to get away and concentrate on my research in Mathematical Physics was as long ago as 1988, when I returned to the Institute in Princeton to take part in a programme of activity in the area of String Theory, on which my own research has centred over the years.

One of the greatest pleasures that comes with the Mastership is that of being the focus for Johnnians who wish to express their gratitude and affection for the College. A few weeks ago it was a pleasure to be hailed and halted as I rushed along Trumpington Street, slightly late for a meeting, by a Johnnian who wanted to convey his appreciation of the efforts that the College makes to keep in touch with Johnnians through *The Eagle* and the *Johnnian News*, reunion dinners and open weekends. At the beginning of July we held our fourth Open Weekend and we were pleased to welcome over 200 Johnnians and nearly 300 members of their families and other guests. We have timed these weekends to coincide with the biennial reunions of the Choir Association, so that the Chapel services have a particular character and the Mass sung on the Sunday morning is always a very special and moving event with so many former members of the Choir in the congregation. This year, the Evensong at the end of the weekend on Sunday 6 July was equally special because it was the last service to be sung with the Choir under the direction of Christopher Robinson, who retires after twelve triumphant years. Amongst the Johnnians who returned for that service was David Hill (Organ Student 1976 to 1980 and until recently Organist and Master of Music at Winchester Cathedral), who takes charge of

the Choir from October. An opportunity to express our appreciation of all that Christopher has achieved came earlier this year at a party where he was presented with a framed disc to mark sales world-wide so far of over 200,000 CDs of the first six recordings in the series of English choral music.

On Saturday 5 July we held a special lunch party in the Lodge for the Johnnians resident in the USA who had been able to organise their travels to take part in the Open Weekend. The last few years has seen the formation by Johnnians in the United States of the Johnnian Society of the USA. In consequence, on visits each spring or summer I have been able to meet many of the Johnnians who either came to the College after reading a first degree in the USA or who have settled there at least temporarily. Helen and I have enjoyed the warmest of welcomes and have been very impressed by the strength of affection for the College demonstrated on our visits to the East and West coasts.

It has been particularly satisfying to see alumni play an ever greater part in the life of the College over the last nine years, following from the contacts and involvement stimulated by my predecessor, Robert Hinde, when we were seeking funds to enable us to build the new library, which continues to be such an asset for the College. One very significant instance of the way this involvement has benefited the College is the EAGLE project, whose object is to raise aspiration and attainment in the state schools in Lambeth. Not only have the resources for this been provided by a Johnnian but also the very idea that initiated it was his. The project has been influential beyond Lambeth and St John's and it has encouraged other Cambridge Colleges to establish links with schools in particular localities so that now much of the country is covered. Centrally involved throughout the development of the EAGLE project was Ray Jobling, who, like Christopher, leaves office this September after 12 years' distinguished service as Senior Tutor. Ray will continue as a Teaching Fellow in Sociology and I am certain that he will not escape being pressed into further service in the University and the College, so that we can continue to benefit from his talents and experience. Matthias Dörrzapf, one of our Teaching Fellows in Mathematics, has been appointed to succeed him.

Further change will occur in the College as Jane Heal takes a well-earned spell of leave, providing more time for research in Philosophy, after her four-year term of office as President, during which all of us have benefited from her wisdom, impartiality of mind and concern for the welfare of others. The Fellows have elected John Leake, familiar to generations of Johnnians as Tutor for medical students as well as College Lecturer in Materials Science to succeed her as President. But yet more change is on the way when on 5 January next, in a sort of curious symmetry, I shall leave office as Master to return to the Institute in Princeton, from whence I came 29 years earlier, as its Director.

The Institute for Advanced Study was founded in 1930 with the objective of advancing knowledge across a broad range of academic disciplines in the humanities and theoretical sciences. It has 24 permanent faculty members and about 190 visiting members each year drawn from universities all over the world. The Institute has much in common with the College, in terms of its commitment to recruit as its members scholars and scientists of the highest quality whatever their backgrounds and to enable them to pursue long-term objectives rather than short-term performance indicators. In other ways, independent of Princeton University and with no undergraduates or graduate students, it is very different. Each of the members of the Institute is free to pursue his or her own goals and, as Director, I too hope to be able to find time for my own research.

But Helen and I are not really leaving; we aim to have the best of both worlds, coming and going across the Atlantic. The friendships we have formed with Johnnians in the USA made the prospect of the move to Princeton more inviting. I am equally looking forward to rejoining the Fellowship on 5 January and we plan to spend some of each year back in Cambridge, where we have bought a house close to the College, just across the road from the house in Portugal Place to which we first came in 1995.

Peter Goddard

REMARKS BY THE MASTER

*Remarks by Professor Richard Perham following his installation as Master,
5 January 2004*

President, fellow Johnians,

On the 6th of November last year, the Fellows of this College paid me the highest compliment of my academic life by electing me to the Mastership. The declaration I have just made requires me to do all in my power to secure the good government of the College as a place of education, religion, learning and research, and to observe *all* the statutes. It has not escaped my notice that the declaration made by a Fellow on being admitted to his or her Fellowship requires him or her also to observe the statutes – but the important qualification ‘all’ is omitted. No doubt historians of the College will be able to enlighten me as to the reasons for this difference in the declarations – meanwhile I shall continue to work on the assumption that Fellows are not at liberty to pick and choose among the statutes they observe!

What are we to make of this College of ours as we embark on a new calendar year in what is still almost a new century? St John’s is not a grand College, but it is a great one, unique I believe in Cambridge and Oxford. The difference, I put it to you, is an important one that has been with us for almost 500 years. It is not something of which we need be, or should be, embarrassed. We trace our foundation back to the largesse of the Lady Margaret Beaufort, mother of King Henry VII, but we owe much to Bishop (now Saint) John Fisher, her spiritual adviser and companion. Fisher, a follower and friend of Erasmus, set out to ensure that the new College (*his* new College) was a beacon of the new learning, open to and a proponent of new ideas in scholarship. Whenever the University of Cambridge has been properly active since – and we have to accept that much of the 18th century is a period over which we might do well to draw a discreet veil – St John’s has generally been in the forefront of developments.

In other respects Fisher might have a harder time recognising his College. We now embrace those of many faiths, or of none. We cannot think of when we did not admit women. We welcome many from overseas (though of this, I think Fisher might have more understanding – Erasmus, after all, was hardly an Englishman!). In all these ways, the College is now a much richer place intellectually and socially. I look at our list of Fellows and I am proud of the manifold distinction I find there. It is a list that will stand comparison with that of any other College. And it is not just the Fellows to whom I address these remarks: the junior members of the College are no less important, for they are the future, to be admitted without regard to background or ability to pay. When Sir Humphrey Davy, the Head of the Royal Institution in London and the discoverer of electrolysis, of sodium, potassium and a host of other things chemical was asked what was the most important of all his discoveries, he charitably but emphatically replied, 'Michael Faraday'. Faraday, the son of a blacksmith, went on to eclipse his famous mentor and some of our junior members will doubtless eclipse theirs. I very much hope so! And let us not forget the College staff, without whom an institution such as St John's could not exist, let alone flourish.

In thinking about today, and looking back over the many different occasions I have sat in this Chapel and what those occasions have meant to me, the one that came most vividly to my mind was that of 8 June 1985, when we commemorated the 450th anniversary of the execution of Bishop Fisher in 1535. He was beheaded for refusing to recognise the Act of Succession that followed the divorce of King Henry VIII from Catherine of Aragon and the King's marriage to Anne Boleyn. Even if few of us present here today subscribe to the faith that was to take Fisher to the scaffold, we can all nonetheless draw inspiration from the letter that the early Fellows of this College wrote to him in the Tower. Among the many sentiments expressed in that letter was the following (I quote from Guy Lee's moving translation read in this Chapel in June 1985):

'To you we owe our livelihood, our learning and every good thing that we have or know. But to return you thanks or to requite your generosity we have no other means than prayer, in which we make continual

intercession to God on your behalf. For though we should pour out all our corporate wealth, all we have as a College, in your support, not even then could we match your generosity towards us.'

Those are noble sentiments and brave too. If we face difficulties in higher education today – and we do! – it is worth remembering that in standing up for what we believe in, our very lives are not likely to be at risk, as the life of Fisher – and, potentially, the lives of the early Fellows of this College, so open in their support for him – were. Our forebears set us a fine example. In another more recent age, the American critic Dorothy Parker famously remarked that 'nothing recedes like success'. Her one-liner doesn't have quite the ring of Guy Lee's lapidary prose, but it is profound in its own way. Complacency is our first enemy. It is my hope that we will strive together to ensure that St John's stands in its customary place at the forefront of research and teaching, and that while making hard decisions we conduct ourselves with the tolerance and generosity of spirit for which the College has become a byword in Cambridge and beyond.

St John's is not a grand College, rather it is a great one. What it stands for is well worth fighting for.

Richard Perham

MESSAGE FROM THE MASTER

On 1 May this year I enjoyed the privilege of being invited to the dinner at Christ's College to herald its Quincentenary celebrations and, as part of the proceedings, to propose the toast to John Fisher. In such august company I did well to remember that the Lady Margaret founded Christ's six years before her wish to found St John's was posthumously enacted. At the same time, it was easy to recall how much both our Colleges owed to the Lady Margaret and Bishop Fisher and to extend to the Master and Fellows of Christ's the congratulations and very best wishes of Johnians everywhere on this splendid commemoration of their first half-millennium.

Our own annual commemoration of benefactors had taken place earlier on the same day, in the traditional service in the College Chapel where the sermon was preached by a Fellow, Professor Johnstone (you can read his remarks elsewhere in this issue of *The Eagle*). On this occasion we solemnly recite the long list of the names of our principal benefactors and one among them (over and above the several picked out by Professor Johnstone in his interesting reflections) struck a particular resonance with me this year. That one is Sir Isaac Pennington, who was admitted a Fellow in 1768 and a medical Fellow in 1775. He became Regius Professor of Physic in 1793 and, while he may not have delivered the long overdue reforms required in the teaching of medicine in Cambridge, he was widely held in high esteem. (He is also celebrated for a famous falling out with the then Professor of Anatomy, Sir Busick Harwood, which led to a challenge to a duel – but that's another story!) On his death in 1817, Pennington left a great estate to the College. There was a bequest to the Master, if he were at the time Rector of Freshwater, the princely sum of £200 *per annum* (perhaps £80,000 or more at today's prices!). My fevered enquiries indicate that, sadly, this is no longer an option – I would have failed the practical anyway! It turns out that when the then Master, James Wood, died in 1839, the fund was applied to other College purposes, not least towards the building of New Court and later the new Chapel. In 1818, Master Wood conveyed directly to the College the Cambridge properties also bequeathed to him by Pennington; they constitute primarily what we know today as 67-70 Bridge Street.

Those houses now form part of the Triangle Site (bounded by St John's Street, All Saints Passage and Bridge Street) across from the Main Gate of the College and, beginning in September, St John's is set to embark on a great rebuilding scheme there. The programme, scheduled to last until 2008, will bring into use more than 40 new rooms for occupation by junior members and Fellows, together with an income-generating set of commercial properties ringing the site on the ground floor. The old Divinity School building will become an attractive restaurant and club venue. All in all, we think that what we are engaged in there will add handsomely to the College building stock and to the Cambridge cityscape, and be of great future benefit to both.

On the personnel side in College, there have been some important changes this year. Dr Reid, our Senior Bursar since 1991, took up a new post in the University as Clerk to the Bursars' Committee from 1 April 2005, where he will be able to bring his considerable skills to bear on numerous thorny questions that affect University and inter-Collegiate affairs. We thank him for his devoted efforts on behalf of the College over the past 14 years. His successor, Mr Christopher Ewbank, is no stranger to the College, having graduated in 1984 and won a Blue for Rugby in the victorious University side of 1983 – his Director of Studies in History then being our current Dean, Dr Linehan, and his Tutor, Dr Reid. Chris Ewbank has had a distinguished career as a city solicitor and as an investment banker, most recently with Rothschild. He comes at a difficult time in the funding of higher education in the UK and we look forward to benefiting from his experience and advice.

An army, said Napoleon, marches on its stomach. The College has bid a grateful farewell to Bridget Sumner, who worked wonders for the College conference trade (worth over £600,000 to the College in the year 2004) and who has gone to carry on the good work at the University of Reading. In her place in March we welcomed Mr Bill Brogan, lately of P & O Ferries, as Catering and Conference Manager. Among other things Bill has been head chef at a Michelin one-star restaurant, and his influence is beginning to show. Likewise this May we marked the retirement of Mr Vaughan Crook, the Head Gardener; our gratitude for his many years of tending the College gardens was very apparent at the

party held in his honour in the College Hall on 26 May. He is succeeded by his hitherto deputy, Adam Magee. We are confident that you will see no diminution in the splendour of the gardens when next you visit.

It is continuity of this kind on which the College counts. St John's is an organic body, the whole of which is greater than the sum of its parts; but the parts matter. Thus the College is proud to have been the first, and still the only, College in Oxford or Cambridge to have achieved the coveted Investor in People status. This came initially in 2002 and, under the Domestic Bursar's guidance, we are now engaged in the bid for renewal in 2006. Watch this space, as they say.

And talking of watching, you may have noticed the revamp of the College's website. This is still continuing but we hope you will like what you see. We recognize that the first, and often the only contact, with the College for many people is the website. Do visit it (www.joh.cam.ac.uk) from time to time and take note of what is happening here. Had you done so recently, you would have found the names of the new Research Fellows elected this year to take up their Fellowships from 1 October 2005. Research (Title A) Fellowships are a crucial component in the annual renewal of the intellectual lifeblood of the College and provide a vital springboard for some of the brightest young talents on the academic scene to enter the faculty of this and other universities, in the UK and worldwide. You might also have spotted that one of our Fellows, Professor Graeme Barker FBA, who read Classics and Archaeology here in the 1960s and recently returned to us as the Disney Professor of Archaeology, was the winner of the Dan David Prize for archaeology in 2005, the world's top prize in the subject. Add to this the promotions and distinctions you will find listed elsewhere in these pages and you will recognize why I feel we can all be proud of the Fellows of the College.

And we can feel no less proud of our junior members in 2004-2005. We might wish to have finished a bit higher up the Tripos league tables in recent years (we are traditionally finishers in the top few and we currently find ourselves mid-table) – but rest assured we are addressing that! At the same time the LMBC crews are back on the way up, the

men's Rugby team won both League and Cuppers (afterwards I duly took a glass of wine off the Master of Fitzwilliam, an old friend, whose team contested the Cuppers final with St John's in a very sporting way), and the College Choir is in fine voice, as you might have heard had you attended the concert in London last November, organized by the Johnian Office, at which we launched the warmly reviewed CD, *Meditation*, the first under Dr David Hill as Director of Music. The Samuel Butler Room has initiated a tutoring outreach scheme with Coleridge Community College locally and we congratulate Mr Lennard Lee, who last year swam the Channel and raised more than £16,000 for charity. This year he, Frank Scheibe and others in LMBC are involved in a yet more ambitious scheme, a cross-Channel rowing race, in which at least 6 Oxford and Cambridge Colleges will be participating. Again, if you want to learn more, even to sponsor the LMBC crew in this very worthy endeavour, please visit the College website.

You will shortly be hearing from the University about the launch of the University of Cambridge 800th Anniversary Appeal. This is a big opportunity to support the University and the College as Cambridge contends to remain in the very top few of the world's universities (see, for example, the *Economist* article in the issue of 15 September 2004). Every gift to the College is deemed to be a gift to the 800th Anniversary Appeal. The College campaign, leading up to our own Appeal to mark the 500th anniversary of the College in 2011, is growing apace. Our focus at the moment is on the College's Access Exhibitions and Bursaries. The College must react to the pressures now put upon it; our dedication to open access irrespective of financial background cannot be doubted and we will be doing everything in our power to maintain our enviable tradition. We estimate that we will need at least £7 million in additional endowment simply to fund our contribution to the Cambridge Bursary Scheme at the enhanced level of £3,000 *per annum*, once top-up fees are introduced in 2006. Each class of graduands is now being asked to sign up to supporting the Johnians of the future and those leaving in 2004 have already contributed more than £2,500 to funding 'Graduates of 2004' bursaries; this is a splendid response from those with as yet little money. We are expecting even more perhaps of those leaving in 2005 as the scheme takes hold. And if I tell you that the

Fellows of the College have contributed more than £35,000 out of their own pockets in the space of just a few months to set up a 'Fellows' Bursary' scheme, you will know that we mean what we say. The world is now a different place and the College must be willing to face up to the challenges. I am confident that Johnians everywhere will share that feeling – we didn't come almost 500 years to fail now.

During the past year, it has been my pleasure to meet up with many members of the College at events organized by the Johnian Office around the world. After a reunion in Edinburgh in September 2004, we held a musical evening with the Choir in London in November 2004, and later that month I travelled to New York to visit the flourishing Johnian Society of the USA. In February I was back again in the US for a Johnian event in Palo Alto, California and then at another UK reunion, in the Birmingham area, in early June. My predecessor, Dr Goddard, kindly hosted a well-attended JSUSA barbecue in his home at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton in May. The George Guest Memorial Fund was launched at a most successful concert in the College Chapel in December. For 2005-6 the Johnian Office is planning reunions in Cardiff and the West Country, in London again, in Manchester, and of course in the USA (details will be posted from time to time on the College website). As I hope you can see, you won't want for opportunities to gather together.

By the time you read this, the College will have held its annual Open Days over the 2-3 July weekend. Many Johnians and their spouses, partners, children and friends will have enjoyed the chance to revisit the place and catch up on our doings; equally, the Fellows, the College staff and I will have had the pleasure of participating in many re-encounters too. We sincerely encourage you to take advantage of these open invitations, of the Johnian Dinners that we run twice a year to welcome back particular groups of years, and of the dining privileges available to Old Johnians. You will always find a warm welcome in the College.

Viva laeta Margareta!

Richard Perham

MESSAGE FROM THE MASTER

Twenty-five years ago, on 18 March 1981, the Privy Council approved a change of statutes for St John's College, to permit the admission of women. In October of that year the first female Fellow, Dr Kathleen Wheeler, and the first female junior members, nine graduate students, were admitted; the first female undergraduates, a total of forty-three, arrived for the Michaelmas Term 1982. Thus it was a particular pleasure to welcome back those who matriculated in the years 1980-1982 for the Johnian Dinner held on 1 April 2006. Many of the pioneering women at St John's were among those who attended, trailing clouds of glory, and including some who had even found male Johnians sufficiently attractive to marry – the ultimate seal of approval! We may have been slow to adopt co-residence, but with almost 50% of our intake now female the all-male past is but a distant memory. Without its women members, the College would be unthinkable today.

A future commemoration, this one looking back 200 years, will mark the passing of the first Parliamentary Act to abolish the slave trade in 1807. Two of the principal abolitionists, Thomas Clarkson and William Wilberforce, were Johnians and the College will be celebrating the extraordinary and prominent part they played in this historic movement with lectures and a service in the College Chapel, at which the Archbishop of York will preach, on 17-18 February 2007. There will of course be national events to mark the bicentenary, and the Royal Mail, with the College's prompting, will be issuing a set of commemorative stamps. It will surely be something of which members of the College the world over can be proud.

Last year I wrote a little of the history of the Triangle Site, across St John's Street from the Great Gate, and the work being planned to take it fully into College use for new residential accommodation. A longer article by the College Archivist and myself, documenting its fascinating past and outlining the changes now in hand, may be found in this issue of *The Eagle*. Obtaining planning permission was not easy, a tortuous path indeed, but work began at last with the cleaning of the outside of

the Divinity School in November 2005. The programme will continue until 2008. The overall cost of the work, reflecting the difficulties of access to the site and the need to treat such an historic area with appropriate sensitivity, will be high, but the long-term value to the College will likewise be substantial.

At the beginning of this year, five new Research Fellows (in Assyriology, Inorganic and Materials Chemistry, Mathematical Engineering, Mediaeval History and Liturgy, and Pure Mathematics) were elected. One of the most rewarding aspects of the life of the College is to see how it continually renews itself – and the contribution we are able to make to the world of scholarship and learning. And in the world of technology transfer, we take pride in the selection of Mr Walter Herriot, the Managing Director of the St John's Innovation Centre, for the Queen's Award for Enterprise Promotion 2006. Under Walter's guidance, the Innovation Centre, which our Senior Bursar at the time, Christopher Johnson, did so much to found and promote, has been an outstanding success.

We have however been saddened by the deaths this year of two longstanding Fellows of the College: Guy Lee (Classics) and Kenneth Budden (Physics). In both cases the memorial service in the Chapel attracted large numbers of friends and colleagues who reminisced together about two major contributors to the intellectual and social life of the College over many years. And then, just a few days ago as I write, we learned of the death of an Honorary Fellow, the distinguished musician, Professor Robin Orr, who had been Fellow and Organist in the days before George Guest. A memorial service for Professor Orr is being planned for the Michaelmas Term.

Breakfasts in the Lodge this year have been enlivened by the celebration of some remarkable sporting successes. Not satisfied with last year's double of League and Cuppers, the Men's First Rugby XV did it again, this time conquering Christ's in the Cuppers final by an astonishing 48 points to nil. The following day the Men's Hockey XI also did the League and Cuppers double, defeating Jesus 2-1 in a great game. In the coming May races, the Men's First VIII will start in second position – and all of us in LMBC will hope to see them topple Caius who (in our

view) have held the Headship for too long now. Kosi Abdulai, Captain of the Flamingos, has played for England Students in women's rugby, as well as being President of CUWRUFC. In addition, Johnian women supply the captains of the University's teams in hockey and badminton. And I am delighted to report that the first cross-Channel rowing race, to which I alluded last year and which was held at the end of June 2005, was a resounding success for LMBC. We came in first of the seven crews (Oxford and Cambridge Colleges and Deloitte's, the sponsors) that entered.

You will all have heard by now from the University's Development Office about the launch of the University's 800th Anniversary Campaign for Collegiate Cambridge, centred on 2009 and with a target of £1 billion. Lectures and receptions to mark the launch were held in Cambridge last September, in London in October, in San Francisco and New York in November, and in Hong Kong in March. I was privileged to be able to represent the College on each of these occasions and, with the help of the Johnian Office, greatly pleased to hold reunions for members of the College in each venue. These were all very jolly events and my wife and I were delighted to see so many Johnians together on each occasion. In March we were able to visit New York again, coinciding with the choral evensong sung by the College Choir in a packed St Thomas's Cathedral (where the Director of Music is another Johnian, John Scott, BA 1977). A reception was held afterwards in the New York University Club, where the Choir in different, more secular, mood entertained a full house. The New York visit had been preceded by a lively and well-attended inaugural Johnian reunion in Toronto, the first of what we hope and expect to be regular Canadian events. All this does not mean that the Johnian Office has been neglecting the UK: a successful dinner was held in Corpus Christi College, Oxford, last September (thanks to the President, Sir Tim Lankester, BA 1964 and Honorary Fellow); a drinks reception in Goodenough College, London, in November (with help from Roger Llewellyn, BA 1986); and a dinner in Poole, Dorset, in May 2006.

One of the key components of the University's 800th Anniversary Campaign is the need to provide more for the support of our students,

not least with the challenge of the top-up fee of £3,000 *per annum* for UK- and EU-based undergraduates being introduced from October 2006. The College is determined to play its full part in the Campaign, which will require that we raise an additional £7 million in endowment for bursaries if we are to maintain our enviable tradition of open access. Our ambitions took a great step forward last November, when we were able to announce the magnificent donation of £1 million from Nick Corfield, Honorary Fellow, to fund a scheme by which the gift of any individual donor is doubled before being added to the College's Bursary Fund in the donor's name. I am delighted to be able to tell you that since November more than an additional £500,000 has been received under the scheme, much of it from new donors with no previous history of giving to the College. We hope that the full £1 million will have been matched before long. This still leaves us with a long way to go, but it is a great start.

Indeed, the College is now in the early stages of putting together its own Campaign document, aimed at raising substantial new funds for the development of the College. The College Council has taken the decision to increase the size of the Johnian Office significantly, to relocate it to new offices in Second Court and to set an ambitious target for a future Campaign that will take advantage of the celebration of the 500th anniversary of our foundation in 2011. There is agreement with the University that a gift to the College remains with the College, for the use specified by the donor, but that it will count towards to the University's target of £1 billion for Collegiate Cambridge.

No doubt you will also have received the brochure about the College's forthcoming book, provisionally entitled *St John's College – Excellence and Diversity*, due for publication in 2007. I am pleased to report that under the very able editorship of David Morphet (BA 1961), the book is making excellent progress. It is still not too late to take advantage of securing a copy well below the publication price by becoming a named subscriber. Full details can be obtained from the College website, www.joh.cam.ac.uk.

Once again I take this opportunity to encourage you to look regularly at the website, which in its new format has been commended in the

national press as one of the best around. It carries all the latest news of the College and its members, and reports of past and forthcoming Johnian events around the world, enabling you to keep in touch wherever you are. One of the exciting new developments is the web-casting of recordings of services in the College Chapel – if you are sufficiently technically proficient (come, I am addressing Johnians!), you can currently listen to the Lent Term Meditation service that took place on 12 March 2006. Others will now follow at regular intervals. And if you wish to listen to the Choir separately, then go for their new Hyperion CD, launched at the end of April, under the title *Mendelssohn – Sacred Choral Music*.

The next Alumni Weekend will be held over 22-24 September and my wife and I will look forward with pleasure to meeting as many of you as are able to come to Cambridge that weekend. The Fellows, the College staff and I hope you will take advantage of these open invitations, of the Johnian Dinners that we run twice a year to welcome back those of you who matriculated in particular years, and of the dining privileges available to all Old Johnians. We are glad to have you visit on any occasion.

Vive laeta Margareta

Richard Perham

NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Professor Richard Perham will retire from the Office of Master on 30 September 2007. The Fellows of the College are therefore seeking to elect a successor to hold office from 1 October 2007 and hope to be in a position to do so later this year. To that end a confidential list of names of men and women of distinction is being drawn up for consideration. Suggestions of names for consideration will be gratefully received and should be submitted in writing to the President, Dr J A Leake, St John's College, Cambridge, CB2 1TP, by 1 September 2006.

MESSAGE FROM THE MASTER

There is much to take cheer from in the events of the past year, and it is my privilege to select here a few items for closer scrutiny. I also take the opportunity to make a few valedictory remarks about the College and its future.

First, there can't be many colleges – or even universities – that have two of their alumni celebrated in a single issue of commemorative stamps by Royal Mail. But two Johnians, Thomas Clarkson and William Wilberforce, grace the 50p and first-class stamps, respectively, marking the bicentenary of the first Act to Abolish the Slave Trade, in 1807. The College also marked and reflected on this over a weekend in February. We began with a riveting lecture on confronting the past by Dr Ruth Simmons, President of Brown University in Rhode Island, USA, and herself the descendant of a slave; we continued with an enlightening lecture by Dr Boyd Hilton of Trinity College on the intellectual and religious background of our philatelic honorands, and a matching symposium on slavery and campaigning then and now organized by our junior members. We concluded with a Gospel Service in the Chapel at which the College Choir joined forces with the London Adventist Choir, generating an atmosphere and a sound that none present will ever forget. The lectures are reprinted elsewhere in this issue of *The Eagle* and the Gospel Service can be listened to on the College website.

Another celebration took place on Friday 20 April, with a symposium and dinner to mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of the admission of women to the College. A report is in this issue of *The Eagle* but I cannot let it pass without recording my thanks to the organizers and sponsors. The outlook and achievements of the speakers and chairs, and the enthusiastic participation of the audience, was such as to make all of us, and not least those with a Y chromosome, proud that these were Johnian women to whom we were listening. What happened twenty-five years ago evidently started something that grew well and does so still.

Yet a third was the occasion of the award of an Honorary Degree to the Prime Minister of India, Dr Manmohan Singh (BA 1957, MA 1961,

Honorary Fellow), by the University of Cambridge in October 2006. The ceremony in the Senate House was followed by a luncheon in St John's, honoured by the presence of the Chancellor, the Duke of Edinburgh. At both events, Dr Singh spoke movingly of his affection for, and admiration of, Cambridge, and of St John's in particular. He was accompanied by his wife, and daughter, Amrit, also a Johnian (BA 1991). It was a memorable day for all those privileged to be present.

The building work across the road from the Great Gate of the College makes excellent progress. In last year's *Eagle* we documented something of the history of the Divinity School and the Triangle Site between All Saints Passage and the Round Church. In May the refurbishment of 2 All Saints Passage, which older members of the College sporting fraternity will recall once housed the Hawks' Club, was completed; there emerged from underneath the scaffolding a very twenty-first-century doctors' surgery, now to be inhabited by the occupants of 67 Bridge Street. That enabled work to begin on Phase 2 of the project, whereby the remainder of the Triangle Site will be turned into new accommodation for Fellows and students above the ground floor of commercial redevelopment. An end-date in 2009 is envisaged. And we are hoping sufficient funding from benefactions will come to enable us to rescue the Divinity School from its hitherto likely fate as an up-market restaurant and convert it instead into a flagship teaching, research and conference centre for College and University use.

The College's illustrated history book, *St John's: Excellence and Diversity*, was published to wide acclaim by Third Millennium in February. The book was edited by David Morphet (BA 1961, MA 1979), who had a distinguished career in the Foreign Office and industry and is himself a published poet and biographer. We owe David a huge debt of gratitude: without his persistence and drive the book would never have happened. None of his diplomatic challenges can have equalled that of getting copy out of the Fellows on time to meet his publication schedule, and it is a tribute to his diplomatic training that so many of us are still speaking to him – and he to us! I thank the many of you who subscribed to the publication; if you didn't, do not despair: copies can still be purchased through the College Development Office.

Early this year, four new Research Fellows (in Pure Mathematics, International Law, Social Anthropology, and Biological Chemistry) were elected to take up their Fellowships from 1 October. Curiosity-driven research is something the College deeply believes in, not least in an age of yet more *dirigiste* funding. It is always a joy to see new blood appearing and in such a diversity of subjects. At the other end of the age spectrum, we were delighted to elect the historian Professor John Pocock (Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore; Research Fellow at St John's 1954–57) into an Honorary Fellowship. But we have been saddened by the death of Dr Clifford Evans at the age of ninety-four, first elected a Research Fellow in Botany in 1938 and a mine of information in plant physiology and the College buildings. We wish our Director of Music, David Hill, well when he moves to the BBC in July and will be pleased to welcome Andrew Nethsingha (BA 1990, MA 1994) back to St John's from Gloucester Cathedral in his stead.

Congratulations to Mike Brearley (BA 1963, MA 1967, Honorary Fellow), who has been elected President of the MCC for the coming year. With Rob Andrew (BA 1985, MA 1989) and Francis Baron (BA 1967, MA 1971) prominent in the world of rugby football, and Mike Sweeney (BA 1966, MA 1970) Chairman of the Committee of Management, Henley Royal Regatta, St John's is securing an enviable grip on the higher reaches of some of our national games. And lest it be thought that we cannot match bygone days with the more academic College of today, we may take heart in some outstanding College sporting successes among the young: another double of League and Cuppers by the Men's First Rugby XV, the third year in a row, this time humbling Trinity in the Cuppers final; Mike Palmer, Big Bird in the Eagles Club, leading the University Hockey team to victory over Oxford; Ed Andrew winning a Rugby Blue and captaining the CU Boxing team (separately of course!); and Rebecca Fisher, President of the Flamingos, gaining her third full Blue in University Soccer. LMBC men finished the May Races level in third place and the women went up one to ninth. We hope for something big to celebrate next year.

In March my wife Nancy and I travelled to Australia, for the launch of the University's 800th Anniversary Campaign for Collegiate

Cambridge. The Vice-Chancellor spoke at the celebrations in Canberra and Johnnians gathered for drinks beforehand. We also hosted Johnnian events in Sydney, Melbourne and Perth. *En route*, we stayed in Delhi and Mumbai, to seek out Johnnians in the Indian sub-continent. Members of the College turned up in substantial numbers at every location. During our tour of Australia, I was relieved to experience few painful allusions to the recent Ashes series. Australians must be mellowing, I thought, for when I lived in Sydney in the early 1970s, I seemed constantly to be on the end of an Australian 'shout': mine if England won ('your treat, mate') and also if England lost ('your treat, mate'). On the Indian leg of our journey we were able to raise awareness of the new Manmohan Singh Scholarship Programme, named in honour of the Prime Minister and intended to help bring Indians to St John's and fund exchange schemes in the other direction. BP and Rolls Royce have agreed to create the first two of these Scholarships and other donors have promised to endow two more. We hope to launch the project in 2008, with at least two Scholarships a year thereafter, and are continuing to look for donations in support. The College's Indian connections go back a very long way (another Honorary Fellow was Professor Abdus Salam, BA 1949, PhD 1951, Nobel Laureate in Physics in 1979) and increasingly we recognize, here and in India, that it is in the best interests of both of us to sustain these links and strengthen them where possible.

Within the UK, Nancy and I have also travelled widely. We held reunions and dinners in Manchester in September 2006; in Hampshire, generously hosted at their home by David Livermore (BA 1961, MA 1965) and his wife Gina, in April 2007; in Sussex in June; and we have a dinner planned for September for Wadham College, Oxford, where Sir Neil Chalmers (PhD 1968) is Warden. Everywhere we have been, in the UK and overseas, we have experienced the great warmth that Johnnians feel for their College and we thank you all for the pleasures and festive evenings we have shared with you.

The College is now in the final stages of preparing to launch its own major fundraising campaign, one of the foci being the 500th anniversary of our foundation in 2011. The auguries are good. The response to the

request to fund the College's Bursary Scheme, spurred on by the introduction of the top-up fee of £3,000 *per annum* for UK- and EU-based undergraduates in October 2006, has been truly outstanding. The Matching Scheme, based on the magnificent donation of £1 million from Nick Corfield (BA 1981, Honorary Fellow), reached its stated goal of £1 million in less than a year. The success inspired Nick Corfield to donate a further £1 million for the same purpose and this too has since been matched, in under six months. Thus in less than two years the College has generated a fund of approaching £5 million, well on the way to the £7 million that we have calculated we need to maintain our enviable tradition of open access. We can be proud of this achievement and indeed it is being widely cited as an example of inspired self-help. We are deeply grateful to all of you who have contributed. Please continue to help us if you are able to do so.

The Johnian Office has been subsumed into the new College Development Office in Second Court, with an expanding group of staff led by Mr Stephen Teal, who joined the College as Development Director in February 2007. The target for the forthcoming College Campaign will be ambitious and challenging, aimed at raising substantial new funds for a range of important objectives. We have a strategic plan, a great sense of purpose, and what we hope will be a justified ambition to keep St John's at the forefront of teaching and research. The University of Cambridge is near the top of all the independent league tables. We can argue about the way these tables are compiled, and we should not be too dazzled by them. They are of course essentially historical, looking backwards over past and present achievements. What matters most is the future and how we face up to dwindling state funding at home and increasing competition abroad. I like to think that St John's is now 'on a roll' and I very much hope that you will wish to be involved, not only financially but in generating that warmth of support that lends conviction to what we are trying to achieve.

I end on a more personal note. On 30 September I reach the statutory retiring age for Master and hand on the baton with confidence to my successor (and old friend, even from when he was in Oxford), Professor

Christopher Dobson. From 1 October, I become a Fellow again. I hope to continue with my academic work, to contribute what I can to the life of the College where needed, and to be in a position, albeit different, to welcome back to St John's the many friends I have made here over time, and not least in the past four years as Master. George Orwell opined that 'inside every fat man there is a thin man trying to get out'. Likewise, I suspect inside every older man there is a younger man trying to get out; certainly, for my part, I am pleased to find St John's as full of interest now as I did when I came up in 1958 or was elected a Research Fellow back in 1964. *Ille terrarum mihi praeter omnes angulus ridet.*

I count it an enormous honour to have been at the head of this great College (in my remarks on installation as Master I drew the distinction between great and grand). I gladly acknowledge the marvellous support I have had from fellow College Officers (the President, Senior and Junior Bursars, the Senior Tutor, the Deans), the Fellows and Chaplain, the junior members, the Lodge staff and Johnian/Development Office, the College staff generally and countless Johnians worldwide; and not least the contribution of my wife Nancy who, though a Girtonian and before that an Oxonian (where she had the good sense to attend Lady Margaret Hall, named, so legend has it, for our Foundress through the Wordsworth connection), has become almost as much a Johnian as I am. The French poet, Paul Valery, observed that 'we enter the future backwards'. So we do, but I prefer to believe that St John's is thinking more in terms of 'onwards and upwards' as we near our quincenary and look beyond it.

Vive laeta Margareta!

Richard Perham

MESSAGE FROM THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

Most such reports begin with a variation on the phrase 'It's been a busy and successful year...'. This is no exception.

In preparation for the forthcoming major fundraising campaign and the quinqucentenary celebrations, there has been much change and expansion. The most visible difference has been the renaming of the 'Johnian Office' to the 'Development Office'. Johnians are still the main focus of our work but the change of title reflects a broadening of responsibilities. Clare Laight now heads up an Alumni Relations Team that will be seeking to expand and diversify the number of events and publications for Johnians and friends of the College. Catherine Twilley retains a senior role in alumni relations and fundraising, whilst the Biographical staff, Fiona Colbert and Jo Utting, are now part of Dr Mark Nicholls' team in the Library.

Also new is the location of the Development Office: we are now situated in the more accessible and commodious surroundings of D1 in Second Court. As was ever the case, visitors are most welcome.

One of the most pleasing aspects of the past twelve months has been the continuing success of the Corfield Matching Bursary Scheme. When the initial £1m fund was matched with such alacrity by Johnians, Nick Corfield immediately decided to put forward another, similar sum. Incredibly, this challenge was again taken up by the College's alumni and the Scheme was finally closed in May 2007 with a total of £4.2m having been raised for bursaries. Such was the impact of the programme that Tony Blair quoted it as a shining example of modern philanthropy.

Fundraising for bursaries, scholarships and other forms of support for students will form a central part of the fundraising campaign. In addition, we will be seeking funds to strengthen the College's core academic aims, to conserve and improve our wonderful buildings and strengthen the endowment to a level that we can continue to compete with our American peers.

The Alumni Relations Programme in 2006–2007 has continued to thrive with a packed programme of events taking place in College, around the UK and overseas. As usual, we have been warmly welcomed at all these events, many of which have been organised with the help of Johnnians.

The UK Regional Events Programme has this year taken us to Manchester, Lewes (near Brighton), and Hampshire and Wiltshire. Our thanks in particular go to David Livermore (BA 1961, MA 1965) for hosting the Hampshire and Wiltshire event at his home.

In March, the Master and his wife, Dr Nancy Lane Perham, visited Delhi where the Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh (BA 1957, MA 1961), very kindly hosted a dinner at his private residence in honour of the Master, to which Johnnians living in Delhi were invited. From Delhi, the Master travelled to Australia and joined Johnnians at inaugural events in Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra and Perth. The event in Canberra was a University event hosted by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alison Richard, and we were delighted that the Johnnians were the largest alumni group of all the colleges. Such encouraging numbers of St John's alumni at these events reaffirms the wealth of good feeling towards the College, and is much appreciated.

Over in the USA, in December, Johnnians joined the Master for a dinner at the Cosmos Club in Washington DC, and Marc Feigen (MPhil 1986) hosted a Holiday Drinks Party at his home in Manhattan.

Johnnians will wish to be aware of a few changes to the Alumni Relations Programme from October 2007. In addition to the usual programme of events and dinners in College, around the UK and overseas, we are proposing to tailor our events programme in order to appeal to a diverse range of interests. We are aware of the wealth of interests and activities offered to students of St John's and we feel that our Alumni Relations Programme should reflect this. Please keep an eye on the website for more details and if you have any thoughts on this, please contact Clare Laight in the Development Office.

From Michaelmas 2007, you will notice that the design, content and layout of the *Johnnian News* will change. We hope to be able to include

more articles and photos about the interesting projects and lives of Johnians. We hope that you will enjoy the new format and if you have any ideas for articles, please contact Amanda George, the Publications Officer.

Johnians will also wish to know that the College's range of merchandise is being reviewed and updated. We anticipate that the new range will be available to purchase online, via the Development Office webpages, from October. Those of you who do not have access to the internet will be able to make orders by telephone.

We would like to express our thanks to all of you who continue to support College events and to those of you who submit articles for our publications. We are always interested to hear your news and ideas for our programme of activities. We hope to see you again soon, either in College, around the UK or overseas, and remember to keep an eye on the website for information about all our activities, www.joh.cam.ac.uk.

**Stephen Teal, Development Director,
and Clare Laight, Head of Alumni Relations**

Welcome to the 2008 issue of *The Eagle*! We hope you will like the changes we have made to its design and format. We felt it was long overdue a facelift, but one that was sensitive to the rich historical tradition and quality of content.

There are contributions from all walks of College life: the Master, Fellows, students, alumni, staff and friends of St John's.

As well as the usual articles, book reviews, College sports and societies' reports, Members and Fellows' News, death notices and obituaries, you will find a special anniversary section to mark this 150th birthday issue. *The Eagle* was 'born' in 1858, to some scepticism, but we are proud that, a century and a half later, it is still very much a part of the corpus of College publications. We hope you agree that it continues to go from strength to strength.



Amanda George

We are sure you will be sad to find obituaries and personal recollections of John Crook, Norman Bleehen and, tragically, Joe Spencer, who died in a car accident at the age of forty-seven; but we hope that you will find them fitting tributes. There is also a fascinating article about Norman Bleehen's unique experience of National Service, which was written shortly before his death by his friend, Valerie Collis, who also worked at St John's for many years.

On a lighter note, look out for the rather racy re-telling of the story of the Minotaur by the winner of the Douglas Adams Prize, current student, Natalie Lawrence. Many of you will have heard the Johnian 'voice of darts', Sid Waddell, over the years, and you can read an entertaining review of his latest book, *Bellies and Bullseyes: the Outrageous True Story of Darts*, by our Special Collections Librarian, Jonathan Harrison. And finally we hope you'll feel proud to read about the historic 'Quadruple-Double' victory by the 'Red Boys', the St John's Men's Rugby team!

Please let us know what you think of *The Eagle* revamp and, of course, get in touch if you would like anything considered for publication next year (see below for contact details). And remember that you can submit your Members' News for publication in *The Eagle* 2009 online:

www.joh.cam.ac.uk/johnian/members_news/members_news_form.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Amanda George
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Welcome to *The Eagle 2009*! We were delighted with the feedback on last year's revamped edition and pleased to hear how many of you enjoyed the 150th anniversary section.

The Eagle again gathers together writings from the whole of the Johnian community and this year has an international flavour, with memories of College life by Frank Iacobucci, who came to St John's from Canada, and Tissa Divendra, who arrived from Ceylon.

Dr Szreter provides an exciting tale of his experiences in Uganda, and Professor Lewis-Williams contributes an interesting history of the Bushmen culture of South Africa. We hope that you will enjoy current student Ben Alden-Falconer's review of Tom Rob Smith's *Child 44*, the wealth of reports from the student body and the fascinating early history of the President's Cup. We hope that you also enjoy submissions from two Johnian poets of different generations in a special poetry section.

Please send items for inclusion in *The Eagle 2010*, such as articles and books for review, to the Development Office, St John's College, Cambridge, CB2 1TP. Items are considered by the College Publications and Public Relations Committee, which meets termly.

Please use the Members' News form enclosed to tell us about news, such as appointments, publications, births, marriages, honours or indeed anything that you would like to communicate to other Johnians. You can also send this news to development@joh.cam.ac.uk until Friday 16 April 2010.

Finally, thank you to all those involved in the production of this edition of *The Eagle*: contributors, members of College staff and the Development Office team.



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