

Societies

The Younger Fellows

The 'Younger Fellows' are a self-appointed and self-perpetuating subset of the fellowship, 'younger fellow' in this context meaning anybody whose age is less than or equal to that of Dr George Reid. The group's main activity is to hold a dinner each year in honour of departing fellows. A minute-book records these events from year to year, and this year has fallen into the hands of the editor of *The Eagle*, who is therefore able to present here the minutes of a dinner held in the Combination Room on Saturday 25 November 1989 to mark the departure of Dr Richard Brent and Dr Robert Stern (fellows) and of the Revd Mark Jones (chaplain).

After a delicious meal (selected by Dominic King-Smith with advice on wine from Howard Hughes) various toasts were proposed, drunk, and answered. Richard Rex thanked various fellows for raising the average age of the 'younger fellows', and their wives for lowering it again. Reminding the diners of those in whose honour the dinner was held, he introduced the first speaker, Howard Hughes, in verse. Before proposing his toast to Mark and Philippa Jones, Dr Hughes (a physicist) shared with the gathering the results of his recent researches in a radically new field of endeavour, Hebrew. His reconstruction and rendering of the often sadly fragmentary 'Book of the House of John' seemed to those present strangely prophetic of contemporary events in the College. Fear of legal action makes it unlikely that these researches will ever find their way into print. Mark Jones replied on behalf of himself and his wife with a touching and amusing account of his time as chaplain. He was particularly keen to share the fruit of various ritual and liturgical discussions with the Dean of Chapel, Andy Macintosh (regrettably not able to attend). Advice such as 'when in doubt, lengthen out', he assured us, would never be far from his mind. Dr Rex then introduced Dr Jane Heal, again in verse, but of a markedly deteriorating quality (loud cries of 'Rupert Bear' were ignored), to propose the health of Bob Stern. Jane, who assured us that she was genuinely unaccustomed to post-prandial oratory, brought us up to date with her attempts to derive suitable material from a book of jokes. Most of the material she found was, fortunately, most unsuitable. Bob replied with a stirring account of his life and times at St John's. The disappointment of Mr George Watson on discovering that the Dr Stern who was to address a College society on German culture was the 'wrong' Dr Stern was admirably portrayed. Bob also recalled his contribution to the debates on who should be invited to open the Fisher Building. In the spirit of Sam Goldwyn, he had proposed to invite Mr Fisher himself! This had led to his appointment as editor of *The Eagle Supplements* on 'Old Johnnies'. George Reid then rose to speak about Dr Brent. Ceding to popular demand, he recited an old joke about why lawyers are preferred to rats for laboratory experiments. He also alluded mystifyingly to a number of issues relating to College statutes and politics on which he hoped Richard would expatiate. Finally, lapsing into verse himself, he proposed his toast. Richard replied almost immediately, to frustrate, he said, any temptation Dr Rex might have to introduce him in halting couplets. He need not have worried, as George had used up all the rhymes for Brent. He refrained from explaining the issues raised by Dr Reid, and

instead dilated on the resemblances between a firm of London solicitors (where he is now employed) and a Cambridge College. His own role, as articled clerk, was the equivalent of an undergraduate's: a role with no responsibilities calling for little work. Breaking with precedent, he concluded by graciously proposing a toast of his own, to Drs King-Smith and Rex for organising the evening.

The Samuel Butler Room

The Samuel Butler Room has once more fulfilled its purpose and entertained graduates of the college on a regular basis for the past year. Following a poorly attended election in May, three second-year post-graduates formed the committee. Daniel Chua was elected unopposed as President, Rachel Williams became the Secretary and Claire Bouttier the Treasurer. Later that term, Matthew Doar and Susie Woods joined the committee as J.C.R. Liaison Officer and Graduate Union Representative respectively. The major private event of the Easter Term 1989 was the 'Endless Summer' garden party in the Master's Garden. Presidents past and present played gentle jazz whilst large numbers of strawberries were eaten, and a lot of champagne drunk.

The academic year began with two weeks of intensive activities aimed at the eighty-four newly arrived post-graduates. A punt trip, two videos, a 'Nadia's Tea-Party', a packed bop in Merton Hall and a more civilised Fruit and Nuts, with the Jamming Gents, all took place within this fortnight.

Events settled down after this frenetic burst to B.A. Hall twice a week and a video once a week. The B.A. Hall numbers increased dramatically this year with people being turned away because of the limited number of places. Annual events such as the Thanksgiving Dinner and the Jazz Dinner Dance (organised by Rachel Williams) took place, the latter being especially successful. The chills of December saw a frozen horde of work-weary graduates making their way to Merton Hall for a Mulled Wine party. The noxious brew (in the S.B.R.'s very own urn) produced stunned expressions upon the faces of those who smelt it and indescribable effects upon those who actually drank it.

The hectic pace continued unabated into the Lent Term of 1990, with yet another 'Nadia's Chocolate Fudge Cake Party' and an adequately attended Barn Dance. The real highlight of the term came with the S.C.R./S.B.R./J.C.R. quiz night. Daniel Chua dug out some obscure questions from a past J.C.R. quiz night (at which the Fellows were thoroughly beaten) and Matthew Doar composed some more apposite ones. The outcome of the night was a resounding victory for the S.C.R. team. The S.B.R. team didn't quite manage second place.

Some time in the previous quarter, Claire Bouttier managed to find the funds to buy a television to replace the permanently orange-tinted set then in the S.B.R. The second miracle was the acquisition of a video recorder of our own, so that graduates could record serious programmes at inconvenient hours without having to put themselves out.

At the time of printing, the most recent event organised was the S.B.R. Cocktail Party. An annual event, certainly into its second year now, the party packed the New Music Room and drank strangely named cocktails to the sounds of Amu et les Truffes, a little known local jazz quintet. To draw this far from complete list of events to a close, it only remains to be noted that whilst the Conservative Party is a purely political one, the S.B.R. is just a party, with no politics.

Matthew Doar

The Winfield Society

We began the year as usual with a book sale, followed by a freshers' cocktail party at which the new lawyers (undergraduates and fellows) became acquainted. The first major event was an evening of wine and cheese with Mr Tom Legg, recently appointed as Permanent Secretary to the Lord Chancellor's Department. Mr Legg was able to provide some entertaining insights into the character of the Lord Chancellor as well as the workings of government, making it clear that, though a Permanent Secretary, he is by no means a 'Sir Humphrey' – though no doubt Sir Humphrey would have made the same point!

This was followed by a moot. The guest judge was Mr Peter Birts, an expert on trespass law, and uncle of a present undergraduate. Taking part were Jonathan Dickman, Alec Heydon, Piers Pressdee and Rohan Malhotra. As Christmas approached we held the customary mince pies and mulled wine party. Then, in January, we restarted with a cocktail party, sponsored by Freshfields and organised with Jesus College and Trinity Hall.

It was my intention on becoming president to open the horizons of the meetings and to introduce controversial and topical issues to a wider audience. Inspired by the success of a joint meeting undertaken with the medical society last year on the subject of child abuse and the Cleveland scandal, we organised another joint venture. This was to take the form of a panel discussion and forum on the question of embryo research. After some organisational problems the event was held on February 8th: that afternoon the House of Lords had approved the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill. The panel was chaired by Mr Andrew Grubb of Fitzwilliam College, an expert on medical law. Mr Peter Brinsden, medical director of the Bourne Hall Infertility Clinic, spoke about the benefits of such research, while Miss Helen Alford, a leading member of Cambridge University Pro-Life, argued the opposing case. The meeting, which had been advertised across the University, was very well attended with about ninety people present, and was generally successful.

The Annual Dinner was held in March, with Mr Justice Evans returning as guest of honour. It was, as always, a very popular and enjoyable evening. To round off the term we held another moot. Competing were Raj Mohindra, Cathy Ryan, Alec Heydon and Jonathan Dickman. As judge we were lucky to get Mr Richard Aitkens Q.C. to visit the College.

On the whole it has been a very busy and successful year. We look forward to the summer Garden Party yet to come. On behalf of the present committee I would like to wish the society well in the future.

J. Mark Phillips
President

Music Society

During 1988-89 the Society's emphasis was on chamber music. This form of music making has naturally continued, the highlight being a Masterclass with April Cantelo held in the Palmerston room in November. But the Society's emphasis this year has been on orchestral concerts: in the Michaelmas term, in addition to the usual orchestral and choral concert held at the end of term, the Society helped to promote the Berg Society's inaugural orchestral concert by providing players and singers, soloists (Jeremy Huw Williams and Steven Harrold), and some of the financial backing. The Lent Term saw similar activity. The concert on 5 February was the most ambitious that the Society has attempted for many years, including in its programme Vaughan Williams' Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis and Poulenc's Organ Concerto. The soloist for the Poulenc was Andrew Nethsingha, who gave a most memorable performance. And at last we have been able to restore the Senior Combination Room concert to an actual happening. The concert was well performed and made up of Wolf Lieder sung by Nick Gedge, the Poulenc Sonata for Flute and Piano, played by Andrew Nethsingha and Simon Corbett, Wagner's Siegfried Idyll, and English songs sung by Steven Harrold. The highlight of this concert was undoubtedly a performance of Bach's Fifth Brandenburg Concerto, directed from the keyboard by Alexander Martin. Well advertised (for once), it is a crime that so few attended.

The Society has continued its commitment to twentieth century music, both by including living composers on its own programmes (the Smith Violin Concerto on 5 February) and by providing venues for part of the 1989 Cambridge Contemporary Music Festival, in which members of the Society were active. It is to be hoped that such a commitment will be maintained in the future.

Nick Smith
President

The Cadmeans

This year has seen the much-needed revival of the College Modern Languages Society, now renamed 'The Cadmeans' after the sweet little man who gave us the alphabet ('so he's the one to blame for all the essays!').

All events have been enthusiastically supported by most linguists, and have been an excellent way of getting to know the fourth years. Our showing of the naughty but nice French film 'La Cage aux Folles' in Michaelmas (jointly with Trinity Hall and Caius linguists) was extremely well attended; equally, our first Annual dinner in the Wordsworth Room in Lent was enjoyed by all and self-indulgence went on

well into the night. On a more cultural level, Dr Naomi Segal gave us an excellent talk on 'The true meaning of children's stories'. Our illusions were shattered, but we comforted ourselves with wine and jelly babies . . .

The Cadmeans would like to thank all the Fellows in Modern Languages for their support in getting things off the ground.

Let us all raise our glasses to an equally active and enjoyable year ahead!

Patricia Dunnett and Melissa Graham
Presidents 1989-90

Photographic Society

This year the society has continued its updating of equipment in the darkroom. Having purchased a new enlarger, we are currently looking at accessories to make it more versatile e.g. by converting it into a copy-stand. There has also been an increase in membership, and there are now occasional courses being run by the Secretary in different aspects of processing and printing. We hope to hold an exhibition in the Fisher Building at some point, to give our budding members the chance to show off their masterpieces!

Jonathan Dunley
Treasurer

Bridge Society (refounded April 1988)

Three years ago, on arriving at this illustrious College, one of my aims was to improve my bridge. A few years before, like many institutions around here, the College bridge society had disbanded under a wave of apathy; and the University Club only offered an excessively formal environment. Thus there was no regular informal organisation, and, God forbid, I was almost compelled to attend the Trinity Bridge Society.

College representation in Cuppers was consequently thin. It was a chore even to get a single team together. So by Lent Term 1988, plans were afoot to organise a regular forum for bridge within the College. The aims were both to produce Cuppers teams and to encourage social bridge. After an extraordinary general meeting of the interested parties, the society was formed with Dr Tombs as senior treasurer, and with some tentative financing.

The first year started disappointingly with a very late squash, but the number of teams entered for Cuppers increased from two to four, and not-so-regular social Sunday bridge started. After a serious though slightly alcoholic AGM, the next year was planned. After an excessively publicised and extravagantly successful squash, membership rose to the staggering level of 40. Six Cuppers teams were fielded this year, and Sunday bridge has become a regular and well attended event.

May I finish by thanking all the present committee, some of whom are now leaving, for all the effort and work they have put in over the past two years: Colm Gibson, Lucy Haynes, Mike Calviou and Mike Young. Thanks also to all those people who were dragged out of bed on Sunday afternoons to make up the numbers in the early days. If anyone out there is thinking of setting up a club, take heart. All it needs is enthusiasm, and perhaps the odd friend or two.

Martin Turner

College Societies

The Samuel Butler Room

The Samuel Butler Room has managed for another year to maintain a friendly and enthusiastic atmosphere. Six new members were elected to the committee in May after a good response to the call for nominations. The new members were Timothy Maltby, president; Stuart Shilson, secretary; Peter Durman, treasurer; Valerie Linton, JCR liaison officer; Barbara Golen, Graduate Union representative; and Elisabet Sleightholme-Albanis, entertainments officer. In the Easter Term 1990 the garden party saw large numbers relax and consume strawberries and champagne in the Master's Garden on a beautiful day. A barbeque and a beach trip in the summer again attracted many members to make the most of the sunny weather.

In the Michaelmas Term the fresher graduates were welcomed with a Merton Hall bop, a College treasure hunt, a sticky-bun party and a BA Hall followed by post-prandial drinks and fruits in the Wordsworth Room with entertainment provided by the Gents. Shortly following the freshers' fortnight, the fellows were invited to the SBR after a 'Graduates dine with Fellows' to take coffee in unfamiliar surroundings. Subsequently, BA Halls (twice a week) were regularly attended by 40 to 50 members, as well as video nights, and at the end of the year a Christmas Dinner held in the Wordsworth room sent us down with a bang.

Great thanks must be extended to the residents of Whitfield House, who staged an incredible 1960's party with a band consisting entirely of SBR talent. The SBR Cocktail Party/Carnival (organised by Elisabet Sleightholme-Albanis), which was held in the 1930's prohibition style with the Footsteps Jazz Band in attendance, proceeded with sophistication and suavity.

The Lent Term saw a change in committee, the replacement members ratified being David Cryer, president; Nicola Deards, secretary; Jacqueline Sutherland, treasurer; Nigel Sharfe, Graduate Union representative; and Philip Hemming, JCR liaison officer. Soon afterwards, a chocolates and liqueurs evening managed to fill the SBR to new capacities, with stimulating conversation in inimitable SBR style. Matthew Doar organised a mulled wine and bonfire party in the snow-covered garden of the new graduate hostel on Madingley Road. Many members took the opportunity to show how deft they were at

toasting marsh mallows and lobbing snowballs. This was partly due to the effect of Matthew's now infamous mulled wine and the fireworks.

The Jazz Dinner and Dance, postponed until the Easter Term this year, was again the highlight of the Academic year, with the dancing until midnight being particularly energetic. Day trips to Ely and Stevenage ice-rink were well attended, and an evening at which supervisors were invited to attend BA Table with their students proved to be successful and is hoped to be repeated.

Throughout the year a varied sporting diary was kept teeming with events, with Liam O'Sulleabhain organising a successful football team and two graduate men's boats being entered in the May Bumps. Punting, tennis, croquet, cricket and snooker were all regular features, along with cards, 'Trivial Pursuits' and table football for the more sedate members.

At present, events planned for the summer include picnics, barbeques and cycling trips. Let us hope that the English weather proves to be as reliable at these events as the patronage of a large and lively core of members.

Nicola Deards, Secretary

History Society

At the beginning of the year one of the Fellows enquired with the solemnity of a professional mourner whether the society was, as yet, dead. Whether there is indeed life after death, or the ancient body has just shaken off an apathetic accretion acquired over the venerable ages is unclear. Whatever the truth of the matter, a triple sized first year has given the society a new lease of life. A poster campaign (featuring characters as diverse as Marilyn Monroe, Shakespeare, Dreyfus and Gorbachev) drew an initially tentative stream of linguists, mathematicians and economists who added a very welcome spice to proceedings.

Professor Skinner launched the year, entertaining us in Hall (rather than vice versa!) and then drawing a crowded room into the labyrinthine complexities of the Engagement Controversy as they were distilled in Hobbes's 'Theory of Liberty'. A few weeks later, Dr Figs talked to us on 'Russians, the Law and the State Authority from the Late Tsarist Period to Perestroika'. When western political culture takes for granted the relationship between justice and the rule of law, it was fascinating to hear about a society where justice is equated with conciliation and the rigid constraint of law almost with tyranny.

The following term, Dr Steinberg, Rabbi Dr L. Jacobs and Christopher Clark gave us a seminar on 'A Jewish Enlightenment?' using Judaism as an acid-test to explore European attitudes from the eighteenth century onwards – unfortunately, with snow on the ground the OMR was at its chilliest. Under the title '1789: Politics in Art and Mythology', and in rather warmer surroundings, Jonathan Black gave us an artist's perspective on the Revolution aided by slides and a real-tennis racket to illustrate David's depiction of the political state of play in his famous 'Tennis Court Oath'.

Spread through the year we set up a number of tea-time discussion groups with papers given by undergraduates – perhaps not entirely surprisingly none of the great problems of Historiography yielded to our assault!

We were very glad that Dr P. Hennessy from the Independent (via St John's) was the guest at the Annual Dinner. After an eighteenth century meal he reassured us with considerable verve that we need have no fears about 'Beauty and Utility: the Justification for History'.

To prevent any remote danger of a relapse a full programme is being planned for next year. In particular, we hope that Professor Conrad Russell, who was sadly forced to cancel his visit, will be able to come and dissect the mysteries of 'Divine Right'.

Gerald Montagu, Secretary

Bridge Society

I would like to start by thanking the previous committee for all the work they did in setting up the society. I joined the society in Freshers' Week 1989, and found the Sunday bridge afternoons a friendly, informal way of improving my bridge; and far nicer than the university club. The club is now well established and on a secure financial footing; we receive £180 per annum from the Associated Societies. That rather dubious college publication (*The John*, not *The Eagle*), accused us of flying airlines for the free packs of cards. Perhaps, instead of bridge on a Sunday afternoon in the Fisher Building we can have tournaments on the Canberra!

There has been continued interest in the Society and membership has risen despite what was, in the event, a less than favourably timed squash. This year we have fielded five Cuppers teams:

First team

Colm Gibson
Martin Turner
Mike Young
Anand Rao

Second team

Richard Holloway
Matthew Brown
Joynur Rahman
Teck Lee Wong

Third team

Anthony Stevenson
Mike Brooks
Paul Reed
Tim Crosley

Fourth team

Roger Moore
John Franklin
Omar Bangee
James Margetson

Fifth team

Claire Sweeney
Nathan Elstub
Tim Mortimer
Barry Appleton

The first team reached the quarter finals of the Cup, where they lost to last year's winners, Trinity 1. The second team are currently arranging to play Jesus 3 in the semi-final of the Plate, having defeated St John's 5 and St John's 4 among others to get that far. The third team narrowly lost their first round match by two 'imps' (international match points); and so entered the Plate, where they lost to Churchill 3 in the second round. The fifth team would like to be mentioned because they beat Caius 1 by 70 imps, but subsequently lost to St John's 2.

In future the club hopes to enter more teams in Cuppers and we hope for continued success. I wish the second team luck in their forthcoming match. Most of the current committee will be around next year to build on this year's success, and I would like to thank them for the time they have given up to help run the Society.

Anthony Stevenson, Secretary.

College Societies

The Samuel Butler Room

The last year has been another lively and successful one for the Samuel Butler Room, with good attendance for most events. The previous committee stood again for election in the Easter Term and were returned unanimously, the members ratified being David Cryer, President; Nicola Deards, Secretary; Jacqueline Sutherland, Treasurer; Nigel Sharfe, Graduate Union Representative and Phillip Hemming, J.C.R. Liason Officer. The 1991 garden party, held in the Master's garden, afforded the opportunity for many graduates to relax and consume strawberries and champagne to the accompaniment of a string quartet. In the summer, a barbeque in the new 1 Madingley Road Hostel garden, a beach trip and a few leisurely punt trips kept the members occupied and well-sunned.

The new graduates were welcomed in the Michaelmas Term with coffee meetings, tours of College and Cambridge, a buffet lunch in the School of Pythagoras, pub crawls and punt trips, a sticky bun party and a B.A. Hall followed by liqueurs in the Samuel Butler Room. Shortly following the freshers' fortnight, some intrepid members took a bicycle trip around neighbouring villages, and a Bop was held in Merton Hall.

Subsequently, B.A. Halls (twice a week) were regularly attended by 40 to 60 members; there were also video nights and various Exchange Dinners with other college MCRs. A Jazz and Cocktails party in Merton Hall, with the 'Fourplay' Jazz quartet went with a swing in forties style and a large number of members celebrated the end of the year with a Christmas Dinner held for the first time in Hall, with a visit from Father Christmas and a party to follow.

In the Lent Term, due to popular demand, another Cocktail party was held, this time with contemporary music in the SBR. Members invited their Supervisors to attend B.A. Hall mid-term, and in March a theme party was held in 1 Madingley Road along the lines of the much-missed Cold War, including atomic jelly and authentic Berlin Wall segments, with help from Matthew Doar.

The Jazz Dinner Dance, held at the end of the Lent term, proved to be the highlight of the academic year yet again, with dancing until midnight to the 'Riverside Jazz Band. A day trip to Stevenage ice-rink

was well attended, and a series of wine-tastings throughout the year were particularly popular; our thanks go to Jeremy Williams, Jonathon Black, Michael James and Nicola Deards for their expert tuition. Thanks also to those who accepted our invitation to give after-dinner talks: Mr Langhorne on the history of St John's College and Dr Linehan on reminiscences of his time as a research student. Both were highly informative and entertaining, and much appreciated by the graduates.

Throughout the year SBR sports were kept ticking over, with Liam O'Sulleabhain again captaining a successful 'dream eleven' football team. The graduate men's rowing crew were unlucky to miss entry into the Lent Bumps, but at the time of writing are confident for the Mays, and a women's graduate four is in training for the Town Bumps. Punting, tennis and croquet were again favourites during the summer months.

The new SBR Committee, elected at the beginning of April, are wished all the best for their endeavours in the coming year, and it is hoped that the new set of graduates will prove as enthusiastic and eager to participate as the last.

Nicola Deards

History Society

The History Society has this year continued to be among the most active and well attended of the Societies, once again finding the right balance between history, food, and drink. In November, Correlli Barnett (Keeper of the Churchill Archives Centre and Fellow of Churchill College), after dining in Hall, enlarged on his study of British economic and industrial performance during World War II in *The Audit of War*. Mr. Barnett ably countered an accusation that the book had been a justification for Thatcherism, in as much as it was attempting to dispel the myth of the smooth, collective, planning-based running of the economy during this period. A lively exchange followed the address, in which Dr. Pelling attempted to vindicate Britain by stressing the economic and technical failures of her wartime enemies.

Following an informal fund-raising later in November, early December marked the visit of Sir Frank Roberts who gave his diagnosis of 'The Changing Scene in Eastern Europe'. Dr Pelling kindly entertained Sir Frank and a number of fellows and undergraduates at dinner, before Sir Frank detailed the political and social difficulties which the area faces, managing to intertwine an astute sense of history

with some fascinating personal anecdotes. Sir Frank, who was formerly ambassador to Yugoslavia (1954-57), to the USSR (1960-62) and to FRG (1963-68), as well as Bevan's Private Secretary after 1947, and who has dealt personally with Churchill, Stalin, Tito and Khrushchev, was in a good position to offer a prognosis.

Late in February, the College had the pleasure of welcoming Dr George Garnett of St Hughes College, Oxford, who gave us a preview of his recent research on the *Vindiciae contra tyrannam*. Dr Linehan challenged Dr Garnett on his estimation of the tract's circulation, and Dr Rex aired his scepticism of Dr Garnett's claim that the tract, despite the claim in the preface, was not designed to be refutation of Macchiavelli at all.

The Society's year reached its cathartic climax in March when the society dinner, held for the first time in the atmospheric and 'historic' Combination Room, attracted fifty members and guests to see in the historical new year. Sir Harry Hinsley, who presided, called upon Dr. Linehan to toast the Society. The Secretary of the Society replied to Dr. Linehan's very kind words, announcing that Helen Flynn was to take over as Secretary for the following year. Then Dr. Pelling introduced the guest of honour, Professor George Holmes, fellow of All Souls College, Oxford, and former member of the College, who entertained the Society with his recollections of College life, and gave a number of convincing reasons why the Cambridge Historical Tripos is superior in all respects to that of Oxford. This thesis found little vehement opposition among the guests.

John Vincent, Secretary

The Wordsworth Society

After lying more or less fallow for several years, the Wordsworth Society sprang back into action this year. For those of you who don't know, the society exists to promote interest in contemporary literature and other art forms among *all* members of the college (including scientists, mathematicians, economists, etc.). All meetings are free and refreshments are usually provided! The society also remains the closest thing to an English Society within St. John's.

This year we have hosted well-attended poetry readings by Michael Hulse, Clive Wilmer, Francis Spufford and Patricia Gillilan. We have also joined forces with the Cognitive Sciences Society to host a discussion about artificial intelligence and the creative mind, with

Sylvia Adamson as the main speaker. On the social side, pre-meeting visits to Hall offered the chance to grill our guests more informally. Our society dinner was also very popular with Gabriel Gbadomosi (Judith E. Wilson Fellow), giving us an enjoyable account of his experiences in the world of contemporary drama. We look forward to an equally successful garden party in June and a full and varied agenda of events during the next academic year.

Lindsey Scutt, President.

Bridge Society

One of the more civilised ways of spending a Sunday afternoon. Drinking coffee, eating chocolate biscuits and playing with small pieces of card. St. John's College Bridge Society has had another successful year. It began with possibly the largest influx of new members since its foundation several years ago. Meetings were held every Sunday afternoon during term, catering for everyone – with tuition for beginners and informal competitions (not forgetting the refreshments).

The Society showed that it is for players of all standards, ranging from absolute beginners to two new members – Anthony Profit and David Trounce – who represented the University. As usual, we also entered as many teams in Cuppers as possible – this year a record of six. These were:

Team 1	Team 2	Team 3
R. Holloway	Teck Lee Wong	Tim Crosley
Matthew Brown	Joynur Rahman	Paul Reed
Anthony Profit	Jebu Rajan	M. Anderson
David Trounce	Martin Turner	A. Stevenson
Team 4	Team 5	Team 6
Roger Moore	Jonathon Reed	Toby Haynes
John Franklin	Julian Danvers	William Ivory
Claire Sweeney	Sarah Blakeney	Kit Kilgour
Toby Watkin	Stephen Bond	Linda McLatchie

Fortunes were mixed, with only the second and third teams getting past the first round. The third team performed exceptionally, reaching the quarter finals and losing narrowly to Pembroke I by only one point.

Meanwhile, after an unlucky draw in the main competition, the first team are attempting to regain pride by winning the plate. So far they're

in the semi-final, and have been joined by the fifth team (who beat Downing I).

So there you have it. Many thanks to the retiring committee, and I hope the Society will continue to flourish next year.

Matthew Brown (Secretary)

Larmor Society

Over 1991-92, the Larmor Society has enjoyed an active and successful year. We met the Freshers at St John's Societies Fair and they then went on to pick up all the bargains at our Booksale/Squash. On the academic front, our first Speaker Meeting was taken by Dr Snaith, who gave an amusing and interesting, if slightly unsettling talk, entitled 'Mummies'. Dr Goswami followed with 'Can Babies Think?', and left most of us enlightened that they probably can. In the Summer term, Professor Higham spoke to us about archaeological excavations in Thailand, in a talk entitled, 'Back from the Oblivion: Reviving an Extinct Community'.

On the social side, we have held many varied and well supported events. Michaelmas term was started with the traditional Hallowe'en Party, and rounded off with a trip to Hall. The Lent term was launched by a Cocktail Party with Medsoc in the School of Pythagoras. Dancing went on well into the night and, as everyone certainly seemed to enjoy themselves, we hope to hold another joint event in the future. The highlight of the social calendar was undoubtedly our Annual Sponsored Dinner. We were fortunate enough to hold this in the Senior Combination Room, which lived up to all our expectations and meant that nearly seventy members could attend. We have ICI to thank for their generosity and Dr David Evans for his interesting and provocative talk, 'Pesticides, a shade of green?'. This, combined with the wine, prompted lively debate.

I would also like to thank Vince Townsend, our Social Secretary, for the time and energy it has taken him to organise all the above. We will be ending the year, as usual, with our Garden Party in the Fellow's Garden. I would like to thank everyone who has supported our events and the committee for their enjoyable company and commitment. On behalf of the present committee, I wish our successors the best of luck in the future.

Hilary Leever

The Lady Margaret Players

This year the leading lights of the Lady Margaret Players were suspended from the ceiling. This was not a disciplinary measure, but a long sought-for improvement to the theatre in the School of Pythagoras, which previously relied wholly upon hired lighting and sound equipment. Both the safety and flexibility of the theatre have been greatly enhanced by the fitting of permanent facilities.

The newly installed lighting frame holds more than thirty lanterns, which are controlled from a computerised board on the tower. This tower operates four speakers which can be used as one unit or in parallel pairs. The system also includes linking equipment which will make a significant improvement in communications between the tower and the floor, facilitating accurate cues.

Such changes are part of a broader plan to bring the School of Pythagoras up to the level of a working studio theatre, which will involve altering the present stage arrangement to allow greater acting space and a new seating arrangement which can be worked around a wide variety of set designs. These plans should be executed in 1993 and will create exciting potential for new drama in St. John's. We are extremely grateful to the College Council, and in particular to the Domestic Bursar, for discussing our needs and making these developments possible.

During the period of work on the theatre, college drama has been curtailed, but the Players have continued to fund a wide variety of student productions, favouring innovative approaches to established works and student-written plays. Katherine Bond's Michaelmas term productions of Pirandello's *Henry IV* was challenging in the best sense of the word. The medieval stone walls of the School of Pythagoras were hung with mirrors, creating an illusory castle in which the protagonist battled against madness, fawned upon by masked clowns, trapped in the role of Holy Roman Emperor. *Varsity* deemed it 'ambitious and visually striking', the acting 'startlingly strong'. Lent term funding included some new work by Jeremy Butterworth, a young old-Johnian who has taken up play-writing as a career. The Easter term promises a show which will travel to the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, and a masque in the Fellows' Garden to accompany the annual Garden Party.

This has been an important year for the society and the committee hopes that the investment in theatrical facilities will lead to greater enthusiasm and support for theatre within the College, both from potential actors and potential audiences, whose energies have previously

been directed elsewhere. We long for the day when a staging of the Battle of Agincourt will attract as much attention as the Varsity Match, and Hamlet's wounding does not provoke guttural cries of 'injury time!'.

Sara Lodge, Treasurer

College Societies

History Society 1992-93

The College History Society this year led a fairly active existence, including the first American-style Squash, five speaker meetings covering a wide range of historical subjects and a typically indulging Dinner.

Our first talk was presented by Dr Nicholas de Lange of the Divinity School, who proffered alternative answers to the question "Where does anti-Semitism come from?". He suggested that there is evidence of hostile feeling towards and treatment of Jews throughout history, but that activities of the Early Church considerably helped the growth of anti-semitism. Dr de Lange recommended recent scholarship by Christian writers. One of the most remarkable features of this meeting was the huge crowds it drew to the confines of Peter Linehan's set, which normally appears capacious.

However by the time the second talk took place attendance had begun to wane: it was fifth week. Professor Arthur Marwick came from Warwick University to speak to us about the 1960s: "Social and Cultural Changes in Britain France and Italy". Having been well entertained before the meeting by Professor Clarke, Professor Marwick found an audience (Drs Pelling and Szreter in particular) eager to query the research he had undertaken for his forthcoming book.

Activities in the Lent Term were many and frequent. The first speaker meeting was given by the recently appointed Professor of American History, Tony Badger. He gave us a most interesting account of the difficulties besetting Southern Liberal politicians in the years following the Second World War. "**Booze, Broads and Blacks**" were amusingly presented as the overriding problems for a band of eccentric men.

Two weeks later the Society hosted a talk by Dr Henry Mayr-Harting from St. Peter's College Oxford. His subject was early medieval: two conversions to Christianity, the Anglo-Saxon of the seventh century and the Bulgarian of the ninth. Although the former has been fairly well researched, there are few who know much about the latter, not least among those present at the meeting in February. By elaborating on

contemporary politics and dilemmas Dr Mayr-Harting made both conversions accessible to his listeners to such an extent that after an hour King Boris' 102 questions to the Pope seemed both familiar and likely.

Our final speaker meeting was given by Sir James Adams KCMG. As former British Ambassador to Egypt he was able to provide the hardcore of the college historians with a personal view on the current state of Arab nationalisms, and his talk was enhanced by an account of changes that have occurred in this field in the last fifty years.

The St. John's History Society Dinner on March 11th was held in the Senior Combination Room, a privilege for the society which did not slip by unnoticed by those present. Dr Brendan Bradshaw as Guest Speaker gave the current historians in college an insight into History Society workings of earlier generations, stressing the valuable links between the graduates and fellows of history of St. John's and Queens' colleges. The four course meal seemed to reach its end rapidly, and with it ended the formal meetings of the Society for this academic year (although the "garden party" provided by the Fellows in the Fisher Building on the feast of the Venerable Bede was enjoyed by all as a preliminary to Tripos). It was with pleasure and anticipation that I handed over the workings of the History Society to Susannah Storey and Dan Wright.

Helen Flynn
Secretary 1992-3

Norman Henry Society

Oh, it's the College Food and Wine Society, they all get together about once a week to get drunk cheaply and trash the Wordsworth Room. I can do that on my own at the bar quite honestly, never could see the point in belonging to a society for it and who wants to know about wine anyway – either it makes you throw up or it doesn't, they're just a lot of hedonists really I wouldn't bother going if I were you.

A certain hedonism we might possibly admit to, but there is a lot that isn't fully understood about the Norman Henry Society, which this year celebrated its 25th anniversary. The Society is open to all members of College, both junior and senior, and meets fortnightly during the Micheldmas and Lent terms. It is assumed that the junior members will

be studying too hard in the Easter term to do justice to its meetings. Thus eight meetings were held in the Wordsworth Room last year, all models of decorum, in which the members came to listen to talks on subjects ranging from Spanish wine to Australian whisky, and then to sample versions on the topic under discussion. The only person noted for getting out of hand was the Chaplain's guest, which perhaps says something for our 'riotous' behaviour.

The talks began on 19 October with Dr Hutchings, the Chairman of the College Wine Committee, giving us an idea of the contents of the College cellars, which are large, well-stocked and worth getting to know. This popular opener was followed by other presentations on Portuguese, Italian and Australian wines, whiskies, sherry (by the Chaplain, who ought to know), and patés and the wines to drink with them. Our 25th anniversary dinner, funded by membership and ticket sales, was a sumptuous Provençal affair, particularly enhanced by the vintage port and claret provided from the College cellars. The scent of garlic hung tantalisingly in the Wordsworth Room for days, rather like the chocolate coated pears did after the LMBC bash, we hear...

The only negative note was the halving of the Society's funding from the Associated Societies this year, owing partly to a misunderstanding of its accounting procedures and not helped, possibly, by a charming but teetotal Senior Treasurer. No matter. Fortified by our thirst for knowledge, and thirst generally, we will appear en masse at next year's meeting to claim our just deserts. In vino veritas.

The Winfield Society

The Winfield Society caters for all aspects of the extra-curricular activities of the College's fifty or so lawyers, both social and academic.

This year, despite the recession and consequent difficulty in finding sponsorship from the city firms, the Society has still succeeded in providing a full spectrum of informative and enjoyable events.

The year began in its usual vein with the very popular Freshers' Cocktail Party – an ideal opportunity for the new St. John's lawyers to meet each other informally and to mingle with the upper years, as well as a chance for the others to catch up on all the summer holiday escapades! The Lent Term saw the Annual Dinner, kindly sponsored by Allen & Overy, as well subscribed as always. This year, in particular, we

were honoured to have two highly distinguished guests amongst us, namely the old Johnnians, Lord Murtill and Lord Griffiths, who kept us all entertained with their tales of St. John's when they were frivolous students. The year's social events culminated, as always, with the appropriately lubricated May Week Garden Party (sponsored by Linklaters & Paines and Clifford Chance), all those present maintaining the reputation that lawyers certainly believe there is far more to life than those "hazy shades of gray" they have to spend so much time ploughing through.

As far as academic activities are concerned, the Simons and Simons Meeting Competition is now becoming an annual event – a most advantageous (if nerve-racking) experience for all those would-be barristers. The standard was high, mainly dominated by second-years as usual, and on this occasion, we were particularly delighted to have the Learned Lord Templeman (an old Johnnian of course!) presiding over the final in his uniquely shrewd and witty manner, to the sympathy and amusement of the competitors' audience.

The other main event of the year was the hugely successful and informative City - Provincial Solicitors' debate. The speakers were representatives from Holman, Fenwick, William, and Cameron Markby Hewitt arguing on behalf of the City with Shoosmiths and Harison, Northampton, and Mills and Reeve, Norwich, counter-arguing for the Provincials. The debate was lively and, surprisingly, contrary to everyone's preconceived assumption, the Provincials certainly succeeded in casting severe doubts upon the London-based emphasis pressed upon all law undergraduates.

In all, despite being quieter than some years, due to the obvious shortage in funding, the Winfield Society is definitely one of the more active law societies in Cambridge. In addition, without doubt, it has an extremely high reputation amongst other small, non-sporting societies within St. John's as being well-supported and providing a good opportunity to socialise with other college lawyers from all years. We can only hope that next year will be as successful if not more so than this.

Minority Subject Society

The last year was a good one for the Minority Subject Society. Well-established and more members than ever before, we organised trips to the seaside, Boiler Room Parties and events for Freshers Week. Always

popular were the outings to Hall where we could meet and eat on the cheap! Craig McWilliam and Ruth Settle both did great jobs and Ruth is President for next year. Best of luck.

Niamh McKenna
President

Music Society

This year has seen a large influx of enthusiastic musicians who have managed to sustain this attitude throughout their first three terms. Due to this, and to a recognition of the fact that many members of college pursue music of a different kind to that usually catered for by the Society, or to a slightly lower standard than that exacted by the University scene, the Music Society has been able to make a welcome start to an expansion of its formerly fairly narrow horizons. Included in the lunchtime recital series of the Michaelmas Term was a jazz band, who may not have been musically irreproachable at this stage in the year, but who gave enjoyment and encouragement to their audience, which was larger than usual for lunchtime concerts. For next year an orchestra, or band of some description, is projected, to enable those musicians who wish to play solely for fun, without the pressures of performance to meet on a fairly regular basis. Alongside this, of course, musicians of a higher standard will continue to exercise their talent.

The year began in the Michaelmas term with a "Come and Sing" Concert directed by the capable baton of James Martin. The choral item was Haydn's *Nelson Mass* which occupied the second half of the concert, and the first half consisted of Mozart's second horn concerto, the soloist of which was Catherine Fox. Despite the usual problems of getting student musicians to commit themselves to playing, let alone to turn up to rehearsals, the concert was a success musically. Unfortunately, however, the publicity was poor and the audience was consequently small.

There was no main concert in the Lent Term, but several excellent lunchtime and evening recitals were given. But, again, publicity was a weakness.

The year ended well, with the May Week Concert. Conducted mainly by Christopher Robinson, the varied programme started with Haydn's *Te Deum*, sung by the combined voices of both Chapel and Mixed Voice Choirs, the latter of which has dramatically improved in this, its second,

year. The Chapel Choir and the Gentlemen of St. John's then contributed, to their usual high standard, followed by a stunning performance of two short works by Delius and Saint-Saëns for cello and orchestra, by Alison Atkinson. In the second half of the concert the audience enjoyed Abigail Woods' sensitive and beautiful handling of Mozart's D minor piano concerto.

There is much potential in the college, and one hopes that next year the Music Society will raise its profile further, and facilitate communication between musicians of whatever persuasion or ability, as well as between the college and both the rest of the University and the town.

Catherine Fox

College Societies

Art Society

The art society aims to encourage all members to continue developing their artistic skills from A-Level studies or to offer beginners the chance to acquire some. In this respect the weekly life drawing classes have been a great success. With a regular and full class the progress made has been enormous. We have had the opportunity to learn with a number of tutors and a variety of models. The grant from the Associated Societies has enabled us to buy some materials, a range of which have been introduced to the beginners.

The annual art competition has taken place. This gives members of the college a chance to hang their current work while other students become aware of the creativity to be found among them. We hope that participation in the Society will continue to be as exciting and committed next year.

Sophie Noble
Nicky Mullett

Bridge Club

I'd like to thank all the previous committee for the work they have done for the society and for the friendly atmosphere they have given to the college bridge game. Through them the society has continued to grow and has encouraged new players to take up the game.

The society now has players of all abilities joining in for a Sunday afternoon game of bridge over coffee and biscuits. We now have players ranging from absolute beginners to Life Master! And everyone has fun!

This year we fielded four teams in Cuppers with varying levels of success mainly due to the vagaries of the draw... Our luckiest team

reached the semi-finals before being narrowly beaten by Trinity 1. The team was Ed Sheldon, Arthur White, Nigel Megitt, Nigel Childs and Sonia Zakrzewski. We hope for better things next year, with more teams and more success!

St. John's bridge players have not only been representing the college in Cuppers but also have played in more serious competitions; David Trounce, Anthony Profit, Gareth Bushill, Christine Gill, Nigel Megitt and Sonia Zakrzewski have represented the university in various matches, such as in the Eastern Counties League with the first two playing in the Undergraduate Varsity Match, and one player, Ed Sheldon, having played in the full Varsity team and has been selected to represent the UK in the Junior European Championships. We wish them the best of luck in the future.

The new committee continues to promote the game within college.

They are: Anthony Stevenson Secretary

Nick Teanby Treasurer

with myself as President. I'd like to thank them for all their help and enthusiasm for the society.

Sonia Zakrzewski, Treasurer

Chess Club

This year has been by far and the most successful year in the history of the Chess Club, with the St John's 1st team taking a clean sweep of both Cuppers and the League. The St John's 2nd team were also promoted to a higher division.

Much of the recent success lies in the fact that the Chess Club, thanks to Gareth Bushill, is no longer defunct as it was two years ago. Not only have the funds been of paramount importance in buying clocks and sets and equipment, but it has propelled Chess to a proper College society and released the talent of the closet Chess players.

With a summer tournament coming up and a series of training sessions for beginners, John's will hopefully continue to be the best at the ultimate game of skill.

Dipak Golecha, President

Economic Society

St John's Economic Society had a more eventful year than usual under the Presidency of S. Vireswar. Prominent economists such as Franco Modigliani, Lionel Price and Patrick Minford joined us for drinks and dinner prior to their talks at the Marshall Society.

At present we are trying to obtain a computer package which simulates the workings of the British economy under policies designed by the user. A potential Chancellor of the Exchequer may be discovered next term (perhaps not).

Lindsay Chalmers, Secretary

The Norman Henry Society

The College food and wine society continued to gather on a regular basis for self-indulgent imbibation of a carefully chosen selection of sumptuous viticultural offerings. With a total of six meetings in the Michaelmas Term (including our now traditional Sherry Squash), and a further four in the Lent Term, the number of meetings showed an increase on previous years. Attendance, however, proved to be more erratic; though sometimes running at admirably high levels, it generally fell short of the levels of previous years. This was largely attributable to a fall in attendance from graduate students; the numbers of undergraduates increased despite a lack of interest from freshers.

The speakers and wines continued at the high standard of last year. Following the change in the provision of wines to undergraduates (instead of access to the gems bought by Dr. Armstrong for the College Cellar, we now are supplied by Griersons - a distinctly inferior list at rather inflated prices), the accustomed initial meeting on 'Wines from the College Cellar' was replaced by Dr.

Johnstone's assessment of some of the better value offerings from some of the Cambridge off-licences. A hard job, but someone's got to do it! Other meetings roamed broadly across the culinary and viticultural landscape – German, Australian, Californian and Greek wines, superb pate and cheese tastings, and a Christmas party with port from the College Cellars which unfortunately (for me at least!) clashed with the LMBC Dinner.

The society's annual dinner was this year held in the Senior Combination Room – a rare treat in all its candlelit magnificence. A record number of people were treated to a sumptuous meal chosen on a traditional British theme. Fortunately for us, that meant trout and venison rather than fish and chips! The wine was, as ever, both plentiful and appealing, particularly the gorgeous German dessert wine. But I digress. Usefully for the society's finances, our allowance from the Associated Societies was increased this year, aided no doubt by the presence of our ex-Junior Secretary on its committee. Thanks should go to Dr Johnstone, Prof. Matthews and Mr Braithwaite, who continue to run the society with admirable dedication, and to Sophia Pett for getting us all that extra lolly from the Associated Societies. Now I just need to switch off this Mac, equip myself with suitable refreshment and try to forget that I've got exams in a fortnight...

David Fairweather, Junior Secretary

Lady Margaret Players

LMP has had particularly successful year, due to an especially enthusiastic first year. We started off the year by putting on a Freshers' Play in the School of Pythagoras. This was 'Kafka's Dick' by Alan Bennett.

Over the Lent Term, the LMP committee wrote and put on a comedy revue. Due to renovations in the School of Pythagoras this was performed at the beginning of the Easter Term.

The culmination of this year's efforts is a production of 'Twelfth Night' by Shakespeare, to be performed in the new amphitheatre outside the Library, during May Week. We are hoping to revive the

LMP tradition of putting on a May Week production, which seems to have been abandoned in recent years.

'Twelfth Night' will be the most ambitious production to be staged by LMP in the last few years, and I hope it represents the increasing prominence of drama at St John's.

Emma Whicher

Larmor Society

The present Larmor Society Committee celebrated their election by throwing a hugely popular garden party in the Easter Term. The strawberries and cream, jazz band, jugglers and cocktails provided the ideal post-examination celebration for natural scientists and friends.

Perhaps the most important function fulfilled by the Committee is the help and advice given to the Freshers. Our pearls of wisdom were dished out at the orientation day for natural scientists and at the annual Larmor Book Sale, which also provided the usual bargains and allowed second and third years to get rid of all those "essential" textbooks. Later in the Michaelmas Term, we held a Freshers' Soirée, just to make sure they had all settled in.

Throughout the year, the society has held a number of stimulating talks, with attendance encouraged by free refreshments. We were very lucky to have Professor Malcolm Longair give a talk entitled "Was the Hubble Space Telescope really a disaster?" just days before the repair mission was launched. Professor Longair has been involved with the Hubble Space Telescope Project since its conception and so was able to give a first-hand account of its development. Other highlights have included the Master's thought-provoking discussion of "Where psychology, sociology and anthropology meet" and a debate regarding the implications of genetic engineering, bravely led by Dr Jane Heal and Dr Chris Howe.

The most important and enjoyable day of the Larmor social calendar was undoubtedly the Annual Sponsored Dinner, once again

held in the candlelight of the Senior Combination Room. Our generous sponsors, Albright and Wilson, not only provided a huge amount of money but sent the manager of their International Technical Centre, Dr Gerry Strong, to ruffle a few feathers with his controversial discussion on the lack of innovation demonstrated by British scientists.

Finally, I would like to thank the current Committee for their hard work and enthusiasm and wish next year's committee every success.

Sally Wheelwright, Chairman

Moral Sciences Society

The meetings of SJCMSS have again been successful this year. Talks by Dr Baldwin on Modality and by Dr. Noordhof on Perception, arranged by Jeremy Watkins (Secretary), were attended by junior and senior members of college. The format of formal hall before the talk and an open discussion afterwards contributed to the unintimidating and encouraging atmosphere surrounding a forum for rigorous intellectual dialogue characteristic of the society. Anyone with an interest in philosophical issues may participate.

Many people have no clear idea what we do and why and philosophers have never been very forward in self justification. The lack of a defined subject matter may be mysterious to those seeking justification in terms of usefulness. Philosophy is a highly consequential enterprise; it gave birth to the natural sciences, including physics and biology, and the social sciences and psychology. The wellspring of enquiry and forum for discussion of ultimate questions, it also shelters all our currently unsolvable problems. Whether the under-labourer or queen of the sciences, philosophy has a role to play in the life of St John's.

Adam Smith, in *The Wealth of Nations*, observed that in the progress of society, philosophy becomes the sole occupation of a few citizens. But SJCMSS would like all classes of 'citizens' to participate; whether with an interest in ethics, law, mathematics, psychology, quantum theory or literary criticism.

Despite the existing enthusiasm which continues a rich intellectual tradition it is sad to report that, consistent with cuts to philosophy faculties, our college grant has been cut by a third this year. It is reputed the Ancients recommended we live on cheese and wine alone...

Andrew Salton

Music Society

Reading the Presidential Report in last years' *Eagle*, I am struck by both similarities and differences in this year's progress. We welcomed another influx of enthusiastic Freshers, but had the even greater pleasure of bringing many others from all corners of college life into the musical community. Few of last year's qualifications remain necessary. Publicity has been stunning, both in quality and distribution, thanks to Declan Costello. Numbers attending both large concerts and lunchtime recitals have steadily increased. Posters (like those for the May Ball?!) may be sold next year, alongside the mythical T-shirts, as souvenirs...

Dispensing with the traditional exclusivity has done nothing to diminish standards, despite the cautious note sounded in last year's report. Many thanks are due to all members of the committee for contributing enormous levels of time and energy in various fields and encouraging newcomers of a wide range of backgrounds. Dizzying heights were achieved, with record numbers on stage as well as off, and concerts of a quality unprecedented in recent years. November's open 'Come and Sing' Beethoven *Mass in C*, with which we launched the new format, mass participation Music Soc, saw a choir of over sixty and an orchestra of over forty. Recordings, subsequently sold, confirm an impressive performance. A thoroughly assured, sensitive but energetic conducting debut from Jamie Burton complemented his work with both choir and orchestra in the preceding weeks, conveying to them and the audience the fun of the communal performance, as well as musical confidence. A special mention also to Ian Aitkenhead, for his memorable soprano contribution to the first rehearsal, and for picking up equally untempting pieces throughout the year.

We have enjoyed music in even more diverse new forms than the introduction of a (shock horror) jazz band last year. A pioneering concert during the Lent term was an important landmark for the musical calendar with a creditable performance of Prokofiev's *Classical Symphony*, *Peter and the Wolf*, and Ives' *Unanswered Questions* (stunningly exploiting the whole length of the Chapel's acoustic). The large scale second half of both major concerts in the Chapel was offset by a chamber format for the first half of the programme – another successful innovation. Declan Costello's rendition of Vivaldi's *Stabat Mater* in November was followed by Poulenc from Alex Barnett's Sextet in February. Occasional Evening Recitals have been added to the established Lunchtime series. A highlight of the year was the sellout *Cabaret* from the Gentlemen of St John's, in a rare but hugely popular opportunity for them to perform to their friends. Other Recitals included the moving performance of Mendelssohn's *Octet* and the introduction of a Freshers' Concert and the Composers' Platform. A regular feature returned with the much loved Jim Bowen Jazz Orchestra, with some new numbers added to those we remember so well from their first year together. After the last President's comments I would like to commend them on their progress, and to thank them for their support throughout the year. From post concert party entertainment to cameo appearances in the college orchestra and ushering the May Week Concert, their presence has only enhanced music at all levels in the College.

The two events traditionally enjoyed by the Fellows were well attended as ever, and even saw the arrival of a (pitifully) few Junior Members. As these are two of the most scenic and civilised events of our year, moves are under way to make them more accessible to all. The Senior Combination Room concert in February included excellent chamber groups, as well as less traditional performances of Steve Reich's *Clapping Music* and music for classical guitar. There was perhaps less singing than usual, reflecting only the number of musicians here with fewer opportunities to perform than the choral scholars, who continue to provide a backbone for music in College. Thanks to James Martin, who accompanied superbly almost every item on the programme. The May Week Concert was a roaring success with traditionally fine contributions from the Gentlemen of St. John's, and the Mixed Voice Choir. A delightful rendition of Tchaikovsky's *Rococo Variations* from Alison Atkinson concluded the

first half, and her sustained contribution to college music throughout her undergraduate years here. The triumphant finale to the concert, and the year, came in the Master's narration of *Peter and the Wolf*, repeated with a new celebrity by popular demand. All present thoroughly enjoyed it and the Master's generosity in agreeing to end his official time here in support of our musical efforts. He was a pleasure to work with, and we wish him well in the future.

The traditional components of the Music Soc's operations have been sustained and enhanced. In addition to the major concerts in Chapel Hall, and the SCR, we have run a complete Lunchtime Recital series in the Palmerston Room each term, filling every available slot. Publishing a listing of the term's Recitals, and posters for individual ones, has brought a growing audience from within and beyond the College. Regularity and reliability have built an expectation of our concerts as interesting, enthusiastic performances of a consistently high, not elite, standard. An exciting new dimension, will be added from Michaelmas 1994 with the reopening of the New Music Room. It will be completely refurbished, with a brand new Steinway. Recitals there will be better placed for a wider audience, and more acoustically satisfying. Work this year on the repair and upkeep of instruments across College will be consolidated in a new system to ensure facilities are accessible, but well maintained and protected. Fun had by the committee deciding crucial issues of decorative detail should not obscure the individuals' time and effort that made this possible.

Perhaps the most remarkable feature of the year has been the happy coincidence of talented, committed Junior Members (both in musical and administrative terms), remarkable new opportunities, and a supportive and generous Fellowship. My thanks to all members of previous committees for length of service and vital continuity are matched by thanks for new recruits, who have added immeasurably. Dr Johnstone, as our new Chairman and bastion of the Beethoven tenor section, has generously agreed to stay with us another year. Thanks also to Dr Glasscock and Christopher Robinson, for their continued patience. Daniel Chau, after enormous work on the refurbishment of pianos and the NMR, has agreed to play an early recital on the new Steinway. Its imminent arrival owes much to them all, and to the generosity of the college, for which we remain

grateful. In liaising delicately between the various departments involved, our meetings, and countless chair manufacturers, Toby Watkin has done perhaps more than anyone to facilitate the much closer relationship between Junior and Senior members advancing the musical cause. The Music Soc. fulfils an important function in bringing members of the college together across traditional boundaries of subject and hierarchy. We have tried to improve communication and accountability. More people have had more fun making more music. Our increased results only reflect the vast potential, of participants and resources, that the College continues to enjoy. Thanks to all concerned.

Nika Raphaely, President

History Society

The College society has once again had a good year due to the active participation of the Fellows as well as the undergraduates.

After the Squash we enjoyed a variety of talks:

"Precedents for Perot?" was the title of the first discussion of the Michaelmas Term given by Professor Michael Holt. Professor Holt was visiting Cambridge from the University of Virginia and gave an interesting insight into the political campaign of Ross Perot. This was followed at the end of term by Professor J.H. Burns talking on "Political law: constitutions and constitution making."

In the Lent term Jonathan Riley Smith, Dixie Professor-elect of Ecclesiastical History, addressed "the Minds of the Crusaders." The years' meetings were ended with Dr. Linehan's long anticipated tale of the mendicant folk in thirteenth century Spain: "Cracks in the Cloisters and Nuns in the ovens."

The Annual Dinner was held on March 8th, once again in the Senior Combination Room, a privilege reflected by the large number of guests who attended. All those present very much enjoyed hearing Professor R.E. Robinson as guest speaker. The feast of the Venerable Bede did not enjoy such impressive surroundings:

the bad weather meant that the garden party was held in the Fisher Building although it was needless to say, an enjoyable pre-Tripods break.

The Society would like to thank Dr Tombs for providing the use of his rooms for the meetings and also Dr Pelling for his continued interest in our activities, despite involuntary absence from College. We wish Andy Gregory and Dave Monaghan best wishes as the Societies' new secretaries.

Zanna Storey and Dan Wright, Secretaries 1993-94

The Winfield Society

This year's Winfield Society has been particularly active and successful with a good level of participation on the part of both students and Fellows – we have been especially lucky this year with the sponsorship which has been received, thus enabling the Society to organise a greater spectrum of events and greater subsidy for occasions such as the Annual Dinner which has allowed more students than usual to attend.

The year started, as usual, with the Freshers' Cocktail Party, kindly sponsored by Freeth Cartright. The turnout was excellent and an atmosphere of camaraderie was instantly felt by all, including the new Johnnians, partly because of the great friendship amongst the present lawyers and partly because of the incredibly potent cocktails! We were particularly lucky this year because funding allowed us to also have an end of term mulled wine and mince pie party which followed a "Lawyers' Night" at Christmas Hall.

The Lent Term saw the Annual Dinner, this time co-sponsored by McKenna & Co. and Allen & Overy. The evening was particularly well supported and the Society surpassed itself this year by being joined by no less than three Old Johnnian members of the House of Lords – The Right Honourable The Lords Templeman, Mustill and Brightman and Lady Brightman. Following an impromptu and amusing speech from Lord Templeman, the evening continued well into the early hours, with a great deal of port being consumed by all – it's good to see that student life can still continue even once you

become a Law Lord! The year's social events, culminated once again, with the May Week Garden Party, kindly sponsored by Freshfields. This event was, as usual, greatly lubricated, but was particularly buoyant due to the admittance of non-lawyers as well – a suitably fitting end to a great year.

As far as academic activities are concerned, the main event was the annual Simmons & Simmons Mooting Corporation. Once again, to our delight (although probably not the competitors!), we were honoured to have The Right Honourable The Lord Templeman as the distinguished judge. Although the competitors, unusually, entirely consisted of 1st years, the standard was good and Lord Templeman not only amused the audience with his sharp quips but also gave some helpful hints on the skill of mooting which, hopefully, the competitors will be able to put into use in the competition next year.

We were also honoured this year to be addressed by Mr Anthony Inglese, the Legal Director of the Office of Fair Trading. Although the audience was small, Mr Inglese gave a most informative talk on that area of the law with which most undergraduate students are understandably ignorant, emphasis mostly being placed on the professions of Solicitors and Barristers. Hopefully, some of the lawyers and non-lawyers who attended will now have further options open to them when the time comes for choosing their specialisation area or in fact changing it.

In all, the year has been busy but most enjoyable both for the students and for the Committee who have organised it. We hope that future years will retain their reputation as being fun-loving as well as academics, so that the Winfield Society can retain its high profile within the University.

Rachel Couter, President



College Societies

Art Society

This has been a successful year for the Art Society. Weekly life drawing classes have been consistently full and a new teacher, Rose Rantz, has offered excellent tuition to those attending. Dealing with both beginners and the more experienced, she has introduced a variety of media and techniques to the class which have enlivened the work being produced. The new committee has encouraged this by starting to sell a range of materials at the classes.

The life drawing class is still the main focus of the society although we aim to encourage artists in every discipline. There are a number of talented students within College who work individually and the annual College Art Competition has, once again, given them the opportunity to share their work with others. The submissions were hung in the exhibition area of the new Library for the College to view.

We anticipate that the Art Society will prove to be as popular with students next year and that members of the College will become increasingly involved with its activities.

Sophie Noble
Eugénie Georgiadis
Daniel Mason

Classical Society

This was another good year for the Classical Society, gathering in Professor Crook's room for the usual set of events including a 'mixed grill', a selection of our favourite pieces, and a play reading of Aristophanes' *Thesmophoriazusae*. The Annual Dessert was held on February 7 in the Wordsworth Room and proved to be the Society's most welcomed event.

I would like to thank Professor Crook for his generous hospitality on all these occasions throughout the year.

Elina Tsalicoglou, President

The History Society

After a slightly slow start the History Society yet again enjoyed a successful year which we like to think proves that quality is most definitely more important than quantity.

We kicked off in grand style with *Songs of Empire*, which was essentially a well deserved encore for an event originally held twenty-five years (or more) ago. Dr Ronald Robinson, ably assisted by Dr Linehan and Prof. Hugh Brogan, drew on the poetry of Rudyard Kipling to give an interesting, amusing and at times touching insight into the foundations on which the British Empire was built. The evening stretched the vocal chords as well as the minds of the History Society although the rendition of such songs as *Boots* and *The Road to Mandalay* was at times more enthusiastic than tuneful. Light-hearted yet intellectually heavyweight, well attended and well lubricated, this 'evening of political incorrectness' was exactly the type of event the society should aim to provide.

Later in the Michaelmas term our very own Dr Simon Szreter gave a paper entitled 'When was Britain Victorian? Towards a history of sexual attitudes'. Dr Szreter used demographic and cultural evidence to explain when and how the country came to accept the values usually associated with the reign of Queen Victoria and to show that these values endured long after her death. The interesting theme was reflected by the healthy attendance at the meeting.

In the Lent term another Johnian, Professor Peter Hennessy provided an historical answer to the question 'What does the Prime Minister do?' Prof. Hennessy concluded that the vast number of functions and duties that have come to rest on the shoulders of the Prime Minister far exceed the capabilities of one man. Shrewd observers will notice that in this respect at least the premiership resembles the secretariat of St John's College History Society - although there were times this year when the burden seemed to be too much for even two men.

This year, as always, the highlight of the History Society's calendar was the annual dinner, held on 7 March. The society was privileged not only to dine once more in the splendour of the Senior

Combination Room but also to welcome the legendary Prof. Quentin Skinner as the guest speaker. His amusing speech was enjoyed by all present, as was the wine which, needless to say, flowed long into the night.

The garden party celebrating the Feast of the Venerable Bede was held in the Fellows' garden just before the start of Tripos. Unlike last year we were graced with beautiful weather which combined with the delicious food and drink to provide a relaxing break - but it was noticeable that it was enjoyed more by the first years for whom prelims had long since finished than by the third years who sat their finals in a week or so's time.

We would like to thank Dr Tombs for the use of his rooms and Dr Linehan for his constant encouragement. We would also like to thank the Associated Societies who this year agreed to a £30 increase in our annual grant which will no doubt be spent by next year's secretaries Ed Booth and Chris Moule on providing better wine for the meetings. We therefore wish them not only good luck but also good judgement.

Andy Gregory and Dave Monaghan, Secretaries

Lady Margaret Players

Under the inspired leadership of Michael Levey and Matthew Arlidge, the LMP has had another successful three terms. Consolidating and building on its dramatic rebirth of last year, the society has continued its journey from zero to hero, taking on increasingly lavish and original productions. With increased financial capability and another bumper crop of talented first years, the future looks good.

Twelfth Night, which due to printing deadlines could not be mentioned in last year's report, proved stiff competition for its thespian rivals in the drama-packed May Week '94. With deft direction from Ruth Ur and Rowan Cruft and striking back-drop design from Maddy Costa, the spirited performances of Susannah Ashworth, Dan Park and Mike Levey ensured that the show delighted both students and tourists alike. The latter category seemed to have a particularly good time and I am confident that for many years to

come, Sir Toby's flatulence in Act I will be remembered in Germany as the great Bard's finest hour.

In Michaelmas term, the LMP turned its attention to seasonal dramatic fare - PANTO! Turning the traditional story of *Cinderella* on its head, this festive production drew on first year zeal to create bizarre and original characters. Fay Dussart drew on the bestial side of her character to give us a fine Zulu performance, and Libby Potter was strangely convincing as a Christian Union recruitment officer. The star of the show was, however, Dustin Woods, whose faultless presentation of the sad, friendless Nigel the Natsci (the not-so-eponymously named hero of the show), lead some of the more cynical spectators to ask whether Dustin was in fact acting at all. Such facetiousness, could not, however, detract from the quality of a show, infused with the technical wizardry of John 'R.Piece' Rimmel and John 'Shandy' Barclay and guided by the firm directorial hand of Matt Arlidge, who was an actors' director in the true sense of the word, giving himself six parts in the play. Fortunately the audience laughed in all the right places, and the three performances were enjoyed by all who attended - so much so, in fact, that one 2nd year engineer, a breed noted for their critical insight, was heard to comment that *Cinderella* was without doubt the best play he had ever seen. He's obviously seen a lot.

And so to May Week '95, when LMP once again turns its attention to Shakespeare. This year's production of *As you like it* promises to be as entertaining as last year, drawing on a multi-collegiate cast and the now seasoned directorial talent of Rowan Cruft. All this, added to increasingly lavish back-drop design, can only mean that, weather permitting, Chapel Court will once more echo with the sound of the applause of satisfied punters. And for those of you who were terrified, last year, by the sight of Jon Craven in tights, fear not - this year's production will be Georgian, so you're quite safe.

Matt Arlidge

The Larmor Society

As usual the first job for the incoming Larmor Society Committee was to organise the May Week garden party held in the Scholars'

Garden. Fortunately enough cocktails flowed with the strawberries and cream to disguise the fact that it was not a particularly balmy June evening – though the classical guitarist did complain of numb fingers interfering with his artistry.

An important role for the Committee at the beginning of the new year is to provide some friendly stalwarts of the system to give help and advice to freshers at the orientation day for natural scientists. The annual book sale at the start of term provided an ideal opportunity for a friendly chat with other members who were also kind enough to recommend the useful books they were selling. Continuing this theme of benevolence, an 'alternative prospectus' to second year subjects was produced for the first time to help supplement the official blurb with some 'grass roots' opinions on what can often be very difficult decisions.

By the end of the year we will have held a number of talks by science-related speakers from around the University. St John's very own Dr Ron Snaith exposed Egyptian mummies in all their gruesome detail in a fascinating talk which drew on his own experiences of mummy 'openings'. We were also pleased to have Dr Peter Lipton from the department of History and Philosophy of Science who spoke on 'Prediction and Prejudice'.

The highlight of the Society's social calendar was the annual dinner held in the beautiful and historic setting of the Senior Combination Room. Many thanks go to ICI, our very generous sponsors, and their representative, Dr David Parker, who spoke on 'ICI and the environment'.

Finally I would like to thank the present Committee for their hard work and wish the next Committee every success.

Ian Apperly, Chairman

The Music Society

The last year has proved to be one of the largest and most exciting for the Music Society in living memory, thanks to the huge enthusiasm of members of College, both in the undergraduate body and

the Fellowship. The number of members of College making music has increased, as have the opportunities available for performing, and the audiences for recitals and especially large concerts have continued to increase.

Once again, the November concert used the 'Come and Sing' format which proved so successful last year, and once again the choir for Haydn's *Teresa Mass* was huge, with over eighty singers, directed with customary energy and vitality by Jamie Burton. Mozart's *Sinfonia Concertante* in the first half, with Claire Dolby and Tiffany Richards playing the demanding solo parts, completed a well-balanced and popular concert.

If the Michaelmas Term concert was huge, the main event in the Lent Term proved to be even larger. A staggeringly enormous audience appeared to hear Vivaldi's *Gloria*, Bach's fifth *Brandenburg Concerto* and Mozart's *Symphony No. 40*. The Vivaldi saw the College Mixed Voice Choir, under their new director Peter Davis, begin a closer relationship with the Music Society than in former years: they have also performed in a lunchtime recital this year. James Martin directed the Bach from the harpsichord and Jamie Burton again proved his ability to inspire an orchestra, giving an impressive and exciting rendition of the Mozart. The success of this concert was due in part to the programming, but also thanks to the extensive publicity: Toby Watkin's mantle has been donned by Ed Hossack, who has ensured that people have not been able to avoid noticing the name of the Music Society.

The Senior Combination Room Concert was held in February, and, again, the audience was much larger than in past years: of particular note was the number of Junior Members who attended – far more than in other years. The event was organised admirably by Rachel Tipping, who made sure that there was a wide variety of music, ranging from a Mozart trio and a Chopin *Fantasia* to a jazz improvisation as well as an arrangement of *The Twelve Days of Christmas* for bassoon quartet.

A criticism of the Music Society in recent years has been that we are not open to a wide enough range of music, and that Committee members have been blind to anything other than so-called 'classi-

cal' music. The month of May saw the advent of what I hope will be a regular feature of coming years: the Music Society Jazz Night. The formation this year of a College Swing Band and the continued success of the Jim Bowen Jazz Orchestra, together with Peter Davis and Tom Hodge playing piano solos gave an entertaining evening to the seventy or so people who attended.

The musical calendar finished with the May Week Concert in Hall. This is always a popular and high-profile event, and this year was no exception. We finally jumped upon the Purcell tercentenary bandwagon with a rousing performance of *Come Ye Sons of Art*. The traditional contributions from the Chapel Choir and the Gentlemen of St John's followed, and the Music Society's year was completed in style with a repeat performance of Mozart's *Symphony No. 40*.

As well as the large events, the Music Society has been known for running regular recital series, allowing people to perform in front of a slightly smaller audience than there would be in Chapel or Hall. This year a new dimension was added to this with the refurbishment of the New Music Room. Thanks to the generosity of the College, we now have a recital and rehearsal venue as good as any other in Cambridge, and a Steinway grand piano that is, quite literally, the envy of other Music Societies in the University. In January of this year, a special inaugural recital was held to thank all those who had been involved with the project. A special mention must go at this stage to Daniel Chua and Christopher Robinson, who not only put vast amounts of work towards the NMR and the Steinway, but were also eventually persuaded to perform in the inaugural recital. Highlights of the Thursday lunchtime recital series for me have been the Freshers' Recital, demonstrating that, once again, St John's has managed to attract many capable musicians of all levels, and the Composers' Platform. This year has also seen the birth of a regular Saturday organ recital series, organised with great efficiency by Allan Walker.

The piano that was once housed in the Palmerston Room has now been moved to the Masters' Lodge, and thanks to the enormous kindness of Professor and Mrs Goddard, there have been occasional recitals held there. These have been of a slightly more formal nature

than the New Music Room recitals and have given an opportunity for people to come to a recital on a Saturday evening and enjoy a glass of wine afterwards.

For the first time the Society has an exhaustive list of its active members: what they play, to what level they play it, the extent to which they wish to participate at a College level and so on are all stored on a computer, easily accessible when planning recital series or booking people to play in orchestras. The amount of time and effort put in to this venture by John Hankinson has been simply enormous, but the results have made it worthwhile.

When celebrating such a successful year it is easy to concentrate purely on the audiences and high standards of performance, and to ignore the enormous amount of time and effort that has gone into making the concerts possible. It is only because there is so much enthusiasm and people willing to work for the cause that the Music Society has run so smoothly this year: if the Committee members had not put in so much time over the last three terms the results would not have been nearly as impressive. Old hands have continued to muck in, and new faces have added hugely to the Society, and I would like to thank all of them. The Senior members of the Committee have continued, as always, to offer as much help and guidance as they can, and we are all very grateful to them for that. The Domestic Bursar, Catering and Conference Office and Maintenance Department have been enormously helpful throughout the year, and I hope that the relationship between the Society and the College authorities continues to grow as time goes by. My time as President has been challenging but enjoyable, and I truly believe that, provided there is a regular influx of people willing to shoulder the burden, the Music Society will continue to go from strength to strength in years to come.

Ian Aitkenhead, President

The Norman Henry Society

We have, in the past, been described as 'the best-kept secret in St John's'. An image, perhaps, of a select group of canny wine-lovers, keeping a supply of the College's best wine firmly to itself? Or simply

a band of aspiring alcoholics with nothing better to do with their Monday evenings? Select your own stereotype... In any case, the Society has usually addressed itself to a dedicated if not particularly large following; it was, therefore, considerably to our surprise when the first meeting of the year (an introductory selection from the College cellars) produced the largest audience in recorded Society history. Furthermore, we managed to keep up a respectable attendance at subsequent meetings, against the trend of several previous years. Never let it be said that the art of wine-drinking is dying out among undergraduates!

It would be a pleasure to report how far around the world the Society has trawled to produce its talks; it would also, however, be a lie. A quick look back over my notes for the past year shows that we have remained relentlessly Europhile, with the closest geographical approach to the New World coming from a Madeira tasting at the Christmas Party. This is far from being a criticism - I certainly heard no complaints from the ranks at the excellent talks given by Dr Johnstone on North-Eastern Italy or Dr Conway Morris on the Rhône. Those in the know also turned up in force for Prof. Matthews' annual and long-anticipated talks featuring cheese (from the innocuous to the formidable) and his legendary home-made pâté.

The Annual Dinner caused some consternation among members when the application form promised an 'Alsatian' menu. Fortunately, our fears of some form of canine cuisine were unfounded, and we were treated to an excellent selection of dishes from Alsace, with a suitably generous quantity of regional wine to wash them down. Many thanks indeed to Dr Johnstone, Prof. Matthews and Mr Braithwaite for all the sterling (and almost entirely unrewarded) work to keep the Society ticking over; my job this year has been made remarkably easy. Similarly, thanks to David Fairweather, last year's secretary, for helping us to keep our Associated Societies grant at its current generous level. LMBC take note!

As Ambrose Bierce put it: 'Bacchus, n. A convenient deity invented by the ancients as an excuse for getting drunk.' To Bacchus!

Arthur White, Junior Secretary

The Purchas Society

'Once a Purchasian always a Purchasian'. After an absence of an entry in *The Eagle* in recent years we are pleased to reassure members that the society flourishes and that all is well in Purchasdom. Under the presidency of Andrew Jones and the secretaryship of Matthew Livingston this year's programme has, in the best tradition, explored many parts of the globe. Mr Jon Beard, graduate Purchasian, even gave a convincing account of a far away place (Cambodia) without having been there. There have been talks from members about their intrepid adventures all without doubt supported by the Revd Samuel who has continued to make his views known in the time-honoured way and in the accustomed place. Visiting speakers included Dr Clive Oppenheimer, newly appointed to the Departmental staff, who took us to the very edges of erupting volcanoes and Dr P. Clarkson of S.P.R.I. who took us across the crevasses of Antarctic ice. (Some will recall Sir Vivian Fuchs speaking to the society many years ago: now an Honorary Fellow he was recently seen plodding resolutely through Third Court in this, the 40th anniversary year of his epic trans-Antarctic crossing.)

The annual dinner, held as usual in the Wordsworth Room, attracted a full turnout of undergraduate members (currently fifteen) together with some graduates and visitors. It was, by tradition, the occasion for the annual elections. Unfortunately Bennie Farmer (our co-founder along with the late Glyn Daniel) was unable to be there: he sends his greetings to all of Purchasdom. News from members, especially those who still wear the tie or scarf, is always welcome. If we can put you in touch with a contemporary we shall be glad to do so. Might somebody still possess the pre-1966 minute book(s) which sank without trace many years ago? Rediscovery prior to the 50th anniversary of the Society in 1998 would be especially welcomed by the Revd Samuel; after all, despite the views of some misguided academics, there is no real evidence to suggest that Samuel ever lost any of Hakluyt's papers so there is no justification for us to lose any of his.

Robin Glasscock

The Winfield Society

The calendar was a hectic one this year, with members' academic and social skills being tested to the full. Baker & MacKenzie were the first of the city law firms to visit, offering us a 'negotiation game'. Participating teams were asked to bargain their way against the clock to the best take-over deal possible. The stakes were high as some companies fought for survival and others for dominance, but at the end of the day all parties left the negotiating table with a smile and a sense of satisfaction.

The society held two talks for its members. Holman, Fenwick and Willan visited in Michaelmas to give Johnnians an insight into the life and work of a shipping litigator. This was the first many of us had heard about arresting ships and such like, and it gave the society the opportunity to learn more about this unfamiliar area of practice. During the Lent term, we were addressed by another firm of city solicitors, Farrer & Co., who discussed the role of the lawyer in sport - poignantly timed a fortnight after the 'Cantona incident'! Unfortunately this year the mooted competition had to be cancelled, but it is expected to be up and running again next year.

On the social side, the year began as it meant to go on with the now traditional cocktail party. Organised just after Freshers' week, this bastion of Johnnian revelry lived up to expectations and a good time was had (even if not remembered) by all. The garden party turned out to be another great success and followed in last year's footsteps as the social event to be seen at in May Week.

The most prestigious event of the year, however, was the annual dinner. For the first time ever it was open to old Johnnians as well as current members, and numbers swelled to over 80. The Right Honourable Lords Templeman and Mustill presided, and even gave guests a chance to pick their brains in an open question session after speeches. It is hoped that even more old Johnnians will attend next year, and anyone wishing to do so should write to the new president for details.

Thanks are extended to Rory Clarke (vice-president), Sarah Tidswell (treasurer) and Rachel Patten (secretary) and to all others involved in making 1994-95 a year to remember.

John Ratledge, President

The Johnnian Society

The Johnnian Society was founded in 1923 at a reunion of old members of the College under the Chairmanship of the late Sir Edward Marshall Hall, K.C., as a means of maintaining a link with the College and with each other.

The Society includes amongst its activities an Annual Dinner in December, which in recent years has generally been held in College rather than in London as formerly, and an annual golf competition. It seeks ways of assisting the College: for example it finances a number of travel exhibitions each year for Junior Members of the College. It also arranges a biennial lecture in Cambridge by a prominent member of the Society.

The value of the Society (which can be joined whilst one is in residence) depends on the support it receives from past and present members of the College. There are over 3,500 names on the *Register of Members*. The subscription at present is £10.00 for Life Membership but for those joining the Society whilst in residence, this is reduced to £5.00.

A membership form is included in the Annual Dinner notice which is enclosed with this issue of *The Eagle*.

From time to time the Society publishes a *Register of Members*. The last edition was published in December 1994 and copies are still available at a cost of £5.00 from the Secretary of the Society, Colin Greenhalgh, at Hills Road Sixth Form College, Cambridge, CB2 2PE.

If you wish to join the Society, your name will automatically be included in the next edition of the *Register of Members*. If you wish your address or any other details to be omitted from the *Register*, please contact Dr. Alison Pearn, the College's Biographical Coordinator.

College Societies

Classics Society

The last year has proved both enjoyable and informative for the Classics Society. Meetings have been held in Professor Crook's room, a place associated with warm hospitality and intellectual merriment.

One such get-together involved a fascinating talk by guest speaker Dr McKechnie on Alexander the Great's famously delayed funeral, and the social, political and literary wranglings surrounding the event – Dr McKechnie rounded off by saying it had not been delayed at all! This discussion was preceded by a visit to guest table in Formal Hall, and the whole convention was crowned by a debate on the relative objectivity of classical historical sources, all accompanied by a dash of red wine.

Other events included a reading of the *Aulularia*, and the *Cenatio* (or rather, dessert) which was, as always, an evening of mirth and festivity.

Warm thanks are extended to Professor Crook for his generous sociability throughout the year, and also to guest speaker, Dr McKechnie.

Alex Kent & Duncan Hancox

Lady Margaret Players

Under the energetic leadership of Jonathan Craven, the LMP has enjoyed another interesting and adventurous three terms. Having seen the Lady Margaret Players rise phoenix-like from the ashes in the last few years, one can but hope that such developments in talent and range of output will continue well into the future.

Beginning in May Week last year, the production of *As You Like It* once again had a good turn-out of spectators, albeit hampered

somewhat by the weather on occasion! The capable intercollegiate cast pulled off the requisite miracle again, rehearsing and performing the play in about ten days. Notable performances came from Mike Gilbert-Smith as not one but two dukes, Susannah Ashworth once again pulling off cross-dressing well, Jon Craven as a romantic with Byronesque poetic aspirations, and Rowan Cruft startling audiences in a leopard-skin wrestler's outfit. In all, it was a highly enjoyable and well-received outing for the LMP.

The emphasis in the Michaelmas term was on new blood, with an all-Fresher production of Alan Ayckbourn's *Confusions*. This brought forth a wealth of new talent, showcasing Tom Grafton's manic directorial style and Ashley Smith's show stopping performance as a stereotypical, but nonetheless hysterical, village vicar. It was gratifying to see such an accomplished production come together with a cast and crew who had only known each other for less than eight weeks – it all bodes well for the future. Perhaps the only regret was that there was simply not enough time for them to rig up the collapsing set as the crowning achievement of the play!

The Lent term gave us a co-production with Top Banana, an outside drama company, whose performance of *Macbeth* was nothing if not ground breaking, and (by all accounts) quite an eye-opener! One hopes that such collaborations will continue, providing an outlet for combined resources and talent.

And so we once more approach May Week and the LMP again turns its gaze to Shakespeare, specifically *Much Ado About Nothing*. With the solid foundation of the two previous years to build upon, and hopefully a crop of aspiring new thespians taking on the Bard this year, the prospects for this production can only be bright – one only hopes the weather will be too! It would be a fitting and most satisfying conclusion to my tenure as President of the LMP if these open-air productions became an institution. And to ensure that Chapel Court will again echo with rapturous applause, and not screams of fear, Matthew Arlidge will not be appearing this year in a lime-green costume of any description!

Jonathan Craven
President

Larmor Society

The first job for any incoming Larmor Society committee is to organise the annual garden party in the Scholar's garden. 'Natscified' was a resounding success. There were more than enough cocktails and strawberries and cream to keep even the most antisocial of Natscis out of their rooms on a warm June evening.

Towards the end of the summer term the Society circulated an alternative prospectus of part 1B subjects, which it had been threatening to do for a number of years. This was well received.

October brought a new influx of freshers and the Committee organised a squash to welcome some of its new members. This event was followed up by a book sale about a week later, where the freshers could get advice on books and courses.

In early February the Chaplain delivered a talk to the Society entitled 'Stargazing on Dover beach'. He took a look at the relation between Science and God and what it was like finding out that we weren't at the centre of the universe. The talk was most informative and all in attendance enjoyed it. The Society would like to thank the Chaplain once again for giving up the time to write and present a talk.

As usual *the* event of the year was the annual dinner, held in the beautiful, candle-lit Senior Combination Room. Many thanks go to GPT our very generous sponsors and their representative, Mr Martin Ward, who spoke about the opportunities available within the company for graduates from scientific backgrounds.

Finally I would like to thank the present Committee for their hard work and wish next year's Committee every success.

Jeremy Bassinder
Chairman

The Music Society

The past year has been as busy as ever for the Music Society. It has seen the opportunities increase for College members to attend concerts and gigs, to use the valuable and numerous facilities for practising and to perform from a variety of platforms.

The first orchestral concert of the year was one of those opportunities and also one of the highlights of the Michaelmas Term. The forces of the College 'Come and Sing' Chorus and the St John's Singers, both under the skilful direction of Peter Davis, joined together to perform Duruflé's *Requiem*. This concluded a memorable concert (notable for its Gallic theme) which also included *La Création du Monde* by Milhaud featuring John Hankinson on alto saxophone and Ravel's *Introduction and Allegro* with harpist Helen Garnons-Williams.

The Freshers' Recital held in the Michaelmas Term saw many new Johnians in their element. The Weekly Lunchtime Recitals in the New Music Room have continued to draw audiences from both inside and outside College, as have the fortnightly Organ Recitals in Chapel. In particular audiences could indulge in hearing all of the major organ works by César Franck.

The Senior Combination Room Concert was held in March, and although the attendance was lower than last year it was an enjoyable occasion for everyone who came.

The Clarkson Room was invaded by several bands in the Lent Term and continued the achievement made last year in addressing criticisms that the Music Society promoted virtually nothing but classical music. The Valentine's Jazz evening, in its second year, was even more popular than the first, with the College Swing Band heading the list of bands and performing with other groups from College. The end of the Lent Term also saw the first of (I hope) many gigs called 'Furnace'. A wide variety of styles of music was on display that night, from Jazz to Funk, from Rock to Soul. The alcohol flowed and the bands from within College played late into the evening.

Lent Term was a particularly busy term and the classical programme included the orchestral concert in Chapel which brought out Allan

Walker's conducting skills in the 'Hebrides' Overture by Mendelssohn. An entertaining rendition of J.S. Bach's *Coffee Cantata* and a breath-taking performance of Sibelius' *Symphony No 5 in E^b Major* rounded off a popular evening.

The musical calendar concluded with the ever popular May Week Concert in Hall in which Christopher Robinson conducted the St John's Singers and Chapel Choir. Britten's *Rejoice in the Lamb* and *The Ballad of Lady Musgrave and Little Barnard* were but two of the items they performed. Shostakovich's *Piano Concerto No 2* followed and ended the Music Society's year in rousing fashion.

The list of opportunities continue: the Master's Lodge Recitals have been held throughout the year thanks to the kindness and generosity of Professor and Mrs Goddard; the St John's Singers have sung Evensong in Chapel and given concerts there too; the Composers' Platform yet again showed off the abundance of musical talent in College.

Of course all of these opportunities were only made possible by the enormous amount of time and effort that has gone into making a successful year. Once again the Domestic Bursar, Catering and Conference Office and Maintenance Department have made the crucial 'behind the scenes' work flow smoothly. I would like to express my appreciation for their help. My thanks extend finally to all the Committee members, both to junior, not just for those times when posters had to be stuck on notice boards around town, and to senior, for their untiring advice and support.

**Eric Ho
President**

The Norman Henry Society

After years of obscurity, it seems that the Norman Henry Society has finally shed its shrouds of mystery and emerged into the consciousness of the College. Enjoying increased membership, both from graduate and undergraduate members, the Society has

continued to pursue the higher ideals of its founder Norman Henry. Once again, our activities have centred around the uplifting principles of both the enjoyment of fine wines, and the sybaritic indulgence in sumptuous food. Through these media, students from diverse disciplines have been united by the common desire to escape the mundane routine of College life and maffick.

Monday evenings have seen the Wordsworth room packed with eager scholars, keen to broaden their understanding of wines from around the world, feasting on the very words of the resident College Bacchi, Dr Johnstone, Professor Matthews and Mr Braithwaite. This year, our activities also expanded into the spirit world, when Dr Johnstone gave an excellent presentation of malt whiskies. Professor Matthews' legendary home-made pâté once again proved a resounding success, as did the ever popular cheese evening. Over the course of the year, the Society also explored regions as far afield as South Africa and Australia to the delight of many, though perhaps one of the most popular events was the tasting from the College's own cellars. The year's activities ended with an extravagant dinner with a Spanish theme.

Thank you to all those who supported the Society over the year, and helped to make the atmosphere so lively, and particularly to the Fellows who ran it all so smoothly.

Tim Freeman
Junior Secretary

Purchas Society

Many of you will have been distressed to hear of the death of Benny Farmer, co-founder of the Purchas Society, who passed away during the Lent Term. On behalf of all in Purchasdom, may I extend my deepest sympathy to his family.

Benny's commemoration service did present the opportunity for graduate Purchasians to meet. They were assured that despite the news, the Society has continued to flourish, this year under the

Secretaryship of Hillary Crowther. The Revd Samuel's research methodologies (armchair travelling) have been applied with vigour by pious Purchasians.

Visiting speakers included Dr T.M. Whitelaw who revealed the discoveries of the excavated site of the new Library, and Craig Jeffrey, who delivered a titillating speech on the geography of Grottoes. Purchasians Dr B. Dobson and Emma Mawdesly educated the Society on life in post-apartheid South Africa and Uttar Pradesh respectively.

The Annual Dinner continues to attract a full turnout and with a perceptible inflation in the size of the Society, all is well in Purchasdom on this side of the College gates at least. (The Revd Samuel is expressing increasing dissatisfaction at the condition of the Society's archives.) Once again, an appeal for the pre-1966 minute book(s) goes out.

Remember, wear your tie and wear your scarf. Once a Purchasian, always a Purchasian.

Matthew Livingstone
President

The Winfield Society

The Winfield Society provides our lawyers with a social environment in which to meet other lawyers, but more importantly it offers ways to explore many aspects of the law and the legal profession outside a purely academic environment.

This year included many of the activities that have been held in the past: a cocktail party, a lawyer's formal hall, a negotiation workshop, mootings and a garden party. But there were two noteworthy events that deserve to be highlighted.

Commentators called it 'The Trial of the Century.' Early in the Michaelmas Term, the Winfield Society was called upon to organise the logistics of a once in a lifetime opportunity. Judge Flynn,

who is a member of the Los Angeles Superior Court, Criminal Division, was at the College as a guest of the Master. Initially, he was the judge who had been offered the OJ Simpson case by the Head of the Criminal Division. He accepted it and prepared for it. It was subsequently reassigned to Judge Ito due to political pressures. But Judge Flynn maintained close contact with Judge Ito throughout the trial. The two judges serve in the same judgeship and their offices are just down the hall from each other. In his talk, Judge Flynn provided us with an 'insider's view' of the proceedings, including accounts of his several conferences with Judge Ito, the defence team and the prosecutors. His comments were candid; his observations frank. The Palmerston Room was packed to capacity – over 375 people attended.

The other event that was especially memorable was the Annual Winfield Society Dinner. Last year, as many of you know, Old Johnians were invited to the Dinner by way of a flyer that was included in *The Eagle*. This year we felt it was important to be more pro-active in our approach to get more Old Johnians to this Dinner. So, after two direct mail shots (totalling just over 1500 letters), the response was overwhelming. People from as far away as Pakistan and Australia conveyed gratitude for being included in current College activities. And for the first time in recent memory, Old Johnians outnumbered the present members of College. The atmosphere at the dinner was relaxed – like a meeting of friends, old and new. Unfortunately, the heating in Hall was intermittent; however, this did not dampen the abundant conversation that swirled amongst the members.

St John's has a rich and vibrant history of legal excellence. For a brief time, we had a majority in the House of Lords. Many of the Law Lords, as well as other members of the judiciary, make a special effort to come to the dinner. There are few places in the world that offer such an opportunity to speak first hand to those who directly shape and fashion the law. Yet the charm and meed of the Dinner does not rest solely on judicial shoulders. *Every* Old Johnian, whether a practitioner or not, has experiences that they can share. Even the simple outline of one's experience can be helpful to another. I vigorously resist the assertion by some that their experience is not noteworthy enough to be of any help or interest. This attitude artificially limits the possible benefits to the recipient: a

direct denial of an opportunity to learn. It is easy to underestimate the impact we can have on others. Old Johnians represent the past in one form or another, and it is the ties to the past that makes this place so special. History highlights mistakes, but it also offers us a sense of stability, anchoring us amidst the strong winds of contemporary thought. Now, granted, we must guard against the temptation to make these anchors fetters; we must strive to push forward to embrace Progress while never becoming short-sighted in the process. We should never forget what experience has taught us; for to do so is utter foolishness. This is where Old Johnians – Old Johnians who have taken their education and pursued various paths – come into play. It is important that the present members of College are exposed to this experience; it provides some much needed perspective.

Perhaps the purpose of this extended exposition is to encourage more Old Johnians to return to College and become involved in the present development of our lawyers. For those who need advance warning, next year's Dinner will probably be held around the same time – the end of March which marks the end of Lent Term.

I enjoyed meeting all of the people who came to this year's Dinner. I want to thank them for making the effort to come back to College. It was appreciated by all.

Many thanks goes to this year's committee: Carsten Zatschler (Vice-President), Becky Oglethorpe (Secretary) and Jane Cornwell (Treasurer).

Timothy David Kendrick
President

The Johnian Society

The Johnian Society was founded in 1923 at a reunion of old members of the College under the Chairmanship of the late Sir Edward Marshall Hall, K.C., as a means of maintaining a link with the College and with each other.

The Society includes amongst its activities an Annual Dinner in December, which in recent years has generally been held in College rather than in London as formerly, and an annual golf competition. It seeks ways of assisting the College: for example it finances a number of travel exhibitions each year for Junior Members of the College. It also arranges a biennial lecture in Cambridge by a prominent member of the Society.

The value of the Society (which can be joined whilst one is in residence) depends on the support it receives from past and present members of the College. There are over 3,500 names on the *Register of Members*. The subscription at present is £10.00 for Life Membership but for those joining the Society whilst in residence, this is reduced to £5.00.

A membership form is included in the Annual Dinner notice which is enclosed with this issue of *The Eagle*.

From time to time the Society publishes a *Register of Members*. The last edition was published in December 1994 and copies are still available at a cost of £5.00 from the Johnian Office, St John's College.

If you wish to join the Society, your name will automatically be included in the next edition of the *Register of Members*. If you wish your address or any other details to be omitted from the *Register*, please contact the College's Biographical Officer.

Roger Morgan
Chairman

The 1945 Club and its first Fifty years

Clubs are families of like-minded people, held together by friendship, experience or interest: they form naturally as circumstances arise. Usually there is the initial thought on leadership of an individual; thus with the 1945 Club in St John's. World War II had ended and scattered Fellows returned from afar, or were appointed on return. Glyn Daniel had the idea. It was he, too, as then Steward who had instigated the formation of the College Pig Club which

still flourishes and whose history has already been recorded. That Club had a particular social purpose, while the 1945 Club had shared circumstances and interests, personal friendship and the well-being of the College, as its total aim, though this was never defined.

The Club's first dinner was held in 1946 (and I can find no list of those present): that was followed year by year by a dinner in December. The date had to be fitted in to that busy period when the then Open Scholarships examinations were just finishing. An attempted change to January was not successful. How it came about that, from very early on, I became the regular organiser I do not know. I have kept the records with fair accuracy since 1947. Of course the Kitchens, with their usual helpfulness, did most of the arrangements.

In the earlier years we dressed for dinner, but gave up that custom as we grew older. Our venue varied, but was most frequently the Wilberforce Room in Second Court, occasionally the Lodge when Harry Hinsley was Master. In more recent days, and with smaller numbers, we have taken pre-prandial sherry alone, then together gone across the Court to normal Hall, returning to our dessert in private.

We have been catholic in taste both in food and drink: friendship and talk have been our interests, not specialities for the palate, though in earlier years Glyn sometimes arranged our wines. Smoking used to be common but has now almost vanished: Clifford Evans was generous with cigars for many years. Guests have not been customary, but a few have been welcomed on occasion and have added to our pleasure. The Master has been invited, and attended in our later years when he was junior to ourselves. We normally scatter at about 10 o'clock.

From early on our number settled at twenty-three but with time about a third have gone. A new scattering came about by academic appointments elsewhere:- often special journeys were made to attend, but Australia usually proved too far. Our fortieth year in 1985 was especially well attended.

Listed here, in alphabetical order, are those from the beginning and the number of dinners attended, and their year of death.

Members of the Club

		Dinners Taken
Dr G.C.L. Bertram		42
Dr K.G. Budden		17
Mr A.M.P. Brookes		11
Professor G. Daniel	Died 1986	15
Professor D.V. Davies	Died 1969	2
Professor W.A. Deer		16
Revd. J.M. Duckworth	Died 1980	17
Dr G.C. Evans		44
Mr B.H. Farmer	Died 1996	26
Professor Sir H. Hinsley		34
Mr R.L. Howland	Died 1986	20
Professor Sir F. Hoyle		13
Professor K.J. Le Couteur		7
Mr A.G. Lee		40
Professor R.A. Lyttleton	Died 1995	2
Professor E. Miller		38
Professor R.K. Orr		15
Professor A.J.B. Robertson	Died 1987	10
Mr K. Scott	Died 1984	20
Dr F. Smithies		36
Professor F. Thistlethwaite		18
Dr P.L. Willmore	Died 1995	14
Dr R.H. Winfield	Died 1970	2

Greatest attendances: 1947 – 16, 1985– 15. 1946 – No record

Colin Bertram

COLLEGE SOCIETIES

St John's College Choir Association

Formed in 1995 from The Old Choristers' Association, the Choir Association exists for all former members of the College Choir, including Organ Students. It is widely supported by both the College and the College School.

The Association is a self-financing organisation which provides, inter alia, a corporate identity for its members who span many generations of the choir. Currently, reunions are held annually in Cambridge and every second year, the College extends an invitation for these to coincide with their Open Day or Weekend. Open Days attract up to 1200 non-resident members of the College. Association members are invited to sing a major work with the College Choir at the Eucharist on the Sunday morning.

Officers of the Association include the President (the current Organist), Vice Presidents (former College Organists, The Dean, and Headmaster of the College School) and an Executive Committee. The Executive Committee, which comprises both former Choristers and Choral Students, meets regularly to plan events and develop the longer term objectives of the Association. These include supporting both the College and the School in their musical projects financially and through utilising the expertise of individual members.

Currently, members are requested to pay a £10 annual subscription fee. An annual newsletter is produced and circulated which also contains details of forthcoming activities. In 1997 the reunion weekend takes place on 28 and 29 June to coincide with the Johnian weekend and College Open Day.

The Choir Association can be contacted at the College.

Alastair Roberts
Chairman

The Classical Society

'in vino sermoneque gaudeamus'

This year the College Classical Society has flourished, with almost 40 members. After an initial gathering in the Michaelmas Term, we held a highly successful play-reading. After Hall, members of the society read Aristophanes' *Frogs* long into the night. Notably amusing performances were given by Duncan Hancox and Dr Schofield, to mention but two.

A small group also watched Magdalene College's production of *Oedipus Tyrannus*, which was excellent, with Johnians playing the roles of Oedipus and Tiresias energetically.

In the Lent Term, we kicked off with the ever-popular Dessert in the Parsons Room, our annual tribute to the practises of hedonism, where wine and conversation flowed freely long into the night. Students and fellows discussed past, present and future concerns, ranging from Socratic paradoxes to the relative merits of out-of-town supermarkets.

Soon afterwards we invited a guest speaker to St John's, Bradley Creevey, an Australian archaeologist, who is presently preparing a PhD thesis at Sheffield University. After treating him to a sumptuous Guest Hall, 'vino languidi, conferti cibo' we listened to him talk on the subject of 'Marine archaeology techniques and seafaring in the Mediterranean'. Bradley was a fascinating and enlightening speaker, whose topic encompassed both Classical and modern elements. The evening ended with more traditional Classical Society hospitality in Professor Crook's room.

All in all, we have had a very successful year and would like to thank all members for showing such interest and enthusiasm, especially Professor Crook for being so generous and accommodating yet again, and, of course, for taking care of the accounts!

It has been a pleasure to run the Society over the year. We wish the incoming Presidents all the best and look forward to another successful set of events.

Lin Metcalf and Phil Watson
Presidents

The Economics Society

In the absence of recent entries (in fact in the absence of entries at all except in 1994 it seems), we thought that it was about time to record the progress of this thriving society. The past year has seen several steps forward in the development of this society, and hopefully this will pave the way for further expansion in the future.

The society aims to widen the horizons of economists and non-economists alike, highlighting a more news-based, rather than academic, approach to topical economic issues and also to act as a social environment in which economists in all years can meet. This is something which has increased this year with a larger number of events ranging from Formal Halls to Speaker meetings.

The Annual Dinner in November was well attended and, we hope, this will create a precedent for future years. Unfortunately the speaker, Dr Llewelyn, Global Chief Economist of the Lehman Brothers, was called away to the Middle East at the last minute, but we hope that he may attend sometime in the future.

The Dessert in the Lent Term was attended by both economists and non-economists. The speaker was John Plender, Economic Correspondent for the Financial Times, who gave an interesting talk on the *Implications of European Economic and Monetary Union* (particularly topical as it becomes an increasingly difficult issue for both the general public and the leading political parties!!)

Over the next year, the society hopes to extend its calendar of events to include a larger number of speaker meetings, dinners and desserts, which have proved successful so far. We would like to thank Ashok Notaney for his work as President last year and we hope that the society will continue to thrive under the new Presidents who will be taking over towards the end of the Michaelmas Term but, in the meantime, we hope to be arranging several more events before our retirement

Minal Shah and Katie Witter
Presidents

The Gentlemen of St John's

The activities of the Gents are mostly those of the College Choir, and I shall not repeat what is told elsewhere. It is perhaps unsurprising that while the Choir's engagements tend to run like water off a duck's back, those of the Gents sometimes clog like oil in the feathers. The recording in July of our second CD, *Ca' The Yowes*, was a particularly sticky example. Made shortly after an effortless recording by the Choir, our smaller and quieter group was forced by building works in First Court, traffic in Bridge Street and the exacting standards of our producer to record late at night. Even then we could not escape the loquacity of Trinity's bells and, on one memorable evening, the combination of a thunderstorm with the hospitalisation of our star baritone. Doughty hearts and stiff upper registers prevailed, however, and the disc is now available from the College.

In August the Choir's tour to Australia gave us the opportunity to perform in the Sydney Opera House concert hall, a venue which, one imagines, rarely hears close harmony, except perhaps from the lips of the King's Singers.

It is the near future which is most exciting, though, with a brief tour to Holland to promote our CD in July followed by a longer visit to Japan in September, where we shall be following in the footsteps of a similar delegation from just up the road which toured there last year. After a few years without tours abroad this is a thrilling prospect. It will be the first time the Gents have been to Japan.

Reuben Thomas

The History Society

The History Society has enjoyed this year what Dr Linehan describes as a 'golden period' of thoroughly enjoyable and well attended speaker meetings. We began in the Michaelmas Term with our very own Professor Clarke's multi-media presentation on Thatcherism (accompanied by poached egg on toast in Hall – on reflection my advice

to future secretaries is make sure you check the menu before embarking on the controversial course of undergraduate table rather than guest table!) There followed the Prince Professor Sir Dimitri Obolensky from Oxford who talked on the Byzantine Hesychasm, and another Johnian, and former Master, Professor Sir Harry Hinsley, who packed out the Castlereagh Room with his recollections of Enigma and second world war intelligence.

In the Lent Term we were honoured by the presence of Professor Warren Kimball visiting from America whose talk unfortunately had to compete with the appeal of the World Cup qualifier England vs Italy due to the secretary's lack of foresight. It was nevertheless a very entertaining evening and there was all the more wine for the rest of us.

We concluded the Lent Term with the highlight of the year that is our annual dinner. We were very privileged to be able to use the Senior Combination Room for this event which was as ever well attended. Many thanks to our guest of honour, Magnus Ryan and to Dr Tombs who kindly allowed us to use his room to carry on the festivities. Thanks must also go to Dr Linehan for his encouragement and advice and to Ben Griffin, the President of the Society, especially for his speech at the dinner.

Sarah Boardman,
Secretary

Jazz at John's

The inspiration for a new jazz club at St John's came over a year ago, with a 'Valentine's Jazz' night which brightened up even the dingy depths of the Boiler Room. Cambridge was evidently crying out for its own Ronnie Scott's!

Creating such a place was not easy, but after a great deal of time, effort, money and insomnia we found ourselves with capital through the generosity of Arthur Andersen and the College's Associated Societies' Fund, and a committee of dedicated and talented undergraduates. We were lucky enough to be given permission to use the Fisher Building

Foyer, which provides a perfect venue when bedecked with our own posters, black balloons, rugs, and characteristic red bean-bags. We would like to thank the College authorities for all the help and support they have given us.

We bombarded the University with our term-cards and posters to ensure that queues at the door half an hour early became a regular occurrence. At our first event, on Friday 24 January 1997, the club came to life with a storming performance of brilliant jazz improvisation from The Steve Denton Quintet.

'Jazz at John's' works because of the radiant atmosphere – it's relaxed and mellow, yet there's always a buzz in the air. With waitress service nobody even has to move! We succeeded in creating a place where anyone can relax and listen to great music, and where dress and personal image is not important. We even have our own jazz-loving porter, Herbie! Five sell-out events, superb music, and a five star rating in Varsity have made 'Jazz at John's' an instant success, and we hope the club will still be here in years to come.

Sarah Abramson, President
Alex Massey, Treasurer

The JCR

Another great year for the JCR, but then perhaps I would say that. Our activities ranged from the noisily obvious June Event, to an unexpectedly loud Jazz evening, to mundane committee sittings. All of which we hope are for the good of John's!

The most obvious thing that has happened this year is the revitalisation of the Junior Common Room. Alas, this was the year that the Coffee shop project came to an end. However every cloud has a silver lining, and in this case it was the all new, all dancing, all yellow JCR. Not only does it boast quality reading areas, but also surround sound television and a spanking new hi-fi. Most undergraduates agree that this makes it an excellent retreat from a hard days work.

On the entertainments side, Ben Hoyle pulled trick after trick from hand to produce one of the finest Events ever seen to grace River Court. The spectacular array of inflatable playground equipment combined with, amongst others, John's very own R & B band *The Soul Purpose* produced a party extravaganza. Everyone had a fantastic time, nearly everyone that is. Asked whether he enjoyed the event at 12 noon the next day, Ben was heard to mumble, seen to fall over backwards, and discovered to be in a dreamlike sleep. Good luck and a pack of caffeine tablets to this year's JCR.

The President of the Clarkson Room, alias Nik Stanton, has opened up the variety of music on offer at John's with her introduction of the highly successful Atomic and Beatitude. The Clarkson Room continued to flourish under her careful tutelage. There was only the one moment when I thought Nik might lose her cool. This was when our fresher friends decided they would prefer to watch the television serial 'Friends', than bop the night away. The student status of our new year was initially at stake, but most have more than managed to redeem themselves.

This year has also seen rape alarms issued to all members of College, male and female, courtesy of Jenny Clarke our Welfare Officer. The women's lunches seemed to be getting more and more popular, thanks to Treeva Fenwick's hard work, but alas I am not speaking from experience. The Year Book also managed to catch the imagination, with Rich Conway managing to secure more colour pages than ever. Showing off our great College from some interesting positions, and catching some of its members in interesting positions.

This was also the first year to see the emergence of The Bog Sheet – the new JCR newsletter. This fine publication is undoubtedly the chronicle for the nineties being an invaluable read for anyone who uses the toilet. Melanie Christian, the editor, impressed on it a disarmingly unusual style, uniquely her own, which ensured everyone was informed and charmed simultaneously. While Mel was letting Johnians find out what was going at John's, Malcolm Gates was working equally hard to let everyone else know what happens here. Malcolm trains people to go to

schools and try to dispel some of the myths about Cambridge. This should mean that fewer people are intimidated or put off from applying. Nobody at John's realises or appreciates how much work he has put into target schools, but many future Johnians are dependant on it.

I have two more people to thank for all their hard work. Alex Massey, as Vice-President, never failed to get stuck into any problem, and seemingly always managed to put it onto a spreadsheet on his computer. My life without Alex to help would have been hell. Thanks also to Katie Witter who managed somehow to keep us all under control. She even got us to do most of the right things at the right times. The minutes and accounts published in the JCR are just one testament to both Alex's and Katie's dedication.

One person remains, Myles Fleming, who thought last year was so great he wanted another go. Congratulations and good luck to him as President next year. I now look forward to reading his interpretation of events next year. Thanks are also due to the Fellows, students and staff who made our life a little bit easier.

Peter Horsley
JCR President 1996-7

The Johnian Society

The Johnian Society was founded in 1923 at a reunion of old members of the College under the chairmanship of the late Sir Edward Marshall Hall K.C. as a means of maintaining a link with the College and with each other. The Society is run by its Committee, the members of which are listed on the enclosed form and who are elected at the Annual General Meeting held on the evening of the dinner. The Committee will be pleased to receive any nominations or suggestions for its membership. The Society is now using the Johnian Office, next to the College Office, as an accommodation address. This improves the administration of the Society, provides it with some secretarial help and

permits easier liaison with the Development Officer, to our mutual advantage.

The Society includes among its activities an Annual Dinner in the College in early December. The dinner has been well attended for many years, and provides an evening of reminiscence and good company for members of all ages, from those who graduated a couple of years ago to those who graduated over fifty years ago. The application form for this year's dinner on December 13 1997 is included with this copy of the *Eagle*.

This year the Society's Biennial Lecture was given by Professor Peter Hennessy, a member of the Society, whose lecture was entitled 'Her Majesty's Puzzle: Politics, the Monarchy and the Constitution'. Such a topical subject attracted a large audience. After the lecture the speaker and the officers of the Society were entertained to dinner by the Master and afterwards at a Dessert in the Lodge.

The golf tournament for the Marshall Hall Cup was initiated shortly after the Society was founded and had been well supported by the members, to such an extent that the plinth for the name-plates of the winners is now full. An additional plinth is needed and the Society has agreed to provide this. Members wishing to play golf are asked to contact John Loosley at the address on the dinner application form. The tournament is normally held at Sutton, Cambs, on the last Friday in July.

The Society seeks to promote the association of the College and its members and to assist the College whenever possible. To this end, the Society finances a number of travel exhibitions each year for Junior Members of the College. This year the Society has also agreed to provide £1,000 each to the College Field Sports Fund and the Lady Margaret Boat Club, to be paid out of the Society's accumulated reserves.

Those wishing to purchase a copy of the text of 'Her Majesty's Puzzle: Politics, the Monarchy and the Constitution' may do so by sending a cheque for £2.50 to the Johnian Office.

Roger Morgan
Chairman

The Johnian Society Midland Group

The next Johnian Society Midland Dinner, to which Members are most welcome to bring a guest, will be held in Birmingham on Friday 24 October 1997. Those who may be interested and whose names are not already on the mailing list should contact Dr A J Waring, 55 Tillyard Croft, Birmingham B29 5AH.

The Larmor Society

The success of the May Week Garden Party set a precedent for the rest of the year's events. Held in the Fellows' Garden along with live band 'Soul Purpose', lashings of strawberries and cream, an intoxicating cocktail and a balmy summer evening, the event was enjoyed by all.

The Freshers' Squash in the Michaelmas Term was a great success, thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. This was followed by a second-hand book sale for all Larmor Society members.

Determined to introduce new ideas into the society we then produced a list of books which members of the society wished to sell. A social Hall was organised for all Larmor members – this was well received and the decision was made to make it a regular event. Another new idea was 'NatSci Intercollegiate Football' – unfortunately we were beaten by Queens'!

A number of speaker meetings were organised. Dr Summers talked on 'Molecular Engineering'; Professor Goddard talked on 'Space and Time in the Twentieth Century'; and a discussion on 'Science and Religion' was organised, with Professor Hinde, Professor Conway-Morris and Dr Chua all speaking. I would like to thank all the above people for kindly providing the society with interesting and enjoyable evenings.

The Annual Dinner, held in the Senior Combination Room, went extremely well. Many thanks to Rod Morode for his enlightening talk on 'Chemicals in the public – why so much mistrust?' and also to Zeneca for their very generous sponsorship.

Finally, congratulations and a huge thank you to the committee for their hard work and making it all so much fun! Good luck to next year's committee – hope you enjoy it all as much as we did.

Roseanne Burton
Chairman

The Music Society

It is my belief that music should play an integral part in the life of St John's and I hope that the activities of the Music Society over the past year have gone some way towards realising this aim.

In the Michaelmas Term the forces of St John's Singers and the College 'Come and Sing' Chorus combined in a performance of Mozart's Requiem, directed by James Martin. This followed a highly polished performance of Mozart's Symphony No. 38 which was conducted by Peter Davis. The concert combined a high standard of music-making with the enthusiastic involvement of a large number of students, and was warmly received by one of the largest audiences the Music Society has ever had.

The highlight of the Lent Term was a concert of French works, held in the Concert Hall, West Road. Peter Davis conducted Dukas' 'The Sorcerer's Apprentice' which was followed by Poulenc's Concerto for Two Pianos, performed by Jane Sims and Korin Leddy. Choral music by Faure and Saint-Saens was performed by the St John's Singers under the direction of Graham Walker, before the evening was drawn to a spectacular close with Saint-Saens' 'Carnival of the Animals', enlivened with poetic readings by Dan Jordan and Alex Ashworth. The concert was a memorable occasion, not only on a personal level, but for all those Johnians who came to support what was for some their first experience of a 'classical concert' since coming up to Cambridge. The evening had a significant impact on College, as well as extending the Society's reputation around Cambridge.

In February the Senior Combination Room provided the perfect setting for the annual concert of soloists and chamber ensembles within College.

The weekly Lunchtime Recital Series and fortnightly Organ recitals have continued to provide an invaluable platform for performers. There have been some excellent recitals over the past year. Particularly notable was the performance of Butterworth's 'A Shropshire Lad' by Alex Ashworth and Christopher Robinson, and Korin Leddy's performance of Prokofiev's Piano Sonata No. 3. In addition, the Master's Lodge Recitals have been held throughout the year, thanks to the kind generosity of Professor and Mrs Goddard. The highlight of the series was undoubtedly a recital given by the Allegri String Quartet.

There have also been a number of new ventures over the past year; notably our association with Cambridge University Music Club, through which we hosted a cello masterclass with Alexander Baillie, and our work for RAG in a concert featuring Big Red Swing. A new College Orchestra has been established which, it is hoped, will provide all instrumentalists with a regular opportunity to play. The purchase of a drum kit also displays our aim to promote a wide variety of music, not just classical.

I must thank everyone on the Committee, both Senior and Junior members, for all their efforts in what has been a very busy and productive year.

Jane Sims
President

The Norman Henry Society

The Wordsworth Room was once again abuzz every other Monday evening before Hall, throughout the Michaelmas and Lent Terms, as the Norman Henry Society continued to hold wine and food tastings. The Junior Secretary was accused of gross inefficiency in his handling of the society's publicity, which was blamed for the slightly smaller following amongst junior members this year.

However, the tastings were of their usual high standard, and excellent presentations were given by Dr Johnstone of 'Wines of Southern Italy' and 'Around the World by Cabernet Sauvignon', Professor Matthews of

'Cheese and Wines' and Dr Hutchings of 'Pudding Wines'. The port, sherry and pâté evenings were also agreed to be resounding successes.

This year the 'best society dinner in College', took Alsace as its theme, and was as popular as ever; the exotic food and wines from the Northeast of France were thoroughly enjoyed by all, and festivities went on until late in the evening. We are holding out for the final event of the year, the tour of the College's cellars, looked forward to by members as a relaxing way to unwind after exams.

Thanks again to all those who gave their loyal support to the society over the year, and I hope that you will continue to enjoy it in future years.

Tim Freeman
Junior Secretary

The Purchas Society

In my three years at St John's, the Purchas Society has gone from strength to strength. This year, we have had the good fortune of having Julian Gould as Secretary. He has organised some memorable meetings and an outstanding Annual Dinner.

At the first of our meetings this year, we had the pleasure of the company of Mr Benedict Allen, who is currently working on a travel series for the BBC. He shared with us some poignant moments from his lone expedition across Amazonia. Next, Dr Glasscock gave a superb account of St John's College in the time of the Reverend Samuel Purchas, our namesake. This was followed by Ms Denise Heywood and her 'Cambodian Odyssey'. The final talk of the year was by Dr Erlet Cater, from the University of Reading, who talked about the sustainable components of 'ecotourism'.

The Annual Dinner on 7 May 1997 was a huge success. We had the pleasure of Dr Corbridge from Sidney Sussex as our guest speaker and it was a suitable setting for members to meet the College's new 'Fellow elect', Dr Arnold.

I also wish to report an exponential increase in the number of Purchas ties worn by the male members of the Society this year. Back in October, the manager of Ryder and Amies announced that he was going to cease stocking them after 'a complete lack of demand'. The Secretary should be given the credit for this revival, which symbolises the new life, energy and pride which exists within the Society. It is these qualities which make the Purchas Society the envy of all other College societies.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to invite all Purchasians back next year to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Purchas Society. Until then . . .

'Long live the Purchas Society'

Hilary Crowther
President

The Samuel Butler Room

The Samuel Butler Room in name and geography is the 'HQ' of graduate life in College. This year it has excelled itself once more in providing a comprehensive social calendar for its members, due in part to the enthusiasm and imagination of its Social Secretary, Philippe Masson. We launched the year with a frantic two weeks of social events, designed to appeal to the diverse group of graduate freshers that arrived in October. The fortnight started with a Committee 'At Home', drinks courtesy of our ever generous treasurer, Selwyn Blieden, followed by a popular barbecue, an exploratory pub crawl and daily coffee and cakes, to keep up the calories. To compensate for all these excesses we had a tranquil stroll to Grantchester and serene nights in front of the video, watching Cambridge classics such as Porterhouse Blue. The fortnight culminated in a Moonlight Jazz Cruise with live band but not before another fun-filled week including a whistle stop tour through a local Laser Quest, a Treasure Hunt, taking in sites from the Sidgwick Site to the Botanical Gardens, and a gastronomic tour of the College hostels.

Of the many highlights of this year, the Christmas Pantomime, the SBR Comedy Revue and a cultural trip to Stratford have to be among the most memorable. 'Hood! The Musical' entertained a capacity audience in the School of Pythagoras, well endowed with blatant cross-dressing, witty repartee, the 'Much' loved Dame and of course the Pantomime cow, the rear end of which giving a well defined role for our endearing Welfare Officer, Damien Browne. The stapled sack costumes of the Merry Men were outshone only by the Golden jacket worn by Philippe at the Revue in March of this year. His compering skills were employed in the service of a wide variety of acts, few of which matched the quality of Elvis and his Morris Dancers or the quantity of Paul Cook's juggling routine. We are indebted to the talents of Luke Purshouse and Matthew Moss for both these entertainment extravaganzas and a number of cultural experiences besides!

The grand day out to Stratford stopped first at Warwick Castle, an event that saw SBR members participate in a reconstructed medieval battle scene and absorb the sights and smells of that period and further still allow them to re-enact the 'World's Strongest Men Final' in push-starting their somewhat antiquated conveyance in the Coach Park. Still, it was a memorable trip, if a little reminiscent of school outings, and those who went were rewarded in the end by an outstanding RSC production of one of Shakespeare's last plays, Cymbeline – a theatrical triumph.

Gastronomic events were well represented in the past year; the two formal dinners, at Christmas and at St Patrick's Day, drew large attendances, and friendly relations with other College MCRs were fostered on a number of Exchange Dinners, expertly arranged by KK Damodaran (DK). Throughout the year the graduates have enjoyed the privilege of dining with Fellows at High Table and we have even welcomed the company of some Title A Fellows at our events. An international cuisine night provided a unique opportunity to sample the far-flung culinary expertise of our cosmopolitan contingent. There were also a number of wine tastings, ably presented by Michael Jennings and his partner in crime Simon Ross, combining cultural education with bacchanalian decadence. Other tastings included a selection of cheeses

from a local delicatessen and some specially imported Belgian Chocolates. Chocolate was also the centre of termly get-togethers for graduate women in fondue evenings and even a traditional Easter Egg Hunt.

The newly introduced term planner included fortnightly video nights and monthly coffee and cakes, the latter assisted by our newly refurbished kitchen. Other Calendar events were celebrated in customary style including a fancy dress Halloween Party, A Burn's Night soiree replete with Haggis and Whisky, an Australian Night, complete with 'Tinnies' and vegemite, and Bastille Day. The term planner, now distributed by the hostel representatives, also formed the baseline for the SBR Web Page as part of our expanding advertising campaign along with a regular comprehensive newsletter, all credit to our Secretary's, alias Robyn Sorensen, word processing skills. Other graduates have surpassed expectations with their sporting prowess with an impressive cricket season in hand and the continuation of both men's and women's boats.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have donated gifts to the SBR, guests, Fellows and members past and present, from pictures and dictionaries, to pots and game boards. I would also like to thank Colonel Robinson and the College staff for all their support and the Chaplain for entertaining waifs and strays in the vacation. Last, but not least, I would like to extend a warm thanks on behalf of graduates past and present to Dr Linehan who stands down this year as Senior Treasurer and Tutor for Graduate Affairs. The Samuel Butler Room is indebted to him for his dedication and achievements for the graduate community. In summary, I hope this year has been both an enjoyable and memorable one and that the spirit that exists in the SBR will continue throughout the coming terms.

Suzy Haywood
SBR President 1996-7

The Winfield Society

The Winfield Society provides our lawyers with a social environment in which to meet other lawyers, explore different aspects of the law and learn about legal practice. In keeping with committees of the past we have attempted to strike the correct balance between purely social events and social events with an academic angle.

In addition to events involving only Johnian lawyers (such as the introductory tea, garden party and lawyers' formal hall), the Winfield Society has joined forces with other college law societies. A joint event with Newnham College proved particularly popular, and it is hoped that links forged by the Society in 1996/7 will be continued in future years.

Again, the Winfield Annual Dinner turned out to be an especially memorable event. More than a thousand Old Johnians were contacted directly by post and the response was as pleasing as ever. People from far and wide made the journey to Cambridge and, even if they were unable to attend, others expressed an interest in future Winfield events. The atmosphere at the Dinner was relaxed, with students, Fellows and Old Johnians mixing together with ease. The committee would like to thank all those who made the effort to attend on 8 March. The diversity brought by returning Old Johnians – in terms of age, outlook, professional and personal experience – served to highlight the value of this now regular event.

At the kind invitation of Lord Mustill, a group of Johnian lawyers took the opportunity to visit the House of Lords in January. Although dogged by transport difficulties, the party were given a guided tour of the House and sat in on a debate. It is to be hoped that a similar trip will take place in the future, allowing those who could not secure a place this year to enjoy a similar experience.

Last, but not least, the final of the 1997 Mooting Competition was held on Monday 3 March. Now a regular event on the Winfield calendar, this year's competition proved to be especially popular amongst the new intake. Having fought off strong opposition in previous rounds, Louisa

Denning eventually clinched the title in combative fashion. Many thanks to those involved in the competition at all levels – judges, organisers, sponsors and especially competitors.

This year's committee were:

Eric Ho (President)

Sian Jones (Vice-President)

Manmeet Bhamra (Treasurer)

Joanne Woolford (Social Secretary)

On behalf of Johnian lawyers past and present, the committee would like to thank Dr Linehan for the advice and encouragement he has offered over the years as tutor.

Ross A Olson
Secretary

COLLEGE SOCIETIES

The Adams Society

The Society year has been a quiet one, the two most memorable events being the Annual Dinner and a post-examination punt trip to Granchester. The Master entertained us at the dinner with a speech about the varied fortunes of being a mathematician throughout the history of the College, with particular reference to the hardship faced by John Couch Adams, the founder of the Society. This was followed about a term later by a subsidised armada of punts going to Granchester to celebrate the finishing of the year's tripos examinations, which gave even the most shy of 'mathmos' the opportunity to discuss the subtleties of the Poincaré-Bendixson theorem in a relaxed and social atmosphere.

Roddy Vann
President

The Choir Association - the story so far

At Dr Guest's retirement party in July 1991, those former choristers who had gathered to celebrate his life's work, were tasked with the resurrection of the Old Choristers' Association. I well remember this request following the second round of a scratch, but nonetheless excellent, rendition of Parry's 'I was glad', heartily sung by all present late on that sunny summer's afternoon in Chapel. The day and the music became the spark which rekindled the great affection many of us had for an institution which had so profoundly influenced our lives one way or another, both at the time and in the years which followed.

The challenge was taken up and an inaugural meeting was set up for the following January at the College School. The success of this meeting - a constitution, the formation of a committee, the election of Officers, and the appointment of representatives for each decade from the 1940s to the then present day, set the scene for things to come. In effect we were off, the bare bones of this new and exciting organisation having been laid down.

At the time, I was duly tasked with seeking out further members to swell the ranks of the 1950s (possibly one of the more difficult eras, since the whereabouts of many of my colleagues appear lost in the mists of time).

A newsletter was created and, with a little 'pump-priming' money from the College in the form of postage costs, we were able to mail it out to our membership. At the same time we also started to plan our official gatherings. The committee met largely to plan the social events and this small but dedicated team, most of whom were unknown to each other, seemed to gel from the word go. Membership of the choir provided the common thread. Meetings took place at various locations country-wide, this being the most equitable way to spread the travelling as well as affording the opportunity to sample the delights of various hostelrys and houses.

Our official reunions were annual afternoon affairs and to our great joy, the newly appointed Organist, and Director of Music, Christopher Robinson, embraced us warmly by attending our functions and allowing us the great privilege of singing Evensong with the College Choir. Since those early days, things have moved on a pace with the organisation growing not only in its numbers but also its aspirations.

By 1994 expansion was in the air and Christopher Robinson and I came up with the idea of a reunion for all former members of the Choir and with it a proposal for the creation of an Association to which all might belong whether from the front or back rows of the choir stalls. A trip to those in authority 'down the road' found them doing precisely the same thing - 'great minds . . .' you might think; but to give credit where it's due, they were ahead of us in their thinking.

A list of former Choral and Organ Students supplied by the College led to the testing of the water over the proposal and in its wake came a steady stream of responses, supporting such a venture alongside which were letters extolling the pleasures which might ensue from meeting up with old colleagues and friends once again. There also seemed to be considerable interest in a proposal to hold a concert at some point in the future.

In planning this first major reunion for the summer of 1995, further discussion with the College led to the suggestion that we might like to merge with the weekend which had been set aside for the celebrations to mark the opening of the new College Library. This we readily accepted since such an event would provide exactly the right focus for the launch of our own major new initiative. As an added attraction, the plan was to sing a major work, on this occasion the Mozart Missa Brevis in C, with the College Choir together with orchestra.

Such was the success of this weekend, attracting around 130 members and their guests along with over 1,000 College members, that it led to a proposal to repeat the experience every two years, again to correspond with the College open weekends.

This somewhat potted history of the Association cannot do justice to the amount of behind the scenes work, that has gone on in its establishment during the past seven years. I firmly believe that if we are to avoid the demises of the past, such an Association must be built on a solid foundation especially if it is to grow and prosper in the years to come. Such a body must also not only serve its membership in terms of fulfilling their expectations which are largely to reflect on the past and revisit old experiences, it must also set its sights very firmly on the future, looking continually to new ways to attract membership and hold the interest of its subscribers.

With this in mind, by the summer of 1997 we had in place a new constitution, rather more exacting than its predecessor, opening the way for us to play a more supporting role to the choir, and to our membership.

As a result, for the first time last year we were able to make a small donation to the Choir's tour to South Africa. This year we are proposing a scheme of bursaries to which current and former members of the Choir might apply. The idea being that monies provided should be used exclusively for a musical venture. If this is accepted at the AGM, and it attracts the funding we anticipate, applications may be made next year for awards around September 1999.

We are, of course, very much at an embryonic stage in our development but, given the support and enthusiasm received to date, we will be here for many years to come.

Many of our members can trace personal successes later in life to their choir training. Whether this be from the demands it placed upon us, the discipline, the camaraderie, the attention to detail or simply the pursuit of excellence, who knows? Perhaps all of these have in some way left their mark. For some though, there is the acknowledgement that the great musical heritage bestowed upon us in our youth, should remain for future generations.

So, what about the concert? Well this is very much on the cards for 2001 so watch this space . . .

Alastair Roberts
Chairman

Reunion Week-End 1997

There are, without doubt, few greater thrills, whether one has made one's post-John's career in music or not, than to join the Choir, with orchestra, every second year, and sing Mass on Sunday morning in the Chapel. It is an act of worship or simply a musical experience without parallel, and the morning of Sunday 29 June 1997 was no exception.

After lunch at the School, we had rehearsed for an hour and a half on the Saturday afternoon, and 'blew away the cobwebs' on Sunday morning for a further three quarters of an hour under the baton of David Lowe, our Choral Director standing in for Christopher Robinson who was on sabbatical leave. The accompanying orchestra comprised invited instrumentalists from Cambridge City and surrounding area, providing excellent support on strings, woodwind, brass and timps.

The guests, soloist soprano, Helen Parker and mezzo Susanna Spicer were superb. The choir and 25 of its former members delivered a thoroughly professional rendition of Haydn's Nelson Mass to an appreciative congregation, augmented as it was by many Old Johnians,

families and guests, who joined the Chapel Service as part of the Johnian weekend, with which this musical event and act of worship were timed to coincide.

Following the Service, members and guests of the Association enjoyed a champagne reception at the Master's Lodge, and moved on to a buffet lunch at the School of Pythagoras. Those members who wished, joined in the Johnian day activities, culminating in afternoon tea at the Master's Lodge.

The inevitable demonstration of punting skills (or lack of them) was delivered to those other visitors to Cambridge trying their hand, arms, thighs and other parts at the noble art on the Saturday afternoon prior to the evening dinner. Although not for all, this event is now established as a firm favourite with over-confident exhibitionists young and old. We imagine that the Association event of 1998 will find those same foolhardy punters and passengers getting wet once again.

It is pleasing to note that an event which had its first tentative outing, bringing together former Choristers and Choral Scholars alike, and with the formal blessing of the College in 1995, is enjoying continuing support from all concerned. It is now firmly on the calendar of College and School events and, we hope, in Members' diaries for dates yet to come.

Martin Redfearn

The Classics Society

As ever, the Classics Society has passed the year with a combination of social and (almost) educational events. Particular mention must be made of Dr Schofield's virtuoso performance in our reading of the Miles Gloriosus, single-handedly proving to any sceptics with memories of Plautus at school that Roman comedy can be funny. In the Lent term we took over the Wordsworth Room for our traditional Desserts, the highlight of the year (well, possibly). The alcohol and the conversation both flowed freely until the early hours of the morning, and, having finally given in to the pressure and booked a larger room, the evening was certainly bigger than last year's. And speaking for myself, at least one aspect of it was better too - this year I remember more than ten

percent of what I said. Despite even that great achievement, the year must be remembered not because of any of those events which did happen but because of one that didn't. All of us who sat in the SBR for what seemed like forever, waiting for the video that never arrived, would like to publicly thank a certain member of the society (who shall, of course, remain nameless) for a night which can only be called unforgettable - if rather anti-climatic. Finally, thank you to those (especially Dr Schofield and Professor Crook) who made my initially rather daunting job a lot easier, and best wishes to whoever ends up doing this next.

Alison Dexter
President

The Economics Society

The Society is proud to announce its expansion this year providing both entertaining and informative events to economists and now social and political science students alike. The combination of the two departments will hopefully be of mutual benefit, guaranteeing even greater attendances and ensuring the society continues to attract top quality speakers.

The social side of the society remains well represented in such events as formal halls and the garden party, but it is the informative edge that sets us apart. The society was proud to welcome Professor Mervyn King, the Deputy Governor of the Bank of England, to talk at the annual dinner; that was until unforeseen circumstances forced its postponement. However this event promises to provide an interesting insight into the future of the Bank following European integration and should attract a wide audience of economists, SPS students and non-members alike. Other speakers include Sir Alan Walters, one of Thatcher's wise men, and Jack Fallow, a world renowned business consultant.

I would like to thank last year's Presidents, Katie Witter and Minal Shah, as well as my Committee, Shona Saglani, Emmie Greenwood and Alexis Rose, for their ardent support in my times of apathy.

Dan Shane
President

The Gentlemen of St John's, 1997-98

The *Johnian News* carried a report, early this academic year, of the Gents' September concert tour to Japan, dwelling considerably on the musical and social aspects of the tour. This did, however, leave in the shade the behind-the-scenes work that had gone on for a long time previously, not only by the tour agent, Tim Minton, but also by my predecessor in the post of Manager, Alex Ashworth. Indeed this tenure was a particularly triumphant one - not only did he successfully carry to conclusion the aforementioned tour, but also supervised the release of *Ca' the Yowes*, the Gents' first professional recording. (This subsequently received ecstatic reviews in *BBC Music Magazine* and *Gramophone*).

It was therefore with some trepidation that I attempted to fill the vacuum of power left by this titanic administrator. A quiet year of consolidation would be in order, I thought. The accounts I received were in healthy shape - we had made a little profit on the Japan Tour, and we soon set up a small savings account in an almost certainly futile attempt to make some interest. My first task was to write to all the new people, telling them about the Gents, and some of the more (I hope) helpful aspects of life as a Choral Scholar. It is always interesting seeing how the new Choral Scholars and Volunteers will fit into the choir, both musically and socially, and this year was no exception to that. We had a variety of vocal, musical and social skills flying around, in what was actually rather a large first year (seven out of sixteen new to the choir), and it took a while for everyone to settle into their new surroundings. Our first engagement of the year with everyone together was to do a slot in the Music Faculty Concert Hall, as part of the CUMC chamber concert series. This is always a difficult one - the hall seems very large when viewed from an otherwise empty stage, random people are affected by stage fright, and the new Gents in particular are unused to singing the repertoire. It passed off, however, without much ado, and we gradually settled down into the usual run of things.

The vast majority of the Gents' engagements are providing entertainment for corporate dinners in and around Cambridge. These vary in size from as few as twelve guests to an entire college's formal

hall, and the repertoire for some of the engagements must be tailored to specific requirements (we have for some years sung for the Irish Zeneca conference in Trinity Hall, and they always request the Londonderry Air - they have also been known to give us a free bar afterwards, which is most welcome). This year has seen an expanding of the practice known as 'Jape Intros'. This, as the title suggests, involves making some (usually very poor) gag, only occasionally linked to the circumstances, and the Gent who has to utter this drivel is chosen by the toss of a coin. This method normally goes down very well with the (by then rather inebriated) audience, who are usually more than glad of anything to keep them from interminable speeches. We perform much further afield for the concert platform than for our dinner engagements, and this year's performances have seen us in such places as Bromsgrove, Oundle, Linton and Wimpole Hall.

The most interesting facet of the manager's post is that of organising major projects. It was never going to be easy to make anything look exciting after last year, but we did experience the novelty of being phoned up out of the blue, and asked to make a recording of some Jolly Christmas Music for the Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund for Children's Christmas catalogue. It is surprisingly difficult to put together a CD. The easiest part is the actual singing (it is best to leave that in the hands of your handy Musical Director), but there is also the problem of copyright fees, recording fees, timings and such like, as well as the extraordinary plethora of tiny details (booklet layout, etc.), which are only obvious to the casual observer when done badly.

The least interesting, though probably the most useful, aspect of the last year has been the beginning of the long task of typesetting our least legible arrangements, some of which are (or at least appeared to be) seventy-third generation photocopies of originally appallingly untidy manuscripts, which tend to increase rehearsal time to an extraordinary extent.

It is, as I type, nearing the end of the year and, looking back over it, I am forced to consider a) whether I have made a good job of it, and b) whether I have enjoyed doing it. I must quote a recent choral scholar,

who said, 'There has never been an organised Gents' Manager'. This eases my conscience considerably, and though I must still give a negative answer to the first part, I feel that perhaps I have not been much worse than those who have gone before me. The second part is harder. At the beginning of the year it was novel to sign myself as manager at the bottom of our peculiarly impressive headed letter-paper. It has been interesting to work more directly with the clients, and has given me the experience (at least to a certain extent where the accounts are concerned) of being obliged to be organised. It has been financially useful, since I have done more engagements than I would otherwise. On the other hand, politics can be difficult: it is occasionally necessary to massage singers' egos, while still keeping the interests of the group at the top of my mind; and at the busiest times there has been a lot of work to do - squaring that with choir and other commitments as well as a tripos has been hard. I must come to the conclusion that the year has been invaluable to me not only in terms of CV points, but also because the responsibility involved in running the Gents has been a new challenge for me, and one that I have enjoyed tremendously.

It merely remains for me to thank Dan Jordan, our expert Musical Director, for his hard work throughout the year, Alex Ashworth for his help and advice, to congratulate all of the Gents on their outstanding qualities of Guts, Determination and Sheer Physical Fitness, and to hand over the task of organising this august body of men to the next (as yet unelected) victim.

Graham Walker
Manager

For more information about the Gentlemen of St John's, please contact the Manager on 01223 369472; email: gents@poboxes.com

The History Society

A packed programme of speaker meetings entertained our members this year; their enjoyment was no doubt enhanced by the legendary generosity with which we distribute free wine in the Castlereagh Room.

In the Michaelmas Term the atmosphere was further lightened by my granting Professor Richard Overy a knighthood, while introducing his excellent talk on Soviet revival in World War Two. Dr Diana Webb explained why people went on pilgrimage in the middle ages, while Professor Christopher Andrew, speaking on 'Cambridge spies', disappointed a crowd of eager students by failing to divulge the whereabouts of intelligence service recruiters, British or otherwise, in Cambridge (but we have our own suspicions . . .).

The Lent Term began with an enthusiastically received talk by our own Dr Tombs on 'Bloodthirsty women in the Paris Commune', replete with slides and psychological debate. Another two well-attended meetings followed, with Dr Jay Winter presenting the case for history for the masses, speaking on 'Television, public history, and historical scholarship', and Dr Steve Tuck presenting 'Martin Luther King and the American South'. Professor Tim Blanning gave us a superb end to our 'season' with his talk on 'The musical origins of the French Revolution'.

Our annual dinner, held in the Senior Combination Room on the 6th of March, was the highlight of the year, thanks to the generosity of the Fellows. Thanks must go to our guest of honour, Professor Peter Hennessey, for his lively foray into contemporary history and politics, entitled 'The Blair premiership: a stab at instant history'. The society also owes a huge debt of gratitude to Dr Linehan, and to Dr Tombs for his constant support, as well as to Rebecca Royce, our Secretary, and Elly Webb, our Treasurer.

Mark Brand
President

Jazz at John's

With the success of Jazz at John's last year, the task of taking over seemed somewhat daunting. The brainchild of Sair Abramson, the club had grown from nothing to one of the most well known venues in Cambridge - in little over a term.

This year has seen the club go from strength to strength, and, as our reputation builds, we have begun to attract some of the most famous jazz players from across the world. Most notably, next term expects the arrival of Guy Barker - once friend and student of Dizzy Gillespie. They played together at Ronnie Scotts when Guy was only sixteen!

Players this year have included Roger Nobes, who brought the house down with his inspired vibraphone playing, as well as the critically acclaimed Gilad Atzmon. His recent write up in The Times has placed him top of the British jazz scene and left us in the lucky position of saying 'we saw him first'.

The continued success of the club would be impossible if were not for the help and support of the College authorities and, of course, for the jazz fans who just keep coming back for more. Last term saw them dancing away to that jazz groove and arriving up to three quarters of an hour early to get in.

I think this popularity can be attributed to the relaxed and friendly atmosphere which transports listeners away from university life - if only for a few hours. One student commented 'It's not so much a gig or concert as an experience, everybody meets everybody' which for me sums up completely what Jazz at John's is about.

Justin Read
President

The Johnian Society

The Johnian Society was founded in 1923 at a reunion of old members of the College under the chairmanship of the late Sir Edward Marshall Hall KC as a means of maintaining a link with the College and with each other. The Society is run by its Committee, the members of which are listed on the enclosed form and who are elected at the Annual General Meeting held on the evening of the dinner. The Committee will be pleased to receive any nominations or suggestions for its membership. The Society is using the Johnian Office, located next to the College Office in Chapel Court, as an accommodation address. This improves

the administration of the Society, provides it with some secretarial help and permits easier liaison with the Development Officer, to our mutual advantage.

The Society includes among its activities an Annual Dinner in the College in early December. The dinner has been well attended for many years, and provides a evening of reminiscence and good company for members of all ages, from those who graduated a couple of years ago to those who graduated over fifty years ago. The application form for this year's dinner on December 12 1998 is included with this copy of *The Eagle*.

The next Johnian Society lecture will take place in College on 23 February 1999 at 6pm. Sir Percy Cradock, former foreign policy advisor to the Prime Minister, will speak about 'Morality and Foreign Policy'. All members of the Society are welcome to attend.

The golf tournament for the Marshall Hall Cup was initiated shortly after the Society was founded and had been well supported by the members. Those wishing to play golf are asked to contact John Loosley at the address on the dinner application form. The tournament is normally held at Sutton, Cambs, on the last Friday in July.

I look forward to seeing many members of the Society at the dinner on 12 December.

Roger Morgan
Chairman

The JCR 1997-8

This year marked a change in the structure of Cambridge collegiate life. The new government, supposed friend of the student, not happy with introducing a £1000 tuition fee and abolishing maintenance grants also dealt a massive blow to Oxbridge students through the removal of the College Fee. This money, the life blood of colleges' internal accounts, helps maintain buildings, provides students with sporting facilities and provides the defining feature of Cambridge academic life, tutorials. The

loss of this income will financially burden future students who want an education that benefits the entire country.

All College members were active in campaigning against the loss of this fee, none more so than the Senior Bursar, Dr George Reid, who leads Oxbridge's lobbying group and we can but hope he manages to cause a revision of the proposed plans. The senior members of College however must plan for the worse.

The new JCR Committee's term of office started well. The people, whose inappropriate use of the bar lavatories had resulted in the College Bar being closed for half of the preceding term, decided that they had had enough of their fun and left the Bar to open normally.

Rich Conway, the previous year's Yearbook Officer, opted this time round for Publicity Officer. He continued the production of the most enjoyable Bogsheet, managing to cheer up everyone's dreariest moments. Only one Bogsheet failed to reach the normal level of quality but this occurred when a friend stepped in whilst Rich was engaged in exams. The guest editor confused his dates and attempted to send all to the polling booths a day early. Unfortunately misfortune struck Rich and he fell victim to the big green exam monster. He was replaced in October by the habit-wearing Duncan Hancox, who introduced the College's lavatories to the ancient wisdom of the Greek greats, including of course Gardenia.

The new post of Academic Affairs was filled by Rosie Burton who decided that it wasn't enough of a challenge so also opted for the role of Vice-President. She valiantly filled both jobs and her sofa was available to all who needed help with the increasingly studious atmosphere of Cambridge.

Neil Goulbourne, who once admitted to the ambition of becoming Prime Minister, thought being External Officer would be a good first step. It might not be the most auspicious start but his experience of coping with the unending boredom of the mainly irrelevant CUSU Council and his fine scissors work, honed in the trimming of CUSU cards, will stand him well. The production and organisation of many

behind the scenes tasks were ably carried out by Shona Saglani, JCR Secretary, though her election promise of cups of coffee for the rest of the committee didn't materialise until our very last meeting.

Anna Ransby, continued the successes John's has had in Target Schools in recent years, convincing another record number of Johnnians to volunteer to speak at schools that normally do not send students to Cambridge. The Welfare Officer, Jane Thomson, also had a successful year working hard to help junior members with anything they might need. She continued the tradition of this post by being the third native of Northern Island to hold it in the last four years.

Becca Range the Yearbook Officer, had a hard act to follow in the production of the now annual yearbook, but after a slight skirmish with the printers produced a wonderful momento to college life. The only complaint being that she exercised the editor's prerogative and did not include nearly as many photos of myself as I would have wished. The Women's Officer Rebecca Thevarokiam combined her work with a great artistic talent, which came in useful whenever any illustrations were needed to enliven some text. Rebecca so enjoyed the year that she actually decided to become Secretary for the next Committee.

College ents were organised below ground by Paul Foster, Clarkson Room President, and above by John Ibbotson, Ents Officer. They both put much effort into their individual ents reaffirming John's as a College with an eclectic ents scene. Paul catered to the smaller cooler club audience, whilst John supplied Cheese and the odd bit of Hard House to the less discriminating. The highlight of the year, ents wise, was 'The June Event'. This joint effort between the two Ents Officers, 'The June Event' Committee and the remainder of the JCR Committee produced a most enjoyable end to Suicide Sunday. Some very tired faces were to be seen not only after all the planning but also after they had helped to construct, staff and take down this event.

The last person, who I must convey special thanks to, is Jules Seeley, JCR Treasurer. This whiz of the accounts book steered the Committee through treacherous waters, turning our ents into financial successes and sorting out all the jobs everyone else failed on. Without Jules'

management of the financial side, I am sure my sanity would have become unstuck.

I would like to thank the Committee for committing so much time and hard work and hope they enjoyed the year as much as I did. Finally I would like to thank the senior members of College, especially the Domestic Bursar, Colonel Robinson, and the Senior Tutor, Mr Jobling, for all the help they gave me and the JCR Committee.

Myles Fleming
President

The Lady Margaret Players

Often the most nerve-wracking but always the most satisfying aspect of being a part of LMP is that warm glow of pride and satisfaction which wells up when you open the theatre section of Varsity and read about how Johnnians have triumphed once again! And the past two years has seen plenty of that . . .

Under the leadership of Tom Grafton, LMP last year staged productions of Alan Bennet's 'Kafka's Dick' and a recent play about the Earl of Rochester by Stephen Jeffries, appropriately entitled 'The Libertine'. Both these shows were very successful and ensured that John's college drama gained a reputation for professional, slick and above all light-hearted productions. Patrick Marber's 'Dealer's Choice' and Chekov's 'Three Sisters' followed on, which undoubtedly confirms the versatility of the actors and directors in the college!

One of LMP's most important functions is, we believe, to welcome all freshers who want to cut their theatrical teeth, or maybe just sharpen already very pointy teeth, on shows which supposedly only their friends in college will see!

However, the last two years has seen first year productions worthy of any university drama society. This year in particular saw an ambitious and successful production of 'Our Country's Good', a modern play dealing with the daunting subject of the deportation of criminals to

Australia in the late eighteenth century. Directed, produced and performed by first years, the show successfully blended pathos and humour and attracted university wide praise.

One thing we have tried to emphasise is that LMP is not just a society for thespians, it is for everyone who wants to help put on a show. We are lucky enough to be able to use the School of Pythagoras with its impressive light and sound systems which put many more popular Cambridge venues to shame. We are also pleased to have supported new writing by students for which it is notoriously difficult to find funding: Johnians performed in two plays by a University Student, 'Touch Sensitive' and 'Killing Your Friends'. Beyond Pythagoras, John's has provided directors, actors and producers for numerous successful productions at the ADC theatre and for an LMP production of Stephen Fry's 'Latin' performed in the Playroom, the theatre for which it was written.

But there is more! Michaelmas 1998 sees the fiftieth anniversary of LMP: something special is the pipeline so watch this space . . .

Tom Armitage, Meg Clothier, Nell Boase
Presidents, 1997-8

The Music Society

The Music Society has continued to enjoy another varied and busy year. More College members than ever before have been participating in and initiating new events, which was my main objective when I started out as President. Links with other University Societies have been formed, and new ventures have been successfully attempted.

Michaelmas Term saw the ever-popular 'Come and Sing' chorus combine with the St John's Singers to perform Fauré's *Requiem*, under the expert guidance of Graham Walker. Grieg's *Peer Gynt Suite No1* complemented the programme perfectly to produce one of the most well attended and received concerts in the Chapel in recent years.

The Lunchtime Recital Series commenced, and the highlight of the Michaelmas Term was undoubtedly the Freshers' Recital which

combined exceptionally high standards of performance, enthusiasm and enjoyment with a varied programme. The whole Series was extremely successful this year; audiences have increased greatly, and more musicians from around the University are seeing this as the ideal platform for their talents.

The Lent Term provided scope for different types of concert to the traditional Music Society format. Iain Farrington conducted the recently-formed College Orchestra in Schubert's *Fifth Symphony*, and a few weeks later, the St John's Singers, directed by Graham Walker, put on an assured performance of Bach's *Cantata 12*, with soloists from the Chapel Choir. These both took place on Saturday lunchtimes, attracting College members and hoards of tourists alike. Saturday lunchtimes also saw the Organ Recital Series continue, providing a showcase for the many Organ Scholars of the University.

The Senior Combination Room Concert held in February, was considered by those who attended to have been the 'best ever'. A capacity audience enjoyed skilful performances from College musicians including James Andrew, Cory Ferguson, Simon Wall and Frances Norbury. For me this concert was the personal highlight of the year.

The Master's Lodge continues to provide exquisite surroundings for recitals by amateur and professional musicians. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Professor and Mrs Goddard for their continued generosity.

This year the Music Society formed a link with the Cambridge University New Music Society, and have hosted in association with it several recitals, a masterclass and an outstanding Composers' Platform.

A new venture this year has been the establishment of an Evening Chamber Recital Series in the New Music Room. This has on occasions filled that very room to bursting point. Strong performances have been given of Schubert's *Quintet in C*, and Klengel's *Hymnus* for twelve cellos, which created both an imposing sight and sound!

In the Easter Term, as well as the May Week Concert, there was an outdoor Concert of Chamber Music in the atmospheric surroundings of the Fellows' Garden.

It remains for me to extend my thanks to the Committee; to the Senior Members for providing guidance in times of crisis, and to the Junior members for their support and hard work to make this a wholly successful year.

Emma Allen
President

The Norman Henry Society

Despite temporary exile from the Society's beloved Wordsworth Room, and smaller than usual gatherings in the Dirac Room at the beginning of the Michaelmas Term, normal service was soon resumed. Meetings started with Dr Johnstone's introduction for new members to 'Wines from the College Cellars' and continued with his presentation of 'Wines made from the Syrah grape'. Up to Christmas a succession of excellent tastings and presentations, by Professor Matthews on 'Cheeses and Wines', Mr Braithwaite on 'A selection of German Wines', and Dr Johnstone on 'Madeira and Marsala' was enjoyed by the spirited crowd of members that habitually assembles on Monday evenings before Hall.

The Lent Term was varied, with Dr Johnstone's well-crafted guide to 'Wines of South America', followed by the Junior Secretary's rather ambitious effort to convince the membership of the nobility of Retsina and other 'Greek wines'. Mr. Braithwaite's much loved 'Ports and wines' deserved a larger attendance, owing to the Junior Secretary's insufficient publicity for the event. Mrs. Braithwaite deserves special thanks for providing us with exceptionally good port.

The annual dinner deserved its superb reputation, as always, with an Italian flavour to the evening. A rather unlikely combination of Chianti and Amaretti biscuits saw us late into the night . . . Dr Johnstone's annual attempt to dispel undergraduate myths about the gargantuan proportions of the College cellars should lead to another interesting trip to St John's netherworld sometime soon.

It only remains for me to thank all those who speak at and support the Society, and hope that we can look forward to another successful year.

Mark Brand
Junior Secretary

The Purchas Society

In its 50th year the Purchas Society has continued to thrive. The Purchas spirit has been renewed throughout College, bolstered by a fine intake of new geographers who quickly learnt to chant the slogan 'once a Puchasian, always a Purchasian' in the exact fashion that the current third year perfected during their Freshers Week. The Society acquired another eager and dedicated Secretary in Tom Henderson, who now takes over as President. We wish him and Matt Hall, the new Secretary, the very best of luck as Purchas embarks on its next half century.

We have enjoyed some excellent talks this year, welcoming back two past Purchasians, hosting another RGS speaker, and greeting our new Fellow in Geography, Dr Neil Arnold. Our first formal guest speaker was Mary Stewart who captivated her audience with a description of a solo voyage from 'Top to Toe', from the most northern point of America to its most southerly tip. Dr Arnold then gave a solid account of his fieldwork on the Arolla glacier before revealing the more liquid story of glacial fieldwork in the Swiss Alps. Mr Robert Parkes (BA 1975, and possibly a direct descendent of Reverend Samuel Parkes, alternative spelling, MA 1600) then provided the Society with an extraordinary geographical history of that wonder material asbestos. Our final speaker was Mr Richard Crabtree (BA 1974) who after his earlier travels to the Antarctic and Mount Kilimajoro, regaled the Society with an account of an impromptu expedition to yet another region unimagined by Samuel Purchas, Ladakh in the Himalayas.

Enjoyable as these talks were, the undoubted highlight of the academic year was the Society's 50th Anniversary Dinner, which was held in the Combination Room on 2 May. All those past members of the Society whose addresses are known to the College were invited to attend, and 104 past and present Purchasians participated in a memorable occasion.

We were particularly pleased to welcome back two founder members of the Society, Mr PK Clark (BA 1949) and Mr IF Goodhand (BA 1950). Numerous others who were unable to be present sent in their apologies and, in many cases, provided a generous donation to the BH Farmer Fund. The Farmer Fund provides an annual travel grant to an undergraduate geographer in the College, and it was originally established in 1984 to mark the retirement of Dr Benny Farmer. It is sad that neither Benny nor Professor Glyn Daniel, who together founded the Society in October 1948, lived long enough to witness its 50th anniversary.

After the Anniversary Dinner the loyal toast was proposed by the Secretary, following which the President provided some unedited highlights loosely based on the above account of the Society's 50th year. Dr Tim Bayliss-Smith then replied on behalf of absent Purchasians, many of whom had written in from all corners of the known world with fanciful travellers' tales very much in the spirit of the Reverend Samuel. The evening's main speaker was Professor Tim Burt (BA 1973) of Durham University, who gave the Society a splendidly entertaining speech but, as he himself admitted and following a long Purchas tradition, provided little that can be reliably set down for the edification of *The Eagle* readership. Professor Burt proposed the health of the College, following which the Master, whom we were delighted to welcome to his very first Purchas meeting, made a memorable response. Finally Dr Robin Glasscock, who has single-handedly maintained the reputation of our patron by making *Purchas His Pilgrimes* (12 volumes) compulsory reading for Part IA of the Tripos, proposed the health of Samuel Purchas. At this point we believe that all those present felt sufficiently refreshed to be ready to embark, metaphorically speaking, on the next phase of the Society's long and arduous voyage towards its centenary.

Julian Gould, President
Tim Bayliss-Smith, Senior Treasurer

The Samuel Butler Room

A few days ago we received the ghastly SBR Committee Photograph from Eaden Lilley. This photograph, with its solemn faces, fails to capture the spirits of these individuals and of the SBR. Looking back it seems that a number of changes have taken place under the present Committee, the most obvious being the refurbishment of the SBR. Gone are the kamikaze carpets and multicoloured sofas, replaced by comfortable green furniture, occasionally too comfortable as evidenced by the number of people found sleeping. Plush wine curtains and chandelier light-fittings completed the transformation. The choice of light-fittings was a constant source of amusement as mere students battled with the finer touches of interior decorating. Chandeliers, while sounding incongruous, were a vast improvement over the previous fishbowl fittings. As an unexpected bonus we received a kind donation from an anonymous Johnian of a CD hi-fi system which has been used many times at SBR events. A less welcome addition was the new cardkey access system which had initial teething problems, but now operates well.

The visible changes to the SBR furnishings are mirrored by the changes made to the SBR Web Site. Adam Cherrett (Social Secretary) and James Smith have gone to great pains to make this one of the best, if not the best, web site in Cambridge. The web page is noteworthy for its wealth of links to addresses which most students find useful, from activities throughout Cambridge to funding bodies for further studies. The web page should prove useful to advertise events to the greater graduate community, in combination with the newly installed SBR email list.

One of the more subtle ways in which the SBR has changed recently has been the provision of social events throughout the year for graduate students. We started our term of office full of energy and enthusiasm, determined to combat the summer time blues with plenty of activities. Our first bid to liven up summer was the Annual SBR Garden Party, held in Hall due to torrential rains. Nevertheless, an excellent afternoon proceeded with spirits lifted by the Corcovado Jazz Band and copious supplies of strawberries and cream, and of course Pimms and lemonade

(leftover lemonade appeared unfailingly at all subsequent events!). Other notable activities were the cycle trip to Anglesey Abbey organised by our culture vulture, the ever present External Officer René Brouwer, cheesy theme video evenings (Jackie Chan, Spaghetti Westerns and Bond films), an idea spawned by Secretary Karen Fullard and of course the notorious Punt Race. Equipped with water-balloons and plastic cups, seven punts teeming with graduates raced down the Cam with punters changing over every two minutes. The ensuing onslaught surprised organisers and amused spectators along the Backs. Eventually the intrepid racegoers arrived at the Granta, some more wet than others, everyone in fabulous form, even Oliver Choroba saw the humorous side of swimming in the Cam in designer clothing.

After this the Committee looked ahead and saw the Freshers' Fortnight storm approaching and began battening down the hatches. Freshers' Fortnight is a two week period in which students are bombarded with a fanfare of events designed to allow them to meet each other and acclimatise to new surroundings. Especially popular were the Treasure Hunt and Pubcrawl which pointed out important landmarks essential to student life (The Eagle, The Maypole, The Mitre,...) and the Blacktie Jazz Cruise towards Ely. The SBR Ceilidh in the School of Pythagoras proved a success. Many international students began with a wee bit of hesitation, but were reeling, spinning and whooping with the best of them before the end of the evening.

Following Freshers' Fortnight the Committee decided it was time to broaden everyone's horizons by fraternising with graduates from other colleges. To this end, a number of Exchange Dinners were organised throughout the year. Whilst these have been well attended, the hospitality extended by other colleges was sometimes not as warm as our own. A few inter-collegiate events have also been attempted, with varying degrees of success, due in part to apathy from other colleges. One of the more successful interactions with other colleges has been the World Renowned SBR Cricket Tour. Selwyn 'The Arrow' Blieden and Colin 'Howzat' Campbell are but two of the cricketing legends of the team. This year's intake of students have displayed considerable enthusiasm for the sport and we all wait in anticipation of the start of

the new season. A similar degree of enthusiasm has been demonstrated by the eight rowers and cox comprising the Graduate Women's Crew, initiated by Susan Moffatt (Welfare Officer). What the crew lacks in speed, it more than compensates by way of brains and beauty. They are currently in training for the May Bumps.

While the Committee admire sporting prowess, we have attempted to balance such aptitudes with our own inimitable cultural style, examples being the SBR Pantomime and Revue. A group of eager scriptwriters contributed towards 'Star Wars The Pantomime', ably co-ordinated by Luke Purshouse (Social Secretary), Deneal Smith and Chris Jones. Yoda, Obiwan Bontempi, Princess Leia and Darth Vader rivalled the acting abilities of their screen counterparts. The 3rd Annual Revue, an entertainment evening in which graduates expose their 'talents' on an unsuspecting audience, was once again a resounding success. Going from the ridiculous to the sublime, the SBR Concert was organised by our very own piano playing genius James Martin (Treasurer) and it attracted many gifted musicians from the graduate community. Those of us fortunate enough to hear them play and sing were thoroughly impressed by the performances and hope this event will become a regular feature of the cultural calendar.

As expected other annual events held this year have been exceedingly popular. These include Christmas Dinner in Hall attended by two hundred festive graduates, and the large dinner near election time dubbed, in desperation, the St George's Day Dinner. Food has been a central component of SBR activities. Looking back at the social calendars a considerable selection of events seem to relate in some manner to eating and drinking. South African Wines, Whisky, Cheese and Belgian Chocolate tastings all went down like a treat and the newly introduced Decadent Evening combined our worst vices in an orgy of Massage and Chocolate Fondue. Last, but definitely not least, the ubiquitous Coffee and Cake afternoons continue to grow in popularity. Once a month ravenous masses descend on the SBR to gorge themselves on various goodies, of an unashamedly calorific nature, served by the Committee. Occasionally graduates exchange grunts between mouthfuls. SBR members have proved, in general, to be an entertaining species and it has been our pleasure to be on the Committee this year.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the Fellows, College staff and students who have made our term of office such an enjoyable and rewarding experience. Firstly, we would like to acknowledge the support and guidance of Mr Jobling, the Senior Tutor, and the Domestic Bursar, Colonel Robinson, who kindly arranged for the financing of the refurbishment of the SBR. We would like to thank the benefactor of the CD hi-fi system. College staff, in particular those in the Conference and Catering Department and the Porters, have been exceptionally helpful in organising and overseeing the smooth operation of graduate functions in Hall and other College rooms. Additionally, we would like to extend our thanks on behalf of all the graduates to Dr Colwell who has taken up the posts of Senior Treasurer of the SBR and Tutor for Graduate Affairs. The SBR are delighted with the active role she has taken in establishing a Committee to investigate and improve the provision of College accommodation. We trust the Samuel Butler Room remains, as we know it, a lively and welcoming place in the years to come.

Lorraine Dunbar, President
Karen Fullard, Secretary

The Winfield Society

At the beginning of the Michaelmas Term the Committee of the Winfield Society concentrated its efforts on integrating the new fresher lawyers into the College. An introductory tea party was provided, dinner in Hall with the rest of the Winfield Society was arranged and freshers packs, containing useful information about studying law at St John's, the Winfield Society's activities and an essential guide to using the law library, were distributed. By the end of the Michaelmas Term the freshers were truly part of the Winfield Society, forming a large presence at all of the Society's events.

The Winfield Society's foremost aim is to provide lawyers at St John's with a means of meeting and interacting with other Johnian lawyers, both current members of College and Old Johnians. However, in the spirit of inter-college friendship, the current Committee has maintained the links forged by the previous Committee with other Cambridge

Colleges and has endeavoured to promote joint events. A solid foundation for such events has now been laid, and it is hoped that links will continue during 1998-9.

The final of the 1998 Mooting Competition was held on Thursday 5 March. This year's competition resulted in an all female final (the first in the history of the Winfield Society Mooting Competition, I believe). Having fought through the two previous rounds, Emily Palmer saw off strong competition from Diana Wilson, Juliette Addison and Lucy Malenczuk to clinch the title in a very close final, where the merits of claims for personal injury and psychiatric damage founded on the rule in *Rylands v Fletcher* were subjected to detailed scrutiny. Many thanks to all those involved in the competition - judges, organisers, sponsors and especially competitors (volunteers or otherwise).

The Winfield Society Annual Dinner was, once again, well-attended by both current and Old Johnians. The Committee were disappointed that the Dinner had to be held on a Sunday outside Full Term, but with the popularity of events in Hall we were left with little choice of date. More than a thousand Old Johnians were contacted directly by post and, despite the inconvenience of journeying to Cambridge on a Sunday, the response was favourable. People from far and wide (even overseas) returned to St John's to dine in Hall, where students, Fellows and Old Johnians mixed with ease. After Dinner many Old Johnians took the opportunity to join the Committee and current Johnians in the Wordsworth Room for drinks. The party went on into the night and seemed to be enjoyed by all.

This year's Committee were:

Louisa Denning (President)
 Ross MacKenzie (Vice-President)
 Dauwood Malik (Treasurer)
 Lucy Malenczuk (Secretary)
 Will McManus (Social Secretary)

Louisa Denning
President

COLLEGE SOCIETIES

Adams Society

One might be concerned that undergraduates would have a sufficient supply of mathematics in their morning lectures to keep them away from Society talks, but that was clearly not the case this year as all meetings were very well attended. Indeed, at one meeting we even had a couple of visitors from Next Door; we were obliged to welcome them since Johnians had almost outnumbered Trinitarians at a Trinity Mathematical Society meeting given by Fields Medallist Professor William Gowers in October.

It has been decided that the Society AGM will be held at the end of the Lent Term instead of halfway through it and therefore this annual report contains accounts of two annual dinners.

The first was towards the beginning of March last year. Dr Smithies spoke about the work of great men such as Neumann and particularly Cauchy in the field of complex analysis. Anyone interested in the history of this subject should read Dr Smithies' book (CUP 1997).

About a week later we were addressed by Dr Richard Martin (UCL and GEC-Marconi) on the subject of mathematics in modern signal processing. In less than an hour, Dr Martin imparted sufficient information to give us an insight into the cutting edge of this rapidly growing field.

The Annual Society Afternoon (TM) took place as usual after the exams. We now beat the Trinity Mathematical Society so soundly that we have to bat first to make the game last more than an hour. I am obliged to report that the garden party after the cricket match was very grown-up and we did not destroy any part of the Fellows' croquet set by using it for golf.

Dr Körner kicked off the new academic year by giving us some ideas on spherical packing in many dimensions. Umar Salam addressed the Society towards the end of the Michaelmas term looking at some

ideas in algebraic topology developed by Kontsevich on his way to a Fields medal.

The first talk of the Lent term was given by Professor Michael Dempster, Financial Director of the Judge Institute for Management Studies. He spoke about the mathematical modelling of option pricing. At the beginning of March, Dr Michael McIntyre came to talk and under the title of 'what has the ozone hole got to do with the interior of the sun?', he introduced to us a number of principles of atmospheric convection.

Most of the speakers this year have been entertained either by junior members or on high table (kindly hosted by AJM). The chance to interact with speakers in the more informal and social atmosphere of Hall (or, in the case of Dr Martin, the *Curry King*) has been enjoyed by everyone and I hope that this practice continues.

At this point I would like to thank Dr Garling for his period of office as Senior Treasurer and Dr Macfarlane, who has now been in the job for almost a year.

The second annual dinner was towards the end of February. Professor Douglas Gough, now at the Institute of Astronomy, was our Guest of Honour; we thought he might speak about helioseismology but he instead decided to treat us to a feast of humorous anecdotes.

The AGM (with elections) took place on 8th March. Richard Samworth (the current secretary) stood unopposed for President. There was a great deal of competition for the other two committee positions and a large proportion of the Society turned up to vote. I wish Richard and his team (Kanishka Misra – Junior Treasurer, Rebecca Thornton – Secretary) a truly successful year.

The last word should go to Richard Samworth and Ron Lin (the junior treasurer) who have worked hard over the last year to bring the Society to the active state it is currently in.

Roddy Vann
President

The Choir Association

I was very pleased to be re-elected as Chairman of the Association again this year. Very glamorous you may say – representing the interests of all those past members of such a world famous Choir! Well of course it is and I take it as an enormous vote of confidence by the membership that things continue to move in the right direction. But then there's the other side. As I look around my study and see boxes of papers, correspondence, files past and present and a whole host of Choir memorabilia, I am reminded just how much work is involved in keeping things moving along. In fact, it's fairly easy to work out that the volume of work is directly proportional to the growth of the Association – or is it the other way around? Just to illustrate what I'm saying, only a week or so ago, Martin Redfearn, former Chorister and stalwart member of our committee and I, spent several hours, as we do each year, printing and collating the Annual Magazine. This was after several weeks of ferrying drafts back and forth to his secretary, who resides at the other side of the County, for word processing. This year we had decided to go into full-scale production in A3. Rather more professional we thought. However, a slight misunderstanding with our Printer, who was to provide the finishing service i.e. folding and stapling, resulted in this having to be done at home. Over four hundred copies in all. I have to say that I had some less than admiring glances from my wife as her dining room was transformed into a temporary finishing shop for about a week.

The upshot of this is that I descended, with Martin just about a week ahead of me, to one of the high street super stores to invest in a 'state of the art' computer, complete with all the bells, whistles and usual paraphernalia that one expects from today's technology. Of course, this won't do the finishing but will certainly make life a great deal easier in future.

For SJCCA it's been a very good year. The College has welcomed us as it always has and Catherine Twilley has been her usual pillar of strength. We were very pleased to be invited to several Choir events including the Advent Carol Service and the receptions for the tours to

South Africa and Japan. We made our first award under the new bursary scheme (with two more to follow this year) and the College Council approved our application to join in its charitable status. The bursary scheme is an ambitious undertaking with a clear fund raising target having been agreed by the Committee for the end of the millennium. Even now we are planning beyond this and access to the College Consolidated Trust Fund will, in the longer term, enable us to provide the level of support we so much want to be in a position to give to both the Choir and its members.

The July reunion went well and all that attended enjoyed a splendid dinner in the elegant surroundings of the Wordsworth Room. Our thanks go to Simon and his team for the work the Catering and Conference Department put into making this event so special. Singing with the Choir is always the nostalgic experience we have come to enjoy and appreciate. It serves to remind us each year of why we are really here, that being to retain our links. We are ever grateful to Christopher for allowing this group of 'rusty' interlopers into his domain albeit for a brief moment and for not berating us too severely for the odd mistake.

Two Executive Committee meetings were held. The first in College in November and the second in Oxford during April. Oxford is an equally wonderful venue and helps with the equability of the travelling arrangements. Both meetings were well attended and, whilst allowing for all the pleasantries associated with meeting old friends once again over a good lunch, also enable us to deal with the more serious decisions necessary to run the Association's business. In the main, the Committee consists of former Choristers now representing business, commerce, academia and the service industries but sadly there are *no* former Choral Students. This is an issue we have to address if the Committee is to truly reflect the make up of the membership. So come on Choral Students, where are you?

September saw our annual family gathering at the Barns in Herefordshire, the weekend retreat of one of our committee members. This popular event, lasting from Friday night to Sunday afternoon, provides a time for relaxation for both adults and children. Weather

permitting, there is indulgence in sport such as archery and golf, not forgetting the much practised art of motorcycle rallying on our host's post war motorcycle combination. For the children there is canoeing on the lake, mini golf, a tree house, exploring and all the usual things children like to do. We toast the Association, the Choir and the College at regular intervals throughout the weekend and usually late into the night whilst overindulging in the culinary delights prepared by our Treasurer on the barbecue.

In October, Association ties were presented to the Master, Peter Goddard, George Guest and Christopher Robinson. The presentation was made at the request of members at the AGM in July. It was an informal gathering followed by lunch in Hall and it was much enjoyed by all present.

Nineteen ninety-nine is of particular significance for the Choir and the Association. We will be commemorating the 40th Anniversary of the release of the first commercial recording 'Hear My Prayer'. This has enjoyed considerable success over the decades not only in terms of its sales but also its use by the media. I feel that its continued availability bears testimony to the enduring excellence of the Choir's work. Our intention is to encourage as many of our members from that era to attend the reunion, in celebration.

We all look forward to this year's Open Weekend and joining in with the College activities. For those of you considering attending, members of the Association will be joining the Choir, soloists and orchestra on Sunday 11th July to sing the Mozart *Coronation Mass*. I feel sure this will be an occasion to match those in 1995 and 1997.

Just a few days prior to this, my wife Anne and I will be off to Winchester to hear Adam Green (BA 1998) in a performance of Donizetti's *L'Élixir d'Amore*. Yet another reminder of the way in which the talented members of St John's College Choir continue to contribute to the professional world of music. So you see, anything we can do to help perpetuate this really does make all the hard work worth while.

Alastair Roberts
Chairman

Cripptic: 1998-1999

The highly acclaimed literary journal of St John's has certainly witnessed a renaissance since the departure of Messrs Tweddell and Copley from the helm. Readers have been treated to a veritable feast of quality investigative journalism over the last 12 months, with the important College issues including term dates, bar closures and JCR elections all coming under scrutiny. The John has been overflowing with crucial College news snippets and we have also seen the growth of an active social calendar around the regularly published issues. The introduction of enthusiastically attended termly cocktail parties has proved successful in widening readership and raising the profile of Cripptic within College. The excursion '*alfresco*', despite the poor weather, was for some one of the highlights of May Week, while 1998 was spectacularly rounded off with the annual squash in the School of Pythagoras – where high spirits, effervescent conversation and exposed flesh were all in abundance.

However, none of this would have been possible without the help of notable others. We must thank the Reverend Nick Moir and the Reverend Duncan Dormor for their continued support in the face of adversity and are grateful to Dr Carrington for his kind words of encouragement. We are also indebted to our regular writers for their relentless cutting wit and satire, and everyone else who unknowingly contributed in their own unique way.

Finally we wish Chris Sussman all the best in continuing the fine tradition that is Cripptic and hope he will be supported by the College community in the quest for Knowledge as well as we were.

'Cripptic Ad Astra – Let the Legend live on.'

Cian Weeresinghe and Dauwood Malik
Editors

The Gentlemen of St John's

Sitting to write this makes me think back to last year when I was elected to the post of manager, on neutral territory, in the middle of a scorching day in Switzerland. A lot has happened in that year, and while a lot of it has involved many heated telephone calls and catering for those situations you can never expect (such as 'the one where Ed Tolputt got stranded at Twickenham and took a taxi back in order to arrive less than 2 hours late for an important concert') it has been for the most part very enjoyable, not to mention good for the CV.

Being manager of a group such as the Gents is a hard role to pin down. It must be recognised that there will always be those amongst us who will look at the Gents simply as a way of making some extra money, and this is 'of course' very true. But I got the impression on coming into the job that we had undersold ourselves somewhat in previous years. Alex Ashworth did a fantastic job two years ago, presiding over the tour to Japan and a new CD, and last year was a great period of consolidation, but it was felt that if we did not get some big projects underway soon the group would descend into another period of stagnation. The most important thing you need on coming into the job is a good legacy, and I couldn't have asked for a better one; my predecessor Graham Walker was, and still is, a great help, and I think it is fair to say that we are now fairly well organised both financially and with regard to personnel. The second most important thing you need is good personnel, and in that respect we have once again managed to maintain the standard of previous years. The new first years have done very well to learn all the music and fit in generally with what is a strange lifestyle.

There were certain changes in method this year. The most significant of these was the decision by Graham that as Musical Director he wanted to conduct the sacred part of our performance from the front, which proved to be a real help; our performances improved almost unrecognisably as a result. The second was that of an increased use of delegation as a means of aiding the smooth running of the system. Simon Wall, as tour organiser, has been instrumental in organising 'This Year's Japanese Tour' (we seem to be going there almost every year at

the moment) which is due to occur in mid-September and has acted as liaison officer with the full choir's agent, Martin Denny. Gabriel Burchell has been a great help in organising an English tour for this August, which includes several high profile concerts at the Three Choirs Festival in Worcester and a concert in the concert hall of the Nimbus Foundation in Monmouthshire. Ed Tolputt has been a rock of support, consistently coming up with ingenious and totally impractical schemes for money-raising while single-handedly attempting to get a relatively small order of CDs from our distribution company, but he succeeded in the end. All these and many more have helped in their own way to make this a very successful year.

So what are we actually doing? Well, the tours to the West Country and Japan have already been mentioned. We are very honoured to be performing in the Three Choirs Festival, having been invited to do so by former organ scholar Adrian Lucas (BA 1983) and are combining performances on 24th-26th August in Worcester with dates in Monmouth, Bradford-Upon-Avon and Wells Cathedral. The Gents were actually asked to perform in Suntory Hall (Japan's most prestigious and important concert venue) this coming Christmas, but unfortunately Choir duties have prevented us from accepting. It does, however, prove that the profile of the group has been raised enormously over recent years, and that we are now recognised as international performers in our own right. The September tour to Japan is calculated to replace the lost Christmas opportunity, and we are looking forward to it tremendously. We are also booked to record two new Compact Discs this summer, the result of many hours of telephone calls between Cambridge, Bedford and Switzerland. Christopher Robinson, the Chapel Choir Director, has very kindly agreed to direct the group for the first of these discs, for which we will be recording music by the French Renaissance composer Jean Mouton. The second of the discs will be a sequel to the critically acclaimed 'Mix Well' of 1992, with a track listing to include more close harmony and spirituals. Both should be available to buy before Christmas, and will be available direct from the manager following release.

It is an exciting time; if we succeed in making two CDs and completing two tours this summer, I will be pleased with what has been achieved.

The policy of delegation has been proved. We have achieved more in a year than ever before because more people have become involved than in previous years, and an infectious enthusiasm seems to have pervaded the group over the year, making my job easier and more satisfying. We set out to raise the profile of the Gents, and I believe that we have succeeded. I have enjoyed myself immensely, gained a lot of business experience and people skills, and hope that my successor (who is as yet unnamed) will get as much out of the position as I have.

Chris Gabbitas
Manager

The History Society

This year has been another one of great success for the College History Society, with great enthusiasm from Senior and Junior members alike for a range of excellent speaker meetings.

Our Michaelmas Termcard started in the best possible style with the visit of Oleg Gordievsky who was Head of the KGB in London in the early 1980s whilst also being a valuable agent of British Intelligence. His talk about 'Soviet Intelligence and the Cold War', interspersed with memories of his own hair-raising experiences was fascinating, and it was a great privilege to be addressed by the only man to have briefed Reagan, Thatcher and Gorbachev on policy matters. Mr Gordievsky's talk was followed in the evening by the convivial Society Squash which was enjoyed in particular by Carl Warner and Nick Winter who were careful to make sure that the President was fully aware of his responsibilities in welcoming the first years into the History Brotherhood.

The Michaelmas Term also saw two other talks. Firstly Dr Tim Lockley from Warwick University told us of his research into a cricket club in Savannah Georgia in a talk entitled 'The Manly Game: Cricket and the Perception of Masculinity'. Later in the term we were greatly entertained by a paper delivered by Dr Mary Laven, formerly of John's

but now teaching at Jesus, entitled rather intriguingly 'Nuns and Sex in Post Reformation Venice'. Rather disappointingly perhaps, her conclusion was that the two were not often intimately linked. Instead the young men who made a habit of climbing into nunneries at the dead of night, and who often stayed inside for a period of weeks were attracted by the promise of conversation, biscuits and other pastries which the inmates were obliging enough to provide. I am told that the same system remains in force to this day in Newnham.

During the Lent Term we enjoyed three further talks. Firstly Dr Tim Cornell from Manchester told us of the links between Mussolini's regime and Ancient Rome, drawing on the rich vein of symbolism in Fascist political structure, art and architecture. Midway through term, Dr Simon Keynes of Trinity College vividly brought to life the subject of 'The Myth of King Arthur', a topic traced back from 11th-century chronicles, through the operetta containing 'Rule Britannia' to a rather poor film made in the 1950s. Finally, the year ended as it had begun, in the shadowy world of the Intelligence Community. Alan Stripp, co-author with Sir Harry Hinsley of the definitive short history of Bletchley Park, gave a talk on the workings of GCHQ during the war, and in particular on the cracking of the German Enigma encoding machine. This lively mixture of fine scholarship and personal experience was further illustrated by a genuine Enigma Machine, which Mr Stripp was good enough to bring along.

As always, a highlight of the year was the Annual Society Dinner, held in the candlelit splendour of the Combination Room and supported to a large extent by the generosity of the Fellows. The Society was delighted to welcome as guest of honour Mr Peter Laslett, formerly of John's and Secretary of the Society in 1938-9. Mr Laslett's speech concentrated on the members of the Society when he was its sole officer. All eight active members became dons, and between them amassed the Masterships of several Oxbridge colleges and all the laurels that academia can offer. Mr Laslett also expressed the confidence that the present crop of Johnians can match or better these achievements, and the forty guests warmed by the best food and wine that the college can offer were in no mood to argue about this sentiment. We were also told an entertaining story

about a certain eminent historian, and the late train to London, known rather charmingly in the 1930s as the 'Flying Fornicator'

It just remains to me to thank my Committee, namely Rob Newman as Treasurer and Clare Gaskell who as Secretary did most of the hard organisational tasks. Meanwhile I tried to limit my endeavours to making appropriate wisecracks at the start and end of meetings, and to responding to silly challenges to furnish my dinner speech with Bon Jovi lyrics. I should also like to thank the Senior Treasurer of the Society, Dr Linehan, who guided us through the year, and who did much to contribute to the success of the dinner, and to whom I am deeply grateful. I am also relishing the opportunity of taking up his challenge of beating all-comers at croquet during the forthcoming garden party, the final event of the year. It is with fond memories that I pass the Society on to the capable hands of next year's Committee, and wish them all the best in taking on what must surely be the flagship of Johnian Societies.

Adam Johnson
President

JCR Committee

This year's Committee took over in the midst of radical political change. With the introduction of a £1,000 tuition fee, the abolition of maintenance grants and the added blow to Oxbridge of a reduction in our College fee, the financial outlook for students looked bleak.

However, St John's has stood firmly to its commitment of allowing access to the best education for those with the academic ability and not just the financial means. Various funds are able to give students in need financial assistance. We must be thankful to the College and its senior members for such support.

Closer to home the JCR Committee has been very active this past year. Our main aim to increase the visibility of our workings and improve communication in College has been successful and continues to progress.

The Publicity Officer, Chris Sussman has been the main driving force of our improved communication. A more regular Bogsheet and twice termly newsletter have kept students up-to-date, and, with Chris's continuous wit, highly amused as well. His vital contribution to the Committee is continued next year in his new position as Yearbook Officer and Vice-President.

Christine Worth, furthering our communication outside of John's with Target Schools, has managed to double the number of Johnians volunteering this year to speak at schools which do not normally send students to Cambridge and to hopefully dispel some of the rumours about the place. She has also been active in the new EAGLE Project, set up to create links with inner city schools in London.

Rebecca Thevarokium as Secretary and the only remaining member of the previous year's Committee has been an invaluable source of experience and knowledge, and of course those vital minutes.

Tim Taylor, in charge of Academic Affairs worked hard to ensure important issues were dealt with, not only on a College level, but a departmental level as well. His sofa was available to all who needed help with the increasingly studious atmosphere of Cambridge.

Katherine Furniss, in charge of Welfare has helped junior members with anything they might need. As if that wasn't enough, she has led many campaigns targeting important issues such as Alcohol Awareness Week, National Aids Day, a Safer Sex campaign, to mention a few. She has also been successful in setting up weekly aerobics, swimming sessions and a new improved parenting scheme. We wish her luck as the new President next year.

Betsan Criddle furthered the Women's Campaign with more popular lunches and a hugely successful Women's Dinner with a selection of inspirational guest speakers.

Sibtain Anwar has helped raise the profile of CUSU as External Officer, and coped with the unending boredom of their mainly irrelevant council meetings, plus let's not forget all those CUSU cards he has had to produce – all 520 of them.

The Yearbook was creatively compiled this year by Cian Weeresinghe. He managed to catch the imagination, providing a wonderful moment of College life with an eclectic selection of photos and quotes.

Ents this year, dominated by 'Girl Power' in the form of Alexis Rose and Olivia Browne, has gone from strength to strength. Olivia in charge of the Clarkson Room, has had it refurbished and supplied with new decks. She has catered for a diverse selection of music tastes from Salsa to Drum & Bass, continuing nights such as Beatitude and introducing new ones such as Flex. Each night a huge success, creating an ever growing crowd of regular supporters. Alexis has managed to bring the Fisher Building to life, changing its atmosphere, decoration, lighting and whole personality to match the sounds of each different event put on. She has given Ents at John's a new lease of life creating a platform from which to grow – themed nights such as Club Tropicana, are likely to continue for years to come. The June event threatened with failure for various technical, administrative, and meteorological reasons was transformed into a huge success, enjoyed by all attending and by the combined Ents and JCR Committees retrospectively!

Last but certainly not least, there is the Vice-President and Treasurer, both posts juggled with seemingly effortless ease by Mal Green. He gets the prize for being able to deal with any and every situation thrown at him in a remarkably calm, mature and efficient manner. A unique style for which we give him great credit.

I would like to thank all the Committee for their never-ending enthusiasm and commitment. Everyone was brilliant and I hope they enjoyed the year as much as I did. Lastly I wish the new Committee lots of luck next year.

Katherine Joy
President

Jazz at John's

'Please keep on supporting this event, for it's places like this that keep the Jazz scene alive' said Guy Barker, one of the UK's top jazz trumpeters, at his Jazz at John's gig. This event was a milestone in the short history of Jazz at John's, and initially a millstone round the necks of the Committee, who had to relocate the event for one night to the depths of the Boiler Room. Having to recreate the sweaty basement into the seedy yet stylish venue that such a high standard of jazz deserved was problematic. Thanks to the help of various figures of authority within college the seemingly impossible task of transporting an acoustic piano to the bowels of Cripps was achieved. That November evening, waiting anxiously for the usual Jazz at John's relaxed atmosphere to build up, the Committee watched the steady stream of people fill the shadows of the Boiler Room, haggle over the beanbags, and then settle down for Guy Barker's mesmerising performance. It was an uplifting success and an example of how Jazz at John's has grown over the past two years and established itself as an enduring feature of Cambridge nightlife.

Over the past year, we have showcased various styles and performers, from slow and sultry jazz ballads to driving latin jazz, from the smooth voice of Anita Wardell, to the dynamic double saxophone playing of Gilad Atzmon. But our audience even includes those who do not like jazz, as a second-year student said to me, 'every time I come here I remember that I hate jazz, but you just can't find the atmosphere anywhere else!'

Our success partly stems from the strong foundations established by the original committee, enthusiastic commitment from the current Committee, and also continued support and help from the college authorities. Now into our third year, Jazz at John's hopes to provide a place where Cambridge students can listen to good music and relax for many more years to come.

Eleanor Davis
President

The Johnian Society

The Johnian Society was founded in 1923 at a reunion of old members of the College under the chairmanship of the late Sir Edward Marshall Hall KC as a means of maintaining a link with the College and with each other. The Society is run by its Committee, the members of which are listed on the enclosed form and who are elected at the Annual General Meeting held on the evening of the dinner. The Committee will be pleased to receive any nominations or suggestions for its membership. The Society is using the Johnian Office, located next to the College Office in Chapel Court, as an accommodation address. This improves the administration of the Society, provides it with some secretarial help and permits easier liaison with the Development Officer, to our mutual advantage.

The Society includes among its activities an Annual Dinner in the College in early December. The dinner has been well attended for many years, and provides an evening of reminiscence and good company for members of all ages, from those who graduated a couple of years ago to those who graduated over fifty years ago. The application form for this year's dinner on December 11 1999 is included with this copy of *The Eagle*.

The Johnian Society lecture took place in College on 23 February. Sir Percy Cradock spoke about 'Morality and Foreign Policy' and the text is printed in this edition of *The Eagle*. The next lecture will take place in 2001.

The golf tournament for the Marshall Hall Cup was initiated shortly after the Society was founded and had been well supported by the members. Those wishing to play golf are asked to contact John Loosley at the address on the dinner application form. The tournament is normally held at Sutton, Cambridgeshire, on the last Friday in July.

I look forward to seeing many members of the Society at the dinner on 11 December.

Roger Morgan
Chairman

The Lady Margaret Players

Following in the footsteps of last year's LMP success was a daunting, but exciting experience. Putting on a performance and making yourself vulnerable to criticism is always hard, particularly in Cambridge with the sharp-tongued theatre editors of *Varsity* always ready to pick up on any flaws. This year, LMP successfully steered its way through the minefield of reviews to receive praise from all quarters for the nine plays we were involved with.

Michaelmas started well with an LMP first in the field of, bizarre as it may sound, lesbian musical comedy. Bryony Lavery's comic parody of the gothic romantic novel managed to be light-hearted whilst removing the taboos from lesbian relationships. Enjoyed by straight and gay alike, *Her Aching Heart* had the audience and critics rolling in the aisles and tapping their feet. In the same week the equally provocative *A Day in the Death of Joe Egg*, a play exploring the tensions involved in living life with a disability, was being equally well received by audiences in the School of Pythagoras. This production was later nominated for a prize in the 1998 National Student Drama Festival. Finally, Michaelmas saw the double bill showing of Shakespeare's *Richard III* and Tom Stoppard's *On the Razzle* in the School of Pythagoras.

Lent was our most prolific term. Four plays in as many weeks in LMP's prized College theatre was no easy task, but through this Herculean effort Cambridge audiences are finally starting to recognise the School of Pythagoras for the excellent venue it is. Ben Elton's *Silly Cow*, co-funded with CADS (Christ's) was our fourth week comic offering. Fifth week saw the freshers' production of *The Happiest Days of Your Life* by John Dighton. This wartime farce saw the freshers' going back to school and, under the skilful direction of Fiona Learmont and Frankie Whitelaw and superb production talents of Fiona McDonald and Nadine Adams-Austin, played to sell-out audiences on its final two nights. A special mention must go to their ambitious set designer, Nick Cordrey who, despite all expectations, managed to transform the School of Pythagoras to include massive French windows and a balcony and created one of the best and most atmospheric sets we've ever seen. Well

done to everyone involved! Sixth week saw another first for LMP, in fact for the world, as *The Antipodes* by Richard Brome was performed for the first time in 338 years. This Caroline comedy, in which a cocky doctor and mischievous lord concoct an unorthodox cure for a gentleman's jealousy and his son's melancholy, received praise from *Varsity* and a prestigious visit from RSC director John Barton. Finally the end of term saw another freshers' production, this time of Harold Pinter's *The Homecoming*. With this demanding and emotionally traumatic play, The Lady Margaret Players finished off Lent term with a powerful display of their capacity to handle all aspects of drama.

Easter term is always a difficult time for productions; with exams looming it can be difficult for actors to find time to learn lines and audiences to abandon their desks. Nonetheless this year's Lady Margaret Players managed a superb third week performance in Dario Fo's *An Open Couple* at the Cambridge Playrooms. This absurdist masterpiece stunned audiences with its clever exposé of the tensions and expectations involved in marriage. Once exams are over, and we are once again free to tread the boards, we will be shuffling off to Edinburgh where we are producing the fourth comedic offering from *The Hollow Men*. Famed in Cambridge for their three hilarious sketch shows so far (*Hollow Men*, *Grace* and *Live at the Lounge*), we fully expect them to split the sides of the festival audience, and are pleased to be taking LMP back to Edinburgh for the first time in a long while. Before we do that however there will be the LMP Garden Party (to end all Garden Parties) in which we will be celebrating this year's efforts in our usual decadent style and patting our backs for being part of this society's continued success. Amongst champagne, strawberries and live performances we will be handing over the Presidency to a Committee of four talented freshers – we suggest you watch this space

Naomi Townshend and Kate Cornell

Music Society

Having not been on the Music Society Committee last year, I knew that it would be a challenge to take over as President. But it has been a rewarding and exciting year for me, as I hope it has been for our 150 or so members. We were delighted this year to see the emergence of the New Music Society which, under the umbrella of the Music Society, has already made a name for itself in the University.

The traditional 'Come and Sing' event in the Michaelmas Term was a performance of Haydn's *Nelson Mass*, conducted by Robert Houssart, with a first-half of Mozart and Beethoven. I had the great (but nerve-wracking) pleasure of performing Mozart's *Violin Concerto in G major*, conducted by Graham Walker, which was followed by Beethoven's *Second Symphony*, conducted by James Weeks, who we imported from Queens'. The concert was well-received, and provided a valuable opportunity for our new members to perform.

The Lent Term saw one of the most popular Music Society concerts of recent years. We decided on a programme mainly on wind and string music, rarely performed in Cambridge, and against much competition from elsewhere in the town, drew a huge audience. Leo Hussain conducted/directed the whole concert. In the first half, Frances Norbury and Christina Sampson were the impressive soloists in Bach's *Concerto for Oboe and Violin*. And we achieved the near-impossible task of finding 24 solo wind players for Stravinsky's *Symphonies of Wind Instruments*, which was also received well. The second half was dominated by English string music, starting with Vaughan-Williams's hauntingly beautiful *Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis*, and the concert ended with a star performance by tenor, Andrew Kennedy, in Finzi's *Dies Natalis*. The concert was highly-praised by *Varsity*, who commented particularly on the 'sensitive, expressive string sound'.

The Lunchtime Recital Series was of a high standard and was well-attended. Highlights were a recital by Will Street (Violin) and Iain Farrington (Piano) in the Michaelmas Term, which included Ravel's *Violin Sonata*, the World Premiere of (Johnian) Jonathan Warrell's *Concerto for Two Guitars* in the Lent Term, and a recital by the Evans

Quartet, which consists of three first-year Johnnians. The New Music Room has also hosted an evening concert, and a lecture by composer Julian Anderson, both organised by the New Music Society. The Organ Recital Series enjoyed two terms of fortnightly concerts on Saturday lunchtimes. The College Orchestra, under the baton of Iain Farrington, has continued to rehearse with enthusiasm, and has produced two excellent concerts in the Chapel.

The annual Senior Combination Room Concert was held on the 18th February; it was well-attended and the standard of music-making was high, as ever. The Master's Lodge, due to the kind generosity of Professor and Mrs Goddard, has continued to provide a beautiful setting for the evening recitals.

The Music Society has this year collaborated with violin teacher Chris Hirons, who now teaches players from in and out of College every week in the Fisher Building. We feel he is a valuable new asset, especially as he has offered to provide tuition to chamber ensembles within the College.

It only remains to thank the Committee, who have worked hard to help the year run smoothly. Particular thanks go to Chairman Dr Johnstone, and to the other three senior members who have provided advice and support throughout the year. I now look forward to another successful May Week Concert, and another year on the Committee, under the presidency of Graham Walker.

Corinna Ferguson
President

Norman Henry Society

The year began with a very well-attended introductory meeting given by Dr Johnstone on 'Wines from the College Cellars'. This was followed by his presentation of 'Not Bulgarian Again!' in which the members were enlightened on some of the less familiar wines from Eastern Europe. During the rest of the Michaelmas term, a series of superb tastings and

presentations were made including 'Wines from Alsace and the Rhône Valley' by Dr Marrian of Trinity College, 'Wines of Spain and Portugal' by Dr Linehan, and the much enjoyed 'Scotch Whisky' given by Dr Johnstone.

The Lent Term began with a fiendishly difficult blind wine-tasting competition in which Eleanor Hanson won the prize of a vintage bottle of port. This was followed by 'Pâtés and Wines' by Professor Matthews who demonstrated his great culinary skill. The final tasting of the term was 'Wines of south-eastern Australia' given by Dr Johnstone.

The annual dinner this year maintained its excellent reputation, with the food having a distinct Normandy style. The members look forward to a visit to the vast expanse of the college cellars in the near future.

All that remains for me is to thank all the speakers and the members for their continued support, and to look forward to a successful forthcoming year.

Sonny Bardhan
Junior Secretary

The Palmerston Society

The University has offered teaching in SPS since 1970, and the faculty was granted formal status in 1989, but until this year the subject was one of the few at St John's to remain without a society of its own. The creation of the Palmerston Society has corrected this situation, and we hope that it will thrive for many years to come.

Lord Palmerston (1784-1865) was educated at St John's. Twice British Prime Minister, he led a highly distinguished political career, including being MP for Cambridge University for twenty years. He was also extremely popular with members of the House of Commons (and with Queen Victoria's ladies-in-waiting . . .) His portrait now appropriately hangs in the Palmerston Room, home of many College Ents. We thus felt that he was the perfect icon to represent the students of the Social and Political Science Tripos! We are happy to also include students of the Management Studies Tripos amongst our numbers, as we share a Director of Studies.

We celebrated the inauguration of the society in the Lent Term with a wonderful dinner in The Parsons Room, and held a Garden Party after the exams. In the coming academic year we hope to provide a wealth of support for incoming social scientists at John's, and hold more regular events throughout the year. We have several eminent ex-Johnians who have already expressed an interest in speaking to us next term, and we look forward to welcoming them.

I would like to thank Dr Lane and Mr Jobling for their help in setting up the society, and all the SPS and MSR students who have supported our efforts. I would also like to thank my co-founder and Secretary, Rebecca Watkins, and wish her luck in nurturing the society as President next year.

Alexis Rose
President

The Purchas Society

Buoyed by the celebrations of its half century, Purchasia entered its 51st year in fine fettle and showing no signs of old age. With the effortlessly capable secretary Matt Hall at the helm we have enjoyed some lively talks, delivered to ever growing numbers of Purchasians, swelling not only attendance at meetings but also the coffers of Ryder and Amies in their eagerness to acquire the Purchas tie. Needless to say, Purchasia retains its position as the envy of other societies in St John's.

The first formal meeting welcomed Thomas Lowther of the Royal Geographical Society, who gave a fascinating account of his travels through the Pamirs of Tadjikistan. Next we hosted Rex Walford of the University's Department of Education, who talked about 'Our Shrinking World' and put forward his vision of a 'virtual Cambridge', a subject close enough to home to spark unprecedented levels of debate amongst Purchasians present. The new year saw Liz Watson, a PhD student of the Geography Department entertain the Society on the politics of conducting village-level research in Ethiopia. Our final speaker of the academic year was Dr Satish Kumar, visiting Commonwealth Fellow and Lecturer in Geography, who enthralled

Purchasians with his account of the spiritual meaning of the Himalayas to its indigenous inhabitants.

The Purchas Annual Dinner took place on the 30th April, returning to the more familiar but no less illustrious surroundings of the Wordsworth Room. In place of an external speaker our resident Fellows treated us to a lively discussion befitting of such an academic society, based upon Dr Glasscock's on-going research into the increasing (and some would say suspicious) resemblance of Dr Bayliss-Smith to the Reverend Samuel himself.

The evening culminated in the appointment of Jo Collins as Secretary, and I wish her and new President Matt Hall the very best of luck in guiding the Purchas Society into the next millennium.

Tom Henderson
President

Note – last year's Eagle made mention of two founder members of the society present at the 50th Anniversary Dinner. Apologies to John I Stansbury, a third founder member who made the journey from Zimbabwe to attend the celebrations but was unfortunately not credited in last year's report.

The Samuel Butler Room

Writing this in the middle of April, as we rapidly approach the 1999 SBR Committee elections, it is horrifying to realise that a year has gone by so fast. The election of the present Committee is very fresh in my mind, and I can't quite believe we will be handing over the reins in the next few weeks. Trying to list all the things that have gone on in the SBR in the last year, I am reminded of many good memories and events, all of which have played a very prominent part in the social life of a large number of St John's graduates. This is surely testimony to a very fine year.

Social Events

As has become the custom, the first proper event which the Committee organised on taking over from last year's team (excluding bi-weekly servings of sherry and port before and after BA Tables, and the monthly Sunday afternoon 'Coffee & Cakes') was the Garden Party. The Master was once again kind enough to allow us to use his beautiful garden, and in a May Week dogged with terribly wet weather, the SBR were, it seemed, truly blessed as not a drop of rain fell when our time came, and hot sunny weather was the order of the day. This, combined with the usual copious amounts of Pimms & lemonade and other such refreshments, put everyone in good spirits and led to a truly memorable afternoon, made all the better by a live jazz band.

The excitement and enthusiasm that filled the newly appointed Committee seemed to know no bounds as the weeks were filled with numerous exchange dinners involving visits to and from other Colleges (it seems that the SBR has attained a favourable reputation both in hosting and attending other Colleges within the University's graduate community!), video evenings, club nights, pub visits and formal dinners, to name but a few events.

As the new academic year approached, the SBR suffered a major setback as Gerry Hyde, the then President, chose to leave Cambridge, and thus his role on the Committee. I am very pleased to say that Gerry returned to Cambridge to resume his PhD in the middle of the Michaelmas term, and although he did not pick up his former Committee role, he is back in good form. In addition, Petra Scamborova, gained a place at Yale, and so resigned her post as Welfare Officer. After picking themselves up, the Committee faced Fresher's week as a foursome (with James Smith taking the role of acting President, until elections could be held in term time). Although a fairly daunting task, the remaining members of the Committee were feeling pretty enthusiastic, and were fortunate to have the support of many SBR members during the Orientation of Freshers and during the whole 'Freshers' Fortnight'. Without the willingness of many individuals to help out so enthusiastically, our job would have undoubtedly been

much harder, if not impossible, and 'Freshers' Fortnight', would not have been the huge success it turned out to be in making our new members feel so welcome. We would therefore like to express our thanks to all concerned for their unfailing help.

So, after a mid-summer lull, in which many SBR members spent time scattered across the globe, 'Freshers' Fortnight 1998' got underway. This was a fortnight of heady social activity designed to help newcomers to meet each other, to introduce them to their new surroundings and to make them welcome in what is a large community. By all accounts, it was pretty successful. Amongst the usual pub crawls, BA Tables, video nights, old favourites such as the punt trip and punt race and the treasure hunt re-surfaced, which were great fun for all involved. The midway point was marked by a very successful buffet lunch, held in Hall, and the whole thing was rounded off with a Ceilidh, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Early in the Michaelmas term, elections were held in order to select a new President and additional Committee members. James Smith was unchallenged in his proposition to take over as official President, and Deneal Smith, who had been so active during Freshers' Fortnight, took over the role of Treasurer. The Committee was therefore bolstered to five, and this is how it remained.

After this hectic, but fun, period, things generally tended to slow down a little, but the rate of socialising was still kept pretty high, especially in terms of inter-Collegiate events, thanks for which undoubtedly goes to Theresa Biberauer (External Officer) who tirelessly worked to draw graduates together from across the University. In addition to these however, two of the peaks before the year ended were a 'Super Hall' black-tie event, where graduates dined as a stunning string quartet played. This was perhaps only topped by what I am prepared to bet is the only ever performance of Rolf Harris's 'Tie Me Kangaroo Down', with 'wobble-board' accompaniment in the St John's dining hall, at the Christmas dinner, with our two resident 'Rolf-a-likes', Cam Grey and Mark Byron. In the Lent Term, exchanges continued apace, along with all the usual types of events. A mid-term cocktail party proved popular,

and although it started in a very civilised way, it soon degenerated into a worrying night of enthusiastic drink-mixing. Some pretty horrendous concoctions were created, which were all thankfully forgotten by the next morning.

Although the frequency of social events in the SBR fluctuated throughout the year, BA Tables were once again a major feature allowing those heavily laden with work to creep out of their lab or library twice a week, and dine with friends in the College Hall. In addition, the always popular Coffee and Cakes continued unfailingly, being served on the first Sunday afternoon of each month. Once again, the prospect of such culinary luxuries and of course, company of their peers usually proved too much for many to resist.

Music and Drama

There is of course more to the SBR than simply socialising, although this undoubtedly goes a long way to building such a large and friendly community. Perhaps one of the best examples of the creativity inherent in such a community, from such diverse backgrounds, is the now legendary SBR Pantomime. After the previous year's 'Star Wars – the Pantomime', the script writers worked tirelessly to come up with a truly ingenious theme:- 'Snow White and the Seven Dwarves'. Once again, the cast of . . . well, dozens . . . played to a packed School of Pythagoras for one night only. Gerry Hyde did a superb job of directing and holding it all together. I think it is important at this stage to mention two extremely prominent members of the SBR for whom, it seems, this was likely to prove their last SBR Pantomime. Deneal Smith and Luke Purshouse have both put huge amounts of effort into SBR dramatic and musical productions throughout their time at St John's. It is with great sadness, but perhaps inevitability, that they will be leaving us soon as their research comes to an end. They will be sorely missed. They were however able to grace the boards one more time at the Annual SBR Revue in March, where once again, a wide and varied range of sketches and musical numbers were performed to another (nearly) full house.

Music was also the order of the day following the Super Hall events just before and during the Michaelmas Term. At the first of these, Luke

Purshouse, Matthew Moss and Damien Browne provided us with after-dinner music and song, much to the enjoyment of all those lucky enough to attend. The second time round, Evangelos Kyriakidis organised a guest piano recital, performed by Nikos Laaris (R.C.M.).

Academia

On an academic note, midway through November, St John's played host to a Postgraduate Symposium, organised specifically for present and prospective postgraduates. The purpose was to discuss all aspects of postgraduate life, from available library and computer facilities, through writing up a thesis, stress problems and time management, to an explanation of the academic and staff structure of St John's. A lot of work went in to the organisation of this day-long event, primarily by James Smith and Dr Sue Colwell (Tutor for Graduate Affairs, and Senior Treasurer of the SBR), and they managed to secure a wide range of speakers, including the Master, the President, the Senior Tutor, and the Chaplain to name but a few. Unfortunately, the event was not particularly well attended, as it took place in the middle of the working week, and would perhaps have been more popular had it taken place earlier that term (perhaps as a part of 'Freshers' Fortnight'), however it was very useful to all those who did manage to take part in some of the sessions.

Further to this, Ien Cheng has set about organising an *Essay Society* in College, which will consist of occasional meetings where graduates (and hopefully Fellows and interested undergraduates) will be able to meet and discuss issues of an academic nature, not necessarily related to their research. This is still in its early stages, but seems likely to become a successful and important part of graduate life here.

Sports

The SBR cricket team enjoyed a most successful season, the highlight of which was a comprehensive victory over Trinity. Other notable aspects included Kumaran K. Damodaran collecting 4 wickets against Pembroke, bowling spin, and Gary Edmond's 51 n.o. during which he smashed one hapless Fitzwilliam bowler for 22 in one over. The story of the season however centres on the batting of Luke Purshouse. After

eight matches, he had scored just 4 runs and had an average of 1, but then there was a transformation and in the last seven games, he averaged 128. It was this run of form, as well as some great performances from Mark Byron, Vaughan Whittorf and Selwyn Blieden that brought the SBR to overall victory in the series of long vacation matches as well as a comfortable win against the College Staff to bring the summer to a close.

This has also been an impressive year for the St John's graduate football team. After a strong finish to the last season and an intensive preparation programme, the team started well. Unfortunately, after this fine start the team's season stuttered. A few unfortunate games went begging; slowly, however, the team regrouped and recharged, sharpening their teeth and determination. Numbers had been severely depleted, and only ten players could be found but the campaign was begun with a hard-won victory over a cosmopolitan team from Modern and Medieval Languages. Next the St John's graduate team took on St Catharine's and roared to a thumping 14-1 victory in a display of sublime artistry. The score really could have been 20. Finally, the league-leaders Girton had to be faced in their cold and distant homeland. The venue for this match was a shallow, rectangular indentation filled entirely with mud – two men were swallowed and never seen again! However, the team's fighting spirit showed through and after going down to three early slippery goals the conditions were mastered, and the game was pulled back, resulting in an 8-6 victory. Two games remain in the league and the outcome is uncertain but, having won 5 and lost just 2, the team is positioned well. In addition however, there is a more glittering prize still within the team's hungry gaze, beyond the corporeal struggle in the league – this is the Graduate Cup. Here too the result remains to be decided as the SBR team have made it to the semi-finals and Cup glory beckons in the coming weeks.

Although there has been no men's graduate boat over the past year, women's rowing is gaining in popularity in the SBR. Last year's May Bumps saw the women's graduate boat – ominously nick-named 'The Valkyries' – officially qualifying as the College's third ladies boat. When it is considered that the crew generally stuck to a gentle schedule of two

outings per week, whereas most boats head out four or five times per week, this was no mean feat! The subsequent performance in the Bumps was also creditable (they managed 2 row-overs, were bumped once (by the ferocious Caius boat which ultimately achieved blades) and had a technical row-over when a pile-up on the river led to the crew's final day race being called off just as they were within bumping distance). The 1997/98 Graduate Ladies – Karen Fullard (cox), Susan Moffat, Suzy Haywood, Anne Müller, Paula Meth, Natasha Erlank, Petra Scamborova, Theresa Biberauer and Lorraine Dunbar – were meticulously and enthusiastically coached by Andreas Opfermann who amazingly did not seem to mind assuming this responsibility during the final months of his Ph.D.

Since Michaelmas 1998, a new graduate boat has been making for the boathouse in the wee hours. Until the end of the Lent Term, Erik Gimpel (cox), Kasia Boguslawska, Georgina Haarhoff, Szilvia Biro, Colleen Willenbring, Candice Caldwell, Zarina Patel (a Girton import), Theresa Biberauer and Kelley Toole joined the regular crew. Disappointingly, uncommonly foul weather during the Michaelmas term, and unfortunate injuries has curtailed the crew's competition activity so far, but they are preparing for this year's May Bumps with Adam Cherrett as coach, and Diana Franco and Sophie Lunn-Rockcliffe having joined the crew to replace Kasia and Georgina. Hopefully the year's hard work will be rewarded with a successful run in the Bumps. In addition to the graduate team, Karen Hartshorn has rowed for the University light-weights, while Libby Saxton, Roshan Cools and Simone Kohler all had a stint in the Ladies first boat.

Finally, the Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank the Fellows, staff and students of St John's for their help and co-operation over the past year. Without such co-operation and approachability the organisation of the numerous social events over the past year would have been much more difficult. Thanks particularly go to the Catering and Conference Staff and the Porters for their obvious help and assistance in arranging and running SBR events in Hall and other College rooms, particularly when entertaining guests. Finally, our greatest thanks go to Dr Sue Colwell, (the Senior Treasurer of the SBR

and the Tutor for Graduate Affairs). She has happily helped us through thick and thin, and without her approachability, our jobs would have been very much harder. We have thoroughly enjoyed our time on the Committee, and feel proud to have been given the opportunity to represent such a diverse, talented and friendly group of people.

David M. Rippin
Secretary

with the assistance of:

Noel Rutter (cricket report),

Paul McMahon (football report),

Theresa Biberauer (women's rowing report),

Theresa Biberauer and James Smith for proof-reading.

Winfield Society

We welcomed the enthusiastic Fresher intake with the now (almost) legendary tea party and information booklet. Whether this helped, or whether they were even more enthusiastic than at first thought, they took to the law library quickly and with more ease than may be considered decent.

They were tempted out again, however, by two more social events in the Michaelmas Term, a lawyers' formal hall and a very well-attended cocktail party. It was agreed that the opportunity to meet in a more relaxed and less work-orientated setting was extremely beneficial and much appreciated.

It is difficult to know whether to ascribe the title of 'Winfield Society highlight of the year' to the Annual Moot or the Annual Dinner. The moot was held in the second half of the Lent term, carefully calculated by the Committee as a time at which work loads should be manageable and to give the Freshers the chance to have familiarised themselves as much as possible with the library. For the third year in a row the competition attracted sufficient entrants to require two rounds before the final. This, combined with the high number of Johnians who took part in the University Mooting Competitions, raised the quality of

research and presentation considerably and all those involved in the judging of the competition claimed to be most impressed. Many thanks must go to those who were involved in organising the event and particularly the sponsors who also made the effort to come to College to judge the final. Congratulations are due to all who took part, especially Wayne Atkinson and Ming Yee Shiu (finalists), Nina Champion (runner up) and Simon Hill, who won the competition.

The Winfield Annual Dinner was a decidedly more relaxed, and arguably more popular, event. Despite the fact that it was yet again outside of Full Term and on a Sunday there was an impressive attendance. Dinner in Hall was followed by drinks in the Wordsworth Room which were enjoyed until late into the night. It was not only a great pleasure to meet so many Old Johnians but also extremely educational both in terms of learning about their time at College and in appreciating the variety of work they have gone on to pursue, illustrating the range of possibilities open to lawyers.

Both Dr Ní Mhaonaigh (Tutor) and Mr Nolan (Director of Studies) spent the first two terms of the year on sabbatical and we are grateful to Dr Spencer and Dr Gray for their time and efficiency.

This year's Committee were:

Sunil Sharma (Vice President)
Phillippa Bentley (Treasurer)
Katherine MacAleavey (Secretary)
Linda Haxby (Social Secretary)

Lucy Malenczuk
President