

## COLLEGE SOCIETIES

### The Adams Society

Just how do you follow Roddy Vann? It is a question oft asked, and seldom is a convincing answer given, but nevertheless this was my challenge at the end of the Lent Term 1999. In the end, with the exception of one diabolical catastrophe, it has been another successful year for the Society.

The unmitigated disaster to which I refer was the annual cricket match against the Trinity Mathematical Society. With some illustrious College players in our side, many anticipated the tame capitulation we have come to know and love from our poor neighbours. Batting first, it was a shock, therefore, when the first ball was bowled with an apple. (This, they claimed, was something to do with a famous bloke who studied Next Door quite a long time ago, although underhand distraction tactics were suspected). Certainly, concentration wavered, and two balls later we found ourselves with two batsmen back in the pavilion. Things deteriorated from there, and I fear that, many decades from now, members of the Society will still speak in hushed tones about 'The 1999 match'.

Fortunately, the gloom was lifted by the garden party later that afternoon. With unrivalled croquet skills on view, this was a very entertaining event, and more than made up for a punt trip which made it all of a tenth of the way to Grantchester when the Heavens opened.

Yet the Society is not all fun and frivolity. In the Michaelmas Term, Dr Alastair Young gave an illuminating talk on 'Stein's Paradox in Statistics'. He convinced us that when trying to predict season-long baseball batting averages of 'independent' players after only a limited number of games, it is better to take into account the performances of Players Y and Z when estimating the end of season average for Player X.

Mr Paul Dellar addressed the Society the following term on 'Fluid Dynamics in Flatland'. Using innovative presentation techniques, he gave an excellent insight into a small part of his field.

Undoubtedly the highlight of the year, though, was the annual dinner. The guest of honour and speaker was Professor Sir Maurice Wilkes, a pioneer of electronic computers and former President of the Society. Unsurprisingly, there was a large turnout both amongst the students and Fellows for what was a truly memorable occasion.

My thanks go to Rebecca Thornton for her hard work and to Kanishka Misra for his fastidious book-keeping. I wish the new Committee of Richard Lim (President), Tim Paulden (Treasurer) and Amanda Turner (Secretary) every success for the coming year.

**Richard Samworth**  
President

### The Art Society

"What, me? Come to the Art Society? But I'm not much of an artist . . . I haven't drawn anything since I was 11 years old, bar perhaps little doodles on the sides of lecture notes . . . What is it you do anyway?"

For those who never knew John's had an Art Society, very simply, the Art Society is a loose association of undergraduates and graduates who attend life-drawing sessions in the little Merton Art Room tucked behind the School of Pythagoras. Life drawing involves having a nude model pose for anything up to two hours whilst those present try to replicate what they see with paint, pastels or charcoals. I should really say those present with a sufficiently artistically abstract mind empathise with what they see and purely replicate what they feel. The session is bathed in the smooth sound of classical music and sometimes punctuated by the repetitive pounding of the squash balls on the adjacent courts.

The manifesto for this year's Committee was to expand the Society with an injection of fresh blood and add more life drawing sessions to our calendar. This was achieved by targeting students with or without any past experience of life drawing and slowly initiating them with our special Michaelmas Term beginner's life classes. These classes proved to

be very popular, and, once the life-class virgins had awkwardly blushed their way through the first few minutes of "empathising" with the flesh presented to them, I'd say the class went very well. A number of the attendees, particularly those having not done art since primary school, were even surprised at what they could achieve and agreed that it was one of the most relaxing things to do in Cambridge. The message for the Fresher 2000 batch, or indeed anyone interested in diversifying their Cambridge experience, is simply to come along and give it a go.

To conclude, the year has been a good one and we intend to make further improvements in terms of equipment and sessions for the coming year. We strongly hope next year will bring a new influx of budding enthusiasts and that, at the end of the current Committee's tenure, a competent team will successfully bring continuity to the society. It may only be difficult to match the relentless commitment offered by Anna Reid and Sophie Allebone-Webb, my Co-Presidents throughout the year.

I leave you with a pearl of wisdom. "Remember an artist cannot fail; it is a success to be one".

**Andrew Nutter**  
Co-President

### **The Choir Association**

I'm always tempted to start on these occasions by saying – this has been a very good year for the Association – but standing back and reflecting on the past twelve months, it really has. In these few paragraphs I'll briefly explain why.

#### *Membership*

We have, over the years, concentrated on swelling our ranks by enticing as many former members of the Choir as possible to join the Association. Of the 400 or so names currently on our database, that is to say those with whom we have some regular contact each year, we

continue with only a quarter contributing financially. We are, of course, pleased to continue making contact if it only serves to keep up a general interest level in the Choir and our activities but, in order to fulfil our objectives, we need somehow to increase revenue. With this in mind, the Committee has decided to push the boundaries of membership by promoting the other category of Member, namely Friends of the Association. It is undoubtedly true that a Choir with the international reputation of St John's will have a large following spread fairly far and wide. Until now, it is my belief that no formal mechanism has existed for these interested folk to get as close to the College Choir as they would wish, let alone to have any form of regular contact with matters relating directly to it. Expanding the membership in the way we envisage already appears to be capturing a good deal of interest and, indeed, generating additional subscribers. To this end, we have now set up a Marketing Sub-Group expressly to look at our whole image and presentation to the world at large. As part of this we also hope to work more closely with the Choir's Agent and tour organisers. We also welcome a member of the Choir onto our Executive Committee.

#### *The Bursary Scheme*

In 1999 we were able to offer financial assistance on two fronts. The first being support to the Gentlemen of St John's for their "Little England" Tour of the South of the Country. This tour consisted of six concerts and was set in the context of promoting the name and sound of St John's in areas which were unlikely to experience it live by any other means. The Committee felt it extremely important to show support for such a venture. We also gave a Bursary to Iain Farrington, former Organ Scholar, to assist with fees for his postgraduate course in piano accompaniment at the Royal Academy of Music in London. For those who wish to read interesting accounts of both, please let me know and I will forward a copy of our annual magazine.

This year, feeling rather more financially secure than before with assets of around £4K, not only have we been able to offer a larger bursary than previously but also seriously to suggest to applicants that they consider requesting assistance towards their second year of studies.

Ultimately our aim is not just to offer assistance in this way but to make larger one-off awards for musical projects and fund our own postgraduate scholarships to major musical establishments.

### *Reunions*

The 1999 reunion was a major success. The weekend, being the biennial Johnian Weekend linking with our own, seating for Evensong on the Saturday was at a premium. The Choir justified its international reputation with a near flawless delivery of Stanford in C and Stanford's *The Lord is My Shepherd*. Dinner, held in the splendid and atmospheric surroundings of the Wordsworth Room is always a great joy, with excellent food, plentiful wine and good company being the order of the day. This year, three of our members, two of whom are noted for their flamboyant dress sense on these occasions, having built something of a reputation for exposing unnecessarily colourful parts of their dress shirts upon removal of their dinner jackets, took it upon themselves to organise a raffle. First prize, a basket of fruit, wine, biscuits and other goodies was collected by Ruth Daniel,\* while other prizes included a bottle of Glen Morangie single malt whisky – Frances Bull, a St John's College sweat shirt – Manon Williams and a copy of George Guest's book *A Guest in Cambridge* – Bob Bishop. A most excellent evening was had by all and a total of £200 raised for the Bursary Fund. Our thanks to David Garrett, Richard Davies and our M/C Peter Ball for their efforts.

Sunday morning saw several bleary-eyed individuals making their way through College for a 9.15am rehearsal of the Mozart *Coronation Mass* to be sung in Chapel as part of the Eucharistic worship later that morning. For this, the Choir was joined by its former members, orchestra and guest soloist who gave a particularly moving rendition of the aforementioned. The Chapel, in usual fashion on these occasions, was full to capacity, so much so that Tony Grantham, the Chapel Clerk, was still trying to put out folding chairs right up to the last minute. In the end, it was standing room only for some of the congregation. As such, the singing proved for many to be the highlight of the Weekend with several very pleasing comments being received on the feed-back forms.

Overall, the whole event was of particular significance for the Association because it marked the release of the Choir's first commercial recording "Hear My Prayer" forty years previously. A number of delegates from that generation were present over the two days.

In May of this year, a small group of our members from the 1960s met for lunch in London. This is seen as the first of many such events and plans are already afoot to make this a regular feature with something similar being considered for the 1950s contingent. This will hopefully satisfy the concerns, which particularly emanate from our *more senior Clergy* who find it difficult to arrange absences from Parochial duties during a weekend.

We look forward to the coming year. Diary dates are: the Association AGM, Evensong and annual Dinner on 8 July in College and the AGM and annual reunion of the Herbert Howells' Society on the 14 October.

So, as you can see it has been a good year. Lasting friendships have been struck and, as an organisation, we go from strength to strength laying the foundations for an Association we expect to be around for a very long time!

**Alastair Roberts**  
Chairman

*\* It was with great sadness that our Members learned of the death of Ruth Daniel in early April of this year. Ruth was a Member of the Choir Association and a tireless supporter of the College Choir. The Association was represented at the funeral service held at the Cambridge Crematorium on Thursday 27 April.*

## The Classics Society

Yet another active year for the Classics Society! We again had our usual mix of educational and social functions, and these were enjoyed by a greater number of people than usual. First of all, it was a pleasure to welcome the huge number of six first years into the Classics Society, restoring the old adage that strength comes through numbers. At least it should provide some competition for the positions of Secretary and President next year! After an exciting preliminary meeting in Professor Crook's rooms, which gave us all the chance to meet one another, both grads and undergrads, the first event of the year was a reading of Aristophanes' *Thesmophoriazusae*, during which a select band of us classicists had the pleasure of hearing Professor Schofield playing the part of an elderly kinsman of Euripides dressed up as a woman. This was executed with all the post-High Table vigour we have come to know and expect from Professor Schofield! He nearly stole the show, but was not to be outdone by the multi-talented Professor Crook who took on several roles.

In the Lent Term we had our legendary desserts: and to warm us up for the evening we had a talk from Dr Teresa Morgan, formerly a Research Fellow of the College and now a don at University College, Oxford. She gave a gem of a talk entitled 'Cook's Tour of Athens' complete with slides, which went down very well and prompted some exciting and engaging questions from the floor. After Hall, we then proceeded to the Wordsworth Room for the traditional desserts, where we let alcohol and nature take its course. The conversation went on until the early hours as did the port, and despite some people trying to re-enact the Olympic Games with a pineapple, the evening ended very well. With our bumper number of first years and a good number of both Fellows and grads attending, as well as our esteemed College Development Officer, the event was both lively and well received.

Now it remains for me to thank several people; first the Secretary, Christoph Rummel, for his support and also Dr Tim Whitmarsh for arranging our speaker and sorting us out with some wine for the talk; Professor Schofield for being so organised in booking us the

Wordsworth Room so early; finally Professor Crook, to whom we owe everything. He has opened his doors wide on every occasion, and hosted us with the usual wine and fine anecdotes. He has moreover helped us in the financial department. But most of all, he has helped make my job so much easier: especially when I was walking through Second Court, and he saw me on his way to the bar, brought me in and we arranged many things over a pint of Abbot Ale. That happening on several occasions really did make the job more fun!

Owen Byrne  
President

## The Economics Society

The Economics Society – traditionally led by future bankers and financial whiz kids – started the year with a magnificent deficit in its bank balance. Fervent efforts to extinguish rumours about the outgoing committee's embezzlement and lavish home entertainment expenditures were followed by an even more extravagant Freshers' Welcome Party. As soon as the next generation of number crunchers had recovered from that successful joint event with the Social and Political Scientists, an excursion to College Hall and into the bottles of fine College Port was enjoyed by all. Along the way, a most exciting afternoon of book sales and exam tips gained the Society some welcome income to address its adverse financial situation. Efforts to claim last year's AFAC contribution (the cheque of which was apparently 'lost' by our predecessors) came to no fruition. Evidently this year's Presidents proved less skilled at money laundering of sorts than their progenitors. Still, we had a wonderful dining experience in the Wordsworth Room in Lent Term, and another College Hall outing before the Easter holidays. May Week will of course see the return of the famed Economists' Garden Party, eagerly anticipated and widely hailed as one of Cambridge's best exam term success incentives. *And we've got some money in the kitty now . . . after all, semper in faecalis, sole profundum variat.*

Philip-Moritz Russmeyer  
Andrew Nutter  
Joint Presidents

### The Gentlemen of St John's

As I sit in my room in Third Court writing this report of our last year's activities, I cast my mind back to last year's choir tour to the Saarbrücken Festival where I was elected to the post of Manager. It seems to have become a tradition to elect the Manager in a neutral territory – one that will be rather hard to continue this year, as the choir is unfortunately not touring abroad until December. The possibilities at the moment are Spitalfields in London or Sherborne Abbey where the choir is performing in concerts over the summer!

After my election, my first job was to complete arrangements for the Gents' second trip in three years to Japan. We were extremely lucky to have Tim Minton organising everything in Japan for us, and all I was left with to do was to organise the visas and travel insurance. Or so I thought. Only nine of the Gents went on this tour, but the logistics involved in getting everyone's passports in one place for a period of a fortnight was one of the most fraught experiences of my life to date, especially when one person lost theirs and another needed theirs renewed! Still, after multiple trips to the Japanese Embassy, it was all achieved in time for the trip. Just! I am assured by everyone that went on the trip that it was a resounding success, paving the way for our continued relations with the Far East.

The Gents had already been on tour during the summer to the Three Choirs Festival at Worcester, Bradford-on-Avon, Wells and Monmouth. Gabriel Burchell should be congratulated for doing a tremendous job at organising everything for this tour. It provided many extremely fine concerts, not to mention anecdotes that have been pressed into service all year. I'm not sure any of the people involved would forget the evening spent following entirely the wrong car for many miles, in the belief that it was Gabriel's brother Aaron, or indeed Ed Tolputt's rather liberal translations of Rob Houssart's Dutch introductions during performances!

After the excitement of the summer, the Gents returned to Cambridge well-travelled, full of humorous tales, and ready to do battle with another year's singing. Over the year we have performed at concerts in

Harrow, Ketton, Horsham, Linton, Geel in Belgium and, possibly most memorably, Wycombe Abbey girls' school. I think I speak for all of us when I say that it was just the slightest bit intimidating walking onto the stage to the sound of 400 cheering and screaming young ladies, wondering if they were going to enjoy the finer works of Cavalli. By the end of the concert we had really got into our stride though, and our more "contemporary" selection was being received more enthusiastically than any other Gents concert I remember!

We have also entertained at many dinners in Cambridge, and increasingly this year, in London. We have been fortunate enough to be booked for engagements at The Dorchester, The Savoy and Claridges, all of which have been great fun, as well as raising the profile of the Gents in this important area of our work.

We are readying ourselves to record a Compact Disc of works by 15th Century composer Jean Mouton in July, a project that has been building up over the previous year and a half or so. It will be immensely satisfying carrying this project through to its conclusion after such long and protracted negotiations. At this point I should thank Chris Gabbittas, last year's manager, for all the hard work he put in to preparing the ground for the project, and Graham Walker, our musical director, for his continuing enthusiasm and insightful ideas. This year, Graham has directed the group for the second year running, lending a continuity of approach not seen in the Gents for some time and his hard work and talent has been an inspiration to us all. The dinner engagements have been directed in the main by Chris Gabbittas, with myself and Chris Whitton stepping in on occasion. Other people without whom this year wouldn't have been as generally stress-free include Alex Walsh, my room-mate, who puts up with incessant phone calls and cheque-signing sessions without grumbling, Gabriel Burchell for being one of our most frequent drivers and Chris de la Hoyde for being a voice of clarity and reason when all others seem to be losing their heads.

I leave the choir this summer with many happy memories of my time here. Running the Gents has been at times hard, at times frustrating, but



overall immensely satisfying due to the level of professionalism demonstrated time after time. Whatever the situation, whether it be arriving nearly two hours late at a rehearsal due to a completely roadblocked M25 or the speeches at a dinner lasting over an hour instead of the promised ten minutes, the Gents have worked together to perform to the best of their abilities. For that, I thank them all. I hope that when my successor is elected I can pass on advice that will make his job easier, and that the Gents continue in the same successful vein as in recent years.

**Jonathan Bungard**  
Manager

*For any further information about the Gentlemen of St John's, please contact the Manager on (01223) 722348. email gents@poboxes.com*

### The History Society

The History Society has continued to thrive this year, holding six speaker meetings on a wide range of topics. All of the meetings were excellent and entertaining and attracted a variety of students, even some of scientific persuasion.

Our Michaelmas Term card began when Dr Emma Eadie came to talk to us about the 'History of Horseracing': she provided a humorous tour of the social complexities of the sport and corruption surrounding the earliest races. Dr Eadie gave a stylish presentation that captivated both the enthusiasts and the uninitiated alike. This was followed later in the term by Professor Frank Prochaska's discussion entitled: 'Of Crowned and Un-crowned republics: George V and the Socialists'. Professor Prochaska gave a detailed account of the monarchy's reaction to the threat of republicanism at the end of the First World War and his tales of the Royal Archives at Windsor were also met with much interest. This was followed by an extremely lively debate between all present. The final talk of the term was given by Dr Chris Clark of St Catharine's

College in Cambridge. Dr Clark gave an amusing account of 'William II and the German Public' as well as proving an entertaining dinner guest.

Lent Term started with Professor James Patterson on the subject of School Desegregation in America. This was a fascinating account of a difficult and controversial process. Also on an American theme, Adam Johnson talked to us about 'The American reaction to the nuclear bomb'. Adam is an undergraduate in his third year at St John's and he unveiled an extraordinary chain of events and reactions which form part of his dissertation. Adam clearly enjoyed being on the other side of the lectern, having been last year's President of the Society. The final talk of the year was given by Professor David Rock on 'Jabez Spencer Balfour: a crooked MP in Argentina'. Professor Rock is a visiting scholar to St John's from California. He treated us to a most intriguing commentary on the affairs of this Liberal MP and rounded off what has been a wonderful set of lectures and debates.

The highlight of the year was the Annual Dinner which traditionally takes place in the Combination Room, generously supported by the Fellows. Dr George Garnett of St Hugh's College Oxford, previously a Fellow of St John's, regaled us with anecdotes of past undergraduates whose exploits included trying to burn down College and bribing supervisors. This engaging speech was followed by the circulation of the 'Loving Cup' which finished off the meal and some of the guests as well.

All that remains is for me to thank the rest of the Committee members: Nathalie Walker, Simon Leslie and Luigi de Guzman have been extremely supportive in making preparations for all of the talks and the dinner. Many thanks also to Dr Linehan, the Senior Treasurer of the Society, who takes much of the credit for organising the dinner and for general advice throughout the year. I wish the new committee the best of luck for the year ahead; I'm sure they will keep this popular and sociable Society thriving.

**Heather Greig-Smith**  
President

## The JCR

Another year, another JCRC. As with all Committees, before us we had a huge list of things we wanted to achieve in our year, and we ensured we didn't break with tradition in getting most of them done... apart from the really important ones (less pepper in the mange tout and adopting a College cat).

We got off to a racing start with a meeting with all the College Authorities on our very first day in office. We only had an hour to prepare our views on the tricky subject of alcohol and the resulting combination of well researched argument and bluffing proved to be a trustworthy formula in many future meetings.

One of our first achievements was increasing the use of the JCR with the installation of some glass panels in the doors and a very popular pool table. This was part of a wider plan for improving student facilities which also includes renovations of the College Bar, a more complex issue still in the process of being discussed with the new Committee.

As well as making changes, much of the work of the JCRC is concerned with the day-to-day stuff. The Sunday afternoon meeting rapidly became the highlight of all our weeks, and we even managed to record a new Committee personal best of a 2 3/4 hour meeting. The prompt, lucid and occasionally tongue-in-cheek minutes provided by Secretary Rebecca Watkins will serve as a fond reminder to all of us of the many happy hours spent together. Dan Hine, Publicity Officer, conveyed the actions of the JCR to the lavatories of College (and their inhabitants) in the fortnightly Bogsheet, and was ably succeeded by Kate Cornell when he left us for the sunny climes of Italy.

Many members of the JCRC work very hard in the background, and although their efforts may not be as visible as those of the Ents Officers, for example, they still put a great deal of work in. Sharika Thiranagama, Target Schools Officer, also got off to an early start organising the campaign and persuading volunteers to visit secondary schools that don't normally send students to Cambridge.

All academic aspects of student life were catered for by Academic Affairs Officer, Jenny Allan: she helped the Admissions Office with a number of Open Days, provided help and a listening ear for students with academic problems, and produced a number of information sheets on academic issues as well as attending seemingly endless meetings on exam procedures.

Iain de Weymarn has been a very efficient and reliable Junior Treasurer and also took the leading role in the rents consultation process, as well as stopping the President from going mad with the JCR chequebook.

Fisher Building Ents went from strength to strength in the capable hands of Ben Corlett: we were treated to a diverse range of music from the well established Club Tropicana, to the massive success of Back 2 Skool 2, proving once again that you can never underestimate the Johnian love of cross-dressing and cheesy music. The Boiler room continued to fulfil its remit of John's alternative music venue, masterminded by Polly Rosedale providing the ever-popular drum and bass nights, indie nights, jazz and hip hop, despite continuing restrictions on the use of the room.

Ben and Polly combined their skills to produce a very successful June Ent, all the more popular in its pared down form and this was preceded by a glorious afternoon on the Backs with Ultimate Frisbee, strawberries and a groovy jazz quartet.

The Committee were allowed a short break for the rest of May Week before planning for the last Freshers' week of the millennium began. Dan, Ben, Charissa, Kate and myself stayed up to produce a brilliant revamped Freshers' handbook and Iain sorted out the all important Fresher's week tops.

Fresher's Week was extremely hard work but also an enormous amount of fun, Back 2 Skool, Lazer Quest, Scooby Doo, Family Tea Parties, Women's Lunch and the Fresher's Ent - Cherry, and many other things ensured that the First Years barely had time to sleep let alone unpack.

The rents issue and proposed rent strike dominated the Michaelmas Term. This was a complex issue and there is not space to go into it here. From the point of view of the JCR Committee it provided one of our greatest challenges in terms of properly addressing very real student concerns and at the same time keeping lines of communication with College open. I am very grateful to the Committee, particularly Chris, Kate and Iain, the SBR, Access Alliance and College Authorities for enabling full and frank debate which had a number of positive outcomes.

The Term ended with World AIDS Day, organised by Welfare Officer Nancy Priston, who somehow managed to persuade the committee to tie red ribbons on the Bridge of Sighs at 7am on a December morning and ran a very popular bar quiz night. Nancy has worked tirelessly as Welfare Officer all year, providing tonnes of useful information on everything from cycle safety to bursaries and grants. She is now doing a fantastic job as the new JCR President, continuing the Welfare to President fast stream for the second year running.

The New Year brought with it a new Yearbook, produced by Yearbook Officer Chris Sussman. Compiling the yearbook is a mammoth effort and Chris managed it admirably despite the best efforts of the printing company. Chris also had the unenviable task of Vice President, providing much needed support, encouragement and the occasional constructive criticism (particularly about the 2 3/4 hour meetings).

January also provided the ever-welcome opportunity of beating Oxford at something, this time in a whole day race through mud, ponds, and unrelenting countryside under the guise of Tough Guy 2000, with the John's team organised and captained by our External Officer Huw Lewis-Jones. Huw also spent the year going to rather less than exciting CUSU Council meetings and making CUSU cards, but I'm sure he'd rather I stressed the Tough Guy element.

Our year finally ended with a Women's Dinner organised by Charissa Gooch, our Women's Officer. Charissa organised a number of women's events throughout the year, which were all very well received and she was generally a great all-round member of the committee.

Overall we had a great year, and what I've covered here barely scratches the surface. The Committee were great not just in their individual roles but also in the many things we did as a team. I'm also very grateful to many people in College, particularly Colonel Robinson and Mr Jobling for their co-operation and help throughout the year. I certainly found it a major learning experience but also a lot of fun and every now and again I even miss it. However I have to say that I'm very glad to have, as Roosevelt put it, "that lovely title, ex-President."

**Katherine Furniss**  
President

### Jazz at John's

The popularity of our fortnightly events has continued to increase, and Jazz at John's remains the best regular jazz night in Cambridge. This year we have hosted professional musicians from every part of the jazz spectrum, including *Something Else* with their Latin beat, the soulful funk of Jean Toussaint, and the *Heart of England Jazz Band's* trad style grooves. Between the Michaelmas Term cards going to print and their playing, the sextet *Adult Mags* changed their name to *The Marooned Sailors*, which was more appropriate since they were perfectly decent and were not all at sea, giving an eloquently swinging performance. Supporting some of the top jazz musicians in the country have been some up and coming Cambridge student bands. Jazz at John's is proud to be a training ground for the Ronnie Scotts of the future.

One of the highlights of the past year was Easter Term's Jazz Party Event, which departed from our usual sit-and-relax-on-a-beanbag format, with two concurrent live bands. In the Palmerston Room was *Pan Jumby*, whose steel pan calypso set the dance floor heaving. The Fraggie Rock Theme was just one of the many familiar tunes given a new lease of life by Dudley Nesbit's sticks-on-steel technique. In the "chill-out" foyer the talented Cambridge lads *Instigate* instigated a melodic melody.



The future of Johnian Jazz looks bright, promising to continue for years to come. We are hoping to bring out a "Best of Jazz at John's" CD in the next couple of years, to provide music for our clientele to listen to during the long and tense fortnight's gap between events.

Antepenultimately, we would like to thank the college authorities, particularly Dr Linehan and Mr Dormor (our Senior Treasurer), whose support has been invaluable. Penultimately, we are grateful to the dedicated Committee. Ultimately but not leastly, the Jazz at John's regulars deserve a mention for being such a fantastic audience.

**Sophie Emmens and John Morton**  
Presidents

### **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. For some years now, the Society has been using the Johnian Office as an accommodation address which allows the administration of the Society to run more smoothly.

At the annual meeting of the Johnian Society Committee in September last year, the Committee reluctantly agreed to accept the resignation of Dr R H Morgan from the position of Chairman. It was further agreed to elect Mr C A Greenhalgh OBE DL as Chairman and Miss C M Twilley as Secretary. It was also agreed that members of the Committee should serve for a period of six years in order to provide some kind of continuity. These proposals were ratified at the Annual General Meeting of the Society, held on December 11 1999. On behalf of all members of the Society, I would like to thank Roger Morgan for all his hard work over the last few years; the Johnian Society is greatly indebted to him.

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 16 December 2000 is included with this copy of *The Eagle*.

The Johnian Society Lecture takes place in February 2001 and will be given by Mervyn King, Deputy Governor of the Bank of England. The date has yet to be determined, but notice will be given in the Michaelmas Term edition of *Johnian News* and on the College's Web Site. Please contact Catherine Twilley nearer the time for further information.

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 16 December.

**Catherine Twilley**  
Secretary

### **The Lady Margaret Players**

In this millennial year LMP has continued the march towards quality of drama with strict moral fortitude. Indeed, the Freshers' play, far from being the innuendo-laden affair of the previous year, dealt with the aftermath of the tragic deaths of Romeo and Juliet. 'After Juliet' provided an opportunity for many to take their first tender steps on the boards, while others strutted and bellowed like old pros. Creative direction, innovative design and performance combined to delight audiences in the School of Pythagoras.

More Johnian money, manpower and expertise went into a recreation of ancient Greece in Kate Cornell's production of 'Hecuba'. Again LMP

was acclaimed in the press, although one reviewer took exception to plastic swords. Subsequently, the Committee would like to extend an appeal in gross to alumni, young and old, that we might boost the financial resources and enhance realism on our stages.

Willy Russell's 'One for the Road' provided something relatively contemporary for a Cambridge audience. An all-Johnian production crew and technical team buttressed a successful directorial debut for Tim Paulden and Nadine Adams-Austin. Audiences swelled as positive reports spread about spending a night in an 80s diner, despite the venue's original role of provision for shelter as a hospital in c.1200AD.

As usual, Johnian thespians have been performing on and off stage, in the ADC and other noteworthy university productions. Fresher Jennifer Kidd was on the receiving end after taking the latter of the title roles in 'Boy Meats Girl' and again revealed much in 'Cabaret' alongside Tom Lumbers. Having moved from chapel to stage, Ed Tolputt excelled in musical theatre delighting the audiences of both 'Guys and Dolls' and 'Cabaret'. Jemma Mindham has had an excellent year of drama. She has somehow managed to combine finals, rowing and performances in 'Confusions', 'The House of Bernada Alba', 'Uncle Vanya', 'The Chairs' and 'The seX Files'. Jim Scott dazzled monstrous crowds in the illusion show 'Gemini', despite fierce criticism from his Red Boys who branded him a traitor to their cause and none will forget Ed Maxwell's performance in 'Suburbia'. The author, much to the anxiety of his supervisors, acted in 6 productions this year, and finally received a review worthy of posting home to his mater in New Zealand for playing the Dane.

Driven by its three matriarchs, Fiona Learmont, Fiona McDonald and Frankie Whitelaw, LMP has taken its virgin steps onto the world stage. Support is being lent to Johnians touring with two plays around a selection of international arts festivals in Greece over the Long Vacation. We are funding new writing 'Wheeling Strangers' in Rome which involves Dan Hine and a selection of Oxbridge's finest talent. The production opens this week and the Committee extends its best wishes and the heartiest of broken legs all round. Still on location in Italy, LMP

is contributing to an exciting young Oxbridge film company 'Talamasca Productions' following the outstanding success of its work in France last year. Johnian involvement behind the camera will ensure continued cinematic accomplishment.

Edinburgh will again see a good quantity of Johnian comedy with Jon Wills' company, Fat Fat Pope, performing sketches of his creation 'Our Heads on Toddlers' Bodies'. LMP wishes to inform that the views expressed in the production are not necessarily those of the Committee!

**Sven Pannell**  
Co-President

### The Music Society

The Music Society has enjoyed yet another varied and busy year, enhancing its reputation in the University and town. We seem now to be considered one of the big players on the University musical scene, a statement which could not have been made a few years ago.

The Michaelmas Term saw an excellent performance of Grieg's *Holberg Suite* and the Elgar *Serenade for Strings*, together with Britten's *St Nicolas*, which was performed by the perennial Come-and-Sing Chorus. This chorus was less well attended than previous years, owing perhaps as much to the publicity as to the unusual work on offer. The concert itself had another superb poster by Alex Evans, but still proved unpopular with the punters.

Even as the Michaelmas Term concert was in preparation, plans were afoot for a joint concert between ourselves and the Music Societies of Caius and Clare. This was to revolve around a performance of Elgar's *Cello Concerto* by Jonny Cohen, of Clare College. Unfortunately, owing to internal political wranglings, Caius pulled out, so that it became essentially a St John's Music Society concert, conducted by Leo Hussain, with help from Clare. This was a superb concert in the end, despite problems with the CUMS percussion hire, and Alex Evans' poster helped with an excellent turnout. By the time this has been read the May Week Concert will have been and gone, but Lizzie Ball's performance of

the Beethoven Violin Concerto under Leo Hussain's baton will doubtless be living still in the memory.

Throughout the year the lunchtime recitals have provided an eclectic mix of styles, from Latin American dance music to Classical guitar music. These have been increasingly well attended, and are an excellent means by which to increase the public's perception of the Society's work. The parallel Saturday Lunchtime Organ Recitals have lapsed this year, but the new President of the Society, Chris Whitton, has vowed to revive this extremely popular series.

The Senior Combination Room concert was again a big success, musically speaking. For what is, year after year, an extremely pleasant evening's entertainment in one of the most beautiful rooms in College, the turnout is always low. It remains to be seen how this can be made more popular, both with the junior and senior membership of the College.

The Master's Lodge recitals continue to provide excellent music in elegant surroundings. Musically they are always excellent, and Dr Castelvechi deserves to be congratulated on his fine range of performers.

The College Orchestra has performed twice this year, under Tom Evans and Chris Whitton. The second performance, of two of Handel's *Coronation Anthems* together with *The Lark Ascending*, by Vaughan-Williams (Tom Evans – Violin), gained an extremely large audience, and was regarded by all to have been a very fine concert. This orchestra, revitalised by Iain Farrington, continues to provide an excellent platform for all College musicians to perform in public, whatever their individual standard or confidence. It is important that this continues, alongside the St John's Singers, to be an active force in the College's cultural life.

It remains for me to thank the Committee, both the Senior and Junior members (perhaps most notably Dr Johnstone, our Chairman, without whose coffee and hospitality the Society would be the poorer) for their hard work and guidance over the year, and to wish the Society a successful year ahead.

Graham Walker  
President

## The Norman Henry Society

An excellent turn-out of thirty-eight began the opening meeting of the Michaelmas Term which, after welcoming both old members and new, offered a tasting of wines from the College cellars presented by Dr Johnstone – always of interest to junior members as they are of course not available to buy in the shops. At the following gathering, the Society enjoyed an informative presentation on the 'Wines of central Italy', after which our journey through the world of winemaking steered away from the Mediterranean and instead took us to the Antipodes. One of our undergraduate members, Eleanor Hanson, gave a very well researched presentation on her own area of expertise, namely the wines of Australia – all were available on the high street, and chosen from the perspective of a student budget. Towards the middle of November, Bernard Braithwaite stepped into the breach to give us a lively talk on the white wines of Germany; many of the wines were his own personal favourites, and with the aid of his specially marked map, he pointed out much about the genre which often goes unnoticed. I need hardly add that the Society's Christmas party, held after Hall, was a great success; after shedding our gowns, we set sail with Professor Emerton at the helm along the Douro, the wines were greatly appreciated by all, and ranged from recent blends to an impressive thirty year-old vintage Port.

Back after the New Year, Dr Johnstone gave a tasting with the emphasis not on grape variety but on geography. His presentation was entitled 'Chardonnays from around the world', and served to contrast the often very characteristic differences between the Chardonnays of France and those of America and the countries of the southern hemisphere such as Chile and Australia. With the arrival of February, the Society was given an insight into an area many members had never before experienced. Professor Reif presented the 'Wines of Israel', and as well as providing us with much of their historical and religious context, chose a selection which amply illustrated how greatly the wine industry has developed in that country over recent years. The Society can always be assured of a maximum turn-out when Professor Matthews is due to present his 'Pâtés and wines to drink with them', and this year was no exception! In our final meeting before the Annual Dinner, we were happily

(re-)introduced to Prof Matthews' culinary philosophy, and treated to his usual high standards with a range of delicious pâtés and suitably matched wines to drink with them – special thanks must go also to his tireless team of toast-makers.

It was decided that the Annual Dinner would have a Spanish theme, and the College responded enthusiastically with another great attendance in the Wordsworth Room. The food was widely praised, and I was particularly happy to see a number of guests from outside the Society, who brought their own distinct influence to the atmosphere, and joined in with the spirit to create a jovial and memorable occasion.

Particular thanks should go this year to Mr Bernard Braithwaite who, after serving as Society Treasurer for many years, has decided to hand over the reins – I know that we have all greatly appreciated the time and effort he has put in on the Committee. It remains for me to say how much I have enjoyed acting as Junior Secretary of the Norman Henry Society, which, no less this year than in those gone by, has exhibited its knack of straddling the gap between the theory and the all-important practice! I would further like to thank all the members for their support, and to look forward to continuing success in the year to come.

**Richard Spurr**  
Junior Secretary

### The Purchas Society

Being four hundred years since the Reverend Samuel matriculated, the year 2000 has proven to be a most joyous one for the society and the Purchas spirit remains alive and healthy. More recent matriculation saw the intake of a healthy number of new Purchasians, inflating the attendance at meetings and re-invigorating the Society's ongoing quest for geographical knowledge. Determined to remain at the pinnacle of the Johnian societies hierarchy, Purchasia has continued to operate in the well tested and successful format established by its predecessors; that is the regular and informal meeting of all College Geographers and

Land Economists to engage in intellectual intercourse and exchange geographical knowledge at all levels.

Guided by the ever-vigilant secretarial capacities of Jo Collins, the Society has received an eclectic palate of speakers from both near and far. Michaelmas witnessed not only the traditional 'tea-party' and paddlings, but also welcomed a resident Johnian in the form of Professor McCave and with it a fascinating insight into the climatic information retained in deep sea cores, as well as the extraordinary engineering feats required to obtain them. Closely following Professor McCave was Alex Page, Director of Coral Cay Conservation, who gave us a glimpse of reefs and rainforests and the volunteers that are dedicated to their protection. The new millennium brought with it another Cambridge native: Dr Oliver Rackham of the Geography Department. His award-winning knowledge of the ancient woodlands of the British Isles proved fascinating as he guided Purchasia along some of the relatively unbeaten geographical paths of this subject. Iceland was the visual backdrop for the final talk of the year with Ted Gray of the R.G.S., outlining the trials and tribulations of leading an expedition of charismatic school children to this most geomorphically active and socially intriguing country. His talk seized the attention of the budding explorer in every Purchasian.

The Purchas Annual Dinner took place on 12 May and continued the tradition of a jovial feast in the splendid setting that is the Wordsworth Room. Following a highly inspired tableau for the annual photograph, Purchasians were in high spirits by the time the port flowed and our guest Speaker, Dr Jim Duncan, humorously illustrated the happenings of the part IB field trip, a subject that is close to all of our hearts. Of special mention at the dinner was the acknowledgement of the departure of Andy Jones. Andy's contributions to the Society and to geography at St John's have been formidable in the form of both supervising and socialising. The society thanks him for all he has done and wishes him every success in his new position at Birbeck College, University of London.

The climax and indeed culmination of the evening was the election of next year's Officers. I wish Oliver Snoddy the best of luck as the



incoming Secretary and trust he will be ably assisted by our new President Jo Collins in ensuring the Society remains the fine establishment that it is.

Long live the Purchas Society.

**Matthew Hall**  
President

### **The Samuel Butler Room**

The Samuel Butler Room is, typically, fairly apolitical; graduates are rarely found chaining themselves to railings or staging sit-ins. That said, the graduate boat has been rocked by the knock-on effects of changes in government funding of undergraduate fees and maintenance. In fact, finances – or perhaps shoestrings – are always a graduate concern, and we are lucky to belong to a college which is not just rich, but generous. The College has put in motion an undergraduate bursary scheme, in response to junior members' concerns about finances (initiated by a rent strike in which, for all their political apathy, some graduates were key players). But St John's is not only a benevolent dispenser of financial assistance: it is also a community, within which the SBR functions for many graduates as a social centre. Emphasising the social rather than the political side of graduate life, we now dust down some memories of the high points of the year.

#### *Social events*

Becoming a graduate need not mean the end of social life. We started off in style with the annual SBR garden party. This took place in the Master's garden, as is now tradition (as long as the rain holds off). The sun indeed shone, and vast quantities of strawberries and summer cocktails were consumed by what (at least according to the photo) looked like a record turn-out. It was particularly good to see so many families with children attending, since it is often tricky for these SBR members to attend regular events. For those who made it through the post-party punt trip, to the barbecue at 1 Madingley Road, it was an

afternoon and evening to remember. It also set the tone for a fairly lazy summer, amid the usual thesis crises, involving many in SBR cricket, barbecues, and a Superhall.

The new academic year started off with a bang; freshers' week, as ever, demanded a high level of input from Committee members in terms of organisation, and those ever-popular booze runs to Oddbins. We were also lucky to have the help of Committee members past as well as present, and Cam Grey's contribution to the success of the week must be acknowledged – indeed, he was to join the Committee officially in the New Year after the departure of our Welfare Officer, Ien Cheng.

For the second year running, a graduate symposium to help orientate freshers was organised in freshers' week by Dr Colwell and Ann Vernon. This afternoon event incorporated an introduction to the College by the great and the good (the Master, the President, the Bursars), a session of academic information and one of welfare information. We are very grateful for the input provided by senior and junior members for this afternoon. The symposium appears to have become an annual event, valued by College and freshers alike.

Freshers' week was jam-packed with events designed to facilitate freshers meeting each other and the 'old hands'. Many events have been running for years, such as the treasure hunt, pub crawl and tea at the Orchard in Grantchester. However, this year we introduced a women's lunch so that women could escape the (sometimes) masculine environment of the SBR, and meet each other over cake. We also held a Champagne Cocktail party in the congenial surroundings of Merton Hall Lounge, which gave some people a chance to participate in the Cambridge Black Tie Stereotype. Overall, the number of positive comments about freshers' week confirmed our own past experience, that it is a crucial introduction to St John's and Cambridge.

As the year progressed, we kept up the old traditions of sherry before, and port after, BA tables; monthly coffee and cakes; and a series of video evenings. The cultural affinities of the SBR can be guessed from the fact that attendance was highest at screenings of the Indiana Jones trilogy... The annual Christmas dinner proved to be as successful as ever, with

100s of graduates donning party clothes and eating turkey with gusto. Indeed, dining continues to be important for graduates, giving them a chance to escape labs and libraries and re-engage with fellow Johnians. Apart from the bi-weekly BA tables, we enjoyed a Superhall after the end of Lent Term and the arrangement of exchange dinners. Although there have been some bureaucratic obstructions to the smooth running of these, they prove to be incredibly popular with grads wanting to escape the sprawling giant that is John's. Enjoyment of other than culinary pleasures has been a feature of other entertainments laid on over the year – for example a trip to the opera (*The Magic Flute* at the Coliseum), and a whisky tasting.

### *Music and Drama*

Members of the SBR do not merely observe high drama. The SBR Pantomime provides thespians of all dispositions with an opportunity to indulge their wildest fantasies – or, more correctly, those of the writing team. Buoyed by the success of 'Snow White and the Seven Dwarves', and inspired by the news that Luke Purshouse would be available to wear tinsel in yet another cameo role, preparations began over the summer for the most ambitious production to date – an adaptation of J. R. R. Tolkien's masterpiece, *The Hobbit*. As has become traditional, a packed School of Pythagoras witnessed an evening of drama, suspense and biting social criticism. Giles Pearson took the role of Bilbo, 'a small wiry geezer with big wiry hair and an obsession with barrier contraceptives'. This year's pantomime was marked by Dave Rippin's refusal to 'get his kit off', a decision which disappointed a small but vocal section of the audience. Most remarkable, however, was Erik Gimpel's performance as Gollum, one which will make all members of the audience cautious about visiting the men's room in a nightclub. Director Cam Grey and producer Ben Griffin would also like to thank pantomime stalwarts Luke Purshouse and Adam Cherrett, who have reluctantly promised to finish their PhDs before next year's production.

There have also been a series of recitals over the course of the year, in a bewildering variety of styles. Those fortunate to be here over the

summer were treated to an evening of cabaret tunes from Adam Cherrett, Matthew Moss and Luke Purshouse. Ivan Guevera continues to charm audiences in the Master's Lodge with virtuoso performances on the piano. Katherine Angel revealed her vocal talents in an evening featuring Karl Weil's compositions. And few will forget the awesome March gig by the 'Suicide Brides' (Phil Miles and Simon Redhead) in the Boiler Room.

### *Sports*

SBR football continued to flourish under the leadership of Nick Gower. The year began with a 6 goal demolition of Wolfson College and with seven of the College first team squad being qualified graduates, the signs looked good for the first season in the top flight. A 5-2 League win over Churchill followed by a 7-1 victory over Downing in the first round of Cuppers (in which Gower bagged 5) made a very good start to the season. Injuries and other commitments led to the fielding of weakened teams against Corpus and Jesus, though in the latter, a last minute equaliser robbed us of maximum points. A mid-table finish qualified as a successful start in Division 1 and with the Cuppers quarter-final approaching at the time of writing, the chances of silverware are still very much alive. Thanks are due to all who played including Pete Manfield, Pablo Mukherjee, Tim Whitmarsh (our resident DOS), Ryan Lindberg (great strike against Girton), Lee Sanders, Kevin Howe, Thomas Brown (for both his playing and refereeing ability), Noel Rutter (when injuries and committee duties allowed), Nigel Green, Paul McMahon, Matt Bevis and of course the skipper and leading scorer, Nick Gower.

The 1999 SBR cricket season was one of the most successful in recent times, under the captaincy of Noel Rutter. The season started with two massive wins, against Hughes Hall (Luke Purshouse 49\*) and Trinity. The League campaign began against Queens', with a somewhat remarkable performance in the field from Noel, who took 3 wickets, held 5 catches, executed a stumping and completed a run out. This was to rocket him to the top of the newly devised "SBR World Rankings". A Gritty innings from Luke led the side to a 3 wicket win, though if Adam

Cherrett had not been dropped by our substitute fielder, things could have been so different. The next League game against Jesus was somewhat badly scheduled, with 5 key players at Headingley watching a World Cup match. Defeat could not be avoided as, despite Noel's 56\*, we failed to gain the required boundary from the final ball of the match. A win in a somewhat ill-spirited game against Caius put us back on track, thanks to Roddy Vann's unbeaten 51 in his only appearance of the season and the final league game against Churchill was secured as we rattled up 153/8 (Giles 39), then bowled them out for a meagre 32 (Mark Byron 5/8, Asad Rashid 3/5). So hopes were high as the semi-final approached, but we were denied our place in the final by a strong Pembroke side, as we were defeated by 5 wickets.

The long vacation games, arranged by David Midgley, were competitive as usual, with Duncan McFarlane proving very useful with both bat and ball. A victory against Thames Valley was spoiled by a poor performance against the clergy of St Alban's Diocese and after a respectable draw against Pinchbeck, the staff of Liverpool University proved too strong yet again. The season finished with Luke at the top of the batting World Rankings, Mark at the head of the bowling and Cam Grey's athletic wicket-keeping gained him the most fielding points. The all rounders' table was topped by Noel, by virtue of him holding second place in each of the three disciplines. As the 2000 season has just got underway, under the leadership of Giles Pearson, with another handsome victory against Hughes Hall, things are looking good for the SBR's continued success on the cricket field.

Not to be deterred by all the male sporting excellence in the SBR, the women achieved greatness putting together a boat for the May Bumps with Theresa Biberauer (stroke), Diana Franco, Sophie Lunn-Rockcliffe, Colleen Willenbring, Candice Caldwell, Zarina, Szylvia Biro, and Kelley O'Toole (bow), Rima Devereaux (sub), Erik Gimpel (cox) and Adam Cherrett (coach). Being the 5th Lady Margaret boat, they had to qualify through the rowing on race, which was undoubtedly their best outing of the year and saw them overtaking 3 boats including Trinity IV on the tightest bend of the course. Having qualified they were set the task of catching Kings II, and on day one, within 10 strokes of the start they got

an overlap, just to have the bump taken away by the tragic breaking of a rigger on the boat. The next three days witnessed incredible effort, tenacity and guts as they rowed over every day.

The SBR community, on behalf of all who have participated in graduate sport, past and present, would like to extend a special thank you to the retiring Head Groundsman, Jim Williams, for all his work during his years at the College, and also to his wife for providing fabulous teas throughout that time.

### *Summing-up*

The Samuel Butler Room is, as ever, a haven where graduates meet, chat, read, watch TV, and drink coffee. To ensure that the SBR is not always a place of muffled pleasure, a new stereo has replaced the broken one, and members can now enjoy radio and CDs on a high-tech system. Of course, we graduates are an unsophisticated lot, and the burning issues which have enveloped the SBR this year are not really of international significance. Rather, they are the choice of pictures for the common room, and the provision (or not) of coffee, tea and (clean) mugs. Changing the pictures has gone some way to changing the 'look' of the room, although controversy about the choice of pictures (a self-portrait of Samuel Butler and a slightly dishevelled T. R. Glover to replace 'the Ugly Woman') will no doubt continue to rage.

As we hand over to a new Committee, to whom we wish the best of luck, we would like to extend our thanks to the Fellowship and Staff of the College, without whom most of our events could not function. And finally, a massive thank you to Dr Colwell, our Senior Treasurer. Without her unobtrusive, efficient input and advice on crucial matters, it is certain that we would have made many more mistakes.

**Sophie Lunn-Rockcliffe**

*With contributions from:*

**Noel Rutter**

**Erik Gimpel**

**Cam Grey**

## The Winfield Society

The year began with the general aim of the Committee to make the Society of real practical use to Johnian lawyers with regard to what matters most: finding gainful employment.

Early on, we produced a folder giving details of mini-pupillages and vacation placements, based on the experiences of those in the second and third years who had spent time at assorted chambers and firms. This now lives in the John Hall Law Library, and will, I hope, be a useful resource to Johnian lawyers in the future.

We also organised two receptions, held in the Wordsworth Room. The first was sponsored by Macfarlanes, and was also attended by David Lamming, a barrister at the Chambers of Anthony Scrivener, QC, 2-3 Gray's Inn Square. The second was sponsored by the American firm McDermott, Will and Emery, who have recently established a branch in the City. Both occasions gave the first and second year lawyers the opportunity to chat freely with representatives of major law firms, and a leading set of London chambers.

The Committee were similarly determined to ensure that the mooting competition was, for once (dare I say it), run properly. Mooting, a compulsory part of the Johnian lawyer's life, is usually approached with a reluctant dread. However, we showed that, if organised effectively, it can be enormous fun, and of considerable benefit to those taking part.

The competition consisted of three rounds, with the problems prepared by Dr Fox. He and Mr Nolan, along with Michella Menashy, Andrew Mold, Andy Walklate and Juliette Addison, judged the first round. In between the first and second round Mr Nolan and Dr Fox held a presentation session, to ensure that those going through to the second round were properly prepared. The second round was judged by Leolin Price, CBE QC, the Treasurer of the Middle Temple, and a barrister of immense distinction. We were most privileged to have the benefit of his advice, and I do hope that it will be possible for him to return next year. The final was judged by a larger panel, consisting of two solicitors from

our sponsors, Simmons and Simmons, and Andrew Walker and Michael Heywood, barristers at the Chambers of Lord Goodhart QC, 3 New Square, Lincoln's Inn. The whole evening was a great success, and congratulations must go to Betsan Criddle for winning the competition.

Sponsored by Allen and Overy, the Winfield Society dinner was held in the Hall on Sunday 19 March. The dinner is rightly considered to be the highlight of the year, seeing many old Johnian lawyers returning to their *alma mater*. This year was no exception. Attended by over forty people, including the Master and Lord Mustill, a former Law Lord, the dinner was a splendid occasion. It was interesting to meet so many old Johnians, who, I am glad to say, looked back with fondness on their undergraduate days. Many were especially pleased to discover that Fellows who had taught them were still at St John's!

To conclude, I wish to thank my Committee for being so supportive and good humoured. I also want to extend my sincere gratitude to Mr Nolan and Dr Fox for their invaluable help. We have all been a good team, and I feel sure that Sir Percy Winfield would view the past year as a successful one for the Society.

The 1999-2000 Committee were:

President: Tommy Williams

Vice-President: Andrew Walklate

Treasurer: Juliette Addison

Secretary: Andrea Bull

Social Secretary: Diana Wilson

**Tommy Williams**  
President



## COLLEGE SOCIETIES

### The Adams Society

The Adams Society has enjoyed a highly successful and event-packed year. Not only has it continued to receive strong support from its College members, but we have also made a firm start in promoting our standing as an active University maths society.

Speaker meetings have always been core to the Society, as has certainly been the case over the last year. We have been very gratified this year to see that every one of our speaker meetings has been very well attended, with an average audience of between thirty and forty each time. It has also been very pleasing to note that our efforts at publicising the Society's events outside College have paid off, so that we can now expect a significant number of our attendees to be from other Colleges.

Our first speaker for the year was Professor John Webb, whose talk entitled 'Mathematical Surprises' had enough puzzles to keep us pestering him with questions long afterwards. In the following Michaelmas Term, Dr Imre Leader spoke to us about derived sets, and proved to be very animated despite suffering a recent injury! Our next speaker meeting was with Dr Stephen Siklos, who gave his fascinating talk on 'Boy's Surface' with the aid of a fluffy pink object and various peculiar artefacts. We then got our very own John's PhD student and friendly supervisor, Dr Stephen Griffiths, to speak to us about 'Swirls' and vortices in teacups, in a talk packed with pretty pictures.

Our speakers for the Lent Term were Dr Colin Sparrow and Dr Andrew Thomason. Dr Sparrow clearly enjoyed himself as he delivered his hilarious 'Fictitious Play', which had most of the audience in spasms of laughter! 'Must a big head have a big mug-shot?' was the curious title for our next talk by Dr Thomason, after which he regaled us with many interesting stories in Hall.

Along with Speaker Meetings, this year the Adams Society has sought to offer an increased number of social and sporting events to its

members. In the Easter Term, to relieve revision stress we organised Ultimate Frisbee matches on the backs. After exams we held our Annual Punt Trip to Grantchester, and we were glad to see that this year most of us actually managed to make it there! Following that, we had our Annual Garden Party in a very hot and sunny Scholars' Garden. Croquet, punch, food and a tree for shade made for a very pleasant and relaxing day. Our Annual Cricket Match against Trinity Maths Society unfortunately saw us defeated this year, but this does not in any way daunt us for our next confrontation!

At the start of the Michaelmas Term, the Adams Society held an inaugural Freshers' Squash. With a large turnout of both Freshers and older Society members, this rather lively event proved very successful in allowing us to get to know the Freshers, many of whom continue to support us with their attendance at nearly all our events. Later in the term we played a football match against John's Engineers. Despite having our sporty first years provide us with many excellent players, the Engineers were able to fluke a somewhat dubious victory after we had been going neck-to-neck for ages. In a basketball match against the Natscis, the Adams team was unbeatable while Will Critchlow was playing for us, but we were sadly not quite so effective after he left. Near the end of term, we also organised an enjoyable little jaunt to the Maharajah curry house.

The Lent Term saw us taking on the Natscis in football. After our narrow defeat by the Engineers, we were not prepared to lose, and by the end of the day pulverised the Natscis with a ridiculous score. Later in the term we also held a Pool Competition, which was won by James Lee (although I believe we have yet to present him with his prize!). Certainly the highlight of the term though, was the Adams Society Annual Dinner, held in the lavish surroundings of the SCR. We were very privileged to have as our Guest of Honour for this year Old Johnian Professor David Olive, who has worked extensively with the Master on problems in theoretical physics, and has made many important contributions to his field. After a fine dinner, Professor Olive fondly recounted his memories of Paul Dirac, and the inspiration that the great man provided to all those around him.

This past year could not have been nearly as successful without all the help and support we have received from our members. My thanks go to my Secretary, Amanda Turner, for her immense sense of organisation and unflagging efforts at making sure things get done, and to my Treasurer, Tim Paulden, for his fantastic publicity and his water-tight accounting. I would also like to thank the Fellows for their constant willingness to lend their help to our Society, in particular our Senior Treasurer, Dr MacFarlane, Dr Johnstone, Dr Dörrzapf and Dr Garling. Special mention and thanks go out to Mr Dellar, for his unfailing interest in the Society and kind support throughout the year, and his reliable attendance at all our events. Finally, I would like to thank all Junior Members of the Society, and hope they will carry on supporting us with the same enthusiasm that they have shown us so far. I wish the next Committee all the best, and hope that they and the Adams Society will continue to thrive.

**Richard Lim**  
President

### The Art Society

In the peaceful refuge we like to call the art room, we've been happily drawing, painting, scribbling and splashing away for the last year to varying success and great enjoyment. After recruitment at the Freshers' Fair and the promise of nudity, the first term saw young hopefuls flocking for the chance to see poor Fellows striking a pose to subsidise the low pay of academia. Unfortunately, they were disappointed but managed instead to find their way to our new introductory taught life drawing class. Here the thwarted became the delighted as charcoal was clutched and drawings produced by hands that had done nothing more creative than doodle on lecture notes for the last five years, and the class was hailed to be a great success. Some of these new recruits even managed to remember what they'd done after Freshers' Week, and have since found their way back to the art room for our weekly life drawing classes, adding to the wonderful variety of members.

Having finally got some money into the account, we've restocked our materials and increased their range to include oil paints, without which no art room could be complete. Having done this there was nothing for it but to organise classes that would allow us to fully experiment and so the Sunday Afternoon classes were born. Here, our model posed in one position for three hours so that we could focus on a more finished piece. These Sunday afternoons of painting bathed in classical music and red light (a quirk of the art room) have become very popular and are certainly one of the most relaxing ways to spend the day for everyone involved, with the possible exception of the models who on occasion suffered numerous cramps and pains for the last half an hour amid constant calls that they should take a break whenever they needed. This affability was seen in many of our models, most of whom have been lovely (if somewhat erratic), and some who've been very memorable. The "leprechaun man" is one notorious example, who rose to fame as the only model to use all of our props, and more impressively the only model to brave the period of cold weather and broken heaters.

The Art Society has had a good year generally. It has grown in strength immensely over the last three years, and I'm sure it will continue to do so next year under the experienced gaze of Alex Hyde and Anna Reid. I've achieved all my personal goals for the Society (I can now safely say that I've seen all varieties of body piercing I could ever wish for), and very much enjoyed doing it. Lastly, but importantly, my Co-Presidents, Andrew Nutter and Alex Hyde, have done a great deal towards attaining the character and achievements of the Art Society and I have enjoyed working with them.

**Sophie Allebone-Webb**  
Co-President

### The Choir Association

The past twelve months have been a time of growth for the Association. A marketing group was formed early last year to look at ways to heighten the profile of the organisation and attract new members. One

achievement of this group has been the development of a new and distinctive website. This piece of work was led and implemented by Robin Smallwood (Chorister 1977-1981). The website is imaginative, comprehensive and has, more recently, been linked to that of the College. Our aim is to develop it as a means of networking, advertising and providing a 'shop front', on a global basis.

Our first major matched funding appeal in support of the Bursary and Scholarship Scheme began in January of this year. This came about through a generous offer by one of our members. As a 'pump primer' for this initiative, the Association deposited £4,000 in the College's Consolidated Trust Fund. In July, our largest bursary to date of £350 was awarded to Graham Walker to assist with fees at the Royal Academy of Music. Graham was both a Chorister and a Choral Student in the College Choir. More recently, the Committee has approved a further £500 to support this year's applications.

Whilst preparing the current edition of the Association's magazine, an enquiry came from a recording company wishing to purchase advertising space. The prospect of this method of raising additional revenue is interesting and we will be looking to develop this further.

Christopher Goodwins (BA 1959), former Choral Scholar and member of the Committee, has done some excellent work tracking down his contemporaries from the 1950s. The outcome of this is that we are planning an informal gathering of this group for 'a pie and a pint' at some point in the near future. Indeed, Peter Ball (Chorister 1962-1964) and Martin Redfearn (Chorister 1965-1969) have already established a lunch club in London for the 1960-1970s generations which is proving to be very popular, particularly amongst those who do not always find it easy to get to Cambridge. On a sadder note, we said farewell to Tony Grantham at Christmas who left to take up a new position at Derby Cathedral. Although sad at his departure, we wish him well for the future as Head Verger there, whilst at the same time we look forward to a happy and lasting friendship with Mark Utting, his replacement as Chapel Clerk.

The fact that, without exception, members of the Executive Committee are now linked through email provides distinct advantages with

running the business of the Association. At the same time, the growing number of communications with colleagues on a world-wide front through that medium, begins to pull together an otherwise fragmented membership in a way not possible before.

The Association looks forward to greater expansion during the rest of the year and is grateful for the support it continues to receive from the College.

**Alastair Roberts**  
Chairman

### The Classical Society

The Michaelmas Term 2000 saw the ranks of the Classical Society swelled by six new first years and, unusually, a new third year. Unable to decide which of us should get the prestigious, CV-enhancing title of President of this illustrious and growing Society, and which should become the unacknowledged power behind the throne as Secretary, Tim Morrisson and I decided to do away with rank altogether and name ourselves the first 'Co-Presidents' of the Classical Society. Whether or not as a consequence of this newly egalitarian spirit, the Society has certainly thrived. Our welcome and preliminary get-together was hosted, as ever, by Professor Crook, and provided an opportunity for us all to get to know the new faces, and renew our acquaintance with the old. Later in Michaelmas came the Classical Playreading of Plautus' *Rudens* ('The Rope'). A good time was had by all – Charlotte and I rediscovered our mediaeval sides as damsels in distress, and Professor Schofield brought the house down – almost literally – with his moving rendition of an old sea-shanty.

In the Lent Term Professor David Konstan of Brown University spoke to us after Hall on the subject 'Aristotle on Anger'; the talk was well-received and provoked a number of interesting questions from the audience. Then there was the by now infamous Desserts Party, pleasantly riotous as per usual, although avoiding the rather un-

Aristotelian excesses of previous years. We were particularly blessed this year by the welcome appearance of Mrs Schofield.

The Easter Term has much to live up to, but should be better yet; as I write we are looking forward to an address from our second guest speaker, Mr William St Clair of Trinity, on the sculptures of the Parthenon. And in the misty future that lies beyond the exams, no doubt a Classical Society garden party awaits.

In the meantime we would like to thank all the people who have supported the Classical Society in their various ways this year: Dr Whitmarsh, for organising our guest speakers and, on occasion, us, and Professor Schofield, without whose early booking of the Wordsworth Room we would have had no desserts. Finally the invaluable, inimitable and frankly indispensable Professor Crook, whose generosity to the Society knows no bounds: he has frequently provided us with venue, wine, funds, inspiration, wit and good humour, for all of which we are indebted to him.

**Helen Evans and Tim Morrison**  
Co-Presidents

### Cripptic

Much like the legendary Phoenix, Cripptic is reborn each year from the smouldering and malodorous ashes that are all that remains of the previous year's efforts. It seemed, though, that nothing could survive the furnace of derision that burned so furiously at this year's Associated Societies AGM. As the raging Furies tried to sate their unquenchable blood-lust we fought our corner desperately – but to no avail. Blow after crazed blow rained down upon the delicate, sensitive, timid Cripptic. Brought to our knees we limped, nay, crawled from the bloodbath that was the Fisher Building. Few would have believed that the ancient institution of Cripptic could ever be resurrected.

Our oppressors thought us dead and vanquished forever. The world mourned the glorious light that had faded from our midst. The legend had died.

And yet, hidden in the shadows and the dark corners of New Court we were being gently nursed back to health by the true believers of the One magazine. At risk to their very lives, our dedicated followers tended us. By the relentless daily application of ancient poultices and houmous to our tattered flesh and a diet of the long searched-for Ambrosia (rumoured to be stolen from the Fellows' table by Prometheus while on parole after serving eternity for the 'Fire' scandal), we recovered. As the end of the Michaelmas Term approached, the battle began anew.

With the twin swords of Wit, Humour and Insult the Raging Cripptic Bull charged forth to produce the greatest literary masterpiece since just before the Bible. Our opponents realised the error of their ways and converted to the Faith. As tradition dictates the launch of this issue was commemorated by the Cocktail Baptism of the faithful.

As the year wore on and the fearless editorial team added glory upon glorious glory to glorious Glory we were continually thankful for: the advice and support of our spiritual Guru, the Chaplain, the continual comedy value of the Dean, the insatiable promiscuity of Johnians and the anonymous arsonists who provided so much of our material. With the unwavering devotion to the Cause of our Allies we created a Trilogy that may not have rivalled the Odyssey but brought a smile to the odd reader.

Cripptic. Let the Legend Live On.

**Nav Sivanandam**  
**Charlie Rahtz**

### The Epicureans

'Tymsboro – mmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmm.' An innocent desire to discover more about cheese unearthed a unexpected craze which was whey beyond expectation. 'Like brie but with balls.' But of course, it is always a good idea to wash out the palette with plenty of... 'Les Jamelles Mourvedre 1998 – Yum yum. Concentrated & fruity. Will be taking this one to Hall.' Or 'Angove's Classic Reserve (CR) 1997 – The



clear winner of the evening.' Much of the emphasis is on experimentation, which leads to good and bad discoveries. 'La Guita Manzanilla – Undrinkable. Suggested uses, antiseptic of last resort.' 'I like. Muy bueno.' But there is seldom a consensus. Some like a nice strong cheese, others, though, find such potent flavours less palatable. 'Epoisses – I could still taste it in the morning.' 'One of the least pleasant 'foods' to which I have ever been exposed. Were I starving I think I would rather eat a putrid cow carcass as it would probably have the same flavour and less cholesterol. Definite flavours of both faeces and burnt hair, with a suggestion of something along the lines of motor oil, or a greasing agent of some kind.' 'Absolute cracker, very unusual, and brill price.' It must be pointed out that the abundance of damning comments is due to the fact that they are on the whole far more entertaining. 'It's always interesting eating something that looks as though it might kill you within the next 24 hours.' 'Almost worth eating, but not quite.' 'Suggested uses, put outside in the woods for deer and other animals to lick; or sprinkle on driveway on icy mornings.' There have been two meetings so far, and the aim is to continue having about two every term. 'Domaine Du Noble Lupliac 1993 – To be commended for doing a sweet wine correctly. Nevertheless there is a strong possibility that at some point chlorine was added to this wine.' Over the Christmas break a group of members embarked on a gastronomic trip to the Alsace region. A cheesy ghost train trip through the champagne cellars of Piper Heidseick, and the architectural wonders of Strasbourg were highlights. However, a full day was spent sampling almost 30 different wines in six different caves along the Route du Vin, a road lined with picturesque villages with fortified gateways and a distinctive blend of French and German cultures. Indeed we spoke a mixture of the two when probing the producers about their wines – they were always eager to talk to us, and some were so proud of their wine, or willing to see us respond to it, that they kept bringing out bottle after bottle of Grand Cru this, Cuvée Especial that, a veritable tidal wave of top quality wine. But, in the words of one of the producers... 'You have too much Gewürztraminer? Zat is not a bad thing'. And we brought plenty of cheese and wine for the third Epicureans' gathering. 'Cashel Blue Ewe – memor's getting a bit hazy by now. i think i like dthis one.' Any

current student is welcome to come along to the meetings; email [jjlm2@cam.ac.uk](mailto:jjlm2@cam.ac.uk) to get onto the email list. 'Chateau De Fesles Anjou 1997 – God knows. I couldn't taste anything by this point.'

**John Morton**  
President

### The Gentlemen of St John's

Once in a while the Gents have to go through a period of financial consolidation and the past year has been one of those. Cash flow can be a problem for all College societies when there are large projects in the pipeline and it can be crippling for a professional group like the Gents. Even when sorting out the bank balance however, the group is always busy performing in concerts and providing entertainment at dinners and parties. This year has been no exception.

The summer of 2000 saw the Gents in recording sessions for their latest compact disc of the works of the 15th century French composer Jean Mouton. Directed by Graham Walker, a previous Gent, it will probably be released by the time *The Eagle* reaches you, under the Quilisma recording label. If the first edit is anything to go by then the Gents will have another fine recording to add to their previous CDs, Mix Well and Ca' the Yowes.

In fact, compact discs seem to have been a running theme throughout the year. When I took over as Manager in October it was clear that the Gents were running low on stock for sales at concerts. Our CD of English Folk Songs, Ca' the Yowes, quickly arrived having been ordered over the summer by the previous Manager, Jon Bungard. The close harmony CD, Mix Well, on the other hand, proved far more troublesome!

The ever-changing face of the music industry left the CD pressing company we had previously used bankrupt and wound-up. The glass master and original artwork had gone with it. For a short while it seemed all might be lost. Thankfully, with the help of the college, it has been possible to re-master the disc from the pressed CDs without any

loss of quality and have the artwork reset. This has allowed us to re-release one of our most popular recordings.

We have welcomed an interesting new batch of choral students into our 16 man community this year: Ed Connolly, who was previously Organ Scholar at Robinson College and has now been promoted to Bass; James Birchall, who is Bass from Winchester College Chapel and is absurdly tall; Ronan Collett, a Baritone who seemed to displease the College Admission Tutors and now has to camp out in Pembroke; Allan Clayton, a Tenor from Worcester who keeps the bar in business; Jonathan Vaughn, the Junior Organ Scholar who can turn his hand to Tenor on occasions; Peter Crawford, who balances being an Alto with a busy Natsci timetable; and, finally, Lester Lardenoye, an Alto who brings a large dose of Dutch flair to the group.

The entire group has shown great dedication and levels of hard work rarely seen in the Gents before. The standard of singing has been very high and it has been a particularly enjoyable year to be at the helm. Particular thanks go to Iestyn Davies and Geoff Silver for their administrative assistance and to Chris Whitton, Gareth Jones and Ed Connolly for directing the group. An equal measure of thanks goes to the College for their continuing support for the group and financial assistance with our recording projects.

In November last year we were fortunate to perform with Sir Nigel Hawthorne in the amazing bathroom acoustic of Haileybury School chapel where Peter Davis, a previous organ scholar, is Musical Director. Thankfully they don't hold concerts in the vast domed dining hall, which has a flutter echo made even more unpleasant by the Gents insisting on using their full voices to test the effect. Over the year we have also performed in Ketton, Old Buckenham Hall and alongside David Kossof at Lochinver House, as well as a large selection of dinners in Cambridge and London.

The end of September will see the Gents appearing in a Gala evening at the Snape Maltings in aid of the NSPCC. This, and increased interest from London-based clients, demonstrates that the profile of the group is running high. However our level of success has to be limited because of

the balancing act we must strike between being Undergraduates, Choral Students and members of a professional close harmony group.

Looking to the future, the diary is pretty full with concerts pencilled in for the autumn of 2001 in Girton, Horsham, Cambridge and Glatton. December will see the Gents perform in concert in Belgium whilst on tour with the Chapel Choir, and recording interest has been expressed in a new compact disc of the Gents singing lighthearted Christmas music.

It is clear this year's Gents can be proud of what they have achieved and where the group now stands both financially and professionally. I know I have enjoyed this year immensely and will take fond memories of performing with the group, especially making dinner guests laugh and receiving the heartfelt applause at the end of concerts. I wish my successor as Manager and all the Gents the best and hope that those leaving the group go on to be highly successful at their chosen careers.

**Alex Walsh**  
Manager

For more information, bookings and CD sales please visit our new website at [www.joh.cam.ac.uk/gents](http://www.joh.cam.ac.uk/gents), email at [gents@poboxes.com](mailto:gents@poboxes.com) or telephone the manager on +44 (0)1223 369472

### The History Society

The Johnian History Society has continued to attract a wide variety of speakers and students, maintaining its image as a thriving College Society. The five meetings provided topics of particular interest and prompted wide-ranging discussion amongst the audience.

Our Michaelmas Term card began with the visit of Professor David D'Avery, fresh from his appointment as Chair of Modern History at University College, London. His talk consisted of locating the strands of ecclesiastical history throughout British life, and his stylish presentation introduced the way his historical analysis had been touched by the philosophy of Max Weber. This was followed by an analysis of the

Scientific Revolution in early modern Europe by Dr Sachiko Kusukawa of Trinity College, Cambridge. Dr Kusukawa was able to outline the medical, astrological, cartographical and cultural advances of the period in order to highlight the changes in emphasis which had occurred in this age of discovery leading to the Enlightenment. Both speakers were entertaining dinner guests and continued their enthusiasm into their presentations, enlivening discussion about their particular topics.

The Lent Term card provided three speakers of particular pedigree who drew significant crowds because of the popularity of their work. Professor Quentin Skinner attended the Society first, giving an introduction to the history of laughter, and coming to the conclusion as a result of the discussion afterwards that the evidence for the subject was focused very much on its effect on the lower classes. Laughter began as being subordinate to a smile: the latter was perfect, the former a vulgar perversion. Somewhat surprisingly, the discussion afterwards developed into the place of Shakespearean and other playwright material in giving the greatest laughs to the most lowly people. Another Johnian, Professor John Tosh, visited us next and talked about the role of the citizen in history within a nationalist framework and was perhaps afforded the greatest ability to analyse contemporary events and place them into a historical context. The last speaker of my term in office was Professor Jonathon Riley-Smith, the authority in the crusades, who spoke on the dissolution of the templars. With Dr Linehan present, another expert in medieval matters, the discussion afterwards could not have been better because both men provided conflicting yet persuasive views.

The highlight of the year was the Annual Dinner which, according to tradition, was held in the Senior Combination Room, generously provided by the Fellows. This year's speaker was Dr Keith Jeffrey from the University of Ulster, who provided us with anecdotes concerning social historians and the responsibilities of editing historical journals. After this highly amusing speech, the 'Loving Cup' was circulated in ungainly fashion.

I would like to offer this year's Committee my sincere thanks for the support they have given the Society at all the speaker meetings. Katie,

Esohe and Liz have always been willing to shoulder responsibility and take the initiative in making the Society run more effectively and they have made my year an easy one. The Society has continued to flourish because of this and I hope its popularity will be maintained next year. All the best to the new Committee, who, I'm sure, will be every bit as efficient and energised.

**Michael Strother**  
President

### The JCR

When we took on the mantle of the JCR Committee (JCRC) we did so in the knowledge that we had a hard act to follow. Hot on the heels of the previous year's Rent Strike and at the start of the Bar refurbishment plans, we knew we had to continue what had gone before and, looking back over the year now, I think we did all that and more (but then everyone always says that, don't they, so perhaps you should be the judge of that).

As always our year in office began in February with the usual rounds of introductions and meetings – including a rather unusual tour of the Master's attic (a petition is currently underway to fill it with a model railway!). We began with a baptism of fire – the previous Committee and President had gone AWOL and we were left to cope with College Council the afternoon after the elections to discuss such issues as the new Bursary Scheme with the Rent Strike still fresh in everyone's minds. But we coped, as they do every year, and the President and Vice even began to look forward to our twice-termly visits to the Senior Combination Room for tea, cakes and a grilling!

As well as the more visible achievements, such as the bar refurbishment, which is only now beginning to show its true value, rent negotiations and Ents etc, we also resurrected the JCR newsletter from a slumber of several years and established the first ever JCR undergraduate email list as a means of conveying information to the students – a battle every JCRC has to fight. We continued the tradition of Sunday afternoon

meetings and even beat the previous record with the odd two and three quarter hour meeting every now and then! The prompt and often amusing minutes of Secretary, Camille Gatin, will remind us all of the many happy (?) hours spent together and the heated 'discussions' which took place.

The fortnightly *Bogsheet*, ably produced by Publicity Officer, Amelie Knapp, continued alongside the email list and newsletter to transmit information of a less serious nature to lavatory-goers all around College (well almost – apologies to H staircase Cripps!). The website was improved and updated by the new Computer Officer, Padraic Brick, and used to advertise JCR initiatives, provide access to the JCR accounts and other information, and due to popular demand we even managed to get the Buttery and Hall menus online.

With Access high in everyone's minds the details of the new access Bursary Scheme were finalised and the Target Schools Officer (now Access Officer in line with Cambridge University Students' Union (CUSU)), Taz Choudhury, got off to an early start organising the campaign to promote Oxbridge applications in State Schools. Jo Eastwood, Academic Affairs Officer, also played a crucial role with Access, helping to organise Open Days with the Admissions Department and being heavily involved in the EAGLE Project. She was also keen to tackle one of the frequent complaints of the Summer Term – noise. Detailed noise control proposals were drawn up both for weddings and tourists and a number of compromises were reached, including an ambitious attempt to calm down the punt guides! Only time will tell if these have made any impact.

The Treasurer, Phil Russmeyer, proved an invaluable Vice-President and guided us through the perils of the rents negotiations and kept a tight reign on the President's and others' spending – so successfully that we've finished with enough in the bank to buffer any potential losses at Ents etc and for the next Committee to look into some long-term investments into Ents equipment etc.

The Fisher-Building Ents, spearheaded by Anushka Asthana, have proved to be massively successful despite a few cancellations and

fireworks (!), even resulting in us turning away over 120 people from our final one. A University-wide reputation has been established with old favourites such as 'Back to School' and 'Club Tropicana', as well as the less mainstream nights such as 'Heat' and 'Essence' packing in the crowds. Tom Lumbers continued the reputation of the Boiler Room (Clarkson Room) as a University-wide alternative music venue with nights of hip-hop, Drum 'n' Bass, Indie and Jazz, overcoming difficulties in room availability and double bookings.

At the height of May Week, Anushka and Tom combined forces to produce a very successful June Ent; providing glorious summer fun, music, dancing, BBQ and even fire jugglers, preceded by a lazy afternoon of Jazz, Strawberries and Frisbee on the backs. After a short break to sample the delights of Cambridge summer sun, garden parties and May Balls, the Committee set to work preparing the Freshers' handbook. The newly created Computer Officer came in particularly handy here with Padraic Brick, along with Velda Elliot, Women's Officer, proving to be absolutely invaluable – despite Padraic nearly losing his computer and the finished handbook to thieves just hours before it was due at the printers!

While we slaved over the handbook, Charlie Rahtz and his Yearbook Committee began the arduous task of sorting through photos for, and preparing, the 'Revelations according to St John', the 2000-2001 yearbook, which, true to form was not released until after our term in office was over! But it was well worth the wait as it included 'your own cut-out and keep dress-up Chaplain' with various apparel to clothe him in – a fine addition to all Johnian literary collections, overcoming all the usual attempts to thwart its publication by the printers.

And so on to Freshers' Week – the whole Committee had been looking forward to this (and no doubt to wearing their JCR rugby tops!) and though it was a lot of hard work, I think all would agree that shepherding the first-years through their initial few days at St John's – through 'Back 2 Skool', Lazer Quest, Family tea parties, JCR pubcrawls, women's lunch, 'Fondue' – a night of hot cheese (!) and those first Director of Studies and Tutor meetings, was one of the most enjoyable parts of the year.



The new academic year brought with it the new University Card – stripping Jack Russell, External Officer, of one of his main duties (producing CUSU student cards) but he coped admirably with the setback and continued to dole out NUS stickers and direct confused, cardless students to the Uni-Card Office. He also spent many a happy hour (?) at CUSU Council meetings with the President, ensuring John's voice did not go unheard.

The Michaelmas Term involved quite a lot of political activity – with the NUS tuition fees demonstration, Access referendum and the controversial affiliation to National Abortion Campaign referendum. Velda Elliot provided the College with all the information they needed on this issue and we had the largest open-meeting attendance and debate yet. The result was the biggest turn-out in a CUSU vote at John's of almost 300 votes – and perhaps an end to the infamous John's apathy?

Closer to home an equally successful turn-out was achieved for the Nestlé referendum in College – the closest vote on record, with one vote in it to keep the Nestlé chocolate machine. Though the discovery that no rent is paid to Nestlé for it and the hotly anticipated arrival of fair trade chocolate in the new bar should hopefully ease some people's consciences.

As well as putting in huge amounts of effort publicising the NAC debate, Velda also did sterling work as Women's Officer setting up the Women's Committee, a 'women in education dinner' and being regularly involved in the Women's Campaign at CUSU. Together with Welfare Officer, Emily McKenzie, she made sure that attack alarms were available for students to sign out from the Porters' Lodge of an evening should they be going out alone. Emily worked tirelessly throughout the year organising the new Freshers' Week safety and sexual health talk and running campaigns for, and advertising, safety issues, World Aids day, many different support groups e.g. eating disorders, funding troubles, meningitis, stress and much more. But possibly the crowning glory of our time in office is the addition of jacket potatoes and 'Peppercorns' baguettes to the buttery sandwich selection thanks to Emily and Jack's persistence at Kitchen Committee meetings!

There are still many things in the pipeline such as the possible refurbishment of the JCR and the issue of Social Space in College. We've seen a year of changes – most notably a new Domestic Bursar – and it was with great sadness that we bid a happy retirement to Colonel Robinson, but the transition to the new Bursar, Commodore Harris, has been seamless in terms of JCR relations (I hope) and I'm grateful for all his help over the year. Similarly there are so many other people that have helped the JCR that we would like to thank – Professor Goddard, Mr Jobling, Maggie Hartley, Duncan Dormor, Dr Linehan, Colin, Stan, Jackie, Sarah and everyone in Catering & Conference – the list is endless. But we couldn't have done anything without them and though we've had our ups and downs ultimately things seem to have worked out okay.

We've had a successful year and I'd like to think the rest of College might agree, at least to some degree, although a lot of what the JCRC does goes unseen, behind the scenes, just keeping things ticking over. The Committee has been absolutely great individually but more importantly as a team, and it's something I'll miss. I've certainly learnt an awful lot over the year and it's a job I'll be sorry to see the back of but I have to admit that it is also nice to finish. I wish the new President and the next Committee luck for the future – I'm sure it'll be an even better year.

**Nancy Priston**  
President

### **Jazz at Johns**

It has been a varied year for the Jazz Club. An amendment to the College rules granted us the use of the Palmerston Room in the Fisher Building for one event every term, so that we would be able to put on large scale 'party events' on a regular basis. One such event in the Michaelmas Term 2000 featured 'Groove Connection', playing an impressive blend of urban jazz funk. This went down very well indeed, as did the two other local bands which provided non-stop music in both rooms.

Other acts that Term included Mac Tontoh and his spectacular African band. His fusion of traditional Ashanti music and jazz had the crowd on their feet immediately, and by the last song he was 'summoning all the spirits into the room', which was probably more than the Fisher Building Foyer was used to. The New Orleans Standard Bearers also graced the stage, proving a hit for those fans of more traditional jazz.

After this point the College began to show some strain in accommodating the wealth of music entertainment being attempted to be organised. A shortage of Porters led to the cancellation of our fourth event in the Michaelmas Term, and more significantly of our 'party event' in Lent 2001. Furthermore, extensive use of the rooms in the Fisher Building has meant that booking rooms for the Club has become increasingly difficult, and so only two events (instead of the usual four) were able to take place in the Lent Term.

However, the bands we did get were up to the highest standard. Tony Coe, winner of the coveted Danish Jazzpar prize, and perhaps more popularly recognised for playing the theme tune for the Pink Panther films, was very well received despite deciding to brave the audience with no amplification at all!

This summer once again we have been unable to put on all the events we would like to due to insufficient availability of the rooms, but we will be holding a huge garden party to make up for it! Thank you to the Dean for his help in addressing the problems we've been having, and to our audience for continuing to come along despite the disruptions to our schedules.

**John Morton**  
President

### **The Johnian Society**

At the Committee meeting held in September 2000, Sir Richard Aikens was elected President of the Society and Sir Mark Moody Stuart was elected Vice-President. Dr Manon Williams was elected an Ordinary Member of the Committee for six years from 1 January 2001.

This year the Society Committee decided to increase its financial support of College activities. In particular, the number of Johnian Society Travel Exhibitions offered to current students has been increased to six.

The golf competition, organised by John Loosley, was a great success, as was the Johnian Society Dinner. Michael Mavor, President of the Society, proposed the toast at the dinner. The Johnian Society Lecture took place on 28 February 2001 in College and was given by Mervyn King, Deputy Governor of the Bank of England and Honorary Fellow of the College. He spoke about 'The Monetary Policy Committee – a constitutional innovation?' The next Johnian Society Lecture will take place in 2003.

**Catherine Twilley**  
Secretary

### **The Lady Margaret Players**

One French maid's outfit, six umbrellas, one salt shaker, three sets of false eyelashes and two plastic chickens. As the year progressed, little succeeded in baffling or indeed surprising the LMP committee when it came to requests for props. The curiosities discovered in the 'miscellaneous' cupboard in the School of Pythagoras signalled the ambition and variety of St John's College drama, if nothing else. Some of the more daring items would not have been out of place in the Freshers' Play, 'What the Butler Saw', which delighted its audiences with scenes of seduction, madness, intrigue and near-nudity. Ably directed by Anita Moss and Rachel Marsh and produced by Aidan Keane and Katherine Robertson, this energetic farce, with its Fawlty-Towers style humour testified to the enthusiasm and talent amongst the Freshers. Richard Murray should be especially commended for his winning performance, and Dave Townhill for his dazzling white underwear...

The theatre was at its busiest in the Lent Term, accommodating two other productions as well as the Freshers. Following the example of last year's *Hecuba*, Johnians sought to expand the scope of drama in the

College and the Freshers' Play was succeeded by 'I Promessi Sposi', a play performed in Italian. Under the auspices of Jess Hyde and Meera Frost, and generously supported by the Italian Society, the production was well acclaimed.

A dangerous liaison in the School of Pythagoras finished the term as a Johnian, Katie Lydon, teamed up with Trinity's Gordon Carver to direct Strindberg's 'The Ghost Sonata', which featured a relatively large cross-collegiate cast. Strindberg's vision of disintegration engineered by paranoia and erotic fixation, which he treats with a complex expressionist and symbolist style, was another ambitious undertaking but Lydon's and Carver's intelligent interpretation was both a successful and profitable venture. Tristan Smith deserves particular mention for his striking set construction that featured a fountain, complete with running water.

Johnian talent has been in evidence across the full range of theatrical disciplines this year, with students contributing in all areas to the ADC as well as to touring theatre groups and other College drama societies. Last summer, co-president of LMP, Sven Pannel, toured Greece with a theatrical programme that included *Electra* and *Blood Wedding*. His performances on stage gained admiring audiences while his off-stage antics, which included cliff-diving, unfortunately landed him in hospital. Unperturbed, he returned to Cambridge to form his own production company, aptly named 'Breakneck Productions'. Their first venture, 'Someone Who'll Watch Over Me' by Frank McGuinness, the story of three hostages in Lebanon, moved audiences at the ADC. Sven has turned his hand to both acting and directing, with two other productions under his belt this year, and he has even made his television debut, securing a one-line part as a soldier for an American Television series, who is blown up by a mine just before the opening credits. Sven now looks forward to embarking on an acting career, supported by a London agency.

Another notable success for St John's this year was Dan Hine's recent project, which involved collating five short plays written by Oxbridge Undergraduates and taking them to a London fringe venue. This

showcase of Oxbridge talent was as innovative idea and gained accolades from University and London reviewers. Alex Hyde and Jennifer Kidd, both Johnians, respectively directed and starred in two of these productions. Jennifer Kidd has numerous theatrical credits to her name; she toured with the University's European Theatre Group at Christmas and recently took a major role in *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* at the ADC. She has also worked backstage and LMP look forward to her forthcoming directorial role with the Cambridge Mummings adaptation of *The Taming of the Shrew* at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, a production which LMP are delighted to support. Once again several Johnians will be taking plays to Edinburgh and we also eagerly anticipate *Toni Ponzi Presents*, a musical comedy produced by Johnian Gabriel Burchell.

As well as money going out of the LMP accounts, this year we were also able to put some back in. Frankie Whitelaw and Sven Pannel took part in the Unilever Club Challenge Competition and were awarded a significant sum to put towards the formation of a film-making subsection of the society. The medium of film is severely under-represented in Cambridge and it is our intention to make accessible what is a financially exclusive and restricted field. With the advent of digital technologies and computer film editing software, low budget film-making has limitless potential. It is hoped that one day, LMP will be able to provide the equipment and know-how for aspiring film-makers to tap into, and for utilisation by the theatrical core of the society for the recording of rehearsals and shows.

In the meantime, we will have to make do with our plastic chickens and other miscellaneous props. It only remains for me to thank everyone who has been involved in productions this year and for the LMP Committee – Fiona Learmont, Sven Pannel, Frankie Whitelaw and Jo Eastwood – to wish all Johnians every success in all areas of drama in the future.

**Frankie Whitelaw**  
Co-President

### The Larmor Society

#### *Garden Party: The Aftermath.*

Bent double, like old beggars under sacks, knock-kneed, *vomming* like hags, we cursed through sludge till on the haunting punch we turned our backs and towards our distant rest began to trudge. Men marched asleep. Many had lost their boots but limped on, blood shod. All went lame; all blind; Drunk with *vodka*; deaf even to the hoots of porters dropping softly behind.

#### *The Squash: Innocence Lost*

Of Freshers' first disobedience, and the fruit of that forbidden tree whose mortal taste brought death into the world, and all our woe.

#### *The Reunion Dinner: Wrinkling Lines*

Five years have passed; five summers, with the length of five long winters! and again I here these *voices*, rolling from their *familiar faces* with a soft *inebriated* murmur. – Once again do I behold these *Taylor, Towns*, and *Perrell*, that on *this* wild secluded scene impress thoughts of a more deep seclusion; and connect the *penny* with the *bottom* of the *glass*.

#### *Nanotechnology Lectures: The A to Z of Very Small Things.*

The Bountiful *Belgian*, who always carried a Green Umbrella when it didn't rain, and left it at home when it did.

The Worrying Whizzing *Welland*, who stood on a Table, and played sweetly on a Flute with a Morning Cap.

The Enthusiastic *Engineer*, who ferried himself across the water with the Kitchen Poker and a New pair of Ear-rings.

#### *The Annual Dinner*

'Twas brillig and the slithy toves did gyre and gimble in the wabe. All mimsy was the *Crostini*, and the *Beef Tournedos* outgrabe.

'Beware the *German Hock*, my son! The *nose* does bite, the *taste* does catch. Beware the *Chocolate boxes*, and shun the frumious *Brandysnaps*!

And so ends another poetic roundup of Larmor activities. We wish the new committee all the best, and with John at the helm next year, God help us all.

Katherine Hayward  
John Morton

*P.S. A bottle of college port is offered as a prize for the first to correctly identify the five poems and poets used in the above article, and to spot the link between the third poet and the function to which his poem refers. Answers to The Larmor Society, St. John's College, CB2 1TP.*

### The Music Society

The activities of the Music Society have this year as ever been numerous and diverse. The Society is both maintaining its presence in Cambridge and also, importantly, looking to its own members and catering for music at more than one level.

A good example of this has been the lunchtime recital series, which continues to run weekly in Full Term. To give one of these recitals is the prerogative of any member of College, so that each series is a refreshing mixture of styles and standards. Two recitals presented in the Ante-chapel as part of the series have shown the great advantages of that venue, both aesthetically and acoustically, while we continue also to be fortunate to enjoy the surroundings of the New Music Room.

Complementing these recitals are the Saturday organ recitals, which have as promised been restored in the form of a four-week series each Term. These have proved very popular with tourists as well as with a notable contingent of College members. As a result audience numbers have been very healthy, and will doubtless increase in the forthcoming summer period.

Dr Castelvechi continues to provide musical fare of the highest quality at the Master's Lodge recitals, which have seen some excellent chamber music appreciated by very well-sized audiences. Indeed the recent



winning combination of Ivan Guevara, Lizzie Ball and Graham Walker playing Latin-American tunes left the Master with not even standing space at the back of his dining-room.

The Lent Term saw two notable one-off concerts. The SCR concert was again of a very high quality, and increased advertising led to a healthy attendance from junior members – ironically it is the Fellowship who perhaps need some more encouragement to attend this excellent annual event. Shortly afterwards there took place another concert of chamber music in the New Music Room, the result of a new chamber music scheme which aims to link up College players of all standards to enjoy communal music-making; particular credit for the success of this scheme (as for many other things) goes to Helen Pattinson, the Society's invaluable and tireless Secretary.

The College Orchestra has received a new identity this year as the St John's Players. Weekly rehearsals of this open-to-all ensemble have been revived by Tom Evans, leading to fine concerts in the Michaelmas and Lent Terms, with repertoire including Schubert's Fourth and Eighth Symphonies and Mozart's *Figaro* overture. The intention of the Players is to make the pleasure of orchestral playing available to all instrumentalists in College, and in this they certainly succeeded, achieving no mean standard of performance in the process.

Meanwhile the Society has continued to put on large-scale Term Concerts employing a 'College Orchestra' comprising the pick of College players with help from outside. In the Michaelmas Term the 250th anniversary of J S Bach was marked with a performance of the *Christmas Oratorio* (Parts I-III) by the Come & Sing chorus, combined with the St John's Singers. These forces, numbering well over seventy, proved more than equal to the task, surmounting the considerable difficulties of Bach's vocal writing with great enthusiasm, with the support of a crack orchestra which this writer was fortunate to conduct. The first half of the concert had seen Tom Evans directing both the third *Brandenburg Concerto* and the première of his own *Concerto after JSB*. Both compositions proved well worth the hearing, the Kantor would be pleased to know, and indeed were heard by an audience which almost filled the Chapel.

The St John's Singers took to the decks once again in the Lent Term Concert for a performance of the rarely heard ballad *The Revenge* by Stanford (sometime Organist of Trinity College; a notable composer nevertheless). This tale of heroic seamanship was led with gusto from the podium by the Junior Organ Scholar, Jonathan Vaughn, who roused his crew to a triumphant rally. Unfortunately the punters (if the pun may be excused) preferred to keep their feet on dry land, and few were tempted to the concert: such is often the fate of little-known music, and certainly Victoriana is not much in fashion in these days of period-instrument vogue. The first half of the concert was an eclectic combination of Stravinsky, Ives and Copland, directed again by Tom Evans. Again the performances were fine ones, of high quality music, though few were present to enjoy them.

This year's May Concert remains a speck on the horizon at the time of writing, but surely few who attend will easily forget Choral Student Ed Lyon's expert portrayal of Britten's *St Nicolas*, under the seasoned baton of Mr Robinson.

Thanks go, as ever, to our Senior Treasurer Dr Glasscock, who suffers the financial burdens of merry undergraduate spending with considerable patience, and chairman Dr Johnstone, whose absence in a sabbatical term made the Committee feel all the more keenly our gratitude for his otherwise unstinting hospitality. Thanks too to all the members of the Committee for their hard work over the year.

**Chris Whitton**  
President

### The Purchas Society

A lively intake of new geographers (not to forget our land economist) has helped ease the Purchas Society through the painful structural adjustment of losing Andy Jones, its most long-term devotee, whose surprisingly life-like ghost can even now be seen on the paths of College. Oliver Snoddy, as Purchas Secretary, has shown great

resourcefulness and imagination in gathering in speakers for our prestigious meetings, and the legendary pre-prandials, formal Hall and port welcome that greets the speakers ensures that the occasion is much enjoyed by all.

Purchasians had a chance to present their own pioneering adventures at the Michaelmas 'Paddlings', where they were seen to have ranged from Las Vegas to Ladakh, and from Uganda to Benidorm in search of their own brand of self-fulfilment.

But all those carbon-burning flights were taken to account by Peter Bunyard, founding Editor of *The Ecologist* magazine, who took us to Daisy World to explore their potential implications for the life-support systems of Gaia. The potentially spiralling feedback effects of human-induced climate change were a sobering thought even for those most relishing the port. As is to be expected of such a charismatic speaker, Peter Bunyard had drawn in female admirers from outside the monastic walls of this College, and we were to be overwhelmed by the fairer sex yet again when the Women's Society invaded our very own Monday Hall for the following meeting.

Peter Marshall told us *Tales of China: Ancient and Modern*, illustrated by some exquisite slides to whet our appetite for exotic journeys. Having given RGS Christmas Lectures in the past, he was a most fitting speaker to listen to while we munched our mince pies. His thoughts on Chinese philosophies had us in discussion long into the night.

Into the new year, Dr Sat Ghosh, an atmospheric scientist, took us into quite a different spatial realm with his multimedia talk on the sacred Tibetan symbolism of Mount Kailash. Monastic music and Buddhist poems coaxed us into a most appropriate trance in which to meditate on his words.

The grand finale of this year's lectures came from Dr Robin Glasscock himself, on a subject close to our hearts. The Reverend Samuel Purchas and the College as it was in his time were brought to life for us, with fascinating old drawings and plans, to give us a real sense of the rich historical tradition in which we have the fortune to continue.

Our Annual Dinner is to take place on May 16, so we must await that date to discover who is to inherit the mantle of Secretary for next year, and to thank Dr Robin Glasscock for all the years through which he has guided Purchasians as Director of Studies, a position from which he retires this year. I wish Oliver Snoddy a successful Presidential year, as I and my fellow third-years take our leave from the much-loved Society.

Long Live the Purchas Society.

**Joanna Collins**  
President

### The SBR

The SBR has had an eventful year, with marked contrasts to previous performances both on the political and social scenes. Graduate voter apathy has been overcome, as witnessed by the record turnout for the crucial Cambridge University Student Union / Graduate Union integration referenda. The veritable explosion of SBR-organised events, with varying levels of opulence and indulgence, has set the graduate community well on the way to being one of Cambridge's best and friendliest student combination rooms. The previous instalment of this Society's report flagged the benevolent dispensations of St John's College to its undergraduates; this year the proposals for a graduate Bursary Scheme are moving closer to completion as a part of the College's efforts to combat graduate student poverty.

The SBR continues to play its crucial role in the lively St John's community. What follows is an account of all aspects of graduate life over the past year, much of which will doubtless form some of the fondest memories of those fortunate enough to have been a part of it.

### Social Events

Probably it is true to say that the biggest overall success of the present Committee's term in Office has been the increased and more diverse programme of social activities, the majority of which have been

organised solely for St John's graduates, though a good number have involved working closely with other Cambridge MCRs, in addition to the usual selection of exchange Halls. Traditionally, the first big graduate gathering for a new Committee to deal with is the annual Garden Party, which again was held in the Master's Garden. Graduates, together with their families and friends, all basked in glorious June sunshine, with a seemingly endless supply of Pimms and lemonade and generous helpings of strawberries and cream. Much of the success of this get-together is due to the sheer hard graft of our JCR Liaison Officer, Wayne Williams, who unfortunately left Cambridge not long afterwards. The Committee would also like to thank those members of the SBR who kindly gave up their free time to help wash and chop the mountain of strawberries!

With the academic year over once May Week had provided people with more entertainment than they thought possible, so began the Long Vacation. With a large number of graduate students completing their courses at this time of year, many fond farewells were exchanged. The SBR Committee increased its compliment of members to nine with the co-option of Sally Brierley, Phil Miles, and Jim Rose to posts, an expansion that was to prove invaluable at the commencement of the ensuing academic year. The general background lull in activities was periodically broken with multi-College exchange BA Tables in the Wordsworth Room, kindly made possible by Mr Hawkey's Catering and Conference team. One such BA Table ended with a memorable post-dinner party, with guest appearances by the Graduate Union President and a member of the Blue Boat. The photographs tell the tale better.

Freshers' Fortnight was arguably the most enjoyable, and certainly the most intense, programme of activities organised for the SBR. The military precision with which the Freshers' timetable was devised began in the distant summer months; now was the time for action. The early arrivals were introduced to the SBR with a cheese and wine evening, with the majority of the new intake joining us for the main drinks reception a couple of days later. The residents of Merton Hall very kindly put their common room and garden at our disposal a number of times over the Fortnight, for which the Committee are

eternally grateful. The barbeque featured a welcome address from our President, while the Teddy Bears' Picnic welcomed SBR members with children (real children that is, not 'children' in the College parent sense!). And who could forget the Hawaiian Cocktail Party? Sunglasses were a must in order to prevent permanent damage to eyesight by some of the brightest clothing known to human kind, excluding, of course, Secretary Veronika Neuert's tasteful attire. No injuries were sustained during the limbo dancing, despite the availability of a seemingly endless supply of rather dubious-looking cocktails, many of which originated at the hands of External Officer, Benjamin Cornford. The Treasure Hunt and Pub Crawl made their annual appearances, but this year the latter event was complemented by Social Officer Phil Miles' *Alternative Boozah Goide*, surely the best collection of pub descriptions to be devised anywhere in the British Isles. The Women's Lunch was again held, conducted by our star Welfare Officer, Rosalind MacLachlan, and allowed both female graduates and Fellows to get together. In addition to the President's and Senior Tutor's Reception and the exchange Hall at Trinity College, a new concept event in the form of a 'Hostel Crawl' was devised, with the aim of giving the new graduates a chance to take a peak at some of the graduate hostels. The Committee attributes much of the night's success to the residents of the hostels that had the pack of hungry graduates descend upon them. A five-course meal was offered, with one course served at each of five hostels from the Madingley Road/ Mount Pleasant selection. The evening ended at Fossedene, by which time we were all sufficiently gorged and ready for a well-earned rest, and maybe even to get some work done.

As the year progressed, SBR members were treated to servings of sherry and port before and after the twice-weekly BA Tables, and several exchange dinners were held both at home and away. The SBR Christmas Dinner was once again held in Hall, but with the added dimension of musical entertainment from a University Brass Band quintet, who treated us to music from a selection of traditional Carols. Held around the time of the Chinese New Year, a unique evening of culinary entertainment was the Asian Cuisine Night; the residents of Whinside temporarily relinquished control of their kitchen and common room to the Committee who, aided by members of the SBR Asian population,

were able to prepare a series of mouth-watering traditional dishes, complete with a class on how to use chopsticks and even an opportunity to learn the basics of Chinese calligraphy!

Thanks mainly to the industrious efforts of one of our Social Officers, namely Alex Weber, a series of excursions to the Royal Opera House were arranged. Sign-up sheets were reportedly full within minutes of being posted as the masses clamoured to book their places for *The Nutcracker*, *Swan Lake*, *Tosca*, *La Cenerentola*, and *Othello*, amongst others. Also popular was a trip to the Greene King Brewery in Bury St Edmund's, organised in collaboration with Gonville and Caius MCR. Together with Sidney Sussex MCR, an outing to London, complete with a guided tour of the House of Commons and a question and answer session with an MP, was arranged, giving those graduates in attendance a unique insight into the way the country is run.

Evenings of musical entertainment also appeared on the SBR social scene. Capitalising on the success of previous years, an inter-collegiate Ceilidh was held in the School of Pythagoras, and what was probably the single most successful event of the past year, the unprecedented Latin American Night took place in the Clarkson Room. The salsa music, when the sound system eventually decided to spring into life, was pumping out until the midnight curfew; this event was so popular that it was rumoured that no less than a hundred people had to be turned away because the venue was packed to capacity! The event ran smoothly, due in no small part to the Committee's team of helpers on the door and behind the bar, especially Tazneem Zahir. Because of the success of our social events the present Committee saw a need to expand SBR horizons by arranging for the first SBR Fisher Building Event, coming our way in the Lent Term 2002.

A busy year on the social scene, with perhaps the only let-down being the absence of the SBR pantomime, due largely to organisational difficulties, thus depriving Dave Rippin of another chance to 'get his kit off'. Therein arises a challenge to the next Committee; to reinstall an annual highlight in the SBR calendar.

## Graduate Politics

For all this merriment there was actually a fair bit of slightly less exciting, but all the more important, student politics on the agenda. In the year that saw the creation of a CUSU Access Officer, the SBR has strengthened significantly its ties with both the Graduate Union and CUSU. Much of this evolved from the proposed referenda to integrate the GU and CUSU; seen by the SBR President and Committee as crucial to giving graduates the means to fully represent themselves on a University level, a relentless 'Yes' campaign was launched in a bid to convince all students of the opportunities that would arise through integration. The members of the SBR led the way in the referenda, with a previously unseen turnout at the polls of over 30%, greater than that of any other MCR, which made a significant contribution in ensuring that the referenda passed with 'Yes' votes of almost 90%. The implications of this result for graduate representation are enormous, and will surely entice politically minded individuals to involve themselves with the SBR Committee. It should be pointed out at this stage that the SBR Coffee and Cakes Afternoon coincided with referenda day merely by chance, all accusations of a 'cakes for votes' scandal are rebuffed.

Ask any random graduate student about the state of their finances and most will answer along the lines of 'it's a bit tight at the moment'. Graduate student poverty is a very serious issue; the SBR is in the fortunate position of having a Senior Treasurer tirelessly working behind the scenes on our behalf to secure assistance for those whose full funding grants are inadequate, allowing a larger proportion of graduate students to fully engage in both the intellectual and social activities that are a pivotal aspect of being a student in Cambridge. On behalf of all members of the SBR I would like to extend a massive thank you to our Senior Treasurer and Tutor for Graduate Affairs, Dr Sue Colwell. Her indefatigable efforts to represent the SBR on various College Committees have contributed significantly to all aspects of graduate welfare, more so than most of us realise. Should you happen to bump into Dr Colwell at any point, do say 'thanks'.



The SBR's finances have prudently been kept in a healthy state by our Junior Treasurer, Daniel de Carcenac. As the present Committee approaches the end of its Term in Office I'm even reliably informed that we have enough for a farewell party, with nibbles and everything.

### Summing-Up

At the start of the Easter Term 2001 SBR elections are almost upon us, and to the succeeding Committee, your predecessors would like to wish you all the very best. The year has flown by. The President, Committee and members of the SBR are now in a position to reflect on a thoroughly enjoyable year that has allowed us all to build on the friendly and pleasant atmosphere that surrounds the Samuel Butler Room; long may it continue!

**Richard Layfield**  
**President**

*With contributions from:*

**Rosalind MacLachlan**  
**Alex Weber**

### The Winfield Society

The College Law Society has enjoyed an extremely active and enjoyable year thus far, owing predominantly to the commitment and hard work of the present Committee members. As part of the welcome package that the Society provides for its newest members, a 'rough guide' to studying Law at Cambridge was produced and a drinks evening for Society members from all years was held in the first week of Term. However, the highlight of the first Term was undoubtedly the inaugural 'Freshers' Initiation' which combined the surefire ingredients to put even the meekest of first years at ease, namely alcohol, legal 'humour' and the ritual humiliation of one's peers. The occasion was highly enjoyable for all those who attended and ensured that the division of students according to year groups was quickly broken up and many new friends were made. I am quite sure that the rest of the Society's

upcoming events were anticipated with great relish by all those involved. Thanks to the generous support of Lovells law firm, later in the term, the Society was able to hold a delightful evening in La Mimosa restaurant comprising a three course meal, music and dancing. The event was very well attended, presumably owing to the fact that it didn't cost those present a penny.

The College Mooting Competition dominated the Society's time in the Lent Term. It involved three thrilling rounds of intense and high quality legal battle. All the first years were involved and representatives from the second and third years, interested in joining the Bar, showed that they were not too old to join in the fun and compete. The final itself was a well attended and appropriate climax with Professor Jack Beatson QC, Ms Melanie Farquharson (of Simmons and Simmons) and the ever reliable Dr David Fox presiding over the proceedings. After a hard fought and high class display, Alex Barden emerged as the winner and celebrated in his usual style by getting drunk on half a bottle of wine. In recent years the competition has gone from strength to strength, owing mainly to the hard work and time given by Dr Fox and Mr Nolan. I am confident that the whole Society is appreciative of their efforts.

A buffet, sponsored by Macfarlanes, was held in the Wordsworth Room shortly before Easter and a good time was had by all. Three trainee solicitors were at hand to share their experiences of choosing the right law firm and gaining a training contract for those interested in that side of the profession. The Annual Dinner has been postponed this year until the Easter Term but promises to live up to its usual billing as the highlight of the year. Added to the Garden Party and punting expedition, the final term should provide a feast of entertainment and merriment for the College's lawyers.

Finally, I would like to thank the rest of the present Committee: Michelle Menashy (Vice President), Owen Oliver (Social Secretary), Rachel Stephens (Treasurer) and Nicola Daybell (Secretary).

**Andrew Mold**  
**President**

## COLLEGE SOCIETIES

### The Adams Society

This has been a very busy year for the Adams Society. As well as holding the traditional events, the enthusiasm of the members enabled the Society to expand its activities, with more social gatherings which we hope will be continued in future years.

Our speaker meetings were very well attended and enjoyable (and some of them even contained some mathematics!). Thanks to the Society's prominent publicity, there were a significant number of people attending from other Colleges, and the Adams Society can now consider itself to be at the forefront of University mathematics societies.

Our first speaker for the year was Dr Piers Bursill-Hall. His talk entitled 'Why you should be glad you're not a Trinity mathmo' brought in an audience of over fifty (including a sizeable crowd of hecklers from next door) and had everyone rolling in the aisles with stories about Newton's various unpleasant habits. Our next speaker, Professor Geoffrey Grimmett, gave a fascinating talk on Brownian Motion, entitled 'Diffusion, Finance and Universality'. We concluded the term with Dr Paul Shellard's picture-filled talk on the origin of the universe, entitled 'Cosmology, Methods and Madness'.

The Lent Term began with PhD Student and former Adams Society President Richard Samworth telling us about some of the work he is doing in 'A Statistician's Apology'. Dr Ron Horgan's talk, 'Soap Films and the Casimir Effect', explained how soap films can help mathematicians to understand phenomena in Quantum Mechanics, and Dr Gabriel Paternain completed the bill with an illuminating lecture on 'The Entropy of Geodesic Flows'.

In addition to the wine receptions and Formal Halls before and after speaker meetings, the Adams Society has offered a number of social events to its members. In the Easter Term last year, the Ultimate Frisbee match against the Engineers was unfortunately rained out. However,

this was more than made up for by the glorious sunshine during our Garden Party. We were very fortunate to secure the Fellows' Garden, and managed to rope in a string quartet of mathematicians to accompany the croquet, strawberries and Pimms. May Week also saw a relaxing picnic on the backs, and a not so relaxing cricket match against Trinity Maths Society, which, despite some impressive batting displays, was sadly lost.

This sporting 'success' unfortunately carried on into the football matches held in the Michaelmas and Lent Terms, where we suffered defeat at the hands of both the Natscis and the Engineers (possibly something to do with me letting three goals through in the last five minutes...). Desperate to regain some confidence in our sporting ability we organised a pool competition in the Michaelmas Term and a table tennis competition in the Lent Term within the Society. However, even here the wooden spoon seemed to be more highly contested than the bottle of Champagne!

Fortunately, this year's members were better at socialising than sport. At the start of the Michaelmas Term, the Freshers' Squash provided an opportunity for the Freshers to meet the Society and, despite some spirited games of Twister, it thankfully did not reach last year's levels of liveliness! In the Michaelmas Term we held, for the first time, a very successful Dessert in the Wordsworth Room, which will hopefully become a regular event. In the Lent Term members enjoyed the trip to Kam's for an eat-as-much-as-you-like Chinese experience, but the highlight of the social calendar was the Annual Dinner, held in the Senior Combination Room. The evening got off to a lively start with pre-dinner drinks in the Master's Lodge. After dinner, former Adams Society President and Chair of Mathematics of the Royal Institute of Great Britain, Professor Chris Budd, entertained us with anecdotes from his time at John's.

What really made this year stand out from previous years was the tremendous support that we received from all the Fellows. Particular mention should go to our Senior Treasurer, Dr MacFarlane, and to the Master, Dr Johnstone, Dr Dörrzapf, Dr Telemann, Dr Nicholls and Dr

Garling, without whose help many of our events would not have been possible. I would also like to thank our members for their enthusiasm and the Committee, Pete Zimmerman, Sanjay Joshi, Rachel Borysiewicz and Neryssa Glithero, for their hard work. Good luck to Paddy Goodlet, next year's President, and I hope that the Society continues to thrive.

**Amanda Turner**  
President

### The Choir Association

Being asked to write for this magazine each year always provides the perfect opportunity for reflection. The year 2001 was something of an evolutionary milestone since it marked the tenth anniversary of the retirement of Dr George Guest as Director of the College Choir and with that the inception of what is now the Choir Association. I'm sure those of us around ten years ago will remember the many farewells and dinners which marked the occasion of George Guest's retirement. Not only did these draw to a close a remarkable era spanning some 40 years, they also provided an opportunity to reflect on the rise of the Choir from the relatively inconspicuous, to a position second to none in the realms of choral music, and one which it still enjoys today.

I was privileged to be a part of those early times, remembering as I do the first broadcasts by the BBC from the College Chapel in February 1957 and the first commercial recording 'Hear My Prayer' made in the summer term just two years later. I also recall on more than one occasion dining in College at reunions of The Old Choristers' Association – a body established by George Guest in 1955 to give support to the Choir – once or twice as a member of the 'Top Six', a group of Choristers whose identity could be traced to the reign of Charles II and Dr Gunning the Twenty Second Master, and again during the 1960s.

Alas though, as time went on the general enthusiasm for the OCA faded resulting in its eventual demise during the 1970s. I believe the Choral Scholars' Association suffered a similar fate at roughly the same time.

The resurrection, however, came during the Choristers' farewell to George Guest, when a direct request was made that the OCA should be brought back into being. This came immediately after a particularly lusty rendering of Parry's *I was Glad* sung in the College Chapel. Four years later the OCA became the Choir Association and the rest, as the saying goes, is history.

It was our good fortune that the tenth anniversary coincided with the College Open Weekend. In his address at the Reunion Dinner, George Guest spoke of those early times and the progress of the Choir through to the present day. He followed this by presenting bursaries to Graham Walker, currently studying 'Cello at the Royal Academy of Music, and to Geoffrey Silver, for whom a very promising career in the film industry lies on the horizon. Overall the evening was a time to enjoy good company, with good wine, comic songs from our Treasurer, Martin Redfearn, and the toast being made with the 'Tenth Anniversary Toasting Song' written, composed and performed by our very own Christopher Goodwins (BA 1959) – with audience participation, of course!

The following morning at the Eucharist, over thirty former members joined the College Choir for the Schubert *Mass in G* performed under the watchful eye of Christopher Robinson. This, for many of us, proved to be the highlight of the weekend.

So what of the future? It is our belief that the Association has a foundation which will guarantee its long term future. Along with this, financial security gives the ability to deliver on some of our set objectives. Thus, not only can assistance be provided to our Choir colleagues, that support envisaged almost fifty years ago can also be realised.

Not unexpectedly, we heard earlier in the year of Christopher Robinson's impending retirement. Christopher has done much for the Association and I know that, without exception, our members would like to thank him and wish him well for the future. However, the future also looks bright in the form of David Hill, his successor. We shall look forward to working closely with David when he takes up his appointment later next year.

**Alastair Roberts**  
Chairman

## The Classical Society

With the arrival of an Australian, a Spaniard and a group of enthusiastic, fresh-faced first years, the new academic year saw the ranks of the St John's Classical Society once again swell. Whether for love of classics, for a few CV points or to make up for a few late essays, I took on the 'poisoned chalice' of Society President, eager to build on the golden age of the Morrison/Evans era. Julia willingly took on the role of Secretary – gone was the egalitarianism of last year's Co-Presidency.

Despite the reversion to the old arrangement, the Classical Society has had another successful and enjoyable year. Professor Crook, amiable as ever, hosted the first meeting of the year, where the new faces of the Society enjoyed the more traditional aspects of Cambridge life, as Professors Crook and Schofield reminisced about old Society play readings and classical shanty recitals. The highlight of the first term was no doubt a talk given by Trinity College Dublin's Michael Clarke on the Odyssey and art – an insightful and thought-provoking talk that was enjoyed by all.

Then came the second term, the highlight of which was no doubt the infamous Desserts' party. Though perhaps less Bacchic and a little more symposiastic than previous years, it was a thoroughly pleasant occasion, where students saw a perhaps more light-hearted side to their supervisors, and supervisors a slightly more vocal and less nervous side to their students.

The year is far from over for the Society and the Easter Term promises to live up to the delights of the first two terms. There is talk of a video showing in the next few weeks, and in the distant future that lies beyond the exams, there are rumours of a garden party. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who throughout the year has made up for my disorganisation, memory lapses and downright inertia: Julia, for devising the seating plan, sorting out the finance and generally being an excellent Secretary; Dr König for organising the guest speaker and the garden party; Professor Schofield for booking the Wordsworth Room and sorting out the wines for the Desserts' party, and Professor



Crook for being such an excellent Treasurer, a charming host and an amusing Desserts' companion. In the words of Horace 'Da spatium vitae, Juppiter, multos, da, annos'

**Edward Green**

## **Cripptic**

After the great successes of the 2000-2001 season, the Cripptic team had a hard act to follow. Fortunately, many of last year's most talented players stayed on for another year so prospects at the beginning of the year looked rosy.

In competition with other College funny magazines, Cripptic had characteristically good form this year. In our first clash of the year, we were pitched against 'The Queens' Drain'. After three weeks of training, the team was keen to try out some of our new gags and we comprehensively defeated Queens' by 15 laughs to three.

Our next few fixtures were no real challenge. We were voted 'much funnier' than 'Roar' by 85% of Emmanuel students, and quoted by one Varsity Editor as being 'on a whole different level of hilarity' to 'Clare-ification'. Well done to team stalwart Dr Cripptic, now doing his fifth PhD – obviously just staying on to represent the old team, eh? Ha ha.

Our League performance was sadly not flawless as in previous years. Pitted against the Auld Enemy, the Jesus 'Red and Blackmail', we found ourselves two witticisms down at half time. Despite getting in a couple of good quips, we were defeated in the closing pages by a flurry of cheap puns and pithy comebacks from a strong Jesus edition. However, when Jesus were humiliatingly all out for 47 jokes at the hands of 'Tit Hall JCR News', they were forced to abandon their title hopes and we retain the trophy for another hysterical year.

The early rounds of the Cuppers competition proved to be a laughing matter for our League-hardened writers and John's fans saw us crush the Downing Griffin and Corpus' 'Corporeal'. The challenged stiffened

up with our semi-final against New Hall's 'Little Juicy Bits'. The match was closely contested but the Bits fell at the last hurdle with their 'inane gossip', leaving us facing our arch-rivals, Trinity, in the final.

The Trinity 'Travesty' has won Cuppers solidly for the last 456 years with the exception of their infamous disqualification in 1793 when, in the final with Cripptick (as it was then known), the Trinity Jester-in-Chief accidentally killed John's Senior Punmonger in the 'Olde Snogge Tree' challenge with a viciously barbed quibble.

It was with some trepidation then that we faced up to a particularly strong Trinity team. The match started badly for us with some particularly weak play from the comedy photo section. Trinity had enviable innuendo technique and put in some storming insinuations. As the half-way whistle blew, Trinity pulled out a surprise Ali G-style editorial, bringing down da house. It was a forlorn Cripptic squad that limped off the pages and back to the pavilion.

In the mists of our dejection, the Muse of Humour suddenly came upon us in the form of the Rev Macintosh, our replacement coach. With a simple nudity-based post-prandial anecdote, he filled our hearts with the spirit of comic genius and we rejoined the match invigorated. Landing joke after joke on our stunned opponents, we managed to bring the scores level. With 30 seconds to go, we drew on our trusty Crossword section and, with the final clue (24 across), we inched ahead and won the match!!

Well done to the whole team for a great season. Special thanks go to our Manager, Rev Dormor, to our top scorer, N Sivanandam, and to Player of the Season, C Rahtz. Best of luck to next year's team – we welcome the return of our sabbatical coach, Dr P Linehan. The new Captain and Secretary will be announced at the AGM on 11 June in the Fellows' Garden.

**Charlie Rahtz**

## The Economics Society

As any good social scientist will tell you, the nature of institutions is such that current members, and even leaders, are to an extent bound by what has gone before. Such indeed is the case with the Economics Society, which this year has in many ways continued the rather Gallic outlook employed by last year's continental Co-Presidents. Appropriately, the financial might of the Society continued unabated, as the coffers were filled with generous contributions from entertainment allowances and the omnipotent Associated Societies; a somewhat surprising lack of embezzlement from the outgoing Presidents ensured that the funds reached us relatively unscathed. Mention must first of all be made of the annual barbecue just before we took over leadership of the Society. Taking place under Cripps on a fine midsummer evening, this event inadvertently sparked a fire alert before the party decamped, via a rather hostile venue, to a somewhat more neutral one. Rumour has it the fish was delicious, if slightly s(p)oiled.

The new academic year started off successfully, with the traditional joint Freshers' Welcome Party including our friends from SPS. This was followed by an enthralling afternoon of book sales and course advice for the lucky newcomers. A fine evening of dining and conversation in Hall was enjoyed mid-term, but our next event had to wait until the Lent Term. A great time in the Wordsworth Room at the Annual Dinner was had by all, and I don't think the incomprehensible Russian joke, not to mention a special effort from the shorter Joint President, will be forgotten for some time. Suddenly summer is upon us, and through the red mist of exams we look forward to the frolics of the annual barbecue and the May Week garden party. Ours is truly a fortunate lot; long live the Economics Society.

**Adam Jackson and Dave Harding**  
Joint Presidents

## The Gentlemen of St John's

If the Gentlemen of St John's were a barometer (stay with me . . .), then this year's reading would have been stuck on *cool*. Never before has choral music, close harmony and finger clicking made pulses race so fast. Believe you me, there's a buzz in the air and it's going to sting you. Call 999, the Gents are HOT . . .

This is the kind of tat I could continue writing for the next couple of hundred words or so. Instead I'll get down to business and be honest with you. Though this is not to completely write off such a tabloid opening, for the past year *has* seen somewhat of a revolution in both the promotion and social status of the Gents. I do not want to scare off any long-time supporters of the group who may feel we are heading down the Charlotte Church route of music making, but we have certainly taken a great deal of time in addressing why we do what we do, and what is appealing, if anything, about the Gents. In the course of which, the website has been redesigned by our in-house computer hacker, Lester Lardenoye, who spent much of his holidays scanning photos and writing lines of computer code, living solely on Easter eggs and tea. On the other side of the culture coin, the Gents have been seen cavorting with the stars of stage and screen, including Countdown's Richard Whitely, Bargain Hunt's David Dickinson, and the Royal Family's Duke of Edinburgh. The crested record bag, sported for both its functional and aesthetic qualities, is a new addition to the Gents' fashion rail, turning heads of jealous onlookers in their droves, and sales of the recently reproduced 'Mix Well' CD are indicating that it is only a matter of time before we are invited to perform an unplugged set on MTV. Of course, none of this would have been possible, nor would have had a purpose, were it not for the fact that we have done a great deal of performing this year.

In truth, I believe this has been the busiest 365 days that the Gents have had for some time. We kicked off the schedule last September with a memorable concert in aid of the NSPCC at Snape Maltings in Suffolk, the home of Benjamin Britten's opera school, and host to a large number of performances by some of the great musicians of this world. Indeed,

on this very night we were fortunate to be billed alongside Joan Rodgers and Steuart Bedford, as well as the Pro Arte Quartet and the actress Jane Lapotaire. Gala evenings of this sort, organised to raise money for various charities, are very popular and this was just the first of a number in which we took part this year. At Christmas, amongst a full diary of engagements with both the College Choir and visits to local parishes for Gents' concerts, we were able to sing in the Landmark Hotel, London, for the Animal Health Trust. This was a rather stressful event, which played heavily on our patience. The Princess Royal was in attendance and thus the event organisers were not happy to let a stitch go unnoticed. In the end, we had an enjoyable evening and were even able to show off the variety of talents within the group, through the medium of Mike Anderson, who heroically sat astride the piano stool for a number of hours, entertaining the dining guests with his jazz.

It is the nature of such events that we often attract future engagements through performing at them, and therefore Christmas proved to be a very important and productive time for the group. Contacts were made and more recently we once again travelled down to London to sing at the Savoy hotel, where we encountered a difficult audience who, on reflection, probably never knew we had arrived. Good food and dinner table conversation seemed to have been more engaging than *Somewhere over the Rainbow*. It is at awkward times such as that, that the Gents prove their professionalism and commitment to performance, and that is a virtue that I have recognised as Manager this year in all of the Gents

As the Easter Term draws to a close, we will be appointing a new Manager. He will have a great deal to look forward to. It has taken some time, but the Gents' recording of Mouton's music is finally on its way to the shops; a number of future engagements have already been booked, and no doubt the group will be playing an important role in the celebrations for Dr Robinson's retirement next July. Furthermore, it looks very likely at this time that the Gents will be making a trip to Australia and Singapore in August, followed by a tour to Holland during September. No doubt whoever steps into my shoes will be taking control by then, and I wish him all the best. To conclude, I would like to thank every member of the group this year for their continued support

and patience, and, on a more personal level, thank the College Choir and School for an inspirational and unforgettable nine years. Amen.

**Iestyn Davies**  
Manager

### The History Society

This year the History Society welcomed five speakers to St John's for informal discussions in the evenings on a wide range of topics.

The first of the year's speakers was Dr Mark Goldie of Churchill College, giving a talk entitled 'Choosing by Lot' and throwing up the question of whether our government would be more representative and fair if chosen at random from among the population.

Professor Peter Clarke, formerly a Fellow of St John's, now Master of Trinity Hall, joined us to give a very popular talk on 'The Demise of Political Ideology in the Twentieth Century' early in November, and a lively debate followed.

Our final speaker for the Michaelmas Term was Professor Donald Cameron Watt, from the London School of Economics, giving a thought-provoking talk on 'The Museum of the Holocaust' and the use of documents and artefacts as evidence.

The new year opened with a very jolly talk by Professor Arthur Marwick of the Open University, debating 'The Nature of History: Knowledge, Evidence, Language' and offering an opportunity for an vibrant discussion afterwards.

Then finally, Ms Bee Wilson, Fellow of St John's, entertained us with a discussion on 'The Art of Eating in Nineteenth Century France', providing humorous anecdotes and even some cakes to sample.

Our final event, and for many the highlight of the calendar, was the Annual Dinner in the Senior Combination Room. Our after-dinner speaker for this year was Sir John Keegan, prominent military historian

and Defence Editor for The Daily Telegraph. Following speeches the dinner was followed by the supping of the 'Loving Cup,' passed around from person to person true to tradition.

I would like to thank the undergraduate Committee for their help this year, and also Dr Linehan, our Senior Treasurer, for his guidance and humour in various matters. To the new Committee, I would like to wish the best of luck in organising another year of entertaining and stimulating speakers, though I am sure they will not need it.

**Anita Moss**  
**President**

### The JCR

Writing this at the end of April, a few months after the end of our term in office, I suddenly feel deeply nostalgic about the JCR experience. At the time, I didn't believe I could ever miss those unbearably long Sunday meetings, the pigeon-holing and mopping up after ents, but I do and now, when old JCR members pass each other in College, we share a sense of solidarity and friendship that could only come from 3am conversations in the Fisher Building. I can only mention a few of the things we got up to over the year and I can't put into words the moments of madness we all experienced, but I hope this gives you some idea of what we spent our time and money on.

We got elected in February and set about making St John's a comfier place. The previous JCR had set a brilliant example with the successful bar refurbishment and we turned our hand to redoing the 'Somalian airport lounge' that was the JCR. Thanks to the generosity of College and the efficiency of Maintenance and the Lady Superintendent's Offices, the new JCR opened after the summer filled with huge five-seater sofas, armchairs and even those sticks you hang newspapers from. A trip to Ikea later, the lighting and decor was complete and we could welcome the Freshers to a much happier social space. The new, free tea and coffee became the focus of many a JCR discussion as we

constantly restacked the little milk cartons that disappeared at an alarming rate.

In June, we campaigned desperately to reduce the proposed rent rise. Alongside the SBR, Johan and I entered negotiations armed with ever increasing student debts. We were happy with what we were able to achieve, and wish the new JCR the very best of luck in continuing to negotiate peaceably with the Bursars.

Despite the revolutionary instincts of some members of the JCR Committee, we all quickly learned that the essential functions of the JCR are the mundane, day-to-day jobs: the newspaper rota, bogsheeting, photocopying. I must thank my Committee for their tireless devotion to detail. Anna Seale, who kept superb minutes, Frances Robinson, who produced artistic and amusing bogsheets, and Alex Barden who made over 500 NUS cards, all kept the JCR efficiently ticking over. Jamilah Meghji energetically pursued all those in need of 'welfaring' and Johan Duramy was always at my side, both as Treasurer and Vice-President, to keep a sharp eye on my tendency to go into town with the chequebook.

Some of the most satisfying, and most time-consuming, achievements were made possible by Tancredi Tincani's computer skills. His willingness to fix anybody's computer problem became one of the great JCR services. Present at every meeting and critical moment, Tancredi led us out of the computer virus crisis and brilliantly redesigned the website and Freshers' Handbook.

Rob Jenrick catered for the academic side of student life, diligently attending Library meetings and helping us get through the hell of exam term. He campaigned hard for an academic complaints procedure, which is now in use, and his intrigues at Varsity kept the JCR entertained on many a long Sunday evening.

As the first ever Access Officer, Ad Cloherty thoroughly justified his position and initiated a successful shadowing scheme which gave school students the chance to experience University life. He built up a staggering number of target schools volunteers and worked hard with Admissions on the Eagle Project.

Ents are the most visible JCR activity and Hannah Bennett succeeded in creating popular, University-wide entertainment. The scenery was fantastic, the drinks cheap and however hard we tried, cheese always crept into the musical line-ups. Tristan Smith replaced Mike Dixon as Boiler Room President early on in our term and managed to overcome booking problems to put on memorable, alternative music nights. Tristan and Hannah joined forces in May Week and staged a brilliant June Ent. Equipped with walkie-talkies, the JCR gained new heights of self-importance and Tristan and Ad took on gatecrashers with remarkable energy. The May Ball marquee outside Cripps was a highlight and helped create a really sophisticated atmosphere for an ent that actually made money for the JCR.

Freshers' Week saw the JCR clad in rugby shirts, trying to reassure both the Freshers and themselves that everything was going to be just fine. The week was a real test of JCR organisation and friendship, but passed with only a few of us embarrassing ourselves. The new year saw the creation of a new, online phone list. Anna breathed a sigh of relief, as typing and photocopying became a thing of the past. Many thanks must go to Dave Singleton for all his help with making the new phone list a possibility.

With the filming of the BBC's Inspector Lynley Mysteries in College in November, John's and over one hundred Johnian extras became momentarily famous. Unfortunately, fame turned to infamy by the end of the term and a number of national newspapers reported stories of drunkenness at St John's. Alcohol and discipline became hot topics for the JCR and inspired emergency open meetings and desperate letters to angry members of the public, assuring them we were not the depraved students the *Mail on Sunday* might like us to be. Eventually, the media interest died down. By then, we'd all been firmly reminded that there is a real world outside these walls.

After the end of our term, Kate Scott, Women's Officer, saw the fruition of all her work on the Women's Dinner that celebrated twenty years of women at John's. It was a fantastic evening, attended by female alumni and male and female students. Adam Brown's presence at every College

event with a camera in hand paid off with the production of a fantastic yearbook, filled with embarrassing pictures.

I think we all enjoyed our year on the JCR and I hope we achieved things someone somewhere actually wanted. We could not have done anything at all without the invaluable help of Mr Jobling, the College staff and in particular, the Domestic Bursar, Commodore Harris, who gave great advice and support. The surprise success of RON (re-open nominations) in the elections for JCR President gave me the chance to work with the new Committee before a real-life President could be elected. So, I am able to say without hesitation that I'm sure they will do a fantastic job and I wish them every good luck for the year to come.

**Liz Prochaska**  
President

### The Johnian Society

At the Committee meeting held in September 2001, Sir Mark Moody-Stuart was elected President of the Society and Sir Kevin Tebbit was elected Vice-President. Mr Geraint Lewis was elected an Ordinary Member of the Committee for six years from 1 January 2002.

This year the Society's Committee again decided to increase its financial support of the College's activities. It made a capital gift of £12,000 to set up a Johnian Society Access Exhibition Fund to provide support for students through the College's new Bursary Scheme, and has agreed to make further gifts of £1,000 per year for five years. Three Johnian Society Access Exhibitions were awarded this year. In addition, the Society has provided funding to increase the value and number of Johnian Society Travel Exhibitions offered to current students.

As usual, the golf competition organised by John Loosley last year was a great success. The Johnian Society Golfers presented the College with a set of framed prints of St John's, which now hang in the Bar, to be enjoyed by all members of College. The Johnian Society Dinner took place on Saturday 15 December 2001 and the toast was proposed by Sir Richard Aikens, President of the Society.



We are delighted that the Johnian Society of the USA (JSUSA) has now been launched. We would like to thank Marc Feigen, Chairman of the JSUSA, and the whole Committee, for their hard work in setting up the Society. The members of the Organizing Committee are: Michael Bareau, Paul Droar, Marc Feigen, Angela Garcia, Paul Hammer, Andrew Jacovides, Neil Law Malcolm, Michael Neiditch, Humphry Rolleston, Richard Thompson, Kevin Tierney. We are very much looking forward to developing the links between the two Societies.

**Catherine Twilley**  
**Secretary**

### The Music Society

The Society has continued to maintain its presence as one of the largest and most active music societies in Cambridge, whilst also providing performance opportunities for musicians of every standard in College.

The unfortunate absence of Jennie-Helen Moston due to serious illness meant that the Society was temporarily without a President. The interregnum was skilfully handled by Chris Whitton, who duly ensured the election of a somewhat incapacitated Acting President. Our meetings in the pleasant surroundings of Dr Johnstone's rooms were temporarily abandoned in favour of a location with fewer stairs!

The large intake of musical Freshers was very pleasing and certainly made sure the Squash was a truly entertaining event. Though there seems to have been reluctance amongst more senior undergraduate members to partake in the long-standing tradition of Music Society Cocktails, our newest members have revived this interest throughout the year!

The Freshers have also made a particularly impressive contribution to the lunchtime recital series throughout the year, and indeed this series has been managed by first year Music student Kim Townsend. Running weekly in Full Term, every member of College who wishes to do so has an opportunity to perform in the New Music Room. This leads to concerts which are both interesting and musically diverse – from Mike

Anderson and his jazz trio to Lizzie Ball's University Instrument Award Holders String Quartet.

A new initiative this year has been the development of a recital series for outstanding performers who have an association with the College. These 'late-night' recitals have taken place in the Chapel and the New Music Room. Memorable performances have been Catherine Dawson's solo 'cello recital and Tom Evans' fantastic 'run' of Brahms' *Violin Concerto*. These have been very popular, and the high attendance numbers have enabled us to take a substantial sum of money for Cancer Research UK in retiring collections.

The Saturday organ recitals have continued to thrive; though attendance for these is somewhat dependent on the weather, as is true for the lunchtime recitals. The standard of performance has been exceptional – with contributions from the highest calibre of Organ Scholars and occasional visits from organists outside Cambridge. The Johnian Organ Students, Chris Whitton and Jonathan Vaughn, have both performed repertoire to an impressive standard at these concerts.

Amongst these numerous and diverse activities the Society has put on two large scale Term Concerts this year, with a College Orchestra and with the St John's Singers. We have been delighted to welcome Gabi Maas to the Music Society Committee, who has given Lizzie Ball invaluable help in orchestral fixing – undoubtedly the most time-consuming aspect of concert organisation.

In the Michaelmas Term the programme was predominantly French, the exception being Grieg's *Holberg Suite*. We were most fortunate to welcome Christopher Robinson to the conductor's podium for this item and for Chris Whitton's distinguished performance of Poulenc's *Organ Concerto*. This was followed by a moving performance of Fauré's *Requiem*, conducted by Jonathan Vaughn, and the exceptional soloists James Birchall and Olly Lepage-Dean delighted and thoroughly impressed the audience.

The St John's Singers have gone from strength to strength this year, singing at two Eucharists and an Evensong as well as keeping their regular concert schedule. Having taken their *Revenge* on Sir Charles

Villiers Stanford last year, they progressed to yelling – sorry – telling, the Glory of God in Josef Haydn's Oratorio, the *Creation*. Parts I and II formed the entire Lent Term Concert, with the help of soloists Madeleine and Martin Shaw (Acting Dean of King's College) and Nicholas Mulroy. Few will forget the spectacular burst of light which shook the very depths of the Chapel when Jonathan Vaughn (aided by the Senior Organ Scholar) transformed darkness and chaos into brightness and order, nor Martin Shaw's intimate reflection of the 'sinuous traces of the worm.' Indeed, a notable contingent of our friends down the road helped to make this concert a success.

The St John's Singers built on their musical successes with their first ever Singers' dinner. This extraordinary event had the touch of class and excitement that we have come to expect at Music Society social functions. Thanks should go to their Conductor, Jonathan Vaughn, for organising this spectacular event as well as to Ivan Guevara for his unfailing commitment to arranging social events for the Committee.

The St John's Players (the College's non-auditioning orchestra) have been conducted by Tom Evans and Graham Roberts, meeting weekly and rehearsing music by Schubert, Mozart and Beethoven. Numbers have been steady – though there is always room for more, particularly in the string section. They plan to present their efforts in a concert in Chapel this term.

Dr Castelvechi's Sabbatical has meant that the managing of Master's Lodge Concerts has fallen to the President and the Professor of Music. These concerts have nevertheless been excellent in standard, with ever-increasing audience sizes, and a varied range of musical styles. It is pleasing to see significant numbers of undergraduates attending these extremely popular concerts.

The SCR concert in February attracted a good number of undergraduates in the audience, as well as several members of the Fellowship, and all bore witness to the very highest level of music-making from College musicians. The exciting programme included a memorable performance of Chopin and Rachmaninov from pianist Nicolette Wong.

Undoubtedly the highlight of our musical activities this year was the recent charity concert in Chapel. Lizzie Ball gave a superb rendition of Tchaikovsky's *Violin Concerto*, and the orchestra benefited from the experience and expertise of Leo Hussain (Old Johnian) to conduct this piece, as well as Mozart's *Haffner Symphony* and Beethoven's *Egmont Overture*. We performed to an appreciative and generous audience, raising over £700 for Cancer Research UK.

The May Concert in 2001 was, as always, a spectacular occasion. Ed Lyon's portrayal of Britten's *St Nicholas* was superb, and though the temperature inside the College Hall was extremely high, the audience formed a rousing chorus to sing the two hymns which are such an impressive feature of this piece. This year's concert also promises to be an exciting event, with Choral Student Olly Wright and Music Society President Jennie-Helen Moston narrating Walton's *Façade*. The St John's Singers will join the College Choir to sing Brahms' *Liebeslieder Waltzes* under the expert baton of Dr Robinson.

Thanks must go to Chairman Dr Johnstone for his generous hospitality at Committee meetings, Dr Glasscock for his endless patience and good humour in managing the finances of the Society, Chris Whitton for his valuable advice and Salima Virji for her tireless efforts in supporting the President. Thanks also to those members of the Committee who have worked hard to make this year a musical success. It only remains for me, on behalf of the Society, to wish Jennie-Helen a full and speedy recovery; we very much hope that she will be back next year to contribute to the musical life of the College.

**Helen Pattinson**  
Acting President

### **The Norman Henry Society**

The Norman Henry Society began the year by rising phoenix-like, if not from the ashes then from some delightful brandy flambée or similar. At the end of last year things were looking a little grim, with attendance

very low. It seemed as if students were losing their taste for wine, and that the Society's days were numbered. In order to recruit more people, especially Freshers, I took along a stall to the College Societies' Fair. The first of many thanks must go to Dr Johnstone for providing me with wine to give samples of, at remarkably short notice. Although Catering and Conference's rules about wine in the Palmerston Room meant we were only able to give it away for a little while, surprising amounts had been drunk, hopefully not resulting in too many people merrily signing their lives away to rowing/badminton/chess etc.

The first meeting was the classic 'Introduction to the College Cellars', where Dr Johnstone presents a variety of wines, including some rather tasty ones normally reserved for feasts. Those new to the Society responded with the appropriate saucer eyes when told just *how* many bottles of wine were under New Court, and the excellent turnout was a good indication of things to come. There was a slight dip in attendance for the next tasting – 'Spanish Wines' – but this is attributable more to a hectic start to the year and a small glitch in the publicity machine rather than any lack of quality. It looked like it was curtains for the Society again when Matthew Moss and I nearly forgot to attend the Societies meeting – but our eleventh hour plea for funding worked, much to our relief!

Next we welcomed the first of our guest speakers, Brett Turner from Cambridge Wine Merchants, with a range of bargains from their shop. There was a nice one from Quincy with labels stuck on lopsidedly by the chateau owner's Grandma, a delicious German one in an ugly bottle, and a Bordeaux that was a bargain because it would be stunning in 12 years – and it tasted like it needed the wait! It was a good evening, and well followed by Jacky Sutton-Adam from the Cambridge Cheese Shop. The unbelievably squishy cheese from the Italian Alps and Pont l'évêque gave the Wordsworth Room a unique aroma, whilst a first-class farmhouse Leicester kept traditionalists happy! The final event of term was a post-prandial whisky tasting. Despite some undergraduates' requests to bring coke as a mixer, the evening was very informative, and although not much of a whisky drinker myself, it was a highly enjoyable evening and a fitting end to a good term.

Lent Term started with Dr Choroba introducing a range of Franconian wines. Armed with a big German Wine atlas, and persuading us that German wines don't have to be sweet, he presented an excellent variety – and looking past the slightly kitsch Matthéus rosé shaped bottles, we were (almost all) persuaded too! Next came the annual pâté tasting, where Professor Matthews presented a great range of home-made pâtés, including some more unusual combinations. The evening was a gastronomic success although those who attended were somewhat full for Hall!

Next it was my turn. Never having done a wine tasting before, I relied greatly on my family (who put up with me loading up our car with 4 boxes of Savoie wine during our New Year break to France), the internet, and Norman Henry's library, which currently resides in the basement of the College Library, and is a mine of information about pretty much everything alcoholic. The fact that it was a joint tasting with the Modern Languages Society led to my cracking some truly abymes-mal bilingual puns, but the wines made up for the poor quality jokes, and I certainly enjoyed myself at the best (and only) wine tasting I've ever done!

The last event of the year was the Annual Dinner. It was an upbeat end to the year, with a Provençale menu (Soupe au Pistou, Esquinado of crab, Daube d'Agneau and Tarte au Citron) accompanied by some delicious wines – especially the Muscat de beaunes de Venise – and an excellent LBV port. In contrast to last year, we filled the Wordsworth Room to capacity, with an excellent showing from all years, and my parents (by way of apology for the car!!). When the wine started flowing the conversation followed and an excellent (and educational, as Matthew and I had explained at the funding meeting) evening was had by all.

All that remains is for me to hope our planned tour of the College Cellars takes place this term, and to thank the Committee for their hard work – my only real job has been to get bums on seats! I also want to thank all the people who came along – you're a great vintage, and I wish my successor every luck!

**Frances Robinson**  
Junior Secretary

### The Purchas Society

The example set by the previous year was always going to be a tough act to follow, but despite testing times for the Society, Purchas has emerged unscathed and fighting fit. After briefly drifting into troubled waters, the Society quickly got back on course under the guidance of Rachel Lloyd as Purchas Secretary. We all thank Rachel for her timely efforts and wish her every success for her Presidential year.

The Purchas year closed in appropriate fashion, as Purchasians and non-Purchasians alike converged on the Fellows' Garden to enjoy the annual garden party. A cast of the good and the great from the Geography Department had been gathered to join in this Purchas tradition. We were blessed with glorious sunshine and a magnificent spread, kindly laid out by Dr Bayliss-Smith. Guests had been urged to come dressed Melanesian, Mallorcan or Purchasian, and Purchas himself would have been proud of the imaginative interpretations made. Purchasians' mastery of all 'trades' was aptly demonstrated by Matt Coode, with his medley of pineapple styles. Much fun was had by all, and the sounds of laughter and people playing croquet could be heard as the sun went down on another successful year.

Purchas had lost numerous devoted members, Joanna Collins and Jonno Angliss to name but a few, but the Society was soon bolstered by a new intake of geographers (and land economist) eager to continue in the Purchas tradition. The Purchas tea party passed without mishap and founded some close inter-year relationships, and was followed shortly afterwards by the infamous Paddlings.

Purchas strives to bring the world to St John's, in homage of the late, great Samuel, and a very diverse set of tales were recalled at Paddlings, where Purchasians report back to the Society on a summer of adventure. We were told of the accidental meeting of two fellow Purchasians in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, and of Graham Busby's 'friendship' with the cast of 'Neighbours' while 'Down Under.' Closer to home, we heard of Will Eckersley's romantic holiday slaughtering deer in Scotland, and for some quite unknown reason, a new recruit saw fit to bring along a tin of dog food to illustrate his round-the-world tales. However, that

evening it was Sam Wring in particular who stood out as a rising star in the Society . . .

Purchasians also set about sharing their good fortune with less fortunate College geography societies, and fun was had by all involved with the Girton-John's Hall swap. This was a new endeavour for Purchas and will hopefully be followed up in the future with other social activities of a similar nature. The long tradition of Purchas Desserts was continued at the end of the Lent Term and resulted in an indulgent evening in the Wordsworth Room, with Dr Bayliss-Smith pointing out that Purchas himself may have enjoyed similar luxuries in his day!

On a more intellectual level, one speaker of note during the year was Dr Phil Howell. An undoubtedly high point in the midst of a dreary week was his vivid depiction of the sex lives (and their spatiality) of students during the nineteenth century. The controversial issues raised left many Purchasians in discussion long into the night.

The Annual Dinner took place on 7 May, a thoroughly enjoyable evening for all. Dr Steve Trudgill, as our guest speaker, entertained us with some considerations on the role of geography in the twenty-first century, with special emphasis upon the jargon-fuelled discipline of cultural geography and the prevalence of dog cemeteries in fields of geographical enquiry! This was followed with the Presidential speech and the granting of the Purchas awards. Felicity Shaw winning the J-Cloth award deserves a special mention. The elections for the posts of responsibility within the Society ended the evening, with a high level of competition. Sam Wring inherited the prestigious role of Secretary, and will be ably assisted by Marie Cruise and Gareth Roberts, as Treasurer and Librarian respectively. I wish Rachel, once again, a successful Presidential year as I, and my fellow third-years, reminisce about many fond Purchas moments.

Long live the Purchas Society!

**Oliver Snoddy**  
President

## The SBR

Our graduate body is a very diverse and multicultural group, with people studying subjects as varied as volcanoes, penguins, Roman antiquities and German political history. It has been an action packed year, and it was our aim from the start to continue to build and maintain an active, friendly and social graduate community.

The first social event of the year was the annual Garden Party. This year, there was the added bonus of a bouncy castle for the kids, and we were certainly not short of strawberries and cream, nor Pimm's and lemonade (we still have cases left over!). Then came Freshers' Fortnight. It was a huge programme as usual: drinks reception, pub quiz, Fellow's tour of College, courtesy of Dr Macintosh, pub crawl, treasure hunt, Hawaiian party, video nights, wine and cheese party, Teddy Bear's picnic, Women's Lunch (in conjunction with Lucy Cavendish College), walk to Grantchester, punt trip down the Cam... It was quite a fortnight. The new students had plenty of chances to get to know their way around Cambridge and the University, meet lots of new people, and by all accounts it was a very enjoyable and social start to their time here.

Throughout the remainder of the year, our energetic and tireless Social Officers, Amanda and Björn, worked very hard to bring a constant stream of social events to keep the graduates entertained. Amongst many others, highlights include the sold-out Christmas dinner in Hall, complete with a brass band, trips to the theatre, musicals and concerts, a Ghost Walk around Cambridge, pub quiz in the SBR, various trips to London for exhibitions and shows, a mini-bus trip to Alton Towers amusement park, another sold-out Graduate Hall and party (kindly sponsored by our Senior Treasurer, Dr Sue Colwell) in honour of the 100th anniversary of Samuel Butler's death, a trip to Milton Brewery, and the party highlight of the year, 'The Dance Chamber' dance party in the School of Pythagoras, featuring the band Babelfish and DJ Vishal. Thanks must also go to Bill Gibson, who organised a series of Murder Mystery parties in the SBR for all to enjoy, thus staging deaths in as far flung places as the Mediterranean, Egypt, and Down Under.

In the spirit of intercollegiate harmony, our External Officers Gemma and Sadaf organised exchange halls with nearly half the Colleges in Cambridge: New Hall, Trinity, Magdalene, Trinity Hall, Darwin, Wolfson, Queens', Churchill, King's, Lucy Cavendish, Girton and St Catharine's. Now with this much skill in external liaising, they could surely have a bright future in international diplomacy!

On a more day-to-day level, we have continued to provide various services to SBR members. Port and sherry is served before and after every BA table every week, in and out of term time. Free coffee and tea is in constant supply in the SBR, making the room an ideal meeting place to relax, chat, or read the newspapers (having now found a more reliable newsagent for deliveries!). We have also re-introduced a weekly Coffee and Cakes evening, which has been very well received, drawing in anything up to 40 graduates on Wednesday nights to catch up over free cakes and coffee. The one downside to the SBR 'world of entertainment' was the demise of NTL cable TV. Disconnected in February, we have not been able to afford to switch to the much more expensive alternative supplier Sky.

There has also been substantial redecoration of the SBR itself, headed by Dave our Junior Treasurer, and Gemma and Amanda, wearing their interior décor consultant hats. In the TV room, wall-to-wall carpet has been fitted, the glaring light bulb has been replaced with tasteful spot lights and upright lamps, and new luxurious couches have been put in, creating a much more pleasant atmosphere to indulge some couch-potato tendencies. A new rug is to be purchased also for the main room, and new chairs and coffee tables were also installed. Thanks go to the Lady Superintendent's Department and College for their help and subsidy of this work. Catching up to the internet age, we now also have an iMac in the vestibule for emailing and web surfing. To keep everyone up to date on what's happening, Dave and Björn redesigned and regularly updated the SBR website, and there is always an endless supply of information posters and notices around the room and in the hostel, courtesy once again of Dave's sign-writing skills (some would say obsession . . . !).



On the more political level, there has been a lot of controversy about CUSU/Graduate Union integration. Last year's referendum gave a nearly 90% majority in favour of integrating the two student bodies. But since then, there has been a long series of delays, discussions, remodelling, and general debate of the process. The situation as it stands currently, some would argue, could give an even greater divide between CUSU and GU, something which we fought very hard against. Nevertheless, we continue to participate in the discussions, hoping to get the best model possible in light of the current state of play.

Student hardship has been on the agenda for some years now, and the Graduate Bursary Scheme was introduced this year, after a lot of hard work from SBR Committee Members past and present, and also from Senior Members of College. The scheme operates by setting up a minimum maintenance grant level which College considers necessary for a reasonable quality of life, then topping up existing grants where there is a shortfall. It is available to all graduates, with immediate effect. The Committee believes that this will make an enormous difference to the lives of many graduates who would otherwise be struggling to get by, and we are very grateful to College for the support. In particular, I would like to thank Cam Grey and Danny Mansergh, a past and our current Welfare Officer, who worked very hard with College in developing this scheme, and Dr Sue Colwell for all her efforts within College Committees in bringing this to fruition.

Having reclaimed the School of Divinity in the Triangle Site on St John's Street, College has been considering for sometime now about its redevelopment. One possibility has been to use at least parts of it for 'in-College' student accommodation. After a survey of Junior Members' views, College arranged a site visit in conjunction with the JCR and SBR. It was an informative tour, and gave participants a much better idea of the possibilities. The SBR Committee has also begun discussions with College to re-evaluate the way that Kitchen Fixed Charge is currently levied on graduate students. The hope is that once we are able to obtain sufficient data, alternative models could be explored, which may allow a more flexible method of charging.

As this eventful SBR term of office comes to a close, I would like to say a huge 'thank you' to my Committee, who are always ready to help in any way possible, regardless of their portfolio. They have made my job as President so much easier: Dave 'super-organisation' Curran for making sense and sorting out the accounts, as well as doing just about every odd job there is around the SBR; Ali Jazayeri for his efforts as Secretary; Amanda Fuller and Björn Stenger for all their time and energy in organising so many events; Gemma Drew and Sadaf Shadan for taking the time to liaise with all the Colleges and taking the exchange halls; Danny Mansergh for being a great Welfare Officer and tackling issues from student finance to hostel security; and Tony Harrison, the JCR Liaison Officer, for keeping up the good relationships with the JCR. Last, but definitely not least, Dr Sue Colwell, for all her fantastic support and help throughout the year, and being such a champion for us graduate students within College.

**Felix Ho**  
**President**

### **The Winfield Society**

The College Law Society is proud to have played host to an extremely hectic and enjoyable year. Our first event, a drinks evening, provided a great chance for lawyers of all years to mingle and put the first years at their ease. The evening was very well-attended and ensured that any year-group divisions were quickly dissolved.

Once again the pinnacle of the Winfield social calendar was the Annual Dinner, which took place on 2 February, in Hall with drinks in the Wordsworth Room following the meal. It certainly lived up to its reputation as an evening of fine food and free-flowing wine. Again, this event was well attended by current students and we were delighted to welcome back alumni, many of whom had travelled long distances to join us for the evening. Thanks to the generous support of Allen & Overy, the dinner was heavily subsidised for current students.

The College Mooting Competition proved to be a particularly exciting event, with many supporters gathering to watch the high quality legal battle of the final round. This was the perfect opportunity for all our would-be barristers to show off their talents and receive helpful tips from the judges, His Honour Judge Norris, Ms Melanie Farquharson and Mr Parker. Congratulations to Daniel Bovensiepen, Joelle Parkinson and Jeremy Levy who impressed Dr Fox and Mr Parker enough to make the final cut, and to the overall winner, Adam Cloherty. Many thanks to Emily McKechnie and Alex Barden (last year's winner) for ably assisting the judges and also for doing the College proud with their win at the Brick Court Senior Mooting Competition. We are, as always, grateful to Simmons & Simmons for their continued support of this intense and thrilling event.

The punt party to Grantchester, a well-deserved celebration of the end of exams, will take place in May Week and we are looking forward to a traditionally high turn out for this fun and stress-relieving event.

Finally, I would like to thank the Winfield Committee for their commitment, hard work and support throughout the year. I have really enjoyed working with them. This year's Committee is Simon Burrows (Vice-President), Sam Brown (Treasurer), Katherine Dobson (Secretary) and Alice Coopman (Social Secretary). We would also like to thank Dr Fox, our Senior Treasurer, for his continued help and support.

**Rachel Stephens**  
**President**

## COLLEGE SOCIETIES

### The Adams Society

It has been a very successful year for the Society, with numerous speaker meetings as well as a variety of social engagements.

Our speaker meetings were well attended and drew large crowds from other colleges as well as members of St John's and even some non mathematicians, further establishing the Society as one of the most active in the University.

Dr Tom Korner kicked off proceedings at the start of Michaelmas Term with a talk entitled "From waves to wavelets" before the enigmatic Dr Colin Wright of the University of Liverpool gave a splendid talk on the mathematical theory of juggling, complete with some marvellous demonstrations. Dr David McKay of the Cavendish Laboratory gave the final presentation of the term on how statistics can be misused, often with serious consequences, as in the case of Sally Clark, a woman convicted of murder in 1999.

There were three more meetings after Christmas; Dr Marcus Kuhn of the Cambridge computer laboratory explained the ins and outs of computer security before the sparkling Dr Bursill-Hall (minus beard) gave an amusing account of the life of Galileo. The final meeting of the year saw PhD student and resident Johnian Richard Samworth speak on "Why mathematicians are obsessed with normality".

In addition to the wine receptions and formal Halls accompanying speaker meetings, the Society has offered a number of social events to its members. Michaelmas Term saw the return of the annual Desserts, an event that is fast becoming one of the highlights of the calendar. The annual dinner was as popular as ever and this year we were graced with the presence of Professor Pelham Wilson, a Johnian and former Adams Society President, but currently a member of Trinity College (well, nobody's perfect), who entertained us all with his tales from his time at Cambridge.

As ever, the support of the Fellows was critical to the Society's success. Particular mention should go to our Senior Treasurer Dr MacFarlane, who is retiring this year, as well as our tutors, Dr Nicholls, Dr Dörrzapf and Dr Garling, without whose immense contributions many of our events would not be possible. I'd also like to thank my Committee, Rachel Borysiewicz, Sorin Basca, Philippa Hannaby and Martin O'Leary who is also next year's President. I wish him and the Society the best of luck for the future.

**Paddy Goodlet**  
President

### The Choir Association

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of Dr. George Guest in November. A significant proportion of our membership served under him during his term of office as College Organist from 1951 and 1991. It was fitting, therefore, that so many attended the memorial service in Chapel in May to celebrate his life and his work. An obituary appears on pp.68-73.

The annual reunion took place in College on 6 July 2002. The AGM was followed by Evensong in the College Chapel and later by Dinner in the Wordsworth Room. Two other gatherings took place during the year, the first in Herefordshire over the weekend of 27/28 July and the second in London on 13th December.

The 2002 bursary was awarded to Alastair Brookshaw, a volunteer Choral Scholar in the College Choir. Alastair sought funding in order to take a lead role in the Cambridge University Gilbert and Sullivan Society's production of *The Pirates of Penzance*. This took place at the Minack Theatre in Cornwall during September. Since he would like to pursue a career in Music Theatre, it was a splendid opportunity to play a lead role in a world famous theatre. Members of the Association were delighted to be able to offer their support for such a worthwhile project.

The award was presented at the Reunion Dinner by Nicholas Odom. Nick is Consultant Cardiothoracic Surgeon at the Manchester Royal Infirmary and was a Chorister in the College Choir from 1959-1963.

Membership has continued to grow over the year and we were delighted that contact has been made with several people that were in the College Choir during the 1930s and '40s. Friends of the College Choir also continue to flourish and to show an active interest in our activities.

Lastly, we say farewell to our President, Christopher Robinson in 2003 and thank him for his support over the past twelve years, whilst at the same time we welcome David Hill with whom we look forward to a long and happy association.

**Alastair Roberts**

### St John's Classical Society

The Classical Society looked to be in good form when I took on the Presidency and we began the year with a promising start, our intake of First year Classicists being higher than that of Trinity! Though sadly we had lost Dr König to St Andrew's, we had gained Dr Gowers from Princeton and the familiar face of Professor Schofield took on the role of Director of Studies. We were all set for a great year ahead.

The highlight of the Michaelmas term was the reintroduction of play reading. Euripides' *Helen* was decided upon, for which we were indebted to Martin Dinter, who worked tirelessly to gather all the existing copies in the University from the various colleges. The evening was a great success; we were all surprised by the high level of thespian talent that existed among the members of the Society. Most notably Helen Evans, who played the protagonist of the same name, and Professor Schofield, after whose stunning cockney performance as the Messenger we are all amazed has still not been invited to join the cast of *EastEnders*.

Lent term went out with a bang after the popular Desserts party where, as is the custom, we drank the night away among pleasant company in the relaxing atmosphere of the Wordsworth Room. We were all delighted to hear that Lucy was flying the flag for the College, as Professor Schofield announced that she had been awarded the Members' Classical Translation Prizes in both Greek and Latin.

Easter term, though the exam term, and traditionally a time of stress and panicking will, as ever, have more than its fair share of entertainment. This has already begun with a talk by Dr Teresa Morgan from Oriol College, Oxford, whom we were lucky to be able to reschedule into this term, since she had been unwell in the Lent term, when she was originally due to come. She spoke insightfully on Women in *The Odyssey*, a topic relevant to most year groups, and certainly of great interest to everyone. We look forward, of course, with great anticipation to the Lunch and Garden party at the end of the term, a prospect which I am sure is something to pull even the most stressed of us Classicists through the exams!

I would briefly like to thank Professor Crook for kindly allowing us the use of his rooms and for being an organised and efficient Treasurer, and also Professor Schofield for helping to organise the guest speaker, booking the Wordsworth Room and selecting the wines for the Desserts party. We look forward to the continued entertainment and success of the Classical Society next year.

**Maria Datsopoulos**

### **Economics Society**

In a year that has seen global economic slow-down and uncertainty, the Economics Society of St John's has continued to grow stronger with all the traditional events taking place and some exciting additions. The Society paved the way for the future in inviting speakers to enlighten us with their knowledge. Our first guest was Chris Allsop, member of the Monetary Policy Committee and Editor of the *Oxford Review of Economic*

*Policy*. He provided a fascinating account of the UK's involvement in the European Economy, all in the atmospheric surroundings of the School of Pythagoras. Despite competition from another economics society bearing the name of a certain Johnian, the talk was a great success.

The Annual Dinner took place in the Wordsworth Room, featuring the usual winning combination of delicious food, sparkling conversation and hilarious economist jokes. One after-dinner speech proved memorable for the speaker's apparent lack of memory, once again answering exactly what  $2 + 2$  equals. Future presidents please, please take note. At the end of the dinner an unprecedented attempt was made to democratically elect those future presidents, leading us to realise that there must definitely have been an easier way. Now it is summer and instead of looking forward to whatever the future may hold, we anticipate the trials of exams: for the First and Second years are guinea pigs for the reformed Tripos, with the abolition of EQEM and the introduction of Part IIA. Fortunately though it is not long until we rejoin at the summer Garden Party. Long live the Economics Society!

**Jules Goldberg and Lucy Criddle**  
**Joint Presidents**

### **The Gentlemen of St John's**

"As the Easter term draws to a close, we will be appointing a new Manager. He will have a great deal to look forward to." (Iestyn Davies writing this article's predecessor in last year's *Eagle*.) Hah! You could have fooled me...

Whilst the Gents remains the best close harmony group in Cambridge, and indeed better than most of its professional counterparts in London and elsewhere, it is a group in confusion. Caught in a halfway house between professionals and students, we have continued to deliver excellent performances this year but on a frustratingly small scale – both in terms of location and frequency.



The year did start very well, however, with an enormously successful ten day tour of Holland in late September. Concerts in Haarlem, Breda, The Hague and elsewhere were very well attended, and greatly improved the reputation of the Gents in the Netherlands. The tour was anchored in Breda by a three day recording of music by the contemporary Dutch composer, Coen Vermeeren, who also single-handedly conducted the group for the project. The music, a series of Advent Introits and anthems, was written especially for this recording and echoes the work of other European composers like Arvo Pärt in its simplicity. Although difficult to record, the Gents took to the music like a Chorister in a Chapel, so much so that we organised a premiere performance of the Introits in late November at an Advent Meditation in the College Chapel. The candle-lit service was a beautiful occasion and was held to coincide with the launch of the CD, entitled *mysterium* (available from all good Managers, priced £13). The Gents owe their very own Lester Lardenoye a debt of gratitude for organising the tour, in the face of some academic adversity, and we hope that he manages to complete his triptych of wooden spoons with another Douglas this year.

On returning to Cambridge, we prepared for a concert held in support of Amnesty International at the Free Church in St Ives. This was a good, early opportunity for some of the Freshers to see what it was the Gents did, and of course provided the platform for the perennially amusing performance of *Blue Moon* sight-read from memory. Royalty called later in the Michaelmas term, as HRH The Duke of Edinburgh attended the Cambridge University Benefactors' Dinner in the new William Gates Building on the West Cambridge site, at which the Gents were asked to sing. Prince Philip has heard us sing so many times now, that we're considering advertising ourselves with the line "By Royal Appointment, Purveyors of Close Harmony". Then again, we probably won't... December was an unusually quiet time for the Gents, with a few Christmas engagements in College but none in the clubs around London – Johnians organising functions next year take note! The College Choir tour to France was exceptional in that we broke the world record for the most hours spent on a coach in one week, and the Gents managed to amuse themselves by filming 'Tour TV', a must for all film buffs and surely a future Cannes Film Festival winner.

The Lent term, though devoid of musical activity, was probably the most important for the Gents this year. The consequences of being a group with a yearly change in personnel really hit home in March, when we entered discussions with College concerning the loan the group took three years ago to make a CD of music by Jean Mouton. Whilst the recording contains some exquisite pieces and the singing is, as ever, excellent, sales are very low (or quite high, depending on your view of 15th century French music) with little chance of improving despite a real effort from the Gents. As a consequence the College has been forced to start seeking other ways to regain the monies owed, by approaching the individuals within the current group.

But enough of this idle financial chit-chat - let's return to the musical side. Ever *haute couture*, the Gents performed an inaudible set at the inaugural CU Fashion Show in support of Steven Shorter's charity, SpecEast, whilst the Easter vacation saw the Gents renewing contacts with Swedish and Dutch conference guests at a variety of engagements around Cambridge. These dinner gigs were of particular welcome to George Humphreys, as they gave him an unrivalled chance to reacquaint himself with the Swedish tongue. The eclectic nature of The Gents' repertoire was highlighted later in the holiday as we found ourselves performing Lloyd-Webber, Fauré's *In Paradisum*, and *When I'm 64* in a single wedding ceremony.

And so to the summer... The next few months have the potential to be very exciting and rewarding for the Gents. So popular are we with the Low Countrymen and women of Holland that we are returning in September for a two week tour. We have been approached by Priory records about making a CD of men's voices Choral music with Christopher Robinson conducting, and have secured the services of one of the world's best producers to work with us on a close harmony disc. Whilst *Mix Well* continues to sell well, and we will always perform songs from it, we feel that it's time to record another CD showcasing some new arrangements like the excellent *S Club 7/Billie Jean* remix written for last year's Garden Party. You'll be pleased to read that neither project requires taking a loan... This year is also the last in which we will have the honour of working with Christopher Robinson,

the College Choir's Organist. Much will be written elsewhere of his extraordinary talent and the outstanding way in which he has directed the Choir in his time at St John's, but this is a chance to put in print the thanks of Gents past and present for his influence on their lives. There's still a lot of life in the old dog yet though!

We welcome to the Gents this year William Cartwright-Hignett, a suave Alto who owns Wiltshire at the weekend; Tenor, Gosford 'Tom' Park, who has only half arrived really, but will be leaving deep space shortly; Nick Charl - wood / sworth / sberg, a former Chorister keen for more but in the bass clef; Emperor John Robinson, virtuoso Organist and knower of all things; and Ralph Scott, an appalling Baritone, whose late arrival in the Choir was marked by throwing up over the Chaplain on tour in France. We bid fond farewells to the high notes man, Biscuits Crawford, Baritone Ronan Collett, who will be enormously successful, and to Andy Staples who is enormous.

So, with the Garden Party needing some invitations and, er, a garden, I take my leave. It's been fun. Honest.

**Allan Clayton**  
Manager

### The History Society

This year the History Society was pleased to welcome five speakers to St John's, all of whom gave fascinating talks on a wide variety of topics.

The first of the year's speakers was Dr George Garnett, formerly of St John's College, from St Hugh's College, Oxford. Dr Garnett gave a well-attended talk on 'Tyrannicide in Theory and Practice'; we were particularly pleased to see so many Freshers present.

We then welcomed our very own Senior Treasurer to the stand, Dr Peter Linehan. The talk, 'History in a Mini' was well turned out as Dr Linehan enlightened us as to what historical research really involves!

We then looked forward to a busy Lent Term, with three talks planned and of course the Annual Dinner. We began with an insightful talk by Dr Philip Towle of the Centre for International Studies in Cambridge, who initiated a timely discussion on 'Parliament, Civil-Military Relations and War'.

Our next talk of term was given by Professor Timothy Guinnane, normally of Yale University, and visiting Pitt Professor in the Faculty of Economics at Cambridge. We thank Professor Guinnane for his interesting perspective on 'What a Market can tell an Historian.' I am pleased to report attendance at this talk by a number of non-historians.

Our final talk of the year was by Dr Rana Mitter of Oxford University, who spoke on 'Dodging Bombs in Bathhouses, a Journalist's view of World War II in China'. A vivid insight into KMT-ruled China, the choice of such a diverse topic provoked some lively and interesting discussion.

The long-awaited 98th History Society Annual Dinner took place on 11 March in the Senior Combination Room, and this year we were most happy to welcome Mr Ben Macintyre as our after-dinner speaker. Ben, formerly a History student of St John's, has worked for the *London Times* in Washington and Paris and is now the Lobby Correspondent in London. The evening was one of good food and good company – the perfect way to end another full and successful year for the Society.

I would like to thank the Committee, Andrew Arsan and Laura Dix, for their help this year, and also last year's President for her advice. Above all I must thank Dr Linehan, who has been ever patient and helpful throughout the year. To both the new Committee and those finalist historians leaving us this summer - the best of luck!

**Simone Maini**  
Secretary

## The JCR

It is hard to believe the extent to which the role of the JCR Committee has evolved since it was first established to manage the upkeep of a room for undergraduates in the College. The JCR now offers a wide range of services to students, from computing support to emotional support, and represents student views on issues such as the quality of College orange juice to more important student financial and funding issues. Despite these advancements, and much to the annoyance of the Committee, we have yet to shed the duty of delivering daily newspapers to the JCR!

The work of the Committee began following the elections in February, and 'RON' (re-open nominations) was replaced by a real candidate as President two weeks later, much to the relief of the outgoing President. Bursting with ideas and energy, the new JCR set to work in an attempt to make good on their election manifestos.

Due largely to the commitment and patience of the Domestic Bursar, we managed to review College room prices to make them reflect the differences in quality more accurately. What seemed initially to be a straightforward task quickly became very complex, with pages of data about rooms, different formulas for pricing and hours spent pondering the relative values of bathrooms and kitchens. After many meetings and near despair on both sides, we agreed upon a new pricing model with which everyone was happy. The Senior Tutor was equally helpful in discussing the room ballot system and, on the recommendation of the JCR, the Tutors agreed changes to the current system in an effort to make it run more smoothly.

The rest of the Committee set to work with projects in their respective areas. Julia Thaxton, Academic Affairs Officer and Vice-President, set about improving things in the Library. Working with the Library Committee, she negotiated the introduction of 'laptop-free' zones and a vending machine for those with 'midnight munchies'. Beth Hore, Women's Officer, set about gathering signatures for a petition to improve lighting along the backs in a joint effort with other colleges.

The start of Easter term saw the return of the geese, and their early morning battles in the punt pool. Despite the best efforts of the Domestic Bursar and several students eagerly volunteering to 'fix' the problem, little could be done to put a stop to the noise. The issue of rent-rises raised its head yet again this year. Alongside the SBR, Rob Hewitt (JCR Treasurer) and I argued the students' case, in light of increasing student debts and financial uncertainty. We felt happy that the College had considered our points and wish the new JCR the best of luck in their efforts.

Simone Maini, Welfare Officer, helped us through the pressure of exams, luring students away from their books with offers of tea and muffins in the JCR and videos to rent. Rob Hewitt entered into battle with Sky in order to restore television in the JCR after a loss of service. After months of negotiations, Rob has successfully restored Sports and 'The Simpsons' to the JCR.

The June Event was a spectacular success thanks to Louise Fisher, Ents Officer, and Angus Murray, Boiler Room President. After weeks of preparations and regular discussions with the Porters, Louise succeeded in putting on a fantastic event with cheap drink and an open-air Jazz tent. Angus hosted a break-dancing competition in the Boiler Room, which proved very popular. In addition to the June Ent, Louise and her trusty Committee organised excellent bi-termly Ents with creative scenery and innovative themes. Angus had brilliant ideas for the ongoing revival of the Boiler Room but despite his best efforts, failed to bring any of them to fruition due to booking problems outside of his control. Angus was able to demonstrate his skills in other areas, taking part in health awareness training with Simone and Beth.

With Freshers' week came a bunch of new faces and a real test of JCR organisation. We put together a week packed full of events for everyone with only a few minor glitches. Thanks to Simone, Freshers were put in touch with their new College families before their arrival in College. With the help of other JCR members, she arranged the publication of the Freshers Handbook, which has grown to become an essential guide for the First year in College and beyond. To improve the awareness of

World Aids Day, Simone distributed a thought-provoking reminder to surprise everyone as they checked their pigeonholes that morning.

Through the winter months of Michaelmas term, the JCR began debating constitutional reform. Nicolas Gonzales, Publicity Officer, who produced some excellent and witty Bogsheets, was forced to halt his publication after he fell foul of College 'posting' rules. Niko Downie, the Yearbook Officer, did his best to convince people to part with their favourite photos and cheerfully helped with JCR duties whenever needed. Andy Titchener, the Access Officer, maintained the close links between the JCR and the Admissions Office, and gathered together a group of willing volunteers to help whenever needed. CUSU kept Sam Pannick, the External Officer, busy with endless motions to debate from the serious to the silly. Sam's intelligent contributions and timely interjections earned him the respect of most members of the Council as a sensible voice in student politics.

Not all positions on the JCR allowed for originality and creativity. Kat Helm, our Secretary, diligently produced agendas and minutes and did her best to ensure that even the most boring constitutional discussions were recorded with humour. Simon Chiu, Computing Officer, kept the website updated and established a student computing group to help people with their computing conundrums.

I think we all enjoyed our year as the JCR and I hope that we managed, in some small way, to make the College a better place. I would like to thank those of my Committee who sacrificed study, socialising and sometimes sanity in an effort to get things done. We owe a debt of gratitude to the Senior Tutor, Mr Jobling, and Domestic Bursar, Commodore Harris, who gave us invaluable advice and support throughout the year. They welcomed even the most ambitious of suggestions and along with College staff, displayed a real willingness to help us in whatever way they could. The elections saw new faces elected with Niko Downie, our Yearbook Officer, taking the challenge of leading the new Committee. Full of new ideas and energy, I am sure that they will do a really fantastic job and I wish them the very best of luck in the year to come.

**Padraic Brick**  
President

## The Johnian Society

We are very sad to report the death of Dr Roger Morgan, former Chairman of the Society, in March this year. Roger worked tirelessly to further the Society until he retired from the post of Chairman due to ill health, and he is sorely missed. The Society made a gift to the Salvation Army in his memory. There is an obituary notice on pp.76-78.

At the Committee meeting held in September 2002, Sir Kevin Tebbit was elected President of the Society and Professor Jane Heal was elected Vice-President. Dr Charles Bourne and Miss Rachel Harker were elected Ordinary Members of the Committee for six years from 1 January 2003.

This year the Society's Committee again decided to increase its financial support of the College's activities. Members will recall that last year the Society made a capital gift of £12,000 to set up a Johnian Society Access Exhibition Fund to provide support for students through the College's new Bursary Scheme, and agreed to make further gifts of £1,000 per year for five years. This year the Society made a gift of £2,000 instead of the pledged £1,000. Three Johnian Society Access Exhibitions were awarded. In addition, the Society has again provided funding to increase the value and number of Johnian Society Travel Exhibitions offered to current students. In 2002 award holders visited Uganda, Kenya, Central America, Peru, Costa Rica and Nicaragua. Individual projects included a research study to enable the establishment of a training programme for healthcare workers in the use of retro-virals for the treatment of HIV / AIDS.

As usual, the golf competition organised by John Loosley last year was a great success. The Johnian Society Dinner took place on Saturday 14 December 2002 and the toast was proposed by Sir Mark Moody-Stuart. There was another opportunity for members of the Society to hear Mark when he gave the Johnian Society Lecture in February. He spoke on 'Business, Society and Development' and gave us all food for thought.

The Johnian Society of the USA (JSUSA) continues to develop and held a drinks party in New York in December and events in Boston, New

York and San Francisco in April. We are grateful to the Organizing Committee for their continued support.

The next annual dinner takes place on 13 December 2003 and we hope to see many members of the Society on that occasion.

**Catherine Twilley**  
Secretary

### The Music Society

SJCMS has continued its role as an extremely active and ever-expanding music society in Cambridge, not only providing numerous opportunities for performers of all standards but also improving and expanding upon its already extensive collection of instruments and quality of both practice rooms and performing venues.

After an extremely successful year in office, Acting President Helen Pattinson, handed over to Jennie-Helen Moston upon her return back to full health in October 2002. The President was extremely grateful to Helen and the rest of the Committee for their handling of the situation and for their unfailing support during her year away.

The inaugural meeting welcomed back old members of the Committee and also several new members and instruments, including the new pair of Timpani purchased during the summer vacation. These have been an extremely welcome addition to the Society's array of instruments and have been used frequently throughout the year. These, we hope, will be hired out in the near future. Later in the Michaelmas Term, once the Music Society had regained the use of Music Room four in the Fisher Building, discussions were held regarding the College's offer to buy another piano. A Boston grand piano was purchased and has been a highly popular practice venue for pianists in College, taking the pressure off the Steinway in the New Music Room.

The New Music Room has continued to be the venue for weekly lunchtime concerts each Thursday of Full Term where, sadly, audience

numbers do vary but where the Committee is proud to reassert that standards of performance have continued to be of the highest calibre. The continuation of Late Night Recitals, held on Mondays, has proved very successful. With a retiring collection and guaranteed high quality performances, the Society has raised well over £150 for the charity, The North Malawi Surgery Project. The couple who established the charity appropriately met in the 1950s playing together in a Johnian orchestra.

The Term Concerts have been wonderful musical occasions, including several keen musical Freshers. In the Michaelmas concert, the Junior Organ Scholar, John Robinson, expertly opened the concert with a Handel organ concerto, followed by a beautiful performance by second-year musician, Nicolette Wong, of Mozart's *D Minor Piano Concerto*. The *Fanfare for the Common Man* (Copland) opened the second half of the concert dramatically and a vibrant, exceptionally well-received and exciting rendition of Rutter's *Gloria* ended the concert, receiving a standing ovation! Conductors Jonathan Vaughn and Andy Staples held the orchestra and choir respectively in the palm of their hands in this concert but unfortunately, owing to competition from several other musical events both in College and around Cambridge, audience numbers were down.

The Lent Term Concert was the brainchild of Senior Organ Scholar, Jonathan Vaughn, who fixed an exceptional orchestra and undertook all the conducting in what was generally regarded as a musical highlight. The Overture to *Die Meistersinger* (Wagner) was followed by the well-known and popular *Symphony No. 5* by Tchaikovsky.

The Master's Lodge Concerts have been managed by Dr Castelvechhi, back from his sabbatical, and have been very well attended, presenting a wide range of a constantly high-standard of music and performers, from big bands, to solo piano recitals. These concerts go from strength to strength with increasing numbers of undergraduates finding the time to support these lovely events in the warm ambience of the Master's Lodge. It was sad to see the annual SCR concert, held for the Fellows and undergraduates alike, thinly attended. A range of music was offered - all short and pleasant items in order to keep the ambience



suitably light, and of course, it goes without saying that, in keeping with past years, the standard was very high. Next year it is hoped that increased publicity will ensure a larger audience.

Back in June 2002, St John's held its highly renowned May Week Concert in Hall, which was undoubtedly a spectacular occasion. The Brahms *Liebeslieder Waltzes* were sung by the College choir, conducted by Dr Christopher Robinson, and accompanied by the two Organ Scholars. The Gents of St John's wooed the crowd with a selection of close-harmony songs and Jennie-Helen Moston and Oliver Wright joined forces (and voices) with a chamber group under Dr Robinson in their rendition of Walton's *Façade*. This concert was packed to the gunnels, offering an excellent mix of drama, light-hearted choral numbers and meatier music, all executed with expertise and professionalism. This year, the Choir will sing an anthem of Handel's, *A Selection of Light*, and more serious songs by the College Choir and the Gents. This will be followed by what promises to be a delightful send-off, Saint-Saens' *Carnival des Animaux*, performed by President Jennie-Helen Moston and Senior Organ Scholar, Jonathan Vaughn and conducted, for the last time, by Dr Christopher Robinson.

Sadly, Dr Robinson is retiring this year as Organist of the College, and of course renouncing responsibilities on the Committee, amongst many other commitments in College. He will be sorely missed as his influence within the College in terms of music has been great. He is a highly regarded organist; a highly respected conductor; a talented pianist; a consummate musician and a kind man. We wish him the best of luck and good health in the forthcoming years. We will also welcome David Hill, who will take over as Organist of St John's College Chapel, and hope he is able to become involved in music-making in the College in the future.

The Committee continues to find pleasure in supporting charity concerts following the enormous success of last year in which Lizzie Ball performed the Tchaikovsky *Violin Concerto*. The Easter term saw concerts organised by Gabi Maas - second year musician and SJCMS Secretary - and last year's Acting President Helen Pattinson, for Cancer

Research UK and Action for Blind People raising well over £700 in what was a sparkling concert. The Cambridge Mozart Players, produced by Johnian, Louis Watt, held a concert for The North Malawi Surgery Project. SJCMS endeavours to support charities 'close to home' in the future as these events continue to heighten the musical status of St John's in Cambridge.

Many thanks, as ever, to the Chairman Peter Johnstone, with whom the Committee was proud to celebrate his Professorship with a glass of lunchtime champagne! Thanks also to Dr Glasscock for his continued patience in the management of the Society's finances. The Committee has, as ever, worked extremely hard to make this year a musical success and we hope that this continues into the future, holding St John's in its rightful position as one of the most musically respected and active Colleges in Cambridge.

**Jennie-Helen Moston**  
President

### The Purchas Society

Despite a brief period of uncertainty and a few troubled moments when Purchas looked like it may have breathed its last breath, the Society was revitalised under Rachel Lloyd as Secretary. She has continued her fantastic efforts this year while President, and the Society is once again in a strong position at the close of another year in Purchas' long tradition.

As usual, the year started off with the Tea Party, where the new recruits were introduced to the delights of Purchas. Although there were problems finding a room to hold it in, and trying to squeeze even more time out of the Freshers' hectic schedule, it proved to be a great introduction to the Society for the first years. This year's new intake was particularly unusual as there were many more Land Economists than normal, but despite doubts as to what they actually study, they have proved themselves to be enthusiastic Purchasians.

Purchas exists in memory of the great Samuel Purchas, and as such tries to collate tales from all over the world in the style of Purchas himself. Paddlings this year proved to be as varied as ever, with stories of exploits from all over the world. We heard of Rachel Lloyd's many afternoons drinking tea with the Woman's Institute in Malaysia, while John Cumming cultivated a lovely beard in Thailand. The first years proved themselves to be hardened travellers with one, Gemma Farrell, sailing around the world in a yacht, while others stayed closer to civilisation with Peter Scott trying to be an American student in Washington DC. The night was enjoyed by all present, and unlike previous Paddlings, nobody made a fool of themselves...

This year saw an academic air to the Society to the joy of some, and despair of others. Purchasians were entertained by academics of a high intellectual standard from all over the country who spoke on a variety of topics. The first speaker of the year was Dr Bruce Malamud, who regaled us with theories of natural disasters. Despite the fact that nobody understood what was being discussed, especially the large amount of maths, the pictures of forest fires were very interesting. To end the Michaelmas term, we took a trip to Moscow with mince pies and port. Unfortunately the Society's budget couldn't stretch to taking all the Purchasians to Moscow, so Dr Denis Shaw brought Moscow to us. The Society even proved its versatility by having the pleasure of a Larmor Society member present, who thoroughly enjoyed the talk too.

The Lent term was kicked off with desserts, which was made all the more interesting by the snow that was falling in Cambridge at that time. Most tragically, we couldn't have pineapples as the delivery wasn't able to reach the College - not a loss really considering the arctic conditions. Our speaker, Dr Don Funnell, couldn't make it to Cambridge either due to the fact that the M11 was impassable. Despite these setbacks, the night was successful, apart from the Secretary's short speech on the cultural geography of snow.

Purchas spent the rest of the Michaelmas term in the presence of Liverpudlians, with two speakers from the University of Liverpool, Dr Clare Holdsworth and Dr David Chester. The former gave a very

relevant talk on Purchasians themselves, or at least how as young people they made transitions to independence. Dr Holdsworth was a great success, if not just because she was taught by our very own Gerry Kearns as a student. Dr Chester was perfect to uphold the tradition of Purchas, being a Reverend just like Purchas himself.

The year culminated with the Annual Dinner at the beginning of May, which this year was held in the splendour of the Senior Combination Room, though this was due to poor organisation rather than anything else. We were lucky to have Dr Don Funnell finally make his trip to Cambridge without snow but with plenty of rain, which put a dampener on the pre-dinner photos. The night was thoroughly enjoyable for all who were there, with Dr Funnell encouraging us as geographers to be underhand and criminal, whilst explaining how a general, a casanova, and a drunkard helped to discover that mountains are big things that go up in the sky. Following this was the Presidential speech, and the surprise presentation of champagne to Rachel. The evening ended with the elections for the new Committee, with much rivalry between the Geographers and the Land Economists. Kim Maynard inherited the role of Secretary, while there is some representation of the Land Economists with Peter Scott as Treasurer. The role of Librarian was much fought over, but Penny Moore got the prestigious job in the end.

I would once again like to thank Rachel for all the hard work she has put into Purchas while Secretary and then President, and I wish her and all the other Third years every success in their exams and their lives after Purchas.

Long live the Purchas Society!

**Samuel Wring**  
Secretary

## The SBR

Well it's been a tumultuous year for the SBR Committee – three Presidents and three losses (how careless). In the beginning there were six eager graduates keen to take on the world of BA Hall, coffee and cakes and graduate welfare. Then disaster. The loss of President Rorie Jeffries due to course problems was quickly followed by the departure of valiant Welfare Officer Oisin Tanzey and, with Nancy Priston on fieldwork, the Committee was seriously depleted. We swiftly enabled our powers of co-option and harnessed the talents of Mark Bilbe, Martin Dinter and Benjamin Carton de Wiart. And with Anita Barnes stepping into the breach as Acting President things were looking up.

With the various jobs doled out we set forth with our first major event, the popular Annual SBR Garden Party in the Master's Garden. Near perfect weather, lashings of Pimms and the soft sounds of jazz from the live trio made for a memorable occasion. It was particularly good to see so many graduate families there and the bouncy castle was a hit with the SBR's youngest members! The Garden Party, like the Graduate Dinner, is one of the few occasions in the year when the graduate community gather en masse. For this reason alone it remains a cherished tradition and an important social event in the SBR calendar.

Next we tackled the major task of Fresher's Fortnight. It was a busy programme as usual; drinks receptions; a pub quiz; Dr Macintosh's tour of College (an ever popular event for new and old grads alike); a Teddy Bear's picnic; a Carnival Party (conspicuous by the lack of carnival costumes, with the exception of the parrot!); Women's Lunch with Lucy Cavendish; and a walk to Grantchester – the list goes on! Everyone seemed to enjoy the activities and whilst the Freshers recovered, the depleted Committee organised a by-election to restock. With a record turn out of 92 we elected a new President, Nancy Priston, and a new Welfare Officer, Julie Ochs.

This year has seen a huge number of social events organised by the tireless Silvia Lauzzana and Mark Bilbe. Together this formidable duo have arranged video nights, wine and cheese evenings (always popular), Ghost Walks around Cambridge, trips to the fireworks,

mulled wine evenings, international snack evenings, board game evenings and the piece de resistance – a salsa party in the School of Pythagoras. This was certainly the highlight of the social calendar with demonstrations to teach those who were new to the Latin beat and then plenty of time to practice those moves! Thanks also to Bernhard Malkmus for his series of Sunday night films, which have been greatly appreciated. On the external side Martin and Benjamin organised a number of exchange halls allowing graduates to sample the culinary delights of other colleges. These will culminate in a forthcoming exchange with Balliol College, Oxford (our sister college) which I'm sure will be a terrific success and a great opportunity for both sides.

This year we've seen the introduction of a new 'Fellow Borderer' in the shape of Professor Patrick Boyde. He has lent his boundless enthusiasm to organising events where Fellows and graduates can intermingle – from trips to the races, discussion evenings, walks in the local countryside, to highly popular readings in the SCR by fantastic orators such as Professor Crook and David Frost. The SBR is extremely grateful for his tireless efforts to organise enjoyable activities that foster a closer relationship between graduates and the Fellowship. Relationships with the JCR have also been particularly strong this year with Nancy (a former JCR president!) sitting in on their Committee meetings. This is an important aspect of the Committee's work and vital to forging links between the two student bodies.

On a more mundane level, we have continued the tradition of Port and Sherry before and after BA Hall, and coffee and cakes on a Wednesday evening. Free tea and coffee are always on offer in the SBR and we've started a milk card scheme allowing any graduate to collect milk from the Buttery for the SBR should it run out. We've continued to provide the various newspapers and magazines and also introduced the *Times Literary Supplement* and *The New Statesmen* to the catalogue. Having tried unsuccessfully to get Sky for the SBR, as they seemed unwilling to take our money, we purchased a digital box instead, and once the technical glitches are solved we look forward to a host of new channels. The SBR computer has continued to be rather unpredictable (as all computers seem to be!) but it will be replaced over the summer with

what we hope will be a better model. Graduates will certainly appreciate being able to easily email check and web surf from the SBR.

On the political level the SBR has been involved in a number of projects. The largest and most complex was a complete regrading of Graduate hostel accommodation. The accommodation was regraded so that each room was compared to other rooms, replacing the previous arbitrary criteria. We included factors like the room area, the number of rooms, and the rather subjective 'location/view' category. This has resulted in the majority of rooms falling slightly in price with just a few rising by a significant, but equitable, amount. One of the side effects has been to flatten rents and there has been healthy debate over how bathrooms, kitchens and communal areas should be classed. This is a rolling process though and now that the system is in place it will be reviewed annually and any changes made at that point.

We have also tackled the issue of spaces in College for graduates to supervise. A few extra rooms were made available but more importantly we have persuaded College to consider supervision rooms in the plans for the School of Divinity and Triangle site refurbishment. Though a few years away this does at least offer a permanent solution to the problem. Following popular request, College has agreed to install some lockers for Graduate use, both in the Library (where we have been lucky as the UL are willing to provide some) and under Cripps for sporting equipment etc. By the time this goes to press these should be installed and operating, which will be a great relief for those students who live further away from the College.

One other major topic has been Kitchen Fixed Charge. Following the work of last year's Committee, particularly Amanda Fuller, we have picked up this issue again and are in negotiation with College to alter the way this is charged. There has been discontent amongst the students for some time over this issue but it is hoped that with the possible introduction of a new scheme this should satisfy all parties. We wait to see what happens. . .

As this rather crazy SBR term of office comes to a close I would like to say a big thank you to my Committee, without whom much of this

would not have been possible, and for sticking at it despite the difficult circumstances. Thanks to Tim Cooper, Treasurer, for not only manning the purse-strings with such skill, but also for keeping a watchful eye over the SBR itself, ensuring it is always stocked with tea and coffee, and doing all the washing up!!!! Martin and Benjamin for their work as External Officers liaising with all the colleges, and Catering, and also for participating on the exchange halls and looking after the troops. Benjamin must also be thanked for his work on the website – without which we wouldn't be able to let people know what was going on. Thanks also to Anita – for stepping into the breach over the summer and for all her efforts as Secretary and board-game host since then; Mark and Silvia for all their efforts and enthusiasm for graduate social events – it would have been a dull year without you guys! Julie for her work, though brief, as Welfare Officer, and of course Rorie and Oisin whom we were all very sorry to lose so early on. Lastly, but certainly not least, thanks to Dr Sue Colwell for all her support and help throughout this year with so many issues and for always championing the graduate cause within College.

I will honestly miss being on the SBRC but I look forward to the next year and the next Committee and wish them all success.

**Nancy Priston**  
SBR President

## COLLEGE SOCIETIES

### The Choir Association

The Choir Association of St John's College, Cambridge, came into being about thirteen years ago when it merged with the former Choral Scholars' Association founded in 1956. Since then a small committee of dedicated and enthusiastic ex-Choir members has kept in worldwide contact with around 400 former Choristers and Choral Scholars.

Our secondary aim is to provide Bursaries from the Choir Association funds, to assist past and present Choir members to further their musical careers, and eventually, when the financial position meets its target, to be in a position to provide Scholarships.

We look forward to meeting up with old friends (some a lot older than others!) at the Annual Reunion Dinner in July, and the thrill of being invited to join in the singing at Evensong as well. We particularly invite former Choir members in their 30s and 40s (who belonged to the choir in the 1950s and 1960s) to help steer the Choir Association to greater effectiveness, and expand its support for the present Choir in fresh ways. Our small Committee is extended to anyone who is a dedicated supporter of 'The Fabulous Sound Of St John's'. We meet about twice a year at the College in the Parsons Room, First Court, and the presence of a bottle of wine or two not only helps the sandwiches go down, but also ensures that the meetings go with quite a swing.

Looking back for a moment, we recognise that it must have been quite a daunting challenge for anybody to follow George Guest's forty-year legacy, and yet, in the past ten years, it is simply amazing how the Choir has gone from strength to strength under Christopher Robinson's leadership. We are so grateful to him for his encouragement and co-operation, because, without such backing, the Choir Association would not have prospered as it has.

We have already been assured by his successor, our new President, David Hill, that he very much wants to be involved in the Choir

Association's work. Some of us met him over a working lunch on 24 April, where he intimated to us that he has lots of ideas about increasing effective links between the Choir Association, the Choir, and the College, and this is very exciting news for us all. Under his guidance the Choir Association is bound to develop in many different directions over the next few years, and we look forward to helping him in any way possible in order to see his ideas come to fruition.

Finally we must record the Choir Association's thanks for the support of the previous Master of St John's, Peter Goddard, in the way in which he took such an interest in our work. In order to bid him farewell and to express our gratitude in a tangible way, six of us had the privilege of entertaining Peter and his wife Helen to a very pleasant and relaxed lunch at Midsummer House on 13 December 2003.

Despite the fact that he has taken up a new sphere of work in the USA, he assured us that he will always keep in touch, and will maintain a keen watch on the progress of the Choir and the Choir Association.

Accordingly, on behalf of the Choir Association, we felt that it was right and proper to leave him with a gift – a presentation set of very beautiful inscribed goblets. He commented that whenever he drinks from them – and, with a smile on his face, he assured us that this will be something that he will often do – it will be to toast the continuing success of the Choir Association.

We all drink to that!

**The Reverend Christopher Goodwins**  
Membership Secretary

### The Classical Society

After a successful previous year, and with a greater intake both of new first years and new graduate students, the Classical Society began Michaelmas 2003 strong in numbers, and judging by the turn out at Dr Gowers' start of term introductory drinks, not lacking in enthusiasm.



Professor Schofield, despite being on leave for the whole year, has been an ever-present figure at our meetings, and Professor Crook kindly continues to allow us the use of his rooms.

Following the success of last year's play reading the decision was taken to repeat the exercise, swapping over to Latin this time to read Plautus' *Rudens*. The turnout for the reading was so impressive that there were barely enough parts to go around. We saw new sides to several members of the Society as their thespian tendencies rose to the surface, and an enjoyable and most entertaining evening was had by all present.

The annual Dessert was, perhaps predictably, by far the most popular meeting of the year. With only a couple of St John's classicists absent we all enjoyed the copious amounts of wine, port, fruit and cheese, amidst lively conversation, some of which, I am told, even strayed outside the realms of Classics! The Wordsworth Room was once again a most pleasant setting, and that a number of people remained into the early hours seemed to bear witness to a successful evening.

Our guest speaker in the Lent Term was Professor Christopher Pelling from Christ Church, Oxford, who spoke on the slightly unusual topic of 'Plutarch, Shakespeare . . . and Syme . . . the guilt of Julius Caesar.' One of the leading lights of Oxford's Classics Faculty certainly lived up to his reputation: the talk seemed to contain something of interest for everyone and was very well received by a large audience.

As the Easter Term sets in we look forward to the light at the end of the tunnel that is the end of term Classics Lunch, again in the Wordsworth Room, an understandably popular event which takes place just before the festivities of May Week set in.

I would briefly like to thank Professor Crook for allowing us to use his rooms for our meetings, for being extremely efficient in his role as Treasurer, and for reminding me whenever anything needed to be done! Thanks must also go to Professor Schofield and Dr Gowers for their help organising the Dessert and the Lunch respectively. I think that this year

has been a good one for the Classical Society and have no doubt that this success will continue into Michaelmas 2004.

**Matt O'Connell**  
President

### The Economics Society

The year started with a somewhat embarrassing rite of passage as the first years sang the 'Economics Song,' before the Freshers' Curry, held in the sophisticated surroundings of The Curry King. Despite all efforts to lead new members astray, this actually saw some of the more established figures of the Society looking decidedly worse for wear! It did, however, provide a good opportunity for all economists in John's to meet and socialise; important to a Society that actively encourages such integration between the years.

On a more serious note, Rebecca Driver, advisor to the Monetary Policy Committee, gave a highly interesting and topical talk on Equilibrium Exchange Rates during the Lent Term. This proved to be a popular event attended by Economists and non-members of the Society from all years in St John's.

The Annual Dinner, held in the Wordsworth Room, proved to be as successful as in previous years, despite a disastrous table plan and very impromptu speeches given by this year's Presidents. Following some excitement surrounding the champagne sorbet, Karim Jetha was proud to receive the Society's first ever prize for his groundbreaking Game Theory Essay, and it is hoped that this award will continue to be held in such high regard at future dinners!

The Society is now looking forward to the Summer Garden Party, to be held after exams. Our best wishes go to Petra Geraats who will be on sabbatical next year (and sadly missed by next year's finalists), and we would also like to wish the new Presidents, Sheena Sumaria and Emma Woolley the very best of luck.

**Ollie Tetlow and Alex Ford**  
Joint Presidents

## The Gentlemen of St John's

After Iestyn's sparkling optimism and Allan's qualified realism last year, I'm not quite sure where to pitch this article. Being Manager of the Gents is fun (you have the chequebook) and rewarding when things go right. It's also frustrating that change is so hard. We spend only a limited time in the group (Lester 'Reuben Thomas' Lardenoye is still going strong for his fifth year however . . .) and for all the impassioned 'tortured artistes' post-gig rants we enjoy it's virtually impossible to really progress further than singing the best we can and seeking out the limited opportunities that are feasible and enjoyable.

The year began unusually early with recording sessions for the new close harmony disc (*Gently Does it* . . .). We were very lucky to have John Rutter producing and engineering this disc for us. All appreciated his talent, patience and generosity. His PA Michael Stevens – honorary Gent – must also be thanked for the work he put into this disc, particularly in the later stages when he was forced to make up for my complete ineptitude in both computing and knowledge of the record industry. The other recording project at the end of the summer, with Priory Records, has yet to be released (May 2004), but Christopher Robinson who conducted and edited the disc (his last at St John's) has made encouraging noises about it (something about heavy tenors). We look forward to seeing the finished product soon.

It was with an eerie sense of *déjà vu* that we convened at Stansted for the second annual Gents tour to Holland in September. Concerts were in general well attended (the less said about Haarlem the better) and the early-morning broadcast from the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam was particularly enjoyable. Mike Anderson took over the direction of the group and was made to work especially hard as we were a man down, until, that is, international tenor superstar Allan Clayton returned. With Allan joining us in Amsterdam we made the trip back to our adopted home, Breda. He played with real feeling. The Gents owe Lester and his family a great deal for the way they put up with us for so long. Drama arose at the airport on the way home when a member of the group was detained on suspicion of drug smuggling. Fortunately, however, we all

made it out of the country in one piece and reconvened again in Cambridge in October.

The first gig of the year was at Wycombe Abbey Girls School. Mike Anderson forgot his shoes and went on stage wearing a dinner jacket and addidas classics. In solidarity Allan decided to wear his baseball visor. This was therefore a good opportunity for the newly 'street' Gents to test their 'sex appeal' in front of five hundred girls who couldn't escape. The near collapse of the stage during *Surfing USA* was especially well received and even the surly teenagers started to warm up near the end. The next event in the calendar was a concert on our home turf, in the Fisher Building in St John's. In conjunction with Jazz@John's we put on a highly successful show, which enabled the new Gents and new members of College to see what it was all about. We hope that this will become an annual Michaelmas Term event. Further gigs in the Master's Lodge for Professor Goddard's last concert event, in Horsham, and in Cambridge occupied us for the rest of the term. December, traditionally a busy time, was average at best – in part due to our commitments elsewhere, in particular the College Choir tour to . . . yes you guessed it . . . The Netherlands. We did, however, sing for our favourite pharmaceuticals company, more Dutch friends, and the trip to Cropston, Leicestershire, was truly unforgettable.

The Lent Term was light on musical activity though for a long time high on visibility. The Gents spent a long period both in the window of, and sitting proudly on top of, the bestseller charts at Heffers Sound. For at least a week there was a John's 1-2 punch combo in the chart when the Choir's latest Naxos disc was released. Some choir from King's were third I think? There were successful gigs for Kidney specialists in King's, Lovers in Tit Hall, and Businessmen in Magdalene, but the Gents' routine Wednesday night rehearsals slipped somewhat in their regularity. We must be careful not to allow complacency to creep into the group. For us to maintain standards and to acquaint the new Gents with the full repertoire we need to sing together on a regular basis.

Now that's off my chest let's get back to the future. The summer should be both exciting and rewarding. A busy May Week is promised – three

Balls and a Garden Party (Stephen Fry hasn't confirmed or denied rumours he's coming) to prepare for – and a good number of holiday gigs are planned, including a visit to the prestigious Three Choirs Festival and an opportunity to share a stage with Gryff Rhys Jones at Haileybury College. The College Choir still occupies a lot of our time and with our new Director of Music, David Hill (an ex-Gent of 1975 vintage), and our new swanky agents (German, rather than Dutch) the future promises to be bright on that front. As for the Gents, so long as the quality of the music making is maintained and as long as we continue to enjoy what we do we can ask for little more.

We welcome to the Gents this year Matthew 'Matt Brown' Brown, a compsci alto who helps with the website; Richard Wilberforce, an alto with offensive facial hair and whose ancestor freed slaves; Rob Shorter, a perennially overworked natsci/tenor with a perm; and Tom Goldring/berg, a Baritone who's been sent to MIT until his voice breaks properly. We bid *adieu* to Bass James Birchall who follows his father into the music profession, singing at Gloucester Cathedral; Organist Johnny Vaughn who is very small, and to three tenors: 'Gucci' Steve Shorter heads for the city, Mike Anderson leaves to see whether the grass really is greener, and Allan Clayton is destined for romantic male leads on the Covent Garden stage.

Following tradition I should conclude by wishing my (as yet unelected) successor luck. I'm sure he'll find something new to moan about next year. I should get back to work – The Gents have unparalleled academic standards to uphold.

**Nick Charlwood**  
Manager

### The History Society

It has been a very active and highly successful year for the Society. In the Michaelmas Term we welcomed two speakers. First, Dr Mark Goldie of Churchill College delivered a topical presentation on 'A Darker Shade

of Pepys – the Diary of Roger Morrice'. This was followed by a talk by Dr Bee Wilson of St John's College on 'The Politics of the Beehive', a subject of her forthcoming book, 'The Hive', which provoked a lively debate.

At the beginning of the Lent Term, Professor Tony Badger of Clare College delivered a talk entitled, 'When I took the Oath of Office, I took no vow of Poverty': Race, Corruption and Democracy in Louisiana, 1928-2000.' We then welcomed Professor Tim Blanning who wowed us with his all-singing, all-dancing talk on the 'The Triumph of Music in the Modern World.' Our final talk was delivered by Dr Rory Rapple of St John's College, who gave a stimulating presentation on 'The Rhetoric of Violence in Elizabethan Ireland.'

The highlight of the year was the 99th annual History Society Dinner on 11 March, where we welcomed Lord Thomas of Swynnerton who gave us a fascinating insight into his life at Cambridge and his historical career.

I would like to thank the Committee, Heather Cuss (Secretary) and Laura Dix (Treasurer) for their help this year, and also last year's Secretary, Simone Maini, for her support and advice. Above all I must thank Dr Linehan who has been ever patient and helpful.

Finally I would like to wish the new History Society Committee, Ben Chan (President), Robin Kemp (Treasurer) and Greg Lowden (Secretary) the best of luck next year, and our current finalists the best of luck in their futures.

**Ella Calnan**  
President

### Jazz@John's

After something of a recent lull in the College jazz community, this academic year has seen a considerable revival for Jazz@John's

(conspicuous by its absence in last year's *Eagle*): serve chilled with a twist of funk!

With firm intentions to provide the very best in quality jazz, funk and soul, we hit the ground running in the Michaelmas Term with our Freshers' Event. The need had been recognised early on for a substantial email list and our visit to the Kelsey Kerridge Freshers' Fair had paid off: the event was full, the 120 attendees being treated to a whirlwind tour through the decades of funk with Afrodisiac.

There was quite a buzz within College regarding our next event, namely a concert by the legendary Gentlemen of St John's with support from Pat Sharpe's Funkhouse. With 150 on the waiting list after just five days of booking, those lucky enough to get a ticket were treated to a trademark performance from Cambridge's top *a capella* group. As Prince Philip once said of the Gents' performance: 'I liked their music very much!' Ineffable taste as ever.

Our first large-scale party event of the year gave a stage to no fewer than five bands, including Cambridge University Jazz Orchestra and Casa del Funk. Dan Shaw, as bar manager, put a lot of work into re-branding, bringing us into line with quality jazz clubs and re-pricing with an eye on JD Wetherspoon's establishments, ever a source for student price comparison.

After significant changes to the Committee and a Christmas break to catch our breath, we were all set for the new term. Trad-night saw an extremely enjoyable evening of quartet and vocal standards with the Justin Read Quartet and Sara Mitra. Having lost our resident master electrician, Richard Mole, due to the committee change, and with no replacement, it was the President's turn to learn the ropes (surely 'wires'?).

'Righteous soul' with the undeniably brilliant Capricorn, and then our second party event with Cambiando and the Josh Kemp Quartet, got the pulses racing and even the most English of feet onto the dance floor. With such a following built up by now we were asked to run an evening of entertainment for the Cambridge Model European Conference, which we were only too happy to do.

Summer arrived and sadly so did exams, but before the real work could commence the most enormous speakers and mixing equipment ever seen at Jazz@John's were moved into the Fisher Building for the Jazz@John's Revision Reviver, in association with the Samuel Butler Room. Those masters of brass, Fitz Swing, and the truly incredible latin flavours of Manteca, along with support in the foyer bar from the Rich Low Quartet and Jen Melmore, made for a remarkable sell-out evening.

All that remains in my tenure as President is the Garden Party. The culmination of a year which has been for me at least (and judging by the seven sell-out events, for the audience as well) enormously enjoyable. With world-renowned musicians Harvey Brough and Clara Sanabras, a free champagne bar, and the John Turville Quintet, it should be the very apotheosis of a summer evening.

Finally I would like to extend my enormous thanks to both of my committees for putting up with me and also because they have been nothing short of brilliant: in particular to Dan Shaw, who takes over as President and to Mike Anderson, whose help and companionship in Gin was invaluable. Thanks are also due to those loyal jazz lovers who keep on coming back and who create the chilled atmosphere which is the essence of Jazz@John's.

**Will Cartwright-Hignett**  
President

### The Johnian Society

At the Committee meeting held in October 2003, Professor Jane Heal, Fellow and former President of the College was elected President of the Society, and Sir Neil Chalmers, Director of the Natural History Museum, was elected Vice-President. Mr Mark Chichester-Clark and Mr Michael Mavor were elected Ordinary Members of the Committee for six years from 1 January 2004.

At the end of December, Professor Peter Johnstone stepped down from the post of College Representative after many years of service to the

Society. The role has two main duties, of which the first (and perhaps most important as far as most members of the Society are concerned) is to choose the menu for the Annual Dinner. This, Peter Johnstone has done with considerable success and we shall miss his good taste. The second main duty is to award the Johnian Society Travel Exhibitions and, again, Peter has exercised his good judgement in this regard.

Dr Tim Bayliss-Smith has been appointed College Representative and we are looking forward to working with him.

The Society was sad to say goodbye to another long-standing friend and supporter when Professor Peter Goddard left the Master's Lodge to become the Director of the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton. Since he remains a Fellow of the College we hope to continue our friendship with him.

The Annual Dinner took place on Saturday 13 December 2003 and we were delighted that Professor Richard Perham, Master-elect, was able to join us for the evening. The toast to the College was proposed by Sir Kevin Tebbit. The next Dinner takes place on Saturday 11 December 2004 in the College Hall and we hope to see many members of the Society on that occasion. Another annual event is the Golf Competition which continues to be expertly organised by Mr John Loosley and we are very grateful to him for his efforts.

The Committee has continued its increased support for the Johnian Society Access Exhibition Fund, which provides a number of bursaries for the College's students, and has again provided funding to increase the value and number of Johnian Society Travel Exhibitions that are offered to current students.

We are very pleased that the Johnian Society of the USA has flourished this year as Marc Feigen, Chairman of the Society, documents below.

**Catherine Twilley**  
Secretary

### The Johnian Society of the USA

The Johnian Society of the USA is now in its third year of operation and the Society continues to thrive under the leadership of a dedicated committee. This year has been another active one and the Society was pleased to welcome the new Master, Professor Richard Perham, who many Johnians will remember from their student days, to the US in February and March, where he attended events in Los Angeles, New York, Washington DC and Philadelphia.

On Sunday 29 February the Society organised an event for Johnians living in the Los Angeles area. The event took place at the home of Marty Kaplan and approximately twenty Johnians and their guests were present. This was the first Johnian event to take place in the Los Angeles area and it was most encouraging to see so many people there.

The Society was also pleased to be able to host Dr Jeevan Deol and Dr Emily Gowers, Fellows of the College, at a JSUSA event at the University Club in New York on 20 March, where they spoke to Johnians about their research. Dr Jeevan Deol is a historian of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries who works on the cultural history of the 'native states' of northwestern India. He spoke about his work hunting down ancient manuscripts, dusty shrines, forts and royal palaces in far-off villages in India and Pakistan. Dr Emily Gowers is Lecturer in Classics at Cambridge University, and her comprehensive talk focussed on the names in Virgil's *Aeneid*. First she spoke about the name of his heroine, Dido, and secondly about how Virgil's names have travelled to the States, focussing particularly on the name Troy. Guests then stayed at the Club for lunch and were addressed by the Master. Approximately 45 Johnians and their guests supported the event.

The Master was then welcomed to the elegant Philadelphia Club for dinner, by Johnians living in the Philadelphia area. The next evening Rob Hawkins and his wife Rebecca hosted dinner for the Master at his home in Virginia, together with Dean Pope and his wife Liz, Marc Feigen and the Associate Development Officer, Clare Laight.



Johnians will be aware that the College will be celebrating its 500th anniversary in 2011 and it is already thinking of ways to mark the occasion. Of the 650 Johnians living in the US, approximately 150-200 have now attended events organised by the Society and the Society is hoping to increase this figure over the next few years. There is even talk of a New York May Ball in 2011, so mark your diaries!

**Marc Feigen**  
Chairman

## The JCR

There is no such thing as a quiet year in the life of the JCR Committee (JCRC). From its humble beginnings almost a century ago, the JCR has grown to become an all-encompassing part of every Johnian Undergraduate's daily life, stretching far beyond the provision of a common room. As such, any new Committee has to rise to a great number of challenges, some fantastic fun and others of a more serious nature, and last year was certainly no exception.

Taking up office in February 2003, the JCRC began its work under a new constitution that had done away with the positions of Academic Affairs Officer and Women's Officer, and created the new executive roles of Services Officer, Equal Opportunities Officer and elected Vice-President. With fresh ideas and boundless enthusiasm, the new Committee set out to continue the good work of previous years.

Firstly Heather Cuss, the Ents Officer, breathed new life into St John's Ents with such applauded events as *Ghetto Fabulous*, while Jules Goldberg, Boiler Room President, staged the first in a long line of successful Boiler Room events after a lengthy absence. *Route 66*, the June Event, organised by both the Ents Officer and the Boiler Room President, was a runaway success – the evidence for which was so plentiful that the JCRC and Ents Committee had their work cut out for them clearing it up before dawn!

Meanwhile the welfare of the Undergraduate body fell to Liz Gale who effectively set up residence as a College counsellor, always on hand for advice in all matters big and small, or even just an ear to chew. She was also responsible for the ongoing College parent scheme, giving the new intake of Freshers a contact or two in other years to help them settle in.

Our Access Officer, Mike Gun-Why, was responsible for the co-ordination of College Open Days, bringing pupils from schools across the country to sample life at St John's. The ever-increasing importance of 'widening the net' ensured that between them, Mike and the Admissions Office had plenty to organise.

Our able Treasurer, Sharif Ismail, devoted himself to stabilising the JCR accounts in the face of a shake-up in College accounting, while also tracking every penny coming into and going out of the JCR coffers. While Sharif was busy meeting with the Bursars and the JCR Senior Treasurer, Kate Martin, Yearbook Officer, was a regular fixture at College sporting events, and other functions, camera in hand, documenting college life for the annual JCR yearbook.

Lumbered with immense responsibility, Services Officer Peter Scott opened a debate on room ballots which was to preoccupy him for months, while simultaneously taking care of the services provided to junior members by both the JCR and the College.

Secretary Nadine McCarthy ensured that all meetings were well-organised and minuted, John Cumming, External Officer, was busy either keeping an ear to the ground with regard to University-wide politics, or locked in his room making endless NUS cards, and Tom Mustill, Publicity Officer, brought the *JCR Binliner* newsletter to life.

Robin Ogilvy, Equal Opportunities Officer, was dedicated to the concerns of groups such as international Undergraduates and the LesBiGay community, on whose behalf he frequently brought concerns to the Senior Tutor. Rob McCombie, Computing Officer, single-handedly created a masterpiece of a new website, helping the JCRC fulfil one of its pledges, namely that of better communication between the Committee and the Undergraduate body.

Rehaan Anjum provided invaluable support as Vice President, throwing himself into all aspects of the JCR. His reasoned approach and willingness to trawl through years of JCR documents will long be remembered and appreciated.

Largely due to the commitment of the Graduate JCR Liaison Officers, Nancy Priston and Andy Gallimore, relations between the JCR and SBR Committees went from strength to strength as each became increasingly involved in the activities of the other. We all sincerely hope this is a trend that will continue.

Elected in Michaelmas 2003, a few months ahead of her inauguration, the new JCR President, Kate Burke, saw her Committee elected in February 2004, at which point they all began their term in office. Our year as the JCRC was certainly an eventful one and we are all extremely glad to have had the opportunity to contribute to College life so directly. I would like to thank those of my Committee who made many sacrifices in their lives outside the JCR, to do whatever they could within it. All that remains for me to do is to wish Kate and her Committee all the best for the months to come.

**Niko Downie**  
President

### The May Ball

'This was the best ball ever' was the typical quote from guests leaving the St John's College May Ball 2004. This eagerly anticipated event exceeded expectations on all fronts, with many highlights throughout the night. The theme was the 1920s and this was perfectly represented by the décor around College – a replica Chrysler building lit up the centre of Second Court, while the Bridge of Sighs was decorated a dramatic, yet elegant combination of black and white, with ornate red floral arrangements.

The entertainment was dominated by the Scissor Sisters (currently in the Top 10 charts and band of the moment) playing as the headline act,

while other gems included Charlston Dancing, Jimmy Carr, Blue Harlem, Flight of the Conchords and of course, The Gents. One could choose between an array of music styles, from Opera to Drum and Bass, or alternatively play croquet, life-size table football or participate in cheese and wine tasting. The fireworks, often a hotly contested battle between St John's and our neighbours, were most extravagant – and at over ten minutes in duration were clearly 'Better than Trinity's'.

The food was superb, with dining in the grand Senior Combination Room and numerous stalls located around the courts, though clear favourites were oysters, the chocolate fountain and the hog roast. The variety and quality of drinks on offer was outstanding and lasted until the end, regardless of demand! Bellinis, Pimms, Champagne and cocktails flowed generously, while guests could help themselves to punts overflowing with beer and alcopops. Throughout the night, efficient and professional workers ensured the smooth functioning of the ball.

From an insider's perspective, all was also good. The hard work of the Committee during the year and throughout May Week paid off, as the behind-the-scenes action on the night went according to plan. Having secured a fair amount of sponsorship over the year, including donations from Deloitte and thousands of ice-creams from Unilever, extra funds were available to add those special touches that make such a difference. The ticketing process was brought up-to-date by going online, which was a great success and saved vast quantities of paper! This was all made possible by hundreds of hours of computer programming and beautiful website design. The logistics of the big night and the preceding week were executed with military precision. Lorries full of marquees, cables and other technical paraphernalia came and went with minimal disruption to the everyday life of the rest of College. On the night, all bands and artists were able to perform to their best, as was the other less glamorous service provision, thanks to the extensive planning that was carried out beforehand and the quick-thinking employed when emergencies did arise.

The employment of workers for both security and general duties was yet another success. Being a popular ball to work at, the number of

people on waiting lists for positions was the same as the actual number of jobs themselves. Although an area often overlooked by guests, there were several compliments received on how conscientious and pleasant the staff were. The masses of 'unauthorised guests' trying to enter the ball were thwarted from all angles by the teams of stewards.

Overall it all went down rather well and everyone was pleased; even the queue was less painful than in previous years owing to the use of two reception areas. However, the ingredients for the 'best ball ever' would not have been possible without the assistance and cooperation of the College, to whom the May Ball Committee is extremely grateful. Organising one of the largest parties in the world has been great fun for the Committee and hopefully for all involved in it. May it continue to get better and better!

#### Committee members

Chairman	Dr Oliver Choroba
Treasurer	Mr Ben Parker
President	Lucy Criddle
Vice President	Simone Maini
Creative	Kate Martin
Drink	Ella Calnan
Employment	Peter Scott
Entertainments	Angus Murray & Lorna Gratton
Food	Louise Fisher
Logistics	James Paget
Scene	Heather Cuss
Security	Boris Dragovic
Head of Sponsorship	Brian Perkins
Sponsorship	Katie Leah & Andrew Fenn
Technology	James Smith
Tickets	John Horsfield-Bradbury

**Lucy Criddle**  
**President**

### The Music Society

This year has once more been an active and stable year in the life of St John's College Music Society, and we remain one of the foremost players on the chaotic Cambridge music scene. This year has been notable as graduates have been involved more than ever, with their own SBR concert in the Lent Term, a stonking event which filled the New Music Room beyond capacity. It has also been a year of upheaval when we said farewell to Dr Christopher Robinson and welcomed Dr David Hill, and the new website, which is now online and regularly updated.

An early highlight of the Michaelmas Term is the Freshers' Concert. A good number of the new talented Johnians enjoyed this event, particularly the reception afterwards. The Term Concert began with John Robinson's debut as conductor of the St John's Singers in a performance of Vivaldi's *Gloria*, which also featured the St John's Singers and solos from Philippa Boyle (borrowed from Clare), Lester Lardenoye and the unforgettable Emma Brown. The orchestra then reduced itself to just seven players for James Birchall's fine rendition of Bach's *Ich habe genug* and it bulged once more for the second half which featured Sibelius' *Symphony no 7*. It was a pleasure to welcome at last Geoffrey Paterson and his talents to the podium. The St John's Singers, as is customary, sang Mass on Advent Sunday.

The Lent Term Concert began with an under-rehearsed but highly spirited run through of the *Magic Flute Overture*. The parts had arrived only that morning and their whereabouts in the previous weeks is a mystery to this day. John Robinson then took the St John's Singers through Mozart's *Coronation Mass*, with soloists Alexandra Kidgell, formerly of Caius Choir, and Lester Lardenoye, Allan Clayton and James Birchall, all from the stalls at St John's. Allan in particular should be congratulated on his Scholarship at the Royal Academy of Music this September, as well as for all his fine performances this year, especially in the field of opera. The concert was rounded off with a 190th anniversary performance of Beethoven's *Symphony no 8*; as for the overture, this writer was on the podium at the time.

The three recital series have continued to flourish. The Thursday lunchtime and Monday night recitals have been organised by Nicolette

Wong, assisted by Lucy McCall-Smith, and there has been the usual mix of varied programmes, from piano sonatas by Beethoven and Brahms, through guitar music and improvisations, to a recital by Nick Collins, a graduate music student, on his laptop. The organ recitals have been arranged by John Robinson and have once more featured performers from Cambridge and beyond. Five Johnnians have played at these, including Paul Provost, who we welcome in October as Junior Organ Student, and Craig Hudson, the multitalented secretary of the Society. Collections were made at the recitals and are to be donated to Nordoff-Robbins Music Therapy and the North Malawi Surgery Project.

Dr Stefano Castelvechi has continued to arrange the Master's Lodge series of recitals where it is still rare to find a seat if you arrive as little as ten minutes early. Professor Peter Goddard's farewell concert featured the Gentlemen of St John's preceded by piano duets by Dr David Hill and his assistant.

The recent tradition of having a charity concert early in the Easter Term has continued; this year's was organised by Will Walter, a regular in the College Orchestra's viola section. We welcomed Dominic Grier, a recent graduate of Girton College, to conduct a programme of Beethoven's *Coriolan overture*, Mozart's *Oboe Concerto in C major* (featuring Harry Blake from Christ's) and *Sibelius's Symphony no 5 in E flat*. Will chose to support Christian Aid and, although the final figures are yet to come through, it looks like they will receive a cheque for over £600.

The annual Combination Room Concert took a new approach to its programming this year, featuring three larger works rather than several smaller ones, and it was heard by the largest audience in recent years including a large number of Fellows and graduate students. The music was John Blow's *Ode on the Death of Mr Henry Purcell*, a selection of Vaughan-Williams's *Songs of Travel* and Bach's *Brandenburg Concerto no 4*. The soloists on this occasion were Richard Wilberforce and Lester Lardenoye (countertenors), James Birchall (bass), Gabi Maas (violin) and Sali Toms and Laura Protano-Biggs (flutes).

At the time of writing there are two highlights of the Music Society's year left to come. The May Concert will feature Bernstein's *Chichester*

*Psalms* and Copland's *Appalachian Spring*, and the committee dinner will feature Mackerel and Pheasant.

My personal thanks go to the whole Committee, in particular to Professor Peter Johnstone for hosting Committee meetings accompanied by fine coffee, without which the Committee would be unable to organise anything, and to Dr Robin Glasscock for his continuing patience with our lack of budgeting plans. We are sad to lose our graduate representative, Mairi Mclaughlin, who has been instrumental in involving the graduate population, but she will surely be a continuing pillar of support to the new Committee in her role as SBR President. I hand the now-metaphorical triangle beater to Candida Caldicot-Bull and wish her and her new Committee all the best for the next twelve months.

**Jonathan Vaughn**  
**President**

### The Purchas Society

I find myself once again writing about the Purchas' previous year's exploits. And what a year it has been too! Not content with the revitalisation of the Society that took place the previous year, the new Secretary, Kim Maynard, put all her effort into bringing the best to the Purchas Society. I am now confident that Purchas will live for longer than was anticipated a few years ago.

The year started with the traditional tea party, and it was here the first years showed what they were made of, and a great bunch they turned out to be too. Following on from this was the Purchas Paddlings, when Purchasians have the opportunity to regale us all with their tales of adventure and excitement from around the world. Again, another success with tales from South America, Borneo, Mexico, Cambodia, Australia and Europe. Who ever said a Geographer doesn't do any work!?

The first speaker of the year was our very own Dr Glasscock. He gave us an interesting and detailed talk on the history of Samuel Purchas and St John's College. Despite issues with the slide projector, which refused

to operate correctly and forced us to view each slide about three times, it was an informative evening. St John's has a long and colourful history and we should feel proud to be part of it.

The Lent Term started off with Desserts, where Dr Bayliss-Smith gave a short speech. The evening was enjoyed by all, especially as there were pineapples this year.

Our second meeting was in the presence of a previous Purchas President, Dr Emma Mawdsley, who was talking on 'Class and the environment in India – the missing middle.' It is always good to see old Purchasians and this evening proved that we could succeed as Geographers.

The Easter Term proved to be very busy despite the exams, with two speakers coming to visit us. Firstly we had an evening with Dr Sat Ghosh in Tibet. While the Geographers had the fun taken out of us for asking apparently stupid questions, the talk and slides were appreciated by all present.

The year ended with the Annual Dinner when Peter Marshall celebrated with the Purchas Society in the Combination Room. Peter, who has had 14 books published, gave a speech on the megaliths of Europe. This was followed by the election of the new Committee and the traditional toast to Samuel Purchas himself. The new Committee, while being headed by Kim as President, has a Land Economist, Ben Hills, as Secretary for the first time. Hannah Carmichael as Treasurer and Imran James as Librarian will ably assist him. The Society also restarted an old tradition of voting for a Purchas Pin-up, which Dr Tim Bayliss-Smith won unanimously. As my last act as President I decided to create a new post for myself, that of Purchas Whip. I'm not sure what I will be doing, but as I am not graduating this year, as is traditional for Purchas Presidents, I decided I needed to keep some hold on the Society.

It just leaves me to say thank you to the outgoing Committee, Kim, Scotty and Penny, and good luck to the new Committee. I am sure Purchas will be as great as ever. As always, I hold a toast to Samuel Purchas. Long live Purchasia!

**Samuel Wring**  
President

## The SBR

Commodore John Harris tells me that there are 309 members of The Samuel Butler Room this year, 2003-2004, and through our work as a Committee we have come to know many of them. As is the case in most Middle Combination Rooms in the University of Cambridge, members of The Samuel Butler Room maintain varying levels of commitment to Collegiate life. I suggest that a good deal more than two hundred graduate members of College and other research students in St John's have taken part, in one way or another, in the life of the SBR this past year. Of course for all or part of each academical year, some members are away from Cambridge. Some members in Cambridge retreat from College life as they find it a distraction, or irrelevant to their own lives. Some members see College as nothing more than a landlord, a necessary evil, and if the inexorably rising Collegiate charges are taken into account, this point of view does not appear wholly unreasonable. There are, nevertheless, many benefits of Collegiate association, and special benefits to members of the SBR.

As President of the SBR I was blessed with the energetic support of a strong Committee, and I should be remiss were I not to thank each member for her or his contribution on behalf of the SBR: Social Secretary and International Officer Liisa van Vliet, whose hard work made so many SBR events possible (the inaugural BBQ and Boules in May 2003, a brilliant Fortnight, a Festive Hall, a Bissextile Dinner in February), whose dynamic punctuation – @##!##@!@ – enlivened the electronic correspondence of the Committee, and whose deft and diplomatic dealings with the Dean averted full-blown crises; Secretary Richard George, whose dry humour and uncommon good sense proved valuable, and whose handy collaboration with former SBR Treasurer Dave Curran and one of Dave's admiring successors, Alistair Crosby, has given the entry to the SBR (PALMFE) and the SBR gyp a measure of dignity; Social Secretary Fiona Danks, who provided additional comic relief in Committee meetings, and whose taste for cosmopolitan cocktails grew impressively; External and Dining Officer Chris Addison, who worked with the Catering and Conference Departments to ensure a high standard of service on a very well attended BA Table,



and to whom The Samuel Butler Room is grateful for the real money the exchange dinner scheme generated (Alistair is still in awe); JCR Liaison Officer Andy Gallimore, who liaised with the JCR in so many ways, who showed a firm and genuine commitment to good relations with our younger colleagues, and whose mordant wit I came to admire over the course of the year; Junior Treasurer Alistair Crosby, whose maniacal control of the accounts brought the SBR to a point of fiscal strength, whose categorical and correct refusal to hand out a single free drink to any member for twelve straight months inflamed passions and belied his truly generous spirit. To all members of the Committee, our deepest thanks.

The SBR aimed to reign in extravagant spending practices. This was achieved and the new SBR President, Mairi McLaughlin, is now well positioned to request an appropriate increase in funding for the Society, whether through the Allocation of Funds to Associated Clubs Committee (AFAC), and/or via a small levy on the membership; the latter option having been given a preliminary hearing in Council in late February. The SBR also aimed, indeed is constitutionally obliged, to organize regular entertainments for members. Outstanding successes were the dinner for 'New Johnian Graduates and Other Research Students,' which 114 of 120 new members attended during the Fortnight, and the SBR / Jazz@John's co-production in April.

The SBR in 2003-2004 expressed a desire to participate in the greater community of Cambridge and Cambridgeshire. This is a goal towards which the Johnian Graduate Tutoring Initiative is moving, and to the organisation of which Martin Worthington, Sam Ahir, Lawrence Petalidis, and I personally remain committed. The new SBR Secretary 'Rappin' Rob Pugh has joined the nascent effort to get Johnian grads further involved in the extramural life of the community of which St John's College is a part. The Hospital of St John the Evangelist had been a centre of community service for several centuries, before Bishop John Fisher in 1511 realised Lady Margaret Beaufort's vision of a collegiate foundation, and Johnian graduates should today see every good reason to perpetuate the altruistic legacy which is part of the pre-history and history of St John's College.

The foundation stones of that hospital, as all Johnians know, are visible in First Court. Fellow Borderer Professor Patrick Boyde FBA, in two brilliant lectures, took a number of us through the rich architectural history of St John's College. For these lectures, and for a number of intellectually stimulating evenings resulting from Professor Boyde's initiative, the graduate community is grateful. Professor Boyde arranged for the graduates of St John's College to meet with Professor Lord Mustill, Professor Simon Conway Morris, Mervyn King (Governor of the Bank of England and Honorary Fellow of St John's College) and a good number of other distinguished guests. In addition Professor Boyde organised frequent excursions to places of interest in Cambridge and the surrounding area. The Fellow Borderer worked closely with the SBR Committee and is a regular fixture in the graduate life of College.

In conclusion the SBR wish to acknowledge Domestic Bursar John Harris, Senior Tutor Matthias Dörrzapf, Chaplain Clive Hillman, Dean Peter Linehan, Master Richard Perham, President John Leake, Tutor for Graduate Affairs Sue Colwell, and some of the very most helpful people of the college staff including Kathy Hammond, Sheila Smith, Dennis Hay, and Keith Ellis. Without your help, well, we might have simply written our dissertations.

**Edward Anderson**  
President

### The Winfield Society

After impressive Part 1A and Part II exam results last summer we welcomed Mr Parker as our new Director of Studies, and the year has seen further successes for Winfield, both academically and socially. As a Society which prides itself on integration between the years, we began the Michaelmas Term with 'meet the freshers' drinks and hall. This was closely followed by the 'rough guide to law,' telling the real story of life as a lawyer at St John's. The term ended with what is hoped to be the first annual Christmas Party, sponsored by Freshfields and held at the Slug and Lettuce Bar.

Much hard work went into organising the Annual Dinner, held on 7 February in hall. This included eight solid hours of folding, envelope stuffing, and labelling, as the Society now invites all alumni to the Dinner; invitations travelling as far as Johannesburg and Australia. Around seventy current and past students attended the dinner, and we were honoured with a most entertaining and engaging speech by Lord Mustill, himself once a member of the Winfield Society Committee. We hope that everyone who attended the dinner agrees that it was a great success.

The Lent Term saw the annual mooting competition, a terrifying experience compulsory for all first year Johnians. Sponsored by Simmons and Simmons the competition was won by David Reid; and the standard of all competing was impressively high.

Society members have experienced great success outside the College in law competitions this year. Andy Fenn and Kirsten Dettman came third in the national final of The Negotiation Competition, after comprehensively winning the Cambridge round. Their achievement was all the more impressive being the only undergraduates to reach the final round, and competing against qualified and highly experienced teams. Andy, along with David Myhill, also represented the University at mooting, and Natsuko Sugihara had enormous success at the International Intellectual Property Mooting Competition in Oxford. Winning second place overall, her team was also awarded the best-written submission prize and Nat was declared best individual mooter.

Post exams we are planning a Pimms fuelled punt and picnic to celebrate the fact that Tripos is over for another year. This will be the current Committee's last official event. We would like to thank the Committee, Zip Jila, James Greene, Ruth Brooke and Claire Blewett for their incredible work and commitment, and wish the Society every success for the coming year.

**Joelle Parkinson and Liisa Lahti**  
**Joint Presidents**

## COLLEGE SOCIETIES

### Art Society

It is always difficult for students to find time for artistic work in Cambridge's busy academic and social atmosphere, yet the enthusiastic response of students this year has been remarkable. This may in part be because as joint Presidents we have tried to shift the emphasis away from simply painting and drawing to craft activities, so that those who consider themselves less quintessentially 'arty' (whatever that might mean) are involved. The Art Room (situated behind the School of Pythagoras for those who haven't yet found it) is open to all St John's students, for everything from oil painting to making a friend's birthday card with some glitter and glue. The Society provides most materials for free: we have almost everything you can think of from sequins to textiles to glass paints, except for a few expensive things such as canvases. Materials can even be signed out and borrowed.

So we have been trying to make the Art Room a friendlier and better-known place because it has definitely been underused in the past: tea, coffee and even biscuits are normally in there, and there is a radio too. This has been reasonably successful, and we have opened the space of the Art Room up for other societies to use, for example, the College's Amnesty International Society has been painting its banners there. After putting up posters and generally spreading the word, membership has at least doubled if not more; so much so that we have run out of membership cards for the moment, which are needed to get the key out from the Cripps Porters' Lodge! In particular, Life-Drawing Classes, which normally take place on Saturday late afternoon, have gone down very well, and it was sometimes hard to fit everyone in, with people even coming from other colleges. Some St John's students have had their first attempt at modelling and, we believe, quite enjoyed it! If you fancy a bit of extra cash or are just a bit of an exhibitionist don't hesitate to get in contact: new models are always wanted.

St John's is extremely lucky to have its own Art Room, and this year the facilities have been very much improved. Not only has there been a lot

of investment in new materials, but also it has had a clean out (and subsequently the curious 'slug problem' has disappeared and there are no more mysterious holes in the paper), new shelves and better heating.

**Stephen Stavrou, Theo Creber and Allyson Ke**  
**Presidents**

### **The Choir Association**

The Choir Association's purpose is not only to encourage the present Choir, but also to forge even stronger links with each other. For the past fourteen years or so, we have been keeping in touch with well over 400 former Choristers, Choral Scholars, Organ Scholars, and Friends, scattered all over the world.

We are very keen to invite new members, especially as Friends of the Choir Association, in promoting 'the wonderful sound of St John's', with the aim not only of supporting and encouraging the present Choir, but also The Gentlemen of St John's.

### *Annual Reunion*

Our 2005 Annual Reunion took place in College on the weekend of 2 and 3 July. On Saturday 2nd July we held our AGM and had a dinner in the Wordsworth Room later that evening. We sang Eucharist in the Chapel on Sunday morning and were invited to drinks in the Master's Lodge afterwards.

### *Bursary Scheme*

You may not know that, for some years now, we have been operating a Bursary Scheme by means of modest grants, to help towards the musical careers and activities of present and former Choir members, and we invite readers who want to keep this superb idea going by means of generous donations to contact us as soon as possible. Below are two examples of how the Scheme has in the last year helped former Choir members:

Andrew Williams, a Chorister 1973–1976 writes: 'Singing is my main inspiration. However, in order to improve my technique, the Association was pleased to grant me a Bursary of £200 as an initial contribution towards singing lessons.' Andrew studies in London under Christopher Royall who is also a former member of the Choir.

Allan Clayton, Choral Student 2000–2003, left College last year, after working as a lay-clerk in the choir for a year, to study for a postgraduate diploma at the Royal Academy of Music in London. He is their inaugural Elton John Scholar. Allan has already distinguished himself by taking leading roles in operas, and as a concert soloist in Cambridge, Berlin, Lucerne, and Salzburg. He more recently performed in two concerts, one in France with David Hill, and another at the Canterbury Festival. The Association was pleased to grant him a bursary of £450, a further £150 being donated anonymously by a member of the Choir Association, making £600 in total. Allan, still only 23, has an exceptional tenor voice and we all look forward to following his career with great interest. To quote from his letter of thanks: 'I was fortunate enough to receive a Bursary Award from the Association in 2004, in order to fund the purchase of a set of evening tails for use in concerts. Thankfully, the fine traditions of British concert-making have been maintained so that it really is essential to have this fetching outfit for solo engagements.'

### *The Earliest Commercial Recording of St John's Choir*

You may also be interested to know that a record has recently been discovered that was made by the Choir in 1926, (pre-dating by 33 years what was previously thought to be the first commercial recording made in 1958, and marketed in 1959). We now have a copy of this and are in the process of investigating the possibility of making it more widely available as a CD. As next year will be the 80th anniversary of this historic event we intend researching and producing with the College a full article for next year's edition.

### *The Choir Association Forges Closer Links with the College*

The Dean and the Director of Music have both expressed the wish to be more closely associated with the work of the Choir Association. In the

past it has not always been recognised that the Choir Association is a College Society, as well as being an exempt Charity in Association with the College. Improvements have therefore been made on the Choir Association website to this effect, with links to the websites of the College, the Choir, and the Gentlemen of St John's.

#### *Enquiries and Further Information*

For further information please have a look at our website [www.sicca.org.uk](http://www.sicca.org.uk) and rest assured that the success of the St John's College Choir Association will continue as long as we have your continued support and interest, for which we thank you.

**Alastair Roberts**  
Chairman

#### **The Classical Society**

The Classical Society kicked off this year with a reading of Aristophanes' classic comedy *The Frogs*. The night was a great success, enlivened by the enthusiasm of everyone present, with Professor Crook's and Professor Schofield's unforgettable frog chorus making the evening most enjoyable. Once again, the turnout was impressive and everyone gave their respective parts their all (ranging from God to Bawdy Madam), and as President I was proud to see so many Classicists being such good sports.

At the beginning of the Lent Term it was my absolute pleasure to welcome the world-renowned Professor Simon Goldhill as guest speaker at a Classical Society meeting. His talk – entitled 'What Christians don't do' – was fascinating as well as enlightening, delivered in his characteristic avante garde style; the night just couldn't last long enough. He covered topics from the Classical world right through to modern Judaism, reminding us all that ours is a discipline that provides much of the background for modern living and its morals. We had our largest turnout yet to hear him speak, and all had come prepared with burning questions to ask the legend both about his talk and about his specialist subjects.

This year's Classical Desserts in the Wordsworth Room was its usual debaucherous self, with members of the Society enjoying limitless wine, port, fruit and cheeses whilst they fought over the delicious and addictive St John's chocolate truffles. The evening is always tremendous fun and the highlight of the Classical Society calendar, allowing undergraduates, graduates, Fellows and supervisors to mingle in a more informal setting and participate in some good chat and witty banter. The night, as always, lasted into the small hours, and it was a pleasure to see such a good attendance.

All the Classicists are now concentrating on work as the exams draw ever-nearer, but we have our summer Classics Buffet Lunch to look forward to. Held in the Wordsworth Room again, it is a much more relaxed affair, and I hope to see all the Classicists come along and enjoy a well-earned break.

I would like to thank Professor Crook for allowing us the use of his room for our meetings and also for the bountiful supplies of wine he provides throughout the evenings. To Professor Schofield and Dr Gowers, I would also like to extend my thanks, for helping to organise the Desserts and hosting introductory drinks parties for the Classicists. This year has been a most enjoyable one for the Classical Society, and with the first years amounting to our largest ever intake, we've certainly felt the support of their bolstering numbers at meetings – thank you for joining in with such fresh enthusiasm. I look forward to seeing what the next year will bring.

**Holly Ranger**  
President

#### **Economics Society**

The academic year 2004/2005 kicked off with a warm welcome to the first years. A lively drinks reception and formal hall was followed by the traditional trip to Cindy's. The older years had planned to initiate the Freshers but yet again managed to end up in greater need of a visit to Gardies themselves.



December brought what we hope will be the first of many Christmas Dinners, which Deloitte kindly sponsored fully. It was preceded by an interactive Deloitte business game focusing on the kind of problem solving skills we may encounter if we choose a career in finance.

Our speaker in January this year was St John's College's very own Professor Sir Partha Dasgupta. It was widely attended and he gave a fascinating and memorable talk on social policy, nature and the economy: covering issues ranging from free trade and missing markets to the economic discounting of global warming.

This was followed by the Economics Society's first ever trip to HM Treasury. We were invited to attend an internal public policy meeting, hosted by Sir Nick Stern. Professor Jean Tirole gave an interesting and informative lecture on two-sided markets to a room filled with treasury officials, policy makers and ten St John's economists. We then had a complimentary lunch and a guided tour of the Treasury, where we even got to see Gordon Brown's office. Hopefully next year, we'll be able to catch him inside!

The Easter Term Annual Dinner, which was held in the SCR for the first time, was a fitting finale to what has been a fantastic year. Many thanks to Mr Evans for his speech about both the Society and the continuing success of economics at St John's.

Finally, we would like to wish the third years the best of luck in the future and our new Presidents, Ammie Brewer and Charlie Willison, every success for the coming year.

**Emma Woolley and Sheena Sumaria**  
Presidents

### **The Gentlemen of St John's**

It has, all in all, been a fairly busy year for the Gents – conferences and dinner engagements had us singing as usual for a variety of clientele, from a building firm in an industrial estate outside Colchester (possibly

the oddest location we've sung in for a long time) to HRH The Duke of Edinburgh at the University Benefactors' Dinner. There is no one, it seems, to whom the Gents do not appeal; or rather, we'd do (almost) anything if the money were right!

The group saw the departure of some well-loved faces last year, and there was concern in particular that the loss of Allan Clayton (to the Royal Academy of Music) and Steven Shorter (to the real world) might reduce the 'mass' appeal of the Gents. The three incoming tenors, Jonny Knight (who is disconcertingly nice), Peter 'Captain' Morton and Finbarr Cosgrove (winner of Best Named Gent 2005) have shown signs of maintaining the tradition of a loud tenor section at St John's.

In the bass section we welcomed Gareth John (who apparently has no surname) and Andrew 'Dudley' Davies who replaces Tom Goldring, on loan for a year to MIT. The alto section was unchanged, although the Lent and Easter Terms saw the return of Peter Crawford (fresh from the clubs of London), whilst the manager visited his surgeon. Upstairs in the loft, John Robinson was joined by Paul Provost, who showed early on, as much through his skills as a Conductor than as an Organist, that he could well be returning in the future as the Director of Music!

Even before the year had begun, three of our number had travelled to Armagh to sing in the Choral Festival there, under the familiar direction of David Hill and that of Barry Rose. After a most successful trip, which some are hoping to emulate this year, the chaps returned with stories of wine (surely Guinness?), women (ehem) and song, and numerous rumours of *liaisons dangereuses*, all requiring immediate corroboration.

Standing room only, and not much of that, at our only public appearance in Michaelmas: 'Carols in the Maypole'. Spurred on by such welcoming comments as 'They're not singing in my pub' from some less chorally inclined locals, the Gents treated the otherwise enthusiastic 200-strong crowd to a medley of carols and not-so-carols. CD sales were predictably excellent, in particular *Gently does it...*, and the beer flowed even more mellifluously than the music from the *chanteurs*. It was here also that the new, high-visibility Gents' bow-ties were first paraded: designed by our tailor-in-residence Thomas Park, these will be a great

addition to the corporate 'Stash'. The plans for Gents' tweed flat-caps have been temporarily shelved.

A trip to Paris with the Choir just before Lent Term was greeted with anticipation: thoughts turned to beautiful French girls, romantic walks along the Seine, possibly even a taste of the beautiful French *cuisine*. Such thoughts were soon dispelled upon sight of our hotel, pleasantly sited on the side of an industrial canal in the 19th *arrondissement* only 25 minutes' ride from anything interesting. The concert was a great success however, and we returned, refreshed, for the new Term.

A performance for the Jane Goodall Foundation in February turned out to be the Gents' only appearance in the Lent Term. It had been hoped to perform at the Downing May Ball, although sadly, owing to an administrative problem on their part, the plan was foiled. In April our favourite Dutch educationalists again requested our presence, and various conferences bespatter the calendar up to September. The Lent period was brightened slightly, however, by a favourable review in *Gramophone Magazine* of the *Music for Men's Voices* CD released over the summer.

May Week is always a busy time, this year with performances at our inimitable Garden Party, SJC May Concert, Jesus May Ball and SJC May Ball's (in)famous 5am slot. The summer schedule, although filled with a number of choir engagements including a trip to Austria, leaves enough room for a small concert tour to Aynho near Banbury, Iford near Bath, and Beaminster, Dorset. Looking further ahead, the Gents have an exciting year in 2005/6 with the possibility of another eagerly awaited recording as well as concerts in the Albert Hall with John Rutter and in Lamberhurst, Kent.

We say goodbye this year to Nick Charlwood, last year's manager, to whom I owe many thanks for his solid financial prudence, which has enabled me to rest firm in the knowledge that I'd have to try very hard indeed to ruin the Gents' future prospects. We wish George 'Fever' Humphreys and Andrew Davies all the best in their move to the Royal Academy next year. Lester 'Reuben' Lardenoye leaves the choir after five years: he plans to return to Holland before mounting a full-scale attack on the British music industry as an agent.

Thomas 'Gosford' Park leaves on a gap-year, to find his inner self and find out what he can do with his music degree. Emperor John 'Robinson' is looking forward to his big step up north as he takes over as Chief Conductor of the Cockermouth Choral Society: in his spare time, he will be Assistant Organist at Carlisle Cathedral. As for me, with the amount of caffeine I've ingested over the revision period, I'll probably end up as a Tea-Broker.

I wish my successor, Gareth John, the very best of luck and good judgement as he tries to deal with the ever more cumbersome bureaucracy associated with running the group – thankfully the group itself is the very paragon of efficient government, being what we like to call a directly elected dictatorship (!).

**William Cartwright-Hignett**  
Manager

### The Helvetic Society

'Just make sure you can't fit the annual meeting into a phone box', with this declaration of lofty expectations from the former Senior Tutor, the St John's College Helvetic Society was, if not quite born, at least, well, past the point of no return. The fact that Cambridge is entirely devoid of any kind of Society for people from Switzerland, led me to corral the College's Swiss students (who, being pragmatic, already met monthly anyway) into pushing for an official Swiss Society. Despite a woeful public speaking display (under duress) at the Associated Societies AGM, the future President managed to get the plan off the ground.

St John's Swiss community breaks down very simply: there is one group, who everyone always assumes are English, and another, who are always assumed to be German. This somewhat diffuse image leads to a slight marketing problem; however the thought of chocolate, mountains, edelweiss, and yet another opportunity to wear red, meant that the Society quickly gained a healthy membership. The Helvetic Society aimed to venture further than the normal end-of-the-line for

many Societies: the port and cheese course at the annual dinner. A gathering of the very brave and very foolhardy sections of the membership met, and it was quickly decided: Matterhorn or bust! The plans were quickly laid, and we were ready for a monumental expedition to an Alpine monument.

Getting to the Matterhorn from Cambridge is no small feat. Bill Wyman once described being on tour as '90% waiting around', and it was hard to not empathise with him while waiting for the fifth conveyance of the day; in mitigation, by this point the increasingly dramatic surroundings had eclipsed *The Times* Crossword as the chief repeller of boredom. It is hard not to be impressed by Brig's mountain flanking, especially since the biggest climb usually faced by Johnians is getting to the top of the Shrewsbury Tower.

Arriving in Zermatt is something that one can never quite prepare for: no matter how often one sees a Toblerone packet, nothing can quite describe the sheer arresting power the Matterhorn has. Later in the week, on finding one of our party, somewhat unhappily, engaged in a wrestling match with a conifer, off to the side of a piste, all that needed saying was: 'Staring at the Matterhorn again, Dave?' A week of sun kissed weather surrounded by the twenty-nine 4000m peaks (including the highest peak solely within Switzerland – the Dom, and the highest peak in the Swiss Alps – Monte Rosa at 4634m) went down extremely well. Ferocious snows on the penultimate day enabled a powder snow driven day of off-piste and off-country (a 2 hour trip to Italy ensued) mayhem. In short: a wonderful trip, no major injuries (pride excepted), and enough cheese to ensure no one would ever look at a supermarket dairy section in quite the same way again.

Surprisingly, there is more to the Helvetic Society than trips to big mountains and fondue. We hold regular meetings for the Swiss in College (for a spectrum of undergraduates right through to post-doctoral students), and a number of our members showed a prospective College applicant from Aargau around St John's. We even managed to persuade the College's Catering and Conference department to lay on a suitably themed menu for our Annual Dinner (including Rösti,

Emmenthaler and many other things one would never have expected C&C to produce).

It has been an absolute pleasure running the Helvetic Society, and I very much hope that we will be writing reports of intrepid exploits in many editions of *The Eagle* to come. *Ade miteinander!*

**Alex Williamson**  
President

### The History Society

It has been a highly enjoyable and interesting year for the Society. Beginning with the lavish Garden Party in the picturesque and tranquil Fellows' Garden, in the Easter Term of last year, and ending with the equally splendid Centenary Dinner in the august setting of the Senior Combination Room.

We began with in-house talent in the form of the evidently highly qualified Commodore J W R Harris who delivered an illuminating and engaging paper entitled 'Submarines through the ages'. It was particularly good to see the degree of interest in what was perhaps uncharted territory for the Society.

The next visitor to the Society was Professor D E D Beales of Sidney Sussex College. He offered a highly original and extremely detailed discussion of 'Edmund Burke and the monasteries of France'. The members of the Society responded admirably, contributing lively and insightful points from the floor.

'Sparta and the English public school system' was the next topic presented for consideration by Dr A Powell from the University of Wales. The interesting parallels and fresh approach was enjoyed by historians and classicists alike.

The undoubted highlight of my tenure was the 100th annual History Society Dinner. Given the significance of the occasion, some select words from the founders of the Society and a brief account of its early

history were presented and enjoyed by all. The centenary of the Society was celebrated with aplomb and we were honoured to receive Lord Patten of Barnes, Chancellor of Oxford University. Negotiating his demanding schedule to join us he gave a stimulating and uniquely personal description of recent Asian history and offered his expectations for the future of the emerging superpowers.

I would like to thank my Committee, R A Kemp as Treasurer, G D Lowden, Secretary and Unofficial Minister without Portfolio C M D Barnes for their hard work and dedication. A special mention must go to Senior Treasurer, Dr P A Linehan, whose involvement in the Society for many years has been integral to its success. He has offered me unwavering and invaluable advice and assistance and I hope he will continue to do so for my successors far into the future.

It remains only for me to offer my best wishes to the incoming Committee: Ed Andrews as President, Juliet Courtney as Secretary and Jonathan Knight as Treasurer. I wish them every success next year and will leave them with the advice of the first Treasurer, Dudley Ward: 'History' he wrote 'is a subject about which it is not required that you should know very much but that you should show that you have the power of learning more.'

**Ben Chan**  
President

### ***Inprint* Magazine**

*Inprint* is an annual publication of creative writing. It is funded by the Associated Societies Fund of St John's, and edited mostly by students of the College, but accepts submissions from anyone in the University and has, in recent years, benefited immensely from the editorial involvement of members of other Colleges.

This year *Inprint* has received submissions from undergraduates, graduates and even professors at the University and has, for the first time, accepted submissions in foreign languages. Accepting work in

foreign languages is an important gesture of this year's *Inprint*, since Cambridge creative writing publications have, up until now, been entirely monolingual. Choosing from work in different languages has been challenging, but in that task *Inprint* has been fortunate to have been able to draw upon several bilingual members of the College, such as Allyson Ke, who helped with the Chinese submissions, and Bart Fleuren, who arrived just in time as an exchange student from Utrecht to judge the Dutch submissions.

*Inprint* has this year taken some inspiration from the early modernist poet and critic T E Hulme, who was, for a short time, a member of the College. It has therefore been inclined towards imagist poetry and prose and has kept in mind Hulme's anti-Romanticism and taste for Cubism. One of Hulme's own short poems will accompany this year's selection.

The year began with the successful publication and launch of *Inprint* 2004, edited by Georgina Browes and Mike Gun-Why and will, all things going to plan, end with the successful publication and launch of *Inprint* 2005. Copies of both editions can be ordered for the price of £1.50 each by writing to Nirup Chawhan at this fine College.

**Nick Milanese**  
Editor

### **Jazz@John's**

After the revival of last year, Jazz@John's continued to develop this year, diversifying to other styles and broadening its appeal, with ten events featuring nineteen different ensembles marking its busiest year so far. With little advertising except to our own email list, the events still regularly sold out in an hour, and latecomers often waited a while in the cold for someone to leave!

Michaelmas started with the Freshers' Event and a performance from Jon Opstad, whose debut album was already on sale and had been featured on BBC Radio 3's *Late Junction*. His chilled, Norwegian-influenced style, performed alongside his brother James and

Jazz@John's stalwart John Turville was in stark contrast to the upbeat JazzTank; a sextet from Fitz Swing who took jazz standards and classics to a new level.

Next up was 'Josh@John's': a double set from the renowned Josh Kemp Quartet. Despite the bar being packed to the rafters, those who wanted to dance found a way, and they were still clamouring for more after nearly three hours and countless classic performances.

The termly Party Event did not disappoint, with the highlight being the return, by popular demand, of Manteca. Last heard at the Easter event, after a swift rebranding to Lido66 they transformed the Palmerston Room into a Cuban dancehall, and had even the most tired feet dancing 'til midnight. They were preceded by Pat Sharp's Funk House, another returning band, who kicked off the evening with, indeed, funk-filled fun. If that weren't enough, over in the bar were the Sara Mitra Quartet and the Loraine Trio, both headed by fantastic vocals and a mellow contrast to the energetic bands next door.

Michaelmas also saw the launch of 'Vision'; a late-night 'new' music concept intended to widen the range of performances given at Jazz@John's. Held in the smaller Clarkson Room on a Saturday night, both events were well attended and appreciated. Jon Opstad returned with a sextet, performing arrangements of classic Blue Notes songs by Herbie Hancock, Wayne Shorter and Lee Morgan. After this somewhat traditional offering, Jazz@John's turned experimental with Recurring: electronica combined with cello, violin and French horn. Though successful, ultimately 'Vision' was put on hold because we were too busy with the regular events.

Which brings us to Lent Term, and a vocals special for New Year: two duets of vastly contrasting styles. Naomi Stoll, accompanied by Fergus Read, captured the hearts of many in the audience with her tender performances of well-loved standards, while The Small Hours went for funk and soul and, though excellent, were somewhat a rude awakening! A perfect example of the breadth of talent in the University.

Jazz@John's returned to normality with a solid night of ensemble jazz and funk, with Funk Shui (contender for Band Name of the Year) and

the George Crowley Quartet. Both were relatively new, and Jazz@John's virgins, but made the place their own impressing the knowledgeable regulars with a good mix of old and new.

A first for Jazz@John's at the Lent Party Event: five bands in one night! In the same night you could hear blues, funk, soul, motown, bossa nova, R'n'B, gypsy jazz and even Russian folk music. The latter four styles were on display in the bar, with Gling-Glo and Fiend, while the former four strutted their stuff in the Palmerston Room, with 12 Minutes 'Til Monday, Funksoc and the returning Pat Sharp's Funk House. Space in the connecting corridors between the two rooms was keenly fought over!

Before exams could arrive we threw one last party, the Revision Reviver, bringing back a couple of old favourites and trying something new. The headline band was Emunah, winner of the 2005 SCA Battle of the Bands, who, via a huge sound system, unleashed a unique blend of reggae, hip-hop and drum 'n' bass onto an unsuspecting Jazz@John's audience. For those of a more traditional taste we brought back Jon Opstad and his sextet from 'Vision' for an outing to a wider audience. Back in the bar were Round Purple Toes, an acoustic guitar and vocals trio, and JazzTank returned to end the year as it started, including their now famous 'Countdown'/'Watermelon Man' segue.

Still to come at the time of writing is the Garden Party at the beginning of May Week. Last year's resounding success will be a hard act to follow, but we have the right bands for the job in Lido66 and Butcher's Brew, and should bring to a close a most enjoyable and successful year for Jazz@John's. A new sponsorship deal with Deloitte is in the works and should ensure financial security for the Society in the future.

I would like to thank the dozen or so people without whom none of the events would function - my Committee, who are superb in every way. Special thanks to Jen Hon, our bar manager who keeps the masses refreshed, and Tom Stambollouian, who as Vice-President books these fantastic bands. Thanks also to the legions of jazz lovers who keep returning to the events and make Jazz@John's the success that it is.

**Dan Shaw**  
President



## The JCR

Building upon the good work of previous years, the Junior Combination Room Committee was elected in February 2004, following my period of 'apprenticeship' under the Sir Alan Sugar of JCR Presidencies, Niko Downie. The JCRC, with its habit of keeping minutes to lose hours, this time consisted mainly of people 'just wanting to get the job done' with a desire to really get inside undergraduate life, providing provision that would extend far beyond the confines of a Common Room. Although there is no 'I' in team, there is a 'me' if one looks hard enough, and with this in mind, each Committee Member set out to 'do their bit' for the College community.

All this came under the invaluable guidance of my levelheaded presidential sidekick, Steven Martin, who was elected Vice-President. With a keen eye for constitutional loopholes, Steve kept everyone on their toes and ensured that they all kept up with their responsibilities, even if this required a little pressure and the odd reminder. His contribution during the fees and charges negotiations with College was particularly fearsome, as was his selection of the famed *University Challenge* team.

Convincing the masses that having a sixth-form 'shadow' student, or in fact showing 50 young people from Lambeth schools around College as part of the Eagle Project, would be 'cool', Sarah Quartermain injected new life into the College's Access Schemes. Her email 'buddy system', offering pre-application and interview support to school students, will be a lasting contribution to the College's increasingly important Access effort.

Patrick Harty, the new Ents Officer, set out on a mission to improve the musical tastes of Johnian undergraduates, extending it beyond the usual cheese-in-school-uniform-affair we all knew and loved. Along with the efforts of the Boiler Room President, Rich Wilberforce, Johnians this year were able to get-down-and-dirty to an increasingly diverse selection of tunes and DJs, including the work of some up and coming Johnians. The *Heaven and Hell* June Ent was a runaway success, setting a precedent for future events in College, despite nearly finishing off the

vast majority of the JCR Committee owing to the endless effort and enthusiasm required immediately post-exams. Equipped with walkie-talkies as new symbols of our self-importance, everyone worked hard and played harder, with the event making a sizable profit, thanks only to a shameless corporate endorsement that made Cripps resemble Market Square for one evening only.

The well-being of the undergraduates fell to Penny Moore, who, armed with an endless pile of advice leaflets and booklets, a friendly ear, a comforting shoulder and the patience of a saint, provided support and counselling to anybody who needed it. Making the afternoon episode of *Neighbours* a tea-and-biscuit-fuelled institution, she was a friendly smile and a breath of calming fresh air to Junior Members and the Committee alike. Ammie Griffiths, as Equal Opportunities Officer, kept many of us politically-correct when we didn't realise we were being politically-incorrect, and was another locus of calm in the frequently charged committee meetings.

Keeping a tight hold of the purse strings was the able Economist Christopher Taylor. With experience of managing the books for LMBC, he was instrumental in fees and charges negotiations and also had the stressful task of ensuring that Ents ran at a steady even. His thrifty nature provided another lasting reminder of this year – a huge television. Whilst Chris was busy balancing the books, Charlie French, the elected Yearbook Officer was never far from a College event with her faithful team, camera in hand, capturing memories for what I am sure will be a fabulous yearbook.

Ex-Services officer Greg Lowden is the new JCR President, and the relationship he built with the College whilst helping to manage the JCR facilities, as well as other College facilities that are used by Junior Members will no doubt have stood him in good stead. Organising minutes, and the Committee as a whole, Dave Knowles demonstrated how men can multi-task too. Lizzy Gibney, the JCR External Officer, always had her ear to the ground at CUSU, keeping John's up-to-date with University affairs, and she is to be commended for the quantity and rate at which she manufactured NUS cards in Freshers' Week.

Whilst all this was going on away from the eyes of the average undergraduate, Andrew Wheatley Hubbard, our tall Publicity Officer, ensured that people could not avoid knowing what the JCR was doing next – this was helped by Alex Williamson, who kept the website up-to-date, relevant and mildly entertaining. Andrew is to be remembered for having the whole Committee looking like dental nurses for the arrival of the Freshers, thanks to a little confusion about the sizing and style of the now redundant JCR t-shirts.

The achievements of this Committee are too numerous to mention. In addition to protecting students from the proposed level of rent increase, the JCR alongside the SBR have ensured that the timing of such negotiations (usually held in the exam term) are more appropriately placed. In the face of the proposed introduction of Top-Up Fees, the JCR, with the Master, launched the Graduate Bursary Scheme, to encourage recent graduates to support named annual bursaries for Junior Members. The challenge was taken up enthusiastically by those who graduated in 2004, and I hope this level of participation will continue. Constitutional changes have introduced the position of Green and Charities Officer to the Committee, as well as giving the External Officer responsibility for Academic Affairs, to provide greater support to students and to encourage the College to provide training for Supervisors.

Not yet nostalgic for my experiences as JCR President, I do feel that the JCRC has a certain solidarity that only comes from being on your hands and knees at 3.30am after an Ent, cleaning the floor. We nod knowingly as we walk past each other in College, knowing that our simple existence comes from somebody else's hard work. Particularly, I would like to thank the Senior Tutor, who provided as much time, advice and support as we needed and the Domestic Bursar, for his reality checks and no-nonsense advice on a variety of matters. The Head Porter and the Dean also provided last minute approval for Ents, ensuring that neither the Committee nor I were lynched by Junior Members expecting a knees-up. Kathy Hammond provided endless assistance and really showed us how College 'works' – I apologise here for the headache we must have given her at times! Best of luck to the new Committee, and

thanks to the Junior Members who gave me the opportunity to represent them – I hope we gave you a time to remember!

**Kate Burke**  
President

### The Johnian Society

The Johnian Society Dinner and Annual General Meeting were held on Saturday 11 December 2004 in the Hall. The President of the Society, Professor Jane Heal, proposed the toast to the College and the President of the College, Dr John Leake, replied. We were pleased to welcome Dr Leake to the dinner in place of the Master who was unable to join us due to a long-standing engagement overseas. Mrs Heather Hancock (BA 1987) and Dr Jo Griffiths (BA 2000, PhD 2003) were elected Ordinary Members of the Johnian Society Committee for six years from 1 January 2005, while Sir Neil Chalmers (PhD 1968) was elected President for one year from the same date, and Mr Francis Baron (BA 1967) was elected Vice-President.

As usual the dinner was an enjoyable occasion and many of those present sampled the delights of the College Bar afterwards. The number of people attending fell slightly which was disappointing – the 2005 dinner will be held on Saturday 17 December and we urge members of the Society to sign up on the pink form enclosed with *The Eagle*.

As usual Mr John Loosley organised a very successful and enjoyable Golf Competition at the Gog Magog golf course.

The Society continues to support the College financially through gifts to the Access Exhibition Fund (£2,000 this year) and through gifts to add to the income available from the Johnian Society Travel Exhibition Fund (a further £2,000). This year Travel Exhibitions have been awarded to nine students for projects ranging from teaching English to Tibetans in exile in India, to working on engineering projects for a charity in North Central Ecuador.

The main reason for the Society's existence is to keep Johnians in touch with each other and the Committee is looking at ways to do this, particularly in terms of encouraging younger Johnians to attend events.

Finally, the Johnian Society Lecture will take place on 4 November in the College's Fisher Building. Mr David Pountney CBE (BA 1969), the Intendant of the Bregenz Festival in Austria and former Director of Productions at the English National Opera, will give a lecture entitled 'In dreams begin responsibility'. All members of the Society and their guests are welcome and information about timings will be available on the College's website in due course.

**Catherine Twilley**  
Secretary

### **The Johnian Society of the USA**

The Johnian Society of the USA has continued to build momentum over the past year. Several successful events have taken place, in addition to the ongoing fundraising work; raising money for the College's bursary programme, amongst other things. This report gives a brief account of the year's activities and aims to thank the many people who have made these events possible.

In September last year, the Master, while attending an academic conference in Seattle was able to meet and have dinner with a group of Johnians now living in Washington State. Our thanks go to Valtcho Valtchev (PhD 1995) and Joe Brown (BA 1971) for helping to arrange this. As 2004 drew to a close, Johnians living in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut enjoyed a 'Holiday' drinks party, kindly hosted by Richard Thompson (BA 1957) at his apartment in Manhattan.

This year, in February, Johnians living in California's Bay area were invited to join the Master for a dinner, organised by Kevin Tierney (BA 1964). Twenty-five Johnians and their guests spent a convivial evening chatting with the Master and enjoying the French cuisine of Le Pot au Feu restaurant in Menlo Park.

More recently, Johnians local to New Jersey enjoyed Peter and Helen Goddard's generous hospitality for a family barbecue at their home at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton. We were delighted, not only that the sun shone, but that over 100 people were able to attend, also joining alumnae of Newnham College, where Helen is an alumna. The barbecue, on Sunday 1 May was preceded by a special dinner on Saturday 30 April for members of the JS-USA Committee. Following dinner, guests were treated to a private recital by Chris Whitton, a PhD student at St John's, and Graham Walker (BA 1999).

Various events are planned for the coming year, including a dinner at the Athenaeum Club at CalTech, Pasadena on 30 September, which has been kindly facilitated by Professor Jack Todd. We also hope to invite Johnians in the Boston area to join the Master for a dinner in November; the exact date will be confirmed later in the year. There will also be another 'Holiday' drinks party in New York.

This year, we have launched the JS-USA newsletter, which will be sent out bi-annually. With this, we aim to improve communications with Johnians living in the United States and to inform them of forthcoming events and reunions. Also this year, Clare Laight, the Associate Development Officer spent five weeks visiting Johnians across the country to bring them up to date on the College's affairs. We extend our thanks to all those who gave their time to meet with her.

Thanks must go to the Chairman of the JS-USA, Marc Feigen and the Committee for their continued work and dedication. We also extend our gratitude to all of those who have supported JS-USA events and who have supported the College's fundraising efforts. Finally, we remind all US Johnians to keep an eye on the College's webpages, [www.joh.cam.ac.uk/johnian/jsusa/forthcoming\\_events/](http://www.joh.cam.ac.uk/johnian/jsusa/forthcoming_events/) for information about future events.

**Clare Laight**

### The Lady Margaret Pilgrimage Society

The Pilgrimage Society began the year with a four-day trip to Ravenna and Venice. It was an opportunity for the 10 participants to see some of the most stunning religious mosaic work to be found in Europe, and also proved (in Venice at least) an opportunity for a final burst of sun-seeking before returning to the Cambridge winter. Unsurprisingly the religious architecture proved a draw in Venice, and attending Mass in St Mark's Basilica was a highlight of the trip. Navigating the city was a little tricky at times, with many routes blocked by equinoctial flooding, and with the enormous number of tourists in the city (although I fear there is something of the pot calling the kettle black here). However, great fun was had by all, and we certainly felt refreshed by the short break.

St Edmundsbury Cathedral was our Michaelmas Term destination and we passed a very enjoyable Saturday on a trip to Canterbury in Lent Term. The chapel walk to Ely is eagerly anticipated after exams, as is the annual bun-fight in the Wordsworth Room during which Liberals traditionally have grapes thrown at them by Anglo-Catholics (and vice-versa I may say), and then we all go and have port. A jolly affair indeed.

In what may prove to be a first for the Society, we will in fact be going on a walking Pilgrimage in September 2005! From Leon, Spain, our hardy pilgrims will travel around 400km of the Pilgrims' Way to Santiago de Compostela, across the *meseta* and through the beautiful mountains of Galicia. We expect this to be a very exciting, and not to say formative, trip for the pilgrims involved.

It has been greatly enjoyable to be a part of LMPS, and I hope that the Society will continue to expand over the years to come, organising further stimulating trips to religious sites, both in Britain and beyond.

**William Cartwright-Hignett**  
President

### The Lady Margaret Players

The Lady Margaret Players have had a remarkably successful year. Following a period of financial difficulty, we have been lucky enough to have a series of exceptionally well-received productions.

The year started with a production of two short plays, written by Johnian undergraduates, at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. The first play, entitled *Stale Flat*, written by Tom Hardcastle, was about a man's refusal to be drawn into the real world from the cage he had constructed about himself. The second play, by Tamsin Astbury, *Manfred*, was a modern day adaptation of the story of Adam and Eve's banishment from the Garden of Eden.

Using an innovative multi-media approach, the production was, sadly, not particularly successful, being called as exciting as 'a piece of stale unbuttered toast' by one reviewer. However, this was promptly rectified by the successful funding of a Cambridge run at the Union of another Edinburgh production, 'Five Visions of the Faithful'. Thankfully, this saved the LMP from the financial troubles that our own production had caused.

Michaelmas Term also saw three other productions funded by the LMP. The Bright Faces Stage Company's production of Oscar Wilde's *Lady Windermere's Fan* returned from a tour of Canada to perform in the School of Pythagoras. Bright Faces was initially supported by the LMP when it was set up to organise an annual tour to Canada a few years ago, and it was a pleasure to be able to support them again on this tour.

Michaelmas also saw the LMP co-funding a piece of new student writing by Paul McCormick with Shadwell, the drama society of Gonville and Caius College. Performed at the Corpus Playroom, this was a truly inter-collegiate production. At the beginning of December, the School of Pythagoras saw a ground-breaking production of *Marat/Sade* being performed under the direction of King's student, Stacey Gregg. This massive, semi-musical play was loved by all who saw it and helped make Stacey's name as a director in Cambridge.

Lent Term saw three productions by the LMP. At the end of February, we put on a production of Shakespeare's *Titus Andronicus*, his least performed play. Immediately after that, there was a production of a newly written translation of Aristophanes' *Peace*. This updated war satire by Mary Chester-Kadwell was highly successful making almost 100% profit. The last play of Lent was a new translation of Pasolini's *Mythmaking*, performed in Christ's Theatre. Once again the LMP has proved itself to be at the cutting edge of intellectual drama.

Due to the financial success of the productions already done during the year we were, for the first time in years, able to put on two separate productions in Easter Term. The first was the highly successful Freshers' Play, *Dangerous Corner* by J B Priestley. Completely organised and acted by Johnian freshers, this production proved that there is a lot of theatrical talent in St John's, and that the LMP will be in good hands next year. Directed by Jennifer Edwards and Fatema Ebrahim, the play was, in my opinion, one of the best ever performed in Cambridge. Special mention should also go to Zoe Gilmore and Ashraf El-Mashad, Designer and Producer respectively, for creating a superb platform for the actors and directors to display their talent.

The last production of the year was Noah Charney's script, *Mr and Mrs Andrews*. Noah is a graduate student at St John's, who found the inspiration for this play from the painting with the same name. Sparkling, sexy and just a little sinister, it courted controversy by having the characters naked for a large proportion of the script, though in the end this wasn't carried through into the production. Nevertheless, Noah has certainly displayed himself to be a very talented playwright and I am confident he will go far with it if he wishes to do so.

All in all then, this has been a great year for the Lady Margaret Players. It just leaves me to say thank you to all those who have made it so, the actors, playwrights, directors and stage crew involved with each production. As always the Lady Margaret Players Committee has seen itself as just an administrative body to allow the students of St John's College to be involved in, and also watch, some excellent student

drama. I am confident that the next year will be just as good and will help to re-establish the LMP's position as an asset to the College.

**Samuel Wring**  
President

### The Larmor Society

The Larmor Society, which is the College's Natural Sciences Society, began the year with a couple of small events for Freshers, including a tea party (which failed dramatically since it coincided with practical sign up time, leaving the Committee with a colossal excess of biscuits). A few days later we had the Squash, which consisted of Hall followed by a house party in St John's Road. The Committee attempted to organise the Freshers into a 'boat race' in the tradition of the old President John Smythe, but that proved about as easy as herding cats. Despite the chaos, the evening was quite a success, with a good proportion of the Freshers turning up.

The first event of Lent Term was a social Hall for the whole Society, which seemed to go down well, with a large chunk of Hall occupied entirely by NatScis. Towards the end of term the Society arranged Desserts for the 1As, which a number of Fellows and older students attended to pass on their insights on the 1B courses available. There was a lot of lively discussion of the pros and cons of the different subjects (I was apparently rather over-zealous in my support of chemistry – but it is the best subject!), to which the contribution of the Fellows was much appreciated.

In the Easter Term, sixty scientists and Fellows attended the largest event of the year: the Annual Dinner, in the candlelit SCR. This year we secured corporate sponsorship for the dinner, so we were able to have lots of food and drink for less money, which was a bonus. As always it was a very pleasant evening – and resulted in at least one PhD offer! The elections for the new Committee were also concluded on the same night, revealing some very keen new members – Dave Knowles, Hana Hijazi,



Craig Lumb, Nada Kozman and Richard Skidmore, headed by the almost alarmingly competent Michelle Pope – good luck to them for the next year! And finally, thanks to this year's Committee – Michelle, Jenny, Chris, Nick and Saira – for all their work.

**Alex Wilber**  
**President**

### **The Moral Sciences Society**

The rather quaintly named 'Moral Sciences Society' comprises the philosophers of the College. To introduce the Freshers and other converts to the paradoxical ways of the philosophical sect, the undergraduates held a Freshers' Hall at the beginning of the Michaelmas Term. As one would expect at such a gathering, conversation alternated between vigorous debate and pained eyebrow-crumpling thought, although, as one would also expect at such a gathering, as the evening went on the debate got rather more vigorous and the amount of thought increasingly diminished.

Later in the year, Professor Jane Heal very kindly led a philosophers' field-trip to the Elysian Fields of the Ascension burial ground, formerly St Giles' Cemetery. Buried there are such luminaries of Cambridge philosophy as Frank Ramsey, GE Moore and Ludwig Wittgenstein. Professor Heal showed why she is known for the Simulation theory of mind by performing impressions of the various lecturing styles and attendant looks of philosophical reflection of those we were visiting, whilst informing us about their lives and opinions. On our return to College we were gladly warmed by tea and cake provided by Dr Mary Leng and Mr Martin O'Neill.

The Society now looks forward to its Summer Garden Party and to success next year.

**Nick Milanese**  
**Treasurer**

### **The Music Society**

The St John's College Music Society has continued to be one of the most active groups in the hectic Cambridge music scene. It is also proud to be one of the largest of the College Societies and has, this year, taken big steps to increase its inclusiveness and the facilities and opportunities it offers its members. This has been achieved in the form of the new, regularly rehearsing College Orchestra and open undergraduate recitals as well as the continuation of the St John's Singers and the Music Society's contribution to the renovation of the Steinway piano.

The year started with the Freshers' Squash; an opportunity for all of the new, as well as the existing, members of the Society to enjoy cheap wine and the ever-popular cocktail sausages. This was followed by a highly successful Freshers' Recital, which attracted an audience that easily filled the New Music Room.

The weekly busy life of the Music Society soon fell into place. Orchestra rehearsals now happen on Monday nights in the NMR and are open to all members of College of any standard. The rehearsals, taken by Candida Caldicot-Bull and Craig Hudson with Pat Bidder leading the Orchestra, have been exceptionally well attended with a full orchestra most weeks.

Wednesdays and Thursdays played host to the Late Night and Lunchtime Recital Series, this year very efficiently managed by Brian Lum. These have displayed the talents of musicians within College as well as those of many guests from elsewhere in the University. Our Graduate Representative, Nick Collins arranged an open Graduate Recital that confidently followed the precedent set by the success of last year's. For the first time, the undergraduates also followed this example and the open Undergraduate Recital proved to be a roaring success with audience members having to stand against the back wall to fit into the NMR.

Back to our weekly events and the St John's Singers' rehearsals on Thursday nights, which this year were taken by Tim Scott with the support of our new Junior Organ Scholar, Paul Provost, on the piano.

The Singers have happily retained their position as a popular small mixed choir in Cambridge.

On Saturdays in the Chapel organists from St John's College, Cambridge and beyond performed in the Organ Recital Series managed by the Senior Organ Scholar, John Robinson. With this series, as with the Late Night and Lunchtime Recitals, we have continued to support The North Malawi Surgery Project.

Dr Castelvechi has continued to organise the Master's Lodge Concerts on Saturday nights where large audiences have enjoyed the mix of prominent performers who have contributed to the series.

The Society, as well as enjoying these weekly events, also commits itself to a large-scale concert each term in the Chapel. The Michaelmas Term Concert included more Johnian performers than have been used for many years in a College concert. The debut of the new fully Johnian Orchestra included the performance of Copland's *Fanfare for The Common Man*, Sibelius's *Finlandia* conducted by Candida Caldicot-Bull, and Vaughan Williams's *English Folk Song Suite* conducted by Craig Hudson. The St John's Singers completed the Concert with Rutter's *Magnificat* conducted by Tim Scott with soloist Amy Carson. The Concert was well attended and a real showcase of College talent. Many thanks to Laura Protano-Biggs for her publicity work.

Following this success, the Lent Term Concert was of an equally high standard with large numbers of Johnians performing. The programme included: Tallis, *Lamentations*; Vaughan Williams, *Five Mystical Songs* with soloist George Humphreys; Malcom Arnold, *Little Suite for Orchestra*; and Brahms, *Academic Festival Overture* with Tim, Craig and Candida again conducting. Each Term Concert was celebrated by high quality wine arranged by the Society's party boy, Toby Coleman. We were pleased to welcome the addition of gingerbread men to our cocktail sausage diet.

The annual Combination Room Concert had a record attendance of Fellows, Graduates, Undergraduates and guests who enjoyed a programme of 'Bach By Candlelight'. Soloists Lester Lardenoye (alto),

John Robinson (harpsichord), Paul Provost ('cello), Amy Carson (soprano), Tom Herford (tenor) and George Humphreys (bass) performed *Cantata 54*, *Prelude and Fugue BwV850*, *Cello Suite BwV1007* and the popular *Coffee Cantata*.

We are looking forward to this year's May Week Concert, which will be held in the Chapel rather than Hall. It will feature a varied programme including an Organ Concerto with soloist John Robinson and contributions from the College Choir, Gents and St John's Singers. We are also looking forward to our Annual Dinner and reinstated Summer Garden Party before we hold our AGM, where I will hand over to a new Committee who will take the Music Society on to bigger and better things next year.

I would like to give personal thanks to Craig Hudson for being such a supportive Vice-President and to Sarah Gunasekara for being such a wonderful Secretary and saving so many trees with the help of Professor Johnstone's guillotine. On behalf of the whole Committee I would also like to thank our senior Committee members, especially Professor Johnstone, for the use of his lovely rooms and for his wonderful coffee, as well of course as his support and advice. Many thanks also to Dr Glasscock for his unending patience with our finances.

We have all worked very hard this year to enable music within College to be available for everyone to take advantage of but also to maintain the College's reputation as having one of the most highly respected Music Societies within Cambridge. I look forward to seeing it continue to grow under next year's Committee.

**Candida Caldicot-Bull**  
President

### Opera House Society

Aiming to enable students of St John's to attend performances at the Royal Opera House at Covent Garden, we regularly buy a number of

tickets up in the gods and distribute them to those who are enthusiastic about opera, but limited in their financial means.

International students have often been most grateful for the opportunity to visit one of the 'jewels in the crown of British culture'. Thus over the last few years we have frozen with Mimi in *La Boheme*, suffered consumption with Violetta in *La Traviata*, competed with the *Meistersinger* and tried to make sense of the plot of *Il Trovatore*. Ever popular were also the operas with a British theme such as Verdi's *Macbeth* and Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor*, in which most protagonists end up either lying in their own blood or becoming mentally unstable - and often both. During the intervals we find ourselves in deep need of nourishing support after such a challenging cultural diet. Accordingly we fight our way through clouds of velvet, silk, pearls and tulle and turn to Covent Garden's delicious ice cream stands for portions of Stem Ginger, Belgian Chocolate or Rich Vanilla (some continental members of the society, however, consider Stem Ginger an acquired taste - alas, the same might be said of Germanic opera). These cold delights are then best consumed on the House's roof terrace whilst watching the sunset over the London Eye.

My special thanks are due to our long-standing former President, Rosalind MacLachlan and Secretary, Davina Stevenson for all their work and commitment before we could even see the first curtain rise, and to Dr Colwell for presiding over the Society's business in the past and hopefully for many nights at the opera to come.

**Martin Dinter**  
President

### The Palmerston Society

The Palmerston Society is enjoying something of a renaissance as it approaches its bicentenary. Lord Palmerston himself would have been amazed at our ability to organise not one, but two successful events in one year. During the Michaelmas Term, in an effort to welcome the new

members, there were drinks in the Old Music Room, and in the Lent Term, the Annual Dinner was held in the Wordsworth Room. For the first time in living memory, we even managed to entertain a guest speaker. Professor Geoff Hawthorn, Head of the Department of Politics at the University, was unable to resist the lure of this most distinguished of Societies, and gave an entertaining and mercifully concise account of Palmerston's womanising tendencies.

Of course, this is all but trivia when compared to the main reason for our continued existence: to provide a shameless CV-filler for 3rd year undergraduates. This year's Committee (which never met) stretched to seven members, including a Junior Under-Secretary for Social Affairs who more than justified her exalted title by hosting pre-dinner drinks when the President was otherwise engaged. Our Senior Treasurer, Miss Tomaselli, was invaluable, particularly in obtaining funding from College. Lorna Gratton, Junior Treasurer, was similarly useful, and in the power vacuum that was the Palmerston Society at the start of the Michaelmas Term, single-handedly organised the Old Music Room Drinks.

Palmerston entered Parliament aged twenty-three. Vice-President Dye, exhibiting similar political ambition, contested the CUSU (Cambridge University Students Union) presidency in the Lent Term. Despite superhero-like support from Secretary Yiangou he ultimately failed in his quest. All those concerned can nevertheless take comfort from the knowledge that while Palmerston too was unsuccessful in his first forays towards elected office, he eventually became Prime Minister.

The Palmerston Society in the coming years can only grow. With the discovery of a bank account and cheque book (the details of which remained hidden until Christmas) we may even have an orderly hand-over this year. We can only hope that the College will continue to fund our hedonistic excesses and excuse any financial irregularities. Perhaps Florence Nightingale's remarks after Palmerston's death might also apply to the society that bears his name: 'Though he made a joke when asked to do the right thing he always did it. He was so much more in earnest than he appeared.' Amen to that.

**Nick Charlwood**  
President

## The Purchas Society

Another fantastic year for the Purchas Society! With the wind in our sails from the preceding year, the popularity of the Purchas Society has once again flourished, sustained by the enthusiasm of another excellent group of members.

The customary Purchas 'Tea Party' at the start of Michaelmas Term reunited old Purchasians and we welcomed our new members into the fold. The following 'Purchas Paddlings' provided us with an opportunity to find out if they were made of the 'right kind of stuff', but our expectations were exceeded as we were entertained by stories of travels from far and wide.

Our first speaker of the year was Dr Glasscock who is rapidly becoming a regular feature of our first annual gathering. Once again he provided us with fascinating insights into St John's College and Cambridge, an excellent introduction to our wonderful College for our new members and a topic that never fails to capture the imagination of returning Purchasians, as each time more College secrets are revealed. Our new Purchasians became increasingly excited as the evening wore on, although I suspect this was encouraged by the customary supply of College Port. However, once again the evening was a resounding success.

Lent Term consisted of the customary Purchas 'Desserts', held in the Wordsworth Room as dictated by tradition. Dr Bayliss-Smith gave a short speech, and then we all joined in the games and frivolities, with our new Purchasians once again showing their worth, an impressive finish to a wonderful evening.

Our Lent Term speaker was a Geographer from Cambridge, Dr Jim Duncan. He spoke with honesty about the difficulties of fieldwork and regaled us with amusing anecdotes from his travels as a geographer, as well as providing a word of warning about doing research in sub-zero temperatures - ice is cold, by the way. His speech amused us all, and advised our second year geographers to rethink their grand plans for dissertation research - you cannot do 100 interviews in a week and if you think it will take you a week, it will probably take you a month. I know I can empathise!

Easter Term already, where does the time go? Once again we had our Annual Dinner in the Senior Combination Room, and as per usual the food, the drink, and the conversation (in that order!) were excellent and in plentiful supply. Our speaker, Peter Tickner, talked about his experiences as he walked across continents, amusing us with his tales of exploding beer, rancid Guinness, and more than the odd spot of difficulty! His talk was followed by the elections, with all present giving a good account of themselves, and our outgoing Librarian, Imran James, entertaining us whilst the votes were counted.

Congratulations to our new Committee, headed by Ben Hills as the first Land Economist President, aided by Rob Petit as Secretary, James Longman as Treasurer, and Claire McCarroll as Librarian, with Imran James assuming the prestigious position of 'Purchas Pin Up'. I would like to extend my thanks to the outgoing Committee who have done an excellent job; every year the Society grows stronger and long may this continue. I am confident that our new Committee will continue our hard work in sustaining Purchas as the thriving Society it has become. So, with another excellent year behind us, and grand hopes for the future - in time honoured tradition - a toast to Purchas!

**Kim Maynard**  
President

## The Samuel Butler Room

I'm writing this article just days after two historic elections: the 2005 General Election and the 2005 SBR Committee Election; where one operates at the geopolitical level, the other could be said to be juropolitical as Iain MacLeod brings his experience of the law to student politics as the next SBR President.

To begin with, I would like to thank the hardworking and enthusiastic Committee members who have allowed the SBRC this year to work determinedly to improve two main areas: our social life and our welfare. Rose and Lishan have been a great team working to improve

the welfare of the graduate body concentrating on international and financial issues as well as organising the odd free brunch. Femke, who we sadly lost to Magdalene early on, is still recovering from the 900 tuna and mayonnaise sandwiches we made by hand for the SBR Garden Party at the beginning of the year. John Harper's liaison with the JCR has proved as fruitful as one might expect...and his love of the SBR accounts has been alternately an inspiration and a worry to us all. Dan's frequent assertion 'it'll be alright love' was a calming influence and his Celtic charm made welcome the many graduates from other Colleges invited to dinner in St John's on exchange Halls. Nic and Richard, our Social and Sports Secretaries, have put on a range of events including a Surf 'n' Snow party, a wine-tasting, a sports day and a graduate dinner and dance held in Hall. One of the most innovative events this year has to be the SBR Clubbing trip to Life, a local nightspot: we have had more successful evenings. Our Sports and Social Secretaries' love of all things athletic has led to a much-improved SBR Football team and SBR Cricket team. Rob 'Pub' Pugh's secretarial skills have been much in use although in reality he will be most remembered by the children of SBR members who came to our Children's Party to see Rob dressed as a clown.

As well as organising a range of events, the SBRC has been doing some important work behind the scenes. A particular improvement this year concerns the dialogue with College regarding fees and charges: the phrase 'I've listened and I've learnt' could be applied here. We have also implemented a tutoring scheme with Coleridge Community College, although we still await the police checks to be completed for some graduates. Through this partnership the graduates at St John's will be able to help out in this local school's Homework Club. This is seen by all as an excellent use of the resource that is the graduate body at St John's and I hope that more new graduates next year will also join the scheme. Thanks go to both St John's College and Cambridge University for their financial support and to Rose Holandez for running the scheme.

Nic Ross and Liisa Van Vliet, along with Dr Colwell, have introduced a series of Graduate Seminars for the SBR. This allows graduates to present their research work to their peers in an informal yet academic environment. Topics have ranged from the Arctic to the Antarctic and

stopped in various countries along the way including Mexico for its politics and Italy for its art. One of the main attractions of these pre-dinner talks are the themed cocktails: white Russian, tequila sunrise, gin and tonic with 'bergs...

Amongst the many members of College staff who have made our job easier, we would like in particular to thank the Senior and Domestic Bursars for their patience as John and I struggled to understand the workings of the College's accounting system. In addition, we would like to express gratitude to Kathy Hammond, Denise Fear, Carole Williams, and the unfailingly cheerful staff in the Catering and Conference Department. The College Bar played a crucial role in rescuing many SBR events at the last minute when Blanka provided us with essentials such as ice, port and sherry, and bar snacks for hungry Committee members. We would also like to thank the Tutor for Graduate Affairs, Dr Colwell, the Senior Tutor, Dr Dörrzapf, the Fellow Borderer, Professor Boyde, the President, Dr Leake, and the Master, Professor Perham.

As we return to our PhDs and the new SBR Committee takes over with Iain MacLeod at the helm, we look forward to enjoying the fresh ideas they will no doubt bring to SBR events. We also hope that the new Committee will be equally dedicated to other issues such as the tutoring scheme. I – we – the SBR Committee wish them the best of luck in their new roles.

**Mairi McLaughlin**  
President

### The Winfield Society

St John's College Law Society has had another very successful year. We welcomed eight Freshers, said goodbye to the third years who all left with impressive exam results, and started the year with the Winfield Book Sale followed by Winfield Welcome Drinks and topped off by Formal Hall to encourage bonding across the years. The Freshers were also given a copy of 'The Lawdown', a handy guide to studying Law at St John's.



Having been inundated with offers of sponsorship for events by various city firms, the Society organised several, mainly aimed at the second years, who will be looking to secure vacation placements for this coming summer. These included a Clifford Chance skills workshop held at the Crowne Plaza, and a Freshfields interview workshop held in the Fisher Building. Both were well attended and I am assured that the tips given were very useful for prospective applicants. The Christmas Drinks Party, sponsored by Freshfields was a great success: held at the Slug & Lettuce we invited all members of the Society, students and Fellows, and a number of Freshfields representatives for drinks and a buffet. In January, a day trip to Canary Wharf to see Clifford Chance's offices was a number of students' first experience of a city law firm, and was both interesting and informative. To complement such informative events, we introduced the Law Link, a means by which third years can share their experiences, both good and bad, from various placements, open days and interviews with the second years in preparation for their vacation placement and pupillage applications.

Much hard work went into organising the Annual Dinner, held on 12th February, to which all members of the Society, both past and present were invited, and at which we were privileged to have Sir Richard Aikens as guest speaker. The event, sponsored by Allen & Overy, was well attended and involved a reception, 6-course dinner and post-dinner drinks. It was lovely to see so many Johnian lawyers reunited (with one guest travelling all the way from Pakistan!) and a good time was had by all. The Annual Mooting Competition, sponsored by Simmons & Simmons, compulsory for all first years, was held in March and the final was won by Charlotte Tan, although congratulations should go to all finalists, as the standard of the competition was especially high this year. On that note, we have had considerable success at University Mooting competitions, with the second years performing very well at the Fledglings Moot, third years Conrad Williams and David Reid reaching the semi-finals, and David Myhill and Andy Fenn reaching the final round of the Brick Court Chambers Inter-collegiate Moot. Well done to all Mooters! Alongside these events, we have built up good relationships between the year groups, developing a solid support system, from giving a helping hand to find

books in the library, to recommending law firms to apply to for a training contract. I would like to thank my Committee, Alex Dixon, Craig Morisson, Emma Jacob and James Williams for all their hard work and wish next year's Committee the very best of luck.

**Zip Jila**  
President

# COLLEGE SOCIETIES

## **The Adams Society**

It's been a busy year for the Adams Society. Our first event was the Garden Party in May Week last year when, unfortunately, the weather turned against us and we were forced to relocate to underneath A Staircase Cripps. Nevertheless, a good time was had by all, and we munched and chatted happily as the rain poured down.

As May Week drew to a close, we hosted the Annual Cricket Match against the Trinity Mathematical Society. As tradition dictated, the first ball of the Adams Society's innings was bowled with an apple by the TMS President. This went so far off target that a wide was called, and the apple re-bowled! By contrast, the first 'real' ball swung beautifully to remove our opening batsman. We eventually lost by 149 runs to 107, after twenty overs a side, continuing our losing streak of recent years in style.

We began the new academic year with the Freshers' Squash in my room, at which the freshers were given a traditional warm welcome by the Society, followed later on by a not-so-traditional guest appearance from the engineers next door who decided to gatecrash, and perhaps got more than they bargained for.

Our first guest speaker in Michaelmas Term, Professor Neil Turok, unfortunately didn't make it to give his talk, 'What happened at the Big Bang?', whereupon I took it upon myself to give it instead, with a little help from the audience. We then invited Dr Moez Draief, who spoke on 'The Mathematics of Card Shuffling', and Dr Robert Hunt, who explained 'Why Maths Matters in the Real World'. All three talks were preceded by drinks and nibbles and followed by Hall with members of the Society. The Desserts Party at the end of Michaelmas was, as usual, a great success. After Hall we headed up to the Wordsworth Room for as much fruit, cheese, wine and port as we could handle, and as many nuts as one member of the Society could fill his pockets with at the end.

Lent Term saw another three successful speaker events: the first from Professor Martin Hyland on 'What Logic does and doesn't tell us about

Algebra', followed by Dr David Tong on 'Big Questions in Theoretical Physics', and finally Professor Tom Körner on 'Sharing, Duelling and other Random Topics', all well attended by students from St John's and other colleges. We also hosted a special talk given by three PhD students, John Harper, Anne Kleppe and David Conlon, about their subjects and experiences of postgraduate study here at St John's, which was very well received by the junior members.

By popular demand from the freshers, and with commendably little regard for my reluctance, Amy, our Publicity Officer, took charge of designing and ordering Society 'Mathmo Stash', which can now be seen proudly worn on the backs of some of the Society members around College. The Society also gained a new website, thanks to Tim, which can be seen at [www.srcf.ucam.org/adam](http://www.srcf.ucam.org/adam).

The highlight of the social calendar, as always, was the Annual Dinner in the Senior Combination Room. After my own speech, Dr Garling introduced our guest speaker for the night, Professor Leon Mestel of the University of Sussex (Fellow 1957-1966), who began by declaring himself an impostor, having taken his undergraduate studies at Trinity, and went on to entertain the room with stories of his time here.

Many thanks to our Directors of Study and Tutor, Dr Dörrzapf, Dr Samworth and Dr Nicholls, for all their help, and to this year's Committee: Andrea Kuesters, Tim Gordon, Amy Wilson and James Keough for their hard work and for a very enjoyable year. Best wishes to James, the new President, and his Committee, for the coming year.

**David Turton**  
**President**

## Art Society

2005-2006 has been an incredibly successful and exciting academic year for the College Art Society. We kick-started Michaelmas Term with a well attended Squash and saw membership levels grow almost two-fold. This surge in interest was further reflected in a new Cambridge-based following of members from other colleges on our mailing list.

In keeping with tradition, the Art Society has continued to run a number of popular life-drawing classes, with more planned for after the exams. These continue to attract a wide range of students, of many different artistic persuasions, comprising of graduates and undergraduates alike. During the past few terms, some exciting new works have sprung up in the Art Room, testimony to the multitude of experimental artistic styles practiced by College members.

As always, the Art Room continues to play an important part in College life, particularly during Easter Term, when many make use of it as a relaxing space to wind down and be creative. It is also frequently used by other societies including Amnesty International and the decoration crew for the June Ent.

As a College, we are extremely lucky to have our own Art Room and the Society has been grateful for generous College funding. This has allowed us to continue in the tradition of providing subsidised classes for all levels, as well as offering free materials and work space to College members. Over the past year we have put this towards an exciting range of equipment purchases and are currently saving for a drying rack, to be purchased in the coming academic year.

I would like to thank Sam Rose, Mark Koller and Deborah Grayson for their continued support and dedication to the Society. Furthermore, I would also like to welcome next year's President, Joanna Moore, and her accompanying Vice-President, Laura Hocking. I am confident that they will continue to lead the Society from strength to strength and wish them the very best of luck.

**Zoë Gilmore**  
President

## The Choir Association

The annual magazine of the Choir Association – formerly available each May – will instead be published in the autumn. We have a few back numbers still in stock so if you would like a copy of those, please contact our Secretary, Christopher Goodwins, at [cwhgoodwins@gmail.com](mailto:cwhgoodwins@gmail.com). The 500 members of the Choir Association worldwide are kept up to date and informed of what's going on through email and regular newsletters. Two have already been sent out this year.

The first newsletter, in January, from the Director of Music, Dr David Hill, gave exciting news about the commissioning of music for the College Choir. Philip Moore, Organist and Master of the Music at York Minster, was invited to write a new setting of the *Magnificat* and *Nunc Dimittis* – *Collegium Sancti Johannis Cantabrigiense* – which was first sung at Broadcast Evensong on Ash Wednesday this year. The commissioning of the said pieces was very much a joint venture between the College and the Association. The Association launched an appeal which has, to date, raised over £1,000. The agreement with the College was that each would contribute half the cost of the commissioning; the Executive Committee was then minded to place the balance of the monies raised into a 'ring-fenced' account for future commissioning. As the New Music Fund mounts up – and, to date, it has attracted a great deal of interest and support – David will be in a position to commission even more exciting works for the Choir. Other sponsoring opportunities are also under consideration.

Also as part of the newsletter, a special invitation came from the Dean for us to join the College in a special Epiphany Carol Service. This was the first special event in the New Year, and will become a regular feature in the Chapel Calendar. Prior to the Service, tea was served in the Old Music Room for members of the Association and their families.

The second newsletter, distributed in May, outlined plans for the 2006 Reunion Weekend. It would have seriously embarrassed us if all 500 members had turned up to the Annual General Meeting on Saturday 8 July as we would have been unable to accommodate everyone in the Wordsworth Room. Instead, we booked the Parsons Room, hoping a



little more realistically to attract at least a quorum! On that point, we take it as a huge vote of confidence that members of the Choir Association fully support the work being done on their behalf by the small team of dedicated volunteers that forms the Committee.

For the Reunion, on Saturday 8 July 2006, members of the Choir Association, Friends of the Choir and guests were invited to attend Evensong in the College Chapel at 6.30pm, and then to meet for pre-dinner drinks in the College Bar prior to the Annual Dinner at 8.00pm. It has always been a pleasant occasion, with a chance to meet old friends, swap stories with new friends, and enjoy the privilege of dining, not only with the present adult Choir members, but also with David Hill and distinguished guests. Furthermore, the standard of College catering has improved enormously in recent years, and makes the Annual Reunion something of a 'must-be-there' occasion. It is made all the more magical by musical entertainment from the Gentlemen of St John's, who dined with us *en masse* this year and who still managed to sing, despite a glass or two – or maybe because of – in the superb manner to which we have all become accustomed.

Certain other plans are afoot for which time and space will only allow a brief mention. The Association website is to be updated during the summer with the assistance of the College. It will be maintained thereafter by the College, with editorial rights remaining with the Association. Through the wonders of electronic technology, members of the Association will now be notified of College Choir activities taking place in their locality. They will, of course, still be kept up-to-date on all activities via the College and Choir Association websites and newsletters.

The Association was well represented at the Concert held at St Mary's Church in Ashwell, which took place immediately prior to the tour of the USA. The Concert was attended by a very enthusiastic audience of well over 350 people and we were particularly delighted to see Peter Rose, former Head of Music at St John's College School, in the audience, making his first appearance in public following his recent serious illness. Finally, three of our intrepid 'old' Choristers took a week-long sponsored charity cycling trip across France and raised £2,500 of which

£700 came directly to the Association for the Bursary Fund. Needless to say, they enjoyed much good food and wine along the way.

From the £20 annual subscriptions (which members so kindly continue to pay by Direct Debit, preferably but not exclusively so), along with other income generators, we have been able to make modest Bursary Awards. This year, we awarded £400 each to John Robinson (Organ Scholar at St John's 2002-2005) and Andrew Davies (Choral Volunteer with St John's College Choir 2005), and in this way we have managed to assist some fifteen former Choir members with their musical careers to date.

John Robinson's Bursary Award has helped towards the cost of a car, which is essential to his work as Assistant Organist at Carlisle Cathedral, Conductor of Cockermouth Choral Society and his teaching of music in a rural area, amongst other responsibilities. Andrew Davies' Bursary Award has helped towards tuition fees for a postgraduate course in vocal studies at the Royal Academy of Music. In 2006, £900 has so far been awarded, the details of which will be published in the next edition of *The Eagle*. Please note that Bursary application forms are now available electronically.

Finally, a big thank you to David Hill, Duncan Dormor, the Committee Members for their support and, particularly, to Caroline Marks. Caroline has done much to help drive forward the work of the Association over the past year and without her we would not have the essential daily interface between the College and ourselves. Caroline is now a full member of our Executive Committee.

Our purpose is not only to encourage the present Choir, but also to forge even stronger links with each other. For the past fifteen years or so, we have been keeping in touch with 500 former Choristers, Choral Scholars, Organ Scholars, and Friends, scattered all over the world. We are very glad to invite new members, especially as Friends of the College Choir, who are as keen as we are to promote the wonderful sound of St John's. Our aim is to support and encourage the present Choir, and also The Gentlemen of St John's.

For further information about anything to do with St John's College Choir Association, please have a look at our website, [www.sjcca.org.uk](http://www.sjcca.org.uk), and be assured that our success is greatly enhanced by your continued interest, for which we thank you enormously.

**Alastair Roberts**  
**Chairman**

## **The Choir**

The Choir began a busy year by welcoming nine new faces – Léon Charles (Junior Organ Scholar), John Lattimore, James Diggle (Altos), Sam Furness (Tenor), Edward De Minckwitz (Bass), James Williams Oldfield (Lay Clerk), Harry Cheatle, Teddy Day and George Smith (Choristers). We also welcomed back Tom Goldring (Bass), who had returned from his one-year exchange course at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The Choir was also delighted to welcome Thomas Last and Thomas Mullock (Probationers), who were inducted as Choristers from the beginning of the Easter Term.

Shortly before the beginning of the Michaelmas Term, the Choir appeared, by personal invitation of the Vice-Chancellor, at a reception to launch the University's 800th Anniversary Appeal. Singing from the balcony of the Senate House to an audience of 350 VIP guests, the Choir performed *Musica Dei Donum* by John Rutter, with flute accompaniment by Anne Allen, and 'Steal Away', by Tippett. The Gents' contribution to the event was a fun rendition of the Beatles number *When I'm Sixty-Four*. The reception was followed by a dinner at Queens' College and ten of the Gents appeared on the balcony there to sing the Grace Anthem – *Oculi omnium* by Charles Wood.

The first service of the academic year was the Matriculation Service, which was very well attended. Music included Stanford's *Te Deum in B flat* and Brahms' *How Lovely is thy Dwelling Place*. Approximately seventy members of the Bach Choir joined the Choir for Evensong on the evening of Saturday 29 October. Music for the service included *Locus iste* by Brucker and *Blest Pair of Sirens* by Parry. As part of the Britten

Sinfonia Tippett Festival, the Choir sang a concert in the Chapel on Tuesday 8 November. The programme for the concert included Tippett's *Magnificat & Nunc Dimittis*, *Plebs Angelica* and 'The Spirituals' from *A Child of our Time*. Also included was Tippett's *Preludio Al Vespro di Monteverdi*, played by Paul Provost on the organ. The Festival events continued with a special Evensong in Chapel on Friday 11 November, which featured a further selection of Tippett's music. Remembrance Sunday on 13 November was marked by an Orchestral Mass, the music for which was the *Requiem* by Fauré.

The Advent Carol Services took place on Saturday 26 and Sunday 27 November. The BBC recorded the Saturday service for broadcast on Sunday evening at 6.30pm on Radio 3. Two new pieces of music were premiered during the service. In particular, Choral Scholar, Richard Wilberforce, had composed the music for a setting of *Telling God's Story*, which was particularly moving. Former Chorister Geraint Lewis's setting of the words of R S Thomas generated a large amount of acclaim, with a very good solo verse sung in Welsh by the Choir's own Welsh Tenor, Sam Furness. On Friday 2 December, the Choir travelled to Norwich to perform Haydn's *Little Organ Mass* and *Nelson Mass* with the Britten Sinfonia, with soloists Heather Hunter (Soprano), Sian Menna (Mezzo), former Choral Student, Allan Clayton (Tenor), and Edward Price (Bass). The concert was repeated at the West Road Concert Hall to a full house on the following evening. The Choir left Cambridge at lunchtime on Sunday 18 December for a four-concert tour of Estonia, with two concerts at the Estonian Concert Hall in Tallinn, the others at Johvi and Parnu. The very receptive audiences were captivated by the performance, the first half featuring music from *Missa O Magnum Mysterium* by Victoria, and the second half solos by Alex Robarts and Jonny Knight in Naylor's *Vox dicentis, clama!*, and by Quintin Beer in Rutter's *There is a Flower*. The concerts concluded with a series of Carols and, as a final encore, the Gents' very special version of *Jingle Bells*.

The Choir returned from the Christmas break to record a CD of music for Advent and Christmas, which will be issued by Hyperion in late autumn 2006. The Chapel was filled to capacity for the first candlelit Epiphany Carol Service held on Saturday 21 January. Having received

many favourable comments, it is intended to make the service an annual event. It was particularly pleasing to welcome twenty members of the St John's College Choir Association and their families to the service.

After a year's break, the BBC returned to St John's on Wednesday 1 March to broadcast the Ash Wednesday service live on Radio Three. We were particularly pleased to welcome Philip Moore, Master of the Music at York Minster, to the service – Philip had been commissioned by the College to compose a new set of canticles, which were premiered during the service. The Choir is very grateful to the St John's College Choir Association for the generous contribution made towards the costs of the commission. Members of Clare College Choir joined the Choir for a well attended Evensong on Saturday 11 March. The service included the Howells St John's service and the Howells *Requiem*. The Lent Meditation service on Sunday 12 March was the first of three services to be recorded as part of a trial to webcast from the Chapel via the College website. Readers may listen in to services by visiting [www.joh.cam.ac.uk](http://www.joh.cam.ac.uk), then following the link from the Chapel & Choir pages. Further services will be added to the site soon.

On Saturday 18 March, the Choir travelled to Ashwell near Royston in Hertfordshire, to perform a concert at St Mary's Church. A capacity audience had a preview of the concert programme to be used during the forthcoming tour of the USA. We were delighted to see Peter Rose, former Head of Music at St John's College School, who made his first appearance in public following his recent serious illness.

On Wednesday 22 March, the Choir set off for a twelve-day tour of the USA. After two hours hatching an escape from Atlanta airport, we headed for Chattanooga, where a capacity audience gave us a very warm reception. From Chattanooga we headed to Vero Beach in Florida, then to New Britain, Troy, Greenwich (where we were delighted to catch up with former Choral Students Andrew Tomlinson, Geoff Silver and Stephen Shorter), Buffalo and Wooster. The music programme for the tour included the *German Mass* by Mendelssohn and, for the second half, the local promoters were given the choice of a *Requiem*, either by Fauré or Howells.

The highlight of the tour was a day spent in New York. A special Evensong at St Thomas' Church on Fifth Avenue, New York, was a particularly outstanding event, where John Scott, Organist and Director of Music at St Thomas (Organ Scholar at St John's 1974-1977), accompanied us on the organ. During the service, prayers were said for Richard Thompson, a New York based Johnian, who had recently passed away. The service was followed by a reception at the University Club, where the Choir and the Gents entertained the Johnian guests with a varied programme of music.

The Choir's first recording with Hyperion Records, *Mendelssohn Sacred Choral Music*, was released on 1 May 2006. The CD (reference number CDA67558) can be purchased from the Johnian Office at the discounted price of £13 plus p&p. Gonville & Caius College Choir joined with the Choir on Sunday 7 May to sing the *Jongen Mass*, with musical accompaniment provided by members of London City Brass. As part of the May Week celebrations, the Choir will join with the Music Society and the St John's Singers for the traditional May Concert on Monday 19 June. The programme for this year's concert is Mozart's *Krönungsmesse*, Haydn's *Insanae et vanae curae* and *Divertimento 'Der Geburtstag'*, plus a selection of items from the Gents.

Looking ahead, the year will finish with a recording of Belgian Organ Masses for Hyperion and performances at two concerts: the first at St Werburgh's Church, Chester, as part of the Chester Festival on Thursday 13 July; and the second at Carlisle Cathedral, as part of the Carlisle International Summer Festival on Friday 14 July. The Choir's best wishes go to Matthew Brown, Richard Wilberforce (Altos), Finbarr Cosgrove, Robert Shorter (Tenors), Tom Goldring, James Oldfield, Tim Scott (Basses), Quintin Beer, Stephen Fort, William Pargeter and Alex Robarts (Choristers), who leave at the end of the year.

**Caroline Marks**  
**Choir Administrator**



## The Classical Society

The Classical Society has continued to thrive this year, thanks to the new intake of fresh-faced first years and the dependable support of older years, graduates and Fellows. The pre-term drinks and choice nibbles, kindly hosted by Dr Gowers, allowed us all to mingle and discuss our plans for the year ahead.

First on the agenda was our annual play reading and, following a robust performance of Aristophanes' *The Frogs* last year, it was decided that it was high time for some tragedy. Our thanks go to Bob Lister for providing the texts for Euripides' *Bacchae* which was performed with gusto by all who attended. Special note must go to Professor Schofield for his energetic chorus, and to Chris Whitton for his amusing portrayal of Pentheus. As ever, the evening had a special ambience, and we are very grateful to Professor Crook for the use of his rooms and for providing refreshments.

Our guest speaker this year was Richard Woff from the British Museum who gave a very interesting multi-media presentation on 'Visual Representations of Ovid's *Metamorphoses*'. The slides incorporated both close-up images of ancient artefacts and samples of relevant literary texts, and provided excellent stimuli for further discussion. It was a very enjoyable evening and the talk was well received by all who attended.

Classics Desserts is perhaps the most eagerly anticipated event in the Classical Society's calendar and this year did not disappoint, as we were treated to copious amounts of wine, port, cheese and fruit in the pleasant surroundings of the Wordsworth Room. The atmosphere was fun and relaxed and, as the wine flowed in the glowing candlelight, the evening drew to a reluctant close. This was not before some symposiastic games had taken place (not least a cracker-eating competition presided over by Professor Schofield and won by Emily Baker). We were also treated to some snippets of a first-year philosophy essay that was to be written that evening and cannot have failed but to be improved by the high-brow conversation and bacchic revelries the Desserts afforded.

As the Easter Term sets in and all are busily preparing for Tripos exams, we look forward to the final meeting of the Classical Society. The Classics Lunch in the Wordsworth Room falls just after exams and forms a welcome precursor to the happy festivities of May Week.

Our thanks go to all those who have supported the Classical Society over the year, especially our Treasurer, Professor Crook, and also Professor Schofield and Dr Gowers. Here's to a similarly enjoyable diary of events next year!

**Beth Harper and Hannah Willey**  
**Presidents**

### **The Economics Society**

The Economics Society kicked off this year with the traditional 'meet and greet' evening to welcome the freshers into the Society. Pre-dinner drinks were held in the pleasant surroundings of New Court to allow the first years to network with their fellow peers, important to a Society which actively encourages such integration between the years. After such strong intra-College bonding and the delights of the Hall menu, we headed out to the Economics Night at Coco's for further bonding. As per usual, it was the veterans of the Society who were struggling the next morning!

It was a somewhat quiet year for the Society, with our Director of Studies, Robert Evans, being sorely missed whilst away on sabbatical. Our thanks go to Sir Partha Dasgupta and Dr Susanna Sällström-Matthews for stepping in to fill the role in the Michaelmas and Lent Terms. Easter Term, however, saw the departure of Susanna on maternity leave, and we would like to wish her all the best in the coming months.

The Society is now awaiting the election of the new Presidents of the Society at the Annual Dinner later in the Easter Term. We are sure that they will carry on the role with enthusiasm and look forward to their ideas for the Society in the year ahead. We wish them the best of luck.

In May week, the Society is planning to hold a summer Garden Party to celebrate the end of exams and say farewell to our fine third years.

**Anne-Marie Brewer and Charles Willison**  
**Presidents**

### **Film Society**

The Film Society is one of the College's largest and most high-profile societies, and so it is surprising that this is its first appearance in *The Eagle*. The year began with the traditional Squash, where we were pleased to welcome back old faces as well as attracting many new members. Michaelmas Term began with Douglas Adams' *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, a film of particular Johnian significance. As I write, *The Constant Gardener* has been our best-attended film so far, but animated pictures remain Johnian favourites with *Wallace & Gromit* and *Madagascar* both attracting large audiences. We had hoped for a large audience at our planned showing of *Ghostbusters*, but an error by our distributor meant that the film was sitting in Edinburgh rather than running through our projector. We have been keen to increase the variety of films we show, and our commitment to more specialist titles led to films being shown in partnership with a range of College and University societies, including Amnesty International and the University Mountaineering Club.

Social events are an important part of the Society's life and this year has been no exception. We have had several enjoyable Halls, our first-ever Christmas party, and are now looking forward to relaxing at our May Week Garden Party. The Annual Dinner in Lent Term was again very well attended and this produced some of the year's most memorable moments. Members of the Society who have graduated recently will also be pleased to know that, for the first time in several years, the word 'port' was successfully pronounced during the Chairman's speech. This year's Dinner, however, will be remembered for the inspiring words of Luke Butcher, who made an excellent last-minute replacement for our Senior Treasurer, Dr Helen Watson, who was regrettably delayed on her way back from London.

I am very proud of the fact that we are now the only Cambridge College to use 35mm film for all of our showings. By the end of this academic year we will have admitted over 3,500 paying customers to our thirty-eight film showings. None of this would be possible without the hard work and dedication of our members, of which there are over fifty. Messing about with reels of film in the early hours of the morning when you should be writing an essay isn't easy, but everyone manages to keep smiling (at least most of the time).

Members have been a great source of ideas for films, social events and the future direction of the Society, and I would like to thank everybody for their input. I am indebted to my Committee for their help and support over the past year. Chris Thomas skilfully handled the technical aspects of the Society's operations as Head Projectionist, managing to virtually eliminate technical problems and to re-invigorate the projection side of our operations. His legacy will be a fantastic training programme for the projectionists of the future.

As Film Secretary, Craig Morrison's diplomacy has been invaluable when negotiating with film distributors, couriers and sponsors. He has consistently excelled in the unenviable task of turning a muddle of film suggestions into a thought-provoking and entertaining programme. Jennifer Edwards bravely took on the role of Head Publicist after it failed to be filled in the first round of elections. Her enthusiastic leadership of our team of hard-working and imaginative publicists has successfully attracted large audiences from across the University. In the role of Social Secretary, Peter Attard Montalto must be thanked for the extravagant Annual Dinner and his valuable contributions to Committee meetings. He also produced one of the biggest surprises of the year by managing to bring the Dinner in below budget.

I would also like to extend particular thanks to Louisa Nye for the valuable experience she brought to the Committee, and to Paul Hufton for his stint as Secretary. Jennifer Edwards has been elected as Chair for next year and I would like to take this opportunity to wish her and everyone on next year's Committee the very best of luck.

I have had a fantastic time as a member of the Society over the past three years and I will be sad to leave it behind. I hope that I can find the time to return and catch the occasional showing.

**Matthew Cannon**  
**Chairman**

### **The Gentlemen of St John's**

Once again this year, the Gents have played in a full range of top-quality concert venues, from St John's Chapel, to the Royal Albert Hall, to The Maypole. Onwards goes our charitable mission of uplifting the lives of many audiences, whilst helping the College uphold its rigid academic standards.

Of course, people leave our musical ensemble every year, but we lost seven men at the end of last year (one or two of them not for the first time), with twenty-seven years of experience amongst them. We wish especially good luck to Lester, John, George and Andrew with their future music careers in far-flung capital cities (Nicholas Charlwood has also progressed quickly in his chosen field, now doing an MPhil in International Relations at St John's). There was, at such a startling departure, some concern, but the Gents crossed their fingers, opened themselves welcomingly and were rewarded with some outstanding talents. Tom Goldring returns from his year as a vocal guru in the USA, to complete his third year, even though he did forget to bring his heart home. James Diggle joins our Alto section – that, unfortunately, being only the first of his female attributes! Fortunately, John Lattimore joins the same department, his breath-taking machismo helping to balance the Altos somewhat. Russian Bass, Edward de Minckwitz III of Kartl-Kakheti, joins us from somewhere around Birminggrad, having sung at Glevum Colonia Cathedral during his gap year. James Williams Oldfield retires into the Gents, having had a long and successful career with another unmentionable choir. Leon 'Thatcher' Charles is promoted from Durovernum Cantiacorum to St John's as Organ Scholar. Finally, ensuring racial representation, Welshman Sam Furness, a pilgrim from

the 'barren land', having trodden the verge of Jordan, plants himself in Cambridge.

December saw the recapitulation (quite literally) of The Maypole Christmas Caberet, our first opportunity to show College that of which the new Gents are capable. Once again, standing space ran short as the night got underway. With many a winter ale flowing, CD sales rocketed as the Gents once again solved a multitude of Christmas present crises. Ed de Minckwitz's heart-warming rendition of 'Mary's Boy Child' received much acclaim, surpassed in popularity only by talk of who 'the old guy with a beard and really low voice' was, in the shape of Mr Oldfield.

A few days later, we shipped off to London to hit the big time. The Gents headlined at the Royal Albert Hall alongside our long-time supporter and close friend, John Rutter, and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. Rising to the task and filling the largest of auditoriums, we received, by far, the loudest applause of the night. It was especially good to have a few of the old guard back to help out. Thanks go to the Dean for allowing us to take our cassocks with us, and to John Rutter for providing us with some 'spiritual' electric candles for the performance – we looked fantastic. With two angelic performances in one day over, we headed out to enjoy a much-deserved, less angelic night on the town.

Closer still to Christmas, the Choir toured Estonia. An incredibly successful tour was also marvellous fun, and some Gents saw their first real snow. Of course, we found many less formal opportunities to perform around Tallin, although Finbarr Cosgrove declined that opportunity. Elsewhere, it was good to see the new members of the team maturing into their roles, Sam Furness beginning what looks to be a high-flying career. Also of note was James Diggle, who at this stage began to show the oral potential that has since materialized in a number of very well-received performances.

A Choir tour to America occupied a large slice of the Easter vacation. Though a busy tour, the Gents found plenty of time for the usual displays, and it seemed that the Americans were very appreciative of



what we had to offer. All being well, a future Gents tour of the USA seems likely – but I'm not taking responsibility for it! We recently slotted in a performance to an intimate audience at Charterhouse shortly before the start of the Easter Term – returning to the choral home of Mr Furness.

After the disappointment of singing with only one top-quality Ball last year, a number of Gents (especially Mr Diggle) were quite keen to do more this year. On top of the all-important 5.00am St John's May Ball set, we also have the exciting opportunity of White Tie at the Peterhouse May Ball. Various other private engagements and, of course, the best Garden Party in Cambridge, make for one of our busiest May weeks for some time. It doesn't look like stopping at that either, with the planned 'M25' tour this summer, including a concert for Macmillan Cancer Relief, and culminating in the Gents returning to the Eton Choral Course series. Rumour from the last visit is still resonating after four years. Thanks go to the St John's Choir Association for their financial assistance with this project. Plans for the summer also include (time allowing) a CD recording of Christmas arrangements – so watch this space.

All that remains is for me to wish well those who are leaving this year, all of whom will be sorely missed. James Williams Oldfield leaves for London, where income from his numerous scholarships at various singing colleges is rumoured to rival the outrageously high St John's lay-clerk fee. Tim 'Ralph' Scott leaves the Choir after four years of faithful service (having nearly defected to Trinity only once), launching into uncertain waters, although he is currently hoping to help increase collegiate bureaucracy. Matt Brown sets out on his missionary voyage to the New World, to help educate the philistines in the way of English choral music, following the path of Sir Steve Scott Samuel Shorter two years ago to a lay-clerkship at Greenwich in Connecticut. He will, of course, also then be on the same continent as his long suffering partner, albeit five hours' drive away. Tom Goldberg is set to launch onto 'the high seas of international finance': with internships literally begging for the supply of his application and intellectual consideration, it seems likely that, in a few years, he will be set to purchase The Maypole.

Robert Shorter leaves to have an exotic gap year, starting off with a cookery course in Surrey. Finally, we also say a sad goodbye to Finbarr Cosgrove, although he will be around next year and I'm sure will continue to play a large role with the Gents.

Wishing my successor, James Diggle, every bit of luck and judgement in running what is an increasingly large operation next year. I know the following twelve months will be just as action-packed as the last.

**Gareth John**  
Manager

### **The Helvetic Society**

This year was very active for the Helvetic Society, with the continuation of the Annual Trip to Switzerland during the Easter Vacation and several delightful Dinners in College. The Society also expanded its membership significantly, due to our ongoing efforts to involve more Johnians in the Society's activities.

The Annual Trip was again to Zermatt. We travelled by train from Geneva through the beautiful Swiss countryside: along the shore of Lake Geneva, past rolling Swiss farmland and then up into the Alps themselves. All went smoothly, apart from yours truly managing to leave an entire (large) suitcase on the train at Visp while changing onto the Matterhorn Express! Fortunately, Swiss efficiency saved the day and the bag was retrieved at Brig and sent back to Zermatt within the week. This year, our accommodation in Zermatt was at the abode of a Swiss family, with whom the Society has been building strong links. We hoped that by staying with a traditional local family we could integrate more fully into the Swiss culture.

We continued our tradition of enjoying an evening of fondue and raclette, both local inventions that have gained European popularity. These may only be simple peasant dishes but the Swiss take great pride in their cheese, and for good reason! Apart from enjoying the local culture, we also found time to participate in some skiing, that most

Swiss of pastimes. The weather treated us extremely well, although several runs had certainly suffered from exposure – the price you pay for only being able to travel during the University vacations. I am happy to report that the journey back to Cambridge was, fortunately, much less eventful. All those involved agreed that the trip was a great success, and certainly one that we hope to be able to continue into the coming years!

**David Knowles**  
**Chairman**

### **The History Society**

After enjoying the 100th annual History Society Dinner last year, the Society marked the beginning of its second century with great success. The Society continues to provide the historians of St John's with the opportunity to develop their historical knowledge outside of the Tripos, and also to meet and converse with one another away from the formalities of academia. It has certainly been a highly interesting and enjoyable year.

We began in the Easter Term of last year with a Garden Party, in the picturesque location of the Fellows' Garden. Historians and their guests indulged, with the opportunity taken by some to showcase their talents on the croquet lawn. The first talk of the year took us outside St John's, to the relaxed atmosphere of the living room of Professor Paul Kennedy, the J Richardson Dilworth Professor of History at Yale University. Paul Kennedy is internationally known for his writings and commentaries on global, political, economic and strategic issues, and spoke to the Society about the history of the United Nations. It proved to be an interesting and engaging topic, and the opportunity to converse with a leading international authority on such an intimate basis was appreciated by all.

The first speaker for the Society was our very own Dr Robert Tombs. He offered a unique and illuminating discussion entitled 'Marianne and les rosbifs: how the French imagined the British c1800-2000', which provided an original and thought-provoking insight into how we are viewed across the channel.

The next visitor was Dr Jeevan Deol, who teaches and lectures both at Cambridge and at the School of Oriental and African Studies. The topic under discussion was 'Al Qaeda – The History of an Idea', not only highly topical, but an important foray into a subject that undoubtedly has become misconstrued and somewhat misunderstood in the public eye.

We moved into 2006, and our final term under the current History Society Committee, with an eclectic mix of historical subject matter for perusal. Cambridge University's Dr Malcolm Gaskill entertained us with an extremely interesting talk on 'Matthew Hopkins and the English Witch Hunt of 1645-7'; St John's College PhD student, Hilary Larkin, enlightened the Society on issues of cultural identity in the early modern period; and we were delighted to host Professor Mark Ormrod, Head of the History Department at York University. Professor Ormrod spoke to us about the political structures and ideas of later medieval England, a topic that engaged not only those medievalists among us, but anyone with a broader interest in monarchy and government.

The highlight of the year was undoubtedly the Annual Dinner in the lavish setting of the Senior Combination Room. The achievements of the past year were reflected on in a speech by the Secretary, Juliet Courtney, and we were honoured to receive Professor Tony Badger, Master of Clare College, as our special guest. His talk was stimulating and most amusing, and the evening was enjoyed by all present.

I would like to offer my utmost thanks to my Committee, Juliet Courtney as Secretary, and Jonathan Knight as Treasurer, for their hard work and dedication. Thanks must also go to the Senior Treasurer, Dr Peter Linehan, whose long involvement with the Society has been integral to its success and to the wider intellectual development of those historians at St John's who, year upon year, enjoy the diversity and tradition of the History Society. It gives me great pleasure to offer my best wishes to the incoming Committee: Hugo Cartwright as President, Nush Chakravarty as Secretary and Dom Palma as Junior Treasurer. I have every confidence that under their tenure the Society will continue to go from strength to strength, and can think of no better advice than to bear in mind the words of Ernest Benians, Master of St John's College

1933-1952: 'the true treasure of the College is the original purpose of its foundation, made stronger or weaker by its fulfilment in each succeeding generation.'

**Edward Andrews**  
**President**

### **Jazz@John's**

Now in its eighth year, Jazz@John's has firmly established itself as one of the most popular events the College has to offer. The classic blend of quality live music, a relaxed environment and the cheapest bar in Cambridge was never at risk of failing, but this year has seen the Society's reputation rise to an unprecedented level. There are now some 1,200 members on the mailing list, virtually guaranteeing ticket sell-outs but requiring the unfortunate duty of turning latecomers away.

As always, Jazz@John's continues to attract many graduates, although it has been pleasing to see an increasing undergraduate contingent, and even more significantly – a much larger Johnian crowd. Clearly impressed by the quality of entertainment, no fewer than thirteen Johnians joined the Jazz@John's Committee this year, along with a fair number from other colleges. An army of bar staff ensures that liquid refreshment flows all evening, whilst a dedicated technical team tirelessly twiddles knobs at the mixing desk; the scene staff never fail to completely transform the Fisher Building into the perfect venue; and our Advertising Chief makes posters at which to marvel.

Then of course, there's the music. Vice-President, Tom Stambollouian, has maintained the diversity of Jazz@John's, and kept the quality high. From more experimental jazz by Four Brothers and a Ghost, to classics by Mingusology; from funk and soul specialists Capricorn, through to regular favourites such as Josh Kemp and Sara Mitra, there's been something for everyone. Furthermore, eager listeners can now enjoy the music from the comfort of their own rooms. Having invested substantially in sound equipment this year, we now have the ability to record and master tracks from Jazz@John's events. Production of a CD

is in the pipeline but in the meantime, jazz fans can access selected tracks from our website, [www.jazzatjohns.co.uk](http://www.jazzatjohns.co.uk).

It is now that thoughts turn to this year's Garden Party, and the question of whether we can emulate the resounding success of the last. With Dennis Rollins' Bad Bone & Co, nominated for the BBC Jazz Awards Best Band 2006, booked to perform, we look forward to a special performance in the beautiful surroundings of the Fellows' Garden, made even better by a glass or two of champagne. Continued sponsorship from Deloitte will be put to subsidising tickets, so students can enjoy maximum value for their money.

It only remains for me to thank all of the Committee for being so dedicated, but especially Paul Scrivens for his web-mastering and book-keeping; Justin Salamon for updating the website to its current glory; Tom Stambollouian for his determination in booking only the best; Julian Johnson for his technical expertise; Matt Farrington for keeping the bar so well-run; and Miranda Buckle and Emily Foster for their extraordinary creativity. Jazz@John's could not have done so well this year without them, or Deloitte's financial support. Good luck to Faye Goldman, Julian Johnson and Anneka Dew who will be taking on the respective roles of President, Vice-President and Bar Manager next year. May the success of Jazz@John's long continue.

**Jennifer Hon**  
**President**

## **The JCR**

It has been a year of superlatives for the Junior Combination Room Committee (or so we would like to think) – the best Freshers' Week and June Ent ever, as well as a revolutionary and extremely well-received programme of investment. I am also pleased to report that rent negotiations were about as successful as we could hope. I even broke with our tradition of splendid isolation, to attend CUSU Council frequently enough to feel that the best interests of St John's would be served by threatening disaffiliation.



As Treasurer, Jono Abecassis was extremely successful in not only keeping the JCRC solvent, but also in sanctioning some revolutionary and very popular expenditure, even if his desire for rugs for the JCR was thwarted. Andre Almeida carried on fighting for eclectic music as President of the Boiler Room Sub-Committee. He did not lose his faith, despite occasional frustration caused by the lack of enthusiasm from some musically less-well-educated members of College. Publicity Officer Hannah Carmichael's newly-electronic 'Binliners' were the pride of the Committee and her decorations transformed the Ents. Her relentless enthusiasm helped her to survive being forced to remove 200 staples single-handedly. Nirup Chawhan served as the face of St John's to potential applicants, bringing his unique flair for aesthetics to the post of Access Officer. He successfully marshalled volunteers for the shadowing scheme and a number of other occasions.

Services Officer, Peter Coulthard, is lucky enough to be my successor, and his successes with the Buttery and Fitness Centre, not to mention the wildly popular 'cutlery amnesty' (proceeds: one fork) will undoubtedly be eclipsed by further great works. The elusive Mr Patrick Harty was always an enthusiastic contributor to discussions when present, even if his role as Computing Officer did not, in fact, allow him a vote. Without him, meetings would undoubtedly have been much less interesting. Vice-President, Ben Hills, was an absolute stalwart throughout the year, but especially in his organisation of Freshers' Week. The enjoyment of the week by freshers and Committee alike is a tribute to his success.

Mike Horridge, in his role as Equal Opportunities Officer, ensured the continued representation of minority interests in College and beyond. His contributions were vital to our discussions, where he made sure that nobody was excluded by any of the decisions made. Elena Kazamia, our very own Unorthodox Greek, proved an enthusiastic Secretary. The minutes she took are still somewhere 'for safe keeping'. Her Open Mic Night was such a great success that she will repeat it this year, this time as JCRC Vice-President. Charlie Marriott, following a truly memorable performance in hustings, set out in search of photo shops to help her in producing the Yearbook. Her help with the organisation of the June Ent was invaluable.

One-Woman Welfare Army, Franki McClure, took an impressively personal approach, not only managing College involvement in campaigns, but also undergoing Peer Support Training and doing her very best to keep all of the rest of us on the straight-and-narrow. Antonia 'T' Teixeira must surely be one of the most enthusiastic Entertainments Officers in the history of the JCRC. Ents were always packed, financially successful, and enjoyed by all (including, on many occasions, the Committee themselves). As External Officer, Charles 'Waki'waka had the difficult job of providing diplomatic representation for one of the most fiercely isolationist Colleges, and provided a much-needed voice of calm in our heated debates about our position within CUSU. After fighting for the creation of Green and Charities Officer, I was disappointed to see Liz Yarrow facing such difficulties in her role. However, when she attended meetings, she was especially keen to fight for issues close to her heart.

It has been a great pleasure to work with these fine Johnians, and although we may have officially celebrated our retirement, those of us who are no longer on the JCRC are very much looking forward to a June Ent, at which we will not be responsible for anything at all.

**Greg Lowden**  
**President**

### **The Johnian Society**

The Johnian Society Dinner and Annual General Meeting were held on Saturday 17 December 2005 in the Hall. The President of the Society, Sir Neil Chalmers, proposed the toast to the College and the Master replied. Professor Peter Hennessy (BA 1969, PhD 1990) and Mr Adam Balon (BA 1994) were elected Ordinary Members of the Johnian Society Committee for six years from 1 January 2006, while Mr Francis Baron (BA 1967) was elected President for one year from the same date, and Sir David Rowe-Beddoe (BA 1961) was elected Vice-President.

The other main annual activity of the Society is the Golf Competition, organised by Mr John Loosley. Those participating benefit from being

able to stay in College and dine, as well as taking part in the competition at the Gog Magog golf course. In 2005 the Johnian Society Lecture was given by Mr David Pountney (BA 1969) who spoke on 'In dreams begin responsibility'. The lecture is reproduced in this edition of *The Eagle*.

The Society continues to support the College financially through gifts for the Access Bursary Scheme (£2,000 again this year) and by adding to the income available from the Johnian Society Travel Exhibition Fund (more than £2,300) to enable a larger number of students to benefit. This year seven Travel Exhibitions, each of £600, were made available.

The Committee is reviewing the aims and activities of the Society to enable it to provide greater value to the College and to engage more with its members. We are developing a mission statement and looking at ways of using the Society's resources to support its aims. A questionnaire has been put together that will be sent to Johnians, both members of the Society and non-members, to seek views on how the Society should develop in the future. Ideas that we are looking at include informal evening networking events, mentoring of students and events to enable Johnians in similar professions/fields to meet. In the meantime, we hope to see many of you at the next Annual Dinner, to be held on Saturday 16 December 2006 (the application form has been circulated with this edition of *The Eagle*).

**Catherine Twilley**  
**Secretary**

### **The Johnian Society of the USA**

This past year, the Johnian Society of the USA has had many wonderful events, culminating in a marvellous tour by the College Choir across the East Coast. Last Spring, former Master, Peter Goddard, hosted the Society at his seventeenth-century home, Olden Farm, and 100 Johnians and their guests were treated to an outdoor barbecue amidst flowering orchard trees and a sweeping view of the main buildings of the Institute for Advanced Study, where Professor Goddard is now Director. The green and pleasant grounds of the Institute famously provided time for

Einstein, Godel, Kennan, and many other leading intellectuals of the twentieth century to walk around and think, much like our College.

The JS-USA has had a remarkable year. Nick Corfield, a member of the JS-USA and St John's College (BA 1981, Honorary Fellow 2001), made a magnificent donation to St John's College, in the form of a £1m Matching Programme for Bursaries. Nick will match donations made by other donors for bursaries (scholarships), pound for pound. When we founded the JS-USA, we had hoped – outrageously we thought then – to provide \$1 million of support over a period of years. To have Nick's support at this level is extraordinary and the Society is enormously grateful. Importantly, in setting up part of his gift as a matching programme, Nick encourages other Johnians around the world to support, or increase our support, for the Bursary Scheme and other work of the College.

There are few better ways to endorse the work of the College than to ensure that any student, regardless of personal finances, can come up to Cambridge. The Collegiate system of teaching at Cambridge in weekly supervisions is an expensive way to teach. However, supervisions are an extraordinary way to learn, a gift to students lucky enough to be taught, one-on-one, by a Fellow of the College. Thus, supporting bursaries today is a philanthropy of the highest impact: a gift helps a student in need attend St John's; a gift helps the College support the supervisory system; and right now a gift is doubled by Nick Corfield's matching and is increased again by the tax advantage. There has never been a better time to help the College build its endowment for bursaries.

The Society is grateful for the continued support of the College for our work, and the very strong and consistent support from the Master, Professor Richard Perham, who guides our work and visits us often, and the able help of the Johnian Office.

**Marc Feigen**  
Chairman

## The Lady Margaret Pilgrimage Society

The Lady Margaret Pilgrimage Society was founded to promote travel to sites of religious interest. Excursions traditionally include a day trip to a cathedral in the UK during Lent Term, with a more substantial expedition abroad during the vacation. Although the excursions are to sights of Christian heritage, they are open to everyone, and our current membership spans from atheist to Anglo-Catholic.

In September 2005, four members of the Society headed to Spain to walk the last 320km of the pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela. This was coordinated by our former President, William Cartwright-Hignett, who has walked and cycled the *camino* several times. Gwilym Evans, John Simmonds and Emma Brown, together with William, set off from Leon on a pathway that would take them across mountains, over streams, through farmland, gorse and heather and the occasional motorway and industrial estate, to the site of the relics of St James.

Our journey was riddled with blisters, tendonitis, hurt knees and burn-marks from vicious backpack straps. Footwear ranged from the sensible to the absurd; one member's wellington boots carried him bravely for two days before they were finally abandoned, and a certain female was sighted walking over thirty kilometres in her bright pink flip-flops. The hospitality of the Spanish was astounding: there were often nurses who seemed willing to attend to the sweaty and blistered feet of the limping. One, I recall, was even called Maggie. However, it took some members of our party a good while to trust that their blister solution, which consisted of driving a needle and thread through the dead skin – was both effective and pain free.

A typical day took us twenty-five to thirty kilometres closer to Santiago. We would usually walk about six of these before breakfasting. Lunch would be taken at a bar, often a three-course meal at a special price for pilgrims. This would consist of an indiscernible soup, followed by a dead animal (sometimes unspecified) in sump oil with chips, and some sort of milk-based dessert. However, the main redeeming feature of Spanish cuisine is that it is often served with a choice of a litre of *agua* or *vino* – although this is perhaps an indication of the quality of the

wine. Sharing a litre of wine before embarking on another ten or so kilometres is ill-advised, as I believe we all learned at some point on the journey. We would aim to arrive at our accommodation before dusk, or, more often, to find accommodation before dusk. This varied between the municipal refuges – where there were usually more than thirty bunk beds in the same room, and thus a cacophony of snoring – to hotels with en-suite bathrooms, reserved for such times when we were feeling especially pathetic.

We made many acquaintances, and on our arrival in Santiago de Compostela we were not strangers. There were lots of opportunities to practice our languages: a casual call of '*buen camino*' could lead to the most extraordinary, multi-lingual and heavily-gesticulated conversations. Two German students from Cologne walked with us for much of the way, and stayed with us in Santiago de Compostela. The hospitality of the pilgrims and the Spanish, despite the language barriers, was astounding, and made for a very pleasant journey. It is hoped that future generations of the Society will consider the *camino*.

Arriving at Santiago we were greeted by bagpipes as first we glimpsed the *catedral*. Inside, it was richly decorated with a striking altar piece, with the relics of St James in a modest casket in a crypt underneath the Catholic decadence. The famous thurible, weighing seventy-five kilograms and standing at about two metres high, swung over the heads of congregation to the accompaniment of triumphant organ music. The soprano member of our party found herself a little too close for comfort to the holy pendulum when she sang during the Pilgrims' Service. That evening, having befriended the organist, we were treated to a recital of French harpsichord music and a guided tour of the bars in the area, where we tried *queimada*. The bright yellow decor of the following day's Ryanair flight was not pleasant to behold, but we reached home refreshed and ready for the academic year.

The St Paul's excursion in Lent Term took place one blustery Saturday. My involvement in the trip was as an observer for, owing to the demands of the Cambridge Music Tripos, I was left stranded at my piano with only *Das Wohltempierte Klavier* for company. However, mobile phone technology gave me some insight into the day, for there

were several calls from individual members of the Society to attempt to establish the whereabouts of their comrades. I gather from those involved that it was a most 'jolly' day, that 'the only whispering in the Whispering Gallery came from the tourists', and that no-one dared sing to try out the seven-second echo. All arrived home present and correct and, since to my knowledge the dome is still standing, one concludes that no harm was done.

Thus has our year unfolded. Our Annual Dinner is to be held next term in the Wilberforce Room, and there is interest in a trip to Italy during the long vacation. Our German friends are keen for a reunion in Compostela and they hope to visit us in John's soon. In the meanwhile, we all look forward to the post-exam period of relief and revelry.

**Emma Brown**  
**Secretary**

### **The Lady Margaret Players**

The Lady Margaret Players has seen something of a revival this year, with the intake of a large group of theatre enthusiasts to the College resulting in a Committee of ten, a remarkable increase on the past few years. This, combined with the hard work and dedication of the Committee, has resulted in the rejuvenation and re-emergence of a Society that, though hugely appreciated within College, had yet to make its name on the map of Cambridge theatre.

The year started with an impressive production of Seneca's *Thyestes*, a grotesque tragedy telling the story of two brothers' struggle for the throne. A simple but majestic set, involving a long table and sweeping white drapes from ceiling to floor, complemented a version of the play that concentrated on the epic scale of the tragedy, with Joey Whitfield's *Atreus* receiving critical acclaim from reviewers.

The unfortunate and unforeseeable withdrawal of *Troilus and Cressida*, the Easter Term main show, left a gaping hole in the Society's calendar, but some last minute arrangements led to the successful substitution of



a week of diverse and entertaining one night stands and short performances, an event so successful that it may well come to be an annual occurrence. These inexpensive, lighthearted evenings were kicked off by the Improvised Comedy Ents Society, fresh from the success of *Whose ICE is it Anyway* and *Lights, Camera, Improv!*, both performed to sell-out audiences at the ADC Theatre earlier in the year. The one-off performance, *Improv@John's* was a highly slick and entertaining hour of fast-paced games and conversations, improvised on the spot and inspired by suggestions and contributions from the audience. The reputation of the group resulted in a packed house, and an audience who spent the full hour rolling in the aisles and left begging for more.

Another highly successful short run was that of *Eclectica*, described as 'a strange and wonderful mix of poetry, music, stand-up and song' and masterminded by LMP Artistic Director, Deborah Grayson, whose organisation and enthusiasm resulted in a relaxing and diverse evening of entertainment that was hugely enjoyed by participants and spectators alike.

The next project staged by the Lady Margaret Players was a long-anticipated departure from traditional Cambridge fare, a show providing a sense of innovation and diversity, which played a large part in the emergence of the Society as a respected component of the Cambridge theatre scene. *Tricycle*, self-effacingly described by its creator, Richard Braude, as a 'multi-media art mess!', was a highly impressive combination of devised work, improvisation, movement and dance, complemented by carefully chosen music and lighting to create a dramatic experience in which the audience were 'invited to be art'.

The project currently underway sees further expansion of the Society, as we take *Brick Walls* to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. This new play, a collaboration by Footlights stalwarts Thomas Eccleshare and Dan Mansell, moves to the festival following sell-out success and sensational reviews for performances at the Corpus Playroom and as part of the ADC Theatre's 100-year anniversary show *Celebration*. The short play,

described by *Varsity* reviewers as ‘captivating and hilarious!’ and by ADC President, Benjamin Deery, as ‘exciting, original and innovative’, follows the fate of two builders who, having accidentally bricked themselves into a house, amuse themselves with the inventions of their own overactive imaginations. The play is set to be performed at the Smirnoff Underbelly, one of Edinburgh’s most prestigious and exciting venues, and this, combined with the proven quality of the show itself, will provide an important stepping stone in the emerging importance and prominence of the Lady Margaret Players.

Further important steps taken by this year’s Committee towards the projection of the Lady Margaret Players as a more renowned and important Society within Cambridge, have included the refurbishment of our technical equipment by Technical Directors, Mike Carratt and Caspar Green, and the creation of the Society’s first University-wide mailing list by Communications Officer, Zoë Gilmore. Most excitingly of all, however, the recruitment of Tim Gordon as Computer Officer has seen the creation of the Lady Margaret Players’ own website for the first time, providing information about the Society itself and its Committee, our performing space in the School of Pythagoras, our upcoming shows, and archives of pictures and programmes of past plays and events.

The Committee’s dedication to the re-emergence and promotion of the Lady Margaret Players has led to a year of successful and innovative productions, which, by their fresh and exciting nature, their popularity and their fantastic critical reception, have both entertained and impressed audiences, and led to the establishment of the Society as an important and respected contributor to the wider scene of Cambridge theatre.

**Laura Bates**  
**President**

## The Larmor Society

The Larmor (Natural Sciences) Society President for 2004-2005, Alex Wilber, last year introduced the new Committee as 'very keen', while I was described as 'almost alarmingly competent' – a lot to live up to! We enthusiastically sought to meet Alex and the Society's expectations by organising a series of talks, as well as expanding the number of socials.

We began in Easter Term 2005 by 'sharing' the Tutor's Garden Party, providing nibbles prior to the Hog Roast. The Committee also helped to serve the hog and salad, with Dave Knowles and Rich Skidmore enthusiastically taking on the duty of butcher. Easter Term and the long vacation also involved a lot of work behind the scenes, preparing a 1A 'Alternative' Course Guide, organising talks and compiling the accounts.

Michaelmas Term began with the Committee attending the Freshers' Lunch to offer our opinion on 1A courses. Despite my best efforts, few of the first years were convinced that a field trip to Arran in early April makes Geology the best 1A subject. The freshers were welcomed into the Society by a Hall with pre-dinner cocktails. We also held the Annual Book Sale, allowing members either to buy significantly discounted textbooks, or dispose of that copy of Stryer's *Biochemistry* that has sat unopened on their shelf for more than a year, and get some cash in the process!

A number of talks were held during Michaelmas and Lent Terms. Our guest speakers included Professor I N McCave, who spoke on Climate Change, and Dr S Best, who explained recent developments within the University in bio-ceramics. All our speakers were invited to dine with members of the Society after their talks. We enjoyed a number of interesting conversations over dinner and all learnt something from our speakers.

Lent Term featured the Desserts for the 1As, where Fellows and older students attempt to promote their chosen subjects. As always there was lively discussion about the options available, with overly enthusiastic proponents for the various subjects present (I once again did my best to

convince all those present that Geology is the best option – with mixed results). The input of the Fellows, both at the event and during its organisation, is particularly appreciated.

Easter Term began with sixty undergraduates and Fellows attending the event that is the highlight of the year, the Annual Dinner, in the SCR. Data Connection kindly sponsored the event for the second year running. It was once again a pleasant evening, with the members turning out in black tie. The Committee elections were announced at dinner, as has become tradition. Congratulations to Craig Lumb (President), Hana Hijazi (Junior Treasurer), Lindsey Mehrer (Secretary), Ben Wynne, Kay Jenkinson and Dave Woods on their election. I wish them all the best of luck for next year and am sure they will do an exemplary job of running the Society.

Finally, a huge thank you must be said to the Committee – Dave Knowles, Hana Hijazi, Craig Lumb, Richard Skidmore and Nada Kozman – and to Professor Conway Morris (Senior Treasurer), Dr Johnstone, Dr Wood, Dr McConnel and Dr Metaxas for all their help over the year.

**Michelle Pope**  
**President**

### **The LBGT Society**

After a quieter than usual 2004-2005, the LBGT (Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay and Transgender) Society has again been fairly active during the 2005-2006 academic year. Securing Associated Societies' funding has yet again allowed us to expand on the range and number of events that the Society has been involved in this year.

The majority of the Society's role entails providing for the welfare and social wellbeing of LBGT members of College. As such, social events, including drinks before the weekly LBGT club-night 'Unique' at Club Twenty-Two (now renamed Precious after years under the Unique banner), have been very popular and well-attended by a cross-section of College, both LBGT and LBGT-friendly. In addition, the funding has

allowed for the expansion of our current library of LGBT-interest DVDs and the possibility of magazine subscriptions to publications dealing in LGBT health and welfare issues. A new event for this year was the inaugural St John's LGBT Society Annual Dinner – consisting of a mix of both undergraduates and graduates. This took place in the intimate surroundings of the Parsons Room at the end of Lent Term, and was followed by a night out at Unique. Possible developments of this meal could be to invite alumni to the dinner, though this is for next year's President to muse on.

Events to look forward to include the May Week LGBT Garden Party, which we are hoping will be attended by a cross-section of LGBT Societies from across the University, and also the Annual General Meeting, where next year's expenditure and personnel will be decided. My thanks go to Clive Hillman for his role as Senior Treasurer and his continuing assistance to, and support of, the Society. Also, thanks to everybody within the College who has attended any of our events this year – without the wider support of College these events would neither be possible nor so helpful for so many people. One of the major themes of recent years has been an increasing attendance at Society events of LGBT-friendly members of College. Although the Society's focus should remain on its LGBT members, this is a trend that should be encouraged and one that I'd like to see continuing.

**Mike Horridge**  
**President**

## **The May Ball**

When describing Oxbridge May Balls, typical student newspapers latch onto the clichéd adjectives of 'opulence', 'indulgence' and 'extravagance'. However, with this overzealous enthusiasm for polysyllabic language, it becomes hard to distinguish between the good and the very best. St John's College May Ball Committees have long strived to surpass the standards set by their peer colleges. But this year's Ball demonstrated that it is no longer just meeting the targets, it is setting its own: '... there is a distinct whiff of the Man United about a

Trinity coasting on former glories that seems to have been outstripped...' (Varsity, June 2006).

It would indeed be easy to become complacent about the success of a May Ball at St John's College. However, the Committee of 2006 showed a genuine passion to inject a new lease of life: a 3.30am formal breakfast in the SCR, a Victorian bandstand in Second Court, the moving of the casino into the Old Music Room, the transformation of our familiar bar into a traditional pub, a chill-out Indian Marquee in New Court, the shooting of 'Survivors' Photo' in First Court and a programme unrivalled in its artistic flair. This is not to say that these new ideas were realised without a fight. A main band that won't sign?... Apply double the pressure... Skies threatening to open?... Order one thousand umbrellas... A helter-skelter that won't fit through the gates? ... Let down the tyres.

As a result, St John's May Ball created a truly unique experience. Guests were entertained by one of the most spectacular fireworks displays to illuminate the Backs. The musical acts ranged from the ever-popular cheese to the dirty rumblings of Drum and Bass. The exuberant performances of the Mystery Jets and Hot Chip were counterbalanced by the classical sophistication of *The Marriage of Figaro*. Food became an attraction in its own right, with a fruit mountain decorating the centre display of Hall. The menu highlights included ostrich burgers, game sausages with mash, Indian Moghlai, chicken fajitas and the traditional steak baguettes and hog roast. There was an overwhelming array of drinks, from champagne in reception to Phil Macartney's own concoction, Victoria's Secret Cocktail, served in an elegant silver fountain. It is the attention to detail that sets us apart. We offered Fish hairstyling, a perfumery, punt rides and fairground games. This year's theme of the Victorian age channelled Subscene's incredible creative talent. A twenty-foot banner of Queen Victoria was complemented by a fairy-lit miniature of Crystal Palace, maps of the Colonial Empire and painstakingly hand-painted signs. Third Court was reworked with a carnival atmosphere: carousel horses were framed by the arches, a painted Ferris wheel hung from the tower and a sweet stall even boasted seaside rock imprinted with 'St John's May Ball 2006'.

The standard of May Balls is becoming increasingly high. There is a danger that by surpassing ourselves every year, each Committee makes its successors' lives increasingly difficult. However, with sheer determination, a vision of greatness and an absolute conviction to the cause, each May Ball is reinvigorated with a fresh energy. Admire this year's achievement of the greatest ever St John's May Ball. Then cast your mind to a year from now when your expectations will be blown out of the water once more...

St John's May Ball Committee has many people to thank for their assistance and support, including the Master and Fellows of the College, Commodore Harris and the College Authorities. The list is too long to show appropriate gratitude here but we would like to pay particular tribute to Ben Parker, who has chaired the Committee for the past four years and has always provided a perfect balance of rationality and humour (radio banter included!).

**Amanda Sinden**  
**President**

### **The Medical Society**

In the glorious wake of the previous year's Centenary Dinner and celebrations, expectations were high for the Medical Society in 2006. Medical alumni from seven decades were present in Hall for that magnificent occasion, a testament to the hard work done by last year's Committee.

In the summer, having endured the infamously gruelling Medical Sciences Tripos, we hosted a lavish Garden Party. With the fiscal prudence that characterised her reign, last year's President, Kate Burke, was absolutely insistent that every penny of our resources be spent before she left her post. To ensure this was the case, we bought food from Pret à Manger and the Ugly Duckling Restaurant, probably the most expensive takeaway in Cambridge. If anything was missing, it was a bouncy castle, an oversight that the Committee does not intend to repeat.



The academic year began as befits such a convivial Society, with the welcoming of our first year intake at the Cheese and Wine evening. It is perhaps the most eagerly anticipated event in our calendar, with some extremely busy members, only a month prior to their finals, selflessly clearing their diaries to ensure their presence for this 'meet-and-greet' session. As usual, the Committee excelled itself in providing food and drink to satisfy even the most discerning taste buds. By the end, many of the freshers were speechless - one assumes, in appreciation of such a wonderful evening. Indeed, a few could barely contain their gushing approval.

For the Annual Dinner in Lent Term, we returned to the austere surroundings of the Combination Room. Having feasted on sumptuous food and fine wine, we enjoyed an excellent speech from our guest, Professor Steve O'Rahilly FRS, Head of Clinical Biochemistry at Addenbrooke's. He offered predictions as to the future direction of our profession: some encouraging, others, particularly with reference to the managerial structure of the NHS, less so. The traditional Awards Ceremony that followed surprised some members, not least the winner of the inaugural Chris Kelly Memorial Prize. The winner is the person the Committee feels is most likely to waste his or her hard-earned Cambridge Medical Sciences degree in pursuit of a career that will better suit his or her particular skill: namely, the accumulation of money. Ironically, if recent press reports are to be believed, that person might be well advised to open a GP surgery.

Strong communication is not a quality for which the President has been renowned this year. I am therefore incredibly grateful for the tireless work of my Committee: Ruw, Ash, Becky and Emil, who have often done jobs that I was not even aware of. The less than democratic manner in which these positions of leadership are chosen has clearly succeeded again. Finally, I wish the best of luck to President-Elect Ashley Simpson and hope that in the future the Medical Society continues to illustrate the virtue of combining hard work with no less diligent play.

**James Alexander**  
President

## The Modern Languages Society

The Modern Languages Society kicked off the year by listening to the returning fourth years talk about their experiences on their year abroad, which was, as ever, very entertaining. Our guest speaker in Michaelmas Term was Gareth Jones, currently a Film Studies PhD student at St John's (although formerly a Cambridge linguist), who came to talk about his career as a director, script writer and film producer in various European locations. This was followed by a question and answer session for the budding film-makers among us. It was also reassuring to know that not all linguists go on to become teachers!

In Lent Term, the College Lectrice, Liliane Campos, organised a trip to the Institut Français de Londres in Kensington, as part of a retrospective of the films of Jean-Pierre Bacri and Agnès Jaoui, two of the leading lights of contemporary French comedic cinema. The group very much enjoyed the showing of *Kennedy et moi*. Later in the Term, we watched *On connaît la chanson*, which also featured Bacri and Jaoui, and which had us in hysterics. This contrasted greatly with our trip to the Arts Picturehouse to see the thought-provoking *Caché*, the ending of which kept us talking for days afterwards. We even managed to squeeze in a Dessert in the Wordsworth Room, which was very well attended and which gave everyone a chance to wind down at the end of Term. We are already looking forward to our Garden Party and Annual Dinner, which will be held during May Week.

Many thanks to Junior Treasurer, Izzie Kaufeler, and to College Rep, Julia Angell, as well as to Dr Midgley and to Liliane Campos for their support.

**Rebecca Walton**  
President

## The Palmerston Society

Nothing focuses the mind, so the saying goes, like a bicentenary. Like its eponymous founder, the Palmerston Society's appetite for a fresh

conquest only grows with maturity. This year saw the appointment of a reformist President, who immediately set about challenging the legacy of cronyism, waste and corruption, bequeathed by the previous incumbent. An antiquated fiefdom of sinecures and sycophants was transformed into a dynamic and flexible organisation tailored to the challenges of terrorism and globalisation that a college society faces in the twenty-first century. Instrumental in this was the streamlining of the bloated executive into two new offices: the Junior Treasury, ably staffed by Richard Mackenney, and the Permanent Secretariat, under the fastidious care of Adam Sivner. Unfortunately – and much to their chagrin – the demands of the reform agenda prevented Messrs Mackenney and Sivner from being able to devote their full energies to assisting the President, and it thus fell upon him to uphold a long administrative tradition within the Society and organise everything himself.

Such adverse beginnings, however, did not beget despondency. Year on year, like the great man himself, the Palmerston Society continues to prove its stamina. The social calendar began with a successful drinks evening in the Old Music Room at the kind invitation of Miss Tomaselli, which gave undergraduate guests their annual opportunity to see other students studying their own subject. Nerves quickly settled as the champagne flowed and the room reverberated with anecdote and badinage; after a summer hiatus, the SPS community was whole once more. The event set the tone for the rest of the year – the rock-climbing in the Peak District was a particular highlight – and before we knew it, the showpiece event of the SPS year was upon us, the Society's Annual Dinner. An event of such magnitude is never without its complications, and this year proved no different. Big decisions needed making: whether the previous President's *avant garde* policy of inviting a guest speaker should be renewed; whether goat's cheese was heavier than salmon; and whether the three-years-graduated signatory on the Society chequebook should be contacted, given some delicate personal dynamics.

But made they were. The Dinner brought together the undergraduate and graduate communities from SPS and International Relations, a combination that proved very successful and can hopefully provide a

basis for future events. The Society was also delighted to welcome Edward Chaplin, British Ambassador to Iraq 2004-2005, as guest speaker, and his insights into politics were enjoyed and appreciated by all. All in all, it was a fitting event to cap off another year of progress for the Society, and we wish the Leviathan Elect, Ashley Elliott, every success for next year.

**Jonathan Yiangou**  
**President**

### **The Purchas Society**

The Purchas Society has had another very successful year. We welcomed nine freshers, saying goodbye to eight retiring third years, all of whom, inspired by Samuel Purchas himself, sailed off into the sunset.

The customary Purchas Tea Party, at the beginning of Michaelmas, started proceedings off in style, as we welcomed our new members with the help of light summer refreshment. 'Purchas Paddlings', later on in the Term, gave those who travelled far and wide across the globe an opportunity to share their experiences with the Land Economists who had only braved it as far as Bognor. We heard the terrifying account of Lou Mallam, who was held hostage on a bus in Africa, whilst Nick Bell scared (or is it scarred) us even more by talking for 'three' hours about India. It should not be forgotten that, although we are named after Samuel Purchas, the first St John's Geographer, he never in fact left his armchair whereas, from the evidence of 'Paddlings', travelling is clearly more of a passion for our group.

Our first speaker of the year was Dr Bayliss-Smith, a Fellow here at John's and an active member of the Society. He regaled us with tales of how College life was when Samuel Purchas was an undergraduate. I believe it is safe to say that we have got it easy!

The next speaker visiting the Society in the first Term was a Cambridge Geographer, Dr Cearns. After dining in Hall and consuming his fair share of wine and port, Dr Cearns spoke energetically on the subject of the 'Psychogeography of The Clash'. This involved explaining how rock

band, The Clash, reflected accurately, through their lyrics, the social overhaul that occurred in the late 1970s. It also involved some truly awful singing!

Lent Term began with the now established 'Purchas Desserts'. After much frivolity in Hall, we moved in to the Wordsworth Room to enjoy the culinary delights it had to offer. We were joined by Dr Clive Oppenheimer, also a Cambridge Geographer, who spoke briefly about our founder's influence on the arts. It proved to be an interesting insight, one that only made us prouder to be Purchasians.

Later on in the Term, we were entertained by Purchas favourite Jim Duncan, who is rapidly gaining a reputation as being as entertaining as our 'Purchas Pin-Up', Imran James. Dr Duncan spoke about coffee as an industry and how it affects different people and places around the world.

This Easter Term saw the launch of a brand new Purchas event. In order to recuperate some of the financial losses made by the retiring Committee resulting from some mathematical miscalculations, we had a Purchas Punt Trip. Floating down the Cam with fellow Purchasians was a great way to unwind and forget about the stress of exams.

At the time of writing, the Purchas Annual Dinner has not actually taken place, but we will be fortunate enough to be joined in the SCR by Loretta Napoleoni – author of *Modern Jihad, Tracing the Dollars behind the Terror Networks*. The Society has been very lucky to get her as she is an incredibly established author, researcher and government advisor. Among a list far too long to even summarise: she advises the Homeland Security on terrorism; has worked for the IMF, UN and European Bank for Reconstruction and Development; is Chairperson of the Countering Terrorism Financing Group for the Club de Madrid; and was responsible for bringing together Heads of State to discuss new strategies for combating the financing of terror networks. Needless to say, it is going to be a very enjoyable evening: a fitting end to a truly fantastic year for the Society.

This leads me seamlessly on to thanking the retiring Committee. Rob Petit has worked tirelessly in organising our year-long entertainment

and will deserve his time as President next year. James Longman has managed, somehow, to do less as Treasurer than I have done as President, something he, as only he can, will be very proud of. Claire McCarroll, as Librarian, has done an excellent job in preserving the works of Samuel Purchas. Imran James has also been radiant in his role as 'Purchas Pin-Up' and we look forward to his annual speech at this year's Dinner. Finally, I would like to wish the new Committee (after election at the Dinner) the very best of luck in ensuring that the Society continues to grow and thrive in the future. Good luck to all those graduating this year, and to our founder – thanks for the memories.

**Ben Hills**  
**President**

## **The SBR**

As yet, the fate of the Samuel Butler Room has still to be decided, with elections only a few days away, but the race is hotting up and, no matter what the outcome, I'm sure the SBR will be in safe hands. Our term as the SBR Committee started with a wet Garden Party, and it was only fitting that balance be maintained with our farewell event, an Ice Cream Social, set for a beautiful May day, being a complete wash out.

It goes without saying that the members of this year's SBRC have ensured that a diverse social life can be up for grabs to those Johnian graduates who can handle it. Tom and Hilary have been a great team – from kiddies' picnics to relaxing Sunday brunches and on to the more riotous Ents, they have guaranteed that every social niche of graduate life is catered for. Mark has led us through the culinary delights of a number of Cantabrigian establishments, which served as a timely reminder that maybe Hall in John's isn't all that bad. Joe's unique liaisonistic style has ensured that graduates remain safe from the necessary evil that is the JCR. Sophie, who we sadly lost to the rigours of third year PhD, was kind enough to stay on as SBR Sport Secretary and pass the torch of Secretary to the SBR to St John's resident Committee junkie, Heather. Both have been excellent in keeping me on my toes throughout the last year. In adapting an existing role, the SBRC

saw, for the first time, an all-in-one Welfare and Environmental Officer. As well as being on hand to ensure that our mental welfare didn't waver too drastically, Laura initiated a programme at all St John's graduate accommodation to provide facilities for efficient waste recycling. Hopefully, this is an excellent start to a more environmentally-friendly college. By no means least, Sebastian has been on hand to safeguard student finances in College when the economically-challenged SBR President has been faced with tricky concepts such as 'capital expenditure'. Many thanks to you all.

As ever, graduate life is changing. With the advent of wireless network connections in the SBR, our research has become mobile. Our interactions and affiliations outwith College are also changing, with the roles of the Graduate Union and CUSU being challenged by the graduate members of St John's. The interplay between college MCRs and student bodies at University level is a vital facet of graduate student life in Cambridge, making it all the more important that it is productively scrutinised. A focus of the SBRC has been to improve Junior Members' privacy in College. We consider this to have been a great success and are thankful to College for allowing us the opportunity to tackle this issue. Finally, one of the most important aspects of graduate life, which I urge future members of the SBR to embrace and develop, is our tradition of exchanges with Balliol College, Oxford, and the University of Uppsala. Given Balliol's fantastic performance during our Formal Hall exchange, I'm sure St John's can do even better to show our less-fortunate counterparts that they would rather be at St John's than at Oxford.

Without support from College staff, the SBR would not have been able to meet the needs of the Johnian graduate community. From the Bursars who helped us work towards a better understanding regarding student rents, to the indispensable staff in the College Offices and Catering and Conference, who helped remedy our many ineptitudes. Without support from the bar, our vital stocks of port and sherry would have run dry, causing chaos throughout the graduate community. And to the Senior Members of College – the Tutor for Graduate Affairs, the Senior Tutor, the unique Fellow Borderer, the President, and the Master,



Professor Perham – the graduate community is indebted to you all for allowing us the opportunity to enjoy such an institution.

As our supervisors celebrate the return to our PhDs, all that remains is to wish our successors good luck, and hope that their initial enthusiasm is sustainable. After all, the graduate community quite rightly prides itself on being diverse – it's keeping it happy and diverse that makes it fun.

**Iain J MacLeod**  
**President**

### **The Theological Society**

A College founded by the illustrious and pious John Fisher and Lady Margaret Beaufort should be proud of those students who have chosen to follow their example. However, the theologians at St John's are more likely to meet ridicule than praise. One can just hear the overabundance of scientists in our courts sniggering in their sleeves at those of us who have chosen a less, shall we say, practical discipline to study: 'Oh, you aren't too worried about getting a job, then?', 'how quaint', and blank stares are frequent responses to the announcement that one is studying Theology.

In response to these common misconceptions about the continuing importance, applicability, and validity of theology as an academic discipline, the Theological Society meetings this year addressed the intersection of theology with modern culture. In the first meeting of Michaelmas Term, Dr Jeremy Begbie of Ridley Hall, Cambridge, and the University of St Andrews, expounded on musical theory, explaining the Trinity on a grand piano. A month later, Dr Gary Burge, of Wheaton College, explicated the frightening theologies driving American politics in the Middle East. In Lent Term, Dr Diana Lipton, of Newnham College, guided us through a psycho-analysis of the rabbis and high priests of Judaism, and Dr Erik Tønning of Lincoln College, Oxford, dazzled us with the importance of theology for understanding the writings of Samuel Beckett. We end the academic year with the

charismatic Rex Walford of Emmanuel College and London's West End, who plans to direct our minds toward theology in the theatre.

As President of the College Theological Society, it has been my hope that these meetings would provide Johnian theologians with the necessary ammunition to battle those who see our field as unnecessary and outdated. I would like to thank Duncan Dormor, Senior Treasurer, for his support during the two years of my Presidency, and I wish all the best to my successor.

**Caryn Reeder**  
**President**

### **The Winfield Society**

The Winfield Society has had another very successful year. The arrival of the new freshers was as exciting as ever and, once they forgave us for the title of 'The Lawdown' (our guide to studying law at St John's) they proved very friendly! Welcome drinks and a Formal Hall with all the current members of the Society persuaded them we weren't too bad either, and the close bond across the different years of lawyers continues to be one of the greatest strengths of St John's.

Once again, we have been very fortunate in the number of City solicitor firms wishing to sponsor events. Meals with Allen & Overy, Linklaters, Macfarlanes and Herbert Smith were very enjoyable, and the Annual Christmas Party at the Slug and Lettuce, once again supported by Freshfields, ended the first term in style.

The Annual Dinner held on 11 February 2006 was a great success, with all members of the Society, past and present, being invited. With a reception, six course meal and post-dinner drinks it was a very enjoyable evening, and we would encourage all the members of the Society to come if they get the chance! We were privileged to have Lord Hope of Craighead as our guest speaker this year, and his speech provided a valuable first-hand insight into the current reforms of the House of Lords.

The Annual Mooting Competition, kindly sponsored by Simmons & Simmons, took place in Lent Term, and offered an invaluable (if slightly daunting!) opportunity for our first years to get a lead on their University rivals. The standard was very high indeed, and Andrew Fei emerged as the well-deserved winner after an extremely hard-fought final. Success was also had at University level, with Johnians making up half the participants in two finals of the University Competitions: Louisa Nye and Craig Morrison took St John's to the final of the University Team Competition (to be beaten 'by a nose'), while Charlotte Tan and Rachel Greenwood both made it through five rounds of one of the most competitive Fledglings Competitions in recent years to reach the final.

The Winfield Society has also travelled further abroad this year. In April we journeyed to London to visit the Inns of Court, a great opportunity for members interested in the Bar to see the other side of the profession, and in May we were fortunate to be invited by Lord Hope to join him for a day 'behind the scenes' at the House of Lords and Privy Council, a unique chance to see the highest Courts in person.

All in all, it has been a very enjoyable year. We would like to thank our excellent Committee: Louisa Nye, Rachel Greenwood, Rachel Lovell and Felix Wong for all their hard work throughout the year, and we wish next year's Committee the best of luck. We are sure that St John's Law will continue to go from strength to strength!

**Craig Morrison and Emma Jacob**  
**Presidents**

## COLLEGE SOCIETIES

### The Adams Society

This year has seen The Adams Society continuing the achievements of the previous year to organise a mixture of intellectual, social and sporting events for its members. Mid-June saw us host our traditional cricket match against the TMS, which for the seventh time this century resulted in a defeat (although this time undeservedly). After the previous year's wet and windy Garden Party being staged underneath A Cripps, we held the 2006 event back in the more scenic Fellows' Garden, where we indulged (and overindulged) in the traditional Pimms, strawberries and snacks we have come to expect.

The new academic year started with the Society welcoming new Mathematics Freshers to the College in the form of a successful Squash. The term saw several popular speaker meetings, starting with a technical talk by Dr Feldman on Division Algebras. We then invited Dr Bobby Gramacy to speak, which involved a member of the audience going back to their room to fetch a computer screen required for the talk. For the last meeting of Michaelmas, we had Professor Imre Leader present a talk titled 'Scorpions, Beetles, and Porters', which included discussion of Porters chasing students off a College lawn. The big social event of the term was the Dessert Party in the Wordsworth Room, where we were treated to the usual selection of fruits, cheeses and, of course, alcohol.

A busy schedule in Lent Term brought three more speaker events and the usual visits to Formal Hall afterwards. The term opened with Tom Sanders (a former Johnian PhD student) speaking about the appearance of the Fourier Transform across mathematics. This was followed up in February with Professor Steve Gull discussing Geometric Algebras and Professor Richard Weber's analysis of Rendezvous Searches on Graphs, in particular relating to a problem he has recently solved.

Then came the AGM, in which we had the drama of an election for the new Committee along with a heavy revision to the Society's

constitution. This was followed by drinks in Dr Dörrzapf's rooms and the Adams Society Annual Dinner in the Combination Room. After a few words from myself, the guest speaker, Dr Robert Leese (a former undergraduate and Research Fellow here) amused the society with various jokes and a version of Don McLean's famous song, renamed *Mathematical Pie* giving an (presumably non-biographical) account of life as a mathematician at St John's. The version he performed had twenty verses, so I can give only a sample here:

*I was an eager Freshman undergrad  
With an Open Schol, who would work like mad  
But I knew it had all gone bad  
The day my prospects died.*

*I started singing  
Bye-bye, supervision report  
Which said 'Tolerable, just, but  
With no clearness of thought'.  
Them good old boys were drinking claret and port  
And singing, this'll be the day that I die.  
This'll be the day that I die.*

Some sections were particularly cringe-worthy (but of course still delighted a room full of mathematicians):

*Did you read the book of proofs?  
And do you have faith they're not all spoofs  
If supervisor tells you so?  
Do you believe in Lorentz groups?  
Do they really help with Feynman loops?  
And can you teach me geometric flow?*

The term ended with a Society football match against The Hyperbolics (St Catharine's Mathematics Society) and a thrilling 3–2 win for the Adams Society with two late goals.

I would like to thank the Mathematics students and Fellows of the College for their continued enthusiasm towards the Society: in particular Dr Dörrzapf, Dr Samworth and Dr Nicholls for supporting

the Dinner and Desserts. Finally, I would like to take this chance to thank Amy Wilson, Gemma Stockton, Robert Easton, Tim Gordon and Chris Fairless for their excellent contribution in helping to make my Presidency enjoyable and rewarding and also to wish Gemma (the new President) and her Committee the best of luck for the forthcoming year.

**James Keough**  
**President**

### **St John's College Amnesty International**

Amnesty International is an organisation made up of ordinary people working to protect and promote the human rights of individuals and groups around the world. My predecessor as College Amnesty International Representative, Liz Yarrow, was successful in establishing a firm base for Amnesty in College, and I am happy to say that this year the group has built on this success and now has more than 180 members on its mailing list.

The group meets every Sunday evening in the Bar to write letters on behalf of approved Amnesty prisoners of conscience. All 180 members have not yet turned up for any one meeting; nevertheless, there are a number of dedicated supporters who attend regularly. The group's output has been terrific: more than 250 letters have been written and sent this year. The pre-written letter, sent out with the weekly emailed newsletter, has been particularly successful in enabling those who are unable to make it to a meeting to take some positive action for human rights.

Aside from our regular meetings, the main event in the College Amnesty calendar was the Weekend of the Letter, a University-wide letter-writing drive which took place over the weekend of 27 October. St John's took part with enthusiasm: stalls were held to collect signatures outside the Buttery each mealtime, and College members showed themselves to be concerned for Amnesty's work, and keen to give their support. The weekend culminated with a party for all Amnesty members in College; the evening was well-attended and a

great success, with interesting conversation, general merriment and many letters written and signed. In total, 524 signatures were collected over the weekend.

It is extremely difficult to make concrete causal connections between individual letters written and the release of prisoners of conscience; however, the group has been delighted to hear that several of the cases on which it has campaigned have been resolved to Amnesty's satisfaction. Amnesty's letter-writing campaigns have been shown to have an impact on the behaviour of governments and other organisations, and members in College can be pleased that they have had a role in ending and preventing human rights abuses which, without Amnesty's involvement, would have gone on, protected by the world's blindness and indifference.

Enthusiasm for Amnesty in College can be further gauged by the fact that there were three Johnians on the outgoing University Amnesty Executive Committee, of whom one was its Chair.

My thanks go to my predecessor, Liz Yarrow, who made my task easier and more pleasurable by having handed down a strong and enthusiastic Amnesty group; to my successor Anna Hall, whose enthusiasm and competency I have no doubt will ensure the group's future success; to all those who helped run stalls over the Weekend of the Letter; but most of all to everyone in College who has written or signed a letter. They have shown that Johnians passionately believe in the universal right to live a safe and dignified life, irrespective of political affiliation or religious belief, and are prepared to go out of their way to promote this right even for those far distant from the College.

**Madeleine Jones**  
**Amnesty International Representative**



## St John's College Choir

The Choir was delighted to welcome several new members in October: Oliver Hunt, Tom Verney (Alto Choral Students), Dominic Kraemer (Bass Choral Student), Gerald Beatty, Joe Harper (Tenor Lay Clerks), John Herford, Tom Faulkner (Bass Lay Clerks), Patrick Baldwin, Ned Campbell, Benedict Flynn, Ben Glass, Jack Jackson, Thomas Last, Thomas Mullock (Choristers), Alex Bower-Brown, Julius Foo and Thomas Williams (Probationers).

As is traditional, the first service of the academic year was the Matriculation Service, and the Freshers were treated to some exciting music in the form of Britten's *Te Deum in C* and Brahms' *How lovely are thy dwellings*. In what was a new venture for St John's, a Sung Eucharist was held in commemoration of All Souls', with the Choir singing movements from Duruflé's *Requiem*. The same work was performed on Remembrance Sunday, but this time with an orchestra comprised of members of the University. The service was webcast as part of a pilot scheme where services are made available for listening via the Choir and Chapel pages of the College Website: [www.joh.cam.ac.uk/chapel\\_and\\_choir](http://www.joh.cam.ac.uk/chapel_and_choir).

On the first Saturday in November, the Choir was privileged to be able to sing at the Memorial Service for Professor Robin Orr who died in April 2006. Robin Orr was Director of Music at St John's from 1938 until 1951, when he resigned the post in order to focus on musical composition. It was fitting that some of Robin's music was performed at the service as well as at Evensong that evening, when the Choir sang his Short Service as well as the beautiful anthem, *They that put their trust in the Lord*.

On Sunday 19 November it was a pleasure to hear Peter Hurford, the world renowned organist and former acting Director of Music at St John's, play the Sunday Evening Organ Recital. Known as a Bach specialist, he treated us to an all Bach programme, culminating in the *Prelude and Fugue in E flat BWV 552*. Three days later, the Choir sang a concert in Chapel as part of the Cambridge Music Festival, when they were joined by the early music ensemble, *Florilgium*, to perform a concert of works by Purcell and Handel. The concert was dedicated to the memory of Lydia Smallwood who died in June 2006. Lydia, a

founding member of the St John's College Choir Association, was a tireless supporter of the Choir and had worked as an organiser for the Cambridge Music Festival for many years.

As a consequence of Advent Sunday falling outside of Full Term this year, the College Advent Carol Services were held a week earlier than usual. The BBC recorded the Saturday evening Service, which was broadcast on Advent Sunday. The music for the service featured *This is the record of John* by Orlando Gibbons, Herbert Howells' setting of the *Magnificat*, which he wrote for the College Choir in 1957, and a newly commissioned work from Tarik O'Regan, *Threshold of Night*.

December saw no let up for the Choir with a weekend trip to Balzars, Liechtenstein and Birnau, Germany, to sing two Advent Carol Services and Mass on Sunday morning, two concerts with the Britten Sinfonia in Norwich and Cambridge, and a tour to Holland and Belgium. During the tour, the Choir were able to promote their latest release on the Hyperion label, *Christmas at St John's*. In what is an imaginative programme, the disc incorporates the Advent Prose with traditional Christmas music by John Rutter and Herbert Howells, as well as new works from Judith Bingham and Francis Pott.

The tour began with a performance in Amsterdam's Concertgebouw, where the Choir performed, amongst other things, Britten's *Ceremony of Carols* to a full house. The tour then took the Choir to Delft, Vlissingen, Naarden and Antwerp in Belgium. The final concert was in Breda, the hometown of Lester Lardenoye (Choral Student 2000–03, Lay Clerk 2003–05) who had taken the lead in organising the tour for the local promoter. In the final concert, the College Choir joined with the Choir of the Breda Sacramentskerk to perform Parson's *Ave Maria* and Mendelssohn's *Richte mich Gott*.

After a short break for Christmas and New Year, the Choir were back in Chapel for a recording of the music of Edward Bairstow (released on 2 July 2007 on the Hyperion label). In what was a very exciting project, the Choir was joined by the Britten Sinfonia and acclaimed baritone Roderick Williams for the première recording of Bairstow's *Five Poems of the Spirit*. The first weekend of Term saw the College host its second

Epiphany Carol Service. After the huge success of last year's service, this has become a firm favourite in the College calendar.

In February, the College commemorated the 200th anniversary of the Abolition of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade. The Choir was active in these celebrations by joining with the London Adventist Chorale to record a special service for BBC Radio 4, which included an address from John Sentanu, Archbishop of York, and a Gospel Mass in Chapel. The Mass was webcast and featured two new works especially commissioned for the occasion. *Let the Sound of Freedom*, composed for the combined Choirs, was composed by internationally acclaimed Gospel musician Ken Burton, the director of the London Adventist Chorale. The second, *He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good*, was composed by Richard Wilberforce (Choral Student 2003–2006, Choir Librarian 2006–2007) for the College Choir alone. Richard Wilberforce is a descendent of William Wilberforce (BA 1781, MA 1788), who was a Member of Parliament and a campaigner for the abolition of the Slave Trade.

It was the beginning of a very busy week for the Choir with the BBC returning to St John's to broadcast Evensong for Ash Wednesday live from the Chapel. A new work was commissioned for the service from the distinguished composer John Rutter. Written for choir, organ and *cor anglais* (played by recent Cambridge graduate Sasha Calin), *Lord thou hath searched me out and known me* was a beautiful addition to this special service. Just four days later the Choir travelled to Eton College to give a concert in the College Chapel. The diverse programme opened with Gorecki's *Totus Tuus* and ended with Wood's *Hail, gladdening light*, with some Biebl, Bach and Howells in between. It was a good opportunity to catch up with many former Choristers, including Julian Gregory, Alex Jones, Ben Durrant, Quintin Beer and Alex Robarts. On the final weekend of Term, the Chapel hosted the annual Lent Meditation Service. As last year, the service was webcast, and the Choir performed Lenten music by Victoria and Poulenc.

April Fools' Day saw the release of the Choir's third recording on the Hyperion label of *Belgian Organ Masses*. As well as the Organ Masses of Jongen and Peeters, three of Jongen's solo songs were recorded by Alexander Robarts (Treble), Peter Morton (Tenor) and Gareth John

(Bass). This, along with the Choirs' other releases on the Hyperion label can be purchased from the College at the discounted price of £11.00 (including £1.00 for UK p&p).

The Easter Vacation saw the Choir tour Venice in an exciting project in collaboration with Deborah Howard (Fellow of St John's) and the Centre for Acoustics and Musical Experiments in Renaissance Architecture. As well as a Mass in the Basilica di San Marco and two concerts in the Basilica dei Frari and the Chiesa di San Stefano, the Choir took part in acoustics experiments in eleven churches in Venice. The experiments were designed to answer three questions: how did the design of the building effect the performance of the music and what it sounded like; where were the singers placed in Churches; and if the same pieces were performed in different churches, did they sound different? The Choir returned to Cambridge to sing at the University Benefactors' Ceremony held at the Senate House, followed by a dinner in Hall to celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of the appointment of His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh as Chancellor of the University. During the dinner, the Choir sang *L'armour de moi*, arranged by Ward Swingle and the Gents entertained with Glen Miller's *Tuxedo Junction* and the Beatles' *With a little help from my friends*.

After the very enjoyable joint service with Gonville and Caius College Choir in the Lent Term, the Choir had four further joint services during the Easter Term, joining with Clare and King's College Choirs, and for the first time with the Choir of Trinity College. The University of Newcastle Chamber Choir, New South Wales, Australia, also joined with the Choir in July to sing a service of music by Tippett and Berkeley.

The Choristers were invited to join with the Choristers of Westminster Abbey Choir and the Philharmonia Orchestra for a performance of Mahler's *Third Symphony*, the first public concert following the re-opening of the newly refurbished Royal Festival Hall in June.

As part of the May Week celebrations, the Choir joined with the St John's Singers and the Southern Sinfonia to perform Haydn's *Theresienmesse* at the May Concert. The programme also included Jongen's *Toccata* for organ, Mozart's *Symphony in D*, and a selection of repertoire from the Gentlemen of St John's.

The Choir took part in the Three Choirs Concert at St Alban's Cathedral as part of the International Organ Festival, joining the Choirs of St Alban's Cathedral and St Thomas Church, New York, with their conductors Andrew Lucas and John Scott, to sing for a sell-out audience. The Choir sang *Take him, earth, for cherishing* by Howells and *Nunc Dimittis* by Holst, before joining with the other two Choirs to sing *Light of the world* by Elgar and the *Messe Solennelle* by Langlais.

The year finished with a nine-day tour to Austria, Liechtenstein and Germany, the highlight of which was two concerts at the Bregenz Festival at the personal invitation of former Head Chorister, Mr David Pountney, now the Intendant of the Bregenz Festival. The first concert was a programme of music by Purcell and Britten and proved very popular with the enthusiastic audience. For the final night of the tour, the Choir joined with the Vienna Symphony Orchestra to perform Britten's *Spring Symphony* in front of a full house.

The Choir was very sad to hear that David Hill would be leaving the College this summer after four years as Director of Music. Everybody associated with the Chapel and Choir would like to wish David good luck in his new role as Chief Conductor of the BBC Singers. David will be leaving the Choir in excellent shape for his successor, Andrew Nethsingha, who takes up his appointment in September 2007. Like David, Andrew was Organ Scholar at St John's under George Guest, and also held the Organ Scholarship at St George's Chapel, Windsor, under Christopher Robinson. For the past five years Andrew has been Director of Music at Gloucester Cathedral, having previously worked at Wells and Truro Cathedrals.

This summer will also see the departure of Tim Scott (Choral Volunteer 2002–05, Lay Clerk 2005–06). For the past two years Tim has worked on various projects for the Choir, including developing a very successful Choir recruitment programme, which has resulted in a dramatic increase in the number of people applying to St John's to become Organ and Choral Students. Our best wishes go to him as he begins his training to become a music teacher.

Best wishes also go to this year's leavers: Paul Provost (Senior Organ Scholar), Richard Wilberforce (Choir Librarian), Jonathan Knight, Peter Morton (Tenor Choral Students), Charlie Cornish (Head Chorister), Gabriel Bambridge, Edward Barnard, Angus Bower-Brown, Luke Briggs and Henry Welham (Choristers).

**Caroline Marks**  
**Choir Administrator**

### **The Choir Association**

If you haven't yet tapped up our new website, have a look at it now: [www.sjcca.org.uk](http://www.sjcca.org.uk). It's a brilliant way of hearing the present Choir in action; you can listen to the podcasts of their various recent recitals and services. Just try it and see!

We keep in touch with 500 members of the Choir Association around the world by phone, email, and letter, and also by the Autumn Annual Magazine, and the Spring and Winter Newsletters. A considerable amount of detective work is constantly going on, to try to locate the eighty members or so who seem to have disappeared without trace. Tap up the *Missing Members* link on the website to find out who they are. If you find the names of any people you are in touch with on that list, please let us know.

Now that you've read as far as this, please send us your own email address, just in case we haven't got it correct on our records. It would save a huge amount of money spent on postage, money which could well be applied to far more worthy causes, such as the Bursary Awards. This year, from the money you send in as your annual £20 subscriptions, we allocated five Bursary Awards, totaling £1,100, to help further the musical careers of James Birchall, Edward de Minckwitz, Jonathan Knight, Richard Wilberforce, and The Gentlemen of St John's. Most people, by the way, now pay for their annual membership of The Choir Association by Direct Debit.

There are so many distinguished people who have at some time been members of the Choir, whether Choristers or Choral Scholars and Organ Scholars, and a considerable number of Friends. We can often trace them from their websites, but we can't always get in touch with them personally. If this applies to you – whether you're in California or Hong Kong – please do email me, [cwhgoodwins@gmail.com](mailto:cwhgoodwins@gmail.com), as we'd love to hear from you, and find out to what dizzy heights you have progressed in your careers. It would make a huge difference if we could contact you, especially about the Annual Reunion.

The 2007 Reunion was held on Saturday, 7 July. We met in the Wordsworth Room, First Court, at 2.00pm for the AGM. At 6.30pm, we crowded into the Chapel for Choral Evensong, supporting the Choir in so doing. The Buttery Bar was the next welcome venue for drinks before heading back into the Wordsworth Room again for the Reunion Dinner, where we were entertained by The Gentlemen of St John's.

Finally, a word to those people – any people – who have always wanted to support the Choir in some way. Email me ([cwhgoodwins@gmail.com](mailto:cwhgoodwins@gmail.com)) for a Choir Association membership application form, and remember that Friends of the Choir and their guests are also most welcome to attend *all* the events that we organise, including coming to the Reunion Dinner.

We have one of the largest and most distinguished Choir Associations in the world, and maybe it's because we all work together, as we support *the best Choir in the world!*

Make sure that you're a part of it!

**The Reverend Christopher Goodwins**  
(Alto Choral Scholar, 1955–58)  
**Choir Association Membership Secretary**

## The Classical Society

There have been several excellent events held by the St John's College Classical Society this year. The Society was pleased to see a whole host of new faces join us at the Classics Drinks, kindly hosted by Dr Gowers, and gave us all an opportunity to reconvene after the summer vacation and discuss the year ahead.

In the Michaelmas Term it was an honour to welcome Professor James Diggle to speak, and he did not disappoint, as he gave a fascinating talk on Theophrastus, after the customary (boozy for some) Formal Hall. This was a topic which most of the undergraduates had never encountered before and so it was an enlightening evening for all. We are most grateful to Professor Crook for providing the refreshments and allowing us to use his room for the occasion.

The Bacchic Classics Desserts is always a highlight of the social calendar for Classicists at St John's and this year was no exception. Perhaps it was that the Presidents arrived wearing fluffy red handcuffs (there honestly was a legitimate reason – we had attended at a fair-trade themed formal), which meant that this year's Desserts were particularly memorable. The candle-lit Wordsworth room was a wonderful setting to indulge in such wonderful delicacies, kindly prepared by the catering staff, and engage in interesting conversations about the world of Classics.

There was also a highly enjoyable play-reading, Aristophanes' *Lysistrata*, the perfect choice with its mix of smut and, well, smut. Everyone threw themselves into it without the slightest inhibition, even Professor Schofield. The joint President of the Society (the male one) particularly enjoyed himself as the eponymous heroine, who gets some cracking lines and most of the laughs.

We have thoroughly enjoyed being the Presidents for this year and would like to thank all those who have supported the Society this year. Especial thanks must go to Professor Crook, Professor Schofield and Dr Gowers for all their kind assistance. We are looking forward to the Classics Lunch, which will be held on the last day of the Easter Term, as it will be a wonderful way to start May Week.

**Ella Belsham and Benedict Reekes**  
Presidents



## **The Economics Society**

The Economics Society started off the year with a warm welcome for the Freshers at a formal dinner. After lively pre-drinks and an entertaining time in Hall, the most dedicated members decided to move on to Soul Tree, where both veterans and First Years cemented bonds made earlier in the night. Inspired by this most enjoyable event, a new tradition of Formal Swaps with several other Economics Societies emerged. The Presidents must admit that this was not due to their own initiative, but to that of the enthusiastic group of First Years.

After a somewhat quiet Lent Term for the Society, activities ended on a high note with the Annual Economics Dinner in the Senior Combination Room. Having handed in their dissertations only hours before, the Third Years in particular created a cheerful and vibrant atmosphere. As in previous years, the new Presidents were elected and we are proud to announce that two of our fine First Years, Anna Ettl and Wayne Redmond, will carry on the role with fresh ideas and motivation. We wish them the best of luck and are convinced they will do an excellent job.

**Khash Mohajerani and Johannes Pockrandt**  
**Presidents**

## **The Film Society**

It has been an exciting year for St John's Film Society. With a dedicated and energetic Committee we have taken many bold steps by offering a broad selection of films catering for different tastes and interests, and striving to widen our programme of events. We have also taken the landmark step of re-branding the image of the Society, most notably with the term-card. This new design has been brilliantly created by our Film Secretary, Ben Wilson.

As a Society we have actively pursued collaborations with other University groups, bringing the films at St John's to a wider audience. One such collaboration was with the University Ireland Society to which we invited Dr Gerry Kearns from the University's Geography

Department to introduce *The Wind That Shakes The Barley*. Guest speakers before films have proved to be a popular addition to the programme and we aim to continue with this format.

Members, students and audiences from other colleges have played a bigger part in selecting the films for this year. From their input we have successfully combined a programme of the most popular mainstream films suggested, with more specialist titles shown in association with various University societies. The best attended films this year so far have been *Pan's Labyrinth* and *Little Miss Sunshine*.

Our Social Secretary, Karen Ng, has provided great opportunities for like-minded film enthusiasts to get together and we have enjoyed several social events this year. In Michaelmas we had our Film Society Hall as well as a Christmas film get-together. The biggest social event was our Annual Dinner in Lent Term; many thanks must go to Karen for organising such a wonderful meal. We were delighted to be joined by Commodore Harris for the dinner. We look forward to our last social event of the year in May Week.

The Society would not be possible if it weren't for the dedication of our members. Our Squash held at the start of the year successfully recruited many students and throughout the year everyone has worked hard to keep the Society running. I would like to thank the members for all your input.

I am very fortunate to have been able to work with such an enthusiastic and supportive Committee. As well as designing the term-card Ben has been key to encouraging a diverse selection of films, and dealing with film distributors to ensure we are able to show them. As Head Publicist Ellen Flint has done a fantastic job leading our dedicated team of publicists in creating and distributing posters across the University. Duncan Loweth, in the role of Secretary, has successfully trained and managed our enthusiastic team of ushers. A very dedicated committee member, Duncan has always rushed to the rescue (mostly mine!) when something goes wrong. As Head Projectionist George Kalamis has done a superb job guiding the projectionists and expertly dealing with the technical problems our old projector has presented us with. Rob Hackney

has been very efficient in his role as Treasurer and has always kept us mindful of our financial situation when making important decisions. I would also like to thank our Senior Treasurer Dr Helen Watson for her continued support.

George Kalamis has been elected as Chair for next year. I would like to wish him and the new Committee the best of luck – I'm sure they will do a fantastic job. May the success of St John's Film Society long continue!

**Jennifer Edwards**  
Chair

### **The Gentlemen of St John's**

It has been another successful year for the Gents, singing in venues from the Concertgebouw to St Mark's Cathedral. Of course, we have continued with the daily duties of services in the magnificent College Chapel whilst maintaining our now infamous high academic standards.

Once again, we lost valuable members at the start of the year. The heart was ripped out of the alto section by the departure of Matthew Brown and his scat. We lost two of our tenors, Robert Shorter and Finbarr Cosgrove. Rob has been having a more restful year while Fin made the move to change Tripos subject to English and has been around College. Three of our basses departed, Tom Goldring, Timothy Scott, and James Williams Oldfield. Tom has spent much of his time working in the USA with his fiancée Sandra. James' large personality left us for the Royal College of Music. After several attempts to break free of the stalls, Tim managed to pull himself away, but only made it as far as the College Office where he became a member of staff. Ralph has kept his voice in order, singing with the Caius Choir. Our best wishes go with all the above in their new lives.

Seven new members therefore join our ranks. Two new altos, O W Hunt and T G I Verney, have filled the gap left by Matt Brown. The Germanic bass, Dominic Kraemer joins: an imposing man, full of Teutonic masculinity. Four graduate singers also join us: Johnny Hurford, Tom Faulkner and Joe Harper from Caius College Choir, as well as Gerald

Beatty from Clare College Choir. All four bring a great deal of talent to the group.

The Christmas vacation was a very busy period for us beginning with a packed audience in the Maypole, filled with the Christmas spirit. Preparation for this event formed the basis of the recording that we embarked on during the spring vacation. Its title and design are under a close guard, but I can exclusively reveal that it will be the perfect stocking filler for next Christmas. In December the Gents travelled to perform Advent Carol Services in Liechtenstein and Southern Germany. Owing to a (successful) audition to the RCM, Mr Wilberforce was unable to travel and was replaced by Mr Lardenoye, a former Gent, whose Dutch humour was especially appreciated by Dominic.

Near the end of December the Choir embarked on a tour of the Netherlands, starting with a morning concert in the Concertgebouw. The Gents then had the best part of the day (and night) to explore the delights of that vibrant city, Amsterdam: undoubtedly the highlight of the tour. The rest of the tour was based in Breda, home of tour organiser Lester Lardenoye. Unpleasantly, Breda was infested by rats. This became a problem on the final night, preventing many of us from getting the sleep we needed.

Our summer will be busy with our appearance at St John's May Ball as well as the annual Garden Party, a highlight of May Week. Following our residence during the Long Vacation at the end of term, we will journey back to Austria to take part in the Bregenz Festival.

Edward de Minckwitz has been elected to replace me as Manager for next year. I wish him the best of luck in a year which will see a new, younger group of Gents, eager to repeat the success of past years. I would also like to wish good luck to those who are leaving us: Jonny Knight, Peter Morton, Richard Wilberforce, Johnny Hurford, Tom Faulkner, Joe Harper, Gerald Beatty and Paul Provost. They are all very talented young men and I'm sure they will be successful in whatever they do.

**James Diggle**  
Manager

## The History Society

It has been an interesting year for the History Society, but perhaps even more interesting from the point of view of the History Committee. Three young undergraduates thrust into an organizational role in the summer of their first year, are expected to arrange a garden party: they will be judged based on an event that happens every year, but that they have never witnessed. Which canapés? What wine? Should we have Pimms? No, the Dean didn't approve of the Pimms last year apparently. What about strawberries? Do we have any people with dietary requirements? In fact, what do vegetarians eat at garden parties? Are they like Aunt Augusta, and partial to cucumber sandwiches? So the whirl of questions filled our heads, and we decided that perhaps ruminations on the subject ought to take place in the fresh air. Unfortunately the fresh air was somewhat damp leading to the final question...what if it rains? Yes we were young and fresh-faced, but we were facing a challenge not faced by previous committees – a change of Senior Treasurer. Dr Linehan had retired from the post appointing Dr Tombs in his stead; this resulted in our merry band of three fresh-faced inexperienced Committee members expanding to four. Fortunately, it did not rain and our cucumber sandwiches arrived on what was an excellent introduction to the post-exam frivolities that Cambridge offers.

It may well be the fact that at present my revision is focused on political thought, but I see comparisons between Machiavelli's Prince and the President of the History Society. However instead of good armies and good laws being essential for my survival and glory, it was a good secretary and good speakers that were required. Fortunately with good secretaries come good speakers. At this point I should thank the Secretary of the Society Nush Chakravarty, and Treasurer Dom Palma for their excellent work this year: the good speakers came. We started with Professor Richard Evans of Gonville and Caius, who is at present publishing his third volume of his large-scale history on the Third Reich. The Old Music Room was packed to the rafters before Professor Evans even stepped into the room to give us a fascinating account of 'Consent and Coercion in Nazi Germany'. In fact crowded rooms were to become a feature of the talks this year, as we regularly pulled in large

crowds from outside as well as inside the College, including eager listeners from Girton and Homerton.

This talk was followed a few weeks later by Dr David Smith of Selwyn College asking, and answering, the question 'Why did Parliament win the Civil War?'. This was a superb talk, thoroughly enjoyed by all, and again witnessed scenes worthy of a pilgrimage as Porters stood bemused by the variety of colourful scarves rushing into College to listen to the talk.

The final talk of 2006 was by St John's very own Dr Szreter, who spoke on 'History and Policy'. The quality of speakers within St John's, let alone the University, amazes me, and following on from Dr Szreter's excellent talk was another Johnian, Dr Iliffe. He kicked off 2007 with his talk on 'Nationalism in Africa', a fascinating topic which attracted many SPS students as well as historians.

Our final talk was by Professor Jonathan Riley Smith, who is undoubtedly the leading historian on the Crusades. Professor Riley Smith's talk was very well received, the Crusades having become a period increasingly in the limelight due to events in the last seven years. This left only the Dinner until we had run our race and would hand the baton on to the next three lucky first-year historians.

The Annual Dinner was held as usual in the stunning surroundings of the Senior Combination Room; we are fortunate as a Society to be allowed to use such environs for this occasion. Our guest speaker was Dr Chris Clark who enlightened the assembled as to why we study History, perhaps something that gets overlooked to a certain extent after one has chosen one's degree.

This brings me to the importance of the History Society, and instead of scratching around for a quote as seems traditional in these *Eagle* articles I will attempt to sum it up in my own words, though perhaps my Director of Studies will shake her head at the thought. The College History Society allows one to dip one's toe in the appealing waters of the broad range of history without the threat of supervision or examination. In a Tripos which encourages specialisation, or indeed with a Faculty

staff list where academics declare themselves to be late-modernists, social historians or specialists of some sort, it is a breath of fresh air simply to declare oneself an historian or perhaps just interested. Whether transported to the deserts of the Holy Land, the battlefields, political and military, of the English Civil War, or indeed into the exciting development of ideas of 'nation' in Africa one can simply enjoy the intellectual feast placed before us without the thought of deadlines.

On that note I wish the best of luck to the incoming Committee: Charles Marshall as President, Emily Drake as Secretary and Charlie Horten-Middleton as Treasurer. I look forward to next year's events, confident of the Society's ongoing strength and indeed the abilities of those at the helm.

**Hugo Cartwright**  
President

### ***Inprint Magazine***

*Inprint* is an annual anthology of the best creative writing drawn from across the University, edited by a team of Johnians, and distributed free-of-charge around Cambridge. The last edition was put together over Easter 2006, and 300 copies were distributed the following Michaelmas. The editorial team were extremely pleased with the issue, and felt it represented the high standard and eclecticism of new writing in Cambridge. They reviewed submissions, of which the general standard was very good, anonymously. Two Johnians had their work featured, and the cover art was designed by Johnian Andrew Tam.

At the moment a new editorial team is in the process of putting together the new edition. The number of submissions has markedly increased since last year, and once again standards are high, making the selection process difficult but rewarding. This issue will also feature illustrations inspired by the featured works, as well as original cover art.

We thank our predecessor Nirup Chawhan, who was responsible for the success of the 2006 edition, and on whose editorial team it was our pleasure to serve, alongside Chris Fairless, Deborah Grayson, Michael

Horridge, Ilona Motyer and Jenny Tennant. Thanks also to Dr Sarah Houghton-Walker, the magazine's former Senior Treasurer, and the new Senior Treasurer, Dr Emily Gowers.

The enthusiasm of the editorial team and of the magazine's reception in College were testimony to the value placed on literature and the arts at St John's, and we hope that this year's *Inprint*, the only University-wide publication dedicated solely to Cambridge students' creative writing, will reaffirm St John's important position within the University's literary community.

The new issue will be released in May Week. Anyone who would like a free copy of the magazine should email [inprint.magazine@gmail.com](mailto:inprint.magazine@gmail.com), and we will leave copies in pigeonholes or (in the case of alumni) post them within the UK.

**Laura Hocking and Madeleine Jones**  
**Editors**

### **International Development Society**

We set up the International Development Society in November to consolidate on the success of Cambridge University International Development and its Global arm, the U8 Global Development Partnership. Both CUID and U8 were set up by a Johnian, Sheena Sumaria (BA 2006), and in setting up our first College branch we hope to encourage more Johnians to engage with development issues, to bring their education to bear in a practical context, and meet with professionals working in the field.

Our sincere thanks to the Master, Professor Richard Perham, who spoke at the first event of the Society in January, when we hosted the Cambridge's U8 Research team in the Palmerston room for an Open Debate. In March we welcomed Soheli Ibn Ali, Director of Advocacy at Samata, a rights-based Bangladeshi NGO. He talked about the processes of civil empowerment through voice, participation and accountability, and there was a great deal of fruitful discussion afterwards.



Behind the scenes, members of the Society have been working with the JCR to set up a Social Justice Working Group. This would allow for more coordination between the JCR and student societies in this area, and would enable greater levels of participation from Johnnians, greater cohesion between groups of Johnnians interested in similar issues, and increased dialogue between the students and the College.

We hope to see this implemented in time for new Freshers to join in October, and several events for Michaelmas are already planned. My thanks to everyone who has been involved this year.

**Mark Koller**  
**President**

### **Jazz @ John's**

As a now well-established event, known by the students and musicians of Cambridge, this year Jazz @ John's has lived up to and surpassed its reputation. The May Week Garden Party, during which party-goers were treated to phenomenal performances from *Sax Appeal* and award winning *Dennis Rollins' Bad Bone & Co.*, was hailed by the student newspapers as one of the best events of May Week. Continuing on from this success, the events held by Jazz @ John's throughout its ninth year have, as ever, combined quality live music, a cheap bar and a great atmosphere that never fails to draw in the crowds even on the rainiest of Friday nights.

With over 1,500 members on the mailing list, the events this year have seen queues beginning long before the doors open. Jazz @ John's is proud to appeal to a wide audience of graduates and undergraduates including jazz connoisseurs, as well as those who are hearing jazz for the first time. It is just unfortunate that we have been forced to turn some of these people away at the door, as events have filled up to capacity in record time.

Praise and thanks must go to the Committee who have put in a great deal of work to provide seven nights of quality entertainment this year. The Freshers' Fair saw many new Committee members sign up to help

out with Jazz @ John's, whilst a large number of the long-standing Committee members continued their work and passed on their expertise to the newcomers. At each event, the bar staff worked hard to keep the drinks flowing and the glasses cleared; the technical team ensured the music always sounded perfect; the amazingly talented scene duo continually surprised with their ability to transform the Fisher Building into a perfect venue through the artful use of paper, lights and balloons; and our advertising whizz created posters in a wonderfully distinctive, eye-catching style. All this hard work has led to events that had an air of professionalism, which is to be highly commended.

The excellence of the Committee has been reflected in the high quality of music brought to Jazz @ John's by Vice-President, Julian Johnson. Professional bands and the best of Cambridge's student performers have wowed each audience and offered them a taster of a diverse range of styles. This year we have seen the return of crowd favourites such as *Acuphuncture* and *Sara Mitra* perform alongside a variety of acts new to the Jazz @ John's stages. With everything from the Blue Note inspired *Laurie Jacobs / Nick Hill Quintet* to the klezmer-influenced, experimental fusion band *Black Shabbat*, there has been music to please all. Meanwhile, the Committee's investment in sound equipment has meant that the quality of these bands' sounds has been better than ever.

All this would not have been possible without the continuing financial support from Deloitte. Their sponsorship has enabled the Society to fulfil its potential, and a successful Deloitte and Jazz @ John's meal, that brought the Committee together with their sponsors, has allowed for the creation of a strong and hopefully long-lasting relationship.

I would once again like to offer my thanks to the Committee, whose hard work and dedication has enabled Jazz @ John's to have such a successful year. Special mention must go to Vice-President Julian Johnson; Treasurer Michael Monteiro; former and current Webmasters Justin Salamon and Domantas Jankauskas; Bar Manager Anneka Dew; Master Technician Mike Carratt; Queen of Scene Miranda Buckle; and Advertising Chief Emily Foster. It has been a great pleasure to work with you all. Good luck to next year's Committee: Jazz @ John's can only continue to get better!

**Faye Goldman**  
President

## The JCR

Another year passes and another Junior Combination Room Committee has (hopefully) left its mark on the College. With high expectations and ambitions after being elected, the JCRC set about building on past successes, while aiming to try and improve some of the tried and tested methods. The results were there for all to see: a Freshers' Week with even more events and a June Ent that put many a pricier event in Cambridge to shame, to name just a few. In addition, representing Junior Members took on added dimensions: from a College-wide survey on the issues affecting students and attending every CUSU Council on the basis that the only way to change something is from the inside; to rent negotiations, which were relatively successful especially in the light of circumstances beyond our control. These, along with the completion of the work on a Student Privacy Policy for College, and constitutional reform to help improve the JCRC for future years, were just some of the major things undertaken behind the scenes.

As External Officer, Andy Allard had the dubious honour of being obliged to spend two hours every fortnight attending CUSU Council. Providing the voice of reason on many occasions and ensuring my sanity, Andy helped ensure that Johnian views were represented to the 'Cambridge bubble' there. In the other part of his role, Academic Affairs Officer, he built new links with College, with a highly successful exam skills session held in Easter Term. George Bacon became the last President of the Boiler Room to be elected onto the JCRC, with the constitutional reform removing the position and setting up a representative for the Boiler Room on the newly formalised 'Ents Sub-Committee'. Providing alternative music events, he catered for those who appreciate some of music's finer genres! Ensuring the JCR ticked over and occasionally spoke to each other, Secretary Laura Bates provided the minutes and agendas for JCR meetings, although she was unable to overcome the inability of the Committee to avoid extending meetings with the numerous items that they forgot to tell her about in advance! Laura Brogan revolutionised Ents, packing them out with capacity crowds time and time again. Transforming the Fisher Building on numerous occasions, Ents provided people with a guaranteed great night out. The June Ent, 'Leis and Luaus', was a massive success with

numerous sponsors recruited to make it bigger and better than ever before! Thanks also go to her massive Ents Sub-Committee for their work, especially Yasmeen Arif, without whom Ents couldn't have looked as good as her décor ensured.

Susannah Clark took on the role of ensuring the welfare of students was looked after. Personally liaising with College on welfare issues, promoting the Peer Support Scheme and taking an open-door approach to welfare, she often didn't get the credit her unseen hard work deserved. Indeed, her attempts to bring a Bouncy Castle into College during exam term to help relieve stress had to unfortunately be shelved due to health and safety concerns! Aaron Clements-Partridge took the JCR's newest position, Green and Charities Officer, to the next level. The purchase of the table football table and donation of all profits to charity was a long-term provision that will hopefully exist for years to come. On top of this, he even got the pool table company to agree to donate 40% of the money made on that to charity! On the Green side, things took even greater steps, paper recycling finally making its way into the pigeonhole room and College offices, and his Green Tips on the weekly undergraduate email earning cult status. Tim Gordon spent a year trying to overcome exploding web servers, along with keeping an eye on computing issues within College as our Computing Officer. Whilst not having a vote, Tim's input at meetings and helping out at events made him a great asset to the Committee. Equal Opportunities Officer, Tom Griffiths, ensured that minorities were represented within College and Cambridge as a whole. He helped ensure that no-one was left out when decisions were made, while examining how to adapt his role to better serve those groups he represented.

Chris Hough took on the role of Treasurer with great delight. Always keen to count the vast amounts of money that Ents made and to sanction spending on a number of items where appropriate, he took an active part in discussions and I have no doubt that he will be a valuable asset to next year's Committee as JCRC Vice-President. Katie Hunt helped promote St John's to potential applicants in her role as Access Officer, recruiting volunteers for the College Open Days which saw large numbers of interested Sixth Formers descending on College. On top of that, the shadowing scheme returned to College, with a number

of Sixth Formers getting the opportunity to shadow Johnians and see what their day-to-day life involved. Elena Kazamia brought her experience and enthusiasm into the role of Vice-President. Arming the JCRC at the start of the academic year with individual dossiers, she prepared the biggest Freshers' Week to date, with a healthy balance of events to cater for everyone. The success of the week and enjoyment had by all was testament to the thought and effort she put in leading up to arguably the busiest time of the year for the JCRC. In Services Officer Martin Kent, the man who will be succeeding me next year, the JCRC has someone who has an insatiable appetite for keenness and action. Improving the Buttery and Fitness Centre, as well as endlessly replacing tyres on the trolleys were just a few of his successes this year. Furthermore, those who witnessed his ability to create a Sports Day during Freshers' Week using little more than what you get in a Pimms Party Pack (masses of bunting, a few jugs, cocktail stirrers) will testify to his desire to make things better for Johnians by whatever means possible. Finally, Publicity Officer Josh Shotton adopted some novel approaches to advertising. Often working on the ambush last-minute publicity principle, his ability to create what were often weird and wonderful posters that caught people's eye was renowned and was vital in keeping people informed as to what the JCRC was up to. A mention should also go to our (departed) Yearbook Officer, Sam Rose. While never managing to make a Yearbook, deciding instead to take a year off to work for CUSU, his help at early Ents was noted.

So, with my time in office at an end and retirement beckoning, it just leaves me to thank my Committee for all the hard work they have put in over the past year; it was a real pleasure to have worked with you all. Also, to the various people who have worked with the JCRC over the past year, who, though too numerous to mention, have helped enable us to undertake the job that we did. Finally, I wish the new Committee the very best of luck in representing Junior Members in such a fine establishment and hope that they get the same enjoyment and pleasure from being on the JCRC as I did from the last twelve months.

**Peter Coulthard**  
President

## **The Johnian Society**

This has been a year of great behind-the-scenes activity for the Committee as we have sought to develop a vision for the Society under the Presidency of Mr Francis Baron (BA 1967) during 2006, and Lord (David) Rowe-Beddoe (BA 1961) in 2007. Last year I reported that the Society was reviewing its aims and activities to enable it to provide greater value to the College and to engage more with its members. An online questionnaire was produced and sent to all Johnians for whom the College had an email address. We were delighted to receive around 1,200 responses and as a Committee have been discussing the results over the last few months.

The Johnian Society exists to enhance relationships between members of the College, especially those no longer in residence, and to support the life and future development of the College.

One key theme from the questionnaire was the desirability of allowing members of the Society to bring a guest to events, and we have therefore decided to allow non-Johnian guests at the Annual Dinner in College this year. Of course, there is no obligation to bring a guest and we are sure that many members will wish to continue to use the occasion to meet up with contemporaries and to get to know Johnians of other vintages. To this end, we have decided to make available a number of non-Johnian guest places to be allocated on a first-come first-served basis, taking into account the usual spare capacity in Hall on these occasions so as not to reduce the number of places available for Members.

We have also decided to offer a number of activities on the day of the Annual Dinner. There will be an informal buffet lunch in Hall and the 2007 Johnian Society Lecture will be held in the afternoon. The lecture will be given by Lord (Nigel) Crisp (BA 1977), Vice-President of the Society and former Chief Executive of the NHS. He will be talking about healthcare in developing countries. Any member of the Society and their guests are welcome to attend, even if unable to join us for the Annual Dinner.

A further development is that in 2008 the Johnian Society Dinner will be held on Saturday 13 September, rather than in December as has been the case for a number of years. We hope that this will prove a more convenient time of year for many to come to Cambridge and we will be reviewing the success of this initiative in due course.

The Committee has also, on behalf of all Johnians, asked the College if it would consider allowing Johnians exercising their dining privileges to bring a guest with them on a specified night. The College Council gave an initial positive response and arrangements are being made which will be communicated in due course.

We will be working with the College's Development Office on a secure website for Johnian Society members to interact with each other, and members of the Society's Committee are also helping with advice on the development of the College's Alumni Relations and Fundraising Strategy.

The AGM and Dinner took place on Saturday 16 December 2006 in the Hall with the President, Mr Francis Baron, Chief Executive of the Rugby Football Union, in the Chair. Lord Rowe-Beddoe was elected President for one year from January 2007 and Lord (Nigel) Crisp was elected Vice-President for the same period. The new Ordinary Members of the Committee are Mr Graham Spooner and Judge Alastair Norris, who joined the Committee in January 2007 and each serve for six years.

The members of the Committee for 2007 are therefore as follows:

Lord (David) Rowe-Beddoe (President)  
 Mr Colin Greenhalgh (Chairman)  
 Ms Catherine Twilley (Hon Secretary)  
 Mr Francis Baron (Past-President)  
 Lord (Nigel) Crisp (Vice-President)  
 The Master (*ex officio*)  
 Dr T Bayliss-Smith (College Representative)  
 Mr G Lewis  
 Miss R P G Harker  
 Mr M J Chichester-Clark  
 Mr M B Mavor

Dr J Griffiths  
Mrs H J Hancock  
Professor P J Hennessy  
Mr A R Balon  
Judge Alastair Norris  
Mr Graham Spooner

The traditional Golf Competition, organised by Mr John Loosley, takes place annually. New members are always welcome and those participating benefit from being able to stay in College and dine, as well as taking part in the competition at the Gog Magog golf course.

The Society continues to support the College financially through gifts for the Access Bursary Scheme (£2,000 again this year) and by adding to the income available from the Johnian Society Travel Exhibition Fund (more than £1,800 of extra funding) to enable a larger number of students to benefit. This year we have again made available seven Travel Exhibitions, each of £600.

We hope that many members will support our new initiatives, starting with the events on 15 December this year. An application form has been circulated with this edition of *The Eagle* and is also available online ([www.joh.cam.ac.uk/johnian/johnian\\_society/](http://www.joh.cam.ac.uk/johnian/johnian_society/)).

**Catherine Twilley**  
**Hon Secretary**



## The Larmor Society

The timing of the Larmor Society elections is always slightly unfortunate, held as they are at the beginning of the Easter Term. The new members of the Committee were faced with the prospect of trying to organise events with exams already fast-approaching, and so activity during the first half of the Easter Term was understandably rather low-key.

With the end of exams, the Garden Party during May Week provided a welcome opportunity for the Natural Scientists (along with one or two rogue Economists) to have a well-earned rest in the pleasant surroundings of the Fellows' Garden. The Garden Party was a joint venture between the Larmor Society and the Natural Sciences Tutors, and the Committee is very grateful to Dr McConnel and Dr Metaxas for organising the event and making it such a huge success.

The Michaelmas Term saw the arrival of the Freshers. A welcome party in New Court swiftly followed, accompanied by an inevitable trip to Cindy's. The now traditional second-hand book sale was held early on in the term, and over £500 worth of books changed hands. A visit to Hall for all of the undergraduates a few weeks later brought the Michaelmas Term to a close.

Lent Term began with a talk by Dr Keith Johnstone, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Plant Sciences, on 'How pathogens can threaten your margarita'. Dr Johnstone told a packed audience how insect-borne diseases had threatened the Mexican tequila plantations, and how Cambridge scientists had fortunately managed to come up with a solution to the problem. After the talk, scientific curiosity prompted us to taste a few bottles of tequila, to make sure that they were indeed pathogen-free.

Next came the Larmor Society Desserts in the Wordsworth Room. By popular demand, two Desserts were held this year. For the first time, this gave both the first- and second-year undergraduates the opportunity to speak to older (though not necessarily wiser) students about their future subject choices within the Natural Sciences Tripos. An accidental mix-up between the port and red wine decanters led to one evening being rather more entertaining than was expected. The Committee would like to thank all of the Fellows who came along to both events to offer their advice.

We were delighted to welcome Professor Sir Richard Friend FRS, Cavendish Professor of Physics, as our next speaker. Professor Friend and his colleagues in the Optoelectronics Group are pioneers in the field of polymer electronics, and he spoke about (and indeed demonstrated) some of the fascinating applications of this technology.

Easter term marked the end of the current Committee's tenure, and elections for the new Committee were held in the first few days of term. The results were announced at the lavish Annual Dinner in the Senior Combination Room later that week.

The poll was fiercely-contested, so much so that it resulted in deadlock, with two candidates for one of the General Member positions having an equal number of votes. It was a rare moment of controversy for the Larmor Society; however the issue was speedily resolved. Given that the constitution allows up to three undergraduates to be co-opted onto the Committee, it was decided that the fairest solution would simply be to elect one of the candidates and co-opt the other. Congratulations therefore go to Dave Wood (President), Hamish Gordon (Treasurer), Sophie Lynch (Secretary), Rose Chaffé, Katie Graham, Sean Dyson and Siyuan Liu (General Members). I am certain that Dave and his slightly enlarged Committee will do an excellent job next year, and I wish them the very best of luck.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our sponsors, Data Connection, for their continuing generosity in supporting the Annual Dinner. I would also like to thank our speakers, Dr Keith Johnstone and Professor Sir Richard Friend, for very kindly giving up their free time to come and speak to the Society. Personally, I am indebted to both Dr Keith Johnstone and Dr John Leake for their absolutely invaluable advice and support over the year.

Finally, I must mention my superb Committee, Hana Hijazi (Treasurer), Lindsey Mehrer (Secretary), Kay Jenkinson, Dave Wood and Ben Wynne (General Members). A huge thank you to all of them for their hard work, enthusiasm and commitment during the past year.

**Craig Lumb**  
President

## The Medical Society

Another year passes, another committee progresses, and another society bank balance turns red. The Medical Society's focus each year is to produce the rounded doctor the public craves, against the consistent hindrance of the Medical Sciences Tripos. It is thus unsurprising to find that the Medical Society's calendar lingers around three main events: the Cheese and Wine Evening, the Annual Dinner, and the Garden Party, with the occasional educational *soirée* thrown in.

The Cambridge summer sun shone fondly on the 2006 Garden Party, in which reassurance and security was found at the bottom of a Pimms glass following a demanding examination term. However, fun was still had by all, whether on the croquet lawn, the golf course, or the riverside boat race. Secretary Pete Dannatt found particular solace in some croquet hoops and an alcoholic beverage.

The month of March found us once again in the Senior Combination Room for the Annual Dinner: a room so dimly lit and intoxicated with alcohol that, for one night only, the Medics of St John's become the College's most attractive society. Yet, this was an event which almost came up against difficulties when the initial wine request to Catering and Conference was instantly denied with the comment 'this amount of alcohol is dangerous'. A reply of 'I know, I'm a Medic', did little to help my cause. Despite this, enough drink appeared to quench the thirst of those attending and much merriment was had by all.

It was my privilege, along with our guest speaker, Mr Peter Ellis, a retired Ear, Nose and Throat Surgeon, and anatomy supervisor, and our retiring Senior Member, Dr Wight, to entertain and educate that evening. Hence, I would like to give many thanks to Mr Ellis for his late night supervision, and Dr Wight for his years of service to the Medical Society and to wish him well in his future ventures. Rising to the challenge of controlling those overworked and easily excited members of the Society is Professor Graham Burton, who I would like to kindly welcome as our new Senior Member.

The Medical Society possesses two elements which set it aside from other societies: the first is autocracy; the second is a largely

inappropriate, but traditional, Award Scheme to distinguish those most deserving of its members. Recipients this year were recognised on the basis of their conversational skills, their ethically challenged mindset, their incredible ability to love, and to be loved, and finally their anatomical and physiological superiority.

This leaves me now to say that Presidency of the Medical Society has been a pleasure and an honour, due largely to the aid and assistance of my Committee: Becky, Pete, Jonny and Gemma, but also to the Fellows and members, who form and support this prestigious Society. This honour must now be passed on to President-Elect Pete Dannatt, whose qualities will help to further develop and grow a society founded on the 'work hard, play hard' attitude of our future doctors and surgeons.

*'Medicine is the most distinguished of all the arts'* – Hippocrates

**Ashley Simpson**  
President

## **The May Ball**

'The St John's May Ball doesn't compare with any others. In fact, the only worry for the May Ball Committee is whether they can better the previous year's spectacle.' (*Varsity*, June 2007)

After the success of recent years, where St John's College May Ball has become the premier event of the Cambridge calendar, the Committee faced a challenge in continuing to uphold and set new standards. With rumours of the First and Third May Ball pulling out all the stops to regain former glory, the pressure was on to maintain our position by hosting both an innovative, yet traditionally entertaining, Ball. By all accounts this was more than achieved, with St John's being the only Ball to receive no criticism from the student press: only praise.

Managing to take on an ambitious theme to transform the College into a Brothers Grimm fairytale, guests were enchanted by the mysterious decorations throughout the Ball: from the flock of birds floating above

heads on the Bridge of Sighs to the impressive book centrepiece dominating Second Court. The scene was further set by the new style of tepee marquees housing cabaret and jazz, as well as a childhood fantasy gingerbread house, filled to the brim with a variety of confectionery and treats. Particular mention must also be paid to the array of flags displayed around College, the 1,500 coloured balloons suspended from the roof of the New Court cloisters, and the stunning lighting that truly created a magical ambiance for the evening.

New standards were set this year with a magnificent firework display, the likes of which has never been seen at a Cambridge Ball before. Accompanied by a moving soundtrack of film and classical music, the crowds were enthralled by a four-movement display with a breathtaking finale. The evening was further complemented by a range of exclusive acts, including the BBC Singers and the television comedian, Frankie Boyle. The entertainment team performed a further coup in their selection of the main act, Just Jack, who was undisputedly the biggest headliner to perform at a Ball this year.

In order to keep guests sustained and refreshed during this rollercoaster of entertainment, a fantastic array of food and drinks was on offer. Food ranged from the traditional hog roast and crowd-pleasing doughnuts, to the newly-placed gourmet barbeque in First Court and pizzas where visitors could select their own toppings. Nachos, couscous, and miniature cones of fish and chips were also popular additions. The impressive selection of drinks included White Russians and Bellinis, returning by popular demand, as well as the welcome introduction of new cocktail bar Nusha, who delighted onlookers with their acrobatic preparation of palate-pleasing Cosmopolitans and Strawberry Calypsos.

This faultless combination of decoration, stylish entertainment and plentiful sustenance was united in the professional programme, which guided guests through the Ball in style. Special mention must go to Lettice Drake for her beautiful artwork and faultless dedication in producing a programme that managed to surpass even last year's magnificent effort, which was surely the best to be seen in Cambridge until now. Likewise, the security this year could not be faulted, with gatecrashers trying, but failing, to disrupt the Ball.

Thanks must go to the Master and Fellows of St John's, Commodore Harris and the College staff for their help and support in hosting such a wonderful event. Our gratitude also goes to the Chairman, Dr Simon Humphrey, whose first year in the post has passed with great success. A farewell must sadly be made to Dr Edward Holberton who has ably guided the Committee as Treasurer for the past two years. It is hoped that both his successor and the next committee will enjoy the experience as much as all have done this year, and we wish them the best for the St John's College May Ball 2008.

**Philip Macartney**  
**President**

### **The Music Society**

This year has been on the whole a good one for the Music Society; the unfortunate collapse of the College Orchestra in Michaelmas Term was perhaps the only low point, although the Term Concert itself was 'rescued' by the Gentlemen of St John's, and of course the St John's Singers performed admirably, as usual, under Léon Charles.

However, this low point has been overcome by a number of very successful and rewarding endeavours. In particular, the performance last term of Mozart's *Requiem* by the St John's Singers, and an orchestra of Johnians and instrumentalists from other colleges in aid of the North Malawi Surgical Trust. Administered by Michael King (BA 1959) and his wife, Elspeth, the charity is currently engaged in combating sleeping sickness in that region, and the extremely well-advertised concert, enjoyed by a large audience, raised well over £500 pounds for the cause. Thanks are due in particular to Laura Mariau and Emily Roberts for their fine posters and well-organised publicity, and to Léon Charles for conducting the performance.

Lent Term also saw the success of a new venture, suggested and ably organised by our Graduate Representative, Ian Pong. Ian had the idea of inviting the international pianist Coleen Ka-Ling Lee to the College to give a masterclass and concert, and the event was a most worthwhile

addition to musical life in the College. I would urge the next Committee to consider seriously a similar event next year. Miss Lee greatly enjoyed the opportunity to perform and teach in Cambridge, and the participants of the masterclass, who included David Sheard (matric 2005), similarly expressed their appreciation of the opportunity to perform before a professional. Miss Lee's recital was very well received.

Thanks are due to Dr David Hill for his support through the year, but in particular for conducting the 'Come and Sing' Fauré *Requiem* in Michaelmas Term. The small but dedicated orchestra and substantial choir greatly benefited from working with him, and the 'Come and Sing' format was a success worth repeating in future years.

The student recital series this year has been well managed by David Sheard and again been successful, though numbers of audience members have remained highly variable. At David's suggestion, the recitalists were offered a free dinner in Hall, which I believe was a worthwhile gesture taken up by a fair number of the performers. The annual Senior Combination Room recital was given by myself (on the cello) and Patrick Welche (on baroque flute and recorder), due to unfortunate last minute cancellation by other performers.

At last year's May Concert the Society offered a chamber music performance of Haydn's '*Geburtstag*' *Divertimento*. This was very well prepared and performed, and greatly appreciated by the audience.

Our publicity team (Laura and Emily) has worked very hard this year and produced some fine posters and flyers for events, in good time for the performances. Their dedication and ingenuity have produced a good system of publicity for future officers, and many thanks are due to them for their commitment and good work.

After many problems with the digital email list, a new membership list has finally been created and uploaded for use. The new system is easy to manage making the addition and deletion of members next Michaelmas Term potentially a lot simpler. Manon Hughes has been a fine Membership Secretary and has overseen the production of a new wave of membership cards. While the process of overhauling the

membership list and card distribution has been long and sometimes tortuous, the final result is most satisfactory and should be easy to hand over to the next Committee.

Finally, the College has received a donation of a clavichord, which has been installed temporarily in the Senior Organ Scholar's room. From next year it will be instead placed in the Small Combination Room for the use of a number of interested musicians.

I would like to thank the Committee for all their hard work and support this year, in particular the Senior Members: Professor Johnstone, Dr Glasscock, Dr Castelvechi and Dr Hill. I would also like to thank my Vice-President, Paul Provost, and the other officers. All that remains is for me to give the new Committee my best wishes for the future.

**Matthew Ward**  
**President**

### **The RAG Society**

With the RAG Society this year being led entirely by four new members (Thomas Chigbo, Jenny MacLean, Ellie Rye and Liz Durkin), to say it's been hectic wouldn't even come close to describing the level of chaos we've created to get those extra few people involved in RAG events. For 2006–07, the Society has aimed primarily to support the charitable events run by Cambridge RAG through various means: including camping outside the Buttery, begging friends and generally heckling strangers – for which we can only apologise to anyone caught in the crossfire.

Michaelmas Term started with the serendipitous meeting of four Johnnians at the weekly Cambridge RAG meeting. On realising our mutual commitment to raising funds for charity and improving the awareness of RAG at St John's, we became the College's new Committee. Our first job was to publicise the annual 'Pyjama Pub Crawl'. By combining Yasmin Arif's artistic talents with a hard sell outside the Buttery, we raised £230.05.



The next of our big events came in Lent Term with the return of RAG Blind Date. Blind Date is Cambridge RAG's largest event of the year, with regular participation of over 2500 students – of which 150 took part from St John's. Organising this event was certainly the most demanding of all those we have supported throughout the year. After a slow start and temporarily losing the forms, we arrived at the swap session to discover something that can only be described as akin to a surreal Stock Exchange. Once the night was done, we heaved a huge sigh of relief, only to be handed yet more forms to find dates for and to discover back at St John's that we had left half the forms behind. Despite all of these minor hiccups, we successfully secured dates for all 150 Johnians and whether lasting love, friendship or enemies were forged, we did manage to make £565.80 for RAG.

Jailbreak 2007 was another highlight, with Lizzie Richardson and Thomas Chigbo attempting to get as far away from Cambridge as possible in thirty-six hours, without spending any of their own money or arranging transport. It turned out to be an eventful weekend for the intrepid pair who overcame sleep deprivation, coach breakdowns, immigration disputes and anxious gendarmes to blag their way across the Channel and reach Paris, France. Their expedition has raised almost £600.

In February, RAG Week was publicised by David Lewis and Thomas Chigbo who entered the annual Get Spotted Competition. Armed with their blue RAG spots, David and Thomas were photographed in a variety of wacky and unusual situations around Cambridge, in aid of St John's Ambulance, Arthur Rank Hospice and Cambridge Cancer Help Centre. Photographic evidence now exists of them hugging statues in Trinity Chapel, giving flowers to the fudge makers on King's Parade, giving fudge to St John's College Porters and meeting Bloc Party at the Corn Exchange.

The last of the RAG events we were involved in was the RAG Carnival of Lent Term, acting as the climax to RAG week. For the event we were ascribed the colour red as our theme, which led to the natural development of an army of Ketchup bottles. So, on 17 February, seven Johnians (Thomas Chigbo, Jenny MacLean, Lizzie Richardson, Rhiannon Pugh, Chris Gibson, Nestor Danas and Liz Durkin) dressed

as variations of tomatoes and Heinz Ketchup bottles and took to the streets of Cambridge to the sound of samba. Particular note should be given to Thomas Chigbo who individually raised £110.24 that afternoon, contributing to his overall raids total of £645.13.

The charities RAG supported this year were: Cambridge Rape Crisis Centre, Cecily's Fund, Joshua Foundation, Kenya Education Partnership, SCA, Ugandan Rural Schools Initiative, Akany Avoko, Contact, Alzheimer's Research Trust, Camfed, Deafblind, Harvest Help, Jubilee Action, SANE, Teenage Cancer Trust, SOS Children's Villages, Alzheimer's Society, Crisis, Cystic Fibrosis Trust, Médecins Sans Frontières, Mind, Shelter, Leukaemia Research, Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture and several other local, national and international charities through specific events and raids (street collections).

The Committee would like to thank all those who have participated in our events, those who have suffered our selling technique in the name of charity and especially those who have joined the Committee at various points to help with the Carnival and publicity. We would like to wish the new Committee members of Kate Houghton, Lizzie Richardson and Rhiannon Pugh every success with taking the Society forward next year and improving on our total charity earnings of £2,100. Furthermore, the graduation of Thomas Chigbo and Liz Durkin to the positions of Secretary and RAG Week Coordinator respectively, on the Central Cambridge RAG Committee, offers the prospect of an exciting 2007–08 for St John's continued participation with RAG.

**Liz Durkin and Thomas Chigbo**

## The Theological Society

The Theological Society this year continued the tradition of having meetings on eclectic topics, addressing various points of intersection between theology and other disciplines such as history, science and environmental concerns.

In Michaelmas, Dr Peter Head of St Edmund's College introduced us to the Gospel of Judas and its importance to the study of early Christianity. At the beginning of Lent Term, we availed ourselves of the opportunity to hear from Professor John Polkinghorne, Former President of Queens' College, who spoke with great conviction on 'The Friendship of Science and Religion' at a Borderer's Event (organised by Professor Boyde). Later in the term, we were delighted to welcome Ms Hilary Marlow of Queens' College, and a Research Associate at the Faraday Institute for Science and Religion, Cambridge. She led us through an historical survey of theological attitudes towards nature and the environment and how these continue to affect contemporary 'Theological Responses to the Environmental Crisis'. We ended the academic year with Mr Barry Danylak of St Edmund's College who gave a Biblical-theological reflection on 'Singleness'.

As President of the College Theological Society, I hoped that these meetings would give Johnian theologians, and others interested in theology, a sense of the richness and inherent interdisciplinary nature of a field known not too long ago as the 'Queen of the Sciences'. Some of the challenges I faced, and in some ways, leave to my successor, are these: a) we have always had a decent number of graduate students attend our meetings, but it would be wonderful if we could involve more undergraduate theologians; b) building a team who are able to share some of the duties involved in running the Society.

I would like to thank Duncan Dormor, Senior Treasurer, and Caryn Reeder, Past-President, for their support, encouragement and ideas throughout the year, and I wish all the best to my successor.

**Tze-Ming Quek**  
President

# SPORTS & SOCIETIES

SPORTS & SOCIETIES



ST JOHN'S COLLEGE  
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

**The JCR has enjoyed an extremely busy, exciting, rewarding and sometimes dramatic term of office this year.**

The new JCR Committee set about its duties, launching new initiatives, organising events and responding positively to the plethora of issues that surface from the College community.

### **The JCR**

The JCR website, [www.sjcjr.com](http://www.sjcjr.com), underwent a complete overhaul under Computing Officer Loren Lam and now not only hosts real-time College news, Buttery menus and sports' results, but also allows us to run regular polls of undergraduates to help us work effectively.

Joe Fowler, Welfare Officer, launched 'Welfare Fridays', which over the year have provided those feeling weary after a hard week of lectures and supervisions with a much-needed film, accompanied by doughnuts and soft drinks. Joe has also worked intensively with the College's Peer Support Network, established the JCR Welfare mobile phone and has run some truly exceptional 'Open Mic' nights, where Johnnians have demonstrated their sometimes unique talents to packed audiences.

Our Ents Officer, Chelsea Wright, has excelled in advancing College Ents from strength to strength, never failing to fill the Fisher Building to capacity through organising the best music, décor and lighting. She has further enhanced the reputation of JCR Ents as fully inclusive and simply good fun.

Vice-President Chris Hough has been a great asset throughout the year, in particular taking the lead in organising the 'Around the World' themed June Ent 2007, which was regarded by the Cambridge student newspapers as comparable to, if not better than, many May Balls. Unlimited free food and a dazzling array of music – from barber shop quartets to jazz, and from 'cheese' to rock and roll – alongside a surf simulator and other fairground attractions meant it was certainly a night to remember.

Holly Tibbits, Publicity Officer, has always ensured that all our events are advertised through vibrant posters, and has resurrected the (hopefully now misnamed) JCR newsletter, *The Binliner*. Treasurer Charlotte Wheeler-Booth has precisely managed our financial affairs, ensuring solvency and accountability at all times, and keeping the JCR well out of the credit crunch. Access Officer



The JCR Committee, 2007-08

Vishnu Parameshwaran has expended huge energy showing potential Johnian recruits around the College as well as helping to facilitate John's hosting of the CUSU Shadowing Scheme, reaching out to students from all backgrounds.

Secretary Gemma Driscoll has immaculately recorded the minutes of our weekly meetings and continuously updated our noticeboard, in addition to being a driving force in all issues of general organisation and administration. Sean Doherty, in his role as Equal Opportunities Officer, has established a strong Equal Ops Subcommittee, which has organised social events and new publications such as the *Johnian Women's Magazine* for undergraduates.

... launching the JCR Bike Scheme, whereby undergraduates can now hire bikes free of charge for twenty-four hours at a time . . .

Glen Walker, Services Officer, has worked tirelessly to maintain the ever-increasing range and number of facilities and services the JCR provides for undergraduates. This has included launching the JCR Bike Scheme, whereby undergraduates can now hire bikes free of charge for twenty-four hours at a time, and extending the number of JCR trolleys available to students and making these completely free. Henry Begg has proved an invaluable helper throughout the year on all occasions in his role as Yearbook Officer and we all look forward to the final copy running off the printing press in the not-too-distant future.

Harveer Dev has been an outstanding External and Academic Affairs Officer, re-establishing strong links between the JCR and CUSU as well as organising exam technique revision sessions and helping to ensure that undergraduates know of, and use, the many academic facilities on offer to them throughout the University.

Tom Chigbo has completed the introduction of paper recycling into all student rooms, plastic and glass recycling in the JCR Common Room, as well as being a driving force for all things ethical and green across the University in his role as Green and Charities Officer. Such was his commitment to the JCR that he has now been elected President, ably supported by Chelsea Wright as his Vice-President.

Freshers' Week was a great success, including, amongst other events, a sports day, punting lessons, historical tours of College, staircase tea parties, 'speed meet' events, numerous chocolate fountains as well as the traditional 'Back2skool' Ent. The scale of the week's activities was unprecedented and despite only minimal time for sleep, the Committee coped exceptionally well.

It has been a great privilege to lead such a committed, hardworking and capable team, who have never faltered in their efforts, however challenging the problem, and however many other commitments they have had to contend with. The success of every new initiative and event was entirely due to the hard work of the whole Committee, with everyone continually going well outside the remit of their roles to support each other. I would like to thank all the Committee for their outstanding work and commitment over the year and hope that we have left many positive influences on the College.

We all wish Tom and Chelsea the very best of luck in facing the challenges and opportunities of the coming year.

**Martin Kent**  
**JCR President 2007-08**



**'Don't learn to do, but learn in doing. Let your falls not be on a prepared ground, but let them be *bona fide* falls in the rough and tumble of the world.'**

Samuel Butler's inspiring words were the guiding mantra of this year's Samuel Butler Room Committee.

### The SBR

The group unreservedly took up Butler's challenge to learn by doing and set up a jam-packed schedule of social, intellectual and sporting events to thrill and delight graduates. Although there were a few scrapes and bruises along the way, we all emerged pleased to have served such a diverse and engaging group of graduates, no doubt among the best in Cambridge. As President, I can only hope that we offered something for every one of the three hundred or so graduates at John's.

We sprang into a whirlwind year of activity with our annual SBR Garden Party, held on a gorgeous June day in the Master's Garden. The team decided to do things a bit differently this year and made the event 'Fancy Dress à la Great Gatsby'. We were rewarded with a swarm of flapper dresses and boaters worn by happy graduates sipping Pimm's. This was followed up by an astounding Fresher's Fortnight, chock-a-block with things to do.

Top-notch events like these were the hallmark of this year's exceptional Committee, offering a selection of activities to satisfy the social and intellectual needs of all graduates. Beth Shaw performed outstandingly as Secretary and my right-hand woman. During the Long Vacation, she successfully coordinated a variety of well-attended summer events, including punting trips down the Cam and hearty weekend brunches. She also raised minute-taking to a veritable art form. The money side of things was flawlessly managed by Jessica Priestley, our Junior Treasurer. Her meticulous maintenance of accounts ensured that there was plenty of dosh in the SBR coffers to host quality events. She also took the prize for best costume at our 'Friday Night Fever' event, the first time the SBRC extended an Ent invitation to other colleges, with the hope of making John's more inclusive by integrating students across the University. We hope next year's Committee continues this trend.

David Delamore contributed to this effort by organising a large number of formal Hall swaps. He offered a smorgasbord of culinary delights across eleven different



Cambridge colleges. He also ensured that port and sherry were always flowing when outsiders came to indulge in our unrivalled Johnian offerings. While our website was in limbo for a good part of the year due to security issues, Nathan Matias, Computing and Publicity Officer, delivered glitzy event posters and provided excellent logistical support.

As always the SBRC was at the forefront of discussions with College concerning student welfare. Hot topics like graduate housing and rent negotiations were thrashed out in a constructive manner with College staff.

Amparo Flores' stint as Welfare Officer meant that grads had someone to approach about pastoral issues. And although we sadly lost her to PhD research, she was nonetheless involved in extending the Peer Support Programme to graduate students. Our Arts Officer Sharon McCann exposed grads to the cultural side of things by organising a series of events, including trips to the theatre. Although her plans to produce an SBR play never took off, she was always the first to show up at an event and the last to leave. This year the SBRC had its first ever Family Officer, Richard van der Wath, who was responsible for representing the concerns of graduates with families. Richard (especially his driver's licence) was indispensable to the SBRC, and initiated talks with College to introduce a dining event for students and their families, which we hope will materialise next year. Our Social Secretaries, Eva-Maria Hempe and Simona Giunta, did a good job guaranteeing plenty of social events for grads to de-stress from the rigours of a PhD, especially the karaoke machine, an SBR favourite. Although Sport Officer Raj Towfique joined the team in Lent Term, he managed to set up a Super Bowl Party, and organise a number of SBR sports teams, including Cricket and Rowing. And finally, our Academic Consultant, Dawn Dodds, organised a brilliant series of Graduate Talks, informal gatherings that allow graduates to present their work to fellow students and engage in constructive debate. Many thanks to all of you for your hard work.

As always the SBRC was at the forefront of discussions with College concerning student welfare. Hot topics like graduate housing and rent negotiations were thrashed out in a constructive manner with College staff. Student representation is an important feature of the SBRC. Voicing the concerns of students at all levels forms the backbone of student government. I hope that future Committees

continue to acknowledge the importance of this role and facilitate productive dialogue so that our experience at John's is the best that it can be.

All of the wonderful things offered by the SBRC would not have been possible without support from College. Sue Colwell, the Tutor for Graduate Affairs, was the cornerstone of the SBRC and offered guidance throughout the year. She also introduced the Graduate Mentor Scheme at the beginning of 2008, which matched graduate students to relevant Senior Members in the College to provide an informal forum for academic discussion. The Master made valiant efforts to strengthen the ties between the JCR and SBR, which this year meant receiving bulletins from the JCR President. We hope the next Committee strengthens this union even further. I would also like to thank the Fellow Borderer, the Senior Tutor, the Domestic Bursar and staff in the College offices.

The Master made valiant efforts to strengthen the ties between the JCR and SBR, which this year meant receiving bulletins from the JCR President. We hope the next Committee strengthens this union even further.

I look back on the year with the fondest of memories. The brilliant decorations of our 'Fire and Ice' party, festive dancing during the Christmas Dinner and the howling popularity of SBR karaoke, all contribute to a panorama of SBRC achievement. I look forward to attending similar events with our outstanding group of Johnian graduates in the coming year. But more importantly, I look forward to not being responsible for any of them!

**Margaret Olszewski**  
SBR President



## COLLEGE SOCIETIES

### **The Adams Society**

The first social event of the Adams Society's calendar was our annual Garden Party, held in the Fellows' Garden and enjoyed by all. Sadly, the same cannot be said for the annual cricket match against the Trinity Mathematics Society as we suffered our eighth defeat this century. Still there's always the hope that next year they'll play fair!

We began Michaelmas Term with a Squash to welcome new members. The first talk of term, given by Dr Piers Bursill-Hall, entitled '1001 Reasons to Thank the Gods you aren't a Trinity Mathmo', was our best-attended of the last three years, with 125 attendees. We also enjoyed talks given by Dr Ivan Smith and Professor Grae Worster. We ended the term with a popular Desserts Party in the Wordsworth Room.

Lent Term saw four entertaining speaker meetings. The first was given by Mr David Conlon who, having been a PhD student at the College, began a Research Fellowship here this year. The other speakers were Dr Thomas Forster, Professor Fernando Quevedo and Professor Andrew Thomason. Also in Lent Term, the Society's Annual Dinner in the Senior Combination Room was as much fun as ever. Having recently written on the subject of mathematics in Cambridge for the 800th Anniversary of the University, Professor Martin Hyland, Head of DPMMS and this year's guest speaker, was able to tell us about the many distinguished mathematicians that St John's has produced.

We rounded off the term with a football match against the St Catharine's College Mathematics Society, the Hyperbolics. Unfortunately, we failed to repeat last year's performance and lost spectacularly, 7-4.

I would like to thank all of this year's speakers. Special thanks are also owed to this year's Committee: Robert Easton, Vanessa Bingle, Luke Lorimer, Chris Fairless and Tim Gordon. Finally, I would like to wish good luck for the coming year to our new President, Vanessa, and her Committee.

**Gemma Stockton**  
**President**



## Amnesty International

St John's College Amnesty International has had a successful year. As well as weekly letter-writing sessions in the Bar, we have participated in increased co-operation and communication between college groups. This has enabled larger events, including joint letter-writing sessions with St Catharine's and Caius. These events have been so successful that the Weekend of the Letter Campaign is now a termly rather than yearly occasion. These events provide a great chance for members to meet people from other colleges, write letters, sign pre-written letters and even watch a film. In one night we collected over 250 signatures and wrote 165 individual letters.

Writing letters remains one of the most effective ways to create change, as the huge successes of Amnesty International have shown. However, we are also involved in fundraising and creating awareness. Cambridge University Amnesty International, which we support and work with, won the 2008 Amnesty International UK Student Raise-Off for having collected more donations for AIUK

than any other group. They raised a total of £3,000. This year CUAi also made it into the national news by protesting against Guantanamo Bay, dressed in orange jumpsuits (see photo). Many members of St John's College Amnesty International took part in this event; some of us even got together and went to Hall in our jumpsuits.

Back in John's we have held a Christmas card campaign, where we made greeting cards to send to prisoners of conscience to show support. We also worked with the JCR Women's Officer to get lots of pre-written letters on women's rights signed as part of International Women's Day.



Members of Cambridge University Amnesty International

**Anna Hall**  
President



### **The Choir Association**

Membership of the Choir Association is open not only to past and present members of the Chapel Choir and Organists, but also to interested friends who share a concern and interest in the activities of the Choir. Since some readers of *The Eagle* may not be current members, I thought it worth summarising our objectives as well as mentioning activities over the past year in the hope that you might be encouraged to participate.

One of the principal objects of the Association is to promote interest in the Choir and to disseminate information about it (including, but not limited to, its past and future projects, recordings, tours and broadcasts). We have a website that helps achieve this, [www.sjcca.org.uk](http://www.sjcca.org.uk), and we also publish a newsletter, which is now issued in an attractive full-colour format. It covers news of past members, both those who have recently left and those of more distant times. To keep the news flowing, please send your contributions to [choir-association@joh.cam.ac.uk](mailto:choir-association@joh.cam.ac.uk). The next issue will include a review of a book *The English Chorister*, written by the former Headmaster of the College School, Alan Mould.

Another objective is to arrange social gatherings for members and invited guests. The principal event is the Annual Dinner and General Meeting, which this year takes place in July. Many members met at a Garden Party on 24 May, which also coincided with a memorial concert for Professor John Crook, who was Tutor to many former Choral Students and who must surely be regarded as the first among the Friends of the Choir. Evensong that day was enhanced by members of the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, who accompanied the Choir in Vivaldi's *Magnificat* and Purcell's anthem *O Sing unto the Lord*. It is hoped to plan similar events in the future. Other occasions when members meet informally include the Advent Carol Service and the newly established Epiphany Carol Service. After the Advent Carol Service this year the Committee were pleased to invite Andrew Nethsingha to become President of the Association.

We also support and promote financially the Choir and musical endeavours of members of the Choir past and present. We were very pleased to hear that *Threshold of Night* by Tarik O'Regan, the piece of music specially commissioned by the College for the Advent Carol Service 2006 with support from the Choir Association, won the Liturgical Award at the 2007 British Composers Award Ceremony in December. A bursary has also been awarded to James Birchall to assist him in continuing his studies at the Royal Academy of Music. Other events include a concert to be given in the Chapel by The Gentlemen of St John's for the Cambridge Committee for Macmillan Cancer Support, and another to be given at Kidderminster Town Hall on Friday 1 August.

As part of the preparations for the College's 500th Anniversary, the Committee is in discussion with the College authorities regarding future links between the Choir Association and the College's administrative and fundraising activities. The intention is to enable a fund to be earmarked for Chapel purposes, which would include a facility to provide financial support to talented individuals who would otherwise not be able to sing in the Chapel Choir.

**Alan Miller**  
**Committee Member**



**The Choir of St John's College**

The Choir was delighted to welcome Andrew Nethsingha, a Johnian and ex-Organ Scholar, to the post of Director of Music from the beginning of the 2007-08 academic year. Andrew joined us from Gloucester Cathedral, where he was Director of Music, having previously held the same post at Truro Cathedral. A number of other new faces arrived: Pablo Strong, Bradley Smith, Alex Spinney and Francis Williams (Tenor Choral Students); George Dye and Tristan Hambleton (Bass Choral Students); Rupert Reid (Bass Lay Clerk); Robert Baldwin, Alexander Bower-Brown, Julius Foo and Thomas Williams (Choristers); Peter Hicks and Justin Stollery (Probationers). We also welcomed Timothy Ravalde to the organ loft in his new role as Junior Organ Scholar.



In rousing voice, the Choir sang gutsy renditions of Vaughan Williams' *Let all the World* and Britten's *Te Deum in C* to Matriculands in the first service of the Michaelmas Term. Remembrance Sunday was marked in College by a very moving performance of the Duruflé *Requiem* during the morning Eucharist service.

As Advent Sunday fell outside Full Term, the Choir uniquely sang three Advent Carol Services in 2007. The third service, on Sunday 2 December, was broadcast live on BBC Radio 3. The service featured wide-ranging repertoire from Victoria's sumptuous eight-part setting of *Ave Maria* through to Walton's *Magnificat* (Chichester Service), and the American Paul Manz's beautifully simple *Even So, Lord Jesus*. A specially invited Johnian congregation attended the service, which was followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the Hall.

Shortly afterwards, the Choir embarked on a short three concert Christmas tour. For the two sell-out concerts at Manchester Grammar School and in the College Chapel, the Choir was joined by the harpist Frances Kelly, performing a programme of Christmas music that included Britten's *A Ceremony of Carols*. On Wednesday 19 December, the Choir sang a concert at the Palace of Arts in Budapest, sharing the programme with the world-renowned concert organist, Thomas Trotter. Such was the enthusiasm of the two thousand members of the audience that we were given a five-minute standing ovation – even the house lights coming up failed to stop the clamour for more music and the Choir had no alternative but to repeat its encores! A very exhilarated Choir returned to the UK looking forward to a well-earned Christmas break.

The Choir returned in January to record a CD of music for Choir, organ and harp . . . The CD will be launched during autumn 2008.

The Choir returned in January to record a CD of music for Choir, organ and harp, including Britten's *A Ceremony of Carols* (in the arrangement for SATB Choir by Julius Harrison), Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms* and Jánáček's *Otčenáš*, accompanied by Francis Kelly (Harp) and Cameron Sinclair (Percussion). The CD will be launched during autumn 2008.

A liturgically busy Lent Term began with the annual Epiphany Carol Service, and we were delighted that a large number of members of the St John's College Choir Association were able to join us for both the service and the tea beforehand. The service was the first of three to be recorded during the Lent Term for webcasting online via the College web pages, [www.joh.cam.ac.uk/chapel\\_and\\_choir/listen\\_online](http://www.joh.cam.ac.uk/chapel_and_choir/listen_online). The College Council recently agreed the expenditure to enable permanent webcasting equipment to be installed in the Chapel during the summer, which will include retractable microphones from the Chapel roof. Once the equipment is installed, it is intended to broadcast a service online at a regular time every week from the beginning of October 2008.

On Sunday 27 January, the Choir was joined by Gonville and Caius' Choir and wind players from the Cambridge University Chamber Orchestra to perform Stravinsky's *Mass*, conducted jointly by Andrew and Dr Geoffrey Webber. So as not to disappoint our regular listeners on Ash Wednesday (the BBC broadcast was from St Albans this year), the service was recorded for webcasting. Music included the Allegri *Miserere Mei, Deus*, and Byrd's *Ne Irascaris, Domine*.

On Friday 29 February, we were delighted to welcome over 300 parents and children from St John's College School for a special Evensong. The service was followed by a reception in the Antechapel, organised by the School Parents' Association. The final special service of the Lent Term was the Meditation on the Passion of Christ, with excellent performances by Gareth John as the Evangelist, Sam Furness as Pilate and Edward de Minckwitz as Christ.

Following the success of the two very moving services to commemorate the Abolition of the British Slave Trade in February 2007, the Choir regrouped with the London Adventist Chorale to record a full album of music specially composed by the gospel composer, Ken Burton. The music set inspirational texts by Nelson Mandela, Mother Teresa, Mahatma Gandhi, Rosa Parks and Dr Martin Luther King Jnr, relating to slavery and the human rights movement more generally. It is hoped that the CD will be released early in 2009.

BBC Radio 3 returned to St John's to broadcast Choral Evensong live on Sunday 20 April. The broadcast provoked a very warm reaction from listeners, not least Sam Furness' lengthy and high solo in Jánáček's *Otčenáš*, again accompanied by Frances Kelly on the harp.

The Choir of Clare College joined the Choir to sing Evensong on Saturday 26 April. Music included Walton's *The Twelve*. On Saturday 24 May, the Choir was joined by members of the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, one of the world's foremost period instrument ensembles. Outstanding performances by various soloists made impressive work of the Vivaldi *Magnificat* and Purcell's *O Sing unto the Lord*. Again we were delighted that a number of members from the St John's College Choir Association, who had been attending their annual Garden Party that afternoon, were able to join us for the service. In early June, the Choir was joined for Evensong by the viol consort Fretwork, singing Tomkins' *Fifth service* and Gibbons' *See, see the word is incarnate*.

Following on from last year's inaugural joint service in the Chapel with Trinity College Choir, the Choir this year went 'next door' to sing in Trinity College Chapel. Music for the service included Britten's *Rejoice in the Lamb*, a setting of Christopher Smart's text, Stanford's *Beati quorum via* and Leighton's *Collegium Magdalenae Oxoniense*, which made for a hearty but sensitively sung service.

The May Concert was a tremendous success, opening with the Choir singing the very rousing *Blessed City, Heavenly Salem* by Edward Bairstow. Ian Pong, Manon Hughes, Patrick Bidder, David Sheard and Matthew Ward all made outstanding instrumental contributions, and Léon Charles gave a magnificent performance of Dupré's *Prelude and Fugue in B Major* on the organ. The St John's Singers also contributed with an excellent performance of Mendelssohn's *Verleih uns Frieden*.



For the finale, the Choir were joined by the St John's Singers, Sally Pryce (Harp) and Chris Blundell (Percussion) to sing Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms*, which received great applause from a very enthusiastic audience.

At the end of May Week, the Choir travelled to Thaxted in Essex to sing a concert as part of the Thaxted Music Festival; the theme for this year's Festival was 'Kings and Queens'. The Choir's contribution included Gibbons' *O God the King of Glory*, Byrd's *O Lord, make thy servant Elizabeth our Queen*, and Boyce's *The Lord is King*. In recognition of Holst's connections with Thaxted, the Choir sang *Nunc Dimittis*. One of the most famous early St John's recordings was of Stainer's *The Crucifixion*; it was therefore a great pleasure to sing an anthem by Stainer – *How beautiful upon the mountains* – in the presence of his great grandson (the Festival organiser) and great-great-grandson.

This year's Joint Service with King's College Choir took place on Thursday 3 July at King's College. It was a moving service, with excellent performances of Parry's *Blest pair of sirens* and Vaughan Williams' *Te Deum in G*.

Members of the St John's College Choir Association joined the Choir in the Stalls to sing Evensong during their Annual Reunion Weekend – it was particularly pleasing to see some of the younger members amongst them. Music for the service included *Walmisley in D Minor* and S S Wesley's *Blessed be the God and Father*.

The Chapel year ended with the final Evensong on Sunday 6 July. It was an emotional service for those who would be leaving the Choir at the end of the summer, ending with the traditional final hymn *The day thou gavest* and Elgar's *Nimrod*, played on the organ by Léon Charles. The Choir's year ended with a concert in Chapel on Wednesday 23 July as part of the Cambridge Music Festival.

Our best wishes go to this year's leavers: Léon Charles (Senior Organ Scholar), Edward de Minckwitz (Bass Choral Student), James Diggie and John Lattimore (Alto Choral Students), Rupert Reid (Bass Lay Clerk), James (Freddie) Eggleton and Benedict Flinn (Head Choristers).

**Caroline Marks**  
**Choir Administrator**



## The Economics Society

This year has been a very exciting one for the Economics Society. We started out with our customary gathering to welcome the first years into the fold, build bonds and bring together those across the years who share that common love for the world of supply and demand.

Our first major event was a talk entitled 'How to be smart about Private Equity' by Julian Mash, an ex-member of the Society, who has gone on to have an illustrious career in the City. Julian, who is Founder and Chief Executive of the private equity firm, Vision Capital, gave us a detailed insight into the dynamics of the industry and the career opportunities open to us.

In Lent Term we hosted our first annual 'Options Desserts'. The evening gave us the chance to hear from fellow students about the course options open to us in the next year, and advice they felt applicable when making their decisions. This was a hugely successful event, which I know for many economists has made the course decision choice clearer.

The annual black tie Dinner at the beginning of Easter Term gave everyone a chance to relax before the exams. It also gave the Society an opportunity to thank all those who have helped us throughout the year. We would like to reiterate this thank you to all our Supervisors, our Director of Studies and of course our wonderful Tutor. We now look forward to our last event this year, our annual Garden Party.

After holding a hotly-contested election amongst the first-year students, who were clearly inspired by the charisma of the incumbents, the Society elected Chris Robinson and Lisa Cheng to lead next year. They are both extremely driven and enthusiastic people with big ideas for the forthcoming year.

**Anna Ettl and Wayne Redmond**  
Presidents



## The Film Society

It has been another successful year for St John's Films. With a fresh new Committee and new sponsors, 2007-08 was sure to be one of the Society's best – and we haven't been disappointed.

We have endeavoured to offer a wide-ranging selection of films that have catered to the varied interests of the Cambridge University audience. Continuing the tradition of association with other societies, a number of our Michaelmas Term

films addressed serious issues. Particularly successful were: *An Inconvenient Truth*, shown as part of 'CU Green Week', accompanied by a thought-provoking debate on carbon offsetting; and *Blood Diamond*, in association with the Amnesty Film Season. Other popular features this year were the British blockbuster *Atonement* and Oscar-winning *Juno*.

I am particularly grateful for the fantastic work of the Committee, which has made occupying the position of Chair such a pleasure. Sam Law, Head Projectionist, has worked hard to provide us with a new batch of well-trained projectionists and ensured that our somewhat temperamental equipment behaved itself. As Film Secretary, Gemma Johnson has provided us with excellent term cards and kept a close eye on the film distributors – saving the day more than once when films went missing! The whole Society can testify to the achievements of Social Secretary Alex Tatton-Brown, who has organised a host of events throughout the year – the highlight being our annual dinner in the SCR, which was a wonderful evening. In her role as Head Publicist, Natalie McNamee has run successful poster campaigns and managed the creative talents of our dedicated publicity team superbly. Richard Butler has been a meticulous Treasurer, who kept us regularly updated with Society finances. Our Secretary, Roberta Jordan, has been an invaluable asset to the Society. Her organisational skills have kept us on track throughout the year.

I am pleased to say that Roberta has been elected as Chair for the coming year and I wish the new Committee the best of luck for the future.

**George Kalamis**  
Chair



### **The Gentlemen of St John's**

This has been the busiest year on record for the Gents, having performed at over forty separate engagements and re-entered the international scene after an absence of four years. We had an unusually large influx of new Gents and have been incredibly fortunate that they have all helped the group to go from strength to strength; the strong tradition of excellent Johnian singers is safe for at least another three years.

The long list of leavers was always going to be a hard act to follow: we lost Basses Johnny Herford (to the Royal Academy of Music) and Tom Faulkner (to further doctorate research); four out of our five Tenors left us – Peter Morton (to the vineyards of Italy), Jonny Knight (who went to experience some sort of conversion in Damascus), Gerald Beatty and Joe Harper (to work at the St John's College



The Gentlemen of St John's

School). Although we only lost one Alto, Richard Wilberforce has so far proved to be, in many respects, irreplaceable; he continues to thrive at the Royal College of Music.

Thankfully we welcomed the special talent of George Dye as our new Russian Bass, who, in combination with Tristan Hambleton, has proved fundamental to the Bass sound. The Tenor section has been boosted by Alex Spinney, Pablo Strong, Bradley Smith and Francis Williams, and they have been joined on occasion by Rupert Reid. Rupert will long be remembered by the Gents for his spectacular Louis Armstrong impressions in response to John Lattimore's 'Love Machine' at this year's Garden Party.

The Michaelmas Term highlights included the annual 'Maypole' concert, which yet again saw 'the Gents' pub' full to overflowing, and a Christmas concert in Ramsey that had people standing at the back to hear us. In December we flew out to Budapest with the full Choir to perform a concert in the new Palace of Arts; after a hugely successful concert, the applause was only abated by two Gents' encores. The Lent Term included a variety of dinner engagements, singing for an incredibly diverse range of audiences, both at corporate and private events. One such event, in the College's Wordsworth Room, was attended by the Mayor of Amsterdam, who was at a conference in St John's. He enjoyed our singing so much that he went back to his room to fetch his guitar, and invited the Gents to join the port and dessert course of the meal whilst he got us to sing along to his favourite tunes!

As usual the Easter Term was focused around preparing for the Garden Party and May Ball, both of which were customarily 'better than ever before'. On top of those events the Gents have also become very popular as wedding entertainers, with Handel's *Zadok the Priest* proving something of a speciality. The summer vacation will see us develop our concert repertoire as we prepare for two tours, one to the West of England, including performances in Kidderminster, Edington and Iford; and the second to Bangkok and Singapore, in late August, which will see us perform in the ballroom of the Mandarin Oriental Hotel, the Shrewsbury International School in Bangkok, and at the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory in Singapore.

Some particularly keen losses will be felt by the Gents at the end of this year, with the Alto section losing two cornerstones in James Diggle and John Lattimore. Our first-class Organist, Léon Charles, leaves to take up a post with a choir perhaps second in the world only to St John's, at Westminster Cathedral. I myself am leaving the Gents; however, I will still be in College as a fourth-year Management student.

My thanks go to all the Gents for working so hard to make this busy year a tremendous success; I am particularly grateful to Gareth 'four-contracts' John, who has been a brilliant musical director and librarian. Francis Williams has been unanimously elected to be my successor, and he is already working hard to line up another incredibly exciting year for the Gents. I wish him every success.

**Edward de Minckwitz**  
Manager



### **The History Society**

It has been an absolute pleasure to have been involved in the History Society this past year. The present Committee's term in office began with the annual Garden Party last Easter Term, when it rained, necessitating a stealthy retreat from the Fellows' Garden to the cosy cover of the Old Music Room. However, this ill-luck was not to continue and a successful year ensued, during which we were lucky enough to secure a varied set of speakers.

Our first fixture was St John's own Dr Peter Linehan, who kindly offered us advice, coupled with enjoyable anecdotes. Alice Hogge was next and spoke about the Society of Jesus and the Gunpowder Plot. Then Trinity Hall's Dr Martin Ruehl gave a very engaging talk on the importance of Nietzsche, followed by a topical talk by Dr Andrew Preston, of Clare College, on the role played by religion in American foreign policy. We thank them all.

The highlight of the year came with our Annual Dinner on 5 March in the beautifully candlelit Senior Combination Room. Following the champagne reception and exquisite meal, we were blessed to be in the presence of popular historian and biographer Alison Weir, who spoke movingly about the life and death of Lady Jane Grey and explained the processes involved in writing historical fiction. Dr Tracy Borman, Director of Education at English Heritage, also joined us at the Dinner.

None of these events would have been possible without the support of Professor Tombs and the Committee. Thanks must also go to Charlie Horten-Middleton as Treasurer, who is to be succeeded by Hannah Smith; the Secretaries, Emily Drake and Sarah Evans, to be followed by Emma Macalister-Hall; and the Social Secretary, Sally Richardson, whose torch Jennifer Morgan is to pick up. All that is left is to wish my successor, James Spencer, the best for the coming year.

**Charles Marshall**  
President





**Jazz @ John's**

Showcasing twenty-two different bands over the course of eight events throughout the year, Jazz @ John's has maintained its reputation for being the premier jazz venue in Cambridge. Fortnightly, the Fisher Building is transformed into a lively club atmosphere and draws in the crowds from across the University, comprising both hardened jazz fanatics and first-time listeners alike. With over 1,800 people now on the mailing list, the events never fail to sell out, leaving the Committee rushed off their feet, either behind the renowned Jazz @ John's bar, or working hard on the sound desk ensuring that the bands sound absolutely amazing. Professional bands are brought in from both the London and Cambridge circuits as Jazz @ John's strives to maintain a variety of different acts, displaying the full range and genres of jazz. More often than not, they are supported by some of the best student bands and musicians in Cambridge.

Always looking to expand the technical assets, Jazz @ John's has recently invested in some high-powered stage lighting, which has really added to the atmosphere, helping bring even more attention in the direction of the performers. Along with continuing investment in the sound equipment, Jazz @ John's has been able to pull in bigger and bigger names to the delight of the audiences: Robin Jones starring with Montuno, a regular at the 606 club in London; Josh Ison, one of the country's most exciting young saxophonists; and Torben Rees, a very fast-rising male vocalist, who has been tipped to become the next Jamie Cullum.

Of course, none of this would be possible without two key ingredients: the dedication and hard work of the Committee, and the ongoing financial support of Deloitte. The Committee is always looking for new interested parties with a passion for jazz and a drive to bring the best of it to Cambridge. However, this year, volunteers have been rather hard to find and recruitment has been slow, leaving the Committee thin on the ground in places. This only serves to credit them more in making each and every event so successful. I would like to thank everyone who has been involved over the last twelve months, and wish the very best of luck to next year's Committee.

**Julian Johnson**  
**President**

**The Johnian Society**

Last year I reported on a great deal of behind-the-scenes activity for the Johnian Society Committee as we sought to develop a vision for the Society that would enable it to complement the work of the College while giving it a separate identity. We feel there is a place for a Society that is run by Johnians for Johnians.

The Committee has also, on behalf of all Johnnians, asked the College if it would consider allowing Johnnians who are exercising their dining privileges to bring a guest with them on a specified night. The College Council gave a positive response and arrangements were put in place to allow Johnnians to bring a guest on Friday nights (with a small number of restrictions) and on three Saturdays during the year. These so-called 'Johnnian Evenings' have proved very popular and we are delighted that this arrangement will continue during 2008-09.

We are holding the first of our new events on 18 July when there will be a Reception at the House of Lords. We are also putting plans in place for other events so that we have an interesting and varied programme. Announcements will be made on the website and via email so please make sure that the College has an up-to-date email address for you.

This year's Johnnian Society Dinner will take place on Saturday 13 September, a departure from the traditional December date. The Committee considered this very carefully before making the decision, bearing in mind the views of members. We hope that the new time of year will attract a larger number of members and guests than in previous years. The Dinner is complemented by a lunch in the Wordsworth Room and a lecture by Sir David King, formerly Chief Scientific Adviser to the Government. Application forms were sent out with the Lent Term issue of *Johnnian News* and are also available online.

We continue to work with the College's Development Office on a secure website for Johnnian Society members to interact with each other, and Committee members are involved with the development of the College's alumni relations and fundraising strategy. The Chairman now attends meetings of the College's Development Committee, together with other Johnnian Society Committee Members when they are available.

The AGM and Dinner took place in the Hall on Saturday 15 December 2007, with the Chairman, Mr Colin Greenhalgh, in the Chair on behalf of the President. Lord Crisp was elected President for one year from January 2008 and Sir Jack Beatson was elected Vice-President for the same period. The new Ordinary Members of the Committee are Dr Jeevan Deol and Ms Fiona McAnena, who joined the Committee in January 2008, and each serve for six years.

The members of the Committee for 2008 are therefore as follows:

Lord (Nigel) Crisp (President)  
 Sir Jack Beatson (Vice-President)  
 Mr Colin Greenhalgh (Chairman)  
 Ms Catherine Twilley (Honorary Secretary)  
 Lord (David) Rowe-Beddoe (Immediate Past-President)



Mr Francis Baron (Past-President)  
The Master (ex officio)  
Dr Tim Bayliss-Smith (College Representative until May 2008)  
Mr Geraint Lewis (co-opted)  
Miss Rachel Harker  
Mr Mark Chichester-Clark  
Mr Michael Mavor  
Dr Jo Griffiths  
Mrs Heather Hancock  
Professor Peter Hennessy  
Mr Adam Balon  
Sir Alastair Norris  
Mr Graham Spooner  
Dr Jeevan Deol  
Ms Fiona McAnena

Also on 15 December 2007, Lord Crisp gave a fascinating talk on healthcare, with a particular focus on developing countries. The engaging way in which he spoke means that we are all very much looking forward to his speech in Hall on 13 September when he addresses us as President.

## The Society continues to support the College financially through gifts for the Access Bursary Scheme (£3,000 this year) . . .

The Society continues to support the College financially through gifts for the Access Bursary Scheme (£3,000 this year) and by adding to the income available from the Johnian Society Travel Exhibition Fund (more than £1,800 of extra funding) to enable a larger number of students to benefit. This year we have again made available seven Travel Exhibitions, each of £600.

We hope that you will support our new initiatives. Please check the website for updates, [www.joh.cam.ac.uk/johnian/johnian\\_society/](http://www.joh.cam.ac.uk/johnian/johnian_society/).

**Catherine Twilley**  
**Honorary Secretary**



### The Larmor Society

This year's Committee commenced their tenure in the traditional manner by organising the annual Garden Party with the help of Dr McConnel and Dr Metaxas. We were fortunate to be blessed with great weather, and it was a resounding success. One of the major roles of the Committee is to ensure the successful integration of Freshers at the beginning of the Michaelmas Term. To this end, no expense was spared on a lavish Freshers Squash. A few weeks later the annual Book Sale took place, at which there was not the fierce competition of the previous year, nor the quantity of books, but still lots of happy customers. The Part IA and IB Desserts – now a fixture in the social calendars of all NatScis – once again proceeded smoothly, with some very evangelical campaigning by Henry Begg on behalf of the Materials Department.

Sophie Lynch took responsibility for the Larmor Dinner, and did a fantastic job all round, as everyone fortunate enough to attend will attest. Another big thank you goes to Hamish Gordon for his fiscal brilliance in the role of Treasurer, and also for updating the excellent, if rarely used, Larmor website. Thank you also to the General Members of the Committee: Rose Chaffe, Su Liu, Sean Dyson and next year's President Katie Graham, to whom I wish the best of luck. Thanks also go to Dr Keith Johnstone and Dr Paul Wood for all their help over the year. On a sadder note, I would like to offer the sympathies of the entire society to the family of Dr Joe Spencer. He will be missed.

**Dave Wood**  
President



### The Medical Society

The journey through the Medical and Veterinary Sciences Tripos (MVST) is a tough one, and not for the faint-hearted. But with the rigours of exams over for another year, the Johnian medics emerged from their places of hiding. The 2007 Garden Party provided a chance to relax. While the odd shower of rain helped to wash away the cobwebs, it did nothing to dampen the spirits, which flowed freely. During the sunny intervals, hidden talents were revealed on the croquet lawn.

The start of the year brought a new intake of students, with formal introductions made at the annual Cheese and Wine Evening. With a strong turnout from the clinical students, this popular event provided an opportune environment to learn more about the first years and to catch up with each other. Taking a slightly different turn, Michaelmas term also saw a talk from a Visiting Scholar, Professor Strange, from North America, who gave an interesting comparison between the NHS and the US system.

The highlight of Lent Term was undoubtedly the Annual Dinner in the Combination Room. Fine food was enjoyed by all, and we were especially privileged to be joined by Professor Wyllie, whose advice on how to give a lecture had everyone in stitches.

It has been an honour and a joy to serve as President this year, aided by my enthusiastic Committee: Jonny (despite spending the majority of the year at MIT), Ben, Vish and Roberta, to whom I extend my thanks. I hope that under the guidance of President-Elect Ben Brodie, the Medical Society will continue to emphasise the importance of both working and playing hard in the training of new doctors.

**Peter Dannatt**  
**President**



### **The Music Society**

As my Presidency draws to a close, I am extremely proud to have led the Committee in one of our busiest and most successful years. With an intake well in excess of a hundred Freshers joining the Society at the beginning of the Michaelmas term, this was just one of many indications that the year ahead looked set to be most fruitful and rewarding.

The Committee's first task, which was superbly overseen by Manon Hughes, was to complete the implementation of the new Membership Card system, which also enabled us to maintain the database more successfully.

As always, the St John's Singers have performed admirably in their various engagements over the year: in the Michaelmas Term Concert, they tackled the deceptively tricky *St Nicolas' Cantata* by Benjamin Britten, accompanied by an instrumental ensemble of College musicians; and in the Lent Concert performed the ever popular and beautiful *Requiem* by Gabriel Fauré. This performance was the first under their new Director, Timothy Ravalde, who has done a consistently outstanding job. The group looks set to continue to flourish for the foreseeable future!

Elsewhere in the College's musical life, the various recital series held in the NMR (Instrumental) and the Chapel (Organ) enjoyed considerable success and excellent attendance, indicative of the enormously high calibre of performers. There was also the annual Combination Room Concert, which the Society dedicated to the memory of the late Professor John Crook. Finally, we were also

privileged to have Graham Walker (former Society President) return to John's to perform the complete Bach *Cello Suites* over two nights in the Lent Term – two truly stunning evenings.

After three years on the Committee, I would like to offer my thanks to all I have worked with, including Professor Johnstone, Dr Glasscock, Dr Castelveccchi and Mr Nethsingha – and all those who have been my colleagues. To those staying on – the future looks most promising!

**Léon Charles**  
**President**



### **The Purchas Society**

The Purchas Society, for Geographers and Land Economists at St John's College, has received over half a century of support and has grown considerably in both popularity and success over the last three years. Last year, Purchas enjoyed record attendance and an array of interesting and informative speakers. Next year we hope to build on this success by inviting more speakers to explore such topics as the history of the College with regards to the Society's namesake, the Reverend Samuel Purchas, contemporary globalisation and nineteenth-century imperialism.

As a Geography and Land Economy society we aim to hold fun and informative evenings that allow members to listen to and discuss experiences, ideas and topics in a friendly and informal environment. The year kicked off with 'Paddlings', which went very successfully, with Purchasians recounting their summer adventures. We managed to achieve an attendance of thirty members. We enjoyed talks from guest speakers on a variety of topics including 'Shrinking Pineapples' from Katherine Gough and 'Shipwrecks in South East Asia' from Dr Janice Stargardt. The annual Purchas Dessert was held in the Wordsworth Room, followed by a short talk from Dr Ian Willis on members of the Geography Department. This year's programme also included the famous Purchas Garden Party and the End of Year Dinner in the SBR, where the new Committee was elected.

**Sarah Turner, President**  
**Natalie Moss, Secretary**  
**Sarah Baggs, Treasurer**  
**Daniel Paine, Librarian**



**RAG**

Taking over as St John's reps for RAG, Lizzie Richardson, Kate Houghton, Michael Kattirtzi, and Rhiannon Pugh continued last year's efforts in promoting charity work within St John's.

We focused on supporting the charitable events and work organised by Cambridge RAG, which enabled fellow Johnians, and even strangers, to give some time or money for a good cause. Together, we increased awareness of different charities, strengthened the reputation of RAG in our College, and proved that charity work can be enjoyable as well as effective.

The first event was the annual Pyjama Pub Crawl, which afforded students (especially Freshers) the opportunity to try new places and meet new people, in the comfort of their nightwear. In February, RAG Blind Date saw around fifty Johnians, single or attached, take the opportunity to meet someone new in a pub, bar or club of their choice.

Adam Bennet blagged his way to Germany in Jailbreak, and Lucy Chambers went beyond the call of duty in selling rubber ducks. Natalie McNamee and Richard Curling's photography spree turned heads in Get Spotted and our red dragons truly raised spirits at the RAG Carnival. This year we also vastly increased the number of our students collecting in the street, many of whom felt it was a rewarding experience.

We would like to send a big thank you to everybody who helped RAG this year, and wish the best of luck to Lizzie and her fellow reps in continuing and improving on our work.

**Michael Kattirtzi**

**SAFE (Southern African Fund for Education)**

SAFE is designed to help children in Africa achieve a better quality of life through education. We have given over £3000 to various charities this year alone, both to help build and maintain schools, as well as to help children orphaned by AIDS and conflict. The charities we have given to in the past include LINK, Action for Street Kids and the Akamba Aid Fund. To achieve this we rely on the charity of both the College and the students. Many members of College give £5 per term to SAFE, the total of which the College generously matches. We hope that next year as many people sign up to join SAFE as did this year, and that the College can maintain its status as a charitable presence in Southern Africa.

**Dave Wood**  
**President**



### The Winfield Society

The Winfield Society has had another successful year under its new Committee. We welcomed the first years with our traditional book sale and secured sponsorship for Society rugby shirts from Lovells so that the Society is now promoted University-wide.

Mooting successes have featured heavily this year in the Society's activities. Natalie McNamee and Adam Bond made it into the semi-finals of the University Fledglings competition, and David Sheard competed in the final of the main University competition, the De Smith Moot. Our in-house moot competition went to even greater levels of professionalism, thanks in part to a very generous gift from Mr Louis Singer, a Johnian Law graduate who now practises in New York. His gift enabled us to offer coaching to the first-year students for the first time. Craig Morrison and Louisa Nye, past Officers of the Society, came back to Cambridge to offer the first years the benefit of their advocacy experience. This all showed in the final, where the standard of advocacy was very high indeed. Congratulations must go to Edward Crossley, who was the winner of the competition, and to Alex Torrens, the runner-up.

We are committed to providing more moot coaching in years to come and hope to draw on the advocacy expertise of some of our Johnian graduates who now practise at the Bar. We are grateful to Mr Eoin O'Shea of Simmons & Simmons, who came up for the evening to judge the final, and to Mr Nolan and Dr Fox for their judging of the earlier rounds.

As has been our custom in recent years, all Johnian Law graduates were invited to the Society's Annual Dinner in the College Hall in February. About thirty graduates attended the Dinner and joined the cohort of current Law students and Fellows of the College. Our speaker at the Dinner was Sir Alastair Norris. Since his time as a Law undergraduate at St John's, Sir Alastair has been a strong supporter of the College and the Society. We were particularly pleased to have him as our speaker this year, just a few months after his appointment as a Justice of the High Court in the Chancery Division.

The only thing left for us to do is celebrate the end of term with the annual 'punt party', at which our new Committee will be announced.

**Caroline Hartley**  
President



### The Women's Society

The St John's Women's Society has concluded its first successful year. The Society was founded in 2007, a very important year that marked the twenty-fifth anniversary of the admission of women to the College. The purpose of the Society is to establish a variety of activities of particular interest to female members of the College, from career advice and networking events, raising awareness of women's issues and actively promoting women's representation throughout the College, at both junior and senior levels. The Society, which has already reached a membership of 103, and all its events, are open to women and men.

The 2007-08 academic year started with an inspiring talk entitled 'Applying for a Junior Research Fellowship', given by Anna Mallam and David Conlon, two College Junior Research Fellows. Along with several social events, including movie nights and afternoon talks, we were the first to establish yoga classes in the College, open to all members of the College. These have been very popular with men and women. In addition, the creation of an email-based 'Agony Aunt service' has complemented support networks present in the College.

For the Easter Term, the Society is again ready with a plethora of remarkable events. We have organised a University-wide talk entitled 'Changing Our World: Women and difference', by Dame Sian Elias, Honourable Chief Justice of New Zealand. To celebrate the success of the Society's first year, we will hold the Women's Society Hall on 5 June. This dinner will celebrate the importance of women in our College. The closing event for the academic year will be a trip to

London to the National Portrait Gallery exhibition, 'Brilliant Women: 18th Century Bluestockings'.



The Women's Society

After only a few months of activity, the St John's Women's Society has already made a significant contribution to College life and is set to thrive. As founder of the Society, I would like to acknowledge the tireless work of my Committee: Jessica Priestley, Carla Lancelotti, Ruth Mokgokong, Delphine Soulard, Freya Johnson Ross and Janet Lees. We look forward to making our mark on St John's College for many years to come.

**Simona Giunta**  
President



## COLLEGE SPORTS

### Men's Badminton

This year has been a rewarding one for Men's Badminton. We have seen an influx of enthusiastic first years and our numbers have swelled. The team has managed to maintain its standing in the League and performed excellently in both Open and Mixed Cuppers.

In the First Team, old hands Chris Thomas, Varadom 'Yod' Charoensawan, Di Liang and Chris Cleaver were joined by Amar Shah and Rob Liu from the Second Team and first years Nick Jenkins and Dan Lu. Special thanks must also go to Adam Bond and Oliver Knevit for 'subbing in' when needed. The First Team this year achieved our best result in Badminton Open Cuppers in recent years, making it through to the final four out of over thirty teams. They were knocked out by traditional rivals Trinity I, who went on to win the tournament. In the Inter-Collegiate League they managed to stay in the top division in the Michaelmas Term. It is looking likely that they will stay there, but to do so they must first win one final match against Queens' I.

This year's Second-Team players were Oliver Knevit, Mark Knight, Tim Gordon, Nikhil Dhodia, Heng Wui Leng and Captain Adam Bond. The Second Team finished near the top of Division 3A of the Inter-Collegiate League in the Lent Term and it is possible they will be promoted to Division 2. Adam has asked me to thank also all those players who subbed in for the Second Team when we were short of players.

The Third Team this year was captained by Luke Lorimer and the regular players were Kan Lu, David Nissenbaum, Dahir Alihassan, Fumiya Mori, Pip Coen, Dan Paine, Amarnath Marthi, Jenan Wijayasri and Sam Gibbons. Having been promoted to Division 4A over the summer, the Third Team had a hard start to the year. However, they have managed to stay up and finished middle of the table in the Lent Term, with an impressive score against a strong Christ's II.

Di Liang will be taking over as Men's Captain next year and I wish him all the best. I would also like to thank Dr McConnell and Jackie Clark, on behalf of the Badminton Club, for working hard to guarantee us regular training time in the Fisher Building.

**Chris Thomas**  
**Captain**





**The Chess Club**

This year saw us start in Division III of the League due to a dwindling number of chess players in recent years. We began confident as a strong group of second years took up the chess-playing responsibility. Our first match was against Trinity IV, one of our main rivals in the division. It was fortunate we met them so early on in the term, while they were still disorganised – three players didn’t turn up, and it was a walkover victory. We were the only team to beat them this season. Our other main rival was the top Fitzwilliam team, who we played second. This was the only match we lost in the League and through a mixture of talent and organisation we managed to top Division III. This means promotion, and we can look forward to the challenge of Division II next year.

The Cuppers matches are hard work and can last up to three hours. Our first match was against the Division I Jesus team. We knew it would be tough and each match was very well fought. In the end we drew on board count but lost on board elimination – the method of determining the winners of a drawn match. It was an extremely encouraging match and we were unlucky to lose. We also lost in the Plate to Queens’, who will be in Division I next year.



The Chess Club

To celebrate topping the division, we had our first annual Chess Society Dinner in the Parsons Room. It was a good opportunity to reflect on the year's achievements with exceptional company and food.

The team: David Nissenbaum (Captain), Amar Shah, Luke Lorimer, Jon Shepherd, Agustín Serrano-de-Haro-Sánchez, Ed Allen, Robert Bell, David Barraclough, Philip Coen, Melvin Chin, and Jonathan Chia.

### David Nissenbaum Captain



### The Eagles

Traditionally the eagle is a symbol of greatness. It also symbolises immortality, courage, far-sightedness and strength.

Sporting Eagles are generally known for their superior size and their powerful build, and this can be seen on the Rugby field. After a promising start, Eagle MacLennan was unfortunate not to be able to vie for his first Blue after being sidelined with a metatarsal injury. Eagle Reid, meanwhile, shrugged off challenges from former Wallaby, Joe Roff, to gain a Blue in his first term in Cambridge.

Captain Eagle Mayne was unlucky losing for the U21s against the old enemy, but has managed to lead the College team to an unprecedented quadruple double of the Cuppers and League titles, ably accompanied by Eagles Wells, Gibson, Morrison, Samuelson and Wood. Eagle Ashcroft dabbled in Mixed Netball for the Medics team, but lost his place in the squad after a poor run of form.

After retirement from the Hockey Club, Eagle Morrison has now found time to continue his passionate admin role as Secretary to the Red Boys. This, however, coupled with Captain Eagle Goldsmith's Blues' commitments, has left the Hockey Club struggling to find the form of recent years. A new influx of talent does bring hope for the future though. At University level, Eagle Goldsmith won his first Blue, whilst becoming only the third player to be sent off in the Varsity Match (the others being Eagles Palmer and Dr McConnel). Eagle Mackenney also showed good form by winning University Colours.

On the Football field, Eagle Pantelides helped Cambridge to an emphatic win at Craven Cottage, with some saying that his three touches on the ball were the finest ever. Eagle Redmond started many games for the Blues and earned his first University Colours. Eagle Quinn has helped Captain Eagle Verney, along with Eagles Gibson and Bell, to lead the team to a solid season where they managed to score more points than Eagle Adams during his entire Cambridge career.

Eagle Macleod remains an integral part of the Cambridge Karate team, with Eagle Kolodynski leading the University Judo team to the quarter-finals of BUSA (British University Sports Association).

On the water, Eagle Trynka has ensured the LMBC 1st VIII remained at third spot on the river, and in sailing, I captained the University side to a fourth straight Varsity victory, helped along by Eagle Smedley.

In racquet sports, Eagle Caterer played University Second Team Tennis, and helped Eagle Bell lead a College Tennis team to the quarter-finals of Cuppers. Eagle Douglas, meanwhile, who captains both the University Squash and Real Tennis teams, helped Great Britain to the World Team Championships and won the British Doubles Championships. He also collected another Half-Blue in Racquets, where he was joined by Eagle Bell.

Last summer, Eagle Kemp represented the Blues at both Varsity Cricket matches and, after losing the one-day match, was unlucky not to close out the win in the four-day match, eventually having to settle for a draw. Eagle Whittington also won his first Blue in Golf.

Finally, all that is left is to thank our senior members: Dr McConnel, for his work as Senior Treasurer, and both his and Wendy Redgewell's help in organising the Dinner; and Keith for continuing to provide excellent sports pitches. It is an honour to lead such an institution and, with Johnian competition for election to the Club as fierce as ever, it remains at the forefront of University sport.

*Nunc est Bibendum*

**Tom Heywood**  
**Big Bird**



### **Men's Football**

This year the St John's Football Club achieved something it has not achieved for four years: reaching a final, so this has certainly been a successful season in terms of improving on our recent performances. Our all-competition season total of nine wins, two draws and five losses is nothing to be ashamed of, but unfortunately it was a season of 'what ifs' when it came to the big games.

Running a college football team is much like running the England team, where players are divided between club and country, but for us it was between the College team and the University teams, and this led to some inconsistencies in

the starting eleven from week to week. Our Vice-Captain, Wayne Redmond, however, was lost straight from the off, playing a grand total of three College games this season.

Our season started with a bang, and we went on to win all of our pre-season friendlies convincingly. I managed to injure myself trying (and failing) to save a penalty in the first game in the League, resulting in two fantastic goalkeeping performances from Peter Coulthard and Greg Caterer. Paul Edwards was another sad loss to injury, resulting in the return of Chris Cleaver.

A College team is made or broken at the beginning of the year by the Fresher intake. A staggering four out of the five Freshers were snapped up by the University but we managed to hold on to them for the majority of the games. Jamie Spencer could occasionally be seen at training, and, when he was, he was a solid addition to the right-hand side of the pitch. As was Alex Rutt, our reliable right back, whose ability to put in a solid tackle was surpassed only by his ability to put up with abuse. Chris Maynard was an invaluable addition to the team. Watching him dribble past almost every player on the pitch was enough to give our own team, let alone the opposition, a headache and I have been told that soon he hopes to learn how to pass, which might make him even better next year than the player-of-the-season-award-winning display he gave this year. Yusuf played slightly out of position. Apparently a natural left back, he was outstanding playing up front alongside Ben Gibson or Nick Brown. Finally, Chris Tolley showed us all what it is to be a solid midfielder, and will lead the team very well next year from the middle of the pitch, when he takes over as Captain.

It has been a successful season in terms of results and personalities in the squad; it's just a shame we didn't quite manage to translate that into silverware. The omens are certainly looking good for next season.

**Tom Verney**  
**Captain**



### **Women's Football**

The 2007-08 season got off to a very strong start for Women's Football at St John's. The team, who were only promoted into the First Division last season, won their first game away against Girton 8-0. This was particularly rewarding given the long and fatiguing journey to reach the game. Undoubtedly our finest hour of the season was the 2-1 victory over Jesus, who were the League and Cuppers winners last year. Although our run in Cuppers was ended by New Hall in the quarter-final, the team did finish in the top half of the League, a significant achievement given our recent promotion.

I would like to thank Vice-Captain Anya Perry for all her hard work and perhaps most importantly her in-depth knowledge of (men's) football, which certainly was helpful at training sessions. I would also like to mention Clare Stevenson and Amanda Scott, who did a great job as Social Secretaries this year (despite that Homerton Hall swap), and will be next season's Captain and Vice-Captain respectively. Finally, thanks to everyone who has played this year (including the cameo appearances) and helped to make the team so successful. It has been an honour to play for and to captain St John's and I wish Clare the best of luck for next season.

### **Lizzie Richardson** **Captain**



### **Lady Margaret Boat Club**

As you will read below, it has been a good year for the Club. The Reunion Regatta and Dinner in September 2007 was a very enjoyable occasion and brought many old members of the Club back to the Cam and to College. One of the highlights was seeing so many children cheer on their mums or dads (or, in some cases, both!) in the regatta and then taking a turn on the ergos and sitting in a boat. Soon afterwards we welcomed Professor Chris Dobson, the new Master of the College, as President of the Club, in succession to Professor Richard Perham. I am delighted to report that our new President is already the proud owner of an LMBC blazer!

Jane Kennerley (née Milburn), ably assisted by John Hall-Craggs, has been working to complete Volume 3A of the *Lady Margaret Boat Club History*, which is due to be published in the summer. It has been a mammoth task and we owe Jane an enormous debt of gratitude for investing so much time and energy on the Club's behalf. As usual, we are grateful to all those who work on behalf of the Club, particularly Raf Wyatt, our Boat Club Manager, our coaches and supporters. We cannot forget the LMBC Association, whose financial support has made possible our training camps, Henley and the purchase of equipment. Members of the Committee also provide support and advice to those of us in College.

Sadly our sponsorship arrangement with Bank of America comes to an end this year. We are actively looking for a new sponsor and would be grateful for any leads. Another major issue that is affecting the Club is the squeeze on training time. There seems to be less time available during the day for students to train, with the effect that we have seen increasing congestion on the river early in the morning. Stringent new rules are due to be introduced in October, which will severely impact on our opportunities to put boats out to train. We are having to

be more imaginative in the way we train so that we can continue to fulfil our mission to provide rowing activity to those students of St John's who wish to join the LMBC, but you can rest assured that we will do our best.

On a sad note though, Raf Wyatt, who has been an excellent Boat Club Manager for the past two years, is leaving the LMBC and moving back to New Zealand. Much of the success of the Club is attributable to her efforts and she will be missed. A recruitment campaign is underway and we hope to have someone in place for the start of the academic year.

Finally it is with great regret that I have had to resign the post of Senior Treasurer as I shall be taking up the position of Fellow and Development Director at Christ's. I have been Senior Treasurer since 1999 and it has been an enjoyable (most of the time!) role. I have been privileged to hold such a position. I shall remain a Maggie girl at heart and hope to see many LMBC men and women at Henley and on the towpath in the years to come. I leave the Club in the safe hands of Dr Paul Wood, Fellow of St John's and former Fellows' Boat oarsman.

### **Catherine Twilley** **Senior Treasurer**

### **Women's Crews**

#### *The University IVs First IV*

Bow Emily Roberts  
2 Rhiannon Pugh  
3 Clarissa Scholes  
Stroke Katie Rickman  
Cox Kat McLoughlin

#### *The First Fairbairns VIII*

Bow Emily Roberts  
2 Alice Eldred  
3 Lucy Chambers  
4 Vanessa Bingle  
5 Kat McLoughlin  
6 Rhiannon Pugh  
7 Clarissa Scholes  
Stroke Katie Rickman  
Cox Amy Atkinson

#### *The First Fairbairns IV*

Bow Ellie Rye  
2 Roisin Hood  
3 Eleanor Kelly  
Stroke Christina Faranda-Bellofiglio  
Cox Pavel Spirine

### *The First Lent VIII*

Bow	Lucy Chambers
2	Alice Eldred
3	Eva-Maria Hempe
4	Francesca O'Brien
5	Francesca Yates
6	Kat McLoughlin
7	Clarissa Scholes
Stroke	Katie Rickman
Cox	Dave Barraclough

### *The Second Lent VIII*

Bow	Bryony Shelton
2	Amy Bray
3	Tilly Wilding-Coulson
4	Emma Yau
5	Faith Taylor
6	Louise Bowmaker
7	Vanessa Bingle
Stroke	Julia Hine
Cox	Rachel Filar

### *The First May VIII*

Bow	Kat McLoughlin
2	Francesca Yates
3	Francesca O'Brien
4	Eva-Maria Hempe
5	Rhiannon Pugh
6	Elizabeth Smee
7	Lara Maister
Stroke	Louise Connell
Cox	Ashraf El-Mashad

### *The Second May VIII*

Bow	Bryony Shelton
2	Clare Stevenson
3	Vanessa Bingle
4	Alice Eldred
5	Lucy Chambers
6	Alex Rinnert
7	Emily Roberts
Stroke	Katie Rickman
Cox	Dave Barraclough

## **Men's Crews**

### *The Henley VIII*

Bow	Ben Russell
2	Gerald Weldon
3	Jan Trnka
4	Neil Houlaby
5	Patrick Marti
6	John Davey
7	William Gray
Stroke	Matthew O'Connor
Cox	Amy Atkinson

*The Light IV*

Bow Neil Houlsby \*  
 2 Toby Parnell  
 3 William Gray  
 Stroke Matthew O'Connor  
 \* steers

*The First Coxed IV*

Bow Duncan McCombe  
 2 Samuel Palin  
 3 William Hall  
 Stroke Aled Jones  
 Cox Hayley Fisher

*The Second Coxed IV*

Bow Richard Curling  
 2 Rob Gray  
 3 Alastair Smith  
 Stroke Nick Milton  
 Cox Chelsea Wright

*The First Fairbairns VIII*

Bow Duncan McCombe  
 2 Aled Jones  
 3 Jan Trnka  
 4 Toby Parnell  
 5 Neil Houlsby  
 6 Michael Shephard  
 7 William Gray  
 Stroke Matthew O'Connor  
 Cox Hayley Fisher

*The First Lent VIII*

Bow Edward Crossley  
 2 Toby Parnell  
 3 William Hall  
 4 Nick Milton  
 5 William Gray  
 6 Michael Shephard  
 7 Neil Houlsby  
 Stroke Aled Jones  
 Cox Hayley Fisher

*The Second Lent VIII*

Bow Alastair Smith  
 2 Ciaran Woods  
 3 Jake Clarke  
 4 James Armitage  
 5 Alex Wheeler  
 6 Duncan McCombe  
 7 Alex Gilbert  
 Stroke Eddie Moore  
 Cox Amy Atkinson



*The First May VIII*

Bow	Duncan McCombe
2	Aled Jones
3	William Hall
4	Toby Parnell
5	Neil Houlsey
6	Matthew O'Connor
7	William Gray
Stroke	Michael Shephard
Cox	Hayley Fisher

*The Second May VIII*

Bow	Daniel Paine
2	Ciaran Woods
3	Chris Robinson
4	Edward Crossley
5	Nick Milton
6	Jake Clarke
7	Alex Gilbert
Stroke	Eddie Moore
Cox	Amy Atkinson

**Men's Coaches**

Roger Silk, Gerald Weldon, Christoph Rummel, Karen Wiemer, Nick Geddes, John Davey, Andy Jones, Henry Addison, Tony Pryor, Patrick Marti, John Durack, Jamie MacLeod, Sandy Black, Hannah Stratford, Chris Atkin, Richard Curling and Ciaran Woods. Many thanks go to everyone who coached, especially to Raf Wyatt.

**Women's Coaches**

A big thank you to Ben Symonds, Henry Addison, Hannah Stratford and Gerald Weldon, Alison Gledhill, Cath Mangan, Anna-Marie Phelps, Karen Wiemer, Roger Silk, Steve Fuller, Amir Nathoo, Izzie Kaufeler, Tim Angliss, Elizabeth Davidson and Rhiannon Pugh. Thanks to all those who coached, and in particular, to Raf Wyatt.

**The Lady Margaret Boat Club – Men**

**Henley 2007**

The LMBC sent the full First May VIII to Henley Royal Regatta once again in 2007. The crew made the most of the time between the May Ball and the qualifying race to ensure qualification for the Temple Challenge Cup. The crew was drawn against a selected crew, our sister college, Trinity College Dublin. The result was a loss by just half a length. The success of this Henley campaign was made possible by my predecessor, Jan Trnka, and the generous support of the LMBCA.

**Michaelmas Term 2007**

**Seniors**

Michaelmas saw half of last year's May VIII return, with healthy retention from the lower boats. The focus for the first half of term was the University IVs races.

LMBC fielded a Coxless IV and two Coxed IVs. The Light IVs competition was thin this year, with our crew gaining a bye to the final, where they were narrowly beaten by First and Third. The second Coxed IV lost to Trinity Hall in their first round.

The first Coxed IV began the week with low expectations after a poor result at Autumn Head. However, the improvements made were clear – we beat Emmanuel by fourteen seconds in our first race, and Christ's by three seconds in the semi-finals. We then succumbed to a fast First and Third crew in the final.

The squad responded to the University IVs results with increased determination, fielding two Vllls for Fairbairns. The Development VIII enjoyed rowing throughout the term and was the thirty-eighth fastest college crew in Fairbairns. The First Fairbairns VIII came a promising third in Winter Head and, with the crew settled, made significant progress to be the second fastest college crew in Fairbairns, only beaten (again) by First and Third.

### Novices

The promising results of the senior squad were reinforced with exceptional results from the novices. The club fielded six novice men's crews throughout the term. They first competed at Queens' Ergs, where the First Boat and the Second Boat managed second place, both behind the respective Jesus crews, and the Third Boat won the Lower Boats Division, beating many second boat crews. The First Boat went on to win their division of Winter Head, with the Second Boat in fourth place. At Clare Sprints, four men's crews entered the Plate competition. The Grad boat and the Third Boat both made their semi-finals, where equipment failure caused both narrowly to miss out on the finals. In the Cup competition both the First Boat and the Second Boat were eventually beaten by Jesus – the Second Boat in the quarter-finals and the First Boat in the finals.

The novices showed their full potential at Fairbairns. We were the only college to enter a Fifth and Sixth Boat, which, along with the Fourth Boat, performed well (44th, 51st and 55th). The First, Second and Third Boats all managed to be the fastest crews in their divisions, though due to an unfortunate incident with marshallings instructions and the need for a re-row, the First Boat was denied the official victory. A truly excellent set of results, thanks for which must go to Lower Boats Captain Richard Curling for his tireless dedication to making the LMBC men's novice boats the best on the Cam.

### Lent Term 2008

The Lent Term started with training camps at both Dorney Lake, Eton, and on the Cam. Two Vllls spent a week training hard on and off the water in Eton. The opportunity to row uninterrupted on a world-class lake enabled

improvements in fitness and technique, and we are grateful to the LMBCA for their continued support of these camps, without which many athletes would struggle to attend.

The First Boat raced both on and off-Cam, winning Newnham Short Course, and were the fastest Oxbridge College at Bedford Head. Results from the Robinson Head showed significant progress, with the First Boat coming second overall, just three seconds behind First and Third, narrowing the gap from Fairbairns.

All this racing proved excellent preparation for Lent Bumps, where the crew started fourth on the river. On the first day, despite a nervous start, the crew pulled away from Downing and crept up on Caius. The bump was converted just beyond the Railings when Caius was just a canvas off Jesus in front. The second day saw a cleaner row, gradually gaining on Jesus until the bump was made out of Ditton Corner. We went into the third day lying second on the river, behind a First and Third crew who had yet to be pushed. A determined row saw us close inside station in the first part of the course, and remain on station on the Long Reach, but we lacked the speed to challenge closely for the Headship. Two solid row-overs finished the week, leaving us perfectly placed to make the challenge next year.

With Lents completed, the crew resumed training for the Head of the River Race on the Tideway in London. The crew finished a credible one hundred and thirty-sixth, a sign that a top 100 placing is certainly what we should be aiming for in future. Many thanks go to old oar Tom Edwards-Moss and Mr and Mrs Hall for providing accommodation.

The Second Boat was a relatively inexperienced crew but made excellent progress, winning their division of Pembroke Regatta. Starting at the Head of the Second Division in Bumps, they had a comfortable (though interesting due to a boat-stopping crab) row-over on the first day, leaving them to row as sandwich boat for a place in the First Division on the second day. They made their bump on Robinson at First Post Corner, gaining the First Division spot. On Thursday they chased Magdalene, closing to a canvas around Grassy Corner, but unfortunately didn't manage to convert the bump. Robinson were resurgent and came close to making the bump back, but the crew put in committed pushes to retain their First Division place. On Friday it was First and Third II rowing as sandwich boat; they managed to make the bump on our crew just before First Post Corner, leaving the crew back at the top of the Second Division. Two comfortable row-overs on Saturday maintained this position overall, and showed the potential of the crew. Special thanks go to Patrick Marti, who came out of retirement to ensure the crew could race all six times.



LMBC Men

The Third Boat finished down one at Bumps after bad luck resulted in them falling twice in the first two days. A gutsy row-over on the third day, pushing away Clare II when they had overlap, left them making their first bump on Saturday. The Fourth Boat was unlucky to finish down three, and the Fifth Boat narrowly missed out in the Getting On Race.

Many thanks to John Durack for umpiring and thus relieving us of some marshalling duties, and to all our supporters and bank parties who provided valuable assistance throughout the week.

### **Easter Term 2008**

Preparations for the May Bumps started with a pre-term training camp in York for those in contention for the First Boat. The crew was able to make substantial progress, rowing continually for distances unheard of on the Cam. Many thanks to Jamie MacLeod for his hospitality and the LMBCA for their continued support.

We returned to Cambridge and crews were soon finalised, with the Club fielding six Vllls for the May Bumps. The First Boat improved throughout the term. A shaky start, coming fifth at Head of the Cam, was followed with a trip to the Poplar Regatta, where the crew came second in S3 and fourth in S2. Stronger performances at the Champs Head and Nines Regatta left the crew in third and second place respectively.

The crew approached the Mays with growing confidence, starting third behind First and Third and Caius. On the first night, a nervy row saw First and Third take the headship in front of us, ending Caius' eight-year reign, leaving us a relaxed row-over. The second night saw us chasing Caius. A much improved row saw us gain consistently through the corners, emerging onto the reach with overlap – the bump was conceded just after the railings, leaving Lady Margaret second on the river once again. We chased First and Third once more on the third night – a good first half of the race saw us close to around a length but from Grassy corner First and Third pulled away. On the final night, a much better row once again saw us close down to a length, maintaining this until we emerged onto the Long Reach but, despite immense support from the bank, we were unable to get any closer.

The Second Boat settled quickly and made improvements. They showed their form by winning their divisions at both City Sprints and Champs Head, beating many crews close to them in Bumps.

## They showed their form by winning their divisions at both City Sprints and Champs Head, beating many crews close to them in Bumps.

They approached the Mays with justified confidence, bumping a weak Wolfson crew very quickly on the first night. The second night saw the crew chasing King's I – a more challenging proposition, with the bump executed out of Ditton Corner. On the third night they followed the First Boat's example, bumping Caius II out of Grassy Corner. Saturday's target was Selwyn I – reeled in around the corners resulting in a bump outside the Plough. This won the crew their blades and secured their position at the Head of the Second Division, leaving them with an opportunity to bump up into the First Division as sandwich boat. Unfortunately a very slow Robinson crew two places ahead left them chasing for the over-bump on Christ's I and resulted in a row-over. Enormous congratulations must go to the crew, containing seven oarsmen who noviced this year.

The Third Boat saw many oarsmen come out of retirement. They enjoyed success at the Radegund Mile, though were denied their prizes due to the organisers not believing that they weren't a First Boat; and won their divisions at City Sprints and Champs Head. They missed out on the top spot at Nines Regatta to CCAT II (who outperformed their First Boat throughout the term).

High expectations were placed on the crew going into the May Bumps. Unfortunately, as is often the case, they didn't have luck on their side throughout

the week. On the first evening, a poor row saw Jesus III bump out in front of them. Trinity Hall II was dispatched before First Post Corner on the second evening, leaving the crew once again chasing Jesus III on Friday. They proved their ability by once again bumping at First Post Corner, leaving them in a prime position to watch the ensuing carnage as the three chasing crews struggled to take the corner. On the final day, the Third Boat also suffered from having a very slow Robinson crew placed two in front of them, leading to a relaxed row-over. The three lower boats trained throughout the term but lacked consistency, despite Richard Curling's hard work. The Fourth Boat was unfortunate to be delayed by carnage in front of them on the first night of Bumps, resulting in them being bumped by the Plough. They were bumped twice more in the following two nights, though Clare Hall I had to wait until after the railway bridge to make their bump. They had a comfortable row-over on the final evening. The Fifth Boat had a good start to the May Bumps, taking advantage of Jesus V's poor start to make a quick bump. Unfortunately they then suffered at the hands of a strong St Edmund's II, who managed a double over-bump. The crew finished the week down six. The Sixth Boat was an enthusiastic Rugby Boat, who began the week at the bottom of the Fifth Division. They were bumped by Emmanuel IV on the first night, leaving them at the Head of the Sixth Division. They then rowed over four times in the next two days, not quite managing to bump back into the Fifth Division as sandwich boat. A weak row on the final day saw them bumped by King's III, who went on to win their blades.

Firstly many thanks go to Raf Wyatt, who unfortunately leaves us as Boat Club Manager at the end of this year. Her first-rate coaching of all crews and hard work in maintaining and improving the boathouse have been greatly appreciated, and the excellent results of the senior crews this year are testament to this. She will be a hard act to follow and we wish her all the best for the future.

I must also take this opportunity to thank Catherine Twilley for nine years' service to the Club as Senior Treasurer. Catherine is moving on to a new job at the end of this year. Her tireless efforts in managing the Club's finances have enabled the LMBC to provide the opportunity to all members of College to learn to row. Thank you and best wishes for the future.

Finally I would like to thank the Junior Committee and, in particular, my Vice-Captain, Toby Parnell, for their support throughout the year. It has been a privilege to be Captain of the LMBC. With both men's Headships ripe for the taking next year, I wish my successor, Neil Houlsby, the very best of luck.

*Vive Laeta Margareta*

**Hayley Fisher**  
**Captain**



**The Lady Margaret Boat Club – Women****Michaelmas Term 2007****Novices**

With the arrival of a large intake of Freshers, three novice crews were set up. The novice crews had a great start to term, as the First Boat finished eighth in Queens' Ergs. The First Boat and the Second Boat entered Winter Head. After an exciting race, with some interesting steering, the First Boat came second out of the college novice boats, beaten only by the Second Boat. In Clare Novice Sprints, the First Boat beat Magdalene I but then lost narrowly to Pembroke I in the second round. The Second Boat beat Robinson II but then lost to a strong Lucy Cavendish boat, which went on to win the Plate competition. The Third Boat beat Fitzwilliam II, Jesus II and Selwyn II to reach the final, where they lost narrowly to Lucy Cavendish II. The crews had some good results in Fairbairns; the First Boat coming fourth, the Second Boat coming thirty-second and the Third Boat coming twenty-fifth. A good set of results, for which particular thanks must go to Lower Boats Captain Rhiannon Pugh and Raf Wyatt.

**Seniors**

Michaelmas Term saw the women's squad split in two, with the senior women fielding a IV and an VIII. The VIII split into two IVs, one to race in the University IVs and the other to train. The crew performed strongly, beating CCAT I easily in the first round before narrowly losing out to Clare in the quarter-finals.

The IVs then merged back into one VIII, with extra technical skill from spending time in smaller boats. Training continued and the first race entered as an VIII was the Winter Head. The crew performed well to finish ninth out of the college crews in their division. After an eventful race in Fairbairns they again came ninth out of the college crews – a solid result. The IV concentrated on improving technique throughout the term, and only raced Fairbairns, in which they came fifteenth out of college boats.



LMBC Women

**Lent Term 2008**

Lent started with a training camp on Eton Dorney lake. Two Vllls spent a successful week training hard on and off the water, despite the weather conditions forcing us off the water more than once. Our thanks go to the LMBCA for their continued support of this camp.

Back in Cambridge, a high retention rate allowed us to field three women's crews. The relatively inexperienced First Boat showed steady improvements. The first race of term was Winter Head to Head, where the crew came tenth after a slightly shaky first race together. Some off-Cam racing at Bedford taught the crew a few valuable lessons and in Newnham Short Course the progression was evident with the crew coming fourth.

A rather uneventful start to Bumps saw three days of quite uncontested row-overs, due to a lot of changes further up the division. On the final day, despite steady gains on Clare in front, the crew finally succumbed to Pembroke I just after Ditton, finishing in eighth position.

The rather inexperienced Second Boat had an excellent start to term, coming second in Head to Head and finishing third in Newnham Short Course. They continued this success into Bumps, catching CCAT I on Grassy Corner on the first day. On the second day they caught New Hall I in the gut, the exact same spot where they then caught Robinson 1 the next day. On Saturday they chased a strong Peterhouse I, who finally gave in on the Long Reach to give the crew some hard-earned blades.

The Third Boat had a good start to the term, coming thirteenth in the Second Division of Newnham Short Course. After some solid training they encountered some bad luck in the Getting On Race and narrowly missed out on a place. Many thanks to Raf Wyatt for all her hard work throughout the week and to all those on the bank.

Unfortunately, the women were unable to race in the Women's Head of the River, which this year fell on the Saturday of Bumps. The Henley boat races were raced shortly after the end of term. On Easter Sunday Louise Connell stroked the Blue Boat, which lost by a very narrow margin to the Oxford blue boat, and Joycelyn Williams competed for the lightweight crew, which beat their Oxford counterparts in an exciting race. Congratulations to both.

### **Easter Term 2008**

Unfortunately this year the women were unable to travel off-Cam to a training camp. Despite some losses due to injury, the First Boat steadily improved. The shaky start was evident, coming sixth in Spring Head to Head and eighth in Head of the Cam. A much more solid race in the Champs Head saw them come eighth again among much stronger competition.

In Bumps the true potential of the crew became evident, bumping Trinity Hall just after Grassy Corner on the Wednesday, First and Third Trinity at Ditton Corner on the Thursday and Newnham on Grassy again on Saturday. A very successful Bumps campaign, leaving us sixth on the river.



The Second Boat had some late crew rearrangements before settling onto their final crew, which improved steadily. They had a solid start to the term, finishing third in Spring Head to Head and fifth in Head of the Cam. The crew had a successful Bumps; after being bumped by Robinson I on Wednesday, they bumped New Hall I on Friday to finish level. The Third Boat had a rather shaky start to term, suffering slightly due to the rearrangements in the Second Boat. This combined with a few technical problems left the crew down three in Bumps.

### **Kathryn McLoughlin** **Women's Captain**



### **Netball**

This year has been quite a successful one for the St John's Netball teams. We welcomed several new players, all very keen to get involved. The season did not start so well for our First Team, with a few losses, but we managed to pull it back again towards the end of the season and finished a respectable sixth, keeping our place as a First Division team. The Ladies Second Team performed well, finishing fourth in the Third Division. However, it was our Mixed Team that really shone this year, captained by Stacey Kalita. The team put in an outstanding performance to finish fourth in the Cuppers Tournament, taking the eventual winners, Downing, to extra time, and also finished fourth in the top mixed League. I would like to thank Lindsay McMorran, Second Team Captain, and Stacey, for all their hard work. I wish Lindsay luck next year captaining the First Ladies Team and also Pippa Dobson, who will be captaining the Mixed Team.

### **Caroline Hartley** **Captain**



### **Pool**

This season was the first time in recent history that St John's has had a Pool Team in the exclusive First Division. Unaware of the challenges before them, the season opened with a tricky away fixture at Fitzwilliam. John's responded with panache, delivering a 7-2 thrashing of a strong team to really stamp their authority on this League. This was to prove a sign of things to come in a season where John's delivered another three 7-2 victories, most notably a comprehensive dispatching of rivals Trinity, a team including the University Captain (who was extremely lucky to beat Martin McBrien), and two other University players, one of whom had the misfortune of twice being matched up against a Gopalan Radhakrishnan firing on all cylinders. This result meant a victory away at King's would put John's top of the League. This proved to be the case as, in the crucial game, Robert English, who came to the table with his opponent already on

the black, delivered the finest individual performance of the season to ensure a 5-4 victory.

At the time of writing, John's are still top of the League with one game remaining. Plaudits go to Jon Nelson, with the best singles record and Sam Gibbons and Dunstan Barnes, the best doubles pairing, only losing one frame all season.

Steve Legg Tier performed admirably when called upon to play in the First Team, and also captained a successful Second Team charge for promotion to the Second Division. He was ably assisted by his team, comprising Dan Andrews, James Martin, Rob Bell, Abu Shoaib, Ed Howarth and Ed Allen.

I wish next year's First Team Captain, Jon Nelson, every success for the 2008-09 season.

### **Sam Gibbons Captain**



### **Men's Rugby**

The beginning of the season marked a realisation that this was a very different team. Michaelmas Term was therefore a testing ground for the new team, taking us a full three games before we scored our first try. However, despite a shaky start, we entered Lent Term having played four and won four and were starting to find our feet.



Men's Rugby

The long promised Jesus rivalry, that had sunk of late, returned in full force this year with the Michaelmas game being a close 6-0. The away Lent match was the League decider, with a loss meaning Jesus would gain the League on points difference. The result was a draw, with Hugo Cartwright reversing his trend when it comes to penalties. He intercepted a Jesus drop-goal attempt with his face, thus sealing the League: P8 W7 D1.

The Cuppers campaign started with a 20-0 victory over a Christ's team that included six Cambridge Mercenaries. The *TCS* headline of 'Christ's take moral victory' was, in hindsight, not what Homerton would have requested before the quarter-final encounter. This game was possibly one of John's most comprehensive victories, with scores ranging from pushover scrums to

‘champagne’ backs plays. The game finished 47-3 with only Jesus blocking the way to the final. In the semi-final, Jesus took an early lead with a somewhat fortunate try, but this was to be their last, leaving the scoreboard 27-10.

The Cuppers final against St Catharine’s was to mirror the Jesus game, with the opposition gaining an early lead before John’s dominance asserted itself. Four tries from Scot MacLennan are worthy of mention. The result was 36-5 and, with it, the ‘Quadruple-Double’ was sealed.

### **Will Mayne** **Captain**



### **Women’s Rugby**

Buoyed by last year’s success in winning the League we were eager to start training and preserve John’s well-earned reputation for Women’s Rugby. The task of whipping the team into shape fell upon new coaches Will Hall, Gus Maclay and Scott MacLennon.

We got off to a fabulous start but injuries took their toll and, after some disappointing matches, we lost the League. With the unfamiliar taste of defeat in our mouths, we set our sights on a greater goal: the Cup. Returning to training with vigour, things started to look up when new recruit Amy Atkinson scored a try within her first ever thirty seconds of match play.

Throughout the year Amanda Scott, Carol Evans and Rhiannon Pugh distinguished themselves playing for University teams as well as for John’s. Resident ‘oldie’ Hannah Lane never missed training, and Angharad Thomas made up for her lack of height by vocal effort and persistent energy. Becca Conroy, Lindsay McMorran and Jo O’Brien kept the forwards strong throughout and Clare Briscoe was a Captain’s dream – playing in whatever position was needed.

It was not an easy ride to the Cuppers final, meeting and beating joint League winners Queens’ and Jesus, and a hospital visit for Vice-Captain, Jo. Determination and big tackles took us all the way to Grange Road, where we faced Girton in the final. Supporters were rewarded with a nail-biting match, which we clinched in the final minute to become Cuppers champions. The Red Girls are back – and clutching a cup this time!

Thanks to Keith for his patience at our ever-changing match times, the huge support from the sidelines at our matches and most of all to Gus, Scott and Will for their unfailing energy and enthusiasm. Carol Evans takes over next year as Captain, with Rhiannon as her Vice-Captain. I wish them all the best.

### **Charlotte Wheeler-Booth** **Captain**





## Swimming

Men's Team: Dave Allman, Ian Harris, Gareth Keeves, Clarence So.

The College Swimming Team once again put on an admirable show at this year's Swimming Cuppers. Brought together at short notice, and with little opportunity to train due to a lack of pool availability, the team was a somewhat unknown quantity on the day of the heats. Nevertheless a strong and competitive team spirit and some committed swims earned us a top eight finish and a place in the finals in all but two events. This was an excellent result in itself as only two members of the team get regular training through the University, and only one is eligible for the relays due to Blues status.

In the finals, the team once again did itself proud, coming sixth in the women's competition and fifth in the overall and men's competitions. Despite swimming as last-minute additions to the team, Amiya Bhatia and Amy Atkinson earned valuable points in the Freestyle and Backstroke respectively, whilst Carole Evans showed the value of cross-disciplinary fitness as she joined Gareth Keeves in the finals of both the Butterfly and Individual Medley events. The men's Relay Teams also managed to maintain and improve their heats' rankings in the finals, against a strong field. A special mention must go to Ian Harris, who swam the Backstroke despite injury, to Sam O'Hara and Clarence So, who came second overall in their Breaststroke events, and to the women's Medley Relay Team, who came second only to a New Hall team that boasted two Blues.

I would like to thank the team for their enthusiasm and wish both them and the new Captain, Gareth Keeves, the best of luck for next year.

## Izzie Kaufeler Captain



## Ultimate

Ultimate is a relatively new and little-known sport that enjoys remarkable popularity in Cambridge. It is a seven-player team sport, where the aim is to throw a flying disc (like a frisbee) between your team, before catching it in the opponent's end zone to score a point. For the first time in some years, St John's has managed to field a team for the Inter-College League, almost entirely from new players.



This is a remarkable achievement, given the small number of Colleges that have their own team (most collaborate with other colleges). Of course, with this in mind, we didn't expect much success in the competition, and nor did we have much, with only one win. Nevertheless, the team has been steadily improving, and can look forward to the opportunity to use their experience next year.

**Alex Davies**  
**Captain**



**Water Polo**

St John's College Water Polo Club (SJCWPC) started this year having been relegated to the Second Division of the League and hence all involved were looking for a strong start to the season. This start came, with two wins over Selwyn (5-1) and Emmanuel (5-0) in November. The strong defence instilled last season continued to improve, feeding the consistent shooting skills of the forwards (Charles and Goldsmith) and leading to a well-deserved win over a good Girton team (4-3). Dreams of an unbeaten season were unfortunately dismissed by a loss to the Leys (2-5), the scoreline not portraying accurately the closely-fought game.

In Cuppers, St John's fought bravely in a hard group to beat Trinity Hall (5-0), and just lost out to Addenbrooke's (Division I leaders, 1-3) for a quarter-finals place.

With two League games to play, against an underperforming University Ladies and Queens', SJCWPC is looking to complete an altogether satisfactory season by bouncing back into the First Division for next year.

**Barnabas Sleep**  
**Captain**





# SPORTS & SOCIETIES

SPORTS & SOCIETIES



ST JOHN'S COLLEGE  
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE



**Every year a committed and sometimes frustrated group of students attempts to find ways for us to come together, solve problems and improve College life. This year's JCR Committee was no different.**

After only a few days in office, the new JCRC sprang into action, mobilising undergraduates in a high profile campaign against proposed changes to the room ballot system, which would disadvantage all students without a First.

### **The JCR**

A flurry of emails, hundreds of petition signatures and countless debates soon followed. Despite the clear disagreement between College authorities and students, the JCRC were able to combine vibrant protest with constructive engagement on academic affairs. Exam study skills talks were organised by Academic Affairs Officer, Ben Brodie. Meanwhile, the College has begun to show appreciation for student involvement in education policy and the College's new education research staff and the JCRC are liaising to produce a brand new supervision feedback system.

By far the most fashionable member of the JCRC, Eesa Mohammed, combined his stunning DJing and sense of style to revolutionise St John's Entertainment. Over the past year, he has introduced psytrance, minimal and dubstep, and brought the Boiler Room back from a two year hiatus. Meanwhile, Open Mic Nights have seen the great talents of Johnnians. St John's re-emerged as a premier entertainment College with ¡Cuba Libre!, the June Entertainment, which saw Caribbean food, live jazz, salsa, steel pans, comedy, magic, bungee runs and a bucking bronco alongside four top DJs. All of these events were well publicised by Josef Schmalfluss, whose colourful posters and 'guerrilla marketing' really caught the eye.

With around forty events over eight consecutive days, new Johnnians were treated to the best Freshers' Week ever. Throughout the club nights, learning support, Back2Skool nostalgia, theatre trips, yoga, films, meeting and greeting, Freshers were supported by a dedicated team of Staircase Reps for the first time. Such attention to student welfare was down to the hard work of Amiya Bhatia. As Welfare Officer, she managed College families, hosted popular film nights, salsa



The JCR Committee, 2008-09

classes, exam drop-ins, raised awareness on key issues and single-handedly ensured that half the College didn't go crazy in exam term, by providing free tea every day. Luckily, she'll be CUSU Welfare Officer next year, so the whole University will benefit from her brilliance.

Michaelmas Term saw the return of JCR campaigning, as controversial new rules banned students bringing a bottle of wine into Hall and the College only serving two glasses per person. The JCRC led a boycott of Hall in opposition and after negotiation it was agreed that each diner would receive half a bottle of wine.

Computing Officer Malte Schwarzkopf's new Rooms Database has given Johnians the opportunity to view, comment on and select their rooms online. Thanks to him, the days of room shopping and queuing outside the Accommodation Office are over. On the financial side, Clare Briscoe has been an excellent Treasurer and her diplomacy led to the lowest room rents increase in over a decade.

Hard work by Services Officer, Merrow Golden, and Richard Curling, the first ever Facilities Officer, has ensured that students have a host of new and improved services including sports equipment and bikes to rent. The JCR Common Room was improved with bean bags, new Apple Mac computers, and the incredibly popular quiz machine. Lizzie Richardson has led the way in transforming our College into a greener, more ethical community. As Ethical Affairs Officer, her initiatives have led to regular free range and Fairtrade food in the buttry,

enhanced recycling facilities and the removal of plastic cups from the gym. Lizzie and Nat Moss (Yearbook editor) ensured the proceeds from collections, themed formal halls and the common room quiz machine were donated to St Michael's School, Uganda.

Luke Lorimer has done tremendous work in showing prospective students around the College. As Access Officer, he organised Johnian involvement in the CUSU Shadowing Scheme and the University of Cambridge Ambassadors Project, which aims to improve access to Cambridge for students from state schools. His work contributed towards an 11% increase in the number of state school students accepted since the previous admissions cycle. Equal Opportunities Officer, Helen Ennos, has helped ensure that St John's remains a welcoming place for all students by liaising with the Women's Society, hosting awareness events and introducing a new officer to her subcommittee to assist students with disabilities.

The JCRC has had a very successful year, showing incredible determination and commitment. It's been a privilege to lead such an inspiring team. Central to success were the efforts of Vice-President, Chelsea Wright, and Secretary, Fran O'Brien. Together they devoted time and energy to ensure that all of our events were a success and supported me through the most challenging parts of the year. Such was Fran's commitment that she will be President next year, and there is no one better qualified to lead the students of St John's College.



**Tom Chigbo**  
**President**

**The SBR Committee 2008-9 proudly looks back on a year where many projects became reality – from sorting out thorny accommodation issues to getting a Wii!**

This would not have been possible without a committed and hard-working team: starting in May 2008 with myself, Eva-Maria Hempe (President), Mateja Peter (Secretary), Carl Scheffler (Junior Treasurer), Danny Weston (Welfare, JCR Liaison), Claire Waters (Dining) and Hugo Vincent (Publicity & Computing, GU Liaison) as the elected Committee, in the course of the year the SBRC grew to up to 13 members.

### **The SBR**

The initial Committee was soon joined by Andrea Kuesters and Nabil Wilf, respectively the Sports and Families representatives. Albertyna Paciorek took over the Graduate Talk seminar series, providing graduate students with a forum to present their work to the College community, John Weisweiler championed the interests of international students and Hunter Williams joined us as temporary Social Secretary – the huge success in transforming the Master's Garden to a Havana hangout at the times of Hemingway must be largely credited to him. Another highlight of the summer, and the baptism of fire for the Committee, was the Borderer's Boules Tournament and barbecue.

Our Freshers' Fortnight was ambitious, with events every day. The Freshers soon did not feel that fresh any more, perfectly blending in with the returning students. During Freshers' Fortnight, the SBRC also introduced the online signup to SBR events. Besides the influx of an enthusiastic bunch of Freshers, the beginning of the new academic year saw the arrival of our SBR Wii and, thanks to Kam Mohaddes, our own pool table. This was rounded off by new magazine subscriptions and boardgames as well as the donation of a large VHS collection and the introduction of the movie night fund.

Following the by-election in November, Cristina Pierro (Women's Officer), Shakir Mohamed (Computing and Publicity) and Nitu Duggal (Welfare) joined the Committee and were immediately thrown into the preparations for the annual SBR Christmas Party in Hall, a festive night with live ceilidh music and enthusiastic dancing!

Achievements in the Lent Term included the start of Family Dining, to enable graduates to bring their children to a special BA table held in the Wordsworth Room, and the Grad Survey, to canvas the views of the SBR members on a variety of issues. Results of this include the introduction of an online booking system for Hall tickets.

Achievements in the Lent Term included the start of Family Dining, to enable graduates to bring their children to a special BA table held in the Wordsworth Room.

Culinary highlights of the year include very successful Tastings – tea thanks to Johnian, Will Cartwright-Higgnett, of First Class Teas and chocolate thanks to Linh Tran. Beyond good food and drink, we tried to stimulate body and mind by organising free rental of sports racquets, an acroyoga workshop, and talks about topics ranging from medicine to WiFi in Afghanistan, to name just a few.

As our year drew to an end we tackled our final projects. Firstly, working with the Tutor for Graduate Affairs, we managed to revise and clarify the accommodation policy, introducing a ballot to make room distribution within students of the same year more transparent and guaranteeing accommodation to students in the fourth year of their PhD. The second project was a revision of the SBR Constitution, to ensure a smoother post-election transition and more time for the new committee to settle in. The last project was the introduction of Supervisors' Hall, a possibility for research students to bond with their supervisors outside the normal working environment, and for Fellows to gain an insight into the research of graduate students. A fourth project, which we initiated but will hand over to our successors, is the refurbishment of the Samuel Butler Room; to make a more active and vibrant graduate community than ever.

We want to thank everybody for their support this year; it was a pleasure representing and serving the graduate community of St John's.



**Eva-Maria Hempe**  
**SBR President**

## COLLEGE SOCIETIES

### The Women's Society

Only two years from its foundation, the St John's College Women's Society (SJC WS) prides itself as being one of the most active societies in the College.

This year the SJC WS has witnessed a series of talks, aimed at a wide audience within the College and the University. This year, our highly popular 'All about Junior Research Fellowships' attracted over 100 students and obtained very positive feedback.

The 'Women and Careers' lecture series saw prestigious speakers such as Dr Nancy Lane, a pioneer of supporting women in science and engineering through the foundation of WiSETI; Natalie Szarek, our current CUSU Women's Officer, and Wendy Foden, a prominent conservation biologist who delivered an inspiring talk on climate change. Furthermore, we had the privilege to host Mrs Gwenne Henricks, Vice-President of Caterpillar. To hear how this businesswoman climbed to the top of a male-dominated industry and manages more than 4000 employees, was fascinating and helped to bridge the gap between academia and industry.

We have also given particular attention to relaxation, leisure and social interaction amongst students. Hence, we provided Hatha yoga classes on Mondays and Thursdays and in addition, we organized movie nights and theatre outings to provide students with a diverse social base.

The SJC WS prides itself with the establishment of the first 'parents group' in College, with the aim to enhance social interactions amongst Johnian students with families; the Society makes most events child-friendly.

On the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, the SJC WS supported a dinner in Hall, in partnership with the JCR, and organized a special fundraising event for Camfed, who support female education in Africa.

I feel privileged to have worked with amazing people that made the SJC WS what it is today; Anneka Dew (JCR liaison), Amparo Flores (Fellows liaison), Sharmeen Irfan (Secretary), Carla Lancelotti (Treasurer and Webmaster), Amy Milam (Family Officer), Ruth Mokgokong (Social Secretary), Cristina Pierro (Vice-President), Janet Lees (Senior Treasurer) and Alistair Field.



**Simona Giunta**  
President

### **The Johnian Society**

Last year I reported that we were putting in place new events and I am pleased to say that the House of Lords reception last year was a wonderful success. More than two hundred members and guests gathered in the Cholmondeley Room and on the Terrace. Lord Crisp and the Master welcomed everyone. We are holding a reception again this year and we hope it will prove to be as enjoyable an evening.

Later in the year Mr Mervyn King, Governor of the Bank of England and former President of the Johnian Society, kindly arranged for a small group of members to tour the Bank of England and meet him for drinks afterwards. Despite an incredibly busy schedule, Mervyn was able to spend time chatting to members and we are grateful to him for providing this wonderful opportunity.

In March this year we encouraged local members to come to Evensong in the College Chapel and stay for a reception with the Master afterwards. This too was a successful and enjoyable event, with many people commenting that although they knew they were welcome at Chapel Services, they had not been back for some time.



Members of the Johnian Society

Mr John Loosley does a wonderful job on behalf of the Society in organising the annual Golf Competition and the Committee owes him a debt of gratitude.

This year, in response to requests from members, we have decided to offer two dinners in College. The first of these was the traditional Annual Dinner and was held as part of the Society Day on Saturday 12 September. The dinner is a wonderful opportunity to get together with old friends and to make new ones.

The second dinner will take place on Saturday 19 December and will be a Christmas Dinner for members only. We hope that this will appeal to those members who enjoy a gathering in College just before Christmas.

The AGM and Dinner took place in the Hall on Saturday 12 September 2008 with Lord Nigel Crisp, the President, in the Chair. We were delighted that three Johnian generations of the Crisp family were there that evening. Sir Jack Beatson was elected President for one year from January 2009 and Sir David King, who gave a stimulating lecture on climate change at the Society Day last year, has accepted the Committee's invitation to become Vice-President for 2009.

Mr Stelios Elia, Mr John Wyn Owen and Dr Kamal Ahuja have all joined the Committee this year as Ordinary Members and we were sad to have to say goodbye to Lord David Rowe-Beddoe, Mr Geraint Lewis and Mr Adam Balon.

The members of the Committee for 2009 are therefore as follows: Sir Jack Beatson (President), Sir David King (Vice-President), Mr Colin Greenhalgh (Chairman), Sir Alastair Norris (Vice-Chairman), Ms Catherine Twilley (Honorary Secretary), Lord Nigel Crisp (Immediate Past-President), The Master (Ex Officio), Professor Nick McCave (College Representative), Mr Geraint Lewis (Co-opted), Mr Mark Chichester-Clark, Mr Michael Mavor, Dr Jo Griffiths, Mrs Heather Hancock, Professor Peter Hennessy, Mr Graham Spooner, Dr Jeevan Deol, Ms Fiona McAnena, Mr Stelios Elia, Mr John Wyn Owen, Dr Kamal Ahuja, Mr Francis Baron (Co-opted), Miss Rachel Harker (Co-opted).

The Society continues to support the College financially through gifts for the Access Bursary Scheme (£3,000 again this year) and by adding to the income available from the Johnian Society Travel Exhibition Fund to enable a larger number of students to benefit. This year we have again made available six Travel Exhibitions, each of £600. In addition, a generous donation from Mr Neil Thomason, a member of the Society, enabled us to award an additional exhibition of £1,000 this year. We will also be able to award an exhibition of £1,000 in each of the next four years thanks to his generosity. Details of the awards made are available on our webpages.



The Committee has been considering how best to engage both a greater proportion of members in the Society's activities, and to increase the number of members. There are already more than 7,000 members of the Society and we hope that many more Johnnians will see the benefit of being part of the Johnnian Society. To this end, we are currently offering non-members who left the College before the opt-out system was implemented in 1993, to join the Society for no fee. If you would like to join, please email the Secretary at [Johnnian-Society@joh.cam.ac.uk](mailto:Johnnian-Society@joh.cam.ac.uk).

We hope that you will continue to support our initiatives. Please check the website for updates, [www.joh.cam.ac.uk/johnnian/johnnian\\_society/](http://www.joh.cam.ac.uk/johnnian/johnnian_society/) and let us know if you have ideas as to how the Society might offer more to its members.



**Catherine Twilley**  
**Honorary Secretary**

### **May Ball Committee**

Founded in 1888, the St John's College May Ball marks the end of the academic year for students and Fellows alike. For one night each year – a Tuesday since 1895 – the entire College is transformed into a two thousand guest, twelve hour spectacle. This event is organised by a committee of undergraduate and graduate students under the supervision of two Fellows.

The 2008 May Ball saw guests take a Journey across Europe on the Orient Express, beginning in First Court's London before moving on through Paris – complete with an 8 metre Eiffel Tower – Vienna, Venice and Istanbul. The food, drink and scenery reflected the city and country of each stop on the journey. The College was charmed by the spectacular vocals of Lesley Garret and was treated to the more modern sound of Dizzie Rascal taking over the main stage in New Court. Throughout the night, the Ball managed magnificently to combine the very best of the traditional with cutting edge, supplying an event suited to all tastes.

This year the Committee invited guests to embark on an evening inspired by Voyages of Discovery, retracing the journeys of some of the world's greatest explorers – Captain Cook, Neil Armstrong, Vasco da Gama, Christopher Columbus, Ernest Shackleton, David Livingstone, and Charles Darwin.

Guests this year were treated to everything they have come to expect from a St John's College May Ball: a stunning display of fireworks, some of the best performers that Cambridge can offer, delicious foods, and, of course, a lot of champagne. There was a fairground to entertain the more active of guests, and, to cool off there was Shackleton's South Pole with an ice bar. As they grew tired



Preparations for the May Ball

through the night, they had the chance to rejuvenate with a rest in a Native American tipi, a lie-down on a Pacific Island hammock, or by lounging around in a Bombay boudoir replete with acoustic performances.

In an effort to make the May Ball a more welcoming environment to alumni, the Committee of the 2009 May Ball were pleased to introduce the 1888 Club. Named in honour of the nineteenth century foundations of the Ball, this new 'upgrade' option allowed alumni, Fellows and distinguished guests to enjoy a private lounge throughout the night of the Ball. This 1888 Suite, located in the Parsons and

Wordsworth Rooms, provided these guests exclusive food, drink and entertainment available only to them, and a comfortable and relaxing environment in which to reunite with old friends, meet others, and take a rest from the sometimes overwhelming sights and sounds of the May Ball.

The 2008 Committee included: Finbarr Cosgrove (President), Ian Ralby (Junior Treasurer), Alex Wilshaw (Vice-President), Thomas Fleming (Vice-President), James Colgate (Security), Anya Perry (Drinks), Peter Hughes (Food), Rebecca Dawn Jones (Scene), Slavica Delevic (Creative), Dominic Kraemer & Derica Shields (Entertainment), Justin Houlton (Logistics), Anna Stanley (Employment), Angharad Thomas and Kasie Hunt (Sponsorship), Tim Gordon (Technology), Loren Lam (Graphics), Dr Simon Humphrey (Chairman of the Ball) and Dr Frank Salmon (Senior Treasurer).

The 2009 Committee was comprised of: Ian Ralby (President), Alex Wilshaw (Junior Treasurer), Catherine Kitsis (Vice-President), James Colgate (Vice-President), Aaron Ralby (Security), Sarah Turner (Drinks), Pavel Spirine (Food), Natalie Moss (Scene), Miriam Sharp-Pierson (Creative), Alice Tyler & Ella Belsham

(Entertainment), Andrew Dowsett (Logistics), Rebecca Conroy (Employment), Thomas Muir (Sponsorship), Jon Harrap (Technology), Dr Simon Humphrey (Chairman of the Ball) and Dr Frank Salmon (Senior Treasurer).



## **Ian Ralby President**

### **The Choir of St John's College**

September 2008 saw the launch of the Choir's own website, which had been developed over the summer months by Gareth John, the Choir and Chapel Project Assistant. The new website, which is dedicated to Choir activities, can be found at [www.sjcchoir.co.uk](http://www.sjcchoir.co.uk).

The Choir reassembled on Tuesday 23 September in the magnificent surroundings of the Guildhall in London to sing at the launch of the St John's College Campaign. Over 150 guests joined Fellows and senior members of College staff to hear the Master speak about the future financial needs of the College. The Choir sang music by Byrd, Viadana, Parsons and Wood, and later in the evening the Gents sang a selection from their repertoire. The Choristers were very fortunate to receive some tips on the finer points of rugby from Johnian and former England rugby player Rob Andrew.

The following weekend the Choir travelled to Wales to sing a Concert and Service at Llandaff Cathedral in Cardiff. The Concert was attended by over 400 people, including a large contingent from the Johnian Society of Wales. Music for the evening included *Guerrero O sacrum convivium* and Vaughan Williams' *Lord thou hast been our refuge*, the latter accompanied by Huw Morgan, a talented young trumpeter from Llandaff. The audience was also treated to Telemann's *Trumpet Concerto in D major*, played magnificently by Huw and accompanied by Timothy Ravalde. The following morning the Choir sang Victoria's *Missa O quam gloriosum* at the Eucharist. The Dean of Llandaff, the Very Reverend John Lewis, himself a Johnian, was delighted to welcome back Sam Furness, a former Chorister at the Cathedral. The Choir is particularly grateful to Lord Rowe Beddoe, the Dean of Llandaff, Lindsay Watkins, John Wyn Owen and Geraint Lewis – all members of the Johnian Society of Wales – for organising such a splendid weekend, and to the Furness family for so generously entertaining the Gents at their home after the Concert.

The new academic year saw some new faces in the Choir – John Challenger (Junior Organ Student), Leo Tomita, Dominic Collingwood (altos), Henry Neill, Basil McDonald (basses), Peter Hicks and Justin Stollery (Choristers). We also

welcomed Ethan Bamber, Frances Bushell, Samuel Hill, Matthew Holman, Andrew Jones and Michael Tuft to the School as Probationers.

The Matriculation Service took place on Tuesday 7 October. The service was well attended by Matriculands and the music for the service included *Te Deum in C* by Britten and a rousing rendition of *I was glad* by Parry.

On Tuesday 14 October, the Choir launched the weekly webcasting of services from the College Chapel. St John's College Choir is the first in Europe to offer such a service – the only other men and boys choir to do this is St Thomas Fifth Avenue, New York, where Johnian John Scott is the Organist and Director of Music. A new service is added to the website at noon every Tuesday, 52 weeks a year. The services remain available for several weeks via the Choir's website – [www.sjcchoir.co.uk/webcast](http://www.sjcchoir.co.uk/webcast); many appreciative messages have been received from all corners of the world, including places as far afield as Honolulu!

## A generous donation for music from Johnian Philip Oakes enabled the Choir to commission a new work for the service from composer John McCabe.

The second major innovation of the year was the introduction of termly Bach Cantatas sung during Evensong with members of the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment. All the solos, except the soprano arias, are sung by members of the Choir. During the first service, held on Saturday 22 November, the Choir performed *Cantata No 40 – Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme* and Vivaldi *Magnificat*, for which the Choir was joined by Ruth Jenkins and Raphaela Papadakis (sopranos). Two further Cantatas were performed on Saturday 31 January (Pergolesi *Magnificat* and Bach *Cantata No 125 – Mit fried und freud ich fahr dahin*), which included a particularly notable alto aria by Tom Verney. On Ascension Day, Thursday 21 May *Cantata No 11 – Lobet Gott in seinen Reichen*, also known as the *Ascension Oratorio*, was performed, for which we were joined by Emelia Hughes (soprano). All services have been very well attended. The first Cantata of the new academic year will take place on Saturday 24 October 2009.

The Advent Carol Services were both sung to a full Chapel, with the Sunday Service broadcast live on BBC Radio 3. A generous donation for music from Johnian Philip Oakes enabled the Choir to commission a new work for the

service from composer John McCabe: *The last and greatest herald*, which set the words of the seventeenth century poet, William Drummond of Hawthornden, and provided a contrast to other repertoire for the service. It was also the first radio broadcast of Simon Beattie's *Advent Calendar*. Other items included Stainer's *How beautiful upon the mountains* and *As dew in Aprylle* by Warlock.

On Friday 5 December, the Choir travelled to Gresham's School, Holt, for a concert in the School Chapel. A very appreciative audience braved the cold weather to hear the Choir sing a programme which included *O magnum mysterium* by Victoria and *A spotless rose* by Howells sung by Dominic Kraemer, along with organ solos played by Tim Ravalde and John Challenger.

The Christmas tour to Central Europe saw the Choir sing a Concert at the Slovenian Philharmonic Hall in Ljubljana on Sunday 14 December to a very enthusiastic audience of 400 people. Two highlights of the evening were Gareth John singing Vaughan Williams' *Fantasia on Christmas Carols* with bell accompaniment from Francis Williams, and some notable treble solos in Britten's *Ceremony of Carols* with harp accompaniment from leading Slovenian harpist Sofia Ristic.

The Choir returned to College to sing a Concert of Christmas Music in the Chapel on Thursday 18 December. *The Guardian* had listed the Concert at number 31 in their list of '100 Brilliant things to do at Christmas', which generated an enormous amount of interest, with over 600 people in the audience. At the end of the Concert, Andrew was delighted to announce to the audience that Gareth John, Sam Furness and the cellist for the evening, Sophie Gledhill (Clare College), had all recently been awarded Postgraduate Scholarships by the Royal Academy of Music. Two other former members of the Choir, Tom Faulkner and John Lattimore, will also be studying at the Royal Academy of Music from September 2009. These achievements are a great tribute to the remarkable vocal tuition which David Lowe provides to all our singers.

The Choir received an invitation from the producer of ITV's *Dancing on Ice* to record a carol to accompany Jane Torvill and Christopher Dean during their exhibition dance on the Christmas edition of the programme. The composer, Mark Williams, (appointed as Director of Music at Jesus College from September 2009) arranged the music for the Choir, which was made available as a free download from the Choir's website. The Choir travelled to Elstree Studios to film the programme on Sunday 21 December, which was shown on Christmas Day and watched by over 6 million viewers.



The Choir on Ascension Day

The first activity of 2009 was a recording session in January. The Choir recorded the first part of a CD of music by Herbert Howells, the second part was recorded during the Choir Period of Residence in July. Recorded by John Rutter, the repertoire includes the *Gloucester and St John's Evening Services* and *A Sequence for St Michael*, which Howells composed for the 450th Anniversary of the foundation of the College. The CD is due for release in spring 2010.

Over 600 people filled the Chapel for the candlelit Epiphany Carol Service held on Saturday 17 January. Music for the service included *Bethlehem Down* by Warlock, *The Blessed Son of God* by Vaughan Williams and *Jesu Sweet Son Dear* by Robin Orr. Owing to the growing popularity of this Service, a second service to be held on the following Sunday evening will be introduced in 2010.

On Sunday 1 February, the Choir joined forces with the Choir of Gonville & Caius College to sing Eucharist. Andrew Nethsingha conducted Langlais' *Messe Solennelle*, and Geoffrey Webber conducted Holst's *Nunc Dimittis* as an introit. The service was webcast the following Tuesday.

Two weeks later on Sunday 15 February, BBC Radio 4 broadcast Morning Worship live from the Chapel. To commemorate the bicentenary of his birth, the service focused on the life and achievements of Charles Darwin and reflected on the challenges posed by his theory of evolution by natural selection. The Choir began the service with Barry Rose's *Morning glory, starlit sky* and ended with Vaughan Williams' *Let all the world* (from *Five Mystical Songs*). Also included was Harris' setting of the *Benedicite*. The address was given by Fellow and University Professor of Evolutionary Palaeobiology, Simon Conway Morris, author of *Life's Solution: Inevitable humans in a Lonely Universe*.

## The highlight of the Choir's year was the two week tour to the United States of America during the Easter vacation.

The BBC returned to the College on Wednesday 25 February for the broadcast of the Ash Wednesday service on Radio 3. Music included the *Alleghi Miserere mei, Deus* (Psalm 51) and Byrd's *Tribulationes civitatum*. The annual Service of a Meditation on the Passion of Christ took place on Sunday 8 March.

The highlight of the Choir's year was the two week tour to the United States of America during the Easter vacation. A wide range of British music was



performed, including *Byrd Mass for four voices* and the exhilarating *Magnificat* by Giles Swayne. The tour started on the East Coast, with concerts in Westport, New Haven and Greenwich in Connecticut. We then travelled into New York to sing at the US launch of the College's Campaign in the magnificent Gotham Hall. After two nights in New York, we travelled down to the Institute of Advanced Study in Princeton, where former Master, Peter Goddard, had invited us to sing a Concert. The following evening, we moved on to Richmond in Virginia at the invitation of Eugene Trani, a Fellow Commoner at St John's in 1998, to sing at the Virginia Commonwealth University. During the Concert, the Choir was joined on stage by members of the VCU Commonwealth Singers for an energetic collaboration in Handel's *Zadok the Priest*, conducted by their Director, John Guthmiller.

From Richmond the Choir flew down to Houston in Texas. We sang a concert in Houston, before moving on to sing in Austin and Waco – all three Texan audiences were at capacity and very, very enthusiastic! We flew home with many happy memories of the warm welcome we had received throughout the tour.

The Choir returned to College on Saturday 18 April to sing a Concert in Chapel as part of the Cambridge Cantat 800 week-long Celebration of Cambridge Choirs. The theme for our Concert was 'Cambridge Composers Past and Present' and included items by Christopher Tye, Orlando Gibbons and Robin Holloway. The Choir was joined on stage by Helen Scarborough on the Cor Anglais, who accompanied *O Lord, thou hast searched me out*, which had been composed for the Choir by John Rutter for the Ash Wednesday Service in 2007. The following evening the Choir sang Finzi's *Lo, the full final sacrifice* during a Festal Evensong as the concluding event in the series.

Kingston Upon Thames Parish Church was the venue for a Concert on Saturday 25 April as part of the Thames Concert Society Spring Series. Music for the evening included Cavalli *Salve Regina*, Bruckner *Christus factus est* and Purcell *My beloved spake* with excellent solos by Tom Verney and Gareth John – both of whom sang at the Church as Choristers before coming to University.

The Commemoration of Benefactors service on Sunday 3 May this year was particularly notable in that it marked the 500th Anniversary of the death of Lady Margaret Beaufort, the foundress of the College. To mark the occasion, the Choir sang *Jesu Rex Admirabilis*, which had been composed specially for the occasion by composer Gabriel Jackson.

In May the College celebrated the seventieth birthday of Jonathan Harvey, Honorary Fellow. The Ossian Ensemble performed his chamber music in the



Master's Lodge and Robert Houssart (former Organ Student) performed his organ works, including a remarkable *Toccata for organ and pre-recorded tape*. At Evensong the Choir sang his stunning and virtuoso *Magnificat* and *Nunc Dimittis*.

Members of Clare College Choir joined the Choir for Evensong on Thursday 7 May, when the setting for the Service was *Dyson in D* and the anthem was Parry's *Blest pair of Sirens*. On Sunday 10 May, the Bishop of Huntingdon, The Right Reverend David Thomson, presided at the annual Confirmation Service.

The newly formed Choir Association of St John's College, Cambridge held its Garden Party in the Master's Lodge Garden on Saturday 30 May. 50 members of the Association, along with the Choir and many family members, enjoyed afternoon tea in glorious sunshine and were entertained to a selection of songs from The Gentlemen of St John's. Having gone through a short rehearsal with Andrew during the afternoon, around 30 members joined with the Choir to sing Evensong to create a magnificent sonority.

Following last year's Joint Service (which was held at Trinity College), the Choirs joined together on Thursday 4 June to sing Evensong in St John's Chapel. The setting for the Service was *Stanford in A* and the anthem was Elgar's *The Spirit of the Lord*.

The Choir received an invitation from the Vice Chancellor to perform with King's College Choir at the Honorary Degree Congregation held at the Senate House on Friday 12 June. Amongst the recipients this year were Bill and Melinda Gates, the Aga Khan, Baroness Shirley Williams and the Master of the Queen's Music, Sir Peter Maxwell Davies. One of the works sung during the Congregation was *One star, at last* by Maxwell Davies.

This year's May Concert was held in the Chapel on Monday 15 June. A packed audience heard the Choir perform Copland's *In the beginning* with mezzo-soprano Emma Selway and, as a joint item with the St John's Singers, Handel's *Zadok the Priest*. The St John's Singers, conducted by Timothy Ravalde, performed Brahms' *Geistliches Lied*, and the College Orchestra, conducted by Bradley Smith, performed Beethoven's *Coriolan Overture*. The Gentlemen of St John's contributed with a selection from their summer repertoire. Other highlights were Handel's *Sonata in A Minor* played by Debbie Hannaway (recorder), Matthew Ward (cello), and John Challenger (harpsichord); Debussy's *Hommage à Rameau* (from Images Set 1) played by Aeron Preston (piano) and the first movement of Brahms' *Clarinet Sonata No 2* played by Laura Biron and Dominic Scott (piano).

The Graduation Service took place in Chapel on Thursday 25 June. The Chapel was filled with graduands and their families prior to their departure for the Senate

House. The Choir sang Howells *Te Deum (Collegium Regale)* and Fauré *Cantique de Jean Racine*.

Haydn's *Nelson Mass* was the setting for the Orchestral Mass which took place on Sunday 28 June. The orchestra for the occasion was led by Imogen Smith, mother of Chorister, George Smith. Lizzie Weisberg and Oliver Hunt were amongst the excellent soloists. A large number of Johnnians, who had attended the Johnian Dinner the previous evening, were present for the Service.

King's College Choir joined the Choir for a Joint Evensong in Chapel on Thursday 2 July. Again with a Cambridge composers theme, the Choirs sang the Short Service by Robin Orr (in this year which marks the centenary of his birth) as well as works by Judith Weir and Jonathan Harvey.

As part of the Cambridge Cantat 800 Celebrations, several College Choirs combined to sing a concert on Wednesday 22 July as part of the BBC Proms series. This formed the Choir's fourth BBC broadcast of the year. The Choirs were joined by the BBC Symphony Orchestra, former Chorister and Choral Student Simon Keenlyside (baritone) and Thomas Trotter (organ). St John's and King's College Choirs combined to sing Jonathan Harvey's *Come Holy Ghost* and Judith Weir's *Ascending into Heaven* conducted by Andrew Nethsingha and Stephen Cleobury respectively, and the Gents joined with the other Choirs and Orchestra to sing Vaughan Williams' *Five Mystical Songs* conducted by Sir Andrew Davis. The Concert had been hugely oversubscribed, with requests for tickets in the pre-booking period outselling both the Opening and Last Nights of the Proms.

Following on from the success of the Choir's Concert at the 2008 Cambridge Summer Music Festival, the Choir was invited to sing at the 2009 Festival. Music for the evening included Poulenc's *Salve Regina*, Tallis's *Missa Salve Intemerata* and Copland's *In the beginning*, with mezzo-soprano soloist Frances Bourne.

It was an emotional night for the Choir, as it was the final event in the calendar this year and the last time the current Choir would sing together. We were very sad to say goodbye to Oliver Hunt, Tom Verney, Sam Furness, Gareth John and Dominic Kraemer who all leave this summer to pursue their careers elsewhere. And to Choristers Harry Cheate, Teddy Day and George Smith, who move on to senior school this autumn. Our best wishes to them all.

Information on the Choir's planned activities for the 2009-10 academic year can be found on the Choir's website: [www.sjcchoir.co.uk](http://www.sjcchoir.co.uk).



**Caroline Marks**  
Choir Administrator

**Music Society**

The Music Society had a large intake of new members at the beginning of Michaelmas Term and has gone on to enjoy a successful and busy year. We have continued to promote regular musical events in College including our series in the New Music Room and the organ recitals in Chapel. The standard of performance has been consistently high, and particular mention must be made of a set of three brilliant piano recitals given on consecutive days by former Committee member Ian Pong at the end of Michaelmas Term, shortly before he left the College to work in Geneva.

At the Michaelmas Term Concert the stage was shared by the newly-reformed College Orchestra, under the baton of Bradley Smith, and the St John's Singers, the College's mixed-voice choir. The Orchestra's re-establishment this year is one of the Society's most significant successes and it is due to the hard work and musicianship of Brad that it continues to thrive.

While in Michaelmas the Singers and Orchestra performed separately, in the Lent Term Concert their forces were combined for a memorable performance of the Mozart Requiem in the presence of a large and appreciative audience. It was an enormous pleasure to see so many members of the Music Society making music together.

It has been a privilege to work with such a supportive and energetic Committee. I would like to thank Professor Johnstone, Dr Glasscock, Dr Castelvecci, Mr Nethsingha and all my colleagues without whom the Music Society could not function.



**Timothy Ravalde**  
**President**

**History Society**

As 2008-9 President of the History Society I am honoured to have taken part in such a successful year. Our tenure got off to a flying start with Easter term's Garden Party, which, in a sign of times to come, was expertly managed by Sian Pooley, Jenny Morgan, Hannah Smith and Emma Macalister-Hall in the absence of the glandular-fever-ridden President. This year's History Society played host to some highly interesting topics. Beginning with Bee Wilson's talk on the adulteration of food, we swiftly moved on to a Gideon Mailer's take on the 2008 American election. By mid-November, however, we returned to more familiar fields with Liz Prochaska's talk on the displacement of the inhabitants of the Chagos Islands followed a week later by Dr Mary Dobson's musings on whether a seventeenth century Johnian discovered a cure for malaria. The next fixture for

the History Society was Dr Helen McCarthy's talk on the relationship between foreign policy and democracy, which was followed by Dr Foster's address on his upcoming book, *Gender, Master and Slavery*. Finally we were delighted to have Professor Hennessy residing over our Annual Dinner, giving us a rather comic discussion of the atomic bomb. We would like to thank them all for such an entertaining year. All that remains is to thank the Committee, without whom this year would not have been anywhere near such a success. May I also wish the best of luck to our successors, Eddie Crust, Andrew Browning, Paul Grethe and Ben Alden-Falconer.



**Jamie Spencer**  
**President**

### **Economics Society**

The St John's College Economics Society has enjoyed a variety of interesting events this year. We started off Michaelmas Term with a welcome evening to meet and greet the Freshers. In Lent Term, we held our Annual Options Evening with useful advice from older years, as well as invaluable input from Dr Geraats.

However, the highlight of this year was undoubtedly the Networking Evening jointly hosted with Trinity College Economics Society. We invited five distinguished alumni from different areas of finance and business to join us for an evening of information exchange and informal networking. We listened to a wealth of experience and advice from John's alumni: Andrew Nutter, Philip Russmeyer and Tammy Holmes, whose experiences range from venture capital to private equity, investment banking and economics consultancy.

## The Annual Black Tie Dinner was an occasion to reflect on the year and to wish everyone the best for exams.

The Annual Black Tie Dinner was an occasion to reflect on the year and to wish everyone the best for exams. More recently, we invited Todd Buchholz, who is currently a Visiting Fellow Commoner at St John's, to speak to us about the 'Current State of the US Political Economy'. As a former Senior Economic Advisor to the White House, Todd has brushed shoulders with many influential people,

and is also the author of several bestselling books. He delivered an energetic and exciting talk on a very topical issue.

We end the year with our Annual Garden Party before handing over to our newly elected Co-Presidents Alex Cakir and James Forbes-King. There has been a much closer bond between the John's Economists this year, we are confident that next year will be just as great.



### **Lisa Chen and Chris Robinson** **Co-Presidents**

#### **Medical Society**

It has been another busy year for the St John's College Medical Society, with a wide range of speakers and events throughout. Our Wednesday evening talks, organised with the kind help of Professor David Lomas, have been very successful and we hope to continue them next year. In total we welcomed six speakers to the Society to talk on a diverse array of subjects related to medicine. Our inaugural speaker in Michaelmas Term was Kourosh Saeb Parsy, famous amongst medical students for writing a textbook as an undergraduate, who gave a talk on transplant medicine. In addition we had Robert Winter, well known to first year anatomists, and Professor Martin Gurnell to talk about respiratory disease and acromegaly respectively. In Lent we welcomed Professor Martin Bennett and Dr Sadaf Farooqi to talk about coronary artery disease and leptin and rounded off the term with a very entertaining talk entitled 'An unusual case of amnesia' by Dr Jeremy Webb. I give a great deal of thanks to all of our speakers.

On the social side we have also had a busy year. In addition to the Part II choices drinks, our yearly dinner was also a great success and once again we thank Professor Lomas for giving the after dinner speech. In the upcoming Michaelmas Term we hope to add to the social aspect, by holding drinks to help third years choose their clinical school. We would like to invite anybody who is still studying at any of the hospitals around the Cambridge area to get in touch with the Society as we would be very pleased to have you in attendance. Finally, I would like to introduce our new website [www.stjohnscollegemedicalsociety.com](http://www.stjohnscollegemedicalsociety.com), please do take a look and pass on any feedback that you may have. Next year the President of the Society will be Leanne Burgess and I wish her all the best.



### **Ben Brodie** **President**

### The Adams Society

The Adams Society's year kicked off in style with our annual Garden Party, held in the Fellows' Garden. Croquet, strawberries, and of course Pimms all contributed to a very enjoyable afternoon. May Week saw an influx of Trinitarians to our pitches, to take on the Society's cricketers. In an upturn of fortunes, we defeated them for the first time this century, with 174 runs to their 109.

We welcomed the new Mathematics Freshers with a successful squash at the start of Michaelmas Term. Our termly speaker meetings began with Professor Tom Körner talking about Mathematics and smallpox. We also learnt about various ways of trisecting angles from Dr Keith Carne. The Term concluded with the ever popular desserts party in the Wordsworth Room.

The final meeting was rounded off with Professor Ben Green talking about the Riemann Hypothesis but unfortunately not proving it!

Lent Term began with a talk by Professor Ray Goldstein, on 'The Evolution of Biological Complexity', including several interesting videos. The second talk was given by Dr Richard Nickl, who gave us 'An Introduction to the Foundation of Frequentist Statistics'. The final meeting was rounded off with Professor Ben Green talking about the Riemann Hypothesis but unfortunately not proving it! The end of term saw the Society's Annual Dinner in the Senior Combination Room, and was an evening enjoyed by all.

I would like to thank all of this year's speakers, as well as the Mathematics Fellows and students of the College for their continued support of the Society. Finally, I would like to take the opportunity to thank this year's Committee, and to wish success to Adam Bennett, the new President, and next year's Committee.



**Vanessa Bingle**  
President



The Larmor Society Dinner

### **The Larmor Society**

2008-9 was a busy year for the Society which began with the annual book sale and Freshers welcome event. These events gave new students the chance to meet Natural Scientists from across years. Later in the year, the society organised the Parts IA and IB desserts evenings. These evenings were a great opportunity for students to discuss their subject options for the following year with other students. Given the breadth of choice of subjects offered within natural sciences, this is a difficult decision to make and advice from senior years is important.

One of the most exciting events organised by the Larmor Society was a talk by Professor Fiona Watt, a leading scientist in stem cell research. The talk gave us an interesting insight into the possibilities and future avenues in this highly topical area. The talk appealed to both biological and physical natural scientists. The final event of the year was the annual dinner which was a grand event that took place in the Senior Common Room. It was during this dinner that the results of next year's Committee were announced with Alice Flint being named the Society's President for next year and I wish her the best of luck.



**Katie Graham**  
**President**

### **The Winfield Society**

The Winfield Society has once again had a very successful year. A particularly exciting event in Michaelmas Term was the Winfield Society Networking Event, organised by the Development Office, held at Lovells in London. Sir Richard Aikens, a Johnian, who had recently been appointed Lord Justice of Appeal, gave a talk on the settlement of international disputes in English courts. Afterwards, current undergraduates had a chance to talk to alumni of the College; many Johnians commented on how much they enjoyed talking to current undergraduates, and sharing memories of their time at St John's.

This year has seen the Society become more active in providing careers advice and networking opportunities for our students. We hosted a workshop with Robert Boyle, from Macfarlanes, on interview technique; Mr Nolan organised a talk about the Commercial Bar with members of Erskine Chambers, including Alex Barden; and Emily McKechnie, from Wilberforce Chambers, came to give an advocacy skills workshop. All of these events were well-attended, and the students found them useful and interesting.

The final event in Michaelmas was the annual Christmas party, generously sponsored by Freshfields.

Mooting featured heavily in Lent Term. David Sheard, an LLM student, provided some intensive mooting coaching for our first years in preparation for the annual Freshers' Moot, the standard of which was very high. The final was held in February, and Sarah Docherty was announced as the overall winner, with Andrew Dinsmore as runner up. We also had a number of students participating in University competitions.

We would like to thank Dr Fox, our Senior Treasurer, and our Committee for all of their support over the year. We have been delighted with the Society's achievements, and wish the Committee for 2009-10 the best of luck for next year.



**Natalie McNamee and Paul Reynolds**  
Co-Presidents



## COLLEGE SPORTS

### The Eagles

The Eagles of St John's College go from strength to strength, continuing to lead from the front in both College and University sport.

The Rugby club achieved an unprecedented 'Quadruple Double' under the leadership of Eagle Mayne. Where he left off, Eagle Hall began, with the Red Boys wrapping up formalities by early February to pick up their ninth successive League trophy. At University level, Eagle Hall, assisted by Eagle Shephard, captained the U20 XV to Varsity victory at Twickenham. Eagle Lum gained University colours for his efforts at LX Club Varsity. Eagle Reid gained his second Blue in an exciting, yet sadly unsuccessful, Varsity Match, while Eagle MacLennan got on the field for his first Blue.

In Hockey, Captain Eagle Mackenney's enthusiasm and flair have played an integral part in the club's progression in both League and Cuppers. He has been ably assisted by Eagles Morrison and Samuelson, and Eagles Hall and MacLennan. At University level, Eagle Robinson started in goal for the Blues in March, whilst Eagle Mackenney played a part in a winning seconds Varsity.

In Football, Eagle Redmond unfortunately did not represent the University this year due to a bruised metatarsal, but was lucky enough to find a spot on the bench for the Third XI. The First XI, with Eagle Tolley at the helm, has sailed smoothly over treacherous waters, with Eagle Hambleton at the bow and Eagle Verney from the stern.

On the water, Eagle Trnka and Eagle Shephard took the LMBC First VIII to second on the river in Mays. Meanwhile, Eagle Sleep has gained his Half Blue in Water Polo.


Eagle Hambleton led the Cricket XI to a successful season, while at University level, Eagle MacLennan followed in Eagle Smith's footsteps to gain a Blue.

In Racquets, Eagle Douglas has tried his hardest to break all University sporting records. The tenacious Geordie took his tally to eight undergraduate Blues with a win in the Squash Varsity, even playing with a broken finger.

Eagles are generally known for their size and powerful build, and nowhere was this more evident than in Eagle Wells' attempts for a Half Blue in Weightlifting. Secretary Eagle Whittington, when not organising varied and extensive social events, has been Secretary of the University Golf Club and is on course for his second Blue. Eagle Tolley has captained the St John's College Darts Squadron to an unbeaten season, whilst on the mat, Eagle Macleod remains an integral part

of the Cambridge Karate team and Eagle Kolodynski has been teaching the University Judo team.

All that is left is to thank our senior members: Dr McConnel, for both entertaining us with his Dark Blue fancy dress and for serving us tirelessly as Senior Treasurer, and both his and Wendy Redgewell's help in organising the dinner; Dr Linehan for continuing to provide a wicket for the post-dinner room cricket; the Master for all his support; and Keith Ellis, for continuing to excel in his role as Groundsman.

It is tremendous honour to be a part of such an institution and I am incalculably proud to lead a club that remains at the forefront of University sport. 

### **Scott MacLennan** **Captain**

#### **Men's Rugby**

The Red Boys settled into the 2008-9 League fixtures with victories against Downing and Trinity. The nerves present at the start of the season began to ease as the Freshers proved that the club had lost none of its strength and depth, showing that a historic five doubles in a row was within grasp.

This year also saw a record number of Red Boys represent Cambridge at all levels. Alexander Torrens led seven Red Boys in the U20As successful retention of their trophy. Eleven Redboys helped the U20 XV. The LX Club saw a great performance from Will Mayne and Richard Lum, before Sandy Reid and Scott MacLennan



The victorious Red Boys

represented Cambridge in the main game at Twickenham. Aaron Sonenfeld managed to pick up a well deserved Rugby League Half Blue.

2009 began in style with the Red Boys winning their ninth consecutive League title. The Lent Term saw the resurrection of the SJCRUFC Second Team who were cruelly denied a place in the League. The mighty seconds destroyed Robinson before the dream of an all John's Cuppers final was put down by St Edmund's.

After a lengthy break, the First Team returned with victories against Queens' and Jesus. A cancelled semi-final against Hughes Hall ensured a well lubricated annual dinner and a final against a St Edmund's side that contained an All Black, an England international and eight other Blues. With a fifth double on the line the Red Boys came out of the blocks at the required tempo with the game ending 23-12 and bringing with it the 'Quintuple Double'.

All the Red Boys are extremely grateful to Groundsman Keith Ellis for his continuing hard work. Thanks to Dr Samworth for his support and to Dr McConnell as Senior Treasurer. I would like to thank the rest of the Committee for their invaluable help. Good luck to next year's Committee and team, hopefully next year will see Freshers attempting to find the word for what six in a row is...



### **William Hall** **Captain**

#### **Women's Rugby**

The great achievement of winning Cuppers last year meant the pressure was on for SJCWRFC for 2008-9. Aided by coaches Aaron Sonenfeld, Alex Cheetham and Sandy Reid, we set about polishing off the cobwebs. Unfortunately, the first game of the season came too soon and John's lost to eventual League winners Murray Edwards (New Hall).

Undeterred, we returned to beat Fitzwilliam and Selwyn before the Christmas break. Credit must go to Amanda Scott for nine tries in three games, which contributed greatly to our excellent points margin. Freshers Natacha Crooks and Viki McEvoy made fantastic debuts, alongside Hockey star Franji Scott, converted footballer Belen Tejada-Romero and boatie Kat McLoughlin. Returning stars Becca Conroy and Lindsay McMorran joined the backs, where a fantastic performance by Becca earned her two tries in her first match on the wing. Veteran Clare Briscoe continued to be a Captain's dream – arriving early for training and playing in whatever position needed.



The Women's Rugby Team

The forwards were led by Vice-Captain Rhi Pugh, who was summoned from University retirement to join the Second Team in the winning Varsity squad. Forward Hannah Wells and scrum half Charlotte Wheeler-Booth also earned starting positions in the University Team. In our final match of the season Charlotte converted 100% to seal the win over a strong Emma side. Team spirit and dedication pushed us to second in the League, marginally missing first position due to the number of tries scored.

This season Cuppers changed to a one-day tournament played in the Easter Term, where John's were hoping, at the time of writing, to defend their title. Meanwhile, thanks goes to Keith Ellis for his tolerance of our ever-fickle fixture list, to our supporters and to our fantastic coaches who have helped to improve the level of Women's Rugby in John's.

Hannah Wells takes over as Captain next year, with Belen Tejada-Romero as Vice-Captain. I wish them the best of luck and hope the growth and success of SJCW RFC continues.



**Carol Evans**  
**Captain**

**Men's Football**

Ours was a season that finished strongly, with the team eventually coming in second in the First Division on 17 points, with 5 wins, 2 draws and 2 tight defeats. We managed an unbeaten run in the League from November through to the end of the season, which showed potential Title-winning form, but we were let down by our unconvincing start to the year; and, if anyone asks, Cuppers never happened.

The team was glad to see a few new faces join this year. The athletic Pete Stovall added strength and commitment to the back line, the dynamic Kit Fitton offered pace and short-range passing ability at right-back, while Jamie Day brought with him an unbelievable work rate. Nick Cross also deserves a mention for his persistence, and somewhat surprising enthusiasm, at officiating matches this year – not only as a referee but also as a linesman.

Unfortunately this has also been the farewell year for a number of players. Martin MacQuarrie and Wayne Redmond will be vacating the positions they have held so well on opposite wings, while Paul and Mike will be leaving an irreplaceable Edwards-shaped hole at centre-back. Nick Pantelides will also be leaving after some remarkable years of College football.

After coming so close to League success this year, and with the core of the team – the indomitable Jack Hambleton up front, Chris Maynard, Jamie Spencer, Yusuf Mohammad and myself in the midfield, and Tom Verney in goal – staying on at College, the omens for next season look promising. Alex Rutt, the new Captain, will inherit a team primed for silverware.


**Chris Tolley**  
**Captain**
**Women's Football**

This year St John's Women's Football achieved something that has never been achieved before; winning the Plate. Having lost several of our seasoned players, we kicked off the year with a relatively inexperienced side, leading to a less than desirable performance in the League and a knock-out in the first round of Cuppers by Jesus, who went on to win. All was not lost, however, and a combination of hard training (including morning runs around Jesus Green) and sheer determination saw the team beat the likes of Downing, Newnham, Magdalene and Caius to go on to win the Plate.





The Women's Football Team

This victory could not have been achieved without the dedication of each of the players involved. Amanda Scott's Vice-Captaining will be remembered by all, for those character-building morning fitness sessions and player-of-the-season runs down the left wing. I'd also like to thank Anna Ettl and Rebecca Colley for all their work as Social Secretaries. Hazel Lindsey's dedication both on and off the pitch was something to be admired as well as Natacha Crooks' stunning performances in goal; the two go on to be Captain and Vice-Captain respectively next year. John's will be very sad to lose Lizzie Richardson, who has been a major part of College and University football over the last three years; Captaining and coaching in her second year and providing a solid defence and general advice throughout. We also say goodbye to Carol Evans, who has played some great matches in defence (when she wasn't too busy captaining the mighty Women's Rugby team).

Thanks to everyone who played this year (including the cameo appearances) and helped make the team so successful. It has been a real honour to play for and captain St John's and I wish the team the best of luck for the next season. 🏴󠁧󠁢󠁥󠁮󠁧󠁿

**Clare Stevenson**  
**Captain**

## **Netball**

Expectations were high and player potential impressive as the 2008-9 Netball season started. In their first game, the Mixed Team were narrowly defeated, which was not unexpected following the key losses of last year's graduates. The Ladies' Team also had a shaky start, but a positive attitude and hard work in practice saw them steadily climbing the League table with well fought wins. Convincing victories for both teams left them sitting comfortably in the top half of their respective First Divisions by the end of the first term.

Unfortunately, both teams were hit by a string of injuries. The remaining members ploughed on doggedly, playing in all nature's elements, and deserve recognition for the way they maintained morale. Although movement on the court remained excellent, the final scores did not reflect the teams' overall performances.

Both teams displayed determination, despite severely depleted squads, at the 2009 Cuppers Tournament. The Mixed Team secured a place in the quarter finals, but Emmanuel defeated them in extra time by one goal. The Ladies' Team fell just short of a quarter-final place, sidelined by an incredible performance by the eventual winners, Trinity, and a one goal deficit against an impressive Trinity Hall. It was a day of spectacular performance and camaraderie.



The mixed Netball Team in action

It was a great season, for both teams, in terms of team spirit. We bonded at our inaugural Rubix-cube themed social, whilst the annual Netball dinner remains, for many, one of the highlights of the social calendar. Sadly, both teams' hard work on court, undermined by injury, may not be reflected in League positioning, but we have every confidence that this performance dip will be rectified next year. We wish Natasha Williams, assisted by Dawn Kelly and Kate Cope, every success as Captain next season!



### **Pippa Dobson** **Captain**

#### **Men's Hockey**

2008-9 saw John's look to a new era of College Hockey, with five Freshers regularly making the side, we began the season with a 4-3 victory against a strong St Catharine's side.

While University Hockey helped the College form of Denver, Dickens and Mackenney, it unfortunately stole the Blues talent of Yelland and Robinson from our set up. This did not stop John's from dispatching Jesus 4-1, which saw us challenging for the Michaelmas League First Division. Unbeaten until a final match defeat against a respectable Cambridge City outfit, it proved to be a highly successful first half of the season. This success stemmed from the interchangeable obstacles of Armitage and Hall in goal, with Brooks, Dickens, Paluch, Olliver and Lock offering extra protection around the D.

The midfield workhorses of Turner, Birks, Mackenney and MacQuarrie gave further flair and stability to the side, while Morrison even found time in his hectic management schedule to grab us a couple of vital goals with his trusty drag flick. Up front Vice-Captain Samuelson and Denver worked tirelessly, collecting the majority of our goals.

Unfortunately, the season was not so much one of two halves, as the format of the League dictates, but a far more stop-start affair than all would have liked and saw our Cuppers hopes dashed in the semi-final. The weather during the Lent Term conspired against us; heavy snowfall postponed three matches and meant a disjointed end to the season. Nevertheless, a strong display against the Cambridge City side, who denied us the Michaelmas League title, was a fitting end to an enjoyable season. I wish incoming Captain, James Armitage, every success in his tenure next season.



### **Peter Mackenney** **Captain**



**Men's Cricket**

For the Cricket Team this year it was a season of fresh faces and great enjoyment but ultimately disappointment in the Cuppers competition.

A humbling batting collapse in the opening match of the season against the Suffolk Gents meant we started with a loss, in a performance that was to define the rest of our season. An excellent bowling performance followed in the inaugural match against sister-college Balliol, particularly from Chris Tolley and James Linney, but once again the batting was poor. We went into the first Cuppers match with Emmanuel with little form behind us and that showed when we were 9-3, chasing 126. Fortunately Hunt came to the rescue with 33 and it was left to the skipper to hit the winning runs in what was a sweet victory. The joy did not last long, however, as we were knocked out of the competition by Trinity Hall two days later.

Fortunately Hunt came to the rescue with 33 and it was left to the skipper to hit the winning runs in what was a sweet victory.

Despite the poor results there were some excellent individual performances throughout the season. James Linney was excellent with both bat and ball, while Simon Lock's bowling and Tom Sutton's spin picked up plenty of wickets. Unfortunately, with former Captain, Jack Hambleton, not finding his form of last year, the batting struggled, but in Charlie Dewhurst, Akash Pancholi, Jenan Wijayasri, Oli Hunt and Tim Allen there is much hope for the future. We were grateful, as always, to the experience the graduates (Muhammed Irfan, Chris Rice, Nic Ross and Ed McNeilly) brought to the team.

My thanks go to Keith Ellis for his outstanding efforts in organising matches and preparing the pitch for these games. It has been a very enjoyable summer leading this enthusiastic group of players and I look forward to playing with them again next year.



**Jonathan Ariyaratnam**  
**Cricket Captain**

## Mixed Lacrosse

As Lacrosse is a little known sport, played by few and understood by fewer at St John's, the loss of many of our most experienced players in summer 2008 presented the club with new challenges. Rebuilding the team began in earnest at the Freshers' Fair where, jostling for attention between more prestigious clubs and societies offering free cake, we fought to attract new members. Chief among the recruiters was Toby Al-Mugheiry, whose scintillating chat resulted in a horde of keen Freshers assembling for our training sessions.

Instructing this motley crew was greatly helped by Polly Mitchell and Rosanna Dawes, who guided new members in training. Over the course of a few weeks our novices, who initially struggled to pass, catch and maintain possession, were transformed into proficient players, who relished the heat of battle.

Such spirit was shown in an epic contest against Magdalene. In the midst of driving snow, St John's put in a heroic defensive performance to hold a bigger, faster and more skilful side to a goalless draw. In fact, the 0-0 became something of a specialty this season as Adam Whyte, Osagie Omokhodion and Will Johnston distinguished themselves at the back. Helen Morgan-Rees, Susannah Keene, Gina Blake, Sarah Wedmore and Livvy Richards provided metronomic passing going forward. Creativity in attack came from Fresher Lauren York, who also represented the University Team.

Unfortunately, our uncompromising checks and our cheerleaders could not take us past the quarter-finals of Cuppers, where we lost an absorbing encounter against Jesus. While silverware proved elusive, the Committee successfully maintained club ethos of inclusivity, fun and brutal tackling. Luke Lorimer and Sejal Mahida organised social events, Jon Shephard secured funding for new equipment. I wish Toby Al-Mugheiry, the new Captain, all the best.



## Tom Chigbo Captain

## Ultimate

Ultimate is a relatively new and little-known sport that enjoys remarkable popularity in Cambridge. It is a seven player team sport, where the aim is to throw a flying disc (like a frisbee) between your team, before catching it in the opponent's end zone to score a point.

For a second consecutive year St John's has fielded a team in the inter-College League, aided by a large and remarkably keen bunch of Freshers, most of whom

were new to the sport. This was very encouraging, especially as many colleges have to collaborate together to put a team out, and has allowed us to build on what was a fairly unforgiving introduction to the sport last year.

Rapid improvement throughout Michaelmas and Lent Terms, with development of a new defensive strategy, as well as plenty of substitutes, and a Great Britain player now places us top of the Second Division; a massive improvement after finishing bottom of it last year!

We've enjoyed some really comprehensive victories, giving us a very pretty points difference, some amazing diving catches and general team spirit. Playing in the Easter Term is particularly enjoyable, as better weather, especially less wind, makes playing a lot easier and a lot more fun.



### **Nick Jenkins** **Captain**

#### **Ladies' Badminton**

The Ladies' Badminton Team have had a brilliant year. After being relegated in the League last year, the First Team were able to turn things around, and following a successful string of wins in Michaelmas Term were promoted to the First Division. The Second Team have maintained their position in the Third Division, coming very close to being promoted at the end of Lent Term.

At the end of the year, our Cuppers Team: Mengying Dong, Julia Hine, Emma Macalister Hall, Sarah James, Su Liu and myself comfortably beat Newnham and Homerton, giving us a place in the semi-finals. Very unfortunately, we came close, but didn't quite manage to defeat Trinity for a place in the finals. Nevertheless, considering that we were unable to put out a full team for this tournament last year, this is a remarkable improvement!

Finally, these results are fantastic given that many team members were completely new to the game and played matches against old hands. I would like to say a huge thank you to the Co-Captain of the First Team, Emma Macalister Hall and the Co-Captains of the Second Team, Nicola Hughes and Kathryn Maude, who've all helped make this year as successful as it has been.



### **Lisa Chen** **Co-Captain**

## Men's Badminton

This year John's First Team saw a return of veterans Nick Jenkins, Chris Thomas, Varadom Charoensawen and Amar Shah; they were joined by Freshers Hamish Peebles, Adi Gurtu and University player Lisa Chen.

The First Team began in the Second Division in Michaelmas Term. It soon became clear that they were far too good to be there. John's First Team became a name to be feared, emphatically beating all opposition, often by scores of 8-1 or more. We won a total of 40 games out of 54 to finish top of the Second Division and were promoted to the First Division at the beginning of Lent Term. The First Team continued to perform solidly in Lent Term despite coming up against some very tough opposition and finished fourth overall.

John's first team became a name to be feared, emphatically beating all opposition, often by scores of 8-1 or more.

The Second Team consisted of Luke Lorimer (Captain), Matt Turner, Defeng Wu, Kan Lu, Fumi Mori, Dahir Alihassan and Patrick English. After a League restructure, they found themselves in a strong Third Division in Michaelmas Term, which would be a big challenge to stay in given the almost complete turnover of players from last year's squad. In Michaelmas we managed to consolidate our Third Division status and in Lent Term our play improved, as we managed to finish mid-table.

The Third Team was also placed in a tough Division in Michaelmas Term with four other college First Teams. Third years Dave Nissenbaum, Pip Coen and second years Amar Marthi and Dan Lu (Captain) were joined by Patrick English, Samir Javeri, Derrick Sim, Martin Swinton, Paras Bakrania and Seb Hollington. Unfortunately, results did not go our way and the team was relegated. However, they showed great dedication and determination to finish mid table at the end of Lent Term.

This has been a promising season both in terms of the results and the signs of new talents coming through. I have every confidence that next year's Captain, Nick Jenkins, with his great motivational and organisational skills, will be able to take the club to new heights.




**Di Liang**  
**Captain**

Pool

The successes of last season were always going to be a hard feat to follow, especially with the majority of the First Team moving on to pastures new. The situation was further compounded by the retirement of Gopalan Radhakrishnan, who has faithfully served St John’s Pool for many years. However, the new look team of Jon Nelson, Dunstan Barnes, Steve Legg Tier, Dan Andrews, Abu Shoaib and Alex Senninger were able to give John’s a great start by defeating Homerton, a team with two University players and high ambitions. A run of near-misses followed, including a close game against defending champions Robinson, until a fine team performance saw a 5-4 dispatching of rivals Trinity, one of the pre-season favourites. Wins soon followed again with a controversial exchange against Peterhouse and a comprehensive beating of Magdalene, to see that John’s are rooted in mid-table of the top flight as the season closed.

The Second Team, of Rob Bell (Captain), regular players Ed Howarth, Ed Allen, Tom Sutton, Arash Moavenian, and squad members Adam Wawrzynski, Jack Yelland and Arnold Lee, had a more difficult season in the Second Division. However, it was instrumental in unearthing some promising young talent, most notably Tom, whose fine form saw a call-up to the First Team, where he won his singles game.

Next year promises more stability in the side, and I wish the new Captain every success in another assault on the First Division title in the 2009-10 season. 

Jon Nelson  
Captain

Lady Margaret Boat Club

Women’s Crews

*The First Michaelmas IV*

Bow	Kat McLoughlin
2	Rhiannon Pugh
3	Francesca Yates
Str	Lara Maister
Cox	David Barraclough

*The Second Michaelmas IV*

Bow	Bryony Shelton
2	Fran O’Brien
3	Megan Leitch
Str	Amy Bray
Cox	George Davies

*The First Fairbairns VIII*

Bow	Bryony Shelton
2	Amy Bray
3	Alex Reichl
4	Fran O'Brien
5	Francesca Yates
6	Rhiannon Pugh
7	Kat McLoughlin
Str	Lara Maister
Cox	David Barracrough

*The First Lent VIII*

Bow	Amy Bray
2	Ellie Fielding
3	Hermione Mackay
4	Francesca Yates
5	Kat McLoughlin
6	Ursula Moore
7	Rhiannon Pugh
Str	Bryony Shelton
Cox	Calum Bambro

*The Second Lent VIII*

Bow	Rachel Elliot
2	Sarina Kidd
3	Alice Meredith
4	Kat De Rome
5	Alex Reichl
6	Fran O'Brien
7	Sarah Docherty
Str	Pippa Howell
Cox	David Barracrough

**Men's Crews***The Henley VIII*

Bow	Duncan McCombe
2	Toby Parnell
3	William Hall
4	Alex Gilbert
5	Hector Gray
6	Mike Shephard
7	Neil Houlsby
Str	Aled Jones
Cox	Hayley Fisher

*Light IV*

Bow Neil Houlbsby\*  
 2 Aled Jones  
 3 Edward Crossley  
 Str Hector Gray  
 \* steerer

*First Coxed IV*

Bow Ciaran Woods  
 2 Daniel Paine  
 3 James Armitage  
 Str Edward Moore  
 Cox Kayla Kindon-Bebb

*Second Coxed IV*

Bow Richard Curling  
 2 Sebastian Lapinski  
 3 Jake Clark  
 Str Nick Milton  
 Cox Jen McCann

*Third Coxed IV*

Bow Dave Lewis  
 2 Alastair Williams  
 3 Giles Colclough  
 Str Alastair Smith  
 Cox Susannah Keene

*The First Fairbairns VIII*

Bow Edward Crossley  
 2 Aled Jones  
 3 Jake Clark  
 4 Matthew O'Connor  
 5 Neil Houlbsby  
 6 Leo Scott  
 7 Alex Rose  
 Str Hector Gray  
 Cox Kayla Kingdon-Bebb

*The Second Fairbairns VIII*

Bow David Lewis  
 2 Richard Curling  
 3 Robert Emberson  
 4 Ciaran Woods  
 5 Giles Colclough  
 6 Alastair Smith  
 7 Jan Trnka  
 Str Daniel Paine  
 Cox Jen McCann

*The First Lent VIII*

Bow Jake Clark  
 2 Toby Parnell  
 3 Edward Crossley  
 4 Alastair Smith  
 5 Neil Houlbsby  
 6 Leo Scott  
 7 Alex Rose  
 Str Hector Gray  
 Cox Jen McCann

*The Second Lent VIII*

Bow Dan Knights  
 2 Brian Biggs  
 3 Steve Purvis  
 4 Oliver Withers  
 5 Joe Allen  
 6 James Robinson  
 7 Richard Curling  
 Str Daniel Paine  
 Cox Gina Blake

*The First May VIII*

Bow	Steve Purvis
2	Aled Jones
3	Alex Rose
4	Toby Parnell
5	Leo Scott
6	Hector Gray
7	Neil Houlsby
Str	Matthew O'Connor
Cox	Kayla Kingdon-Bebb

*The Second May VIII*

Bow	James Phillips
2	Richard Curling
3	Oliver Withers
4	Joe Allen
5	Alastair Smith
6	Pierre Guerin
7	James Robinson
Str	Jake Clark
Cox	Jen McCann

*The Third May VIII*

Bow	George Irwin
2	Hamish Gordon
3	Adam Jones
4	Iain Olliver
5	David Lewis
6	Charles Compton
7	Giles Colclough
Str	Brian Biggs
Cox	Georgina Blake

**Women's Coaches**

A big thank you to Roger Silk, Ben Symonds, Henry Addison, Lance Badman, Hannah Stratford, Karen Weimer, Nathalie Walker, Gerald Weldon, Alison Gledhill, Cath Mangan and Belen Tejado-Romero for all their coaching.

**Men's Coaches**

A big thank you to Edward Crossley, Ciaran Woods, Karen Wiemer, Nick Geddes, Lance Badman, Bill Budenberg, Hannah Stratford, Jan Trnka, Gerald Weldon, Henry Addison, Tony Prior, John Durack, Jon Rhodes, Bill Harcourt, Roger Silk, Andy Jones and Sandy Black for all their coaching.

**The Lady Margaret Boat Club – Women  
Michaelmas 2008****Novices**

The novice crews had a great start to the Term, with the First Boat coming fourth in the Queens' Ergs final but in initial heats were the fastest of all Cambridge colleges. In Clare Novice Sprints the First Boat beat Homerton in the first round



but then lost narrowly to the eventual winners, Anglia Ruskin. The Second Boat performed extremely well in the first round, beating City, but narrowly lost in the second round. The Third Boat beat Downing Women's Seconds before losing out to the eventual winners of the Plate, Jesus Second Boat. The First Boat performed fantastically, winning the Women's Novice VIII Division, a tremendous well done to the entire crew, their cox and coaches. The Second Boat had an eventful race, finishing 41st overall. The Third Boat had a fantastic race finishing 33rd beating six first boats. The Fourth Women were the fastest, and only, Women's Fourth on the river finishing in 43rd overall. A great set of results for which thanks must go to all the coaches, Lower Boats Captain Fran O'Brien, her vice Bryony Shelton and Lance Badman.

### **Seniors**

With the arrival of a rather large intake of Freshers, Michaelmas Term saw the squad split in two. We started with two IVs for the University IVs race, in two separate divisions. The First IV beat Churchill easily in the first round, before unfortunately being knocked out by Christ's, who lost to the eventual winners. The Second IV got knocked out in the second round, also by Christ's

The IVs then merged into an VIII after the racing. Training continued and the first race entered as an VIII was Winter Head; the crew performed well to finish fifth out of the college crews in their division. The First IV also entered coming fifth, despite extreme fatigue. The crew had a slight change and got settled into training for Fairbairns. After a disappointing race in which we came eighth in Fairbairns we decided to focus more intently on high pressure training.

### **Lent Term 2009**

The Lents started with a training camp in Seville, a fantastic new experience for LMBC. Two VIIIs of seniors and ex-novices spent a week training hard on and off the water. Our thanks to the LMBCA for their support of this camp.

Back in Cambridge, selection began. A high retention rate allowed us to field three women's crews. Under excellent coaching the First Boat showed steady improvement. The first race of term was Winter Head to Head where the crew came sixth and the Second Boat won their category. The next race was Newnham Short Course where both crews came fourth in their respective divisions. Pembroke Regatta was the final race before Bumps, with the Second Boats showing their potential by winning the Second Division. The First Boat performed well, before eventually being knocked out by Christ's in the second round.

A disappointing result on the first day saw First Boat get bumped by Queens' on the reach and after some confusion and a re-row on the second day the First Boat

eventually got bumped by Christ's outside the Plough. After a well fought row over on the third day we had our final bump on the fourth day, catching Clare in under two minutes.

On the first day the Second Boat were bumped by Peterhouse First Boat on Ditton Corner, and after a row over on the second day were bumped by Magdalene First Boat on the third day, pushing Fitzwilliam First Boat all the way. On the last day they had another row over.

The Third Boat didn't race until the Getting on Race, narrowly missing out on a place in Bumps.

The Henley boat races were raced shortly after the end of term. Eva-Maria Hempe performed extremely well in the two seat of Blondie, who defeated their counterparts Osiris by two lengths. Congratulations to her.

### **May Term 2009**

Unfortunately due to unavailability the women were unable to travel off Cam for a training camp. The term started well with First Boat victory in Head of the Cam. The First Boat and the Second Boat both travelled off-Cam to take part in Poplar Regatta. The First Boat lost by one foot to Thames RC in the INT2 division, and after some questionable steering on the part of their rivals came third in the INT3 final having won their heat. The Second Boat performed extremely well, beating Murray Edwards First Boat easily in the Novice division to win their pots. Champs Head was disappointing for Women's Firsts who came fifth.

### **Francesca Yates Women's Captain**

### **The Lady Margaret Boat Club – Men Henley 2008**

A slightly weakened First May VIII was sent to the Henley Qualifiers where the crew missed qualification by a couple of seconds. We are very thankful for the continued support from the LMBCA who make the Henley effort possible. We were very sorry to see our Boatman and Head Coach Raf Wyatt leave. Thanks are also due to last year's Captain Hayley Fisher who led the club through a very successful season.

**Michaelmas Term 2008****Novices**

A large contingent of novices proved their strength at Queens' Ergs. The First Boat came second to Anglia Ruskin, the Second Boat won their category and the Third Boat came second in theirs. The Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Boats were the fastest Fourths, Fiftths and Sixths Boats respectively. The Sixth Boat notably beat several First Boats, including King's.

More success followed with the First Boat winning Clare Sprints, in a field of 32. In Fairbairns, the novices continued their extremely successful Term; the First Boat won the First Division, the Second Boat came second in their Vllls and having the fastest Third, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Boats.

**Seniors**

We started Michaelmas Term by welcoming aboard a new Boatman, Lance Badman. With lots of enthusiastic oarsmen including several First May colours we were able to enter one Light IV and three coxed IVs into University IVs.

The Third IV punched well above their weight winning two rounds against Second Boats, but eventually losing in the semi-final to our Second IV, who had previously beaten First and Third. The Second IV succumbed in the final to a strong Emmanuel IV. The First coxed IV, who bore the brunt of the injuries, lost in their first round to a strong Trinity Hall crew. The Light IV won their category over a relatively large field this year, the highlight was beating Downing in the semi-final by twelve seconds in one of the fastest times of recent years.

The senior Vllls had mixed fortunes at Fairbairns; the First Boat never quite came together, coming fourth out of the Cambridge colleges. The Second Boat, however, won their competition by a whopping forty-four seconds.

**Lent Term 2009**

This year saw a pre-term training camp in Spain. Four Vllls trained on the river Guadalquivir in Seville. Significant technical improvements were made under the watchful eye of Lance Badman. The perfect rowing conditions made this a highly successful winter training camp. We are very grateful to the LMBCA, for without their support many athletes would struggle to attend.

Winter Head to Head was the first performance indicator of the term with one of the coxed IVs from the First Boat winning; the First Boat, however, did not perform so well. The Second Boat, consisting mainly of novices, showed potential and narrowly came second. The First Boat made significant improvement with some coaching accompanied off-Cam to the Head of the Trent

by the Second Boat. At the Head of the Trent the crews were slightly weakened due to an outbreak of mumps.

Meanwhile the Third Boat, which proved to be the fastest Third Boat at Winter Head to Head, followed up this success by being the fastest Third Boat in Newnham Short Course and coming second at Pembroke Regatta.

It was very pleasing to field a Fourth and a Fifth Boat in the Lent Term. The Fourth Boat won two rounds at Pembroke Regatta; only being knocked out by the Third Boat in the semi-final. The highlight of the term was the fact the both crews qualified for Lent Bumps; LMBC being the only club to field five boats in the Lents. The Fourth Boat did very well bumping Selwyn Second Boat and Christ's Third Boat. The Fifth Boat finished the highest Fifth Boat in Bumps.

For the first time in several years, both the First and Second Boats continued to train after the end of Term before racing at the Head of the River Race on the Tideway.

In the Lent Bumps the First Boat had an unsettled row on the first day and never achieved a powerful rhythm, which resulted in getting bumped by Downing. On the remaining three nights the crew put in stronger performances, staying close to Downing, but not able to bump back up. The Second Boat did not fair so well either on day one, being overbumped by a fast Peterhouse First Boat on its way up. They had a brave second day's racing however, fighting off Caius Second Boat. They then rowed over clear of Caius in the remaining days, but couldn't catch Robinson First Boat. The Third Boat were the most successful Maggie crew this Lents – rowing over, bumping Girton Second Boat, then Trinity Hall Second Boat, before rowing over again. Congratulations to them.

After Lent Bumps Hector Gray and Neil Houlsby raced in Trinity Second Challenge pairs; we beat all other college pairs, but lost narrowly to two lightweight Blues.

For the first time in several years, both the First and Second Boats continued to train after the end of Term before racing at the Head of the River Race on the Tideway. The First Boat found itself boxed in for most of the race and had a gutsy row. The crew finished slightly behind where it started, at 150th. The Second Boat, despite trailing

a splash-top for part of the course, came 344th, notably beating several Oxford and Cambridge college First boats. Many thanks to Tom Edwards-Moss, John Davey and Jocy Williams; ex-LMBC rowers who hosted the crews before the race.

### **May Term 2009**

The May Term was preceded by potential First and Second May Boat oarsmen participating in a training camp at Ely. Many miles were covered in Vllls and IVs and seat racing was used to help make some tough selection choices.

The first event of the Term for the top boats was Wallingford Regatta. Middle IV of the First Boat made the final of Intermediate two IVs, coming fourth out of thirteen IVs. The First Boat had a gutsy row in Intermediate Two just missing the final. The Second Boat fought hard in what was their first multi-lane regatta, narrowly losing to a couple of significantly more experienced crews. The following week both crews went to Poplar Regatta. The First Boat qualified for the final of Intermediate Two, had a fairly quick row in the final, coming fourth overall. We then had a straight final in Intermediate One against Hampton School First Boat. After losing a length in the early part of the race, the crew clawed it back and after a much more effective sprint finished just a quarter of a length down. The Second Boat came second in Novice, and raced hard in Intermediate Three, unfortunately not qualifying for the final.

## **Back on the Cam the Third Boat was the fastest Third Boat in Spring Head to Head.**

Back on Cam the Third Boat was the fastest Third Boat in Spring Head to Head. The Fourth Boat was the second fastest in its category. The Fifth Boat (Graduates and Fellows boat) did well as the only Fifth Boat, beating all but one Fourth Boat, including our own. The Fifth Boat then beat several Third and Fourth Boats at Champs Head.

The First Boat made progress throughout the Term but narrowly missed qualification to the final in Intermediate Two at the Metropolitan Regatta.

As always, in the May Bumps, some very unusual races were seen. The Fifth Boat (Graduates and Fellows) and the Sixth Boat (Rugby boat) had both bumped and been bumped in the first three days and were three boats apart on Saturday. The crews in between them bumped out. An ejector crab was then caught in the Fifth Boat; in the period of time it took the Sixth Boat to gain the five lengths the ejected four-man climbed back in and Fifth Boat restarted just ahead of the Sixth

Boat who then careered into grassy corner. It was very close, but the overbump was given by the umpires.

The Fourth Boat did well to row over three times before bumping Jesus Fourth Boat on the last day. The Third Boat were most successful boat in the Mays going up three by bumping Girton Second Boat, Robinson Second Boat and Fitzwilliam Second Boat. Well done to them.

The Second Boat rowed over four times in the first two days as sandwich boat; an extremely tiring feat. They were bumped by a fast King's First Boat on the Friday and rowed over again on Saturday, closing in on Robinson First Boat but unable to catch them.

The First Boat rowed over on Wednesday; on Thursday they were bumped by a fast Caius crew who almost reclaimed the headship. On Friday the First Boat almost held off Jesus and were disappointed to be bumped just before the finish. On Saturday the prospect of a down three loomed as Downing claimed overlap, at that point technique seemed to go out of the window in exchange for power. This found the First Boat at the railings a canvas clear. After an epic fight up the reach Downing were bumped by Pembroke at the Railway Bridge and the crew trailed over the line, extremely relieved.

We would like to thank Lance Badman for his efforts and LMBC are lucky to have him for future years. Again, thanks to all members of the LMBCA who provide the support allowing LMBC to exist. Finally, thanks to the Junior Committee who have helped with the running of the club and good luck to Matt O'Connor who will be taking over Captaincy next year.



### **Neil Houlsby & Will Gray** **Captains**

#### **Water Polo**

After successful promotion to the First Division, St John's College Water Polo Club has had a mixed year. With strict new rules limiting the number of Blues allowed in the water, we lacked enough players for our first two matches, this resulted in losses against Magdalene and Christ's. After a burst of enthusiasm our next match against The Leys B saw a great win with almost everybody in the water getting at least one goal. Keeves and So were excellent returning performers, while Alden-Falconer and Scott were two great additions to the team. This result was enough to keep our team full for the rest of term, though the remaining matches were against the two best teams in the League. Our match against The Leys A resulted in a heavy loss whilst our match against Addenbrooke's saw us come closest to

beating them of any other team. Despite these losses we came fourth in the League and this will allow us to continue playing high class Water Polo next season, even though the scores might not be as favourable for us!

With the Cuppers rules allowing multiple Blues players in the water, we managed to field a nearly full squad of eleven players. We won both of our Group matches against Selwyn and a tough St Catharine's team to go through to the quarter finals against Queens'.

Queens' were a very tough team to beat and it came down to a last minute goal for us. The semi-final against Christ's was hard and unfortunately we could not keep up with them.

Thanks to everybody who has played this year.



**Chris Charles**  
**Captain**