



VOLUME 110

FOR MEMBERS OF ST JOHN'S COLLEGE

The Eagle 2008

150TH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE



ST JOHN'S COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

The Eagle

2008

Volume 110



ST JOHN'S COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

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

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

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



Amanda George

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

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

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

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

We look forward to hearing from you!

Amanda George
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ARTICLES

ARTICLES



ST JOHN'S COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Chris Dobson moved in 2001 from Oxford University, where he was a Professor of Chemistry, to become the John Humphrey Plummer Professor of Chemical and Structural Biology in Cambridge.

In the same year he became a Fellow of St John's, and in October 2007 he became Master. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society and of the Academy of Medical Sciences, and an Honorary Foreign Member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. His research interests are directed at understanding the molecular origins of disorders such as Alzheimer's disease and diabetes. These activities are combined with his hectic schedule as Master of St John's, a glimpse of which is revealed here.

Message from the Master

I write this message just eight months after becoming Master of this great College. It seems only yesterday, however, that I was taking the oath of office in the Chapel, but when I think about all the events that have taken place since then it seems impossible that they could all have happened in so short a time. Regardless of the strange characteristics of time's arrow, I can say without hesitation that I have enjoyed every moment of these few months – or to echo that marvellous sentiment from *HMS Pinafore* – well, nearly every moment! And it is a particular pleasure to write my first message in *The Eagle* in the year when we mark the 150th anniversary of its birth. *The Eagle* is the oldest continuously published college magazine in Cambridge, and older than any in Oxford for that matter, showing once again the innovative and persistent nature of the Johnian community.

The academic year started for me with the Admission Ceremony on 1 October, the day that my wife and I moved into the Master's Lodge. One cannot claim with any credibility that the Admission Ceremony is one of the most gripping College events, and this time appeared to be mainly concerned with testing my ability to find a pen that worked well enough to sign my name in the historic book. But to me it was highly symbolic in that the doors of the Chapel had been 'thrown open' and the President had explicitly invited not just all Fellows and

Junior Members to attend, but also the College staff, and the Chapel was full. I believe very strongly that the College is a community of ALL its members – past and present – and it was a particular pleasure to see so many of our incomparable staff at this event. Indeed in preparation for taking up office, my wife Mary and I had visited, during September of last year, just about all of the Departments of the College, meeting a large number of members of staff, from those who keep our gardens looking so wonderful to those who make sure that all our Junior Members pay their bills more or less on time, and to the Lady Seamstress whose efforts are apparently in particular demand as May Week approaches for the task of taking in (never letting out, I'm told!) a whole series of ball gowns and the like. It gave us a remarkable insight into the magnitude and complexity of the day-to-day tasks of running the College, and the skill and dedication of the nearly 300 men and women whose efforts ensure that all those things we take for granted do, in fact, happen without us even noticing!

Once the formalities were over, the real work of being Master took over. My first event was the Admission of new Fellows, six in all, including four splendid new 'Title A' Research Fellows, and then the task of chairing the College Council and a range of other committees became a reality. These activities have all convinced me that we are extremely fortunate to have an exceptionally able and committed Fellowship that cares deeply about the College and its future. It has also been a great pleasure to entertain groups of students in the Lodge, to find out some of the reasons they love the College so much, and to meet their parents and friends at newly introduced events, such as the now public ceremony of the Admission of Scholars and a Tea Party at the end of Michaelmas Term for the freshers and their families.

A source of real and continuing pleasure throughout the year has been the chance to meet a very large number of Johnians, often with their families, at events in Cambridge and elsewhere. New and very successful innovations this year in College have included 'Matriculation Anniversary Dinners', the first of which was a twenty-fifth anniversary celebration that attracted a large number of Johnians (and their partners) and was hugely enjoyable – despite the fact that Cambridge failed to keep up its recent winning form in the Boat Race that afternoon. My own conversion to the lighter shade of blue was judged by our guests to be complete by my evident chagrin at the victory of my own Alma Mater! In addition to these Cambridge events I have been privileged to meet Johnians further afield at dinners and other functions organised by the Development Office, or in many cases by individual Johnians, and to hear a wide variety of views about the College and ideas for its future development. So far events of this type have taken place in London, Edinburgh and Manchester, and in New York, Houston and San Francisco, and in a few weeks my wife, Mary, and I shall be hosting one in Beijing. I have enjoyed enormously not just meeting a large number of interesting and delightful people, but also to see that these events

bring Johnians together who live in near proximity but had not realised it. The exchange of email addresses and mobile phone numbers at the various functions is always fast and furious.

Undoubtedly the most remarkable Johnian get-together of the year, however, was in New Delhi, where Mary and I spent (at short notice) all of twenty-five hours last November, following the remarkably generous offer from the Johnian Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, not only to permit our new Graduate Scholarships (which will bring up to four Indian students each year to study at St John's) to be named after him but also to launch the programme from his Official Residence. We enjoyed a splendid lunch and the chance to meet a range of distinguished Indian scientists, industrialists and politicians who had been educated in Cambridge. At the launch itself, held in the Prime Minister's garden in the evening, Dr Singh gave a moving address in which he said how much he owed to St John's for accepting him on a scholarship and for being so welcoming and so encouraging, and he recalled by name those Fellows who had influenced him the most during his time in College. The event received enormous publicity in India, all of which was highly complimentary to St John's and Cambridge. It was a remarkable day!

The increasing pace of Johnian events reflects in large part the approaching Quincentenary of our Foundation in 2011.

The increasing pace of Johnian events reflects in large part the approaching Quincentenary of our Foundation in 2011. A variety of events is being planned to celebrate this anniversary in appropriate style, designed to look forward to our future ambitions as much as to celebrate our past achievements. In order to enable us to achieve our objectives in the immediate future, we are about to 'go public' with the launch of the St John's College Campaign to raise £50m in the next four years, a target that is extremely ambitious by Oxbridge College standards, but one that we are confident of achieving with the help of Johnians and friends across the world. Our primary motivation in launching such an appeal is simply put: we wish to ensure that Cambridge remains one of the very top universities in the world, that the collegiate nature of the University of Cambridge is strengthened, not eroded, with time, and that John's remains the leading College in this great university. There are many challenges that come from our traditional friendly rivals, particularly in North America, and our newer but no less friendly rivals, particularly in East Asia.



Professor Christopher Dobson

We believe that the collegiate nature of Cambridge enables us in this College to provide an intellectual environment that is second to none, and also to generate young men and women with the all-round skills that have brought Johnians such great success in the past, and that will undoubtedly be increasingly valuable in the future. As the finest College in the University, we wish to take the initiative in this enterprise and raise funds to enhance our ability to provide the best possible education in the world, and to build up our endowment to ensure that we can continue to do so in the future, come what may. And so we shall stress that this is the first step in a process that will provide us with the resources appropriate to our world-leading position, and hope to begin to change the nature of fundraising for educational institutions in this country. We are proud to be raising funds because, having looked after our previous endowments very carefully and responsibly, all new moneys that we receive will go directly to enhancing the provision of education for undergraduates, and to stimulating the vital discovery of new knowledge by graduates and Fellows.

Johnians have enriched the lives of almost every person on this planet over half a millennium, through astonishing advances in science and medicine, through humanitarian acts almost without parallel in history, and through contributions at the highest levels to music, literature, sport and theatre.

Johnians have enriched the lives of almost every person on this planet over half a millennium, through astonishing advances in science and medicine, through humanitarian acts almost without parallel in history, and through contributions at the highest levels to music, literature, sport and theatre. We are determined that we continue this tradition of producing not just a relatively small number of household names but whole generations of men and women who by their actions and examples make at least as great a contribution to the world as the familiar 'famous alumni'. There are exciting times ahead, and opportunities that I hope and believe will be embraced by the overwhelming majority of all members of the Johnian community.

I shall not attempt in this short message to catalogue the many other events of the year in College. Let me just say that it has been a particular pleasure to see our incomparable Choir flourishing under the guidance of our new Director of Music,

Andrew Nethsingha, who succeeded David Hill, now Conductor of the BBC singers, a role that he combines with many other musical activities. It was a great pleasure for me recently to see David in action at the Royal Festival Hall, conducting the Bach Choir, in which our own Professor Peter Johnstone is a stalwart performer. A real highlight of the year, however, was the news of the award of the Nobel Prize in Economics to Professor Eric Maskin, Overseas Visiting Fellow, 1987-88, and Honorary Fellow since 2004. It was a truly Johnian event as his permanent base is at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton, which is now headed by our former Master, Dr Peter Goddard!

In the midst of these happy occasions there have also been times of desperate sadness, notably the deaths of Professor John Crook, Fellow since 1951, Professor Norman Bleehen, Fellow since 1976, and Dr Jonathan (Joe) Spencer, Fellow since 1995, who died tragically, at the age of only forty-seven, in a car accident. Obituaries and tributes to the achievements of these three Fellows are printed later in this issue of *The Eagle*.

I would like to finish on a personal note by saying that I feel enormously privileged to have been given the opportunity to serve the College as Master. It has been extraordinarily rewarding to meet so many interesting Johnians, and to discover just how much our College is loved and respected around the world. This point was brought home to me at a dinner for Johnians in – of all places – Oxford, where the person sitting opposite me said, ‘You know, I’ve just been thinking, and it might just be the people I know, but I’ve not met anyone in more than forty years who has been at John’s who has ever said they wished they’d gone anywhere else.’

Well I’ve not met anybody either and I think that this remark encapsulates brilliantly the magic that is John’s – and my ambition, and that of all of us here in the College, is to ensure that the magic goes on for at least the next 500 years.

Christopher Dobson
Master of St John’s College



Stephen Teal joined St John's in February 2007 as Development Director, after a career spanning Oxford and Newcastle Universities, and Westminster School.

He is married with two sons, and a cat, and spends most of his spare time lamenting the trials and tribulations of Manchester City.



Stephen Teal

Message from the Development Director

One of the many reasons I never excelled as an historian was a terrible memory for dates. Try as I might, I simply can't remember wedding anniversaries, birthdays and, to the cause of great domestic unrest, which day of the week to put out the bins. The year 2011 is, however, proving immune to the symptoms of my calendar-related amnesia. As one may gather from this, planning for the College's Quincentenary is gathering pace, and a varied and exciting alumni relations programme is starting to take shape. Ideas and suggestions from Johnians are, of course, most welcome.

Efforts to strengthen the College's relationship with its alumni are already well advanced, with a significant expansion in the number of events and publications. Particular importance has been placed on broadening the appeal of our activities for Johnians: the past year has seen such diverse events as lunches at the Boat Race and the Varsity Match at Twickenham, receptions in Edinburgh and New Delhi, and dinners for those who celebrated the twenty-fifth and fiftieth anniversaries of their matriculation. Johnians have returned to the College to talk to students about careers in the City, the Public Sector and in the Media, whilst alumni from as far afield as New Zealand brought their families to St John's for the Open Weekend last July.

One of the highlights of the year was undoubtedly the launch, in New Delhi, of the Dr Manmohan Singh Scholarship Programme. Named in honour of one of St John's most distinguished graduates, the current Prime Minister of India, this scheme will bring some of India's most talented research students to Cambridge. The warmth of the reception we received, coupled with the incredible amount of media coverage, demonstrated the strong ties that exist between India and the UK and the high regard in which the University is held. The first three students will arrive at the College in September 2008 and we are very grateful for the sponsorship from the BP Foundation, Rolls Royce and Tata Group for making this programme possible.

The autumn of 2008 will also see the launch of the College's £50m fundraising campaign. As has been reported in other publications some very large donations have already been received, and these give a significant boost to our efforts to raise what is an ambitious target. The hope is that these major gifts will stimulate many other Johnians to give to the College at a more modest level. The Campaign's aims and objectives will revolve around continuing academic excellence in a changing world. The early response from alumni has been very encouraging and we take great confidence from this. We are grateful to all those who have already participated and given us their time and guidance.

Stephen Teal
Development Director



With the help of hundreds of generous benefactors, St John's has been able over the centuries to grow and achieve great things.

Each May the long roll of benefactors, beginning with Lady Margaret and John Fisher, is commemorated in a service in the College Chapel, at which their names are recited by the Deans, and a commemoration sermon is preached. On 4 May 2008 the commemoration sermon was given by the Right Reverend Dr Michael Jackson, Bishop of Clogher, Ireland, who read Theological and Religious Studies at St John's (BA 1981, MA 1985, PhD 1986).

Commemoration of Benefactors: Tradition, Honour and Ethos

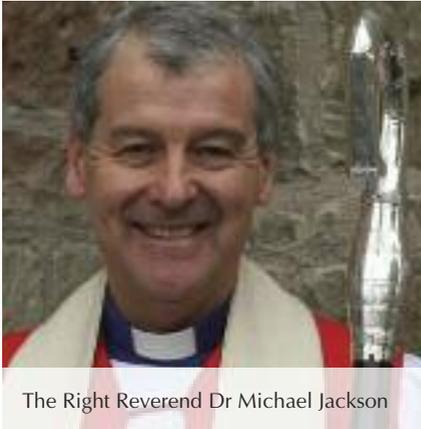
'Traditional' is a difficult word to handle because somewhere, in the dim and distant past, it was something recognisably radical – hard though it may be to believe as we contemplate it now. Our picture of what is traditional has been eroded, sentimentalised and idealised. Even ancient universities are not immune from this mirage, which can breed its own form of self-satisfaction. In a world oscillating culturally between the twin poles of heritage and innovation, we tend to think a number of things. One is that by conserving and polishing up the past we will somehow keep it alive. Another is that we can carry all of the past into the future with us if we brand it as traditional. A third is that we can do without the past altogether. These are mistakes. To my mind, none of these of itself tells a sufficient truth to be realistic about the role and nature of past, present and future abiding together critically. The tradition functions by being innovative. The tradition has a life by being open to fresh disclosures, different approaches and new applications in a variety of contexts unknown to our predecessors and still at this juncture unknown to us. My point is simply that so much of the world has not in fact yet happened and is yet to happen.

Not only is there a challenge of political correctness in preaching here this morning on a text that begins: 'Let us now praise famous men, the fathers of our people in their generations...' in a mixed College, but there is a further challenge in preaching on this text in a College that effectively owes its foundation to a woman, Lady Margaret Beaufort, in 1511. However, I think we can succeed in moving through and beyond this piece of apocryphal chauvinism to the

substance of this morning's Reading (Ecclesiasticus 44:1-15). Many of us recoil today from the contractual, even mercenary, basis of so much of Wisdom Literature and we may even rush to accuse it of rank cynicism. But, as with any piece of literature, we need to understand it in its primary context before we press it into service for our own purpose. Wisdom Literature is something that ancient Judaism holds in common with other parts of the Ancient Near East including Egypt and Mesopotamia. A significant part of its function seems to have originated in scribal education and the training of civil servants. Appropriated by Ancient Israel, and made more specific in its application, it incorporated and accommodated the particular religious notions of Israel and became recognisably Israelite with, for example, its emphasis on prosperity, inheritance and its assurance of belonging within the covenant. Where it enters our equation this morning is that, in being read in a fresh context, it gives expression to our desire to remember and honour the benefaction of those who have put their trust in, and their generosity at the disposal of, this College of St John the Evangelist, to educate and prepare people over almost half a millennium for service and leadership of community, church and state beyond the College's Front Gate, which itself commemorates our first and greatest *famous woman*, Lady Margaret Beaufort. This is the tradition that carries us forward into both purity and application, through academic study and rigorous scholarship, from the Tripos to Fellowship of the British Academy or of the Royal Society.

I wish to speak this morning only of two things: 'honour' and 'ethos'. Neither of them is exclusively Christian nor exclusively academic but both have resonances into a world where, in the College Prayer, regularly we ask God that 'love of the brethren and sound learning may ever grow and prosper here' to the honour and glory of God and to the good of God's people. The word 'honour' itself has two basic meanings. The first is the repute or esteem in which a person or thing is held and the second, deriving from this, is a public honour, official dignity or post which someone holds by virtue of such repute or esteem. A further meaning is, of course, anything that is given as a gift, mark of honour or acknowledgement of such repute or esteem, whether during life itself or subsequently after death, in recognition of a life well lived for others. The point that stands out for us as we grapple with the responsibility embedded in our privilege is that it really is from respect for others, however different from them we might be or they from us, that there flows our entitlement to whatever office or dignity now or in the future any of us might hold. The same goes for whatever reward any of us might reap. And our holding of any such office or dignity or our gaining any such reward is always to be tested in the fire of generous integrity and liberty of thought.

In the world of today, the expectation that people might, as a matter of priority, honour one another probably sounds rather quaint and pious. The majority of people nowadays see themselves as having economic potential, transferable skills and career goals, which, given the correct opportunities and education, they



The Right Reverend Dr Michael Jackson

have the capacity to turn into cash. To talk of honour itself and of honouring other people sounds outmoded. It is exactly the sort of thing it is nice to know *other people* are doing because we know well that, were we to try it out for size ourselves, it is hard work. What is more, deep down, we sense that it will all too often get in the way of the really important things we have set ourselves to do and to achieve. And all the time the tradition around us is changing. With change comes the irreversible recognition of difference. Difference itself

shapes the change and shapes also the value we place on the past that has preceded it. But difference and change are complicated concepts. They themselves alter our own pace and force us to accept the pace of others. Often we feel cornered and turn to insult, subterfuge or politicking. Very quickly, also, what begins by being shocking becomes everyday and, somehow, normal. Our own generation is porous to advertising and its capacity to manipulate our senses, our values, our relationships, our dissatisfaction with our lot and our plastic card.

I offer you but one example of what has changed radically in our own time: information. To all of us, the communications revolution is here to stay and it is an integral part of our lives. It brings us tremendous advantages, new intellectual possibilities and consumer conveniences, from the personal iPod to genetic mapping. From the perspective of education, it is perhaps one of the most glorious tools of the trade anyone could have wished for, in terms of accessing publicly available information, in presenting one's own use of such information and in making it available and attractive to others. Yet, viewed from a different perspective, it is as dangerous as it is convenient. I say this because no matter how we try to police it, it is intrinsically devoid of morality and therefore it can credibly be argued that, as well as being informative and liberating, it is every bit as much corrupt and corrupting. Virtual reality carries no responsibilities.

As an undergraduate, St John's taught me a number of things for which I remain grateful to this day. The first is that you learn best what you teach yourself. By this I do not mean that you ought to disregard or disrespect your tutors or the syllabus. Untutored geniuses are few and far between! But what I do mean is that throughout an undergraduate career you remain inquisitive about what you are taught; that however needy you are, you do not cut corners and bow down before the finality of information but recognise its limitations. Information is, after

all, no more than a slip-road to comprehension. Much of it, in any case, is quickly superseded by new and more exciting discovery and interpretation. The second is never to fear being stuck for something to say. This may sound trite, 'twittish' or annoying. But I suggest that for every undergraduate here, as life opens up for you, there will be many opportunities for you to say something or to shy away from saying anything. You, the undergraduates and graduate students of today, can bury your treasure by seeing it as your own hard-won achievement or you can see it in itself as a benefaction to others. My advice is: Don't shy away from saying good things! Too many people assume that tolerance and respect are simply part of the air we breathe and, therefore, feel that there is no need to do anything about them. This I simply do not accept. The forces of intolerance, extremism and unthinking conservatism are indeed out there. They remain a potent force for perversion and distortion in the world we inhabit. They have a large following and are the very mirror-opposite of the *sound learning* that characterises the best possible response of Commemoration of Benefactors of this College called by the name of the beloved disciple.

It is important for all members of a college – Fellows, Scholars, staff, undergraduates – to have a clear grasp of that seemingly wispy word: 'ethos'.

It is important for all members of a college – Fellows, Scholars, staff, undergraduates – to have a clear grasp of that seemingly wispy word: 'ethos'. The primary meaning of the word 'ethos' is a habitat, a place where animals or humans regularly and instinctively go. It is used, for example, to describe the haunt of animals by Homer: 'the haunts and pasturage of horses...' (*Iliad* 6.511). From this physical meaning there develops the human usage of customs and characteristics, even to the point of facial expression. And again from this develops the moral dimension of what we refer to as ethics, the philosophy of human character and conduct. I have laboured this because place, people and values all together make up the ethos of a Cambridge College such as St John's. It has a glorious location with the Cam running through it. It has the enthusiasm, commitment and dedication, consistently, of wonderful people. It stands, like a well-ordered rugby scrum or the symmetrical equipoise of a rowing Eight, for the values of respect and honour of other people. Like Homer's horses, it has to be somewhere that undergraduates feel safe and are fed if they are to flourish. Like its secondary meaning of human characteristics, it has to have something to do with the way people are, and are shaped and moulded by the place in terms of character and attitude. Like its philosophical development in terms of ethics, it has to stand for something of value in the living out of human behaviour. And this brings me back to my request that we all, together and individually, need to continue to explore the word 'honour' with which I began.

Universities do their utmost to challenge and deflect crude popularisation – and this is entirely proper. But there is always a different type of danger, often unacknowledged, and it is that of becoming Gnostic enclaves. Their abiding gift, and the most enduring legacy of their benefactors, is that of teaching us the provisionality of the truth as we perceive and see it. The continuing quest for understanding and disclosure of truth is the essential challenge of rigorous scholarly humility to generations of undergraduates and out into a world too frequently impoverished by its self-confidence, arrogance and jingoism. Earlier this year, the Regius Professor of Divinity in this University, himself no stranger to St John's, outlined six main challenges for a contemporary university. The first is: Can it marry research with teaching across a wide range of disciplines? The second is: Can it offer an all-round education that forms students in ways that go beyond information, knowledge and know-how? The third is: Can it cultivate forms of collegiality that enable conversations and collaborations across specialities, generations and practical concerns? The fourth is: Can it contribute broadly to the common good of society, both national and international? The fifth is: Can it be well-endowed and well-governed, accountable to many stakeholders but also with appropriate independence? The sixth is: Can it be appropriately interdisciplinary in its academic life, its contributions to society and its discussions about its own purposes and policies? He did so in a volume celebrating the tortuous journey of the Irish School of Ecumenics towards integration in the University of Dublin. These questions may seem alien to what we are doing together this morning. But before we presume to dismiss them, let us at least appreciate the many ways in which in the University of Cambridge and St John's College they are already part of who we are.

To my mind these questions remain pertinent to the quest for wisdom today. The confidence to give away to others the best of oneself in a sharing that betokens an equivalence of respect is a mark of such contemporary wisdom. So also is the ability to put the best of one's own tradition at the service of understanding a totality beyond one's own particularity. So also is the patience to strive towards a fresh expression of inherited traditions in a synthesis of intention to be humble before the truth. None of this would be possible for us even to ruminate upon were it not for the benefaction of Benefactors of this College past, present and future. It is for their vision and their generosity, each in her and his own day, that we today give thanks to Almighty God. It is from their vision and their generosity that each member of this College benefits. It is to their vision and generosity that we all today look in admiration and appreciation.

Ecclesiasticus 44.11: 'Their prosperity is handed on to their descendants, their inheritance to future generations.'

Michael Jackson
(BA 1981, MA 1985, PhD 1986)



John Pocock, Honorary Fellow of St John's, is the Harry C Black Emeritus Professor of History at the Johns Hopkins University. His many seminal works on intellectual history include: *The Ancient Constitution and the Feudal Law* (1957, second edition 1987); *Politics, Language and Time* (1971); *The Machiavellian Moment* (1975); and *Virtue, Commerce and History* (1985). He has edited *The Political Works of James Harrington* (1977) and Burke's *Reflections on the Revolution in France* (1987), as well as the collaborative study, *The Varieties of British Political Thought* (1995).

Professor Pocock is a Corresponding Fellow of the British Academy and of the Royal Historical Society, and a member of both the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Philosophical Society. There follows an edited version of a talk he gave in the Combination Room on 6 June 2007.

Retrospect And Prospect

It's a deeply moving experience to find myself speaking in this room and under this ceiling, and at the same time a slightly terrifying one. I held a very junior fellowship in the 1950s, a very different era in Cambridge history, and there is a bevy of amiable but intimidating ghosts looking over my shoulder at this moment, or more probably getting on with their own ghostly conversations. I find their names – Hugh Sykes Davies, Edward Miller, Colin Bertram – on the jackets of books in Senior Guest Room 3.

My wife and I are revisiting Cambridge, not for the first time since we were married in the Round Church – it was a church then – in 1958, with John Crook as Best Man, and George Guest playing the organ; there was a reception in Chapel Court. But we are also celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the appearance of my first book,¹ and, with Richard Fisher of the Cambridge University Press, I'll be talking about two projected publications that may be of some interest to this audience. One is for a selection of essays on method, which have appeared since 1962 under two sectional headings, 'Political thought as history', and 'History as political thought'. The first of these, of course, denotes an enterprise for which Cambridge has become renowned as far away as Japan, and which will always be associated with the name of the present Regius Professor of Modern History, Quentin Skinner. The second denotes the direction that I think my work has taken as part of that enterprise, and I shall try to say something more about this in the course of these remarks.

The second projected publication is that of the fifth and sixth volumes of a series centred on Edward Gibbon. The first four were published by the Press between 1999 and 2005,² and we envisage two more. They will conclude the series, at least for the time being, at the fall of the Roman Empire in Western Europe (assuming that to have been what happened). This was the point Gibbon had reached by the end of the third volume of his *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*. He then let seven years go by, from 1781 to 1788, before publishing three further volumes, which took him to the fall of Constantinople and back again to Rome, where his enterprise had begun. It would be unwise for me to allow such a lapse of time. I should like to go on and consider the last, fascinating phase of Gibbon's work; but the existing series, *Barbarism and Religion*, seems to be outrunning the profession's capacity to find reviewers (I apologise to the exceptions); and I am now eighty-three years old – Gibbon in 1781 was only forty-four – and the two volumes planned will take several more years to research, write and publish. That seems hubristic enough, without looking further; but you never know.

All the volumes making up *Barbarism and Religion* are constructed on what Cambridge has made known as the 'contextualist' method. That's to say, I consider, by turns, historical topics or problems that Gibbon encountered in the course of writing the *Decline and Fall*, and I examine how these were dealt with by other historians, more or less contemporary, whom we know he read and responded to. Each of these incidents, or moments, in the history of historiography thus forms a 'context', as we call it, for some episode in Gibbon's writing of the *Decline and Fall*, in the history to which the *Decline and Fall* belongs, and in the history that the *Decline and Fall* narrates. Gibbon appears a historian in dialogue with other historians, of his own time or of the generations preceding it. There is a consequence of this; perhaps a price to be paid. The *Decline and Fall* does not emerge from this treatment as a grand classical narrative, a monumental work of neo-classical art, so much as a gigantic jigsaw puzzle in which the pieces are constantly fitting into other puzzles lying outside the framework. I think this is exactly what it is, though it is at the same time a grand neo-classical structure and can be viewed as such; there are different but equal ways of viewing it.

My approach, I want to say, enables us to see Gibbon's work as something he put together over time (about fifteen years of writing time), as his attention moved from one historical problem to another, and his history was written in the multi-contextual history we all live in. To see it as a monument it is better to wait till it was finished; I try to present it in the making. The costs do not end there, however. I am constantly writing about other historians, and circling back from them to this or that chapter of Gibbon's work; and there must be, and are, readers wanting to know when I am coming to grips with the *Decline and*

Fall as more than a series of incidents. I suspect that this is why my third and fourth volumes have been, as I see it, under-reviewed; such readers as I have are waiting until they can see my work as completed, and view it as I do not view Gibbon's.

This, if true, is a reason for bringing *Barbarism and Religion* to a halt with my sixth volume and Gibbon's third. The latter, and therefore the former, can be treated as chiefly narrative. There is less debate with other historians, and Gibbon moves along with the barbarians as they move west and establish in the Atlantic provinces of empire what will come to monopolise the name of Europe: the Latin-using civilisation of Roman church and Frankish empire, French, Spanish and English monarchies, eastward encounters with Orthodoxy and Islam, westward navigation to the Americas, Renaissance, Reformation and Enlightenment. All are visible in Gibbon's later narrative, and it should be possible to present his volumes of 1781 as grand narrative moving towards the birth of Europe in these senses of the term – thus satisfying my readers if I am right about their wishes. But there will remain a great deal about the *Decline and Fall* that has not yet been said, and to explain what this is I must go back, if you will bear with me, and talk about what is happening as I work on my fifth volume and the gap between Gibbon's first volume and his second, between 1776 and 1781.

In the process of writing the *Decline and Fall*, Gibbon arrived at two widely separate moments when the character of the book, and the meaning of its title, changed drastically.

In the process of writing the *Decline and Fall*, Gibbon arrived at two widely separate moments when the character of the book, and the meaning of its title, changed drastically. The second of these lies at the point I have just reached, and outside the limits I have set for myself. Having reached what he considered the end of empire in the west, he had to decide whether he would go on and narrate the thousand years that still separated him from the fall of Constantinople in 1453; a history not Latin but Orthodox and Islamic, distinct from that of the Europe whose foundations he had just laid. In the event he did, but it took him seven years and he was never sure he had found the right way of writing this history. He had always been aware of this problem. In the preface to his first volume, in 1776, he states that he may or may not attempt a history of the eastern empire, and says that if he ever reaches the fall of Constantinople, he will turn back to examine the state of the city of Rome during the western middle ages. In the last three chapters of the *Decline and Fall*, this last is what he does. But the preface of 1776 says nothing about the first of the transformative moments



Professor Pocock

I mentioned, though this is reached, and then partly postponed, in the volume published with this preface. At the end of Chapter 14, when Constantine has defeated his opponents, Gibbon says that 'this revolution' had 'two immediate and memorable consequences', 'the foundation of Constantinople and the establishment of the Christian religion'.

Instead of proceeding immediately to these consequences, however, Gibbon concluded his first volume with two chapters on the state of the Christian religion before Constantine, and did not arrive at the consequences until he published his second volume five years later. By that time a good deal had happened. Gibbon had begun to write a new kind of history: that of the church, and of the church in the empire; but he

had introduced it in such a way that his readers' minds were, and have remained, made up about how he was doing it before he had really begun.

I'm in the middle of writing a book about this moment in the history of the *Decline and Fall*, and should be careful not to say too much about it. At this point our cultural biases operate in two ways. We are, even now, biased towards classical Rome, and equate *Decline and Fall* with its disappearance, while regarding Gibbon as writing an elegy for it. But this disappearance, which I've termed 'the first Decline and Fall' in my third volume, is over by the end of Chapter 14; and there are fifty-seven to come. Gibbon is a historian of late antiquity and the 'Middle Ages'. In the second place, we are biased in favour of Enlightenment and agnosticism, and do not look beyond the scepticism visible in Gibbon's Chapters 15 and 16. We fail to see that from these chapters on, he is writing a new kind of history, and says so. 'Modern' history, he more than once tells us, is differentiated from 'ancient' by the presence of the Church; that is, by the existence of a clergy, unknown in pre-Christian antiquity and claiming an authority that does not arise from civil society and competes with the authority that does. The underlying theme of Chapters 15 and 16 is how far that clergy and its authority had taken shape by the time of Constantine.

If this is a kind of history new to Gibbon – we know very little about when he became interested in it – writing its history was not new at all. Following the practice of reading the historians Gibbon says he read, we find that there existed

a complex and sophisticated history of the early Church, from the apostles through the persecutions to the time of Constantine, dating from Eusebius himself and rewritten by authors of what we call the early Enlightenment, up to a hundred years before the *Decline and Fall*. Gibbon had read extensively in this literature, and does not dismiss it as ridiculous. A central theme of this history was the encounter between the Gospels and Greek philosophy, out of which had grown the debate over Christ's nature and the central structure of Christian theology. The process had begun as early as the Fourth Gospel, ascribed to the last and longest-lived of the apostles, from whom this College takes its name.

The critical authors of the early Enlightenment – Richard Simon, Jean Le Clerc, Pierre Bayle, the second more important to Gibbon than the third – had rewritten the history of theology to the point where it ceased to be (if it had ever been) a narrative of the transmission of a revealed truth, and became instead a history of authors struggling to express revelation within the limits of the language or languages they had; a kind of history recognisable enough to us in contemporary Cambridge. Christ's nature became the history of attempts to say what it was. Gibbon knew this history very well indeed, but the curious thing is that he did not employ it in Chapter 15 – Chapter 16 is a separate problem – but did employ it, in great detail, when writing Chapter 21 (1781) leading to the Council of Nicaea, and in Chapter 47 (1788) leading to the Council of Chalcedon. These chapters set out the history of Christian theology, and though Gibbon writes them as an unbeliever, he does so without the mockery that had offended readers of his chapters in 1776. He had a narrative that needed telling, and he told it by taking it seriously.

The effect of knowing this is to raise questions about the role of Chapter 15 in the *Decline and Fall*. This chapter aroused intense controversy in 1776 and after, and has remained important to our thinking about Gibbon, because he declared his intention of examining only secondary and secular causes for the growth of Christianity, and because he adopted an ironic and mocking tone towards Christian piety. It has never been very clear just what account of divine agency in spreading Christian belief his critics thought he should have adopted, and for this reason even modern readers have been content with generalised images of Enlightened scepticism on Gibbon's part and a simple-minded orthodoxy on the part of his enemies. But now we know that there was a complex history of the early Church available to both orthodox and heterodox interpretations, that Gibbon knew this well, used it in later chapters of the *Decline and Fall*, but did not make it the theme of the chapter that aroused so much controversy; and we have to re-examine our understandings of both the chapter and the controversy. Chapter 15 offers important clues to what Gibbon was doing and turned out to have done, but it is not by itself sufficient to our understanding of his history of the Church. The 'Enlightenment' to which he owed most was not that of Voltaire or the radical English deists, but the 'early Enlightenment' beginning in the 1680s,

in which the history of theology had tended to substitute itself for theology as a means of knowing God; and he was capable of writing that history without making fun of it.

But the problem of Chapter 15 does not end here. Why did Gibbon feel the need to write it at all? If he had proceeded direct from Constantine's seizure of power to the state of the Church when Constantine adopted Christianity – an action about which there had always been a diversity of opinions – he might have evaded the controversy of 1776, still raging when he published his second volume five years later. As it was, however, his intentions in writing ecclesiastical history were dismissed as expressions of unbelief before his history of the Church in the Roman Empire had begun, and that prejudice has lasted to the present day. I think Chapter 15 was a strategic mistake on Gibbon's part, and I know of at least one contemporary who thought so.

This is the kind of discovery that emerges when the history of historiography is written according to the principles for writing the history of political thought . . .

This is the kind of discovery that emerges when the history of historiography is written according to the principles for writing the history of political thought, which I learned from Peter Laslett, and which Quentin Skinner has magisterially developed. The question I should like to discuss in the remainder of this talk is why the history of historiography should be written, or at least why I am anxious to continue writing it. Here I shall say something about the second book project I mentioned at the beginning, and I will take up Sylvana Tomaselli's dangerously attractive invitation to venture into autobiography. I have in fact been engaging in this adventure for quite some time. In two or three recent essays³ I have looked back as far as 1949, when I was a research student at Emmanuel working with Herbert Butterfield and J H Plumb, and had encountered Peter Laslett's pioneer studies of Filmer and Locke. What I found was that the publication of Filmer's works in 1679 led to controversial writing on two different levels: debate over the origins of rights and government in human societies – political theory and philosophy as we understand the terms – and debate over the antiquity of common law and parliament in English history, and how this kind of history should be written. On the first level there had long existed a sizeable modern literature, about to be upset by Laslett's revolutionary redating of Locke's *Treatises on Government*; on the second there was only a small book by Butterfield and part of a larger one by D C Douglas.⁴ I made it my business to pursue the second, and my doctoral dissertation became *The Ancient Constitution and the Feudal Law*.

I would say of my work since that time that it has moved steadily from the history of political thought tending towards political theory, in the direction of the history of historiography as a species of political thought. This seems to me relevant when some of us are said to constitute what, outside Cambridge for the most part, is called the 'Cambridge school' in the study of this branch of history. I am inclined to suggest that Quentin Skinner, and in another way Richard Tuck, have remained preoccupied with 'the state' and political philosophy, whereas I have been more strictly concerned with 'civil society' and its accompanying historiography. Their attention falls on Hobbes, Grotius and the growth of law; mine on James Harrington and the subsequent history of commerce and manners (important to Gibbon as a friend of Adam Smith). Here in Cambridge, however, I find Istvan Hont and Michael Sonenscher steaming far ahead of me,⁵ and Professor Skinner shares my interest in republican theory in an age of commerce.⁶ Theory of commerce in the eighteenth century anticipates theory of globalisation in the twenty-first. I remain interested, as I have been since 1949, in historiography as a political phenomenon, and have tried – as I hope to show by publishing a collection of essays – to construct a theory of how a political society may generate both a history and a historiography of itself. I am interested, to put it differently, in the ability of societies to develop histories that are both expressions of their autonomy and sovereignty, and narratives of how that autonomy is challenged from without and challenges itself from within. I expect the autonomy that generates histories to survive, but I am aware that it is under challenge from globalisation and post-modernism; we often speak a language which presupposes that it is about to disappear.

I therefore published (Cambridge, 2005) another collection of essays with a linking commentary called *The Discovery of Islands*; it too hasn't been much reviewed so far. Here I engaged, however rashly, in autobiography, presenting myself as a historical phenomenon about which something could be said: to be specific, as an Antipodean, which I am, with a view to history formed in and from an antipodean perspective, leading to something else that I had helped start, known as 'the new British history'. This I proposed as a means by which 'we' – whoever 'we' are; it's an extremely tendentious term – might continue to assert and debate 'our' own autonomy in the very rapidly changing circumstances of the last thirty years. (I am not, by the way, what is meant by a 'Euro sceptic'; I am merely sceptical about 'Europe'.) I wrote out of awareness that a possible outcome of globalisation is that 'we' may cease to have an autonomy, a history, or an identity. This threat is real enough to be worth taking seriously.

It's an implication of all this that histories are in the first place auto-centric, written in, for, and even by societies desiring to understand themselves and their relations with themselves. It's easy, and very true, to say that they should proceed to understand others and themselves in their relations with others; but this seems to call for some communication from the others, and the question arises of how the

others may wish and need to express themselves. The grand schemes of history produced by the Enlightened historians and their successors were of course deeply Eurocentric, as Professor Goody has been reminding us;⁷ but can we get away from this until other civilisations supply us with their histories of themselves and we can debate our auto-centricities together?

‘Western’ history as I see it is so much a product of ‘Western’ self-problematization that I am far from sure that others will produce histories written on the same pattern, that we shall recognise as histories at all. As far as I know, the evidence is not in yet, and we must wait to hear from our equals.

John Pocock
Honorary Fellow



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Peter Wordie studied at St John's College, graduating with a BA in History. His father, the renowned Polar crusader Sir James Wordie (see book review of *Polar Crusader: A Life of Sir James Wordie* on Pages 157-60), studied Geology at St John's (BA 1912, MA 1919) and became Master in 1952, having held various positions both in the College and University.

Peter recently sent us some memories that he has been recording of life in the Master's Lodge.

Life in the Lodge 1952-59: Random Memories

My father was elected Master of St John's College in 1952, which meant moving into the Master's Lodge. Up until that point, my family had lived for nearly thirty years at a house in Grange Road, called Coton End. This house was rented from St John's, and is now part of St John's College School.

The move, like all moves, had its problems. These were largely caused by the need to modernise some of the facilities in the Lodge. Benians, the previous Master, had been there quite a considerable time, and had been unable to do any modernisation, firstly owing to the war and then to the austerities that came afterwards. In particular, there was no ladies' toilet on the ground floor. This lack probably reflected the position that ladies occupied in the University up to the end of the 1920s.

Further, the kitchens were from a past era, and were badly in need of modernisation. The opportunity was also taken at the same time to join the drawing room and dining room by large double doors, which meant that they both could be used together for entertaining.

My mother threw herself into these changes, but it was also necessary to put up new curtains, and I remember various swatches being sent down from Whytock & Reid in Edinburgh. Also, at the same time, mother and father bought a number of carpets (rugs). I cannot remember how long these alterations and decorations took, but the move was finally made and the Lodge became our family home. This really only affected my sister, Alison, and myself, as the rest of our brothers and sister had moved away.

The Lodge was a Victorian building with no particular architectural merit, although perhaps with time passing it will suit changing tastes. On entering, one went into a very large entrance hall that was hung with portraits and also a very fine set of Jacobean chairs. The only problem was that nobody could sit on these chairs, as they had little red chords across them. I think I am right in remembering they had fine tapestry coverings that had been done by the Countess of Powys.

From this large entrance hall, one entered the drawing room. This was a light spacious room looking out over the garden. Like the hall, it was hung with fine portrait pictures from the College collection. In particular, I remember two Stuart portraits at the end of the room where the faces were totally white owing to the colour being bleached out by the 'bitumen' undercoat.

Then there was a stunning female Tudor portrait, which was known as the 'unknown lady', since neither the subject nor the artist was known. However, Professor Rowse, of Oxford, had suggested three possibilities as to who it might be. Through the new double doors one went into the dining room, which was a lovely room overlooking the garden. In this room father hung his own pictures.

At the top of the staircase was a room which we called the 'oak room'. It was totally panelled in linen fold and had an oriel window. Again I think I remember it being said that this room had been moved from the old Master's Lodge. The panelling had just been cleaned and repolished, and the whole atmosphere was of warmth and friendliness. This became very much the room in which we lived.

Next to the oak room was the office of my father's secretary, Mrs Cousins. This was very much the centre of Lodge business. Mrs Cousins had been my father's secretary for a considerable amount of time, and perhaps she was the only person who could master father's eccentric filing system.

The next room down the passage was father's room/study. It was absolutely full of piles of papers, making it impossible to find a chair to sit on.

The next room down the passage was father's room/study. It was absolutely full of piles of papers, making it impossible to find a chair to sit on. At one end of the room there was a large table covered with a collection of polar maps and charts. These had been extensively used when planning Fuchs' Trans-Antarctic expedition (1957-58). Father's desk was facing the window looking out over the College Library and garden. The desk was littered with little objects and unusual nick-nacks including a matchbox which contained gold dust that father had panned himself in the Yukon in 1913.

In order to run the house and cope with the catering, it was necessary to have assistance. After some intensive interviewing, Mr and Mrs May were taken on as the butler and cook. Mr May had a naval background, and they were a delightful



Sir James Wordie

couple. I remember May teaching me how to carve, saying that besides a sharp knife you needed to be bold and attack the meat joint.

The job of Master entailed a considerable amount of entertaining. This entertaining covered a wide spectrum from new scholars (tea party) to accommodating Heads of State. I remember on one occasion when I asked father about the scholars' tea party, he remarked that there was one unusual scholar who was wearing jeans. This was (Sir) Jonathan Miller. Also on that occasion, Miller was able to name two out of the three likely ladies for the 'unknown lady'. Jonathan had not taken History and was studying Medicine.

At the other end, we were asked by the Foreign Office to put up the President of India for the weekend. He was the very distinguished Hindu philosopher, Radna Krishnan. Naturally the Indian students at Cambridge wanted to welcome him, and asked if a small delegation could come to the Lodge. He was slightly loathe to receive them but finally agreed. When they arrived, my father and mother were preparing to leave the drawing room but he signalled that they should stay. The delegation came in, announced by the butler, and then there was a stony silence for quite a considerable time. I presume that this was done on purpose but it certainly made the meeting slightly frosty.

The garden also received attention. Father selected a Fellow of Clare College, who had just completed a highly successful layout for the Fellows' Garden at Clare, to do this.

Perhaps the strangest occasion was when father was entertaining a Professor of Geography from Brazil. Besides being a Professor of Geography, he also led a political party about which not much was known by the Foreign Office, and they asked father if they could have a representative at the lunch. I remember father telling me this just before lunch so that I could watch the meal and find out more during the conversation.

The garden also received attention. Father selected a Fellow of Clare College, who had just completed a highly successful layout for the Fellows' Garden at Clare, to do this. The problem with the garden was that it was overlooked from the Bridge of Sighs and Magdalene College. The design tried to give some privacy by planting two weeping willows by the steps leading down to the river and also by making a sunken rose garden. The final touch was an iron gate that led from the garden into Chapel Court. Again mother and father had

this specially designed, and it had a monogram of their initials JMW and GMW in the centre. The monogram was so successful that it was very hard to tell that it was their initials.

My memories of the Lodge were mainly of it as a home, and I remember departing from there in a jeep with another Johnian, Rodney Dodds, to drive all the way to Turkey. At that time this was not as easy as it sounds since there was absolutely no road map available of Turkey. Other memories include spending happy hours with father in the library, which was at the end of the upstairs passage. In particular I remember two beautiful bindings, which were Scottish, and which father later gave to the National Library of Scotland. During these times one began to learn a little about books and what to look for.

Again I remember when only my father and myself were in the Lodge and, just after I had gone to sleep, he came along to my room and woke me up as he wanted me to see someone trying to climb into College. The person concerned was not doing very well and I think my father leaned out of the bedroom window and gave him instructions. (Father himself had been a considerable night climber.)

On leaving Cambridge, I gave a farewell party in the Lodge. It was a particularly hot day and one offered only white wine or white ladies. The white ladies slipped down rather too easily, which created a jovial party but next day my father, after saying how much he had enjoyed the party, paused and said, 'Peter, remember it doesn't pay to make old men drunk'.

Perhaps my final memory is of father's dress. He was not over-keen on changing too often and therefore always wore a short black mourning jacket and trousers. He reckoned that this 'uniform' would cover meetings in Cambridge or London, funerals and Chapel services.

Peter Wordie
(BA 1955, MA 1959)



Professor Norman Montague Bleehen, CBE, MA, BM, BCh (Oxford), Emeritus Cancer Research Campaign Professor of Clinical Oncology, and Fellow of the College since 1976, sadly died on 1 February 2008, aged seventy-seven. His obituary and a recollection appear on Pages 123-27.

Before Professor Bleehen's death, Valerie Collis, who worked as Secretary to various Chaplains at St John's College, and was a close friend of Norman, and his wife Tirza, through the Jewish community, wrote this piece about his remarkable experience of National Service.

National Service with a Difference

Norman Bleehen retired as Professor of Clinical Oncology at Addenbrooke's Hospital in December 1995. But there was a very different beginning to his long career: one of his first appointments was with the Royal Army Medical Corps in Germany as Head of the Medical Team, supervising the health of three German war criminals in Spandau Prison in Berlin after the war.

Norman read Medicine at Oxford followed by clinical training at the Middlesex Hospital Medical School in London, graduating in 1955. He was called up for National Service in the Royal Army Medical Corps in 1957, and had the choice of a posting either in Germany or Nigeria. Nigeria was known as the 'White man's grave', so Norman opted for the former, and was sent as Medical Physician to the British Military Hospital (BMH) in Hanover. As assistant to the permanent army physician there, he became familiar with the general way of doing things, 'a good preparation for what was to come'.

After a year he was posted to be Consultant Physician at the BMH in Berlin, which, at that time, was occupied by the four Allied Powers: Britain, America, France and Russia. Each had a garrison located in their own sector, and a hospital for their troops and families. Norman was Physician at the BMH as well as at the Allied Military Prison in Spandau when it was the turn of the British to be in charge.

Spandau Prison, so called because it was situated in the western part of the city in the borough of Spandau, was built in 1876 as a penitentiary. It had a capacity for 600 prisoners, and a large number of professional civilians were running it when the Allies took over in November 1946. The Allies had expected over a



Professor Bleehen’s Spandau Prison pass

hundred war prisoners but in the event there were only seven. The complex, huge and expensive to run, had a library, a chapel, a garden for prisoners to grow their vegetables, and more prison cells than those in charge knew what to do with. Representatives from all four garrisons took it in turn to control the premises, including mounting the guard and providing medical services, having responsibility in rotation for one month at a time, a task that was jealously guarded.

By the time Norman arrived at Spandau there were only three prisoners left: Rudolph Hess, Albert Speer, and Baldur von Schirach. Norman discussed his role as physician to these German war criminals with his British Commanding Officer, asking whether it was appropriate that he, as a Jew, should be in this position. He was told 'this is the army and this is your job'. Norman’s job was to examine each prisoner every week when Britain was mounting guard, and to write a monthly report. Communication was conducted through an interpreter, and conversation with the prisoners was limited strictly to health matters.

Albert Speer, an architect by profession who had been involved very much in setting up armaments, spoke English and was known as Prisoner Number 5.



Norman remembers him as being an aggressive man who imposed a harsh regime on himself, and 'whose intellect shone through'. Having a request to write his memoirs rejected, Speer managed to put them to paper and had them systematically smuggled out by sympathetic prison staff that were willing to open all sorts of illicit lines of communication for the prisoners.

Hess was a sad neurotic character, a hypochondriac, suspicious of any food given to him, and refused all visitors for more than twenty years. He served the longest time in prison and was the last to die. Von Schirach was generally regarded as not being very pleasant.

Monthly meetings would take place at lunchtime when representatives of each of the four powers were present. There would be a meal hosted by whichever nation was on 'guard' and the way in which the countries conducted these sessions was remarkably different. The American lunches were 'dry'. The British offered a selection of army rations with a fair amount of alcohol. The French concentrated on *haute cuisine* and good wines, and the Russians did their very best to get everyone drunk on vodka. So after an American lunch the chances were you got back to work immediately. After a British lunch you might manage to do at least something more during the day. With the French you ruled out anything in the afternoon, and with the Russians you were lucky to get back on the job the following morning.

When not on duty, Norman 'enjoyed' the environment of a divided Berlin. He found it 'pretty awful' being amongst all those Germans and wondering what they had been doing during the war. But the distractions of the city were enticing, and the music, in particular the opera, was of a very high standard. One could cross over to East Berlin, where the Russians made sure they brought over the best performers and where propaganda was rife. Professionally, one got on well with the Russians; they were competent physicians.

Spandau remained operational until 1987 when its last remaining inmate, Hess, died. It is thought that the Russians resisted the prison's closure because they wanted a foothold in West Berlin. After Hess' death, the building was demolished and all materials from it were ground to powder and dispersed into the North Sea to prevent the area from becoming a Neo-Nazi shrine. In 2006, a supermarket was built on its former premises.

Norman recounted all this to me as though it happened yesterday; it was obviously a period in his life that he will not forget. After all, being the personal physician to German war criminals is not something every Jew experiences – for good or bad. One wonders what he would have had to tell us had he decided to go to Nigeria.

Valerie Collis



This is the winning entry for the 2008 Douglas Adams Prize, written by Natalie Lawrence, who matriculated in 2007 and is studying Natural Sciences (Biology) at St John's.

Douglas Adams was a student of St John's 1971-74, gaining a BA in English. He is best known for writing *The Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy* and *The Restaurant at the End of the Universe*. He died in 2001, and the Douglas Adams Prize was established by friends and colleagues in his memory. Candidates for the Prize are required to submit a piece of humorous writing on a subject of their own choosing, in prose or verse.

The Cretan Bull

It all started when the foaming waves on the shores of Crete parted in a swirling mass and a bull emerged, crocus white and docile as a dove, with horns like polished olive branches. The sea god Poseidon had been feeling a mite underappreciated by the Cretans, so he had decided to drop King Minos a pretty heavy hint, and send a worthy animal for a sacrifice. The bull strode majestically up to the royal palace, and when the king set eyes on it he could not bring himself to kill the wonderful beast. Surely Poseidon would be satisfied with the finest bull from his own herds? And admittedly his old black bull was getting slightly past it.

As Minos ordered the white bull to be penned in its own enclosure, he did not notice that his wife, Pasiphae, was making eyes at his new acquisition. Poseidon had clocked that Minos was playing the old switcheroo trick with his sacrifice, and to teach the king a lesson he had got Aphrodite to set Eros to work. Pasiphae now had a look on her face similar to that when the handsome young king had burst in to her apartments and swept her off to be Queen of Crete all those years ago. The bull played it cool; he didn't usually have to chase females, they came to him.

The great black bull from Minos' herds was brought forth and duly sacrificed, as soon as possible to prevent Poseidon from getting impatient. As the knife cut its

throat the bull's flanks shone like a sheet of black velvet, running with the dark blood on the temple floor like a crimson sea. It was a solemn moment. This was followed by a great feast, with prime steak for all, as Poseidon had not seemed very hungry. All the gods were really interested in was the gesture; they were generally too full on nectar and ambrosia most of the time to bother with bloody haunches. So the matter seemed to be settled, and the beautiful white bull seemed content to be the alpha male in a herd of thousands of cows.

At night she lay dreaming of the glossy white flanks, which rippled in the sunlight as the beast walked, the horns which spanned a shield's width, and could have pierced armour.

However, Pasiphae could not forget the bull. At night she lay dreaming of the glossy white flanks, which rippled in the sunlight as the beast walked, the horns which spanned a shield's width, and could have pierced armour. Minos did not suspect the reason for his wife's unusual pet name for him. He also did not notice how Pasiphae would languish at the gate of the bull's enclosure, watching longingly as he chewed nonchalantly on his succulent fodder, or strolled across to the eager black cows, who could hardly get enough of him. That year the herd nearly tripled in size. Minos himself was the son of the god Zeus in bull-form, who had abducted the maiden Europa and swum across the Aegean to Crete with her on his back. A penchant for animals was a fatal flaw of the women in his family.

Eventually Pasiphae went to Daedalus, the chief craftsman, and had him build her a hollow wooden model of a cow. She had it placed in the centre of the enclosed field, and shut herself inside, to all intents and purposes a sprightly young heifer ready to mate. She even made a few provocative mooing sounds in the hope that she might entice the wondrous white bull closer. She could hardly contain her excitement.

He took his time. He knew by now that he was something special, and having had the run of over a thousand cows for several weeks now, Poseidon's bull was in no particular hurry to investigate the new arrival. He eventually sauntered closer, tossing his head excessively at the gathering flies to display his great muscular neck and shining horns, but the cow did not go weak at the knees as he had expected. She stood stock still, apparently more interested in the farmhouse in the distance than the sizeable hunk of beefcake approaching her, and this piqued his interest. Like all males, he enjoyed a challenge. He walked

purposefully closer, expecting the cow to skip coquettishly away or at least turn her head, but she did neither. This was more than he could stand, and the bull bellowed in frustration, a sound which rolled over the olive groves like the battle cries of an approaching army. Then the cow made a strange sound, somewhat like a 'come hither', but also like a pigeon. This was where his manners ended, though a lesser bull might have found the mixed signals intimidating. He galloped towards her, snorting with indignation, and without any further posturing he got to business.

The experience was surprising. Pasiphae had failed to consider the logistics of inter-species relations, and found the reality quite a shock. She regretted giving in to her desires; it had been lust, nothing more. She avoided the bull, trying to pretend that nothing had happened. However, Pasiphae became pregnant, and was terrified that the secret of her illicit encounter would be known, for the offspring of such a union could hardly pass for that of Minos. Without the horns it might have done at a pinch, but as it was, no one was fooled.

In due course Pasiphae gave birth, with pains that rent her nearly in two. And the child was not cute by any standards: a small hairy boy with a calf's head. His only redeeming feature was that he had his mother's wide blue eyes. She could not bear to see him, since he reminded her of both the guilt and disgust she felt at herself, as well as the longing she had had for that virile white animal. And no baby that eats whole chickens by ripping them apart with its bare teeth is endearing, so he became known as the Minotaur: the bull of Minos. The king would not hear of keeping the boy, but neither could he kill his wife's son, the son of Poseidon's bull. So Minos had the craftsman Daedalus build a great labyrinth below the palace, a deep and twisting maze from which no man could escape, and plunged the bull-boy into the darkness, hiding the shame as deep as was humanly possible.

The Minotaur might have stayed in the maze for the rest of his life, awaiting the arrival of some intrepid young hero with a clew of golden thread looking for a spot of glory. He might have grown up to become a hideous and brutish cannibal. However, as it was, mother-love prevailed, and Pasiphae found herself touring the palace basement more than was strictly necessary, passing the door to the labyrinth several times a day with a look of longing on her face. After several months she gave up pretences, and spent all her time at an open panel in the door, hoping for a glimpse of her son. He was growing to become a strapping young man-beast. Evidently his godly heritage was causing the Minotaur to sprout extraordinarily quickly, aided by his high-protein diet of chickens. He had the beauty of his father, the bright shining horns, hide as white as milk, taller than any man and muscled like a titan. He also had his mother's stunning blue eyes, which could have melted a gaggle of teenage girls at twenty paces. He could not talk,

but he could understand speech, and would come striding to the door whenever she called, allowing her to stroke his velvety nose and coo at him lovingly, staring at her deeply with his cornflower eyes. She even grew to find his carnivorous eating habits endearing, and took to strutting about the palace like a proud mother hen. But she could not forget the fact that he was a prisoner in the maze, kept always in the dark. Not to mention the highly unbalanced diet that no mother would be happy with.



Statue of the Minotaur

Minos was not too pleased about his wife continually visiting her son. He began to feel neglected, and he couldn't see why the Minotaur was so important to her. Now every time he passed the white bull's enclosure, he felt edgy, and if the animal looked at him, Minos felt it was with supreme contempt. He, the King of Crete, son of Zeus, felt threatened by an animal. But it was not just paranoia. Minos was right to feel threatened. Pasiphae could not forget her furry frolic, and she began to see numerous flaws in her husband, and could not believe she had never noticed them before. His hair was greying and lustreless, he drank far too much wine, and was a pitiful 5ft 7in tall. He also had nowhere near as much energy in bed. She despaired, since the bull only knew her as another cow in the field, another heifer in the herd. Would he ever want her as a woman, or would there forever be a wooden bovine model lacking in the relationship?

Pasiphae could not forget her furry frolic, and she began to see numerous flaws in her husband, and could not believe she had never noticed them before.

However, this did not appear to be a problem. As Pasiphae began to spend all of her time by the gate to the bull's enclosure, and by the door of her son's maze, Minos became worried about the situation, but tried to dismiss it in his mind as the idle passing fancy of a bored woman. The bull on the other hand, began to notice the beautiful young woman who watched him. Every time he went near her, the breeze brought a familiar smell: the scent of that cow, the one who had not fallen head over heels for him. All the herdsman wondered why the bull was now sauntering around his fields with an even greater air of self-satisfaction. He lost his interest in the cows, who shot Pasiphae dirty looks every time she

approached the bull. It was quite an experience, being death stared by several hundred jealous heifers at once. Pasiphae would walk with the bull in the dusty summer sun, her arms entwined around his neck, hanging garlands of pale cornflowers from his horns, lying against him in the golden hay fields, dreaming of what might be. Minos didn't like to admit to the inquisitive palace visitors that the reason for his wife's 'enthusiasm for agriculture' was that she was having a clandestine affair with his prime bull. He began to crave fillet steak for dinner.

Then one day Pasiphae came down to the labyrinth from gambolling in the fields with the white bull, and as she saw the difference between that magnificent free beast and the cold dark of the maze, she could not stand her son to be imprisoned any longer. She wrenched open the vast bronze bolts that kept the door shut and entered the maze, calling for her bull-boy, who had grown over the past few months in to a sizeable 7ft of sinewy muscle. He came striding out of the blackness, the white sheen of his fur glinting in the torch light, and stopped when he saw his mother standing before the open door. But there was no time for indulging in sentimentalities, and Pasiphae sprinted up through the palace, her son after her. They undid the gate to the cow's enclosure. Pasiphae called to her bull-lover, who galloped towards her, head held high and snorting vigorously. He did not usually have much to do with the calf-rearing end of matters, except for the occasional disciplining of unruly offspring, but the strange beast with Pasiphae was familiar to the bull, and the blue eyes transfixed him, just as hers did. The Minotaur knew this was his father, whom his mother had told him so much about. So the three ran together, out of the palace grounds, into the sunshine, out onto the stony seashore where the waves crashed and billowed to the piercing cries of gulls. Poseidon's Bull, his lover and their child, away from gates and mazes and palaces, free as the sea-god's swirling mass of water around them.

Natalie Lawrence

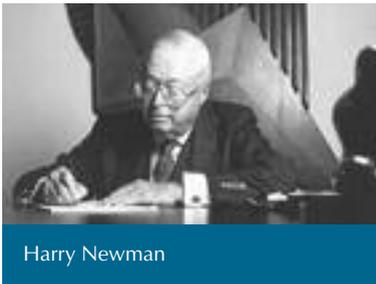


A few months ago 'Newman's Corner' was opened in the new English Faculty building; it is a section of the Library equipped by friends and relatives of Johnian, Harry Newman (MLitt 1949), who died in 2001.

In a speech made to mark the occasion, Professor John Kerrigan (then Chair of the English Faculty) made the following remarks.

Newman's Corner

Harry Newman's life was full and varied, his energy and intellect both formidable. Property developer, publisher, educationalist, he was also, as his poems show, a family man, devoted to his wife and five children, and a resourceful writer.



Harry Newman

He was born in St Louis in 1921, and educated at Harvard. His family background was urban – his father was in the automobile industry – but the MLitt that he wrote at St John's was on 'Agricultural Co-operation in Hampshire' (1949). England just after the war could be cold and forbidding; the ration book was a set text. But Cambridge was full of ex-servicemen, working and playing hard. Newman

was one of them, and he threw himself into university life. High among his achievements was the setting up of *Varsity* (after a false start in 1931-32), a paper for which, then and since, almost everyone who would be someone wrote. It hit the streets on Saturday mornings, at 3d a copy. After submitting his dissertation, Newman, keen on England, settled in London and co-founded a publishing company. His father and America called, however, and once back home he built up a major presence in commercial and industrial real estate, especially shopping developments. Along with the cut and thrust of business went a more reflective, policy-generating side. As a leading figure in the International Council of Shopping Centers, he pushed for educational programmes in retail property. He also gave time to the arts, establishing the Long Beach Regional Arts Foundation.

His poetry is that of a man whose life had touched all these areas. Here he is, in typical mode, in a piece called 'VIP, A Conversation'. It is a dialogue between a property developer and his inner, philosophical, taxi-driver:

VIP, A Conversation

I have to be there at four thirty
 For a business appointment
 Before a dinner meeting;
 So please step on it.

What do you do, if I may ask?
 He asked.

I develop shopping centers
 Small ones, big ones with malls.

Oh you must be really important.

Well, I don't know about that.
 How long is your shift?

*You're my last fare,
 I started just before noon.*

What do you do the rest of the time?

*Oh, I go home; only a small place
 Overlooking the river,
 Work my vegetable garden,
 Go fishing or sailing.
 Sometimes I sit and read
 Or look at the mountains.*

*I just make enough to get along.
 That's why it's so nice
 To meet a successful person
 Like you.*

You have to warm to the modest, idiomatic means that Newman uses to open up the big, familiar question of what is sacrificed by success.

He deserves a corner in the English Faculty Library because he understood how creativity and critical insight are parts of the same process, but how destructive criticism can be. As he puts it in another poem:

Criticism is a cutting tool
Razor-sharp and diabolically designed
For demolishing egos
Eviscerating gut reactions
Cutting the props of self-confidence
From others and oneself. . .

A lot of his writing has that alert, lived-in balance. Home-grown, shrewd, he reflects on the dangers of perfectionism, of being so busy that you don't know who you are – the sort of thing any CEO would feel when getting to bed late – of being governed by social constraints instead of making your own way.

One last poem, called 'Here and Now', touches on the value of living in the present, of not being so quick to anticipate the possibilities of tomorrow that you are constantly prey to disappointment. Everyday wisdom. But I'm touched by how his words have acquired new meaning since his death – in that sense they have entered more fully into the condition of literature. I mean that, as he explains how we should be *here* when it is *now*, beyond the fretfulness of change, he seems to be describing his presence here and now in Newman's Corner.

Here And Now

Today is yesterday's anticipation
Tomorrow is dissatisfaction
With today's anticipation

A painful process
Repeated endlessly
Until anticipation vanishes
And each day
Has its own identity

Then and only then
Can feeling have reality

Then and only then
Will I be here
When it is now

John Kerrigan
Fellow of St John's



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, 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 CUIAI 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, 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. 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.

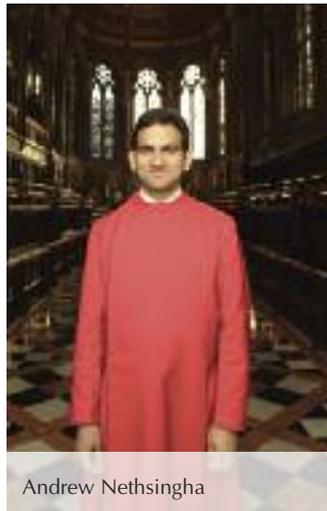
As part of the preparations for the College's 500th Anniversary, the Committee is in discussion with the College authorities regarding future links between the Choir Association and the College's administrative and fundraising activities. The intention is to enable a fund to be earmarked for Chapel purposes, 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.



Andrew Nethsingha

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. 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 Diggle 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/.

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 Castelvechchi 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 Houlby
 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 Houlsby
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 marshalling 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 Houlby, 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 VIII's 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.



Ultimate

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



FELLOWS & MEMBERS' NEWS



ST JOHN'S COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

FELLOWS' NEWS

BURTON, Professor Graham James, has been appointed the Director of the Centre for Trophoblast Research in the University, which was officially launched on 9 July 2008.

CLARKE, Professor Malcolm Alistair, has published *Contracts of Carriage by Land and Air*, 2nd edition, 2008.

DOBSON, Professor Christopher Martin, FRS, was last year elected a Foreign Honorary Member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and gave the 2007 Distinguished Lecture in Chemistry at Rutgers University. During the course of this year he has given the 2008 Class of 1942 James B Sumner Lecture at Cornell University, the 2008 Ada Doisy Memorial Lecture at the University of Illinois, and the 2008 David L Weaver Endowed Lecture at the University of California, Davis.

GRIFFIN, Professor Roger Francis, has reached Paper 200 in a numbered series of papers that he has been writing for a long time, under the generic title 'Spectroscopic Binary Orbits from Photoelectric Radial Velocities' in the astronomical periodical, *Observatory*. The series presents research results obtained by a technique that Professor Griffin developed when he was a Research Fellow of St John's from 1962 to 1965, and which has long since been established as the routine method worldwide. The publication of Paper 200 was celebrated at a meeting organised by the Royal Astronomical Society in March 2008. Professor Griffin, now 72, took time off from his writing to run the 2008 London Marathon, and apologises for taking 3 hours and 43 minutes – four minutes slower than the previous year!

KERRIGAN, Professor John Francis, gave the Poetics Lecture and the Nicholson Lecture in October 2007 at the University of Chicago. In January 2008 he was appointed Visiting Fellow at Jadavpur University, Calcutta, and the University of Delhi. He also published *Archipelagic English: Literature, History, and Politics 1603-1707* (Oxford University Press, 2008).

KINMONTH, Professor Ann-Louise, CBE, was elected an Overseas Associate Member of the Institute of Medicine, USA, in the autumn of 2007.

LINEHAN, Dr Peter Anthony, FBA, has written the following book: *Spain, 1157-1300. A Partible Inheritance* (Blackwell History of Spain: Oxford, 2008), and has edited, with Simon Barton, *Cross, Crescent and Conversion. Studies on Medieval Spain and Christendom in Memory of Richard Fletcher* (Leiden: Brill, 2008). He has also written, with Barbara Harvey, 'Edward Miller, 1915-2000', *Proceedings of the British Academy*, 138 (Biographical Memoirs of Fellows, V; 2006), 231-56.

MCCAVE, Professor Ian Nicholas, has been awarded a Leverhulme Emeritus Fellowship for 2008-10, which will follow his retirement from the Woodwardian Professorship of Geology at the end of September.

NETHSINGHA, Mr Andrew Mark, was elected President of the Cathedral Organists' Association, 2007-10.

PERHAM, Professor Richard Nelson, FRS, has been awarded the 2008 Edman Prize, jointly with Dr Ettore Appella (National Institutes of Health, USA), by the International Association of Protein Structure Analysis and Proteomics. The Prize is in recognition of their 'achievements in the analysis and functional interpretations of proteins'. Professor Perham was reappointed Chair of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Max-Planck-Institut für Molekulare Physiologie, Dortmund, Germany, in November 2007, and was appointed a Member of the Research Field Commission, Biology and Medicine Section of the Max-Planck-Gesellschaft, Germany, in March 2008.

REIF, Professor Stefan Clive, has received a personal award from the Association of Jewish Libraries, which has members in North and South America, South Africa, Europe and Asia (especially Israel). The award was received in recognition of an 'incredible contribution made to research in many areas of Jewish studies'. In addition, an institutional award was made to the Genizah Research Unit at Cambridge University Library, which Professor Reif founded and directed from 1973 until 2006.

SAMWORTH, Dr Richard John, was awarded the Royal Statistical Society Research Prize for 2008.

WATT, Professor Fiona Mary, was elected a Foreign Honorary Member of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences in 2008.

WELLAND, Professor Mark Edward, FRS, was appointed Chief Scientific Adviser at the Ministry of Defence, April 2008.



FOCUS ON A FELLOW: DR ALAN MACFARLANE

Dr Alan Macfarlane, Fellow of St John's, retired from his positions as College Lecturer, Supervisor and Director of Studies, and from the Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics (DAMTP), in September 2003. In October 2003 the African Institute for Mathematical Sciences (AIMS) – the culmination of extensive planning initiated by Professor N G Turok, Chair of Mathematical Physics, DAMTP – was launched. Thus at the point at which AIMS was opening

its doors to African students who had completed at least a first degree in mathematics, science, engineering, computer science or similar, Dr Macfarlane offered to teach a course on Mathematical Methods in Science with integrated use of algebraic computing packages and computer graphics. He has subsequently spent a month there in the autumn each year, and plans to do so again in 2008.



AIMS, False Bay, Muizenberg, near Cape Town

The purpose of the course is partly to ensure that students graduate well-prepared to go on and prosper in good Masters and PhD programmes, and partly to introduce them to the international research world. The Institute is housed in its own building in idyllic surroundings near the beach on False Bay at Muizenberg, near Cape Town, South Africa. Dr Macfarlane told us:

It has been a rewarding experience to be involved in the teaching of such a strongly motivated, receptive audience, which functions well in the presence of language and religious differences. It has been interesting to get insight into the cultures and attitudes of the African students from nearly thirty countries, and to hear graphic accounts, in some cases, of their struggle to put together their educations.

Currently there are – to my knowledge – AIMS alumni in PhD programmes in Cambridge (two), Heriot-Watt (two), Bath, Strathclyde, Edinburgh, Budapest, Simon Fraser, Graz, Utrecht, Syracuse (New York) and New Mexico, plus many at South African universities. There have been a number with offers of good PhD placements, for which funding failed to materialise. Also three so far have obtained good Honours passes in Part III Mathematics here, and there are four in the class of 2007-08.

Alongside AIMS itself, the African Institute for Mathematical Sciences Schools Enrichment Centre (AIMSSEC) was established to provide in-service training to South African schoolteachers from underprivileged schools. AIMSSEC is run by Mrs Toni Beardon, who organises two-week workshops, with classes covering the entire age range of the new South African school mathematics syllabus. These take place at various locations in the Cape Town area, always during the South African school holidays. My wife, Mrs Margaret Macfarlane, who is retired from her schoolteaching job at the Perse School, Cambridge, has taught so far on seven of these intensive courses, always working with teachers of the oldest age groups.



MEMBERS' NEWS

- 1952 AXFORD, Martin Thomas James, and Wendy (née Camps, Girton 1951-54), celebrated their Golden Wedding in 2007. Martin has been elected a Fellow of John Wheatley College, Glasgow. He continues to work for Verkmennataskóli á Akureyri, and the two colleges were brought together when a group of senior administrators from Icelandic colleges spent a day at John Wheatley College in the course of an educational visit to Scotland.
- 1958 JUMSAI, Dr Sumet, was awarded the Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres, by the French ambassador, at the French Embassy in Bangkok, on 20 May 2008.
- 1961 COUSINS, Lance Selwyn, was elected a Supernumerary Fellow, Wolfson College, Oxford, in May 2007.
POTTER, Edmund Alan, following his sixty-fifth birthday, continues to work half-time and maintain his interest as Head of Technical Support in Delta-T Devices Ltd. The business, which he founded in 1971 with 'profit and decision sharing' aspirations, is now a thirty-strong workers' co-operative in the Cambridge area making instruments for environmental soil and plant science.
- 1962 BARNARD, William Sedgwick, was installed as Master, The Worshipful Company of Management Consultants, on 18 October 2007.
- 1963 RUSSELL, Professor Michael William, was awarded the Distinguished Scientist Award for Research in Oral Biology by the International Association for Dental Research at its eighty-fifth general session in New Orleans, Louisiana, on 21 March 2007.
- 1966 TEBBIT, Sir Kevin Reginald, KCB CMG, having retired from UK public service as Permanent Under-Secretary of State at the Ministry of Defence at the end of 2005, has undertaken published reviews of the Danish Foreign Intelligence Service and the management and services of the House of Commons. He was appointed a Non-Executive Director of Smiths Group plc in May 2006 and Chairman of Finmeccanica UK in July 2007.
- 1967 DE LAMBERT, Lionel Shelton, was awarded an Open University Diploma in Classical Studies (Dip CS), with a distinction in Classical Greek, in December 2007.
- 1968 FESTING, Robert Matthew, OBE TD DL, became the seventy-ninth Grand Master of the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta (SMOM), in March 2008.

- JENKINS, Dr Paul Fowler, after twenty-five years as a Consultant Physician in Norwich, has moved to Western Australia to take up the post of Professor of Medicine at the University of Western Australia. He is a founder member and ex-President of the Society for Acute Medicine UK, and is married with two sons, one of whom, Peter JENKINS (1999), is currently working as a junior doctor at Guy's and St Thomas' Hospitals in London, after completing the medical degree at Oxford University (Keble College).
- 1969 DEAN, Dr Christopher Neville, was elected a Bye-Fellow of Homerton College on 1 October 2007.
 PARHAM, Professor Peter Robert, was elected Fellow of the Royal Society on 16 May 2008.
- 1971 FURBER, Professor Stephen Byram, FRS, Professor of Computer Engineering, University of Manchester, was appointed CBE in the New Year Honours List 2008, for services to computer science.
 WATERTON, Dr John Charles, was appointed Chief Scientist, AstraZeneca, in March 2007. He was also appointed Professor of Translational Imaging, University of Manchester, in October 2007.
- 1973 BLACK, Nigel Patrick, was a member of the winning Ministry of Justice team in the 2008 series of *University Challenge*, 'The Professionals'.
 MANNING, Dr Paul Richard, has been awarded a Professional Doctorate (DProf) in Professional Development, in particular in 'consultation skills in general veterinary practice', by the University of Middlesex, 2007.
 WILLIAMS, William Hywel, was elected an Honorary Fellow of the University of Wales, Bangor, in 2006, and appointed a Contributing Editor of *The Spectator* in 2007. His most recent books include: *Cassell's Chronology of World History*, 2005; *Britain: Power Elites*, 2006; *Days that Changed the World*, 2006; and *Sun Kings: A History of Kingship*, 2007.
- 1974 BLAKEY, Simon Andrew, and William Thomas (Tom) PETERS (1975), rode the Cresta Run, St Moritz, in February 2008. He would highly recommend the same to other Johnians of an adventurous disposition!
- 1976 RAWLEY, The Revd Ian Stephen, in the summer of 2007, was appointed by the Lord Chancellor to be the Chairman of his Advisory Sub-Committee for southern Cambridgeshire, to take office on 1 September 2007, for a period of three years, until 31 August 2010, when his nine years' service on the Committee comes to an end.
- 1978 SOGGIN, Professor J Alberto, was awarded the Burkitt Medal for Biblical Studies by the British Academy on 19 November 2007.
- 1979 HOFMAN, Martin Arnold, with his wife Deborah, left London in the spring of 2007 to run self-catering holiday cottages for up to twenty-eight people in the Peak District, www.wheeldontreesfarm.co.uk. Martin says: 'Johnians are especially welcome to this beautiful part of England - mention the Bridge of Sighs for a 10% discount!'

- 1980 ROBINSON, The Venerable Peter John Alan, became the Archdeacon of Lindisfarne in the Diocese of Newcastle, in March 2008, moving away from the City of Newcastle to the county town of Morpeth. The Archdeaconry of Lindisfarne is the most northerly in the Church of England and covers almost all of Northumberland from Berwick in the far north to Haltwhistle in the west.
- 1982 BENN, Dr James Alexander, was promoted to Associate Professor of Buddhism and East Asian Religions, in the Religious Studies Department, McMaster University, in 2007. He also wrote *Burning for the Buddha: Self-immolation in Chinese Buddhism* (University of Hawai'i Press, 2007).
- 1983 ATKIN, Dr Christopher John, was appointed to the Chair in Aeronautical Engineering at City University, London, from January 2008.
 CRAVEN, Paul Aidan, ran his sixth marathon in six years in March 2007, in Los Angeles, before returning to Europe to take up snowboarding. A broken leg forced him to give up the latter, but did not keep him from his St John's year reunion, where his old friend Peter MATANLE (1983) pushed him around in his wheelchair. A few weeks later, Paul was elected a Member of the Magic Circle.
- 1984 LEUNG, Dr Koon Chit Lawrence, was appointed Assistant Professor in Family Medicine, Department of General Practice, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada, from 1 July 2007. He completed a six-year degree course in Chinese Medicine (BCM) at the Baptist University of Hong Kong in July 2007. He has also informed us of the birth of a baby boy, Javon, weighing 8lb 14 oz, on 6 September 2007. Javon is the third child of the family, a brother for Arthur and Justin.
- 1985 HOAR, Jane Elizabeth (née CHENERY), is delighted to announce the arrival of another redhead, Tamsin Jane Olivia, on 21 December 2006. Jane has been working at the Academic Development Unit of the Royal Veterinary College, University of London, since September 2007.
 LAXTON, Rebecca Ruth, and Kieran Cooper (Leeds, 1987), had a baby, Alexander Michael Anthony Cooper Laxton (known as Sasha), at home on 10 November 2006.
 SERGEANT, James Edmund Verney, formed a civil partnership with Dr Gary Orr on 31 August 2007.
 THOMPSON, Jonathan Richard, and his wife Zoë, are delighted to announce the birth of their first child, Zach Geoffrey, on 1 September 2007.
 TOWNLEY, Christine Anne, and Barbara Taylor, are pleased to announce the birth of a daughter, Jessie Taylor Townley, on 18 March 2007.
- 1986 ROBINSON, Dr Nigel James, has relocated with his family to Houston, Texas, to take up a new position with Noble Denton in the Americas.

- 1987 ESPOSITO, Dr Giampiero Valentino Marco, attended the GRG18 Conference in Sydney, giving the talk 'Spherically Symmetric Gravity with Variable G and Lambda', selected for oral presentation, during the D2 parallel session 'Quantum Aspects of Cosmology'.
- 1988 CHUAUTHUAMA, The Revd Pachuau, retired from the service of the Mizoram Presbyterian Church as Registrar of Aizawl Theological College, from 1 January 2008. He was appointed Principal of Centenary School, Dawrpui Church, from 15 January 2008.
- 1989 BAKER, Professor Stuart Nicolas, and his wife, Anne (née WILLOUGHBY), are pleased to announce the birth of David Stuart Willoughby Baker on 10 February 2008, a brother for Jonathan, Peter and Aidan.
HALLAS, Joanna Christine, and her husband, Nicholas Tetley, are delighted to announce the birth of their son, Peter Nicholas Hallas, on 10 October 2007.
SCUTT, Lindsey Patricia, has informed us of the birth of a son, Gabriel Anthony William Wood, on 20 January 2007, to her and her fiancé, Philip Wood.
TWILLEY, Catherine May, has been appointed Development Director and elected to a Fellowship at Christ's College, from mid-September 2008.
- 1991 HAMILL, Lesley Jane (née REID), and her husband Jonathan, are delighted to announce the birth of their first child, Fergus Jonathan, on 14 September 2007 in Durham.
ICETON, Natalie Gayle (née BUNTING), and Glen Icton are pleased to announce the birth of Harriet Rose on 17 June 2007, a sister for Max.
ROBERTS, Kerri-Anne Mary (née TRAVERS), married Ian Roberts on 18 August 2007 at St Chad's Church, Uppermill, Lancashire.
ROW, Dr Paula Elaine, was appointed to a lectureship in Biochemistry in the Department of Environmental and Molecular Biosciences at Swansea University on 1 October 2007.
- 1992 COBB, Dr Adam Campbell, former Associate Professor of Strategy at the USAF Air War College, has been appointed Professor, International Relations, at the United States Marine Corps Command and Staff College at Quantico VA. Dr Cobb was a Visiting Fellow at Wolfson College, Cambridge, during Easter Term 2008. Adam would like to reconnect with friends and colleagues from College days and can be contacted by email, adam.cobb@yahoo.com, or via www.linkedin.com/in/adamcobb.
RICKETTS, Carrie Anne (née ALLISON), and her husband Adrian, are pleased to announce the birth of Olivia May on 13 September 2007, a sister for Luke.

- 1994 HOLDEN, Hilary Margaret (née CROWTHER), married Timothy Holden at the Craiglunds Hotel in Ilkley, West Yorkshire, on 2 June 2007. Jessica BERTRAM (1994), Nikki BARTON (née JAMES, 1983), Catherine MILLHOUSE (née TWILLEY, 1989) and Amanda WALKER (1994) were guests, and Nikki's daughters were bridesmaids. PIERCE, Dr Nicole Francesca Terese Gabriella (née ARMSTRONG), and Dr Christian William (Downing, 1995) are delighted to announce the birth of their son, Finlay Thomas Christian, on 22 January 2008.
- 1995 DENNING, Louisa Michelle, and her husband, Matthew Turner, are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter, Emily Charlotte, on 25 April 2007, a sister for Ethan James. DHIRAJ, Manmeet Kaur (née BHAMRA), married Ravjit Dhiraj on 19 August 2007 at Guru Nanak Gurdwara, Preston, and The Dunkenhagh, Accrington.
- 1996 ARNOLD, Dr Johanna Katherine (née WARNKE), and Rob, are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Martha Grace, on 25 July 2007, a first great-grandchild for Richard James Lance (Jim) DAVIS (1946). DELOUIS, Dr Anne Friederike (née MÜLLER), and Dr Oliver Delouis are delighted to announce the birth of their son, Eugene, on 21 February 2008, a brother for Artemis and Nestor. TOYE, Dr Richard John, took up a Senior Lectureship in the Department of History at the University of Exeter, in September 2007. In March 2007, he had published *Lloyd George and Churchill: Rivals for Greatness* (Macmillan).
- 1997 MCELLIGOTT, Dr Gerard Jason, was elected a Fellow of Merton College, Oxford, in October 2007. His book, *Royalism, Print and Censorship in Revolutionary England*, 2007, derives from his Cambridge PhD. Other recent books include: *Fear, Exclusion and Revolution: Roger Morrice and Britain in the 1680s*, 2006; Volume Six of *The Entiring Book of Roger Morrice, 1677-1691*, 2007; and (with David L Smith of Selwyn College) *Royalists and Royalism during the English Civil Wars*, 2007.
- 1998 WADDILOVE, David Paul, was awarded the degree of Juris Doctor magna cum laude from the University of Michigan, in May 2007.
- 2000 HEYRENDT SHERMAN, Dr Catherine Florence (née HEYRENDT), married Carl Edmund Steven Sherman, on 12 April 2008, in Nancy, France. VIRJI, Salima Jane, returned to St John's College in May 2008 to take up the position of Development Manager.
- 2001 DUDLEY, Rachel Elizabeth (née BALL), married Michael Peter DUDLEY (2000) on 11 August 2007 at Tatton Park, Cheshire.
- 2006 BARTEL, Alex (né CHMELNITZKI), married Klaudia Bartel on 27 July 2007, in Witten, Germany.



DEATH NOTICES

- 1927 PLATT, Major Christopher James (Kit), 6 July 2007, aged 99.
- 1931 TODD, Professor John (Jack), 21 June 2007, aged 96.
- 1932 BUTLER, Archdeacon Cuthbert Hilary, 18 December 2007, aged 94.
- 1933 ALLEN, Robert Willoughby John (Bobbie), 27 February 2008, aged 93.
WYN LEWIS (formerly LEWIS), John Cecil, 19 June 2007, aged 92.
- 1934 ATKINSON, William, 20 August 2007, aged 91.
- 1935 CADMAN, Dr Donald Spencer, 8 December 2007, aged 90.
WOOLLETT, Major General John Castle, CBE MC, 30 May 2007, aged 91.
- 1936 ATTLEE, Wilfred Ormiston, 29 February 2008, aged 90.
PRICE, Geoffrey Arthur, 21 October 2007, aged 89.
RACKHAM, Harold Christopher, 13 December 2007, aged 90.
- 1937 BROOK, Dr Alexis, MBE, 7 August 2007, aged 87.
KIRBY, Frank, 3 July 2007, aged 87.
POWDRILL, Ernest Joseph (George), 11 February 2008, aged 89.
SLACK, Dr Roger Dutton, 11 July 2007, aged 88.
- 1938 PEACOCK, Robert Anderson, 20 September 2007, aged 87.
WYLIE, Colin St Aubyn, 29 May 2007, aged 88.
- 1939 BERTIN, Reginald James Edmund, 11 March 2008, aged 87.
COLSON, The Revd Alexander Francis Lionel (Alec), MBE, 29 June 2007, aged 85.
CROOK, Professor John Anthony, 7 September 2007, aged 85. A full obituary appears on Pages 112-14.
MATHER, Dr Harold Gordon, 13 July 2007, aged 86.
SCOTT, William Hugh, 3 April 2008, aged 87.
SYMONS, Dr Michael, FRCP, 3 April 2008, aged 87.
- 1940 BARTLETT, Hugh Frederic, 1 February 2008, aged 84.
HOWL, Oliver Brian, 20 January 2008, aged 85.
PETERS, Theophilus, CMG, 9 February 2008, aged 86.
- 1941 ATKINSON, Peter Doughton, 20 August 2007, aged 83.
CURTIS, Allan Raymond (Alan), 17 February 2008, aged 85.
KIRBY, Frederick Neville, 7 December 2007, aged 84.
LAWSON, Dr John David, FRS, 15 January 2008, aged 84.
STANLEY, Philip John, 21 October 2007, aged 84.
- 1942 GILCHRIST, Ronald Reid, 16 January 2008, aged 83.
JOLLANS, William Mallinson, 31 May 2007, aged 83.
LOVERIDGE, Sir John Warren, 13 November 2007, aged 82.
MORGAN, Thomas Kirk, 13 January 2008, aged 83.
SNUSHALL, David Bruce, 28 November 2007, aged 83.
- 1943 HORRELL, John Ernest Bryant, 11 June 2006, aged 81.
KENDON, Richard Donald, 15 August 2007, aged 80.
KERMODE, Terence Lucas, 7 May 2008, aged 82.

- 1944 CLARKE, Donald Hugh, 22 April 2008, aged 81.
 DICKINSON, Allan William, 22 January 2008, aged 81.
 HAUGHTON, Michael Frederick, 21 August 2007, aged 81.
 MILLAR, William Donald, 15 August 2007, aged 81.
- 1945 BRANFORD, Professor William Richard Grenville, 13 September 2007, aged 80.
 COOPER, Dr Michael George, 27 September 2007, aged 80.
 GILLESPIE, John Kenneth, 6 July 2007, aged 82.
 HILL, Sir John McGregor, FRS, 14 January 2008, aged 86.
 HILTON, Joseph Raymond (John), 18 August 2007, aged 79.
 LLOYD, John Arthur, OBE DL, 17 March 2008, aged 81.
 MERRY, Frank, 3 June 2007, aged 80.
 WILSON, Leslie, 22 August 2007, aged 80.
- 1946 CLIFTON, Henry Tilden, 3 January 2008, aged 83.
 PULLAN, Dr George Thomas, 22 March 2008, aged 79.
 WOYKA, Dr John Graham, 19 November 2007, aged 85.
- 1947 BARNES, Frederick George, 19 October 2007, aged 89.
 BOOTH-JONES, Charles Ellison, 16 January 2008, aged 88.
 CRUICKSHANK, Professor Durward William John, FRS, 13 July 2007, aged 83.
 DOMVILLE, Alan Ratcliffe, 31 May 2007, aged 82.
 GAUDIE, Martyn, 4 September 2007, aged 82.
- 1948 GARDNER, John Edmund, 3 August 2007, aged 80.
 MEADOWS, The Revd John Michael, 6 November 2007, aged 80.
- 1949 BLICK, John David, 5 August 2007, aged 76.
 LARDNER, Thomas Harry Afolabi, 13 September 2007, aged 80.
 RANKIN, James Mottram Nasmith, 21 August 2007, aged 76.
 SPENCER, Dominick Evelyn Wellesley, 8 May 2008, aged 83.
 TOWNEND, Peter Lawson, 17 October 2007, aged 79.
- 1950 HARVEY, Michael John, 22 February 2008, aged 77.
 PARKINSON, Malcolm Douglas, 13 August 2006, aged 75.
 ROWAN, Dr Kingsley Spencer, 8 March 2008, aged 89.
- 1951 GILLESPIE, Brian John, OBE TD DL, 23 August 2007, aged 76.
 PLOWS, Dr Charles David, 5 April 2008, aged 75.
- 1952 DAVIES, Dr Thomas Treharne (Terry), 11 May 2007, aged 72.
- 1953 BROWN, Professor Richard Kemp, 31 May 2007, aged 73.
 NOBLE, John Edward, 21 March 2008, aged 77.
 ROSS, Captain Donald Henry, 4 October 2007, aged 75.
- 1954 WILSON, John Frederick, 2 February 2008, aged 74.
- 1955 HADWEN, Professor Charles Theodore Magrath, 27 December 2007, aged 74.
 WICKHAM, Richard Paul, 15 April 2008, aged 73.
 WILLS, The Revd David Ernest, 10 May 2007, aged 69.
- 1956 KENT, Paul Bolingbroke, CBE, 1 July 2006, aged 70.

- 1960 GRANT, Dr Brian Eric James, 29 October 2007, aged 67.
1961 DOWSON, Dr Henry Richard (Harry), 28 January 2008, aged 68.
LENNARD, Donald Edward, 25 August 2007, aged 75.
1962 CURTIS, Michael (Mike), 10 November 2007, aged 63.
DOVER, Dr Stanley David, 24 February 2008, aged 64.
1963 HARRISON, Dr Robert, 6 May 2007, aged 62.
1966 RENWICK, Professor Alistair Graham Cranston, 2 July 2007, aged 77.
1968 CONN, Robert Alan, 20 December 2007, aged 62.
1969 WHITE, John Fletcher, 1 March 2007, aged 56.
1971 RIGGS, Professor Lorrin Andrews, 8 April 2008, aged 95.
1973 SLOSS, Robert Prentice (Bob), 11 December 2007, aged 80.
1974 SAUNDERS, Geoffrey, 13 October 2007, aged 51.
1976 BLEEHEN, Professor Norman Montague, CBE, 1 February 2008, aged 77.
A full obituary appears on Pages 123-26.
1995 SPENCER, Dr Jonathan Brian (Joe), 6 April 2008, aged 47. A full obituary
appears on Pages 119-22.
1998 SANTOW, The Hon Mr Kim, AO, 10 April 2008, aged 67. 

OBITUARIES



ST JOHN'S COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Professor John Anthony Crook, 1921-2007: Obituary

With the ever-open door of his College rooms providing a warm welcome to generations of current and non-resident members of St John's, for more than fifty years John Crook was as integral a part of that institution as the Bridge of Sighs. The open door was a tutorial habit, part of the Cambridge culture that preceded the age of stolen laptops. (Not that the Crookery would have proved profitable in that respect. It was with a fountain-pen, itself a reluctant concession to modernity, that he wrote his annual Christmas letters to scores of former pupils).

Old pupils (as well as the old pupils of others) and old friends from all over the world, who scaled the precipitous staircase to those rooms, were just two of his constituencies: from his election as a Fellow in 1951 until just last year the College Classical Society regularly met there. Abstemious by nature, he was generosity personified, with seemingly endless time to spare for junior colleagues and graduate students for whom he had no formal responsibility, reading and criticising successive drafts of their dissertations. Beneath a sometimes curmudgeonly exterior, he was expert at doing good by stealth. The College staff had a particular place in his affections, and he in theirs, as was testified by the number of them who visited him in hospital during his final days and attended his packed funeral in the College Chapel.

Crook's early career as a south-London boy and the only child of parents of limited means affords a wonderful case-study of the social mobility then provided by a scholarship system, since sacrificed by the old universities and successive governments on the altar of social something-else. Coming up to St John's in October 1939, he took a First in Part I of the Classical Tripos before being drafted as a private into the 9th Royal Fusiliers and serving in the Middle East and North Africa before being captured on landing in Italy.

His rueful account of that incident, and of the surrender of his platoon after the providential concussion of his gung-ho Colonel sold on death or glory, revealed Crook the anecdotalist at his best, as did that of his time as a prisoner-of-war in Silesia. Here he acquired fluent German, taught languages to other prisoners, and perfected his remarkable skill on the clarinet (the instrument his father, a military bandsman, played). His description of Stalag VIII B as a prison out of which it was possible to climb and, after spending the night with local girls, knock for re-admission with the milk, made the place sound more like a Cambridge college of the 1950s than Colditz. The end of that stage of his life was less of a joke, however, with liberation by the Russian army and the forced march westward to Berlin resulting in the death of many of his comrades.



Professor John Crook circa 1958

After completion of the Tripos with a starred First and all the highest academic awards and honours, a year in Oxford and a spell at Reading, in 1951 he returned to Cambridge as a Research Fellow of St John's, where the influence of Martin Charlesworth was largely responsible for shifting the focus of his classical interests from philosophy to history.

In the College, he was successively Tutor, Praelector and President, and in the Faculty ascended from an assistant lectureship to the Chair of Ancient History, which he occupied from 1979 to 1984. He was elected Fellow of the British Academy in 1970, resigning in 1980 in protest at the failure of that body to expel the spy and traitor Anthony Blunt.

This is not the place to attempt to describe the special merits of Crook's published work, and above all of his *Law and Life of Rome* (1967), which ought to be familiar enough to those entitled to entertain an opinion of it. Law was no guide to Life, he insisted, taking as a contemporary example the widespread disregard by Cambridge cyclists of the rules laid down by the authorities. He vigorously championed the status and the calling of advocates (and rhetoric) as opposed to jurists (and jurisprudence).

To an unusual degree, the authentic voice, colloquial yet elegant, was audible in the printed word (I suspect that, like F W Maitland, before committing anything to paper he *listened* to it). This would be consistent with the number of tributes the College has received since his death, from students of the 1960s and 1970s, to his excellence as Lecturer. As became the expert on rhetoric, especially forensic rhetoric, who was heard to describe academic life as part of the entertainment industry, use of gesture, movement and facial contortion as well as voice, gown and an impeccable sense of timing, enabled him to capture and hold an audience where, in the big lecture room at Mill Lane (Room 3), he would invariably have a full house at 9am.

He was neither old-fashioned nor fashionable. He had visited Australia and South Africa, and in both countries was lionised, but sometimes wondered whether it was a cause for regret that he had never crossed the Atlantic. For him the greatest change in Cambridge during his lifetime had been not the admission of women (which he strongly championed), but the lowering of the age of majority.

It was reported of another ancient historian of the same vintage and Oxford pedigree, Peter Brunt, sometime Senior Bursar of Caius, that, 'mildly teased on one occasion for his instinctive counter-suggestibility, he firmly rejected this idea too'. Likewise John Crook, who could only be persuaded to agree to a proposition by the promotion of its opposite. Thus, if you wanted him to come to a party with undergraduates (at which he would be wonderful), you had to say: 'John, you don't want to be bothered with a lot of undergraduates, do you?' 'Of course, I'll come', he would respond, bristling. Piece of cake. It is not as widely known amongst classical undergraduates as it should be that the question expecting the answer 'No' was actually invented by John Crook.

As was said of the man at the end of the Hardy novel, John 'was a good man who done good things'. His death, which occurred at Addenbrooke's Hospital on 7 September, leaves a huge void in the College he loved and in the affections of all those, there and much further afield, who loved him. He was 85.

PAL

This obituary was first published in *Varsity*, 28 September 2007.

Dan Burt, who read English at St John's, is an Honorary Fellow of the College. Some of his poems were published in the January 2008 issue of *PN Review*. He came to know John as an undergraduate and remained in touch with him after going down, visiting him from time to time at College until shortly before he died.

Visit (*For John Crook*)

The punts and crowds are gone from the Backs,
Term end sends students home, only swans
And red kneed choir boys leave tracks
Where the winter of his words immures a don

Who restored Roman rhetoric to glory
And whose grace will live in emulation.
Now, all of us altered by his alchemy
Would help him with the final transmutation

But there's no chance: a catheter dangles
From gut to turn-up, draining waste kidneys
Can't pass; his gowned shadow on the cobbles
Has morphed into a wheelchair creeping past;

His first words are 'I am decaying'
When he greets whoever knocks or phones,
As he shuns generations calling
The classicist dying in his rooms alone.

He sits all day still with un-sported oak,
Muscle scythed from mandible to thigh,
A broken animal reading poetry to cope
With wasting that attends us as we die.

One must prepare, nearing his stairwell
For the clarinet stilled, the speech trussed,
The texts unopened and tears that well
While he claws words from thickening rust

Like a wan numismatist past physic
Scrabbling for coins common once as grass:
We must prepare, at last allowed to visit
And feign not to notice what has passed.

D Burt
(BA 1966, MA 1970)

Eric Willcocks studied English and Moral Sciences at St John's, and John Crook was his Tutor. They maintained regular contact after Eric had graduated, and their friendship, which spanned over fifty years, is recounted in this tribute.

John Crook: A Recollection

John Crook was my personal Tutor from 1956 to 1958. He was friendly, helpful and generous. I came to know him better because he was the Senior Member of the P Club, a College society that met two or three times a term, usually in his rooms, to read plays, poetry and prose. He was wonderfully tolerant of our pretensions, and took an active part in our meetings, from making pancakes when we met on Shrove Tuesday to a memorable reading of Big Daddy in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*.

There our relationship might have ended, but when my wife and I came back from the United States in 1966, I needed to be in touch with him for my new job. We were living in Lewes, and he replied saying that he always came with his father to stay at the Old Ship Hotel in Brighton in the summer, and asking us to have dinner with them one evening. Those dinners led to a regular correspondence.

Eventually his father, a man of great Edwardian charm, died. We moved back to South East London, where John had grown up and been at school, and we started coming up to Cambridge two or three times a year to see him. We would take one another out to lunch or dinner – and sometimes he would cook for the three of us in his flat in Bridge Street. 'It's Crook's disgusting risotto, this evening. I'm afraid', might precede an ability to cook rather well. He was wonderful company, a fine storyteller and the possessor of one of the world's great giggles.

He enjoyed the company of women, had genuine charm and had women friends who were very dear to him. He welcomed the College's decision to admit women.

His obituary in the *Daily Telegraph* called him a classic bachelor Don, which was true – but only to a point. He enjoyed the company of women, had genuine charm and had women friends who were very dear to him. He welcomed the College's decision to admit women. When a niece of ours came up to Trinity to read Modern Languages, we introduced them and thereafter they would meet for lunch, not least to share their enthusiasm for terrible jokes. John followed her career with interest and was genuinely pleased when she was elected to a Fellowship at Jesus College, Oxford.

A keen traveller for much of his life, he was an enthusiastic prompter of our travels. Without him, we would have certainly missed, for example, the Trophy of Augustus in the South of France or San Giovanni ad Portam Latinam in Rome. Similarly, he loved music, about which he knew a great deal, both as a performer and listener. He enjoyed exhibitions and over the years had bought some interesting pictures. It was always stimulating to be in his company.

While his obituaries praised his distinguished scholarship, he was a modest man. When I wrote to congratulate him on his election to the Chair of Ancient History, he replied that the best to be hoped for from his tenure 'would be a harmless lacuna'. It was typical of John that he should want a simple funeral and no memorial service, for all that he had said about the memorial service for his great friend, Guy Lee, 'We gave him a good send-off'.

We came up to see him the day before he went finally into hospital. He was very frail, but there were flashes of the old John. We were sure when we left him that we would not see him again. His rooms were scarcely changed from more than fifty years ago. When we came back for his funeral, his name was no longer at the foot of his staircase. It was a privilege to have known him, and to have enjoyed his friendship for so long. We miss him.

E A B Willcocks
(BA 1960, MA 1964)

Neville Collinge studied Classics and Philology at St John's, sharing a set with John Crook in their final Tripos year. Here he fondly remembers their sixty-year friendship, which began in 1945 after both had returned from wartime experiences.

John Crook: A Tribute

John Crook has had a number of obituary notices composed about him, his illustrious academic career, his life in, and great contribution to, the College, and his generosity (financial and spiritual) to undergraduates over half a century. It is worthwhile recording some more personal memories.

Our first meeting, in November 1945, occurred in Second Court where Martin Charlesworth happened to find us together, introduced us (as returners from

wartime experiences) and inaugurated a sixty-year friendship. Thereafter John and I spent time together in our respective rooms and, in our final Tripos year, co-habited a set in New Court. We shared the shopping, although he was the more successful fire-lighter; and we exchanged gossip about our respective academic pursuits, he being a historian and I a philologist of the classical world.

Then our ways parted: for him, Balliol College and then Reading, before his return to St John's; for me several other universities. But our connection persisted. He spent holidays with me and my family (including one that involved bathing in icy Northumberland sea-water, which made conversation through shivering lips impossible). He became godfather to my daughter. Above all, he helped me maintain my adherence to the College.

Deservedly he became at last a Professor. He already had many of the conventional markings of that rank.

Deservedly he became at last a Professor. He already had many of the conventional markings of that rank. Once, arriving in London from abroad, he boarded a bus for Reading, quite forgetting that he had recently transferred his work and residence back to Cambridge. When, after some distance he realised his error and asked to be let off the bus, the driver kindly acceded but remarked, 'You're getting old, mate'. John was then thirty.

John was a fine musician (clarinettist) as well as a great scholar and speaker. He was well received in Australia, South Africa, Denmark and Germany. In addition to his command of several languages (including Danish), he provided for many years the French version of High Table menus. As a linguist, I was much struck by his familiarity with the Gallic equivalents of 'spare rib' and 'artichoke', and so forth.

Brilliant, humorous, kindly – and entirely likeable – he will long be missed by very many, not least myself.

Professor N E Collinge
(BA 1947, MA 1952, PhD 1967)



Dr Jonathan Brian Spencer, 1960–2008: Obituary

Jonathan (Joe) Spencer, Fellow, Tutor, Lecturer and Director of Studies in Chemistry, died in a traffic accident on Sunday 6 April 2008.



Dr Joe Spencer

Joe came to Cambridge University in 1994 as a University Research Fellow in the Chemistry Department in Lensfield Road. He was also elected to a Fellowship of the College and appointed a College Lecturer in Chemistry in 1995. Subsequent milestones in his College career included his appointments as Director of Studies in Chemistry in 2000, and to a Tutorship with responsibility for Historians and Modern Linguists in 2001. In the University, he was appointed to a Lectureship in Chemistry in 2001, and was promoted to a Readership in 2004.

Joe started his academic career as an undergraduate in the Biochemistry Department at Southampton University. A severe bout of migraine prevented him from sitting his final examination and so he was awarded an aegrotat degree. One of the younger lecturers, Peter Jordan (now Shoolingin-Jordan), a highly regarded natural products biochemist, recognised his talent and took him on as a research student. This decision put Joe on course for natural products research in his later career.

Natural products are the chemicals produced by living organisms as part of their natural metabolic processes. Familiar examples include important medicines such as morphine, produced by the opium poppy, and penicillin, produced by a mould. Many of these compounds have been known and used by mankind since ancient times. In the last two centuries, the study has been put on a scientific basis by organic chemists and biochemists. Analytical technologies have been developed to determine the chemical structures, and synthetic technologies now allow chemists to synthesise the structures outside the living cell. Joe's interest lay in the pathways by which living cells convert simple chemical building blocks into the highly varied, often extremely complex, natural product structures within their living tissues, much as a child might make a complex model using pieces of Lego.

In his PhD project, Joe focused on a class of natural products known as polyketides, taking a specific molecule, code named 6-MSA, as his subject. The project required the chemical synthesis of molecules tagged with

exceptionally intricate patterns of isotopic labelling. These were then fed to a fungus which produced 6-MSA, so that they were taken into the cells and used for the biosynthesis. The resulting labelled 6-MSA was then isolated and analysed to discover where the isotopic labels ended up. The result was a completely convincing case that the reactions under study were highly controlled by enzymes and that nothing was left to chance. This project was exceptionally challenging both experimentally and in its design. It would have been a worthy challenge to a team of experienced postdoctoral researchers. That Joe completed the task as a single-handed PhD student was an extraordinary achievement. He was clearly a man to watch.

For the next formative stage of his career, Joe moved from Peter's laboratory in Southampton to join Professor Ian Scott in Texas A & M University. He was challenged to tackle an equally ambitious project in a very different field, the biosynthesis of Vitamin B12. It was already known in detail how nature achieved the synthesis naturally, step by step, using enzymes as catalysts. The challenge Ian put to Joe was this: isolate and purify the individual enzymes on the natural biosynthetic pathway and then put them together with a supply of suitable molecular building blocks 'in the test tube' to see how far the synthetic operations would proceed outside the living cells. Most scientists at Joe's stage of career would probably have settled for perhaps half a dozen enzymes corresponding to about one third of the way along the pathway to the vitamin structure, but Joe was much more ambitious. He isolated no fewer than twelve enzymes that, because of some duplication, were capable of carrying out eighteen steps, about two thirds of the complete pathway! Remarkably, the plan succeeded in producing a key intermediate product that contained the complete core of the Vitamin B12 structure. This project remains, fifteen years later, the most spectacular demonstration of the potential of this strategy for synthesising complex natural product molecules, using individual enzymes outside the cell.

With these two major contributions under his belt, it was no surprise that Joe was awarded one of the first University Research Fellowship positions to be held in the Chemistry Department at Cambridge under a new scheme administered by the Royal Society. He opted to remain in the natural product field, but switched his interest to antibiotic biosynthesis. His aims were characteristically ambitious. At the time of his appointment, 'superbugs', such as MRSA and *Clostridium difficile*, were already causing increasing concerns in hospitals. After an extended period of use, many established antibiotics used in medical practice had lost their ability to combat these infections. A determined search of the natural world for new, more effective, types of antibiotic failed to produce results. Scientists were therefore driven to explore alternative strategies. One highly speculative approach is to alter the biosynthetic pathways that produce existing antibiotics, by replacing key enzymes with others drawn from different pathways

so as to produce new chemical compounds with suitably modified structures, so-called 'unnatural' natural products. The hope is that some of these variant structures might be effective against superbugs. Joe decided to enter this field of research.

This goal might be approached by using isolated enzymes and mixing them in the test tube as Joe did in his Vitamin B12 project. A more ambitious strategy is to generate the unnatural combinations of biosynthetic enzymes inside the living cells of the normal producer organism, typically a fungus or a bacterium, using genetic engineering. By replacing selected existing genes in the producing organism with 'foreign' genes from other producer organisms, a new set of enzymes is created with the aim of making a targeted alteration in the structure of the natural product. The concept is simple, but realising it in practice requires close collaboration between chemists and biologists.

As a natural team player, Joe set up many effective collaborations with senior scientists based in Cambridge, St Andrews, and other centres in Europe. He was also an inspiring leader of the young scientists in his research group. They repaid him with exceptional dedication and loyalty. The 'Spencer Group' made many important academic discoveries in various fields of chemistry and biology over the past twelve years. The research on genetic engineering recently led to two important breakthroughs, with the development of strategies for producing structural variants of two different types of antibiotic, butirosin and vancomycin, both with some activity for combating superbugs.

It was not Joe's aim to produce the next 'super-antibiotic' in his own laboratory, however. As an academic scientist, he aimed through basic research to produce new insights into the way antibiotics are made in living cells, and to develop new technologies for producing structural variants. The resulting 'toolbox' of novel technologies is then available for use by scientists working in the pharmaceutical industry to produce new generations of super-antibiotics to control the current generation of superbugs. The tools he has already developed may yet play a vital role in facilitating future successes in this important quest. Over the coming decades, his research may also assist in the search for better treatments for cancer, and for better immunosuppressants for use in transplant surgery.

In both his academic and his private life, Joe had a well-deserved reputation as a good mixer and a congenial companion. His scientific collaborations were greatly assisted by socialising at conferences. He was an active member of the Royal Society of Chemistry and recently organised a highly successful conference. His scientific contributions were recently recognised by the Society with the award of the Bader Prize for 2007. Within the scientific community, he was widely considered ripe for promotion to a personal Chair.

Joe's other major contribution to the academic community was through his work as a College Tutor. As such, Joe always gave his time selflessly, and to very great effect whatever the particular task. With his strong sense of discretion, Joe revealed little about his contributions as a Tutor to outsiders, but it was clear that his tutorial work sometimes demanded all of his time to the exclusion of everything else, including his science. Joe was a calming presence in a crisis, and was unflappably reassuring when faced with a Fresher panic-stricken with the dreaded 'Tripos Terrors'. When a confidence-boosting comment was needed, Joe would instinctively have it on the tip of his tongue. He could communicate gentle words of sympathy and comfort to those experiencing personal sorrow, as well as firm, sensible common-sense advice to the 'less-than-focussed' student. To wayward students, Joe could dispense a chilly rebuke, with a stare of disapproval and a boom in his voice that encouraged them to mend their ways. But it will be Joe's warmth, congeniality and infectious laughter that will stay in the memories of pupils and fellow Tutors.

Surprisingly, given his obvious aptitude for research, science was not Joe's initial choice of career on leaving school. Instead, he joined the Metropolitan Police as a constable, with a beat in central London, which included the seamier parts of Soho. He found the job both stimulating and enjoyable. The bureaucratic side of the job was not to his liking, however, and after two years' service he decided to change career. With the help and support of his parents, he completed an A-level in Chemistry, and then went on to a very demanding double Honours degree course in combined Chemistry and Biochemistry at Southampton University. This choice provided an ideal foundation for his subsequent interdisciplinary research combining chemistry and biology.

The College has lost one of its most amiable and well-liked Fellows. Joe and his wife, Deborah, were regular supporters of College events. Joe supported Deborah in her nursing career at Addenbrooke's Hospital, and was proud of her recent achievement in completing an MSc. He took no less pride in the achievements of his three children, Christopher, Emma and Dominic. As a loving couple, Joe and Deborah shared the responsibilities of parenting on an equal basis. This supportive bond must have played a major part in underpinning Joe's successful career in both science and the College.

Joe died a young man, in mid-career. Many individuals, family, friends, academic colleagues, and students, will continue to feel his loss keenly for years to come. He will be especially missed for his warmth and charm as a companion, his outstanding ability and leadership as a scientist, but most of all for the kindness and care he gave as a family man, as a Tutor and Supervisor of undergraduates, and as a research leader of young graduate scientists.

Professor J Staunton
Fellow of St John's



Professor Norman Montague Bleehen CBE, 1930–2008: Obituary



Professor Norman Bleehen

Norman Bleehen was a clinical and research oncologist and a founder of academic oncology in the United Kingdom; his reputation was acknowledged both nationally and internationally. He was the first Cancer Research Campaign (CRC) Professor of Clinical Oncology in the University of Cambridge and Director of a Medical Research Council (MRC) research unit. The excellence of his department laid the foundations for today's major investment in Cambridge and the establishment of the new Cancer Institute.

Norman came from an orthodox Jewish background, descended from a long line of rabbis. He was proud to be the great-grandson of the Chief Rabbi of the Orthodox Hebrew Congregation of New

York, who negotiated with President Calvin Coolidge to gain exemption from prohibition for Kiddush (sacramental) wine. Both his parents were the children of immigrants from Eastern Europe at the end of the nineteenth century, and academic achievement was highly valued as well as service to the community. This goal was a potent force both in Norman and his younger brother Stanley, both becoming Professors of Medicine: Norman in Oncology and Stanley in Dermatology.

Norman was born in Manchester in 1930. He attended Haberdashers' Aske's School, and won a scholarship to Exeter College, Oxford, to read Medicine (1947-52), where he was among the minority in not being an ex-serviceman. After gaining a BA with Honours he remained in Oxford on an MRC studentship studying aspects of insulin action, earning him a BSc and also the Gotch Memorial Prize. During his undergraduate and graduate years in Oxford he was President of the Oxford University Jewish Society and was also influential in the Inter-University Jewish Federation, organising summer schools. He did his clinical training at the Middlesex Hospital Medical School on a further entrance scholarship open to students from Oxford. Qualifying in 1955, he won prizes for forensic medicine, orthopaedic surgery and radiology and radiotherapy en route.

One of his house jobs was in the Radiotherapy Department at the Middlesex, then headed by Professor (later Sir) Brian Windeyer, who was much impressed by him and where the direction of Norman's future career was set. He became a Member of the Royal College of Physicians in 1957.

He fulfilled his National Service in the Royal Army Medical Corps choosing Germany over Nigeria, reputed to be the white man's grave, and after a year at the British Military Hospital in Hanover was sent to its equivalent in Berlin as the UK medical representative in the care of Nazi war criminals held at Spandau Prison (see article on Pages 36-38). However, Berlin was not all disturbing duty, and Norman was able to enjoy the city, especially the very high standard of opera, his favourite musical form.

On demobilisation in 1959, Norman returned to the Middlesex Hospital, at Windeyer's invitation, to specialise in radiotherapy, gaining the Fellowship of the Royal College of Radiologists. In 1966 he went on an MRC Lilly Travelling Fellowship to Stanford University, California, to work in Professor Henry Kaplan's department, which was much acclaimed for its excellence in cancer patient treatment alongside related laboratory research. This experience appealed to Norman's intellectual curiosity and greatly influenced his future professional life. He thoroughly enjoyed Stanford, with tales of never-to-be-forgotten fishing trips, but finally he had to choose between the offer of a faculty post in Stanford, or returning to the Middlesex Hospital, where Windeyer had suggested that he might ultimately succeed him in his Chair. Norman chose the Middlesex, initially as the Duchess of Bedford Research Fellow, and then in 1969 as Professor of Radiotherapy and Head of the Academic Department of Radiotherapy. He began a laboratory-based research programme alongside his clinical work.

The summer of 1969 brought another major milestone in that he met Tirza Loeb, a vivacious attractive Israeli/Australian colleague, and after a whirlwind romance they married.

The summer of 1969 brought another major milestone in that he met Tirza Loeb, a vivacious attractive Israeli/Australian colleague, and after a whirlwind romance they married. They lived in a beautiful modern house in Highgate with two whole walls of glass, which gave them maximum pleasure from their garden, another growing enthusiasm, and from which they dispensed generous hospitality and friendship to Norman's growing circle of colleagues, from all over the world.

In 1975 Norman was invited by the MRC to set up a clinical and research unit in Cambridge, on the Addenbrooke's Hospital site and he became Director of the MRC Clinical Oncology and Radiotherapeutics Unit (CORU). Simultaneously, Cambridge University created the Department of Clinical Oncology endowed by the CRC (now Cancer Research UK) and Norman was elected its first Professor. Under his direction it developed into one of the leading academic oncology units in the country, both clinically and scientifically.

Clinically his particular interests were the treatment of brain tumours, especially gliomas, and lung cancer, both challenging diseases in need of novel treatments to improve their dismal prognoses. All new cancer treatments must be tested for efficacy against the current best practice, and at this time in the mid-seventies, national cancer clinical trials supported by the MRC were proliferating rapidly. The statistical and data-management tasks associated with the good design and successful conduct of clinical trials are substantial and, as Chairman of the MRC Cancer Therapy Committee, Norman recognised the need for a dedicated group to carry out these tasks within the MRC. He proposed a Cancer Trials Office (CTO) be set up within his Unit in Cambridge, and in 1977 it was inaugurated, taking over responsibility for ongoing trials as well as setting up new ones. The creation of the CTO was one of his major achievements, and from its inception it grew steadily in output and stature. Such was its success that eventually the MRC created an independent Cancer Trials Unit.

CORU was involved in fundamental studies of tumour biology and in development of chemotherapeutic agents. Norman's personal research interests were in the development and trial of drugs to increase the efficacy of radiotherapy, and in the use of heat to improve radiotherapy and chemotherapy. He presided over various Phase 1 trials of radiosensitisers and chemosensitisers.

Norman was noted for his ability to discern potential in trainees and was a brilliant mentor. He set very high standards but was modest, gentle and compassionate, and particularly sensitive and empathic towards his patients. He trained a new generation of investigative clinical oncologists and radiotherapists, who are currently highly influential Consultants and Professors in the oncology world. Norman displayed an enviable flair for choosing a group of people who would work together productively and happily. Those who worked in CORU, either as scientists, research students or technicians look back on that time in their career as special and influential on their future. The research students and postdoctoral scientists are now scattered around the world; many are Professors in academia or hold senior positions in the pharmaceutical industry, and almost without exception, look back with pleasure on the atmosphere in Norman's MRC unit. Norman was always supportive of his staff, and he invariably delivered on his promises to them, a rare quality that was greatly valued.

In addition to a substantial body of publications – in excess of 400 papers and six books bear his name – Norman served on numerous boards and committees in the UK and also a range of international cancer organisations. He was Chairman of the British Association for Cancer Research, Founder Member and Vice-President of the International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer, President of the International Society for Radiation Oncology, and Consultant to the Research Co-ordination Group of the International Atomic Energy Agency for the Improvement of Cancer Therapy. He represented the UK government in the Europe Against Cancer Programme and was particularly passionate about smoking prevention campaigns.

He received many honours and awards for his work, but he was most proud of his 1990 Honorary Doctorate from the University of Bologna, the oldest university in the world, and his CBE for Services to Medicine, for which he was recognised, at the height of his career and influence, in 1994. He thoroughly enjoyed the coloured robes and grand ceremonial reception associated with the Bologna Doctorate, but this was surpassed by the CBE, recognition from his own country, and the unexpected opportunity for a Professor of Oncology to chat to Shirley Bassey, also among the 'B's, receiving her own CBE. He was elected a Fellow of St John's College in 1976 and greatly valued and enjoyed this association.

Norman and Tirza were very hospitable, sharing their home and stunning garden with friends and many overseas guests, usually from leading oncology units around the world, thereby cementing lifelong friendships. After his retirement in 1995 Norman was able to indulge his enthusiasm for opera and his garden and to travel more extensively with Tirza, especially to her family in Australia. It was there two years ago that he fell ill with lung cancer, a cruel fate for a man who had never smoked and who had spent so much of his professional career treating the disease. An academic clinician to his toenails, Norman gained new insights into features of the disease and, sharing these with one of his former clinical fellows, now a Professor of Oncology, was gratified to find that consideration of these is now part of current clinical trials.

During his illness he was cared for devotedly by his wife and died on 1 February 2008, at home, as was their wish.

**Davina Honess
and Tirza Bleehen**



A personal recollection from a St John's postgraduate student, Dr Rama Jayasundar, whose daughter is coming from India to St John's as a PhD student next year.

Professor Norman Montague Bleehen: A Recollection

It was June 1986. The elation of having obtained admission with full scholarship for a PhD in Cambridge University was fast receding. The funding body (through which my application to the Board of Graduate Studies (BGS) was sent) had just informed me that they were withdrawing my scholarship and with it the admission as well. The reason: I was expecting a child at any time and they felt I would not be in a position to do a PhD in Cambridge with a baby. Despite my assurances to them that my parents would take care of the baby while I proceeded to Cambridge and that I was resolved to do my PhD, they were not convinced and had decided to withdraw the scholarship and had already informed the BGS of their decision.

The next thing I heard was from the BGS of their impending decision to cancel my admission. I was literally in tears and inconsolable. My father contacted Professor Bleehen, who was to be my supervisor. Professor Bleehen heard the assurances from my father that he (and my mother) would take care of my baby while I proceeded to Cambridge for the PhD. He asked my father to ask me not to worry but to first have the baby safely. He assured my father that he would inform the BGS and the funding agency that he was convinced of my resolve to do the PhD and that he would ask them not to cancel my admission and scholarship. In addition, he told us that, if I wanted, I could join after six months, when I felt a bit more comfortable to leave the baby. This was my first introduction to Professor Bleehen. If not for his magnanimous gesture, I may not have had a chance to do a PhD at Cambridge University.

My association with him continued even after I returned to India. I fondly remember visiting him in Cambridge along with my family. He was thrilled to see my daughter and was telling her how he had heard about her even before she was born! I have been in constant touch with him. He was a great source of encouragement and guidance at various points in my career. When I took the decision to undertake the five years undergraduate medical course at the age of forty-plus, Professor Bleehen was once again a source of support for me. His encouragement and wishes really helped me to go through this tough and prolonged course successfully. I feel dismayed that he is not there when I am at the verge of finishing the course and becoming a medical doctor as well as being a physicist. I will always remember him with very fond memories.

Dr R Jayasundar
(PhD 1990)
Department of NMR
All India Institute of Medical Sciences
New Delhi, India



150th
ANNIVERSARY
SECTION

150th ANNIVERSARY SECTION



ST JOHN'S COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

According to its first editors, the appearance of *The Eagle* in 1858 was met, in some quarters, with resistance: 'It is wholly uncalled for; a mere whim; certain to fall through in a term or so...'. To others it appeared 'to strike at the foundation of all University morality;- that Undergraduates should write, and perhaps publish...'. To both criticisms the editors replied:

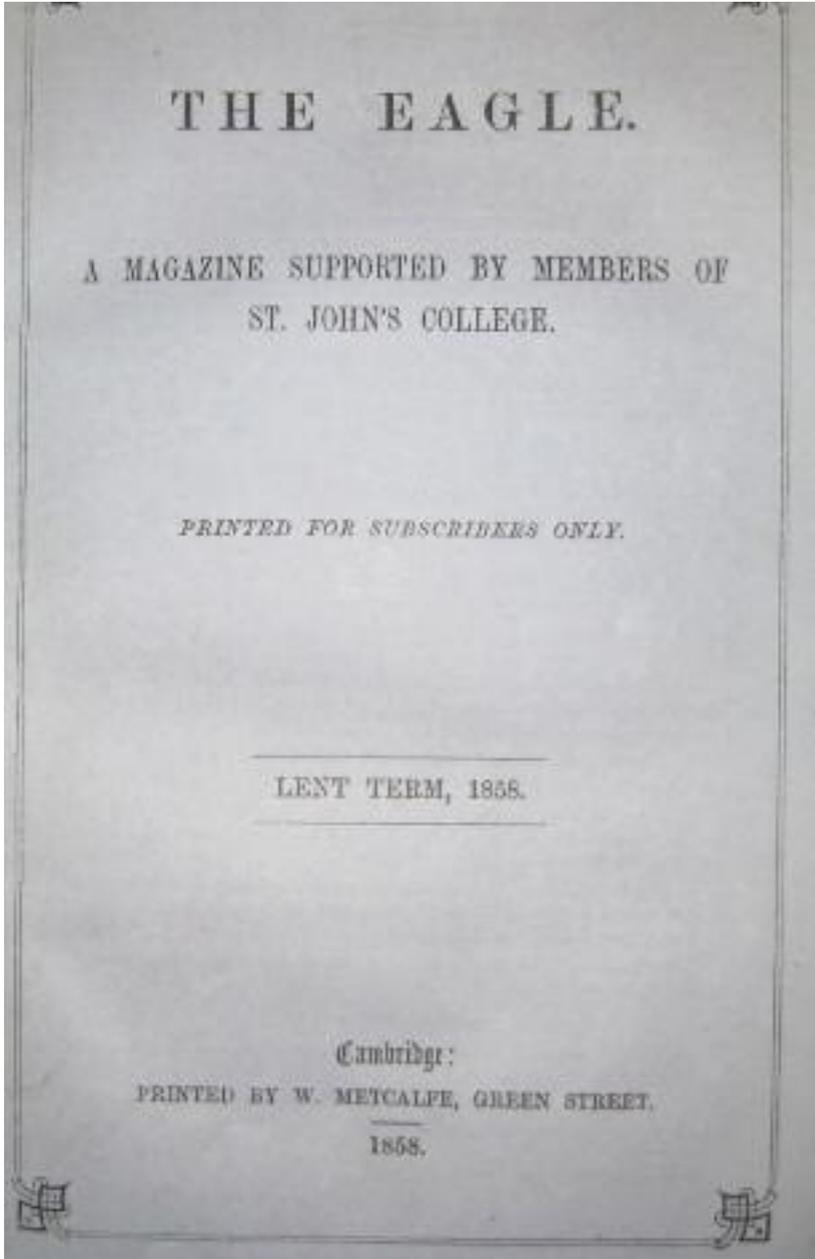
...the fact of its existence proves that there is at least an imaginary call for it; and the cordiality with which it has been welcomed by a large body of subscribers, and the promptitude with which contributions to its pages have been forthcoming, shew that, if it is a whim, it is a whim shared by many. With regard to the probability of its continuance, a word or two may be said...It is assumed that success in a gross and material sense is our object; this being not a pecuniary speculation, the success, it is argued, must lie in its continuance...

We are always delighted that every year we have a plethora of interesting material to choose from, and we hope that this may continue, together with *The Eagle*, for many more years to come.

It is clear from the above that there was scepticism from many quarters as to the longevity of *The Eagle*; however, we are pleased to be able to write in 2008 – 150 years after the first issue was published – that *The Eagle* is alive and well, and continuing to develop year on year. We hope that you like the new design and format this year; your feedback is welcome! In 1858 the founders and editors of *The Eagle* were undergraduates (pictured on Page 136), and although the content of this publication is now determined by College Committee, and the co-ordination carried out by the Development Office, there is still a large and creative input from all participants in College life. Interestingly, only 'Subscribers' received *The Eagle* for many years, but it is now sent out annually free of charge to all alumni, members, College staff, and any interested party. We are always delighted that every year we have a plethora of interesting material to choose from, and we hope that this may continue, together with *The Eagle*, for many more years to come.

Amanda George
Publications Officer





Title page, *The Eagle*, 1858

THE EAGLE.

THE year 1858 will form a most important epoch in the History of the University of Cambridge. During this year the reforms from within, and the reforms from without, will first assume a definite form and existence, and from the deliberation with which the former are being effected, and from the free discussion to which the latter have been and will be subjected, it may reasonably be hoped that the University will attain to a still higher degree of efficiency. The first and most obvious remark that is made by men who have left Cambridge ten or twenty years, is, that the reform is wholly uncalled for: a little more knowledge, and a little more reflection, will speedily modify such an assertion.—Precisely the same remarks are applicable to this innovation also, the starting up of this Periodical in St. John's College. It is wholly uncalled for; a mere whim; certain to fall through in a term or so; are some of the most tenderly expressed opinions with respect to "The Eagle," and the most considerate for the feelings of the unfortunate innovators, which we have heard from those who on the ground of its novelty cannot heartily approve of it; whose worst wish is that it may speedily die a natural death. To others it appears to strike at the foundation of all University morality;—that Undergraduates should write, and perhaps publish; that Undergraduates should think of writing any thing, except of course translations and bookwork, is a proposition subversive of all decency, and not to be viewed without horror. To both we would reply that the fact of its existence proves that there is at least an imaginary call for it; and the cordiality with which it has been welcomed by a large body of subscribers, and the promptitude with which contributions to its pages have been forthcoming, shew that, if it is a whim, it is a whim

B

Editorial, *The Eagle*, 1858

Significant events since 1858

Year	Event
1858	<i>The Eagle</i> first published
1860	New College Statutes: opening of Scholarships and Fellowships to general competition
1863-70	New Chapel, Lodge and Lecture Rooms built; Combination Room moved to Second Court
1882	New College Statutes: final removal of Fellows' obligations to celibacy and holy orders; expansion of system of University lectures
1885-87	Penrose Building built
1886	Sports Clubs form a united body for subscription by undergraduates (the Amalgamated Clubs)
1892	Electric light in Hall, Chapel and undergraduate reading room
1898	K1 First Court converted into a bicycle room (I2 added 1900)
1901	R P Paranjpye, first Indian Oxbridge Fellow, elected at St John's Telephone in the Porters' Lodge Beginnings of supervision system at St John's
1911	Electric light extended from Hall and Chapel to rest of College
1921-22	Baths erected behind New Court
1926	New College Statutes: establishment of modern Fellowship titles and faculty system in the University Office of Senior Tutor formally established at St John's
1931	Official Junior Combination Room established in former bicycle store in First Court
1935-36	All undergraduate sets furnished by College
1938-42	Maufe Building built
1948	Women admitted to University degrees
1957	Samuel Butler Room established in First Court to meet needs of increasing number of graduate students
1964-67	Cripps Building built
1970-72	Informal 'buttery' dining room built
1970	Creation of Cambridge Students' Union Sit-in at Cripps JCR for abolition of guest hours
1973	Abolition of gate hours
1981	First woman Fellow, Dr Kathleen Wheeler, elected, and women graduates admitted
1982	First women undergraduates admitted
1984	Abolition of entrance scholarships
1985-87	Fisher Building built
1986-87	St John's Innovation Centre built
1990-91	Student loans introduced

- 1992-94 New Library extension built
- 1994 En-suiting programme commences in College courts
- 1995 New College Statutes: additional regulations concerning tenure of academic staff
- 1998 Provision of Fitness Centre in E New Court
- 2003 College achieves recognition as Investor in People
- 2004 Development of the Triangle Site begins



Samuel Butler in 1859, contributor to *The Eagle*, and author of *The Way of All Flesh*

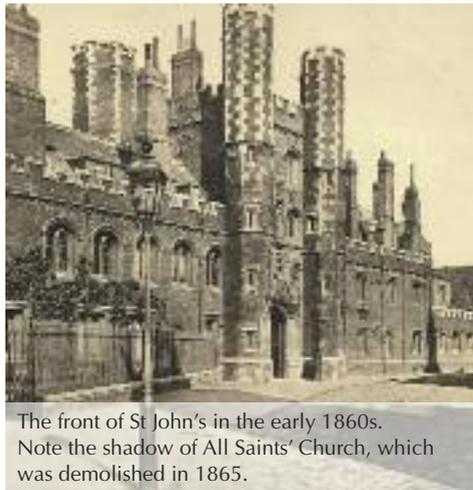
College life around 1858

In 1858 the University and its colleges were embarking on an important era of progression and change in the ways that they operated, having, until that time, worked under the statutes that were laid down during the days of Queen Elizabeth. The College had elected a new, reforming Master, William Henry Bateson, and a group of innovative and literary undergraduates founded *The Eagle*.

The establishment of *The Eagle* came at a time when reading and literature provided the foundation for social interaction and was meant to improve relations between the fifty-three Fellows and the 270 undergraduates. At that time the interaction between Fellows and undergraduates was more formal, and they saw much less of each other as the supervision system was yet to be implemented (or even thought of). In fact, College life in general was as far removed from the life amongst these courts today as you can possibly imagine.

An undergraduate's existence in those days was far more regimented and much stricter. For example, it was necessary for them to 'keep' seven Chapels a week, although two attendances on Sunday would count as three! 'Academicals' were to be worn by Fellows and undergraduates at all times on Sundays – even outside Cambridge – and after dark on weekdays and in the earlier part of the mornings. It was not permitted for members of College to carry their gowns and certainly not to wear either gown or cap in a bedraggled state.

Lectures in College ran from 8.00am to 9.00am and from 10.00am to 11.00am; the University Professors lectured to a wider audience from noon to 2.00pm. Many undergraduates also had extra study with private tutors or 'coaches'. Exercise took place from 2.00pm until Hall at 4.00pm. Rowing was the main sport and in 1858, the LMBC triumphed in the May Bumps with one of *The Eagle's* first contributors, and author of *The Way of All Flesh*, Samuel Butler, as Cox. This same year



The front of St John's in the early 1860s. Note the shadow of All Saints' Church, which was demolished in 1865.

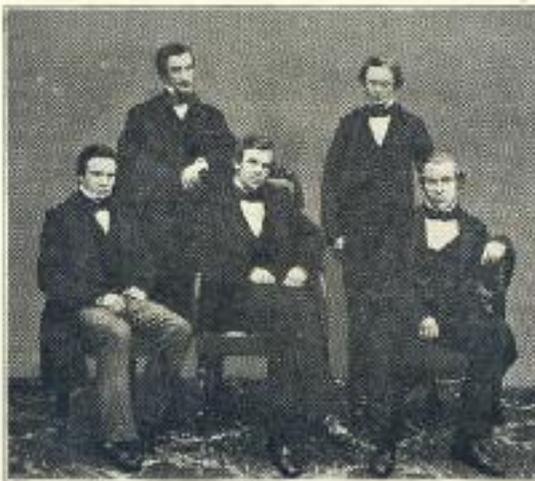
saw the expansion of other sports and the beginning of the building of the Racquet Club. But for most, walking was a form of exercise used more often than today. Dinner consisted of meat, plain vegetables, bread and beer, following which undergraduates might smoke a sociable pipe until Chapel. The evening's work would follow and it was not uncommon for undergraduates then to spend two to three hours reading each night, which might be interrupted for an hour's discursive chat over tea.

As to Cambridge life in general, it is now impossible to imagine the University without bicycles – but they had not yet been invented. Instead, one could hire a velocipede, which pre-dated the bicycle, and with hard work, could reach speeds of six miles per hour! Horses were also kept in those days but only by the more wealthy undergraduates. With global warming a distant phenomenon, it was not uncommon for plenty of skating to be possible on the river during the winter months and, one year, the river remained frozen from mid-January until March.

So much has changed about College and University life in the past 150 years, but we are pleased to be able to celebrate one consistency – *The Eagle* – which has evolved, constantly reflecting and recording life in a College that will soon commemorate its Quincentenary.



The Founders of *The Eagle*, 1858.



W. G. ADAMS T. ADAMS
 T. G. BUSH J. R. WILSON M. S. WILLIAMS

The Eagle founders, 1858, all of whom took their degrees in the Mathematical Tripos of 1859, Wilson being Senior Wrangler.

PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION



ST JOHN'S COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE



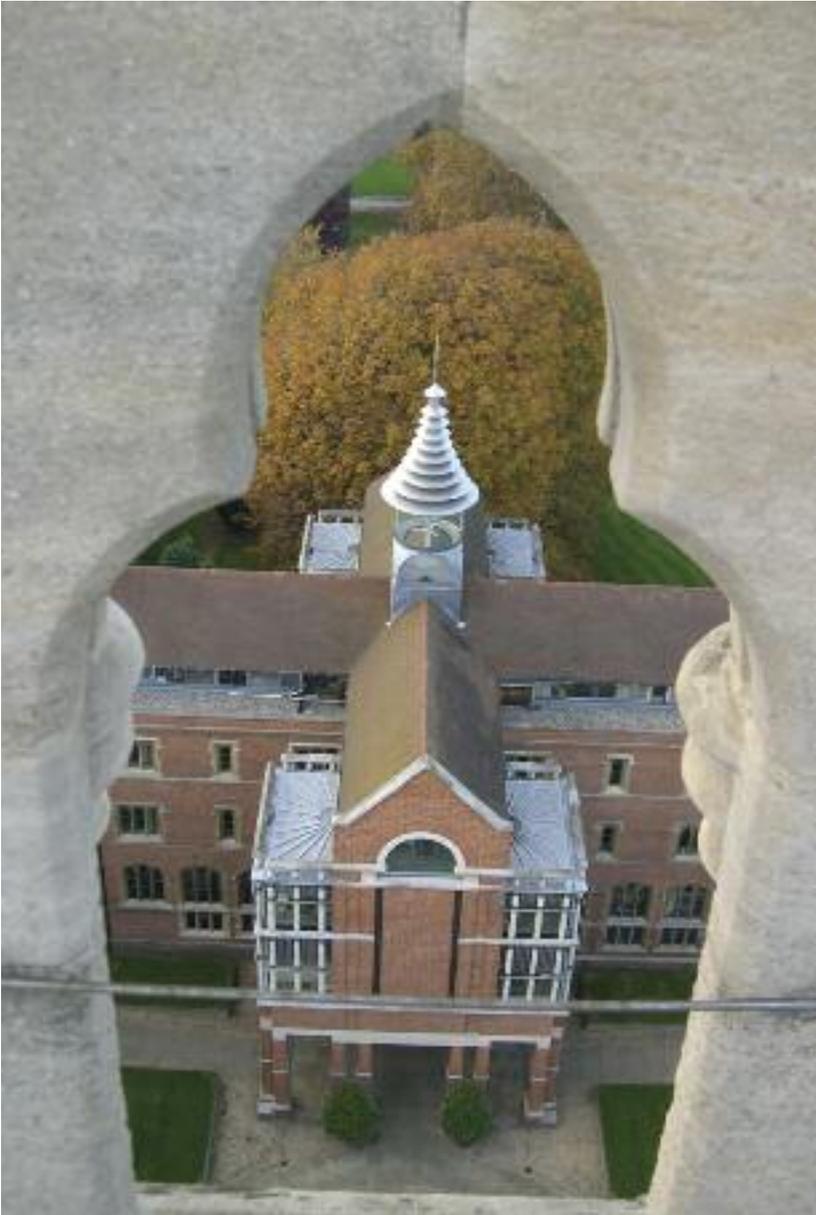
'Bridge', by Jon Shephard



'Cloisters', by Samuel Palin

'Construction of a Metaphor', by Amiya Bhatia





'St John's College Library', by Philippa Dobson

'Windermere Blues', by Aswin Sai Narain Seshasayee





'Windows to Autumn', by Amiya Bhatia

BOOK REVIEWS

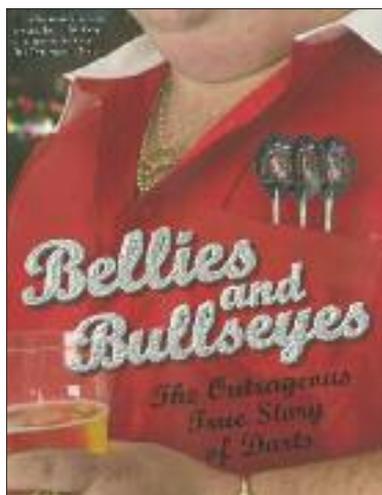


ST JOHN'S COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Reviewer: Jonathan Harrison, Special Collections Librarian at St John's College, and darts enthusiast.

Sid Waddell, *Bellies and Bullseyes: the Outrageous True Story of Darts* (Ebury Press, 2007).

Pp.346. ISBN 978-0-09-191755-5



When Francis P White entered the name Sidney Waddell into the College Admissions Register in September 1959, he could little have guessed that this slim, bright and sporty lad from Ashington coalfield would become one of this country's most famous and best-loved sports commentators. For this Geordie Johnian would one day earn the epithet 'The Voice of Darts'. What Peter Alliss is to golf or Eddie Waring was to Rugby League, so Sid is to 'tungsten tossing' (as he puts it) – nothing less than a commentating legend among fans and players alike. Darts is no ordinary sport, and Sid, who has been labelled everything from genius to nutcase, is no ordinary commentator.

Darts is not the easiest sport to commentate on and it is Sid's great gift that his inexhaustible enthusiasm and verbal antics can bring even a dull match to life.

The title of this, Sid's latest book, sums the plot up nicely, although he might have added booze to the bellies and bullseyes, as the pages are positively awash with the stuff. Sid is uniquely qualified to tell the story of darts having played such a key role in the sport's success, and happily there is quite a bit of Sid's own story here too. *Bellies and Bullseyes* tracks the rise of darts from the heavy-drinking, playing-for-a-few-quid early days to the big-money, professional sport of today. As Sid himself remarks, 'in 1973 180s were as rare as rocking-horse droppings; now they are like flies in a farmyard'. The journey has not always been easy, taking in dips in popularity and the damaging spat between the British Darts Organisation (BDO) and what became the Professional Darts Corporation (PDC). It has not been plain sailing for Sid either. There were his nerves, his asthma (far from ideal in a world of fag smoke and dry ice), fears about losing his voice, and his trouble remembering outshots ('everybody in darts knows that I can't count').

Then there was the occasional hostile reaction to his commentary from the Press (which famously accused Sid of having Tourette's Syndrome) and the public, and the time he almost drank a goldfish from its bowl when he was so engrossed in the action on the oche.

The son of a miner from East Northumberland, the young Sid was something of a sportsman. Captain of the rugby team at Morpeth Grammar, he was also a finalist in the England schools 100 yards. Sid was no slouch in the classroom either, being a teacher's pet and taking his exams very seriously. It was to combat his pre-exam nerves, in fact, that Sid turned to darts down his local pub as an antidote to stress. It worked, for in 1958 Sid won a scholarship to read Modern History at St John's. He would subsequently captain the College Darts team, known as the 'St John's Killers', taking them all the way to the University Four-man Darts final, only to be beaten by Selwyn's team of trainee vicars.

Post-Cambridge, Sid landed a job with Yorkshire Television and by the 1970s was producing the hugely successful *Indoor League*, a game show showcasing members of the public playing pub sports. Sid wrote scripts in an exaggerated Yorkshire accent for the show's presenter, cricketing legend, Fred Trueman. The show became a smash hit and Sid came increasingly to believe that sports such as darts could make dramatic TV. The early stars of darts were emerging: Leighton Rees, who could win a final on the back of eight pints of lager and a couple of brandies before settling down for a real drink, and Alan Evans, a great showman who once appeared in an Elvis outfit, brandishing a leek.

In 1975 Sid moved to BBC Manchester and the following year produced a highly successful documentary on Evans titled 'The Prince of Dartness'. Sid's debut as a darts commentator came in 1977 at the British inter-county finals, and on the strength of his performance the BBC asked him to commentate on the first ever Darts World Championship. While David Vine thought Sid 'a right cocky sod', David Coleman thought he was a natural. Sid got a full-page spread in the *Daily Mail* and was christened 'The Geordie Lip'. But celebrity always comes at a price and the following year a woman who heard Sid's commentary became convinced that his was the voice of the Yorkshire Ripper and promptly called the police. Sid's manic verbal dexterity at this time can best be summed up by this comment by his BBC boss: 'I don't mind Rod Stewart, Shakespeare, Milton, Ivanhoe and a bit of the Old Testament now and then over a week, but you got them all into five minutes.'

Bellies and Bullseyes devotes a chapter each to greats of the game, Jocky Wilson, Eric 'The Crafty Cockney' Bristow, and Phil 'The Power' Taylor. In spite of winning junior school pole vault, Jocky took the pot-bellied stereotype of the darter to new depths. As Sid remarks, Jocky in a bar was 'like a cow in a field of juicy clover', his favourite tippie being 'Magic Coke' (the magic provided by lashings of vodka). But Jocky on the oche produced dynamite darts, winning the world title

in 1982 and again seven years later. Bristow's magisterial darts have prompted some of Sid's best lines: 'When Alexander of Macedonia was thirty-three he cried salt tears because there were no more worlds to conquer. Bristow's only twenty-seven.' Bristow went on to take five world titles, and Sid ranked him alongside Carl Lewis, Viv Richards, and even Aristotle. But Bristow's workload of matches and exhibitions prompted the dreaded 'dartitis', the equivalent to yips in golf, and the door was left open for others to push their bellies forward into the limelight.

Sid has always been matey with the players and has never shied from taking the mickey. Of Chris Lazarenko, one of the greatest exhibition players, Sid remarked 'Cliff's idea of exercise is a firm press on a soda siphon'. But darts' slump in popularity in the early 1990s was no laughing matter. While over eight million viewers had tuned into the 1983 World Final, by 1992 Sid was standing for election as MP for – you guessed it – Dartford, in order to whip up some publicity for the sport. The situation was not helped when sixteen top players, including Bristow, Lowe and Taylor, broke away from the BDO to form the World Darts Council (WDC) – later renamed the PDC – in protest at the BDO's dictatorial approach. When Sid watched Sky Sports' 'vivid, in-yeer-chops' coverage of the first WDC World Championship, he saw the future of televised darts and wanted to be part of it. Having left the BBC, Sid joined Sky in 1994, prompting the headline 'Bullseye! Sid's on Sky'. Unlike at the BBC, Sid was encouraged to let his manic patter run wild, with the result that he suffered far less from nerves.

For Sid, Phil Taylor is simply 'the greatest darts player who ever drew breath'. Taylor came from a poor background and before becoming a darting superstar made ceramic toilet chains and beer-pump handles. Sid has the distinction of having had one of his eyebrows shaved off by Taylor, and of having put 'The Power' off a nine-darter by screaming from the commentary box. Taylor has won an astonishing thirteen world titles, and has consistently beaten the rival BDO's best players. His 2004 head-to-head with BDO champ and legendary lager-swiller Andy Fordham had 'The Viking' sweating 'like a hippo in a power shower'. Taylor's incredible all-round game prompted Sid to remark, 'Stopping Taylor – that would be like trying to halt a water buffalo with a pea-shooter'. Taylor and, more recently, Raymond van Barneveld have done much to boost darts' popularity and Sid finishes his book basking in what looks like a very sunny future for darts on Sky.

Bellies and Bullseyes is a thoroughly enjoyable, informative and amusing read, a veritable feast of ton-eighties and title-taking doubles. Sid writes like he talks, so that the reader is caught up in the drama as if he were standing on the oche himself. One can almost taste the lager, smell the fog smoke, and hear the thud of tungsten on bristle. Given the recent vogue for celebrity and sporting biography it is pleasing to see a Johnian getting in on the act – and producing something actually worth reading to boot.

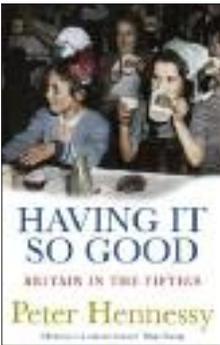
Jonathan Harrison



Reviewer: Paul Kennedy, Professor of History at Yale, and Overseas Visiting Scholar and Fellow Commoner at St John's in 2005, was back in College during the spring of 2008 to write a new book on the Second World War.

Peter Hennessy, *Having it So Good; Britain in the Fifties* (Penguin/Allen Lane: London, 2008).

Pp.740. ISBN 978-0-713-99571-8



Peter Hennessy is one of the most remarkable and prolific historians that St John's has produced during the last half-century – which itself is a bold claim. Graduating in 1969, he went on to a highly successful career in political journalism, paying special attention to the politics of Ten Downing Street, Westminster and Whitehall – the ‘Yes, Prime Minister’ aspects of our country's history. For those who have not kept up with Peter (can there be anybody out there?), he is currently the Attlee Professor of Contemporary British History at Queen Mary, University of London, and the Director of the Institute of Contemporary British Government, Intelligence and Society.

It is important to call attention to Peter Hennessy's long career in journalism because it helps to explain why his books – his many books – are so special. Unlike most academic historians, myself included, who would shudder at entering the ‘Corridors of Power’, he relished that possibility; he relished engaging with politicians of all parties, drawing them out, pushing them for clarifications, asking them (when they had retired to the Lords or deepest Worcestershire) what they had been thinking about most when they were in the midst of, say, the 1949 currency crisis or the Suez debacle. He believed oral history was important, and he was naturally gifted at the art of extracting information and opinions. His candour, intelligence and sense of fun only improved his chances. Secondly, the long years of journalism honed his writing skills: he always had to write to a deadline, he had to write within certain word limits (NOT page limits), he had to explain things clearly to a non-specialist readership, and he had to find a pithy phrase and a great anecdote to help him make the larger point.

Thus when he moved into writing more and more substantial books – books requiring large amounts of research in the official archives and in private political collections – he did not abandon those earlier gifts of an easy style and a deep appreciation of how politics worked in practice rather than in theory (being

named Attlee Professor was therefore most apt, since former Prime Minister 'Clem' Attlee was surely one of the most pragmatic Prime Ministers of the twentieth century). This shines through in all his books, and is very evident in his latest work, *Having it So Good: Britain in the Fifties*.

Yet while Peter was educated at a university that was proud of an emphasis upon 'high politics' – whether it be Geoffrey Elton's work on Tudor government, or Maurice Cowling's on Gladstone versus Disraeli, or Ronald Robinson and Jack Gallagher's on the British Official Mind and the scramble for Africa – he also appreciated that the history of modern Britain was also the history of the evolution of an entire people, in all its shapes and sizes. He was fascinated by the story of the common families of Britain in peace and war, of what changed in their lives and what stayed the same, of how the country became 'modern'.

This has clearly now become his life's work (though, as with every good journalist, there's also another book being written on a different topic, like his recent work on Whitehall and the Cold War). A few years ago he began what may be called 'the Hennessy quartet', a four-volume history of Britain since 1945. The first tome, *Never Again: Britain 1945-1951*, published in 1993, garnered praise and prizes for its imaginative exploration of what it was like for this battered island-nation to adjust to the post-war world, with all its promises and its huge disappointments. *Having It So Good* is the second volume and, impossibly, even better than the first.

The high politics are still here alright, with a fabulous analysis of the Suez Crisis as the key watershed event in Britain's great-power decline; and with an equally fabulous and admiring story of how Harold Macmillan ('Supermac') coached the nation towards internal modernisation, and to a steady, sensible withdrawal from empire at the same time as he nudged it towards Europe. But Hennessy's eye ranges further afield, and his retrieval of those years digs much deeper: the end of rationing, the social improvements, the changes in lifestyles, the elimination of the slums, Commonwealth Games, four-minute miles (Roger Bannister), conquering Everest, a new Queen, cold war tensions, *The Goon Show*, Bill Haley and the Comets, Teddy boys in drainpipe trousers, commercial jets, the Aldermaston marches and the CND.

I'd better stop here. This reviewer began the 1950s living in a dreadful row-house without central heating, electricity, a bathroom (a tin bath, Friday nights), or a toilet (it was outside, next to the coalshed). He ended the decade in a 'council' house that had all of the above; so much for dreaded socialism. It is true that we (*sic*) were pulling out of Africa, at the double. But the most important thing in our house was the coming of an electric clothes-washing machine. Truly, we had never had it so good. And Peter Hennessy tells us why.

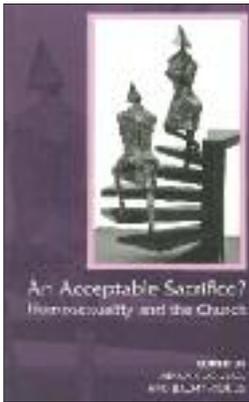
Professor Paul Kennedy



Reviewer: Andrew Duff (BA 1972, MA 1976) is the Liberal Democrat Member of the European Parliament for East of England.

Duncan Dormor and Jeremy Morris (eds),
An Acceptable Sacrifice? Homosexuality and the Church (SPCK, 2007).

Pp.180. ISBN 0-281-05851-2



When I was asked to write a review of the Dean's new book for *The Eagle*, I asked some of my several gay friends who go to church why they did so. Or, as the editors of *An Acceptable Sacrifice?* ask, 'How is the Gospel good news if you're gay?' There were four revealing answers. Some seem to go out of a more or less ill-conceived sense of guilt about being gay. Others go in search of a family or congregation, which they do not have in their own, fairly segregated lives. A third answer was stereotypical, 'because of the frocks and the music'. The fourth, from a gay priest, was simply 'belief'. He presumed, he said, that Christ came to redeem everyone, and not just 'straights'.

That last presumption is one that surfaces again and again in this interesting series of essays on the big question that is due shortly to split the Lambeth Conference of Anglican bishops, meeting this July. This book should be required reading for every conference delegate. It would calm some nerves to be reminded that there is nothing new under the Sun. Men and women – especially Greeks and Romans (but not good Jews) – had been enjoying same-sex relationships for centuries before the term 'homosexuality' was coined in Victorian Britain.

Using scripture as gospel, as it were, is not helpful. The Bible is multi-layered and confusing, especially about passion. Its authors had to make do with what they knew; today we ask different questions. Jesus himself challenged the hardness of heart of the Old Testament by teaching with emphasis about relationships, hospitality and generosity.

Much of the scriptural analysis in the book is taken up with St Paul, who sought to reinterpret the Old Testament in the light of Christ. A narrow interpretation of Pauline doctrine certainly supports the traditional Church view that

homosexuality is sinful. Yet Paul ditched ancient Jewish teaching on relationships as a property contract, and encouraged among the disciples the sense of mutual partnership.

The book examines how the Reformation developed the idea of mutuality. Thomas Cranmer prescribed for marriage the 'help and comfort that one might have of the other'. At the same time, marriage was discarded as a sacrament of the Church – King Henry VIII doing his bit to render matrimony not quite as holy as it once was. Clearly, attitudes to homosexuality have fluctuated conversely with attitudes to heterosexuality and, in particular, to marriage. Dormor is right to remind us that, contrary to appearances, sexual behaviour in our own age is in some ways more conjugal than the past.

Since the Reformation, of course, theology has had to compete with biology in the shaping of our understanding of sexuality. Jeremy Morris, Dean of Trinity Hall, contrasts previous generations who viewed homosexuality as a moral failure with our own, more tolerant attitudes. Today our appreciation of equality demotes hierarchy between gender and race. But in all times, he says, moral reflection tends to lag behind science, which has only worked gradually to change attitudes to matters such as race, slavery, contraception and child abuse. While we know more than our forebears, we are still not omniscient.

When the book comes to try to put the 'gay debate' in a wider context it is less convincing. (I am reminded of the breathless banality of Radio 4's 'Thought for the Day' slot.) Malcolm Brown appears to be a Christian evangelical adrift in the alien world of political economy. Can it really be true that anti-gay attitudes are formed by a deeper reaction to the globalisation of markets? And Michael Beasley manages to write a whole chapter on HIV/AIDS without mentioning the condom. Dormor is good, though, on the porn industry – and quite right to suggest that civil partnerships, blessed or not by the Church, should help to reduce promiscuity among gays.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu, in a foreword to the book, goes further than the editors: 'Sexuality is part of the fullness of our humanity. Some Christians talk about it as if it were simply genital, but it is about the whole person, and to deny the richness of sexual expression to those who are homosexual is to assist in the process of dehumanization.'

The Anglican communion is facing schism over the issue of whether a sexually active gay can lead a good Christian life. Friends and adherents of the Church of England may wish it to succeed in living with its differences. United in diversity it could contribute more than it does both to the causes of European ecumenism and of combating poverty and disease, especially in Africa. Let us hope, therefore, that Lambeth is a success in persuading the wider church of the case for gay rights.

But if schism there must be, we should be sure we know why: Lambeth must provide progressive Anglicanism with a clearly articulated case that *An Acceptable Sacrifice?* goes some way to providing. As St John the Evangelist (13.35) had it, loving one another is a higher Christian injunction than agreeing with one another: 'By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.'

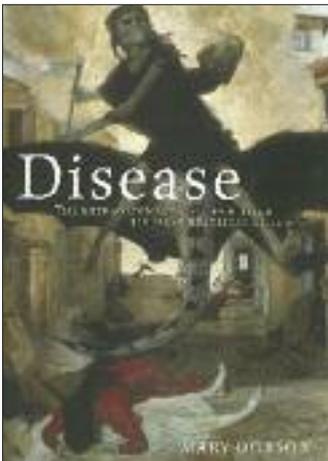
Andrew Duff



Reviewer: Dr Simon Szreter is a Fellow of St John's College and Reader in History and Public Policy at the Faculty of History, University of Cambridge. Simon co-founded the History and Policy website in 2002.

Mary Dobson, *Disease: The extraordinary stories behind history's deadliest killers* (Quercus Publishing Plc, 2007).

Pp.255. ISBN 978-1-84724-399-7



Disease has, of course, accompanied humans throughout their history, turning its course on many occasions. Typhus was a major cause of the spectacular ruination of the *Grande Armée* of Napoleon, which embarked for Russia 600,000 strong in the summer of 1812 and was reduced to just 30,000 within six months. A century later Lenin memorably declared, perhaps with Napoleon in mind, that 'Either socialism will defeat the louse, or the louse will defeat socialism'.

Mary Dobson is the College's resident expert on the medical history of diseases, as this extremely accessible contribution to publicise understanding of its vast subject demonstrates. Mary, whose husband, Chris, is the Master of St John's, made her academic reputation with an outstanding, multi-faceted study of malaria in early modern England, in the style of the great French *Annales* school, and was

deservedly appointed in the 1990s to direct the Oxford Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine. After a break in her output in the last few years, this book marks a most welcome return of one of our leading scholars in this field.

This new book is a pleasure to read for many reasons. It has an excellent theme. The history of disease is certainly a treasure-house of extraordinary stories, and Dr Dobson has assembled a good number of them here, where they are presented with a lightness of touch that belies the author's wide-ranging erudition. Each chapter is adorned with a range of imaginative, high-quality illustrations, which have been carefully researched – not simply an assembly of the more well-worn images. Note the striking beauty of a cutaway colour model of the HIV virus, for instance. The book comprises condensed but clearly written and lively chapters on a selection of thirty of the deadliest of the hundreds of diseases to have afflicted humans. These have been chosen so that each of the three categories of bacterial, parasitic and viral diseases are represented, along with a final set of 'lifestyle diseases', including both cancer and heart disease, the two major afflictions of contemporary affluent society. Earlier chapters cover leprosy and syphilis, the Victorian sanitary nasties of cholera and typhoid, the viral killers such as smallpox, yellow fever, polio and influenza, and the tropical parasitic diseases, such as sleeping sickness, Chagas' disease and hookworm. There are also chapters on several of the most recent afflictions: Ebola, CJD, AIDS and SARS, as well as both malaria and tuberculosis, which must also be classified among the most contemporary, as well as the most ancient of our diseases. It is shocking to be reminded that well as over 125 years since Robert Koch identified the *tubercle bacillus* and over seventy-five years since BCG vaccination was first deployed in the west on a population basis, about one third of the world's population today are infected with TB bacilli. Bunyan's 'captain of all these men of death' still prematurely kills between 1.5 and 2 million people each year; now it is allied with its able lieutenant, AIDS.

Each chapter includes a clear, brief account of current understanding of the disease and is accompanied by a helpful timeline of the chief events in the medical history of the disease. This is a long history in several cases. The apparent depictions of tuberculosis in 3,000-year-old Egyptian paintings have found confirmation in the scars observed on the lungs of mummies. However, most of the more detailed stories inevitably come from the modern and early modern eras of more voluminous written documentation. They relate to the consequences of the inter-continental contact and trade that have generated horrifying epidemics of initial contact all over the world, stories of great suffering and courageous carers, and of obsessive scientific quests for the causes of such suffering. Each chapter succeeds – through carefully chosen documentary extracts, including the letters and poems of the famous and the pleas of the anonymous, alongside numerous graphical images – in imparting a sense of the

human anxieties many of these diseases elicited and the personal suffering they caused, along with selected aspects of the frequently tortuous and flawed course of scientific medical response. The sad history of puerperal fever, for instance, provides probably the most tragic case of iatrogenic mortality in western medical history and certainly occurred on a scale that dwarfs current worries over MRSA or *Clostridium difficile*. Just as mothers in the world's poor countries today continue to die quite unnecessarily in childbirth, so too did many British women until as late as the 1930s. The implications of the importance of avoiding cross-infection, which both Oliver Wendell Holmes in Boston, USA, and the Hungarian, Ignaz Semmelweis, had each discovered as early as the 1840s, were insufficiently followed through by those attending women in childbirth for decade after decade.

A survey such as this can bring out the profoundly international dimension of the history of the scientific fight against disease. The locations for study were of course often spread across the globe but the individuals who committed themselves to the years of effort necessary to make scientific breakthroughs comprised a league of nations of medical endeavour before the political entity was created. The Japanese Shibabsuro Kitasato and the Swiss-born Alexandre Yersin both identified the plague bacillus in 1894. Leprosy's official name since 1948, Hansen's disease, commemorates the pioneering work in the fjord communities of the Norwegian, Gerhard Hansen, identifying in 1873 the bacillus *Mycobacterium leprae*. It was the Austrian, Julius von Agner-Jauregg, who was awarded a Nobel Prize in 1927 for his bold innovation of using one disease to fight another: killing the *Trepanoma pallidum* in tertiary-stage syphilitic patients with the high temperature fever of malaria and then treating the malaria with quinine. The unravelling of the complex transmission path of *Rickettsia prowazekii*, the typhus bacteria, was due to the pre-Great War research of the American, Howard Ricketts, the Pole, Stanislas Prowazek, the Brazillian, Henrique de Rocha Lima, who named his discovery in their honour, and the Frenchman working at the Institut Pasteur in Tunis, Charles Nicolle, who was awarded the 1928 Nobel Prize for identifying the final key to the puzzle – *Pediculus humanus corporis* – the human body louse.

As always in history, and particularly in the history of such a fearful subject as disease, there is much humour, black humour, tragedy, farce and sheer folly to divert the reader. The great British chemist, Humphry Davy, became addicted to his own invention, nitrous oxide. No laughing matter. For every prisoner hanged at Tyburn in the early eighteenth century, four others had died of 'jail fever' or louse-born typhus. Rough justice. In the First World War, allied soldiers were warned that 'A German bullet is cleaner than a whore'. Combatants probably agreed: the former might be welcomed by trench-weary veterans, provided the damage it inflicted was not serious, while getting 'the clap' meant loss of pay –

a very serious matter. The ritual of the nit comb and tea-tree oil shampooing, which periodically infuriate today's parents and children alike, enables us to share a source of irritation with Pliny the Elder, Montezuma and Samuel Pepys, whose diary records that finding nits in a newly purchased wig 'vexed me cruelly'.

Most chapters contain helpful boxes, large and small – the latter being a particular favourite of mine for the amusing gems they contain, such as the information in the very first chapter on 'Plague' that a schoolboy at Eton was recorded in 1666 as being 'never whipped so much in his life as he was one morning for not smoking'. I leave it to readers to infer the reason for this but I can inform them that the location of the bike-sheds at Eton in 1666 is not disclosed. Another reveals that the stethoscope (from the Greek *stethos*, 'chest', and *skopein*, 'to look at', though one would have thought 'stethophone' would have been more appropriate) was born from the bashfulness of the dashing young French physician, René Laënnec, who in 1816 rolled up his notebook to listen at a respectful distance to the heart of a young lady patient and discovered he could also clearly hear her lungs.

Finally, I am grateful to Mary for bringing to my attention the quintessentially Pythonesque figure of Mr Robert Liston (1794-1847), the somewhat over-enthusiastic Scottish surgeon deemed to be 'the fastest cutter' of the pre-anaesthetic era. This wellington-boot-clad, rapier-wielding impresario, who strode into his crowded operating theatres exhorting his audience with the catch-call, 'Time me, gentlemen, time me', really exceeded himself in an operation on a single individual, which achieved a unique 300 per cent mortality rate. Liston's flashing knife contrived inadvertently to remove his patient's testicles, as well as the leg that was the principal object of the amputation operation, while accidentally cutting off his young assistant's fingers and also slashing through the coat-tails of a distinguished spectator. The latter was the first to die (of fright on the spot), while the other two both subsequently died of their wounds. Not for nothing did Hippocrates in the fifth century BC implore his fellow physicians 'at least to do no harm'.

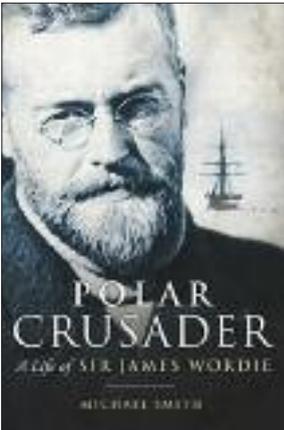
Simon Szreter



Reviewer: David Shackleton graduated from St John's in 2007 with a BA in Philosophy. He spent the first half of 2008 working for the Burma Campaign UK in London. He is currently doing a language and civilisation course at the Sorbonne, Paris, and will be embarking on a Masters degree in English Literature at UCL in September.

Michael Smith, *Polar Crusader: A Life of Sir James Wordie* (Birlinn Publishers, 2004).

Pp.371. ISBN 978-1-84158-292-4



James Wordie led an extraordinary life. He is perhaps the only Master of St John's College to have engaged in 'University Alpinism', albeit during his student days. University Alpinism, or night-climbing, initially developed as a means for students to get back into college after the gates had been locked; it is the clandestine pursuit of climbing – without ropes or safety equipment – University walls and buildings. Wordie had a particular flair for the daunting climb up the sheer facade of St John's College Chapel tower, the highest building in Cambridge. It was in that same Chapel that, many years later, Wordie, being then President of the College, was to announce himself elected Master of St John's.

Between his student days at St John's, and his becoming Master of that College, Wordie achieved an incredible amount. Perhaps most remarkably, aged just twenty-six, he was a member of Shackleton's famous *Endurance* expedition (1914-16). Shackleton's eminently ambitious plan was to cross the entire Antarctic continent, a distance of around 1,800 miles, deploying two ships and two separate teams of men on either side of the continent: one from the Weddell Sea and another from the Ross Sea. Wordie went as a geologist, one of few scientists amongst the crew.

However, the expedition foundered from its early stages. Due to uncharacteristic weather conditions that year, the *Endurance* became trapped in the pack ice of the Weddell Sea. For the next nine months the crew was held captive in the

entrenched ship, impotent. Under increased pressure from the ice, the *Endurance* was eventually crushed, and had to be abandoned, before finally sinking on 21 November 1915.

After a further six months of living on the ice floe, and left with just three small boats, Shackleton led an epic journey across the ice to the uninhabited Elephant Island. From there, Shackleton took a select party aboard the most seaworthy of the three boats, the *James Caird*, and sailed to South Georgia to find help, traversing a previously unclimbed and unmapped mountain range on the way.

Meanwhile Wordie, along with the majority of the crew, remained on a small, wind-battered and desolate beach on Elephant Island, living under their upturned boats, not knowing when, or if, help would arrive. Despite housing twenty-two, the hut was just 19ft by 10ft; there was not even enough room to stand up inside. It was over four months that they had to wait. Shackleton eventually returned with help on 30 August 1916, happily to find all members of the *Endurance* still alive.

Michael Smith's challenge, as Wordie's biographer, is to bring out the human aspect of Wordie's experience. Wordie himself was astoundingly unforthcoming on the subject, not even talking to his closest family about the expedition in any detail until the last couple of years of his life. Nor was he entirely comfortable with others sharing their experiences. For example, after a dinner party almost forty years later, Wordie's shipmate, Walter How, was entertaining a small crowd of enthralled listeners with anecdotes from the expedition. Wordie evidently considered How too loquacious on the subject, and brought him to an abrupt halt, asking: 'What's going on here, How? Not telling stories out of school, I hope?'

Wordie's expedition diary, of which an abridged version is appended to Smith's biography, is similarly restrained. For example, we find under the entry for 27 December 1915 the comment that 'the skipper had trouble with the carpenter today whilst sledging'. We rely on Smith to expand this elliptical remark. Having just lost the *Endurance*, Shackleton made the decision to attempt a gruelling 250-mile march to Paulet Island, whilst dragging three heavy boats, across almost un-negotiable ice. McNish, 'the carpenter', recognising the futility of the boat-hauling, refused an order to continue the pointless slog. Shackleton, in order to quell the mutiny before it spread, hurriedly assembled the entire party on the ice. McNish argued that he was no longer obliged to obey orders as the ship had sunk, to which Shackleton responded that disobedience would be 'legally punished' and that, regardless of the sinking of the ship, the men would still be paid. The clear insinuation of 'legal punishment' was that McNish, or anyone else, would be shot for any further insubordination.

Smith does an admirable job of bringing to life Wordie's expedition experience. Wordie is presented as diligent and erudite, a resourceful and dedicated scholar. Excluding South Georgia at the outset and the small stretch of beach on Elephant Island, land was never properly encountered during the expedition. Despite being stranded in this geologist's desert, Wordie used his ingenuity to collate enough data to publish a geological article after the expedition – an article that now appears as an appendix to Shackleton's *South*. He managed this feat based on the odd rock or stone brought up by the ship's depth-sounding apparatus, by examining the accumulation of dirt embedded in passing icebergs, and from tiny pebbles retrieved from the stomachs of slaughtered penguin's stomachs. As Wordie later explained, 'penguins have a grinding mechanism in their crop and large pieces of rock can be recovered'.

Further, we see Wordie as tough, both physically and mentally. It seems that Shackleton was concerned for the well-being of Wordie and the other scientists, given the brutal conditions. Such concern was unwarranted on Wordie's account. Wordie was probably one of the fittest members of the expedition, and certainly one of the most experienced climbers. Later, he was only very narrowly to miss out on being one of the members of the 1922 Everest expedition.

Wordie's toughness was demonstrated after the eighteen-day sea-crossing in the open boats, after which the crew were exhausted. Most had suffered from acute dehydration, frostbite, sleep-deprivation, boils, cracked lips, and physical exhaustion to varying degrees. Shackleton records how 'about ten of the party were off their heads'; Wordie himself writes that 'some fellows moreover were half crazy: one got an ice axe and did not stop till he had killed about ten seals: another began eating raw limpets and dulse [seaweed], although during the last two days there had been absolutely no restriction on food'. Wordie, by contrast, was one of the strongest, bringing the boats and stores onto shore, setting up shelter, and even finding the energy to scale the cliffs in search of a more hospitable place to camp.

Wordie did not retreat quietly into the shadows after returning from Shackleton's expedition. He continued exploring, himself leading trips to Spitsbergen, Greenland, and the Canadian Arctic. Indeed Smith argues that Wordie was chiefly responsible for modernising Polar exploration, bridging the heroic age and today's mechanised, scientific age.

Inspired by Amundsen, Wordie pioneered the method of deploying small, hand-picked teams of scientists in the Polar regions, supplied by a small ship and capable of living off the land. His lightweight teams, typically involving six to eight men as opposed to the fifty-six of the *Endurance*, would go to the field for

only two or three months of the summer season, thereby avoiding the costly and unnecessary practice of over-wintering. Other changes that Wordie introduced were: to focus on the Arctic as opposed to the Antarctic; to use new technology, such as radio communications, motor vehicles and aircraft; and, the geography of the Polar regions having being fairly well established, to focus on scientific understanding, particularly geology, glaciology, meteorology, zoology, botany and archaeology.

The list of Wordie's achievements continues. He was elected Chairman of the Scott Polar Research Institute in Cambridge in 1937, President of the Royal Geographical Society in 1951, Master of St John's College in 1952, and Chairman of the British Mountaineering Council in 1953. Furthermore he acted as advisor for numerous expeditions; notably, as Vice-Chairman of the Everest Committee, he planned the first successful ascent of Everest in 1953, by Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay.

Wordie implemented a three-year cycle to balance his three great interests: exploration, academia, and his family. The system worked such that Wordie would spend one summer season exploring, another devoted to responsibilities at Cambridge, and a third spent with his family. The summer expeditions were timed conveniently to coincide with the Cambridge long vacation.

Polar Crusader is engaging and perspicuous. For a biography that reads so easily, one is only very seldom made conscious of its lightness of style. One such instance might be when we learn that the young Wordie used 'to bang on about his own personal favourite issues' in school debates. Such a minor qualm aside, Smith's biography stands as a much-needed commemoration of a figure who, until now, has been undeservedly overlooked.

David Shackleton



Reviewer: Duncan Dormor is Dean of St John's College and lectures in the Divinity Faculty on the sociology and anthropology of religion.

Robert A Hinde (with contributions from Sir Joseph Rotblat), *Bending the Rules: Morality in the modern world from relationships to politics and war* (Oxford University Press, 2007).

Pp.279. ISBN 978-0-19-921897-4



This book continues a trajectory of thinking that Hinde (Fellow of St John's) has explored over quite a number of years: that of trying to establish an empirical scientific grounding for moral thinking and practice. It entails a distinctive approach that in large part eschews the insights of philosophers or others working within established frameworks of ethical reflection in favour of one rooted in the insights of evolutionary biology, ethology and psychology. This approach is mapped out in the first four chapters and provides the foundation for a wide-ranging commentary on the relationship between ethics and the physical sciences, medicine, politics, business and war. These chapters are enriched by the author's personal and political reflections and the

passionate and vigorous expression of his moral judgements. Unsurprisingly, Hinde's long-standing public advocacy of the proper exercise of responsibility within the scientific community and his opposition to nuclear arms, and indeed warfare in general, receive clear articulation. Doubtless his friend and potential collaborator, Sir Joseph Rotblat, the former Nobel Peace Prize winner, who sadly died before the book's completion, would have applauded.

Anyone who has grasped the basics of contemporary evolutionary theory, especially the ideas of inclusive fitness, and kin and group selection, will be struck by the congruence between the forces involved in natural selection, as it operates in highly social animals, and the dynamics that shape human society and culture. So an approach to understanding human morality that is informed by such empirically derived concepts is deeply attractive. However the gap between

biology and culture is notoriously easy to underestimate and few attempts to bridge it have yielded startling or novel insights for philosophers or ethicists.

Hinde sets about his ambitious task by arguing that natural selection has bequeathed humanity two propensities, that of being out for ourselves (selfish assertiveness) and that of behaving cooperatively and helpfully with others (prosociality). These two forces, he suggests, have moulded and shaped human morality, which he understands as an amalgam of pan-cultural principles arising out of our evolutionary past and precepts that are restricted to particular cultures. The quest to successfully distinguish between these has of course occupied many great minds across a range of academic disciplines. Perhaps inevitably, whilst Hinde raises the possibility that a large number of pan-cultural principles exist, the central example advanced throughout the course of the book is the so-called 'Golden Rule'. The character and status of the Golden Rule has been subject to intense discussion over centuries and, as a reliable foundation for the systematic elaboration of a moral system, has had its detractors including Kant, Nietzsche and Russell. However, Hinde's primary concern is to elucidate the ways in which being part of a particular group of people with a shared culture leads to precepts and behaviour that are at odds with the simple application of the Golden Rule. It is in this vein that he considers the potentially corrosive impact of political systems, the profit motive and the business of science, and proposes a series of corrective measures involving the promotion of ethical codes and regulations, the cultivation of a whistle-blowing culture and support for a rejuvenated United Nations.

Despite the inchoate nature of the central distinctions available to him, Hinde makes an effective case for the wider appreciation of the social bases for our morality. His stress on the central role that group loyalty plays in influencing or indeed distorting our ethical decision-making is well placed and he provides a number of salutary examples in the later chapters. Whilst not every reader will agree with Hinde's political views, his passionate call that we act for a better tomorrow demands our admiration.

Duncan Dormor



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Mr Malcolm Underwood (1977)
Mr Murali Vadivelu (2002)
Professor John Vallance-Owen (1939)
Dr Erik Varden (1996)
Mr James Vause (1997)
Mr Hugo Vincent (2007)
Mr Watson
Ms Alison Weir (via the College History Society)
Professor Marjorie Welish (Overseas Visiting Scholar 2005)
Professor Paul Wesson (1971)
Mr John Weston Smith (1951)
Mrs Diana Whittington (mother of Mr James Whittington (2006))
Mr Bernard Wolfe (1935)
Mr Kenneth Young (1953)



COLLEGE NOTES

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ST JOHN'S COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

College Officers

The College Officers as of October 2008 are:

The Master	Professor C M Dobson MA ScD DPhil FRS
The President	A M Nicholls MA PhD
Senior Tutor	M Dörrzapf MA PhD
Senior Bursar	C F Ewbank MA MBA
Deans	The Reverend D J Dormor BA MSc P A Linehan MA PhD FBA
Domestic Bursar	Commodore J W R Harris MA
Librarian	A M Nicholls MA PhD
Praelector	Professor M Schofield MA PhD FBA
Director of Music	A M Nethsingha BA
Chaplain	The Reverend G D Bayliss BA DPhil

The College Council

As of October 2008, the College Council consists of:

	The Master	
The President		Professor McFarlane
Professor Johnstone		Professor Manton
Dr Colwell		Dr Dörrzapf
Dr McDermott		Professor Woods
Professor Lane		Miss Tomaselli
Dr Szeleter		Ms Kesby

The Fellowship

Elected to a Fellowship under Title C:¹

David Arthur Lomas (BMed 1985, University of Nottingham; PhD 1993, ScD 2004, Trinity College)

Elected to a Fellowship under Title B:²

Emma J L Waring (BA 2000, Newnham College; LLM 2002, Harvard Law School)

Elected to Fellowships under Title A:³

Andrew Joseph Counter (BA 2004, MPhil 2005, Christ's College)

Tuomas Pertti Jonathan Knowles (DipPhys 2004, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology)

Gideon Alexander Mailer (BA 2004, MPhil 2005, Peterhouse)

Helen McCarthy (BA 2001, Gonville and Caius College; MA, University of London)

Jason Joseph William Alexander Robinson (MEng 2004, Imperial College London)

¹Title C = Professors

²Title B = Teaching Fellows and certain College Officers

³Title A = Research Fellows

In view of these appointments the complete list of the Master and Fellows, as of October 2008, is as follows (in order of seniority):

The Master (Professor C M Dobson)

The President (Dr A M Nicholls)

Professor Sir M V Wilkes

Dr E D James

Professor R A Hinde

Dr R H Prince

Professor Sir J R Goody

Mr G G Watson

Dr J A Charles

Dr D J H Garling

Professor R N Perham

Dr G A Reid

Professor P Boyde

Dr J A Leake

Dr P A Linehan

Dr A J Macfarlane

Professor D L McMullen

Dr E K Matthews

Mr R G Jobling

Dr A A Macintosh

Professor J Staunton

Dr C M P Johnson

Professor M A Clarke

Dr A G Smith

Professor J A Emerton

Dr R A Green

Professor J Illiffe

Dr J H Matthewman

Professor M Schofield

Dr G A Lewis

Professor R F Griffin

Dr T P Bayliss-Smith

Professor S F Gull

Dr H P Hughes

Dr P Goddard

Professor P T Johnstone

Professor I M Hutchings

Dr H R L Beadle

Dr J B Hutchison

Professor S F C Milsom

Dr D G D Wight

Dr J A Alexander

Professor Sir R H Friend

Dr R E Glasscock

Professor R P Tombs

Dr R E McConnel

Dr D R Midgley

Professor P H Matthews

Dr M Richards
 Professor J F Kerrigan
 Professor G J Burton
 Professor G C Horrocks
 Professor Sir P S Dasgupta
 Professor M E Welland
 Dr H R Matthews
 Professor B J Heal
 Dr T P Hynes
 Professor I N McCave
 Dr A C Metaxas
 Colonel R H Robinson
 Professor S Conway Morris
 Professor E D Laue
 Dr S A Edgley
 Mr R A Evans
 Dr S M Colwell
 Dr H E Watson
 Dr J P McDermott
 Professor C O Lane
 Dr C J Robinson
 Professor Y M Suhov
 Dr S R S Szreter
 Professor D J Howard
 Mr R C Nolan
 Dr M M G Lisboa
 Dr U C Rublack
 Professor B D Simons
 Dr K C Plaisted
 Dr M Ní Mhaonaigh
 Professor D C McFarlane
 Professor C D Gray
 Dr I M Winter
 Professor N S Manton
 Dr N S Arnold
 Dr S Castelveccchi
 Professor A-L Kinmonth
 Dr J M Lees
 Professor A D H Wyllie
 Professor S C Reif
 Dr D M Fox
 Dr D M A Stuart
 Dr M Dörrzapf
 Dr V J L Best
 Dr P Antonello

Dr P T Miracle
 Professor A W Woods
 Commodore J W R Harris
 Dr S M Best
 Dr P M Geraats
 Dr S E Sällström Matthews
 Dr P T Wood
 Dr M S Olsaretti
 Dr E J Gowers
 Dr P Batsaki
 Mr D J Dormor
 Professor U C Goswami
 Dr R J Samworth
 Professor G W W Barker
 Dr K Johnstone
 Dr D L Williams
 Miss S Tomaselli
 Mr C F Ewbank
 Dr E W Holberton
 Dr A Galy
 Dr F E Salmon
 Dr C G Warnes
 Dr S M Humphrey
 Dr M J V P Worthington
 Mr J D Billett
 Mr M E Pagitz
 Professor F M Watt
 Dr C D Jiggins
 Dr R H G Garner
 Dr D Burdakov
 Mr S W Teal
 Mr A M Nethsingha
 Dr A L Mallam
 Mr J R Mair
 Ms A G Kesby
 Dr T Larsson
 Mr D G Conlon
 Dr R D Mullins
 Professor D A Lomas
 Dr T P J Knowles
 Mr A J Counter
 Mr G A Mailer
 Ms E J L Waring
 Ms H McCarthy
 Mr J J W A Robinson

Honorary Fellows (alphabetical order)

Sir Richard Aikens	Sir Derek Jacobi
Professor J M Ball	Ambassador A J Jacovides
Sir Jack Beatson	Ambassador F Kazaura
Mr J M Brearley	Professor M A King
Lord Browne	Sir Christophor Laidlaw
Mr D M Burt	Sir Tim Lankester
The Most Revd P F Carnley	Professor E S Maskin
Sir Brian Cartledge	Sir Jonathan Miller
The Revd Professor W O Chadwick	Sir Mark Moody-Stuart
Mr C N Corfield	The Rt Hon the Lord Mustill
Professor Sir David Cox	Sir Roger Palin
Sir Percy Cradock	Professor Sir Roger Penrose
Professor W A Deer	Professor J G A Pocock
Mr Justice R J Goldstone	Mr D W Pountney
The Rt Hon the Lord Griffiths	Professor Lord Renfrew
Professor J D Harvey	Sir Michael Scholar
The Rt Hon the Lord Hope	Dr M Singh
Professor Sir Bryan Hopkin	The Rt Hon the Lord Templeman
Sir David Hopwood	The Rt Revd P K Walker
Professor Sir John Horlock	Sir Douglas Wass
The Hon Mr Justice Frank Iacobucci	Sir David Wilson

Benefactors' Scholars

Elected to Benefactors' Scholarships from 1 October 2008:

Marcelo Julio Alvisio	Pure Mathematics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Grace Elizabeth Ida Bolton	International Relations, Trinity College, Dublin
Jennifer Clair French	World Archaeology, University of Durham
Min-Kai Lin	Astrophysics, St Catharine's College, Cambridge
Sharon McCann	American Literature, St John's College, Cambridge

Thomas David Parry-Jones	Political Thought and Intellectual History, Magdalene College, Cambridge
Mmamolatelyo Ezekiel Mathekga	Engineering, University of the Witwatersrand
Morgan Dylan Macleod	Linguistics, University of British Columbia
Michael Jeremy Barany	History, Philosophy and Sociology of Science, Technology and Medicine, Cornell University
Ruth Elaine Gilligan	Chemistry, University College, Dublin
Hoi Tik Alvin Leung	Chemistry, University of Hong Kong
Selma Telalagic	Economics, Jesus College, Cambridge
Chun Mia Huang	Chinese Studies, Peking University
Caroline Elizabeth Anne Martin	Earth Sciences, National University of Ireland, Galway
Surabhi Ranganathan*	International Law, National Law School of India, Bangalore, and New York University
Ellie Stedall	American Literature, Corpus Christi College, Oxford
Oriel Feldmanhall	Biology, Cornell University
Miriam Boyles	Social Anthropology, Pembroke College, Cambridge
* J C Hall Scholar	





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