



VOLUME 111

FOR MEMBERS OF ST JOHN'S COLLEGE

# The Eagle 2009



ST JOHN'S COLLEGE  
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

# The Eagle

## 2009

Volume 111



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UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Published in the United Kingdom in 2009 by St John's College, Cambridge

St John's College  
Cambridge  
CB2 1TP  
[www.joh.cam.ac.uk](http://www.joh.cam.ac.uk)

Telephone: 01223 338700  
Fax: 01223 338727  
Email: [enquiries@joh.cam.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@joh.cam.ac.uk)

First published in the United Kingdom in 1858 by St John's College, Cambridge

Designed and produced by Cameron Design: 01284 725292;  
[www.cameronacademic.co.uk](http://www.cameronacademic.co.uk)  
Printed by Reflex Litho Ltd, Thetford

Cover photography by Alice Hardy. Stained glass window on the main staircase of the Master's Lodge. Made by Baillie & Co of London in 1865.

Photography by Ben Gallagher, Alice Hardy, Andrew Houston and contributors.

*The Eagle* is published annually by St John's College, Cambridge, and is sent free of charge to members of St John's College and other interested parties.

Items to be considered for publication should be addressed to The Editor, *The Eagle*, Development Office, St John's College, Cambridge, CB2 1TP, or sent by email to [m.crowder@joh.cam.ac.uk](mailto:m.crowder@joh.cam.ac.uk).

If you would like to submit Members' News for publication in *The Eagle*, you can do so online at [www.joh.cam.ac.uk/johnian/members\\_news](http://www.joh.cam.ac.uk/johnian/members_news).

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

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

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

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

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

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



**Marianne Crowder**  
**Alumni Relations Officer (Publications)**

**Development Office**  
**D Second Court**  
**St John's College**  
**Cambridge**  
**CB2 1TP**

**Tel: 01223 330722**  
**Email: [m.crowder@joh.cam.ac.uk](mailto:m.crowder@joh.cam.ac.uk)**  
**[www.joh.cam.ac.uk/johnian](http://www.joh.cam.ac.uk/johnian)**

# ARTICLES

ARTICLES



ST JOHN'S COLLEGE  
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

**Professor Christopher Dobson is Master of St John's College and the John Humphrey Plummer Professor of Chemical and Structural Biology at the University of Cambridge.**

Professor Dobson continues his wide-ranging research and lecturing activities alongside his role as Master of the College, and in recognition of his work in advancing our understanding of the molecular basis of neurodegenerative disorders he was this year awarded a Royal Medal by the Royal Society.

#### **Message from the Master**

One of the most moving events of 2009 took place on 29 June when a small group of members of St John's and Christ's, along with representatives of other institutions associated with Lady Margaret Beaufort, assembled in Henry VII's Chapel in Westminster Abbey. We were there to pay our respects at the tomb of our Foundress on the five hundredth anniversary of her death and to give thanks for her life. And what a life it was! Lady Margaret was betrothed at the age of six, though three years later the contract was revoked. At the age of twelve she was again married, and in 1457 at the age of thirteen she gave birth to her only child. At the time of the birth she was already a widow, as her husband Edmund Tudor had died of the plague three months earlier. Despite the dangers of the time, as the Wars of the Roses raged across the Kingdom, she survived to see her son crowned Henry VII after the Battle of Bosworth Field in 1485, thus beginning the Tudor dynasty that was to reign over England and Wales for nearly 120 years and indeed she was to live long enough to see the coronation of her grandson, Henry VIII, almost a quarter of a century later. Lady Margaret married twice more after the death of Edmund Tudor, and her inherited wealth along with grants made to her by her son after his coronation made her a rich woman. In addition she was accorded by Parliament a legal status which allowed her to control her lands and all the patronage which that entailed. In 1509 she left her goods to be disposed of for the purposes of her will, which included the establishment of this College, and for the same purpose she left the income of certain of her estates to complete the foundation which she had begun before her death. The Crown eventually inherited these lands, but meanwhile her executors, and especially John Fisher, her confessor and Chancellor of the University, had succeeded in setting up St John's and providing for its endowment, laying the foundations for what we see around us in the College today.

Gazing at the wonderfully lifelike effigy that rests on the tomb it was impossible not to marvel at the achievements of this remarkable lady. In addition, after placing a bunch of lilies at her feet, I could not help wondering what she would think about the College that she had worked so hard to bring into existence but which she didn't live to see in action. Would she approve of the way it has turned out? Would she be proud of its standing in the world, of its achievements, of its ethos and of the people that it has educated? I have no doubt in my own mind that she would be absolutely delighted by the way that St John's has developed, though whether she would approve of the fact that she is best known to many people because the College boat club is named after her I would not like to speculate. These are perhaps topics that we can explore further when we celebrate our quinqucentenary in 2011! And on the subject of 2011, plans for a wide range of commemorative events are developing very well, and we hope that all Johnians and their families and friends in all parts of the world will find much to enjoy in the programme of celebrations throughout the anniversary year.

Returning to the present, I have found so many things to enjoy during the past year that I can only mention a few of my personal favourites. The Fellowship continues to flourish, and a real highlight of the year was a lunch in the Combination Room held to commemorate Sir Jack Goody's 90th birthday. Amongst the many memorable moments were Jack's admission in his speech that he was wearing a College tie for the first time in his life, having rushed out to buy one after deciding that it was the only neckwear suitable for the occasion, and also the news that at the age of 90 he has three books in press, and more in the pipeline. Jack is, however, still a youngster compared to our Senior Fellow, Sir Maurice Wilkes who celebrated his 96th birthday in June and who, like Sir Jack, is to be seen in College virtually every day. Continuing on the birthday theme, this year we have been celebrating the University reaching the age of 800 years, and it was particularly exciting to see that Sir Maurice, a pioneer in the development of modern computing, was one of four scientists whose work was selected by the University to illustrate 800 years of innovation in Cambridge.

The highest profile public event in the Cambridge 800 celebrations was undoubtedly the splendid 'Cambridge Prom', one of the 2009 BBC Promenade Concerts that was focused on Cambridge performers and composers and at which St John's stole the show. Early in the concert, at which HRH The Prince of Wales was the guest of honour, we were treated to *Five Mystical Songs* by Ralph Vaughan Williams, sung by Simon Keenlyside, who was both a chorister and a choral student at St John's, and since 2008 an Honorary Fellow of the College. Shortly after Simon's contribution, our Choir, now at such a peak of perfection that it takes one's breath away to hear them, joined with our friends from King's (where the Director of Music, Stephen Cleobury, was, like our own Andrew Nethsingha, an Organ Scholar at St John's under George Guest) to sing *Come, Holy Ghost*, composed by Sir Jonathan Harvey, Honorary Fellow of the College and conducted by Andrew

Nethsingha. This performance, rated by just about every critic as the highlight of the evening, was a splendid tribute to Sir Jonathan who is 70 this year; indeed, we had celebrated his birthday a few weeks earlier with a wonderful Sunday afternoon concert of his chamber music in the Master's Lodge, followed by Evensong in the College Chapel at which several of his choral works were sung.

On the morning of the Prom, another distinguished Johnian, Nick Corfield, received an accolade of a different sort, this time from HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, Chancellor of the University. Nick was presented with an 800 Anniversary Medal at Buckingham Palace in recognition of his remarkable generosity in giving more than £6 million to St John's; money that served both as matching funding to stimulate the extremely successful fund-raising programme for bursaries, and also to encourage the College to begin its renovation of the historic 'Triangle Site' opposite the Great Gate and adjoining All Saints' Garden. The day before the Prom, Fellows, staff and students gathered in the 'old schoolroom', where the choristers used to receive something of an education before the present College School in Grange Road was established, to see Nick Corfield unveil a plaque to mark the opening of what is now Corfield Court. This new court represents a marvellous restoration project that gives us some 40 rooms for graduate students along with several sets for resident Fellows and a series of new supervision rooms, all opening on to the interior of the court; on the outside of the court the dozen or so shops have been extended and improved. The character of the buildings, some of which date back to the sixteenth century, has been preserved and many of the rooms are splendidly individual, one even retaining part of the bar of the long-closed 'Flying Stag' Inn. After the opening, we enjoyed an excellent lunch in the Lodge where it was a particular pleasure to meet several members of Nick's family, including his delightful mother.

Corfield Court is not the only substantial Johnian building project to be completed this year. Major renovation of the whole of the Maufe Building, which makes up North Court and much of Chapel Court, carried out by our own Maintenance Department under the expert eye of Steve Beeby, the Superintendent of Buildings, has now been completed and is a real triumph – an elegant and graceful swan emerged as the scaffolding came down around what had often been perceived as an ugly duckling. And a lovingly restored Merton Hall, the Elizabethan timber-framed building attached to the School of Pythagoras, is due to be finished shortly and will provide much needed teaching rooms for non-resident Fellows. The programme of restoring our College buildings is, however, far from over. The scaffolding is already going up around Cripps, as we begin the first phase of a complete refurbishment of this, the largest of our buildings, again being carried out by our own Maintenance Department. Apart from the series of decantings that have been necessary to ensure none of our students (or Fellows) was left homeless, just as the final permissions were being obtained from the planning authorities, the building was listed as Grade II\* on the recommendation of English Heritage. Apparently, if the single storey link that used to stand on the site of the present



The Master, Nick Corfield and the President, Dr Mark Nicholls

Fisher Building, and which housed the Cripps Bar, had not been demolished, the listing of the 'intact' original structure might well have been Grade I. The reputation of the Cripps Bar, however, suggests that its continued existence might have had consequences that were much more serious than those resulting from its demolition. Fortunately, the Governing Body had already agreed with the College Council that, love it or hate it, Cripps is a supreme example of 1960s architecture and should be restored as closely as possible to its original state. And after all, New Court was derided for a hundred years or so before being recognised as a magnificent addition to the architectural treasures of the College.

The cost of this essential and often remedial work is enormous. Cripps, for example, will cost some £27 million to restore. We are most fortunate, therefore, that significant elements of our expenditure on our historic buildings are being supported by contributions to our fundraising Campaign. In addition to the wonderful gift from Nick Corfield, the College has been the recipient of a second magnificent benefaction, worth £10 million in total, from an anonymous British charitable foundation, which has covered the cost of the restoration of Merton Hall and also pledged a major sum to another important project, the conversion of the old Divinity School into a multi-purpose building. This exciting development will provide the College with the space and appropriate environment for a range of initiatives that will enhance still further our ability to generate an educational experience second-to-none, to provide first class facilities for lectures and for musical and theatrical performances, and to enable us to demonstrate the value and excitement of a Johnian education to prospective applicants from all backgrounds. After much debate, over nearly a decade, about possible uses for this Grade II listed building, the Governing Body accepted *nem con* both the concept and the architectural designs for the conversion, and the latter have just been approved by the local planning and conservation bodies. We are now poised to move forward, and we are optimistic that we shall be successful in obtaining further donations towards carrying out this project that will, in addition to providing wonderful additional facilities for the College, serve to complete Corfield Court and the redevelopment of the area opposite the Great Gate.

**The cost of this essential and often remedial work is enormous. Cripps, for example, will cost some £27 million to restore.**

The topic of fundraising has been very much in our minds over the past year. Indeed, the first major event of the academic year was the official launch of the St John's College Campaign at the Guildhall in London, at which Nick Corfield spoke compellingly of his views on the importance of supporting St John's at this time. The Choir was on magnificent form to inspire all of us present on that occasion, as indeed it was at a North American launch event at Gotham Hall in

New York City in the spring. At this latter occasion, Marc Feigen, Chairman of the Johnian Society of the USA, gave a wonderful address and emphasised the strong links between Johnians on both sides of the Atlantic. Both occasions were enormously enjoyable and they allowed Mary and me to meet a large number of enthusiastic Johnians, both renewing existing friendships and beginning new ones. Although we might not have chosen to launch the most ambitious fundraising enterprise of any Cambridge or Oxford College in the midst of the most dramatic economic crisis of the last 75 years, in some ways the timing has served to emphasise that the College and University cannot rely on the largesse of any government at the present time, or indeed perhaps at any time in the foreseeable future, and that we must with even greater urgency ensure that we strengthen our financial position very significantly to maintain our position in the world and indeed our independence of thought and action.

Johnians and other friends have risen magnificently to the challenge. With the two large donations mentioned above, and numerous smaller ones that are no less warmly appreciated, we have now raised in excess of £32 million in gifts and firm pledges towards our target of £50 million by 2012. As well as enabling us to refurbish buildings and award bursaries and scholarships to worthy and deserving undergraduates and graduates, the University's analysis of fundraising indicates that we are top of the collegiate success table, confirming my own view that Johnians have a unique relationship with the College and are the most generous of all Cambridge alumni. I am therefore extremely optimistic that we shall raise the remaining £18 million in the next two years. We are, however, already looking to the longer term as I believe that we must increase our endowment very substantially over the next 20 years to enable us to achieve our ambitions in an increasingly competitive world. To this end we have already established the Beaufort Society – and I am delighted that my good friend and predecessor Richard Perham has agreed to be its first President – to bring together those of you who are intending to leave a legacy to the College in your will, and to enable us to recognise and respond to your generosity during your lifetimes.

One of the particular pleasures for me as Master of this wonderful College is that I manage to meet and get to know, in addition to more senior Johnians, a large number of undergraduate and graduate students, and this year has been especially rewarding in this regard. The student body flourishes on all fronts, as you will read in later sections of *The Eagle*. It is particularly pleasing in this context that the College has moved up six places this year in the Tompkins Table, the annual ranking of Cambridge colleges based on performance in University examinations, and we celebrated the achievements of some of our most outstanding young people with the presentation of Larmor Awards on the morning of General Admission. We hope that we can build on this success to ensure that everyone completes their time at the College feeling that they have realised their full potential and that they are very well prepared for their future careers. 

**Christopher Dobson**  
Master of St John's College

**Stephen Teal joined St John's two and a half years ago.**

During his time at the College we have held two Telethons and seen the launch of the St John's College Campaign. With preparations for 2011 underway, Stephen and the Development Office are busier than ever.



Stephen Teal

### **Message from the Development Director**

A colleague recently likened the decision to launch the St John's Campaign in September 2008 to the College's support of the losing side in the English Civil War. 'Surely not that disastrous?' I gasped. 'No, I meant we were vindicated in the end,' he replied. I got the impression that the Fellow in question may have been an eyewitness to the Parliamentarians' plundering of the College silver.

As the official launch event at the London Guildhall grew closer we did fear the worst. We should have known better as the enthusiasm and loyalty that characterizes so many

Johnians won the day, and we had a packed house for a performance from the Choir and speeches by the Master and our most significant modern benefactor, Nick Corfield (BA 1981). Nick's speech was particularly effective as he talked of his desire to provide today's generation of students with the same opportunities he had enjoyed.

To date the Campaign has already raised over £30 million towards the target of £50 million. This is already quite an achievement and the whole Johnian community can take great credit and pleasure from it. There is much hard work

to do, and there is no masking the fact that our task has become more difficult in the light of the global economic situation. However, the College's continued commitment to excellence and equality of opportunity, combined with the generosity of alumni, should see us home.

One of the most pleasing aspects of the Campaign in the past year was the reaction to the College's first telephone fundraising programme. Some 55% of Johnians our student callers spoke to made a gift and the total raised was (with matching funding from Nick Corfield) nearly £600,000. The value of having lots of smaller donors was never more clearly demonstrated. Some 7% of Johnians have made a gift to the Campaign to date, compared with an average of 16% giving amongst other Cambridge Colleges. We hope to get that figure up above 20% by December 2012.

The Alumni Relations team has had a busy year. Another Campaign launch event in New York presented unusual logistical problems but the team, the Johnian Society of the USA and the Choir Administrator rose to the occasion, and what an occasion it was in the splendour of Gotham Hall. The Johnian net spreads ever further and more often, with one of the highlights being the now traditional Varsity Match lunch at Twickenham, which attracted nearly two hundred people. We are aiming for three hundred next year but, as in so many areas, our invitation list is only as good as the information we hold, so please do let us know if there are events to which you would like to be invited.

Another notable event was a dinner for Johnians in Singapore (and a number came over from Malaysia) in September. Sixty or so people attended and heard a delightful speech from Professor Walter Woon (LLM 1983), Singapore's Attorney General, following a performance by the Gentlemen of St John's. There were other dinners in Toronto and Manchester, Sir Richard Aikens (BA 1970) gave the Winfield Society lecture in London, and Christmas drinks parties were held in London and New York. In Cambridge, as an adjunct to the Johnian Dinners, we held the first twenty-fifth and fiftieth anniversary of Matriculation Dinners, to which partners were also invited; these dinners will now become a fixture in the College calendar.

2009 sees the launch of the Beaufort Society, through which the College will seek to thank and acknowledge all those who have remembered St John's in their Wills. All rather fitting in the year that marks the five hundredth anniversary of the death of our foundress, Lady Margaret. 

**Stephen Teal**  
Development Director

**Tissa Devendra has had a career of over forty years in Sri Lanka's public service and UN agencies.**

Tissa came to Cambridge in 1968 to read for a Diploma in Development Administration. Here he looks back with fondness at his year at St John's.

### **A Year at 'The Knott' 1968-1969**

Cambridge was but a distant dream when I entered the University of Ceylon in 1948 to read for a degree in English under Cambridge alumnus, Professor E F C Ludowyk. Graduating with a 'gentleman's degree' ended all hopes of a career in the vales of academia and I embarked instead on a career in district administration. Little did I imagine fifteen years later, in 1968, that this very career would win me a Colombo Plan Fellowship to Cambridge to read for a Diploma in Development Administration. Ceylon, as Sri Lanka was then called, was undergoing a period of severe austerity. Our foreign exchange reserves were perilously low. Nine pounds sterling was the only money my wife and I were legally entitled to carry to Britain and we drew on it only for our direst needs till we were met and looked after by our 'minders' at the halfway house of the British Council in London. Then we went by train to Cambridge, wide-eyed at the rolling countryside we had only seen in illustrations and films.

At our welcome reception at Queens', we met our cohort of postgraduate civil servants and the dons who were to be our mentors. Our group came from far and wide: India, Pakistan, Grenada, Jamaica, Ethiopia, Sudan, Zambia, Lesotho, Uganda, Ghana, Nigeria and Malaysia. We were to follow a course of studies, originally designed for British Colonial administrators destined to rule the far corners of the Empire 'on which the sun never set', but since revised for those who took over their burden.

Those of us accompanied by our wives were allocated houses or flats belonging to our colleges. I was assigned to St John's – thanks to the late Dr B H Farmer, with whom I had worked in the Land Commission in Ceylon. Our home for the next year was 'The Knott' on Lady Margaret Road, a large old house in an overgrown garden that reminded me of those in which Richmal Compton's William Brown rampaged. The other flats there were occupied by the families of an American palaeontologist, an Australian theologian, an English economist and a Canadian geologist. We grew to be friends and some of us kept in touch for many years.

At St John's I was happy to be rubbing shoulders with the shadow of Sir Muttu Coomaraswamy (father of famed Orientalist Ananda Coomaraswamy), the first

student from Ceylon to enter Cambridge a century earlier. The Wordsworth Room gave me some kinship with the poet whose works I had studied two decades before. Our lectures were held in a variety of locations, depending on the department from which our don came. Walking to lectures was, initially, an invigorating exercise. Undergraduates whisked past us on narrow streets as occasionally did weighty dons in cloaks. Shop fronts fascinated us with their quaint variety – butchers with saw dust floors and huge haunches of beef, antique shops crammed with strange objects, art shops with minimalist décor and bookshops that had me enthralled.

Our group was nursemaided by Mr McCleery, an old African hand who showed us the ropes around Cambridge and the colleges and saw to our logistical and financial needs. We even had our own clubhouse up a wooden stairway in a genteel decaying building in Petty Cury. Here was a library of sorts, old couches to relax on and even a little bar. My reading of historical novels made me look forward to quaffing the mead it stocked, but my one regret was that I put it off for far too long. Fortunately we had access to the Graduate Centre with its excellent restaurant, reading room to doze in over the plentiful newspapers and that rarity in 1968 – colour TV, on which we viewed the Mexico Olympics and President Nixon's inauguration. Indians, Pakistanis and Ceylonese had another refuge, the Centre of South Asian Studies, where we could read familiar newspapers from back home. Adjoining it was a pub that was famed for its shepherd's pie and cider.

## The cobbled courtyards (familiar from costume films) and quaint dons' rooms of St John's, tucked away up narrow stairways, breathed an air of past centuries.

As graduate students we were slightly remote from undergraduate life but we did get to know a few in the College common room, where I rummaged in the 'D' – labelled cubbyhole of an ancient cupboard for air letters from home, in that dim and distant pre-IT era. It was also an exotic experience to attend dinners whose cloaked diners, medieval formality, long benches and scarred tables were redolent of age-old traditions. The cobbled courtyards (familiar from costume films) and quaint dons' rooms of St John's, tucked away up narrow stairways, breathed an air of past centuries. Strolling along the magical Backs or punting nervously along the River Cam became a memory we still savour many decades later. On narrow streets we would occasionally encounter Cambridge legends, an open-shirted F R Leavis striding vigorously or a stooped and clerkly E M Forster ambling along in his white raincoat.



Tissa at The Knott

I believe it was during the revival of springtime May festivities when we saw, with fascination and some horror, a huge ox being roasted on a spit while platters of roast beef and potatoes were being passed around and morris dancers cavorted to a reedy flute. Another memory is of the fair in front of the Town Hall, authorised in the Middle Ages by Royal Charter. Its tarp-roofed stalls, trays of gewgaws, colourful sweetmeats, strange utensils and raucous stallholders in garish clothes brought us a welcome whiff of our own village fairs. We also had the Arts Theatre for intellectual stimulation and once had the pleasure of seeing Sir Ralph Richardson in a Pinter play.

Waves from the Students Revolt of May 1968 inspired a civilised ripple in Cambridge. Some University buildings were 'decorated' with Mao-ish graffiti such as 'Better the horse of discontent than the sheep of conformity'. This was, apparently, felt not to be enough of a revolutionary statement. One afternoon, a loudly chanting group of students pushed their way into the Senate House and briefly 'occupied' it. When I wormed my way in, it became clear they had no idea what further to do. I remember Professor Joan Robinson walking in and speaking about China. After some time revolutionary enthusiasm peaked and the crowd melted away in dribs and drabs. I had just witnessed the Cambridge Revolution of 1968!

Forty years have gone by since that unforgettable year. The young civil servant who once walked Cambridge's cobbled streets, its ancient halls and cloisters, is now a retired pensioner savouring the memories of a wondrous year, kept alive by the University journal, *CAM*, and *The Eagle* of St John's. 🇬🇧

### **Tissa Devendra (1968)**

**Edmund Potter matriculated in 1961. Originally studying Natural Sciences, he later moved on to study Chemical Engineering and in 1971 set up his own company, Delta-T Devices.**

## Edmund still lives and works in the Cambridgeshire area.

### **Journey of an ethical Johnian: reflections of a questing atheist**

Attending Evensong in the St John's College Chapel may seem an incongruous activity for an avowed atheist; nevertheless it is an occasional delight for one such Johnian fortunate enough to live near Cambridge. For a blessed hour one can indulge in uninterrupted reflection whilst the Choir create their divine harmonies. Last November in this inspirational setting, the muse descended, transporting me back in time to my arrival at St John's.

I came up to Cambridge to read Natural Sciences in 1961 aged just 19, clutching my school prize book *Two Cheers for Democracy* by E M Forster. Already, despite a kindly Methodist upbringing, I knew that I was atheistic – but not without ethics. Numerous religions claimed to be the one true faith, ergo they were all untrue! Hardly the most rigorous of intellectual positions, it was nevertheless a launching platform for further exploration. E M Forster's essay on 'What I believe' began provocatively: 'I do not believe in Belief'.

## The Heretics' discussion group paralysed me completely with abstruse intellectual (all male) argument and I left without uttering a word.

Immediately eager to participate, I sampled The Heretics (former luminaries included Bertrand Russell, the inspirational logical philosopher and humanitarian) and The Cambridge Humanists (whose President was E M Forster). The Heretics' discussion group paralysed me completely with abstruse intellectual (all male) argument and I left without uttering a word. By contrast the humanist discussion groups were 'town-and-gown', with dons, townspeople – *and women!* This was intimidating company for a diffident Fresher, but the humanist credo, 'Human problems can and must be faced in terms of human moral and intellectual resources without recourse to divine authority', confirmed my choice of territory.



Edmund Potter

By my fourth year at St John's I, now a Chemical Engineer, had acquired BA status and was on the Cambridge Humanist committee. Membership rose to unheard-of levels of 500 or more. The unlikely catalyst for this growth was a forty-year-old townsman on the committee. Joan Harvey lived with her three children in a caravan in a nearby village; rode a motorbike; handwrote long letters to eminent scientists, and – amazingly – persuaded them to give humanist lectures in Cambridge. The list included Francis Crick, Hermann Bondi, and Fred Hoyle (a Fellow of St John's). Non-scientific and spiritual subjects were not neglected either: atheism and religious needs; and anarchism as a theory of organization were covered too. These were stirring times, perhaps containing portents of later social turmoil.

At the end of my fourth year I was ready to seek my destiny elsewhere. A youthful obsession with model aircraft helped secure a job with Hawker Siddeley Aviation in the wind tunnels at Hatfield. This was heady experience of big industry, but I sensed that awkward social choices would eventually lie ahead. By now I was living with Joan in her caravan. Then came an offer to join a small company near Cambridge, so I transferred to hi-tech cottage industry. The next six years were spent making electronic thermometers. The boss (and owner) of the business worked alongside us; it was a very efficient set-up. If I had reservations, they were more a complaint against society than against the boss. Society entitled the owner of a business to retain the profits created by the *whole* business. This seemed to me a disproportionately large reward; society was paying too high a price.

During these years part of society decided to turn itself upside down. It was the late sixties. Arts labs, poetry workshops and anti-universities sprang up. Free concerts and Diggers' conferences were held. The Beatles flew to America. Flower Power floated back, and the Commune Movement was born. In this epoch I was happy to be called an anarcho-syndicalist: definitely anti authority, and *for* coordinated, collaborative, meaningful work. It was an individualist but not isolationist position – and nothing to do with bombs or chaos. My humanist interests were engulfed by the cultural tsunami of this astonishing era.

Our caravan-dwelling existence had to come to an end. Joan's eldest daughter had paired up with a Cambridge architecture dropout. He had private means and they had already started a vegetarian restaurant with a group of people in

Cambridge. We joined them in the search for a place big enough for all of us to share. When a large mediaeval farmhouse with barns and garden near Cambridge came on the market we put our individual savings together and bought it. The villagers – bemused – immediately called it the Commune.

Even before we left the caravan my thoughts for a (non-capitalist!) business were taking tangible shape. In a shed beside the caravan, model aeroplanes gave way to newly purchased machine tools. I started making a batch of ten ‘temperature difference meters’ for medical use, and registered the business name ‘Delta-T Devices’. If this sounds remarkably confident, it was not. I had no clear idea of the way ahead apart from wanting it to be ‘profit and decision sharing’; but I knew I had to try *something*, and to give it my best shot.

We transferred the Delta-T equipment to a draughty barn at the Commune. The medical temperature meters were being sold – but only gradually. I left my job to devote all my time to finding more products to make. Two years in the wilderness followed whilst I visited hospitals, consultants, doctors and vets, and cultivated contacts within nearby University departments and institutions. Then, unexpectedly, a distinguished academic contacted Delta-T asking us to make a range of microclimate instruments for environmental physics and plant physiology. Suddenly the future took on a different aspect. Diffidence evaporated. The relationship with Professor J L Monteith of Nottingham University flourished, a business agreement was drawn up, and orders started to arrive from far-flung parts of the world.

By 1976 we were undoubtedly a viable business operation, and starting to make profits. The workforce numbered half a dozen, but no longer included Joan – sadly we had parted company. A splendidly un-capitalist partnership agreement embodied the concept of deferred earnings being repaid later when (if!) profits exceeded a fair rate of pay for everybody. Equal pay per hour had already been introduced – it simplified things. Management was by weekly meeting, aiming for consensus.

Nor were scruples abandoned. Our growing group contained CND members, Quakers and women’s peace collective members. During the anti-apartheid era we received an order from South Africa. Favouring dialogue, we requested – and obtained – a statement signed by the customer (actually in Botswana) decrying the exploitation of one race by another. Two years later Israel had just invaded Lebanon when an order arrived from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. We invited the academics there to disavow the aggression of their government. It triggered an instantaneous eruption of Zionist outrage that showered down on us from around the world. Ultimately we did not supply these instruments, but this uncomfortable episode led us to publish a policy statement that helped us establish in advance dialogue with problematic customers.

By the early eighties our products were expanding further into areas of plant and environmental science and agronomy. Medical instruments no longer featured. Our membership continued to grow, rising towards twenty. The increasingly unwieldy consensus meetings gave way to a workers' cooperative structure with limited liability. Common-ownership rules specified an elected management committee, with no external shareholders or outside control. Democracy had arrived, but was greeted with considerable caution – not even two cheers!

**Now at 66, I work an agreeable half-time regime, still in daily contact with some of my original colleagues.**

And Delta-T now? The membership is not quite thirty. Sales are buoyant – fears of global climate change are working to our advantage. Equal pay lasted into the nineties but finally caved in when we could no longer attract software writers. For a democratic self-managing group, devising a graded pay scale has been a stern test of our principles – and it's only just complete! Now at 66, I work an agreeable half-time regime, still in daily contact with some of my original colleagues. In 2010 Delta-T will celebrate its 39th anniversary. Where will it be in a further thirty-nine years' time, I wonder?

Evensong was ending. The Choir filed past under my quizzical and ambivalent gaze. The muse refused to depart ... suppose that evolution has structured our brains to embrace the values of fairness, justice, integrity, and in addition the surely universal needs for ritual and mysticity, then dare we ever hope to master the aberrations that lead to our mutual destruction? Heaven preserve us from the false certainties of dogmatic truth, I mutter in silent prayer – or, as E M Forster expressed himself: 'Lord, I disbelieve – help thou my unbelief'.

**Edmund Potter (1961)**

**Dr A C (Ricky) Metaxas is a Fellow of St John's and director of AC Metaxas and Associates.**

Dr Metaxas joined the College in 1987 and in 2007 was asked to revive the President's Cup. Here he documents the early history of the President's Cup and his task in the resurrection of today's tournament.

### **The President's Cup 1929-1963**

Soon after the President, Dr Mark Nicholls, took office in October 2007 he asked me to consider resurrecting the President's Cup, a unique golf feature in the annals of the College over the past 70 years. Thus I became de facto Secretary to this illustrious event, in which I had never participated. This was because of the interruption of this annual event since 1997 due to lack of support from Fellows and members of the High Table. We feared this would be repeated in the long vacation of 2008 and, although it was first announced during the Lent Term, it once again proved difficult to raise more than two competitors. It was then suggested that it might help to open the competition to members of staff of the College. Both the Master and President readily agreed and finally we were able to raise nine competitors with varying handicaps from 10 to 28.

The winner of the President's Cup for 2008 was Jim Wocha, Wines and Provisions Manager, who scored a very respectable 39 Stableford points off a handicap of 16, and, as tradition has it, the proceedings of that day were recorded in the Minutes book. The book is now displayed in the Library for all to glance through. The Cup resided only briefly with Jim because Dick McConnell, winner in 1987, claimed that he had never been given the Cup so he persuaded last year's winner to part with his trophy. The Cup therefore resided on Dick's mantelpiece for a while.

The existence of the Minutes book was raised by John Matthewman, Fellow of St John's, another regular participant in the President's Cup in the 1990s, and sure enough I received it a few days prior to the 2008 competition. Its existence had also been drawn to my attention by Guy Lee<sup>1</sup> (lowest handicap 4) and Reginald Prince, two fine High Table Fellow golfers who were regular competitors in the President's Cup since the late 1940s; Guy Lee won it in 1947, the first of his six wins spanning the years 1947 to 1990. Reginald (four times winner) and I had spent many a delightful warm and sunny afternoon early in the millennium at the Gog Magog Golf Club in Cambridge trying to subdue that little white ball and force it in the intended direction. It did not occur to us that golf balls have minds of their own, embedded in the 400 odd dimples that make their

circumference. Oliver Choroba<sup>2</sup> and I, over the same period, would often see Reginald Prince in the company of Guy Lee, playing a few holes in the surroundings that Guy loved so much. Alas Oli Choroba moved to Charterhouse and pressure of work, not lack of form (or so he tells me) was the reason for not being able to participate in the 2008 meeting.

I expected the book to detail dates and decisions taken. When John Matthewman left it in my pigeonhole and I proceeded to glance through it I was frankly astonished at what I read. The first recorded entry was for the 1937 President's Cup, held on 10 August, but this is preceded by a letter dated 11 August 1937 from Professor J T Wilson<sup>3</sup> to Harry Banister<sup>4</sup>, five times winner of the Cup and handicap 14 (although the 1945 entry records a handicap of scratch), informing him that the President's Cup started in 1929, when he was the first winner, but there are very few records of the matches in the intervening years bar a list of each year's winners. Wilson ends the letter by stating that, 'I extracted the above information from an old Cambridge Pocket Diary'. Following this letter is the first recorded entry of the Cup which at one point states, '...the players all fought Colonel Bogey to the last green. But the honours remained with the gallant Colonel', a reference relating to the fact that the scorecard of the Royal Worlington and Newmarket Golf Club, where the majority of the President's Cups were held, records both the par and the bogey of each hole. The entry continues a little further, 'One record which for long remained unbroken was set up by Glanville Williams<sup>5</sup> (handicap 27) who, playing with Celtic audacity and disregard for obstacles, lost nine balls in the round.'



Competitors sitting on the veranda of the Royal Worlington and Newmarket Golf Club during the 1938 competition; from l to r: John Cockcroft, Harry Banister, JT Wilson, Edward Appleton, Thomas Wormell<sup>12</sup>, The President [Martin Charlesworth], Dennis Bailey<sup>13</sup>, Reginald Seeley<sup>14</sup>, Robert Howland, and James Stevenson.<sup>15</sup>

There follows a schedule of the President's Cups held, with participants' names, their final scores, reminiscences and sublime anecdotes with photographs of the occasion. Apart from the years 1935 and 1993 the competition was held every year including the WWII years, up to 1997. Amongst the first notable names were such luminaries as Edward Appleton, Frederic Bartlett and John Cockcroft. Appleton<sup>6</sup>, in 1924, proved the existence of the first ionospheric layer and was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1947. He was knighted in

1948, and won the President's Cup in 1938 with a handicap of 14. Bartlett<sup>7</sup>, four times winner of the Cup, was a forerunner in cognitive psychology who, with Kenneth Craik, set up the MRC's Applied Psychology Research Unit. He had a handicap of 14, won the President's Cup three times up to 1946 and his fourth win, which he shared with Guy Lee in 1954, was after he was honoured with a knighthood in 1948. Cockcroft<sup>8</sup> (handicap 18), and his colleague Ernest Walton, split the atom in a ground-breaking experiment at the Cavendish in 1932. He succeeded Appleton as Jacksonian Professor of Natural Philosophy, was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1951 and became first Master of Churchill College in 1959. The record for the most wins, seven in all, is held by Robert Howland<sup>9</sup>, who prior to coming up to Cambridge, was Master at Eton College and served with the RAF in the Mediterranean and South East Asia during WWII. The President during the early years of the Cup was Edward Ernest Sikes<sup>10</sup>, who held this position up to 1937. He was then succeeded by Martin Charlesworth<sup>11</sup>, who, amongst the other positions he held, was a Recruiting Officer at Bletchley Park during WWII.

## The Minutes book also contains an amusing entry . . . where the competitors divided themselves into two teams, the 'Doctors' versus the 'Rest'.

The Minutes book also contains an amusing entry for 24 May 1939 when it was decided to play a 'friendly' game at Flempton Golf Club, which was said to be 'more of a golfers course', where the competitors divided themselves into two teams, the 'Doctors' versus the 'Rest'. Another competitor that day, Fred Hoyle<sup>16</sup>, was one of the most distinguished, creative and controversial scientists of the twentieth century. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1957 and held the Plumian Chair of Astronomy and Experimental Philosophy from 1958 to 1972. He established the Institute of Theoretical Astronomy in Cambridge, which is now part of the Institute of Astronomy. Hoyle liked to climb mountains, was a keen chess player, wrote science fiction and was the first to coin the phrase 'Big Bang', although he was one of the proponents of the steady state theory of the universe. In 1972 he received a knighthood for his services to astronomy. The 1939 entry goes on to state, 'It was a hot and cloudless sky. Sixteen players were eventually mustered. Cockcroft after a joyride round St Ives and the Doctors of various kinds settled down to a struggle against the Rest. Whether on account of the heat or whether we were astonished of our scores full records are not available'. The entry continues, 'Rest' had won but it was not known for which side Hoyle played. Foursomes and more singles were played in the afternoon while the Chaplain stalked about with his cine camera taking photos at distressing moments. The entry concludes with a photo of four competitors standing near the ball and the hole, the caption stating 'The Uncertainty Principle'.

This statement relates to Werner Heisenberg's momentous paper in 1927 postulating that the more precisely one knows the position of a particle, the less certain one is of its momentum at the same time. Incidentally, in coming to this conclusion, Heisenberg was influenced by Paul Dirac and his work on quantum mechanics. Dirac, who had



The Uncertainty Principle

succeeded Joseph Larmor as Lucasian Professor of Mathematics, had predicted the existence of the anti-electron, or positron as it subsequently became known, and he also shared the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1933 with Erwin Schrödinger. So, with such physics luminaries as Cockcroft, Hoyle, and Lyttleton amidst the 'Doctors' in the friendly at Flempton, no wonder that the Minutes book makes a jovial reference linking a principle of subatomic particles to a golf ball. With the gap in minutes between 1929-36, one can only hazard a guess as to what the banter could have been at the Royal Worlington and Newmarket or Gog Magog fairways. On a more serious note it could have been about Hitler's rise to power in Germany, where Dirac's contemporaries, such as Einstein, Heisenberg, Pauli and others, were at that time based.

Depleting numbers of Fellows and members of High Table forced those available to play at the Gog Magog golf course on 13 August 1940, which was during WWII's Battle of Britain. This course, established in 1901 on land owned by Gonville and Caius College, is regarded as the home course for many Cambridge golfing dons. It contains two golf courses on the famous Gog Magog hills, south of Cambridge, giving excellent vistas across the fens. On a clear day one can spot the top of Ely Cathedral from the thirteenth tee of the old course. The 1940 entry states that 'As there was no cup a sweepstake of 1/2d each was played for. This [William Blair] Anderson<sup>17</sup> won and handed over to the Grantchester Red Cross Fund the total being raised to 7/ by the Dean who could not play'.

The entry of Wednesday 5 August 1942 enlightens us as to the difficulty of persuading the ball to go in the intended direction: 'Perhaps it was the fault of the ground, perhaps it was the roaring overhead of the engines of the Stirlings being given trial trips preparatory to the night's raid...' The 3 August 1943 entry of the Cup, held at the Gog Magog Golf Club, states, '...owing to the difficulty of finding errant balls, we saw much more of each other than expected'. The 10 August 1945 entry at the Royal Worlington and Newmarket Golf Club starts, 'VE day has come and gone but still the war with Japan goes on and many High Table Golfers have

not returned...’ The 7 August 1946 entry includes the names of the non-players adding, ‘It is hoped that non-players will become players within High Table meaning of the word by next year’ and the record ends with, ‘Over an excellent golfers tea and after the presentation of the “cup” it was proposed and carried unanimously: that a weekend be spent in the not too distant future at Sunningdale’.

During this speech he was interrupted by one of his hosts with a limerick about Swans and Dons, to which George replied with two more appropriate and amusing limericks.

Notably St John’s owns part of the grounds of that famous club and every year the Bursar is invited to the dinner held in honour of the past Captains. I attended in 2006 and the Sunningdale Captains were very disappointed that I could not offer an entertaining speech ‘à la George Reid’ who was a regular guest of this dinner during his bursarial years and, although of negligible golfing talent, was asked at the Centenary dinner to make a speech highlighting the connections with St John’s College. During this speech he was interrupted by one of his hosts with a limerick about Swans and Dons, to which George replied with two more appropriate and amusing limericks that apparently went down with great acclamation. One limerick went thus:

‘On the breasts of a barmaid from Sale,  
Were tattooed all the prices of ale,  
And on her behind,  
For the sake of the blind,  
Was the same information in Braille’

The wording of the limerick, admittedly risqué, reflected a late and relaxed stage in a merry evening.

In the 6 August 1947 entry of the Mildenhall meeting the Secretary records the names of the players as well as the non-players referred to as ‘Gentlemen’. The record tells us, ‘Professor Jopson<sup>18</sup> with immense energy cycled out to join the party at lunch and left at 3:30 to ride the 20 miles back again.’ It was said that the Professor, a renowned and persistent cyclist, and Professor of Comparative Philology, was ‘fluent in fourteen languages, thirteen of them dead languages’ (Fifty Years of Japanese at Cambridge, 1948-1998 compiled and edited by Richard Bowring). It is also interesting to note that Robin Orr<sup>19</sup> played off scratch in the 1946 competition but off handicap 18 the following year, both times trailing the field. In 1950 we see his handicap raised to 29 without improving his standing by much.

From the entry of 14 August 1948 we learn that, 'Petrol was short and travelled by train; thirteen in all and it came on to rain – the second wet day in the annals of the contest. But if the rain wet our clothes it in no way damped our spirits...'. A little later the record continues '...Guillebaud<sup>20</sup> was declared the winner of the "cup", which, in the form of an ashtray, was duly presented to him by the President [Charlesworth] amidst much acclamation'. Incidentally Guillebaud was the Tutor of Glanville Williams who, as recorded above, had lost nine balls in the 1937 cup.

The present cup was first used in 1949. That year's entry begins, 'The President [Charlesworth] signalized the coming of age of the Competition this year by the presentation of a large silver cup, a permanent memento to the players by the members of the High Table.'

The ball rose with a graceful parabola, making straight for the green. It was gathered up by the flag, which twirled around the post twice and then unwound, depositing the ball gently into the hole.

The 8 August 1951 entry concludes, 'The scores were somewhat lower than usual and for the first time the winner who finished at +1 was "up" on the Colonel', while the 5 August 1953 entry states, 'The desirability of having the cup insured was discussed and it was resolved that Howland would have the cup valued and insured and that, in succeeding years, the winners would have the privilege of paying the insurance!' The following year's entry, however, dated 4 August 1954, resolves this issue: 'Howland reported that the insurance of the cup was not an expensive undertaking...' and that '...The apparently continuous sequence of wet dates for the annual match in recent years raised the question of the correspondence between atom bombs and rain. A search through the records disclosed the fact that in the years 1937-45 there was not a single damp day for the match and that in 1947-51 also the weather was kind while rain of varying severity fell in 1946, '48, '49, '50, '52, '53 – in but two of the eight years from 1946 had the match been played on a fine day, which in the nine years to 1945 the match was favoured every year by a fine day. The weather expert smoked his cigarette with a superior smile.' Incidentally the last name in the scores for that day was that of Richard Mead Goody (brother of Jack Goody), who was playing off a handicap of 18.

The poetic nature of the minutes is well illustrated by the 8 August 1956 entry at the Royal Worlington and Newmarket Golf Club, which concludes: 'One record. Sir John Cockcroft playing the front 5th. Sir John had found some difficulty, my

information goes, in reaching and staying on the green [evidenced by him coming last with 16 holes down]. However, from among the trees just before the green, he eventually played with a niblick [a nine iron golf club]. The ball rose with a graceful parabola, making straight for the green. It was gathered up by the flag, which twirled around the post twice and then unwound, depositing the ball gently into the hole.'

Another competitor and three-times winner of the President's Cup with a handicap of 9 was Raymond Lyttleton<sup>23</sup>, who returned to Cambridge after being awarded a Procter Visiting Fellowship at Princeton University. He then took up a Fellowship at St John's College, which he held until his death. In the late 1930s, he and Hoyle worked together on problems involving the formation of stars and evolution and they produced a number of ground-breaking papers leading up to WWII. A significant advance was the proof after the war that hydrogen is abundant in space between the stars and galaxies, which formed the backbone of subsequent theories. He then concentrated on work concerning the stability of rotating liquid masses, enlarging and correcting previous published work by James Jeans and Henri Poincaré. He was awarded the Royal Society's Royal Medal in 1965. He also investigated the origin and structure of comets, resulting in a book entitled, *The Comets and their Origin*. The President's Cup entry of 7 August 1957 describes Lyttleton, who by then is playing off a handicap of 11, as being 'in a class by himself ...'

The 1959 entry reveals a departure from the norm, 'in order to suppress the delicate and individual task of assigning individual handicaps, the procedure should be experimentally adopted of giving all players 18 strokes, except the previous winner, who would have 9, and other recent winners, who would have 12. Individual exceptions might be permitted at the discretion of the convener.' However, after a few years this was abandoned and the 7 August 1963 record informs us that, '... Further, partly because it has proved to be felicitous at the Johnian Society golf meetings the Stableford System of scoring was tried out'. We learn that, 'No account of the day's play would be complete without reference to the President's (Briggs<sup>24</sup>) tee-shot at the 5th. He drove with nothing less than his usual vigour but the ball was heavily topped. It



Competitors during the 1954 Competition at the Royal Worlington and Newmarket Golf Club; from l to r, back row: Harry Banister, Barry Kipping<sup>21</sup>, Richard Goody<sup>22</sup>, Claude Guillebaud, front row: Robert Howland, Guy Lee, George Briggs and Frederic Bartlett.



Dr Metaxas

bounded forward twenty-five yards and popped straight into the Ladies tee box on the forward tee, where, after a frenetic death-rattle round the walls of the box, it came to rest on the bottom on a position from which no known club could extract it.'

It is revealed much

later in the Minutes book that the Stableford System they had adopted was against Bogey for each hole and not par, hence the very respectable scores of some of the competitors.



### **Dr A C Metaxas**

*The author is indebted to Fiona Colbert, Biographical Librarian, for her expert advice on biographical data and for many corrections and suggestions. Thanks are also due to Malcolm Underwood, Archivist, who suggested a list of illustrious names from the Minutes book to concentrate on and to the President, Reginald Prince, George Reid, Allen Purvis, and Jonathan Harrison, Special Collections Librarian, for many helpful suggestions and to Margaret Metaxas for reading and editing the article.*

**Biographical notes**

- 1 Fellow 1945-2005, College Lecturer in Classics 1948-1982, Tutor 1949-1956, Librarian 1961-1984, Praelector 1956-1961, University Lecturer in Classics 1949-1982.
- 2 Fellow 2000-2004.
- 3 Fellow 1920-1945, Professor of Anatomy 1920-1934 (Emeritus 1934-1945).
- 4 University Lecturer in Experimental Psychology 1926-1947, Director of Studies in Moral Sciences and Supervisor in Psychology 1934-1947.
- 5 Fellow 1936-1942, Rouse Ball Professor of English Law 1968-1978.
- 6 Fellow 1919-1925, 1936-1939, Jacksonian Professor of Natural Philosophy 1936-1939, Honorary Fellow 1946-1965.
- 7 Fellow 1917-1969, Professor of Experimental Psychology 1931-1952.
- 8 Fellow 1928-1946, Jacksonian Professor of Natural Philosophy 1939-1946, Honorary Fellow 1946-1967, First Master of Churchill College 1959-1967.
- 9 Fellow 1929-1986, College Lecturer in Classics 1931-1972, University Lecturer in Classics 1938-1972, Tutor 1934-1965, Senior Tutor 1956-1965, President 1963-1967.
- 10 Fellow 1891-1940, Tutor 1900-1925, President 1925-1937.
- 11 Fellow 1923-1950, College Lecturer in Classics 1921-1950, Tutor 1925-1931, Laurence Reader in Classics (Ancient History) 1931-1950, President 1937-1950, Ordained Deacon and Priest 1940.
- 12 Supervisor in Physics 1943-1963, University Lecturer in Meteorological Physics 1950-1971.
- 13 Fellow 1931-1980, College Lecturer in Law 1931-1950, Tutor 1939-1946, Rouse Ball Professor of English Law 1950-1968.
- 14 Chaplain 1934-1938.
- 15 University Lecturer in Divinity 1936-1968, Fellow of Downing College 1951-1983.
- 16 Fellow 1939-1972, Plumian Professor of Astronomy and Experimental Philosophy 1958-1972, Director, Institute of Theoretical Astronomy 1967-1973, Honorary Fellow 1973-2001.
- 17 Fellow 1936-1959, Kennedy Professor of Latin 1936-1942.
- 18 Fellow 1937-1969, Professor of Comparative Philology 1937-1954 (Emeritus 1955-1969).
- 19 Organist 1938-1951, Fellow 1948-1956, 1965-1976, Professor of Music 1965-1976 (Emeritus 1976-2006), Honorary Fellow 1987-2006.
- 20 Fellow 1915, 1926-1971, Praelector 1926-1929, Tutor 1929-1956, College Lecturer in Economics 1946-1957, Senior Tutor 1953-1956, Reader in Economics and Politics 1956-1957.
- 21 Fellow 1954-1965, College Lecturer 1956-1965, University Lecturer in Chemistry 1937-1965.
- 22 Fellow 1950-1953.
- 23 Fellow 1937-1940, 1949-1995, College Lecturer in Mathematics 1949-1969, Professor of Theoretical Astronomy 1969-1978 (Emeritus 1978-1995).
- 24 Fellow 1920-1985, President 1952-1963, Professor of Plant Physiology 1946-1948, Professor of Botany 1948-1960.

More extensive biographical details can be found in the *Register of Twentieth-Century Johnians, Volume I, 1900-1949*, or *J A Venn's Alumni Cantabrigienses*.

**Professor Stefan Reif is Emeritus Professor of Medieval Hebrew Studies at the University of Cambridge and a Fellow of St John's.**

After the success of the one-day seminar on the achievements of Charles Taylor, Master of St John's 1881-1908 and accomplished Hebraist, Professor Reif is writing a booklet on the same subject.

### **The Achievements of Charles Taylor – a Century after his Death**

A day-long seminar held at St John's College, Cambridge, on 2 November 2008 – arranged by the College and the Genizah Research Unit at the University Library – offered about a hundred participants an experience that was, in a number of major respects, unique.

The papers on Charles Taylor, Master of the College from 1881 until his death in 1908, constituted the first serious attempt to assess that scholar's contribution to learning in the diverse fields of Genizah manuscript acquisition, Hebrew studies, mathematics and University development. The current Master, Professor Chris Dobson, who chaired all the proceedings, was probably the first Cambridge head of house to function in this way on the subject of the Genizah texts and related fields. An exciting collection of manuscripts, from both the University Library and the College Library, was exhibited in the Rare Books section of the latter. What is more, one of the lecturers, Professor Raphael Loewe, was lecturing on the seventieth anniversary of his arrival at St John's to study Classics in 1938.

One part of the proceedings, arranged to mark the centenary of the death of Taylor, was devoted to his academic achievements and their intellectual, social and historical background, while, in the remainder, the stress was placed on the scholarly significance of the Genizah materials, found in Cairo in the nineteenth century and dating from about a thousand years ago. Most of the lectures were illustrated with a variety of images that were often colourful and exotic.

Janet Soskice, Reader in Philosophical Theology at the University of Cambridge, spoke about the learned Cambridge twins, Scottish Presbyterians, Mrs Agnes Lewis and Mrs Margaret Gibson, and how they had studied numerous European and Semitic languages in order to improve their understanding of European and Near Eastern culture. They had brought back remarkable Hebrew, Arabic and Aramaic documents from Egypt and the Holy Land, including some items from the Cairo Genizah. Although they were on good terms with such Hebraists as Charles Taylor, they also enjoyed close friendships with non-establishment figures

within and around the University. They were on especially good terms with Solomon and Mathilde Schechter, and it was Dr Schechter who was shown some of their finds in May 1896 and who then made his famous visit to Cairo, bringing back almost 140,000 manuscript fragments to Cambridge University Library.

Professor Loewe, retired from the Goldsmid Chair at University College, London, explained how rabbinical Hebrew had come to be studied in Cambridge, especially in the sixteenth and nineteenth centuries, and how Solomon Marcus Schiller-Szinessy, a Hungarian Rabbi with impressive classical as well as rabbinic learning, had been engaged to describe the Hebrew manuscripts in the University Library and to introduce the systematic teaching of post-biblical Hebrew to the University's students. Charles Taylor had been one of his pupils and had been inspired to a life-long study of rabbinical texts. Others had been among the country's leading Old Testament scholars in the late nineteenth century.

The mishnaic tractate 'Avot, replete with ethical maxims and apothegms, was the subject of the lecture given by Professor Shimon Sharvit, Emeritus Professor of Hebrew and Semitic Languages at Bar-Ilan University, Israel. He noted how the extensive halakhic and liturgical use of the tractate had led to corruptions in its transmission, and traced the beginnings of serious manuscript study of this work in the nineteenth century. Taylor had recognized the importance of 'Avot for the literary and linguistic history of the Mishnah and had compiled a detailed commentary. Though himself very much at home in this form of literature, he had been assisted in his early editions by Schiller-Szinessy and later by Solomon Schechter. Professor Sharvit pointed out examples of the quality of Taylor's insights into the meaning of unusual words and phrases.

**Taylor had recognized the importance of 'Avot for the literary and linguistic history of the Mishnah and had compiled a detailed commentary.**

One of the College Fellows, Professor Stefan Reif, Emeritus Professor of Medieval Hebrew in the University of Cambridge, and founder of the Genizah Research Unit, dealt with the manner in which Taylor had related to other Hebrew scholars. Taylor had demonstrated outstanding kindness and generosity, had funded part of the cost of the lectureship in Talmudic and Rabbinic Literature, and had cooperated in numerous academic projects. Above all, he had covered the expenditure of Schechter's historic visit to Cairo. It now even seemed likely that he had paid a large sum for the acquisition of the Genizah texts. The Taylor-Schechter Genizah

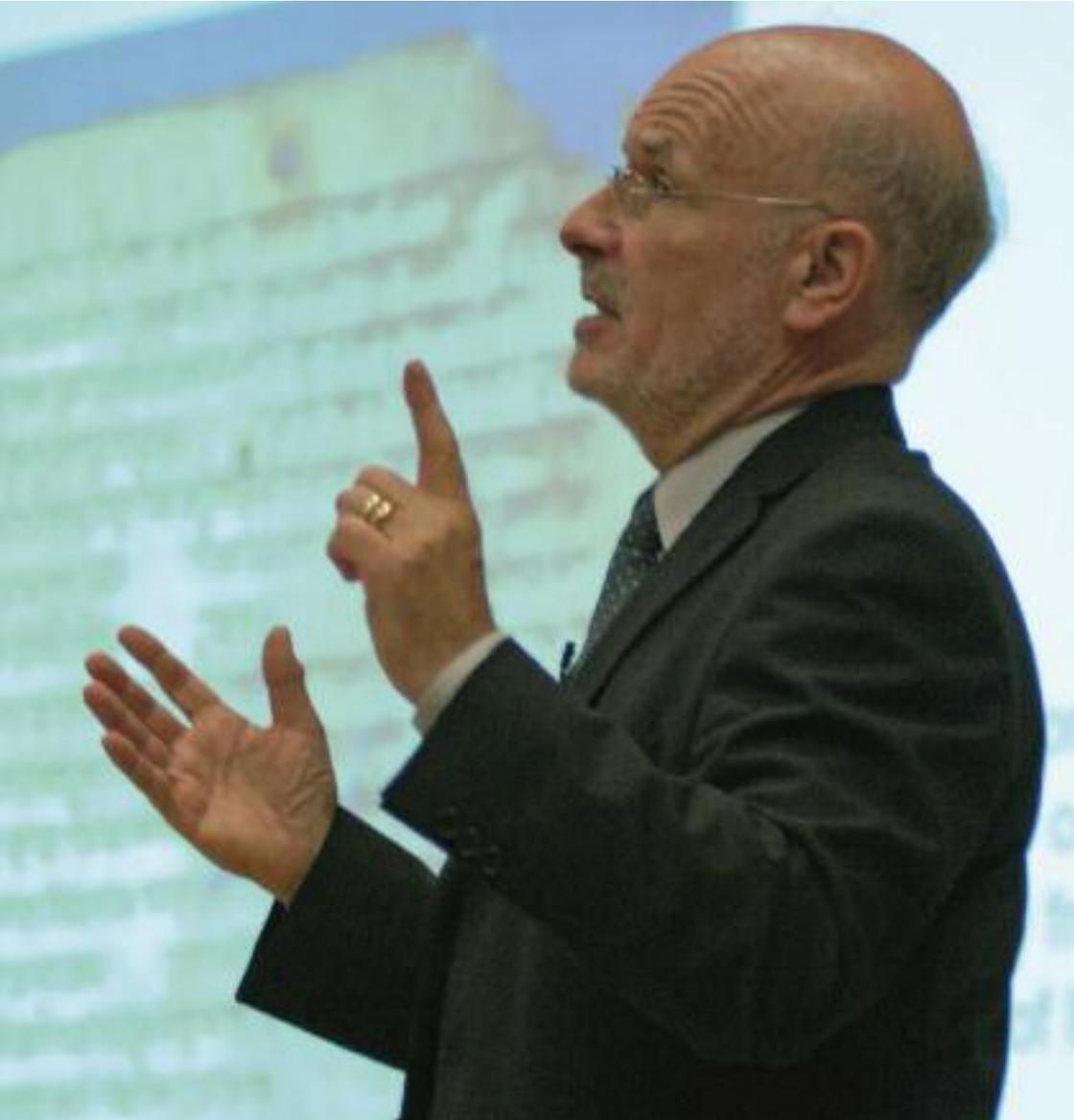
Collection testified not only to his munificence but also to his involvement in the early identification and careful publication of some of the most exciting finds.

It was Charles Taylor's career at St John's that occupied the attention of another Fellow of the College, Dr Andrew Macintosh, who had served as President of the College and taught Hebrew at the Faculty of Divinity for many years. He acknowledged the role played by Taylor – an Anglican priest with a conservative love of tradition of learning but also with an open mind and 'cautious courtesy' – in changing the University's regulations to enable religious nonconformists, such as Roman Catholics and Jews, to become members of the University. Dr Macintosh described the young Taylor's rowing and mountaineering skills, his middle-aged Hebrew expertise, and the marriage made in his mature years with the young Margaret Dillon, who was to continue calling him 'my Master' throughout her fifty-four years of widowhood.

An assessment of Taylor's contribution to mathematics was made by another Johnian Fellow, Peter Johnstone, Professor of the Foundations of Mathematics at Cambridge. Having examined his books and articles on the subject, he had been impressed by the fact that Taylor had continued to publish in the field virtually throughout his career. He had produced many editions of textbooks on 'conics', had apparently been the first to refer to the subject in that way rather than as 'conic sections', and had given mathematical papers to learned societies. Although most of what Taylor had to say was in the realm of the further clarification of Euclidian geometry, he had in his later work also begun to demonstrate a more analytical approach.

Dr Efraim Lev, of the University of Haifa, dealt with the Genizah manuscripts' contribution to the history of medicine. He explained how Taylor had added about another 200 items to the catalogue prepared by the late Dr Haskell Isaacs, reaching a total of over 1,800 descriptions. He had drawn up details of the drugs used and those who traded in them, and had prepared lists of the physicians and pharmacists mentioned. He had encountered a range of textbooks employed by these specialists, some of them not previously known. He analysed examples of common prescriptions, some of them written in Hebrew script while others preferred Arabic. Dr Lev also distinguished between those texts relating to practical materia medica and those concerned with medical theory.

Dr Esther-Miriam Wagner made it clear that the Genizah texts were a rich source of data for Arabic and Islamic studies and regretted that the attention given to these texts had come mainly from scholars on the Jewish rather than on both the Jewish and Muslim sides of learning. Working as she now does as a Research Associate in the Genizah Research Unit, she had come across a wide variety of fragments that were not only parts of sacred literature, both Muslim and Jewish,



Professor Stefan Reif

but also filled many gaps in our knowledge of more mundane fields. The Karaite use of Arabic was an intriguing topic and the dialect of Arabic reflected in the Judaeo-Arabic used by the Jewish communities of the Genizah period, especially around the twelfth century, was of major importance to our understanding of the development of vernacular, as against Qur'anic, Arabic.

The final paper on the significance of the Taylor-Schechter Genizah Collection was given by Professor Gideon Bohak, who heads the Department of Jewish Philosophy and Religious Studies at Tel Aviv University. Dealing with his specialist field of Jewish magic, he demonstrated how much easier it was for the researcher to deal with conserved Genizah materials, which were in specific locations and had clear classmarks, than to struggle with artefacts such as Babylonian incantation bowls which often had very dubious origins and questionable ownership. Professor Bohak explained the trade in amulets, the historical continuity of many magical traditions, and the degree to which this kind of material illuminated social history, cross-cultural borrowings and the struggle between popular and authoritative religiosity.

**Scholars should promote a love of learning and an industrious enthusiasm for explaining its ramifications and publicising their findings.**

In the final section of the seminar, the current head of the Genizah Research Unit, Dr Ben Outhwaite, pointed out that the Unit, and indeed the University Library, was keen to find the necessary funding to continue all the projects that had been ongoing for a number of years, as well as undertaking new ones. He made specific reference to the most recent work on the newly loaned Mosseri Genizah Collection and to its special problems of conservation. He also updated the audience on an exciting project, for which funding of £1 million had just been promised by the Friedberg Genizah Project in New York, and which would ensure that within about three years every Cambridge Genizah fragment would be digitally scanned and made available online by both Cambridge University Library and the Friedberg Genizah Project.

Professor Reif then summarized what he felt had been learned during the day, especially from the life and work of Charles Taylor. Scholars should promote a love of learning and an industrious enthusiasm for explaining its ramifications and publicising their findings. They should encourage cooperative research, rise above their religious and national differences, and leave a legacy significant

enough to ensure the future continuity of their scholarship. He thanked the Master and the College for their generous support, the lecturers for their contributions and the audience for its participation. He hoped that as a result of the seminar, and as a tribute to Taylor, it might be possible to raise the funds to endow another research post in the Unit, possibly with a Johnian connection.

For those who missed the seminar, a booklet is now being prepared with texts of the lectures and plates of some of the exhibits, and will soon be available from the College. 

### Professor Stefan C Reif



Professor Raphael Loewe and Dr Michael Loewe

**Professor James David Lewis-Williams is Professor Emeritus of Cognitive Archaeology at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg and was an Overseas Visiting Scholar to the College in 2008-09. He is a specialist in the San or Bushmen culture, especially their art and beliefs.**

The following article is based on a lecture given by Professor Lewis-Williams about Bishop John William Colenso, former Fellow of St John's College, and his work with South African tribes.

### **The Bishop and the Bushmen: St John's College and the new South African coat of arms**

History is a palimpsest of individual lives, overlapping, interacting and often leading to unexpected consequences. Here I follow a seemingly unlikely trail from mid-nineteenth century London to the new post-apartheid South African coat of arms and motto.

It all began in 1854 when the Prussian Ambassador to Britain, Baron Christian Charles Josias von Bunsen (1791-1860) and the Anglican theologian, the Reverend Frederick Denison Maurice (1805-72) arranged a reception in London. The purpose of the gathering was to bring together three men: Dr Wilhelm Heinrich Immanuel Bleek (1827-75), Bishop John William Colenso (1814-83) and Sir George Grey (1812-98).

Bleek, a German philologist, had just returned from West Africa because of ill health. He had hoped to study African languages. Colenso, a Fellow of St John's College, had recently been appointed to the new bishopric of Natal, and he was looking for someone to prepare a Zulu grammar to aid him in his missionary work. Grey was also about to set out for southern Africa: he had been appointed governor of the Colony of the Cape of Good Hope.

Bleek's father, Professor Friedrich Bleek of Bonn University, von Bunsen, Colenso and Maurice were all theologians of a radical, some say heretical, persuasion. Therein lay the seeds of disaster for Colenso. He was an ordained Fellow of St John's but was influenced by the famous geologist Sir Charles Lyell, one of his 'warmest friends', and later by Charles Darwin. He thought a six-day creation and the prohibitions of Leviticus and Deuteronomy absurd. Indeed, he sent Wilhelm Bleek an amusing rhyme that was doing the rounds:

The Bishops all have sworn to shed their blood,  
 To prove 'tis true, the hare does chew the cud.  
 Ah! Bishops, Doctors & Divines, beware!  
 Weak is the faith that hangs upon a hare!

Colenso and his entourage, which included Wilhelm Bleek, arrived in Durban on 7 March 1855. The colonial Chaplain, the Reverend William Lloyd, who resided in Durban with his large family of daughters, welcomed them but soon realised that he and Colenso were theologically diametrically opposed. After an uncomfortable week in Durban, Colenso and his party set off in ox wagons for Pietermaritzburg, the inland capital of the Natal. As soon as he could Bleek went to live with the Zulus in their homesteads. In his diaries he recorded not only their language, which was his principal remit, but also many of their customs, the layout of their settlements, and their political structures. Arguably this was the first hands-on social anthropological work ever to be performed.

During this time Bleek heard of San cattle raids over the Drakensberg Mountains, but was unable to interview any San people. He was intrigued by what he had heard about their click language. When Bleek had completed his Zulu studies, Sir George Grey offered him a post in Cape Town as curator of his valuable library with its African folklore and language material. This must have been an attractive proposition for Bleek, and when he departed for Cape Town he left behind tumultuous circumstances in Natal. Colenso had found that the Zulus, whom he had come so far to convert, were not ignorant of God. He wrote:

'I believe that, by thus meeting the heathen, half way, as it were, upon the ground of our common humanity and with the recollection that that humanity is now blessed and redeemed in Christ... we may look for greater success in Missionary labours.'

The Bishop of Cape Town, Robert Gray, a clergyman of conservative persuasion, became increasingly alarmed. Embarrassingly, news of Colenso's heretical teachings had reached Britain. Colenso's strained relations with Bishop Gray were exacerbated when the colonists reported that the new Bishop of Natal was establishing favourable relations with the Zulus. The British-Zulu war was imminent, so this sort of thing was regarded as treachery. But Colenso persisted in doing what he could to save the Zulu nation from destruction. Eventually he was excommunicated. Colenso died in 1883, still living in Pietermaritzburg and maintaining his right to the bishopric. Thousands attended his funeral, and a town, later made famous in the Anglo-Boer War, was named after him.

Meanwhile, Bleek had married Jemima Lloyd. Her sister, Lucy, had come to live with them in Cape Town. The irascible Reverend Lloyd had thrown both sisters out of his house. Bleek soon discovered that there were San prisoners incarcerated in Cape Town; they spoke the click language that had intrigued him when he had heard about it in Natal. He persuaded the governor, who was by then Sir Philip Wodehouse, to allow some San people to stay with him in his suburban Cape Town house. They were /Xam San from the central part of Cape Colony and had been brought to Cape Town to serve prison sentences for crimes ranging from sheep stealing to murder.

**Boldly, and no doubt thinking of the controversy surrounding his friend Colenso's dispute with the colonists, he used the word 'religious'.**

Lucy assisted Bleek in the phonetic transcription and translation of /Xam San word lists, personal histories, folklore and accounts of rituals. Together they compiled approximately 12,000 pages of /Xam narratives and, in parallel columns, English transliterations.

At this time Bleek showed his /Xam informants copies of San rock paintings. As a result of what they told him he concluded that San rock art was an 'attempt, however imperfect, at a truly artistic conception of religious feelings' (Bleek 1874:13). Boldly, and no doubt thinking of the controversy surrounding his friend Colenso's dispute with the colonists, he used the word 'religious'. Bleek also dared to use the word 'art', thus challenging the assumption that art was the product of 'higher civilisations'.

Bleek died in 1875, eight years before Colenso. Some years earlier the German philologist had been awarded a British pension, the petition being signed by such luminaries as Lyell and Darwin. After Bleek's untimely death Lloyd continued with the work and eventually saw to the publication of extracts from the collection. After Lloyd's death in 1914 Bleek's daughter, Dorothea, took over the study and published further extracts. Today, the entire collection is available online: [www.lloydbleekcollection.uct.ac.za](http://www.lloydbleekcollection.uct.ac.za).

Our story ends in a remarkable way. When the South African government was designing a new national coat of arms, President Thabo Mbeki approached the Rock Art Institute at the University of the Witwatersrand to select a San rock art

image to sit in the centre of the coat of arms. The Institute provided a number of images, from which the national heraldry authorities chose a painting of a human figure with a raised arm. In the interests of symmetry rather than authenticity, they reversed and duplicated the image.

President Mbeki then asked that the new national motto be translated into the now extinct /Xam San language, the one that the Bleek family had recorded. He supplied the meaning of the motto: 'People who are different come together'. In /Xam it reads: !Ke e: /xarra / /ke. The President commented:

'We have chosen an ancient language of our people... This emphasises the tragedy of the millions of human beings who, through the ages, have perished and even ceased to exist as peoples, because of people's inhumanity to others.'

Our circuitous trail has led from St John's College to a controversial southern African Bishop, to a young German philologist, to insights into the religious nature of San rock art and finally to a symbol around which the diverse peoples of southern Africa can now rally. Colenso would have been delighted! 

## Professor J D Lewis-Williams

### Further reading

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**The Honourable Frank Iacobucci is a former Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada. Frank arrived in Cambridge in 1962 and studied International Law at St John's. Frank now works for Torys as Counsel, where he advises government and business on legal and policy matters. His work includes guidance, advice and support to clients of Torys and members of the firm.**

The following is adapted from a speech given by Frank at the Cambridge Society of Toronto's annual Boat Race Dinner in 2007.

### **A toast to Cambridge**

It is a great pleasure and honour to propose a toast to Cambridge. Although when my wife Nancy and I attended an Oxford / Cambridge Boat Race dinner in New York City many years ago, the speaker of the evening was Professor A L Goodhart, who was Master of University College, Oxford. Goodhart was a transplanted American and was obviously not a fan of the Boat Race or of rowing. In fact he said as far as he was concerned, the best boat race was the one in which both boats sank!

I will be giving some personal memories of my time in Cambridge and I know that each of you could provide your own memory chest of experiences you had at Cambridge and I apologize for mine being so personally based. I have to confess, however, that my problem has not been finding something to say but rather having too much to say because I have such a rich abundance of memories of Cambridge days.

In 1962 I went to study International Law at Cambridge, having graduated in Law from the University of British Columbia. Cambridge was without question the leading centre for the study of international law, which was a subject that was most popular in the '60s but less so since.

My reminiscences begin with a transatlantic boat trip from New York to Southampton. At the Southampton dock the English immigration official asked me what I was doing in England. I said I was going to study at Cambridge and he replied in a Northern accent, 'So you've come to learn the language, have you?' That rather unusual greeting labelled me as a colonial. I had gone over on an ocean liner with a good friend of mine, John Helliwell, who was going back to Oxford to do his DPhil and we travelled there with another UBC mate of mine from Oxford. It was my first visit there and both my friends took me around to see the colleges and, in particular, Magdalen College, where my friend was a member. In wanting to take me up Magdalen Tower he had to get the permission of a Fellow. The Fellow he asked was none other than Professor Gilbert Ryle, the

eminent philosopher. A fierce pipe smoker, Ryle asked me what I was doing in England and I told him I was on my way to Cambridge. He then asked me which college I was going to and I told him St John's. At that response Ryle became quite excited and replied, 'Oh wonderful choice, wonderful choice'. I thought that was a very nice comment and asked him why? Ryle replied, 'Because John's has the best lavatories in Cambridge'. Again, an early introduction to English eccentricity.

Speaking of that, when I got settled in Cambridge I went to the lavatory at the Old Schools where the Law Faculty was. I knew from that experience I was in a very different place. The graffiti on the lavatory walls was upmarket compared to what I had previously seen. One in particular stood out in my mind and it was this:

To be is to do: Adam Smith  
 To do is to be: Jean-Paul Sartre  
 Do be do be do: Frank Sinatra

As a graduate student I did not live in College. My landlady was called Miss Hudson. I never knew her first name. I always called her Miss Hudson and she always called me Mr Wybockee. She came from generations of landladies that only Cambridge can provide. But typical of the English, she took a great interest in me and felt a sense of responsibility for my welfare. She told me that my tutor, Professor F H Hinsley, a modern historian who later became Master of St John's, also took a great interest in ensuring that I was going to be comfortable in her digs. In fact Miss Hudson told me that Professor Hinsley had visited the digs to see what I would be assigned and to make sure that things were okay for my staying there. My first meeting with Hinsley was also memorable; he was the quintessential don resplendent in Harris Tweed and pipe, and he said upon my leaving to please be careful because the steps down from his College rooms had not been properly repaired since the mid-1600s.

**I confess that the first thing I did was to walk on the lawn in joyful celebration.**

In the early days I committed one breach of the rules after another, starting with walking on the lawn. On visiting Cambridge after my election as an Honorary Fellow of St John's, I confess that the first thing I did was to walk on the lawn in joyful celebration. Cambridge was the place where no one really told you the rules. You had to break them first and then everyone told you.

Before graduate studies I had played sports at UBC and played on the UBC soccer team. Consequently I thought I would go out for the Cambridge team, even

though I hadn't played soccer competitively for some three years. In an unsuccessful try-out for the Cambridge team I was told by one of the young players I must have been pretty good in my day! But I played for my College first team as a result and enjoyed the camaraderie very much despite being older than all the other team members.

## Rowing at Cambridge was something to behold. I shall never forget hearing the cheers on the Cam.

I also rowed for the College in what was called the Lady Margaret 14 boat. Reflecting a culture of participation, St John's had sixteen boats in the May Bumps and our boat was a soccer boat. I was put in the number five spot because a good friend of mine from UBC, John Lecky, had rowed for Canada and for Cambridge on two occasions, and both times Cambridge won. He rowed five in the Cambridge boat so they thought since I was from British Columbia, I should also row number five. I got Lecky to come out and coach us and the first thing

he did was to tell us to stop rowing and said, 'Iacobucci, get out of number five. Go in the bow. You're the weakest person in the boat!' Rowing at Cambridge was something to behold. I shall never forget hearing the cheers on the Cam. This combination of the secular cheering with a religious connotation was something I had never heard before nor have I ever heard anything like it since.

In my second year of studies St John's asked me to do College supervisions in International Law. This was an incredibly welcome offer because my Canadian Fellowship was not that luxurious. The generosity of the College stipend made me quite comfortably off. But again I shall never forget my first supervision, which was to be held in the rooms of one of the St John's Law Fellows, Ken



Frank Iacobucci graduating from Cambridge, 1964

Scott. Upon entry into his rooms I nervously prepared for the supervision. A man suddenly sprang up from the couch like a jack-in-the-box and I, of course, was scared to death. I immediately thought that the rooms were haunted and all of these stories about ghosts and so on were true. But it was Ken Scott in his underwear and shirt arising from a nap, which apparently he used to do right after his lunch and several glasses of wine, of which he was very fond.

Another outstanding memory that encapsulates living in Cambridge at that time was the winter of '63. It was incredibly cold. The Cam froze as did the water in the basin for flushing the toilet. Of course then we had no central heating and the headline in the Cambridge newspaper read, 'Coldest winter since Cromwell'. I have always felt that everything bad in English history happened during Cromwell's time.

In that winter we were also to witness seeing ice hockey being played on the Cam with field hockey sticks. I think the river was frozen for close to a month and during that time the nightly practice of my landlady was to climb three flights of stairs to put a stone hot-water bottle in my bed. Needless to say this was most welcome. Although in the morning, when the bottle turned icy cold, it became a great incentive to get out of bed!

**In America at that time you could never admit to being a communist. In Canada you could, but you certainly wouldn't be elected to any office as prestigious as President of the Cambridge Union.**

Apart from excellent scholars and an intellectual environment that was quite spectacular, Cambridge had a huge number of characters. In fact, in some ways, you stood out if you weren't a character. The environment was highly liberal and, to illustrate this, I recall the President of the Cambridge Union was an openly admitted communist. The counterpart on an American campus, or even Canadian one, could not exist. In America at that time you could never admit to being a communist. In Canada you could, but you certainly wouldn't be elected to any office as prestigious as President of the Cambridge Union.

But as I say, the characters were numerous. One of my best friends, Lawrence Collins, now Lord Justice Collins of the Court of Appeal, was at Downing College and he introduced me to a couple of his Downing friends, Jonathan Lynn and John Cleese, both of whom starred in the Footlights production for that year, as did Graham Chapman, whom I did not meet. Both Cleese and Chapman of course went on to Monty Python fame. Lynn was equally successful, the creator of that widely acclaimed television series *Yes Minister* and a director of many

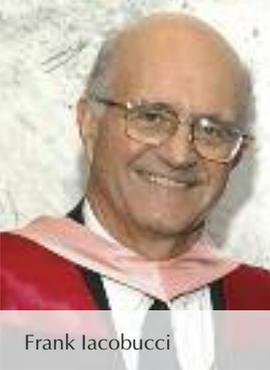
movies including *My Cousin Vinnie*. Lynn seemed to be the most normal of the three and also quite easy to meet. Cleese had a great reputation for pranks, one of which was knocking on doors to solicit signatures to a petition to bring back capital punishment because he thought capital punishment was funny and people needed more humour in their lives.

I had two friends at the College who are worth special mention in my memory chest. One was D C K Jones, the Captain of the College soccer team, who was from Wolverhampton. David was responsible for one of the kindest gestures that ever happened to me. He got two tickets to the Cup Final match at Wembley in 1964 and invited me as his guest. He could have invited any number of friends but chose me because he knew as a Canadian I probably would likely not have a chance to see a Cup Final, unlike his English mates. In any event it was an act of kindness that remains high on my list and our friendship has continued.

Another one of my College friends was a man named Jim Cargile, an American who is now Professor of Philosophy at the University of Virginia. Jim was doing his doctoral thesis on paradoxes. He was an extremely comical person and most eccentric. To illustrate, one evening at dinner in Hall the entrée was boiled beef, which was one of the most terrible dishes I have tasted in my life. Even the English were pushing their plates to the centre because they couldn't quite handle it. It was the saltiest piece of meat that I ever tasted. But Cargile, who could eat linoleum if he was hungry enough, seized the moment. He saw the gasps for the water-pitcher and immediately said to his neighbour, 'Would you please pass the salt?' As the salt-cellar was passed down the table everyone looked to see who on earth had requested the salt. When it arrived at Cargile's place he joyfully sprinkled an abundance of salt on the already salt-laden beef and, to everyone's astonishment, devoured the meat.

One cannot speak about Cambridge in those days, or even today, without mentioning the extra-curricular activities, particularly the music. I was fortunate to be at St John's, which rivalled (and still does) King's for the best college choir, not only in Cambridge but in the United Kingdom. Nancy, who has had much musical experience, particularly in choral singing, made the choir of the Cambridge University Musical Society (CUMS), which was conducted under David Willcocks, as he then was, now Sir David Willcocks. CUMS enjoyed the incredible experience of singing in both King's College Chapel and Ely Cathedral, performing Benjamin Britten's *War Requiem* under the direction of Willcocks and Britten himself with a world-class group of soloists. It was one of the great musical experiences that I have witnessed in my life.

Speaking of Nancy brings me to the high point of my time at Cambridge. The experience that I had and I believe each of us had, at Cambridge was



Frank Iacobucci

transformative. There are many things that are extraordinary about Cambridge: the intellectual stimulation, the talented professors and students, the sheer beauty and history of the place, the family-like ties to one's college, the opportunities to study and play, the friendships formed, the kindness and decency of the Brits, and so on.

For those of us who met our life partners that was, and remains, the highlight. In the Law Faculty, Nancy and I were known as a Cambridge romance and amusingly many faculty members took credit for our eventual marriage. Of course that could not have happened were it not for the providential events that led each of us to Cambridge and to meet each other. That alone ranks as the turning point in my life. But also a part of that turning point was the unalloyed joy and good fortune of being privileged to attend Cambridge. Cambridge not only gave me a ticket to earn a living but it also, more importantly, provided me with a passport to learn how to live. For that I can never repay it.

Please rise and join with me in a toast to one of the truly great universities of the world, to Cambridge!



### **The Honourable Frank Iacobucci (1962) Honorary Fellow**

**Sumet Jumsai read for his PhD in architecture at St John's College from 1958-67, and intermittently taught at the Department of Architecture from 1989-93. He has been elected an Honorary Fellow of the American Institute of Architects, Member of the French Academie d'Architecture and Fellow Commoner of St John's College. His architectural works have been exhibited at the Venice Biennale 1996 and his paintings in Paris galleries.**

Here, Dr Jumsai describes the design of the Privy Council Chambers of Bangkok, which contributed to the award of Chevalier de l' Orde des Arts et des Lettres by the French government in 2008. The decoration was conferred in recognition of his role in Franco-Thai relations and in the field of architecture.

**The Tree Building – Privy Council Chambers, Bangkok 2004**

The Privy Council is one of the revered Thai institutions. It comprises 19 Privy Councillors or ‘advisors’ to the King who meet regularly to deliberate on a variety of issues. They also represent His Majesty at functions and receive dignitaries and ambassadors. The Chambers accommodate their private offices, a secretariat,

meeting rooms, reception and dining rooms. The Royal Secretary, who liaises with the Privy Council, also has his offices and secretariat in the same building.



North end of the west elevation

Its principal elevation is to the west and faces the royal palace, the Grand Palace. Going round clock-wise, its north side faces a nineteenth century palace in the neo-classical style, the rear on the east abuts an old temple in the traditional Thai style, and its south elevation merges into a public park full of large trees.

The building is on three floors, with a basement for parking, and its plan is a U-shape wrapping around an existing clump of trees. A lotus pond has been created on three

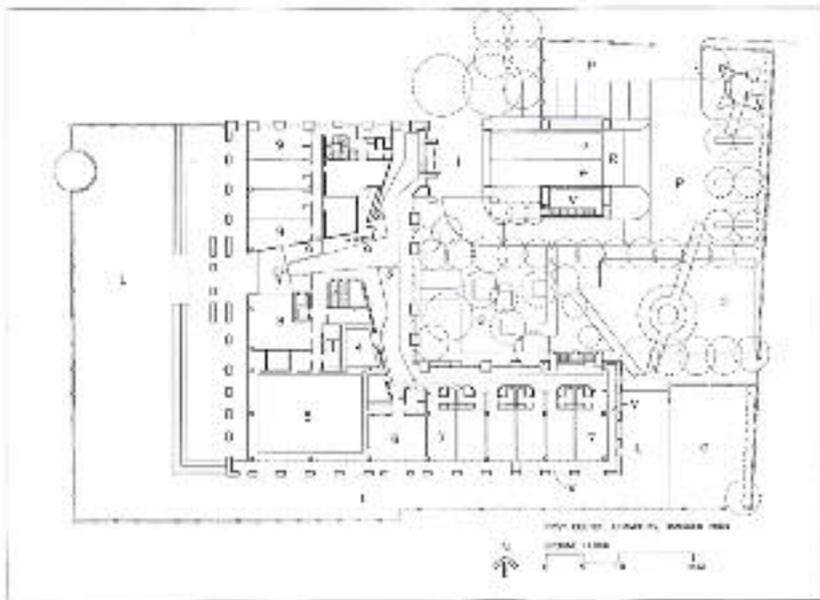


Looking out from the I-beam gables with the view of the royal palace in the background

sides of the structure and penetrates into parts of the façades to make the building appear as if it is standing in water.

The architectural agenda is multi-faceted: the building has to reflect its institutional character, blend in with both the traditional Thai and neo-Classical buildings nearby and, at the same time, reflect the spirit of the time. Its austere front on the west side is reminiscent of

colonnades applicable to both Thai temple and European classical architecture. But here, in this façade, naked I-beams forming triangular frames and perched atop the colonnade invoke the traditional roof gables. The I-beam triangles become more marked as the building is viewed clockwise while the elevation



Ground floor plan

responds increasingly to the trees at the back and the adjacent park on the south side. In effect, the building goes through a metamorphosis, becoming arboreal with the real arborescent environment.



### **Dr Sumet Jumsai (1958)**

Architects: Sumet Jumsai and SJA+3D design team

Photography: Sky Line Studio and Sumet Jumsai



West elevation

# SPORTS & SOCIETIES

SPORTS & SOCIETIES



ST JOHN'S COLLEGE  
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

**Every year a committed and sometimes frustrated group of students attempts to find ways for us to come together, solve problems and improve College life. This year's JCR Committee was no different.**

After only a few days in office, the new JCRC sprang into action, mobilising undergraduates in a high profile campaign against proposed changes to the room ballot system, which would disadvantage all students without a First.

### **The JCR**

A flurry of emails, hundreds of petition signatures and countless debates soon followed. Despite the clear disagreement between College authorities and students, the JCRC were able to combine vibrant protest with constructive engagement on academic affairs. Exam study skills talks were organised by Academic Affairs Officer, Ben Brodie. Meanwhile, the College has begun to show appreciation for student involvement in education policy and the College's new education research staff and the JCRC are liaising to produce a brand new supervision feedback system.

By far the most fashionable member of the JCRC, Eesa Mohammed, combined his stunning DJing and sense of style to revolutionise St John's Entertainment. Over the past year, he has introduced psytrance, minimal and dubstep, and brought the Boiler Room back from a two year hiatus. Meanwhile, Open Mic Nights have seen the great talents of Johnians. St John's re-emerged as a premier entertainment College with ¡Cuba Libre!, the June Entertainment, which saw Caribbean food, live jazz, salsa, steel pans, comedy, magic, bungee runs and a bucking bronco alongside four top DJs. All of these events were well publicised by Josef Schmalfluss, whose colourful posters and 'guerrilla marketing' really caught the eye.

With around forty events over eight consecutive days, new Johnians were treated to the best Freshers' Week ever. Throughout the club nights, learning support, Back2Skool nostalgia, theatre trips, yoga, films, meeting and greeting, Freshers were supported by a dedicated team of Staircase Reps for the first time. Such attention to student welfare was down to the hard work of Amiya Bhatia. As Welfare Officer, she managed College families, hosted popular film nights, salsa



The JCR Committee, 2008-09

classes, exam drop-ins, raised awareness on key issues and single-handedly ensured that half the College didn't go crazy in exam term, by providing free tea every day. Luckily, she'll be CUSU Welfare Officer next year, so the whole University will benefit from her brilliance.

Michaelmas Term saw the return of JCR campaigning, as controversial new rules banned students bringing a bottle of wine into Hall and the College only serving two glasses per person. The JCRC led a boycott of Hall in opposition and after negotiation it was agreed that each diner would receive half a bottle of wine.

Computing Officer Malte Schwarzkopf's new Rooms Database has given Johnians the opportunity to view, comment on and select their rooms online. Thanks to him, the days of room shopping and queuing outside the Accommodation Office are over. On the financial side, Clare Briscoe has been an excellent Treasurer and her diplomacy led to the lowest room rents increase in over a decade.

Hard work by Services Officer, Merrow Golden, and Richard Curling, the first ever Facilities Officer, has ensured that students have a host of new and improved services including sports equipment and bikes to rent. The JCR Common Room was improved with bean bags, new Apple Mac computers, and the incredibly popular quiz machine. Lizzie Richardson has led the way in transforming our College into a greener, more ethical community. As Ethical Affairs Officer, her initiatives have led to regular free range and Fairtrade food in the buttry,

enhanced recycling facilities and the removal of plastic cups from the gym. Lizzie and Nat Moss (Yearbook editor) ensured the proceeds from collections, themed formal halls and the common room quiz machine were donated to St Michael's School, Uganda.

Luke Lorimer has done tremendous work in showing prospective students around the College. As Access Officer, he organised Johnian involvement in the CUSU Shadowing Scheme and the University of Cambridge Ambassadors Project, which aims to improve access to Cambridge for students from state schools. His work contributed towards an 11% increase in the number of state school students accepted since the previous admissions cycle. Equal Opportunities Officer, Helen Ennos, has helped ensure that St John's remains a welcoming place for all students by liaising with the Women's Society, hosting awareness events and introducing a new officer to her subcommittee to assist students with disabilities.

The JCRC has had a very successful year, showing incredible determination and commitment. It's been a privilege to lead such an inspiring team. Central to success were the efforts of Vice-President, Chelsea Wright, and Secretary, Fran O'Brien. Together they devoted time and energy to ensure that all of our events were a success and supported me through the most challenging parts of the year. Such was Fran's commitment that she will be President next year, and there is no one better qualified to lead the students of St John's College. 

**Tom Chigbo**  
**President**

**The SBR Committee 2008-9 proudly looks back on a year where many projects became reality – from sorting out thorny accommodation issues to getting a Wii!**

This would not have been possible without a committed and hard-working team: starting in May 2008 with myself, Eva-Maria Hempe (President), Mateja Peter (Secretary), Carl Scheffler (Junior Treasurer), Danny Weston (Welfare, JCR Liaison), Claire Waters (Dining) and Hugo Vincent (Publicity & Computing, GU Liaison) as the elected Committee, in the course of the year the SBRC grew to up to 13 members.

**The SBR**

The initial Committee was soon joined by Andrea Kuesters and Nabil Wilf, respectively the Sports and Families representatives. Albertyna Paciorek took over the Graduate Talk seminar series, providing graduate students with a forum to present their work to the College community, John Weisweiler championed the interests of international students and Hunter Williams joined us as temporary Social Secretary – the huge success in transforming the Master's Garden to a Havana hangout at the times of Hemingway must be largely credited to him. Another highlight of the summer, and the baptism of fire for the Committee, was the Borderer's Boules Tournament and barbecue.

Our Freshers' Fortnight was ambitious, with events every day. The Freshers soon did not feel that fresh any more, perfectly blending in with the returning students. During Freshers' Fortnight, the SBRC also introduced the online signup to SBR events. Besides the influx of an enthusiastic bunch of Freshers, the beginning of the new academic year saw the arrival of our SBR Wii and, thanks to Kam Mohaddes, our own pool table. This was rounded off by new magazine subscriptions and boardgames as well as the donation of a large VHS collection and the introduction of the movie night fund.

Following the by-election in November, Cristina Pierro (Women's Officer), Shakir Mohamed (Computing and Publicity) and Nitu Duggal (Welfare) joined the Committee and were immediately thrown into the preparations for the annual SBR Christmas Party in Hall, a festive night with live ceilidh music and enthusiastic dancing!

Achievements in the Lent Term included the start of Family Dining, to enable graduates to bring their children to a special BA table held in the Wordsworth Room, and the Grad Survey, to canvas the views of the SBR members on a variety of issues. Results of this include the introduction of an online booking system for Hall tickets.

Achievements in the Lent Term included the start of Family Dining, to enable graduates to bring their children to a special BA table held in the Wordsworth Room.

Culinary highlights of the year include very successful Tastings – tea thanks to Johnian, Will Cartwright-Higgett, of First Class Teas and chocolate thanks to Linh Tran. Beyond good food and drink, we tried to stimulate body and mind by organising free rental of sports racquets, an acroyoga workshop, and talks about topics ranging from medicine to WiFi in Afghanistan, to name just a few.

As our year drew to an end we tackled our final projects. Firstly, working with the Tutor for Graduate Affairs, we managed to revise and clarify the accommodation policy, introducing a ballot to make room distribution within students of the same year more transparent and guaranteeing accommodation to students in the fourth year of their PhD. The second project was a revision of the SBR Constitution, to ensure a smoother post-election transition and more time for the new committee to settle in. The last project was the introduction of Supervisors' Hall, a possibility for research students to bond with their supervisors outside the normal working environment, and for Fellows to gain an insight into the research of graduate students. A fourth project, which we initiated but will hand over to our successors, is the refurbishment of the Samuel Butler Room; to make a more active and vibrant graduate community than ever.

We want to thank everybody for their support this year; it was a pleasure representing and serving the graduate community of St John's.



**Eva-Maria Hempe**  
**SBR President**

## COLLEGE SOCIETIES

### The Women's Society

Only two years from its foundation, the St John's College Women's Society (SJC WS) prides itself as being one of the most active societies in the College.

This year the SJC WS has witnessed a series of talks, aimed at a wide audience within the College and the University. This year, our highly popular 'All about Junior Research Fellowships' attracted over 100 students and obtained very positive feedback.

The 'Women and Careers' lecture series saw prestigious speakers such as Dr Nancy Lane, a pioneer of supporting women in science and engineering through the foundation of WiSETI; Natalie Szarek, our current CUSU Women's Officer, and Wendy Foden, a prominent conservation biologist who delivered an inspiring talk on climate change. Furthermore, we had the privilege to host Mrs Gwenne Henricks, Vice-President of Caterpillar. To hear how this businesswoman climbed to the top of a male-dominated industry and manages more than 4000 employees, was fascinating and helped to bridge the gap between academia and industry.

We have also given particular attention to relaxation, leisure and social interaction amongst students. Hence, we provided Hatha yoga classes on Mondays and Thursdays and in addition, we organized movie nights and theatre outings to provide students with a diverse social base.

The SJC WS prides itself with the establishment of the first 'parents group' in College, with the aim to enhance social interactions amongst Johnian students with families; the Society makes most events child-friendly.

On the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, the SJC WS supported a dinner in Hall, in partnership with the JCR, and organized a special fundraising event for Camfed, who support female education in Africa.

I feel privileged to have worked with amazing people that made the SJC WS what it is today; Anneka Dew (JCR liaison), Amparo Flores (Fellows liaison), Sharmeen Irfan (Secretary), Carla Lancelotti (Treasurer and Webmaster), Amy Milam (Family Officer), Ruth Mokgokong (Social Secretary), Cristina Pierro (Vice-President), Janet Lees (Senior Treasurer) and Alistair Field.



**Simona Giunta**  
President

### **The Johnian Society**

Last year I reported that we were putting in place new events and I am pleased to say that the House of Lords reception last year was a wonderful success. More than two hundred members and guests gathered in the Cholmondeley Room and on the Terrace. Lord Crisp and the Master welcomed everyone. We are holding a reception again this year and we hope it will prove to be as enjoyable an evening.

Later in the year Mr Mervyn King, Governor of the Bank of England and former President of the Johnian Society, kindly arranged for a small group of members to tour the Bank of England and meet him for drinks afterwards. Despite an incredibly busy schedule, Mervyn was able to spend time chatting to members and we are grateful to him for providing this wonderful opportunity.

In March this year we encouraged local members to come to Evensong in the College Chapel and stay for a reception with the Master afterwards. This too was a successful and enjoyable event, with many people commenting that although they knew they were welcome at Chapel Services, they had not been back for some time.



Members of the Johnian Society

Mr John Loosley does a wonderful job on behalf of the Society in organising the annual Golf Competition and the Committee owes him a debt of gratitude.

This year, in response to requests from members, we have decided to offer two dinners in College. The first of these was the traditional Annual Dinner and was held as part of the Society Day on Saturday 12 September. The dinner is a wonderful opportunity to get together with old friends and to make new ones.

The second dinner will take place on Saturday 19 December and will be a Christmas Dinner for members only. We hope that this will appeal to those members who enjoy a gathering in College just before Christmas.

The AGM and Dinner took place in the Hall on Saturday 12 September 2008 with Lord Nigel Crisp, the President, in the Chair. We were delighted that three Johnian generations of the Crisp family were there that evening. Sir Jack Beatson was elected President for one year from January 2009 and Sir David King, who gave a stimulating lecture on climate change at the Society Day last year, has accepted the Committee's invitation to become Vice-President for 2009.

Mr Stelios Elia, Mr John Wyn Owen and Dr Kamal Ahuja have all joined the Committee this year as Ordinary Members and we were sad to have to say goodbye to Lord David Rowe-Beddoe, Mr Geraint Lewis and Mr Adam Balon.

The members of the Committee for 2009 are therefore as follows: Sir Jack Beatson (President), Sir David King (Vice-President), Mr Colin Greenhalgh (Chairman), Sir Alastair Norris (Vice-Chairman), Ms Catherine Twilley (Honorary Secretary), Lord Nigel Crisp (Immediate Past-President), The Master (Ex Officio), Professor Nick McCave (College Representative), Mr Geraint Lewis (Co-opted), Mr Mark Chichester-Clark, Mr Michael Mavor, Dr Jo Griffiths, Mrs Heather Hancock, Professor Peter Hennessy, Mr Graham Spooner, Dr Jeevan Deol, Ms Fiona McAnena, Mr Stelios Elia, Mr John Wyn Owen, Dr Kamal Ahuja, Mr Francis Baron (Co-opted), Miss Rachel Harker (Co-opted).

The Society continues to support the College financially through gifts for the Access Bursary Scheme (£3,000 again this year) and by adding to the income available from the Johnian Society Travel Exhibition Fund to enable a larger number of students to benefit. This year we have again made available six Travel Exhibitions, each of £600. In addition, a generous donation from Mr Neil Thomason, a member of the Society, enabled us to award an additional exhibition of £1,000 this year. We will also be able to award an exhibition of £1,000 in each of the next four years thanks to his generosity. Details of the awards made are available on our webpages.

The Committee has been considering how best to engage both a greater proportion of members in the Society's activities, and to increase the number of members. There are already more than 7,000 members of the Society and we hope that many more Johnians will see the benefit of being part of the Johnian Society. To this end, we are currently offering non-members who left the College before the opt-out system was implemented in 1993, to join the Society for no fee. If you would like to join, please email the Secretary at [Johnian-Society@joh.cam.ac.uk](mailto:Johnian-Society@joh.cam.ac.uk).

We hope that you will continue to support our initiatives. Please check the website for updates, [www.joh.cam.ac.uk/johnian/johnian\\_society/](http://www.joh.cam.ac.uk/johnian/johnian_society/) and let us know if you have ideas as to how the Society might offer more to its members.



**Catherine Twilley**  
**Honorary Secretary**

### **May Ball Committee**

Founded in 1888, the St John's College May Ball marks the end of the academic year for students and Fellows alike. For one night each year – a Tuesday since 1895 – the entire College is transformed into a two thousand guest, twelve hour spectacle. This event is organised by a committee of undergraduate and graduate students under the supervision of two Fellows.

The 2008 May Ball saw guests take a Journey across Europe on the Orient Express, beginning in First Court's London before moving on through Paris – complete with an 8 metre Eiffel Tower – Vienna, Venice and Istanbul. The food, drink and scenery reflected the city and country of each stop on the journey. The College was charmed by the spectacular vocals of Lesley Garret and was treated to the more modern sound of Dizzie Rascal taking over the main stage in New Court. Throughout the night, the Ball managed magnificently to combine the very best of the traditional with cutting edge, supplying an event suited to all tastes.

This year the Committee invited guests to embark on an evening inspired by Voyages of Discovery, retracing the journeys of some of the world's greatest explorers – Captain Cook, Neil Armstrong, Vasco da Gama, Christopher Columbus, Ernest Shackleton, David Livingstone, and Charles Darwin.

Guests this year were treated to everything they have come to expect from a St John's College May Ball: a stunning display of fireworks, some of the best performers that Cambridge can offer, delicious foods, and, of course, a lot of champagne. There was a fairground to entertain the more active of guests, and, to cool off there was Shackleton's South Pole with an ice bar. As they grew tired



Preparations for the May Ball

Wordsworth Rooms, provided these guests exclusive food, drink and entertainment available only to them, and a comfortable and relaxing environment in which to reunite with old friends, meet others, and take a rest from the sometimes overwhelming sights and sounds of the May Ball.

The 2008 Committee included: Finbarr Cosgrove (President), Ian Ralby (Junior Treasurer), Alex Wilshaw (Vice-President), Thomas Fleming (Vice-President), James Colgate (Security), Anya Perry (Drinks), Peter Hughes (Food), Rebecca Dawn Jones (Scene), Slavica Delevic (Creative), Dominic Kraemer & Derica Shields (Entertainment), Justin Houlton (Logistics), Anna Stanley (Employment), Angharad Thomas and Kasie Hunt (Sponsorship), Tim Gordon (Technology), Loren Lam (Graphics), Dr Simon Humphrey (Chairman of the Ball) and Dr Frank Salmon (Senior Treasurer).

The 2009 Committee was comprised of: Ian Ralby (President), Alex Wilshaw (Junior Treasurer), Catherine Kitsis (Vice-President), James Colgate (Vice-President), Aaron Ralby (Security), Sarah Turner (Drinks), Pavel Spirine (Food), Natalie Moss (Scene), Miriam Sharp-Pierson (Creative), Alice Tyler & Ella Belsham

through the night, they had the chance to rejuvenate with a rest in a Native American tipi, a lie-down on a Pacific Island hammock, or by lounging around in a Bombay boudoir replete with acoustic performances.

In an effort to make the May Ball a more welcoming environment to alumni, the Committee of the 2009 May Ball were pleased to introduce the 1888 Club. Named in honour of the nineteenth century foundations of the Ball, this new 'upgrade' option allowed alumni, Fellows and distinguished guests to enjoy a private lounge throughout the night of the Ball. This 1888 Suite, located in the Parsons and

(Entertainment), Andrew Dowsett (Logistics), Rebecca Conroy (Employment), Thomas Muir (Sponsorship), Jon Harrap (Technology), Dr Simon Humphrey (Chairman of the Ball) and Dr Frank Salmon (Senior Treasurer). 

**Ian Ralby**  
**President**

**The Choir of St John's College**

September 2008 saw the launch of the Choir's own website, which had been developed over the summer months by Gareth John, the Choir and Chapel Project Assistant. The new website, which is dedicated to Choir activities, can be found at [www.sjcchoir.co.uk](http://www.sjcchoir.co.uk).

The Choir reassembled on Tuesday 23 September in the magnificent surroundings of the Guildhall in London to sing at the launch of the St John's College Campaign. Over 150 guests joined Fellows and senior members of College staff to hear the Master speak about the future financial needs of the College. The Choir sang music by Byrd, Viadana, Parsons and Wood, and later in the evening the Gents sang a selection from their repertoire. The Choristers were very fortunate to receive some tips on the finer points of rugby from Johnian and former England rugby player Rob Andrew.

The following weekend the Choir travelled to Wales to sing a Concert and Service at Llandaff Cathedral in Cardiff. The Concert was attended by over 400 people, including a large contingent from the Johnian Society of Wales. Music for the evening included *Guerrero O sacrum convivium* and Vaughan Williams' *Lord thou hast been our refuge*, the latter accompanied by Huw Morgan, a talented young trumpeter from Llandaff. The audience was also treated to Telemann's *Trumpet Concerto in D major*, played magnificently by Huw and accompanied by Timothy Ravalde. The following morning the Choir sang Victoria's *Missa O quam gloriosum* at the Eucharist. The Dean of Llandaff, the Very Reverend John Lewis, himself a Johnian, was delighted to welcome back Sam Furness, a former Chorister at the Cathedral. The Choir is particularly grateful to Lord Rowe Beddoe, the Dean of Llandaff, Lindsay Watkins, John Wyn Owen and Geraint Lewis – all members of the Johnian Society of Wales – for organising such a splendid weekend, and to the Furness family for so generously entertaining the Gents at their home after the Concert.

The new academic year saw some new faces in the Choir – John Challenger (Junior Organ Student), Leo Tomita, Dominic Collingwood (altos), Henry Neill, Basil McDonald (basses), Peter Hicks and Justin Stollery (Choristers). We also

welcomed Ethan Bamber, Frances Bushell, Samuel Hill, Matthew Holman, Andrew Jones and Michael Tuft to the School as Probationers.

The Matriculation Service took place on Tuesday 7 October. The service was well attended by Matriculands and the music for the service included *Te Deum in C* by Britten and a rousing rendition of *I was glad* by Parry.

On Tuesday 14 October, the Choir launched the weekly webcasting of services from the College Chapel. St John's College Choir is the first in Europe to offer such a service – the only other men and boys choir to do this is St Thomas Fifth Avenue, New York, where Johnian John Scott is the Organist and Director of Music. A new service is added to the website at noon every Tuesday, 52 weeks a year. The services remain available for several weeks via the Choir's website – [www.sjcchoir.co.uk/webcast](http://www.sjcchoir.co.uk/webcast); many appreciative messages have been received from all corners of the world, including places as far afield as Honolulu!

## A generous donation for music from Johnian Philip Oakes enabled the Choir to commission a new work for the service from composer John McCabe.

The second major innovation of the year was the introduction of termly Bach Cantatas sung during Evensong with members of the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment. All the solos, except the soprano arias, are sung by members of the Choir. During the first service, held on Saturday 22 November, the Choir performed *Cantata No 40 – Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme* and Vivaldi *Magnificat*, for which the Choir was joined by Ruth Jenkins and Raphaela Papadakis (sopranos). Two further Cantatas were performed on Saturday 31 January (Pergolesi *Magnificat* and Bach *Cantata No 125 – Mit fried und freud ich fahr dahin*), which included a particularly notable alto aria by Tom Verney. On Ascension Day, Thursday 21 May *Cantata No 11 – Lobet Gott in seinen Reichen*, also known as the *Ascension Oratorio*, was performed, for which we were joined by Emelia Hughes (soprano). All services have been very well attended. The first Cantata of the new academic year will take place on Saturday 24 October 2009.

The Advent Carol Services were both sung to a full Chapel, with the Sunday Service broadcast live on BBC Radio 3. A generous donation for music from Johnian Philip Oakes enabled the Choir to commission a new work for the

service from composer John McCabe: *The last and greatest herald*, which set the words of the seventeenth century poet, William Drummond of Hawthornden, and provided a contrast to other repertoire for the service. It was also the first radio broadcast of Simon Beattie's *Advent Calendar*. Other items included Stainer's *How beautiful upon the mountains* and *As dew in Aprylle* by Warlock.

On Friday 5 December, the Choir travelled to Gresham's School, Holt, for a concert in the School Chapel. A very appreciative audience braved the cold weather to hear the Choir sing a programme which included *O magnum mysterium* by Victoria and *A spotless rose* by Howells sung by Dominic Kraemer, along with organ solos played by Tim Ravalde and John Challenger.

The Christmas tour to Central Europe saw the Choir sing a Concert at the Slovenian Philharmonic Hall in Ljubljana on Sunday 14 December to a very enthusiastic audience of 400 people. Two highlights of the evening were Gareth John singing Vaughan Williams' *Fantasia on Christmas Carols* with bell accompaniment from Francis Williams, and some notable treble solos in Britten's *Ceremony of Carols* with harp accompaniment from leading Slovenian harpist Sofia Ristic.

The Choir returned to College to sing a Concert of Christmas Music in the Chapel on Thursday 18 December. *The Guardian* had listed the Concert at number 31 in their list of '100 Brilliant things to do at Christmas', which generated an enormous amount of interest, with over 600 people in the audience. At the end of the Concert, Andrew was delighted to announce to the audience that Gareth John, Sam Furness and the cellist for the evening, Sophie Gledhill (Clare College), had all recently been awarded Postgraduate Scholarships by the Royal Academy of Music. Two other former members of the Choir, Tom Faulkner and John Lattimore, will also be studying at the Royal Academy of Music from September 2009. These achievements are a great tribute to the remarkable vocal tuition which David Lowe provides to all our singers.

The Choir received an invitation from the producer of ITV's *Dancing on Ice* to record a carol to accompany Jane Torvill and Christopher Dean during their exhibition dance on the Christmas edition of the programme. The composer, Mark Williams, (appointed as Director of Music at Jesus College from September 2009) arranged the music for the Choir, which was made available as a free download from the Choir's website. The Choir travelled to Elstree Studios to film the programme on Sunday 21 December, which was shown on Christmas Day and watched by over 6 million viewers.



The Choir on Ascension Day

The first activity of 2009 was a recording session in January. The Choir recorded the first part of a CD of music by Herbert Howells, the second part was recorded during the Choir Period of Residence in July. Recorded by John Rutter, the repertoire includes the *Gloucester and St John's Evening Services* and *A Sequence for St Michael*, which Howells composed for the 450th Anniversary of the foundation of the College. The CD is due for release in spring 2010.

Over 600 people filled the Chapel for the candlelit Epiphany Carol Service held on Saturday 17 January. Music for the service included *Bethlehem Down* by Warlock, *The Blessed Son of God* by Vaughan Williams and *Jesu Sweet Son Dear* by Robin Orr. Owing to the growing popularity of this Service, a second service to be held on the following Sunday evening will be introduced in 2010.

On Sunday 1 February, the Choir joined forces with the Choir of Gonville & Caius College to sing Eucharist. Andrew Nethsingha conducted Langlais' *Messe Solennelle*, and Geoffrey Webber conducted Holst's *Nunc Dimittis* as an introit. The service was webcast the following Tuesday.

Two weeks later on Sunday 15 February, BBC Radio 4 broadcast Morning Worship live from the Chapel. To commemorate the bicentenary of his birth, the service focused on the life and achievements of Charles Darwin and reflected on the challenges posed by his theory of evolution by natural selection. The Choir began the service with Barry Rose's *Morning glory, starlit sky* and ended with Vaughan Williams' *Let all the world* (from *Five Mystical Songs*). Also included was Harris' setting of the *Benedicite*. The address was given by Fellow and University Professor of Evolutionary Palaeobiology, Simon Conway Morris, author of *Life's Solution: Inevitable humans in a Lonely Universe*.

## The highlight of the Choir's year was the two week tour to the United States of America during the Easter vacation.

The BBC returned to the College on Wednesday 25 February for the broadcast of the Ash Wednesday service on Radio 3. Music included the *Allegrì Miserere mei, Deus* (Psalm 51) and Byrd's *Tribulationes civitatum*. The annual Service of a Meditation on the Passion of Christ took place on Sunday 8 March.

The highlight of the Choir's year was the two week tour to the United States of America during the Easter vacation. A wide range of British music was

performed, including Byrd *Mass for four voices* and the exhilarating *Magnificat* by Giles Swayne. The tour started on the East Coast, with concerts in Westport, New Haven and Greenwich in Connecticut. We then travelled into New York to sing at the US launch of the College's Campaign in the magnificent Gotham Hall. After two nights in New York, we travelled down to the Institute of Advanced Study in Princeton, where former Master, Peter Goddard, had invited us to sing a Concert. The following evening, we moved on to Richmond in Virginia at the invitation of Eugene Trani, a Fellow Commoner at St John's in 1998, to sing at the Virginia Commonwealth University. During the Concert, the Choir was joined on stage by members of the VCU Commonwealth Singers for an energetic collaboration in Handel's *Zadok the Priest*, conducted by their Director, John Guthmiller.

From Richmond the Choir flew down to Houston in Texas. We sang a concert in Houston, before moving on to sing in Austin and Waco – all three Texan audiences were at capacity and very, very enthusiastic! We flew home with many happy memories of the warm welcome we had received throughout the tour.

The Choir returned to College on Saturday 18 April to sing a Concert in Chapel as part of the Cambridge Cantat 800 week-long Celebration of Cambridge Choirs. The theme for our Concert was 'Cambridge Composers Past and Present' and included items by Christopher Tye, Orlando Gibbons and Robin Holloway. The Choir was joined on stage by Helen Scarborough on the Cor Anglais, who accompanied *O Lord, thou hast searched me out*, which had been composed for the Choir by John Rutter for the Ash Wednesday Service in 2007. The following evening the Choir sang Finzi's *Lo, the full final sacrifice* during a Festal Evensong as the concluding event in the series.

Kingston Upon Thames Parish Church was the venue for a Concert on Saturday 25 April as part of the Thames Concert Society Spring Series. Music for the evening included Cavalli *Salve Regina*, Bruckner *Christus factus est* and Purcell *My beloved spake* with excellent solos by Tom Verney and Gareth John – both of whom sang at the Church as Choristers before coming to University.

The Commemoration of Benefactors service on Sunday 3 May this year was particularly notable in that it marked the 500th Anniversary of the death of Lady Margaret Beaufort, the foundress of the College. To mark the occasion, the Choir sang *Jesu Rex Admirabilis*, which had been composed specially for the occasion by composer Gabriel Jackson.

In May the College celebrated the seventieth birthday of Jonathan Harvey, Honorary Fellow. The Ossian Ensemble performed his chamber music in the

Master's Lodge and Robert Houssart (former Organ Student) performed his organ works, including a remarkable *Toccata for organ and pre-recorded tape*. At Evensong the Choir sang his stunning and virtuoso *Magnificat* and *Nunc Dimittis*.

Members of Clare College Choir joined the Choir for Evensong on Thursday 7 May, when the setting for the Service was *Dyson in D* and the anthem was Parry's *Blest pair of Sirens*. On Sunday 10 May, the Bishop of Huntingdon, The Right Reverend David Thomson, presided at the annual Confirmation Service.

The newly formed Choir Association of St John's College, Cambridge held its Garden Party in the Master's Lodge Garden on Saturday 30 May. 50 members of the Association, along with the Choir and many family members, enjoyed afternoon tea in glorious sunshine and were entertained to a selection of songs from The Gentlemen of St John's. Having gone through a short rehearsal with Andrew during the afternoon, around 30 members joined with the Choir to sing Evensong to create a magnificent sonority.

Following last year's Joint Service (which was held at Trinity College), the Choirs joined together on Thursday 4 June to sing Evensong in St John's Chapel. The setting for the Service was *Stanford in A* and the anthem was Elgar's *The Spirit of the Lord*.

The Choir received an invitation from the Vice Chancellor to perform with King's College Choir at the Honorary Degree Congregation held at the Senate House on Friday 12 June. Amongst the recipients this year were Bill and Melinda Gates, the Aga Khan, Baroness Shirley Williams and the Master of the Queen's Music, Sir Peter Maxwell Davies. One of the works sung during the Congregation was *One star, at last* by Maxwell Davies.

This year's May Concert was held in the Chapel on Monday 15 June. A packed audience heard the Choir perform Copland's *In the beginning* with mezzo-soprano Emma Selway and, as a joint item with the St John's Singers, Handel's *Zadok the Priest*. The St John's Singers, conducted by Timothy Ravalde, performed Brahms' *Geistliches Lied*, and the College Orchestra, conducted by Bradley Smith, performed Beethoven's *Coriolan Overture*. The Gentlemen of St John's contributed with a selection from their summer repertoire. Other highlights were Handel's *Sonata in A Minor* played by Debbie Hannaway (recorder), Matthew Ward (cello), and John Challenger (harpsichord); Debussy's *Hommage à Rameau* (from Images Set 1) played by Aeron Preston (piano) and the first movement of Brahms' *Clarinet Sonata No 2* played by Laura Biron and Dominic Scott (piano).

The Graduation Service took place in Chapel on Thursday 25 June. The Chapel was filled with graduands and their families prior to their departure for the Senate

House. The Choir sang Howells *Te Deum (Collegium Regale)* and Fauré *Cantique de Jean Racine*.

Haydn's *Nelson Mass* was the setting for the Orchestral Mass which took place on Sunday 28 June. The orchestra for the occasion was led by Imogen Smith, mother of Chorister, George Smith. Lizzie Weisberg and Oliver Hunt were amongst the excellent soloists. A large number of Johnnians, who had attended the Johnnian Dinner the previous evening, were present for the Service.

King's College Choir joined the Choir for a Joint Evensong in Chapel on Thursday 2 July. Again with a Cambridge composers theme, the Choirs sang the Short Service by Robin Orr (in this year which marks the centenary of his birth) as well as works by Judith Weir and Jonathan Harvey.

As part of the Cambridge Cantat 800 Celebrations, several College Choirs combined to sing a concert on Wednesday 22 July as part of the BBC Proms series. This formed the Choir's fourth BBC broadcast of the year. The Choirs were joined by the BBC Symphony Orchestra, former Chorister and Choral Student Simon Keenlyside (baritone) and Thomas Trotter (organ). St John's and King's College Choirs combined to sing Jonathan Harvey's *Come Holy Ghost* and Judith Weir's *Ascending into Heaven* conducted by Andrew Nethsingha and Stephen Cleobury respectively, and the Gents joined with the other Choirs and Orchestra to sing Vaughan Williams' *Five Mystical Songs* conducted by Sir Andrew Davis. The Concert had been hugely oversubscribed, with requests for tickets in the pre-booking period outselling both the Opening and Last Nights of the Proms.

Following on from the success of the Choir's Concert at the 2008 Cambridge Summer Music Festival, the Choir was invited to sing at the 2009 Festival. Music for the evening included Poulenc's *Salve Regina*, Tallis's *Missa Salve Intemerata* and Copland's *In the beginning*, with mezzo-soprano soloist Frances Bourne.

It was an emotional night for the Choir, as it was the final event in the calendar this year and the last time the current Choir would sing together. We were very sad to say goodbye to Oliver Hunt, Tom Verney, Sam Furness, Gareth John and Dominic Kraemer who all leave this summer to pursue their careers elsewhere. And to Choristers Harry Cheatle, Teddy Day and George Smith, who move on to senior school this autumn. Our best wishes to them all.

Information on the Choir's planned activities for the 2009-10 academic year can be found on the Choir's website: [www.sjcchoir.co.uk](http://www.sjcchoir.co.uk).



**Caroline Marks**  
Choir Administrator

### **Music Society**

The Music Society had a large intake of new members at the beginning of Michaelmas Term and has gone on to enjoy a successful and busy year. We have continued to promote regular musical events in College including our series in the New Music Room and the organ recitals in Chapel. The standard of performance has been consistently high, and particular mention must be made of a set of three brilliant piano recitals given on consecutive days by former Committee member Ian Pong at the end of Michaelmas Term, shortly before he left the College to work in Geneva.

At the Michaelmas Term Concert the stage was shared by the newly-reformed College Orchestra, under the baton of Bradley Smith, and the St John's Singers, the College's mixed-voice choir. The Orchestra's re-establishment this year is one of the Society's most significant successes and it is due to the hard work and musicianship of Brad that it continues to thrive.

While in Michaelmas the Singers and Orchestra performed separately, in the Lent Term Concert their forces were combined for a memorable performance of the Mozart Requiem in the presence of a large and appreciative audience. It was an enormous pleasure to see so many members of the Music Society making music together.

It has been a privilege to work with such a supportive and energetic Committee. I would like to thank Professor Johnstone, Dr Glasscock, Dr Castelvecci, Mr Nethsingha and all my colleagues without whom the Music Society could not function.



### **Timothy Ravalde President**

### **History Society**

As 2008-9 President of the History Society I am honoured to have taken part in such a successful year. Our tenure got off to a flying start with Easter term's Garden Party, which, in a sign of times to come, was expertly managed by Sian Pooley, Jenny Morgan, Hannah Smith and Emma Macalister-Hall in the absence of the glandular-fever-ridden President. This year's History Society played host to some highly interesting topics. Beginning with Bee Wilson's talk on the adulteration of food, we swiftly moved on to a Gideon Mailer's take on the 2008 American election. By mid-November, however, we returned to more familiar fields with Liz Prochaska's talk on the displacement of the inhabitants of the Chagos Islands followed a week later by Dr Mary Dobson's musings on whether a seventeenth century Johnian discovered a cure for malaria. The next fixture for

the History Society was Dr Helen McCarthy's talk on the relationship between foreign policy and democracy, which was followed by Dr Foster's address on his upcoming book, *Gender, Master and Slavery*. Finally we were delighted to have Professor Hennessy residing over our Annual Dinner, giving us a rather comic discussion of the atomic bomb. We would like to thank them all for such an entertaining year. All that remains is to thank the Committee, without whom this year would not have been anywhere near such a success. May I also wish the best of luck to our successors, Eddie Crust, Andrew Browning, Paul Grethe and Ben Alden-Falconer.



**Jamie Spencer**  
**President**

### **Economics Society**

The St John's College Economics Society has enjoyed a variety of interesting events this year. We started off Michaelmas Term with a welcome evening to meet and greet the Freshers. In Lent Term, we held our Annual Options Evening with useful advice from older years, as well as invaluable input from Dr Geraats.

However, the highlight of this year was undoubtedly the Networking Evening jointly hosted with Trinity College Economics Society. We invited five distinguished alumni from different areas of finance and business to join us for an evening of information exchange and informal networking. We listened to a wealth of experience and advice from John's alumni: Andrew Nutter, Philip Russmeyer and Tammy Holmes, whose experiences range from venture capital to private equity, investment banking and economics consultancy.

The Annual Black Tie Dinner was an occasion to reflect on the year and to wish everyone the best for exams.

The Annual Black Tie Dinner was an occasion to reflect on the year and to wish everyone the best for exams. More recently, we invited Todd Buchholz, who is currently a Visiting Fellow Commoner at St John's, to speak to us about the 'Current State of the US Political Economy'. As a former Senior Economic Advisor to the White House, Todd has brushed shoulders with many influential people,

and is also the author of several bestselling books. He delivered an energetic and exciting talk on a very topical issue.

We end the year with our Annual Garden Party before handing over to our newly elected Co-Presidents Alex Cakir and James Forbes-King. There has been a much closer bond between the John's Economists this year, we are confident that next year will be just as great. 

**Lisa Chen and Chris Robinson**  
**Co-Presidents**

**Medical Society**

It has been another busy year for the St John's College Medical Society, with a wide range of speakers and events throughout. Our Wednesday evening talks, organised with the kind help of Professor David Lomas, have been very successful and we hope to continue them next year. In total we welcomed six speakers to the Society to talk on a diverse array of subjects related to medicine. Our inaugural speaker in Michaelmas Term was Kourosh Saeb Parsy, famous amongst medical students for writing a textbook as an undergraduate, who gave a talk on transplant medicine. In addition we had Robert Winter, well known to first year anatomists, and Professor Martin Gurnell to talk about respiratory disease and acromegaly respectively. In Lent we welcomed Professor Martin Bennett and Dr Sadaf Farooqi to talk about coronary artery disease and leptin and rounded off the term with a very entertaining talk entitled 'An unusual case of amnesia' by Dr Jeremy Webb. I give a great deal of thanks to all of our speakers.

On the social side we have also had a busy year. In addition to the Part II choices drinks, our yearly dinner was also a great success and once again we thank Professor Lomas for giving the after dinner speech. In the upcoming Michaelmas Term we hope to add to the social aspect, by holding drinks to help third years choose their clinical school. We would like to invite anybody who is still studying at any of the hospitals around the Cambridge area to get in touch with the Society as we would be very pleased to have you in attendance. Finally, I would like to introduce our new website [www.stjohnscollegemedicalsociety.com](http://www.stjohnscollegemedicalsociety.com), please do take a look and pass on any feedback that you may have. Next year the President of the Society will be Leanne Burgess and I wish her all the best. 

**Ben Brodie**  
**President**

### The Adams Society

The Adams Society's year kicked off in style with our annual Garden Party, held in the Fellows' Garden. Croquet, strawberries, and of course Pimms all contributed to a very enjoyable afternoon. May Week saw an influx of Trinitarians to our pitches, to take on the Society's cricketers. In an upturn of fortunes, we defeated them for the first time this century, with 174 runs to their 109.

We welcomed the new Mathematics Freshers with a successful squash at the start of Michaelmas Term. Our termly speaker meetings began with Professor Tom Körner talking about Mathematics and smallpox. We also learnt about various ways of trisecting angles from Dr Keith Carne. The Term concluded with the ever popular desserts party in the Wordsworth Room.

## The final meeting was rounded off with Professor Ben Green talking about the Riemann Hypothesis but unfortunately not proving it!

Lent Term began with a talk by Professor Ray Goldstein, on 'The Evolution of Biological Complexity', including several interesting videos. The second talk was given by Dr Richard Nickl, who gave us 'An Introduction to the Foundation of Frequentist Statistics'. The final meeting was rounded off with Professor Ben Green talking about the Riemann Hypothesis but unfortunately not proving it! The end of term saw the Society's Annual Dinner in the Senior Combination Room, and was an evening enjoyed by all.

I would like to thank all of this year's speakers, as well as the Mathematics Fellows and students of the College for their continued support of the Society. Finally, I would like to take the opportunity to thank this year's Committee, and to wish success to Adam Bennett, the new President, and next year's Committee.



**Vanessa Bingle**  
President



The Larmor Society Dinner

### **The Larmor Society**

2008-9 was a busy year for the Society which began with the annual book sale and Freshers welcome event. These events gave new students the chance to meet Natural Scientists from across years. Later in the year, the society organised the Parts IA and IB desserts evenings. These evenings were a great opportunity for students to discuss their subject options for the following year with other students. Given the breadth of choice of subjects offered within natural sciences, this is a difficult decision to make and advice from senior years is important.

One of the most exciting events organised by the Larmor Society was a talk by Professor Fiona Watt, a leading scientist in stem cell research. The talk gave us an interesting insight into the possibilities and future avenues in this highly topical area. The talk appealed to both biological and physical natural scientists. The final event of the year was the annual dinner which was a grand event that took place in the Senior Common Room. It was during this dinner that the results of next year's Committee were announced with Alice Flint being named the Society's President for next year and I wish her the best of luck. 

**Katie Graham**  
**President**

## The Winfield Society

The Winfield Society has once again had a very successful year. A particularly exciting event in Michaelmas Term was the Winfield Society Networking Event, organised by the Development Office, held at Lovells in London. Sir Richard Aikens, a Johnian, who had recently been appointed Lord Justice of Appeal, gave a talk on the settlement of international disputes in English courts. Afterwards, current undergraduates had a chance to talk to alumni of the College; many Johnians commented on how much they enjoyed talking to current undergraduates, and sharing memories of their time at St John's.

This year has seen the Society become more active in providing careers advice and networking opportunities for our students. We hosted a workshop with Robert Boyle, from Macfarlanes, on interview technique; Mr Nolan organised a talk about the Commercial Bar with members of Erskine Chambers, including Alex Barden; and Emily McKechnie, from Wilberforce Chambers, came to give an advocacy skills workshop. All of these events were well-attended, and the students found them useful and interesting.

The final event in Michaelmas was the annual Christmas party, generously sponsored by Freshfields.

Mooting featured heavily in Lent Term. David Sheard, an LLM student, provided some intensive mooting coaching for our first years in preparation for the annual Freshers' Moot, the standard of which was very high. The final was held in February, and Sarah Docherty was announced as the overall winner, with Andrew Dinsmore as runner up. We also had a number of students participating in University competitions.

We would like to thank Dr Fox, our Senior Treasurer, and our Committee for all of their support over the year. We have been delighted with the Society's achievements, and wish the Committee for 2009-10 the best of luck for next year.



**Natalie McNamee and Paul Reynolds**  
Co-Presidents

## COLLEGE SPORTS

### **The Eagles**

The Eagles of St John's College go from strength to strength, continuing to lead from the front in both College and University sport.

The Rugby club achieved an unprecedented 'Quadruple Double' under the leadership of Eagle Mayne. Where he left off, Eagle Hall began, with the Red Boys wrapping up formalities by early February to pick up their ninth successive League trophy. At University level, Eagle Hall, assisted by Eagle Shephard, captained the U20 XV to Varsity victory at Twickenham. Eagle Lum gained University colours for his efforts at LX Club Varsity. Eagle Reid gained his second Blue in an exciting, yet sadly unsuccessful, Varsity Match, while Eagle MacLennan got on the field for his first Blue.

In Hockey, Captain Eagle Mackenney's enthusiasm and flair have played an integral part in the club's progression in both League and Cuppers. He has been ably assisted by Eagles Morrison and Samuelson, and Eagles Hall and MacLennan. At University level, Eagle Robinson started in goal for the Blues in March, whilst Eagle Mackenney played a part in a winning seconds Varsity.

In Football, Eagle Redmond unfortunately did not represent the University this year due to a bruised metatarsal, but was lucky enough to find a spot on the bench for the Third XI. The First XI, with Eagle Tolley at the helm, has sailed smoothly over treacherous waters, with Eagle Hambleton at the bow and Eagle Verney from the stern.

On the water, Eagle Trnka and Eagle Shephard took the LMBC First VIII to second on the river in Mays. Meanwhile, Eagle Sleep has gained his Half Blue in Water Polo.

Eagle Hambleton led the Cricket XI to a successful season, while at University level, Eagle MacLennan followed in Eagle Smith's footsteps to gain a Blue.

In Racquets, Eagle Douglas has tried his hardest to break all University sporting records. The tenacious Geordie took his tally to eight undergraduate Blues with a win in the Squash Varsity, even playing with a broken finger.

Eagles are generally known for their size and powerful build, and nowhere was this more evident than in Eagle Wells' attempts for a Half Blue in Weightlifting. Secretary Eagle Whittington, when not organising varied and extensive social events, has been Secretary of the University Golf Club and is on course for his second Blue. Eagle Tolley has captained the St John's College Darts Squadron to an unbeaten season, whilst on the mat, Eagle Macleod remains an integral part

of the Cambridge Karate team and Eagle Kolodynski has been teaching the University Judo team.

All that is left is to thank our senior members: Dr McConnel, for both entertaining us with his Dark Blue fancy dress and for serving us tirelessly as Senior Treasurer, and both his and Wendy Redgewell's help in organising the dinner; Dr Linehan for continuing to provide a wicket for the post-dinner room cricket; the Master for all his support; and Keith Ellis, for continuing to excel in his role as Groundsman.

It is tremendous honour to be a part of such an institution and I am incalculably proud to lead a club that remains at the forefront of University sport. 

### **Scott MacLennan** **Captain**

#### **Men's Rugby**

The Red Boys settled into the 2008-9 League fixtures with victories against Downing and Trinity. The nerves present at the start of the season began to ease as the Freshers proved that the club had lost none of its strength and depth, showing that a historic five doubles in a row was within grasp.

This year also saw a record number of Red Boys represent Cambridge at all levels. Alexander Torrens led seven Red Boys in the U20As successful retention of their trophy. Eleven Redboys helped the U20 XV. The LX Club saw a great performance from Will Mayne and Richard Lum, before Sandy Reid and Scott MacLennan



The victorious Red Boys

represented Cambridge in the main game at Twickenham. Aaron Sonenfeld managed to pick up a well deserved Rugby League Half Blue.

2009 began in style with the Red Boys winning their ninth consecutive League title. The Lent Term saw the resurrection of the SJCRUFC Second Team who were cruelly denied a place in the League. The mighty seconds destroyed Robinson before the dream of an all John's Cuppers final was put down by St Edmund's.

After a lengthy break, the First Team returned with victories against Queens' and Jesus. A cancelled semi-final against Hughes Hall ensured a well lubricated annual dinner and a final against a St Edmund's side that contained an All Black, an England international and eight other Blues. With a fifth double on the line the Red Boys came out of the blocks at the required tempo with the game ending 23-12 and bringing with it the 'Quintuple Double'.

All the Red Boys are extremely grateful to Groundsman Keith Ellis for his continuing hard work. Thanks to Dr Samworth for his support and to Dr McConnell as Senior Treasurer. I would like to thank the rest of the Committee for their invaluable help. Good luck to next year's Committee and team, hopefully next year will see Freshers attempting to find the word for what six in a row is...



### **William Hall Captain**

#### **Women's Rugby**

The great achievement of winning Cuppers last year meant the pressure was on for SJCWRFC for 2008-9. Aided by coaches Aaron Sonenfeld, Alex Cheetham and Sandy Reid, we set about polishing off the cobwebs. Unfortunately, the first game of the season came too soon and John's lost to eventual League winners Murray Edwards (New Hall).

Undeterred, we returned to beat Fitzwilliam and Selwyn before the Christmas break. Credit must go to Amanda Scott for nine tries in three games, which contributed greatly to our excellent points margin. Freshers Natacha Crooks and Viki McEvoy made fantastic debuts, alongside Hockey star Franji Scott, converted footballer Belen Tejada-Romero and boatie Kat McLoughlin. Returning stars Becca Conroy and Lindsay McMorrان joined the backs, where a fantastic performance by Becca earned her two tries in her first match on the wing. Veteran Clare Briscoe continued to be a Captain's dream – arriving early for training and playing in whatever position needed.



The Women's Rugby Team

The forwards were led by Vice-Captain Rhi Pugh, who was summoned from University retirement to join the Second Team in the winning Varsity squad. Forward Hannah Wells and scrum half Charlotte Wheeler-Booth also earned starting positions in the University Team. In our final match of the season Charlotte converted 100% to seal the win over a strong Emma side. Team spirit and dedication pushed us to second in the League, marginally missing first position due to the number of tries scored.

This season Cuppers changed to a one-day tournament played in the Easter Term, where John's were hoping, at the time of writing, to defend their title. Meanwhile, thanks goes to Keith Ellis for his tolerance of our ever-fickle fixture list, to our supporters and to our fantastic coaches who have helped to improve the level of Women's Rugby in John's.

Hannah Wells takes over as Captain next year, with Belen Tejada-Romero as Vice-Captain. I wish them the best of luck and hope the growth and success of SJCW RFC continues.



**Carol Evans**  
**Captain**

**Men's Football**

Ours was a season that finished strongly, with the team eventually coming in second in the First Division on 17 points, with 5 wins, 2 draws and 2 tight defeats. We managed an unbeaten run in the League from November through to the end of the season, which showed potential Title-winning form, but we were let down by our unconvincing start to the year; and, if anyone asks, Cuppers never happened.

The team was glad to see a few new faces join this year. The athletic Pete Stovall added strength and commitment to the back line, the dynamic Kit Fitton offered pace and short-range passing ability at right-back, while Jamie Day brought with him an unbelievable work rate. Nick Cross also deserves a mention for his persistence, and somewhat surprising enthusiasm, at officiating matches this year – not only as a referee but also as a linesman.

Unfortunately this has also been the farewell year for a number of players. Martin MacQuarrie and Wayne Redmond will be vacating the positions they have held so well on opposite wings, while Paul and Mike will be leaving an irreplaceable Edwards-shaped hole at centre-back. Nick Pantelides will also be leaving after some remarkable years of College football.

After coming so close to League success this year, and with the core of the team – the indomitable Jack Hambleton up front, Chris Maynard, Jamie Spencer, Yusuf Mohammad and myself in the midfield, and Tom Verney in goal – staying on at College, the omens for next season look promising. Alex Rutt, the new Captain, will inherit a team primed for silverware.

**Chris Tolley  
Captain****Women's Football**

This year St John's Women's Football achieved something that has never been achieved before; winning the Plate. Having lost several of our seasoned players, we kicked off the year with a relatively inexperienced side, leading to a less than desirable performance in the League and a knock-out in the first round of Cuppers by Jesus, who went on to win. All was not lost, however, and a combination of hard training (including morning runs around Jesus Green) and sheer determination saw the team beat the likes of Downing, Newnham, Magdalene and Caius to go on to win the Plate.



The Women's Football Team

This victory could not have been achieved without the dedication of each of the players involved. Amanda Scott's Vice-Captaining will be remembered by all, for those character-building morning fitness sessions and player-of-the-season runs down the left wing. I'd also like to thank Anna Ettl and Rebecca Colley for all their work as Social Secretaries. Hazel Lindsey's dedication both on and off the pitch was something to be admired as well as Natacha Crooks' stunning performances in goal; the two go on to be Captain and Vice-Captain respectively next year. John's will be very sad to lose Lizzie Richardson, who has been a major part of College and University football over the last three years; Captaining and coaching in her second year and providing a solid defence and general advice throughout. We also say goodbye to Carol Evans, who has played some great matches in defence (when she wasn't too busy captaining the mighty Women's Rugby team).

Thanks to everyone who played this year (including the cameo appearances) and helped make the team so successful. It has been a real honour to play for and captain St John's and I wish the team the best of luck for the next season. 🏴󠁧󠁢󠁥󠁮󠁧󠁿

**Clare Stevenson**  
**Captain**

## **Netball**

Expectations were high and player potential impressive as the 2008-9 Netball season started. In their first game, the Mixed Team were narrowly defeated, which was not unexpected following the key losses of last year's graduates. The Ladies' Team also had a shaky start, but a positive attitude and hard work in practice saw them steadily climbing the League table with well fought wins. Convincing victories for both teams left them sitting comfortably in the top half of their respective First Divisions by the end of the first term.

Unfortunately, both teams were hit by a string of injuries. The remaining members ploughed on doggedly, playing in all nature's elements, and deserve recognition for the way they maintained morale. Although movement on the court remained excellent, the final scores did not reflect the teams' overall performances.

Both teams displayed determination, despite severely depleted squads, at the 2009 Cuppers Tournament. The Mixed Team secured a place in the quarter finals, but Emmanuel defeated them in extra time by one goal. The Ladies' Team fell just short of a quarter-final place, sidelined by an incredible performance by the eventual winners, Trinity, and a one goal deficit against an impressive Trinity Hall. It was a day of spectacular performance and camaraderie.



The mixed Netball Team in action

It was a great season, for both teams, in terms of team spirit. We bonded at our inaugural Rubix-cube themed social, whilst the annual Netball dinner remains, for many, one of the highlights of the social calendar. Sadly, both teams' hard work on court, undermined by injury, may not be reflected in League positioning, but we have every confidence that this performance dip will be rectified next year. We wish Natasha Williams, assisted by Dawn Kelly and Kate Cope, every success as Captain next season!



### **Pippa Dobson** **Captain**

#### **Men's Hockey**

2008-9 saw John's look to a new era of College Hockey, with five Freshers regularly making the side, we began the season with a 4-3 victory against a strong St Catharine's side.

While University Hockey helped the College form of Denver, Dickens and Mackenney, it unfortunately stole the Blues talent of Yelland and Robinson from our set up. This did not stop John's from dispatching Jesus 4-1, which saw us challenging for the Michaelmas League First Division. Unbeaten until a final match defeat against a respectable Cambridge City outfit, it proved to be a highly successful first half of the season. This success stemmed from the interchangeable obstacles of Armitage and Hall in goal, with Brooks, Dickens, Paluch, Olliver and Lock offering extra protection around the D.

The midfield workhorses of Turner, Birks, Mackenney and MacQuarrie gave further flair and stability to the side, while Morrison even found time in his hectic management schedule to grab us a couple of vital goals with his trusty drag flick. Up front Vice-Captain Samuelson and Denver worked tirelessly, collecting the majority of our goals.

Unfortunately, the season was not so much one of two halves, as the format of the League dictates, but a far more stop-start affair than all would have liked and saw our Cuppers hopes dashed in the semi-final. The weather during the Lent Term conspired against us; heavy snowfall postponed three matches and meant a disjointed end to the season. Nevertheless, a strong display against the Cambridge City side, who denied us the Michaelmas League title, was a fitting end to an enjoyable season. I wish incoming Captain, James Armitage, every success in his tenure next season.



### **Peter Mackenney** **Captain**

### **Men's Cricket**

For the Cricket Team this year it was a season of fresh faces and great enjoyment but ultimately disappointment in the Cuppers competition.

A humbling batting collapse in the opening match of the season against the Suffolk Gents meant we started with a loss, in a performance that was to define the rest of our season. An excellent bowling performance followed in the inaugural match against sister-college Balliol, particularly from Chris Tolley and James Linney, but once again the batting was poor. We went into the first Cuppers match with Emmanuel with little form behind us and that showed when we were 9-3, chasing 126. Fortunately Hunt came to the rescue with 33 and it was left to the skipper to hit the winning runs in what was a sweet victory. The joy did not last long, however, as we were knocked out of the competition by Trinity Hall two days later.

Fortunately Hunt came to the rescue with 33 and it was left to the skipper to hit the winning runs in what was a sweet victory.

Despite the poor results there were some excellent individual performances throughout the season. James Linney was excellent with both bat and ball, while Simon Lock's bowling and Tom Sutton's spin picked up plenty of wickets. Unfortunately, with former Captain, Jack Hambleton, not finding his form of last year, the batting struggled, but in Charlie Dewhurst, Akash Pancholi, Jenan Wijayasri, Oli Hunt and Tim Allen there is much hope for the future. We were grateful, as always, to the experience the graduates (Muhammed Irfan, Chris Rice, Nic Ross and Ed McNeilly) brought to the team.

My thanks go to Keith Ellis for his outstanding efforts in organising matches and preparing the pitch for these games. It has been a very enjoyable summer leading this enthusiastic group of players and I look forward to playing with them again next year.



**Jonathan Ariyaratnam**  
**Cricket Captain**

### Mixed Lacrosse

As Lacrosse is a little known sport, played by few and understood by fewer at St John's, the loss of many of our most experienced players in summer 2008 presented the club with new challenges. Rebuilding the team began in earnest at the Freshers' Fair where, jostling for attention between more prestigious clubs and societies offering free cake, we fought to attract new members. Chief among the recruiters was Toby Al-Mugheiry, whose scintillating chat resulted in a horde of keen Freshers assembling for our training sessions.

Instructing this motley crew was greatly helped by Polly Mitchell and Rosanna Dawes, who guided new members in training. Over the course of a few weeks our novices, who initially struggled to pass, catch and maintain possession, were transformed into proficient players, who relished the heat of battle.

Such spirit was shown in an epic contest against Magdalene. In the midst of driving snow, St John's put in a heroic defensive performance to hold a bigger, faster and more skilful side to a goalless draw. In fact, the 0-0 became something of a speciality this season as Adam Whyte, Osagie Omokhodion and Will Johnston distinguished themselves at the back. Helen Morgan-Rees, Susannah Keene, Gina Blake, Sarah Wedmore and Livvy Richards provided metronomic passing going forward. Creativity in attack came from Fresher Lauren York, who also represented the University Team.

Unfortunately, our uncompromising checks and our cheerleaders could not take us past the quarter-finals of Cuppers, where we lost an absorbing encounter against Jesus. While silverware proved elusive, the Committee successfully maintained club ethos of inclusivity, fun and brutal tackling. Luke Lorimer and Sejal Mahida organised social events, Jon Shephard secured funding for new equipment. I wish Toby Al-Mugheiry, the new Captain, all the best. 

### Tom Chigbo Captain

### Ultimate

Ultimate is a relatively new and little-known sport that enjoys remarkable popularity in Cambridge. It is a seven player team sport, where the aim is to throw a flying disc (like a frisbee) between your team, before catching it in the opponent's end zone to score a point.

For a second consecutive year St John's has fielded a team in the inter-College League, aided by a large and remarkably keen bunch of Freshers, most of whom

were new to the sport. This was very encouraging, especially as many colleges have to collaborate together to put a team out, and has allowed us to build on what was a fairly unforgiving introduction to the sport last year.

Rapid improvement throughout Michaelmas and Lent Terms, with development of a new defensive strategy, as well as plenty of substitutes, and a Great Britain player now places us top of the Second Division; a massive improvement after finishing bottom of it last year!

We've enjoyed some really comprehensive victories, giving us a very pretty points difference, some amazing diving catches and general team spirit. Playing in the Easter Term is particularly enjoyable, as better weather, especially less wind, makes playing a lot easier and a lot more fun. 

### **Nick Jenkins** **Captain**

#### **Ladies' Badminton**

The Ladies' Badminton Team have had a brilliant year. After being relegated in the League last year, the First Team were able to turn things around, and following a successful string of wins in Michaelmas Term were promoted to the First Division. The Second Team have maintained their position in the Third Division, coming very close to being promoted at the end of Lent Term.

At the end of the year, our Cuppers Team: Mengying Dong, Julia Hine, Emma Macalister Hall, Sarah James, Su Liu and myself comfortably beat Newnham and Homerton, giving us a place in the semi-finals. Very unfortunately, we came close, but didn't quite manage to defeat Trinity for a place in the finals. Nevertheless, considering that we were unable to put out a full team for this tournament last year, this is a remarkable improvement!

Finally, these results are fantastic given that many team members were completely new to the game and played matches against old hands. I would like to say a huge thank you to the Co-Captain of the First Team, Emma Macalister Hall and the Co-Captains of the Second Team, Nicola Hughes and Kathryn Maude, who've all helped make this year as successful as it has been. 

### **Lisa Chen** **Co-Captain**

### Men's Badminton

This year John's First Team saw a return of veterans Nick Jenkins, Chris Thomas, Varadom Charoensawen and Amar Shah; they were joined by Freshers Hamish Peebles, Adi Gurtu and University player Lisa Chen.

The First Team began in the Second Division in Michaelmas Term. It soon became clear that they were far too good to be there. John's First Team became a name to be feared, emphatically beating all opposition, often by scores of 8-1 or more. We won a total of 40 games out of 54 to finish top of the Second Division and were promoted to the First Division at the beginning of Lent Term. The First Team continued to perform solidly in Lent Term despite coming up against some very tough opposition and finished fourth overall.

John's first team became a name to be feared, emphatically beating all opposition, often by scores of 8-1 or more.

The Second Team consisted of Luke Lorimer (Captain), Matt Turner, Defeng Wu, Kan Lu, Fumi Mori, Dahir Alihassan and Patrick English. After a League restructure, they found themselves in a strong Third Division in Michaelmas Term, which would be a big challenge to stay in given the almost complete turnover of players from last year's squad. In Michaelmas we managed to consolidate our Third Division status and in Lent Term our play improved, as we managed to finish mid-table.

The Third Team was also placed in a tough Division in Michaelmas Term with four other college First Teams. Third years Dave Nissenbaum, Pip Coen and second years Amar Marthi and Dan Lu (Captain) were joined by Patrick English, Samir Javeri, Derrick Sim, Martin Swinton, Paras Bakrania and Seb Hollington. Unfortunately, results did not go our way and the team was relegated. However, they showed great dedication and determination to finish mid table at the end of Lent Term.

This has been a promising season both in terms of the results and the signs of new talents coming through. I have every confidence that next year's Captain, Nick Jenkins, with his great motivational and organisational skills, will be able to take the club to new heights.



**Di Liang**  
**Captain**

**Pool**

The successes of last season were always going to be a hard feat to follow, especially with the majority of the First Team moving on to pastures new. The situation was further compounded by the retirement of Gopalan Radhakrishnan, who has faithfully served St John’s Pool for many years. However, the new look team of Jon Nelson, Dunstan Barnes, Steve Legg Tier, Dan Andrews, Abu Shoaib and Alex Senninger were able to give John’s a great start by defeating Homerton, a team with two University players and high ambitions. A run of near-misses followed, including a close game against defending champions Robinson, until a fine team performance saw a 5-4 dispatching of rivals Trinity, one of the pre-season favourites. Wins soon followed again with a controversial exchange against Peterhouse and a comprehensive beating of Magdalene, to see that John’s are rooted in mid-table of the top flight as the season closed.

The Second Team, of Rob Bell (Captain), regular players Ed Howarth, Ed Allen, Tom Sutton, Arash Moavenian, and squad members Adam Wawrzynski, Jack Yelland and Arnold Lee, had a more difficult season in the Second Division. However, it was instrumental in unearthing some promising young talent, most notably Tom, whose fine form saw a call-up to the First Team, where he won his singles game.

Next year promises more stability in the side, and I wish the new Captain every success in another assault on the First Division title in the 2009-10 season. 

**Jon Nelson  
Captain**

**Lady Margaret Boat Club**

**Women’s Crews**

*The First Michaelmas IV*

Bow	Kat McLoughlin
2	Rhiannon Pugh
3	Francesca Yates
Str	Lara Maister
Cox	David Barraclough

*The Second Michaelmas IV*

Bow	Bryony Shelton
2	Fran O’Brien
3	Megan Leitch
Str	Amy Bray
Cox	George Davies

*The First Fairbairns VIII*

Bow	Bryony Shelton
2	Amy Bray
3	Alex Reichl
4	Fran O'Brien
5	Francesca Yates
6	Rhiannon Pugh
7	Kat McLoughlin
Str	Lara Maister
Cox	David Barraclough

*The First Lent VIII*

Bow	Amy Bray
2	Ellie Fielding
3	Hermione Mackay
4	Francesca Yates
5	Kat McLoughlin
6	Ursula Moore
7	Rhiannon Pugh
Str	Bryony Shelton
Cox	Calum Bambro

*The Second Lent VIII*

Bow	Rachel Elliot
2	Sarina Kidd
3	Alice Meredith
4	Kat De Rome
5	Alex Reichl
6	Fran O'Brien
7	Sarah Docherty
Str	Pippa Howell
Cox	David Barraclough

**Men's Crews***The Henley VIII*

Bow	Duncan McCombe
2	Toby Parnell
3	William Hall
4	Alex Gilbert
5	Hector Gray
6	Mike Shephard
7	Neil Houlsby
Str	Aled Jones
Cox	Hayley Fisher

*Light IV*

Bow Neil Houlbsby\*  
 2 Aled Jones  
 3 Edward Crossley  
 Str Hector Gray  
 \* steerer

*First Coxed IV*

Bow Ciaran Woods  
 2 Daniel Paine  
 3 James Armitage  
 Str Edward Moore  
 Cox Kayla Kindon-Bebb

*Second Coxed IV*

Bow Richard Curling  
 2 Sebastian Lapinski  
 3 Jake Clark  
 Str Nick Milton  
 Cox Jen McCann

*Third Coxed IV*

Bow Dave Lewis  
 2 Alastair Williams  
 3 Giles Colclough  
 Str Alastair Smith  
 Cox Susannah Keene

*The First Fairbairns VIII*

Bow Edward Crossley  
 2 Aled Jones  
 3 Jake Clark  
 4 Matthew O'Connor  
 5 Neil Houlbsby  
 6 Leo Scott  
 7 Alex Rose  
 Str Hector Gray  
 Cox Kayla Kingdon-Bebb

*The Second Fairbairns VIII*

Bow David Lewis  
 2 Richard Curling  
 3 Robert Emberson  
 4 Ciaran Woods  
 5 Giles Colclough  
 6 Alastair Smith  
 7 Jan Trnka  
 Str Daniel Paine  
 Cox Jen McCann

*The First Lent VIII*

Bow Jake Clark  
 2 Toby Parnell  
 3 Edward Crossley  
 4 Alastair Smith  
 5 Neil Houlbsby  
 6 Leo Scott  
 7 Alex Rose  
 Str Hector Gray  
 Cox Jen McCann

*The Second Lent VIII*

Bow Dan Knights  
 2 Brian Biggs  
 3 Steve Purvis  
 4 Oliver Withers  
 5 Joe Allen  
 6 James Robinson  
 7 Richard Curling  
 Str Daniel Paine  
 Cox Gina Blake

*The First May VIII*

Bow	Steve Purvis
2	Aled Jones
3	Alex Rose
4	Toby Parnell
5	Leo Scott
6	Hector Gray
7	Neil Houlsby
Str	Matthew O'Connor
Cox	Kayla Kingdon-Bebb

*The Second May VIII*

Bow	James Phillips
2	Richard Curling
3	Oliver Withers
4	Joe Allen
5	Alastair Smith
6	Pierre Guerin
7	James Robinson
Str	Jake Clark
Cox	Ben McCann

*The Third May VIII*

Bow	George Irwin
2	Hamish Gordon
3	Adam Jones
4	Iain Olliver
5	David Lewis
6	Charles Compton
7	Giles Colclough
Str	Brian Biggs
Cox	Georgina Blake

**Women's Coaches**

A big thank you to Roger Silk, Ben Symonds, Henry Addison, Lance Badman, Hannah Stratford, Karen Weimer, Nathalie Walker, Gerald Weldon, Alison Gledhill, Cath Mangan and Belen Tejado-Romero for all their coaching.

**Men's Coaches**

A big thank you to Edward Crossley, Ciaran Woods, Karen Wiemer, Nick Geddes, Lance Badman, Bill Budenberg, Hannah Stratford, Jan Trnka, Gerald Weldon, Henry Addison, Tony Prior, John Durack, Jon Rhodes, Bill Harcourt, Roger Silk, Andy Jones and Sandy Black for all their coaching.

**The Lady Margaret Boat Club – Women  
Michaelmas 2008****Novices**

The novice crews had a great start to the Term, with the First Boat coming fourth in the Queens' Ergs final but in initial heats were the fastest of all Cambridge colleges. In Clare Novice Sprints the First Boat beat Homerton in the first round

but then lost narrowly to the eventual winners, Anglia Ruskin. The Second Boat performed extremely well in the first round, beating City, but narrowly lost in the second round. The Third Boat beat Downing Women's Seconds before losing out to the eventual winners of the Plate, Jesus Second Boat. The First Boat performed fantastically, winning the Women's Novice VIII Division, a tremendous well done to the entire crew, their cox and coaches. The Second Boat had an eventful race, finishing 41st overall. The Third Boat had a fantastic race finishing 33rd beating six first boats. The Fourth Women were the fastest, and only, Women's Fourth on the river finishing in 43rd overall. A great set of results for which thanks must go to all the coaches, Lower Boats Captain Fran O'Brien, her vice Bryony Shelton and Lance Badman.

### **Seniors**

With the arrival of a rather large intake of Freshers, Michaelmas Term saw the squad split in two. We started with two IVs for the University IVs race, in two separate divisions. The First IV beat Churchill easily in the first round, before unfortunately being knocked out by Christ's, who lost to the eventual winners. The Second IV got knocked out in the second round, also by Christ's

The IVs then merged into an VIII after the racing. Training continued and the first race entered as an VIII was Winter Head; the crew performed well to finish fifth out of the college crews in their division. The First IV also entered coming fifth, despite extreme fatigue. The crew had a slight change and got settled into training for Fairbairns. After a disappointing race in which we came eighth in Fairbairns we decided to focus more intently on high pressure training.

### **Lent Term 2009**

The Lents started with a training camp in Seville, a fantastic new experience for LMBC. Two VIIIs of seniors and ex-novices spent a week training hard on and off the water. Our thanks to the LMBCA for their support of this camp.

Back in Cambridge, selection began. A high retention rate allowed us to field three women's crews. Under excellent coaching the First Boat showed steady improvement. The first race of term was Winter Head to Head where the crew came sixth and the Second Boat won their category. The next race was Newnham Short Course where both crews came fourth in their respective divisions. Pembroke Regatta was the final race before Bumps, with the Second Boats showing their potential by winning the Second Division. The First Boat performed well, before eventually being knocked out by Christ's in the second round.

A disappointing result on the first day saw First Boat get bumped by Queens' on the reach and after some confusion and a re-row on the second day the First Boat

eventually got bumped by Christ's outside the Plough. After a well fought row over on the third day we had our final bump on the fourth day, catching Clare in under two minutes.

On the first day the Second Boat were bumped by Peterhouse First Boat on Ditton Corner, and after a row over on the second day were bumped by Magdalene First Boat on the third day, pushing Fitzwilliam First Boat all the way. On the last day they had another row over.

The Third Boat didn't race until the Getting on Race, narrowly missing out on a place in Bumps.

The Henley boat races were raced shortly after the end of term. Eva-Maria Hempe performed extremely well in the two seat of Blondie, who defeated their counterparts Osiris by two lengths. Congratulations to her.

### **May Term 2009**

Unfortunately due to unavailability the women were unable to travel off Cam for a training camp. The term started well with First Boat victory in Head of the Cam. The First Boat and the Second Boat both travelled off-Cam to take part in Poplar Regatta. The First Boat lost by one foot to Thames RC in the INT2 division, and after some questionable steering on the part of their rivals came third in the INT3 final having won their heat. The Second Boat performed extremely well, beating Murray Edwards First Boat easily in the Novice division to win their pots. Champs Head was disappointing for Women's Firsts who came fifth.

### **Francesca Yates Women's Captain**

### **The Lady Margaret Boat Club – Men Henley 2008**

A slightly weakened First May VIII was sent to the Henley Qualifiers where the crew missed qualification by a couple of seconds. We are very thankful for the continued support from the LMBCA who make the Henley effort possible. We were very sorry to see our Boatman and Head Coach Raf Wyatt leave. Thanks are also due to last year's Captain Hayley Fisher who led the club through a very successful season.

**Michaelmas Term 2008****Novices**

A large contingent of novices proved their strength at Queens' Ergs. The First Boat came second to Anglia Ruskin, the Second Boat won their category and the Third Boat came second in theirs. The Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Boats were the fastest Fourths, Fifths and Sixths Boats respectively. The Sixth Boat notably beat several First Boats, including King's.

More success followed with the First Boat winning Clare Sprints, in a field of 32. In Fairbairns, the novices continued their extremely successful Term; the First Boat won the First Division, the Second Boat came second in their Vllls and having the fastest Third, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Boats.

**Seniors**

We started Michaelmas Term by welcoming aboard a new Boatman, Lance Badman. With lots of enthusiastic oarsmen including several First May colours we were able to enter one Light IV and three coxed IVs into University IVs.

The Third IV punched well above their weight winning two rounds against Second Boats, but eventually losing in the semi-final to our Second IV, who had previously beaten First and Third. The Second IV succumbed in the final to a strong Emmanuel IV. The First coxed IV, who bore the brunt of the injuries, lost in their first round to a strong Trinity Hall crew. The Light IV won their category over a relatively large field this year, the highlight was beating Downing in the semi-final by twelve seconds in one of the fastest times of recent years.

The senior Vllls had mixed fortunes at Fairbairns; the First Boat never quite came together, coming fourth out of the Cambridge colleges. The Second Boat, however, won their competition by a whopping forty-four seconds.

**Lent Term 2009**

This year saw a pre-term training camp in Spain. Four Vllls trained on the river Guadalquivir in Seville. Significant technical improvements were made under the watchful eye of Lance Badman. The perfect rowing conditions made this a highly successful winter training camp. We are very grateful to the LMBCA, for without their support many athletes would struggle to attend.

Winter Head to Head was the first performance indicator of the term with one of the coxed IVs from the First Boat winning; the First Boat, however, did not perform so well. The Second Boat, consisting mainly of novices, showed potential and narrowly came second. The First Boat made significant improvement with some coaching accompanied off-Cam to the Head of the Trent

by the Second Boat. At the Head of the Trent the crews were slightly weakened due to an outbreak of mumps.

Meanwhile the Third Boat, which proved to be the fastest Third Boat at Winter Head to Head, followed up this success by being the fastest Third Boat in Newnham Short Course and coming second at Pembroke Regatta.

It was very pleasing to field a Fourth and a Fifth Boat in the Lent Term. The Fourth Boat won two rounds at Pembroke Regatta; only being knocked out by the Third Boat in the semi-final. The highlight of the term was the fact the both crews qualified for Lent Bumps; LMBC being the only club to field five boats in the Lents. The Fourth Boat did very well bumping Selwyn Second Boat and Christ's Third Boat. The Fifth Boat finished the highest Fifth Boat in Bumps.

## For the first time in several years, both the First and Second Boats continued to train after the end of Term before racing at the Head of the River Race on the Tideway.

In the Lent Bumps the First Boat had an unsettled row on the first day and never achieved a powerful rhythm, which resulted in getting bumped by Downing. On the remaining three nights the crew put in stronger performances, staying close to Downing, but not able to bump back up. The Second Boat did not fair so well either on day one, being overbumped by a fast Peterhouse First Boat on its way up. They had a brave second day's racing however, fighting off Caius Second Boat. They then rowed over clear of Caius in the remaining days, but couldn't catch Robinson First Boat. The Third Boat were the most successful Maggie crew this Lents – rowing over, bumping Girton Second Boat, then Trinity Hall Second Boat, before rowing over again. Congratulations to them.

After Lent Bumps Hector Gray and Neil Houlsey raced in Trinity Second Challenge pairs; we beat all other college pairs, but lost narrowly to two lightweight Blues.

For the first time in several years, both the First and Second Boats continued to train after the end of Term before racing at the Head of the River Race on the Tideway. The First Boat found itself boxed in for most of the race and had a gutsy row. The crew finished slightly behind where it started, at 150th. The Second Boat, despite trailing

a splash-top for part of the course, came 344th, notably beating several Oxford and Cambridge college First boats. Many thanks to Tom Edwards-Moss, John Davey and Jocy Williams; ex-LMBC rowers who hosted the crews before the race.

### **May Term 2009**

The May Term was preceded by potential First and Second May Boat oarsmen participating in a training camp at Ely. Many miles were covered in Vllls and IVs and seat racing was used to help make some tough selection choices.

The first event of the Term for the top boats was Wallingford Regatta. Middle IV of the First Boat made the final of Intermediate two IVs, coming fourth out of thirteen IVs. The First Boat had a gutsy row in Intermediate Two just missing the final. The Second Boat fought hard in what was their first multi-lane regatta, narrowly losing to a couple of significantly more experienced crews. The following week both crews went to Poplar Regatta. The First Boat qualified for the final of Intermediate Two, had a fairly quick row in the final, coming fourth overall. We then had a straight final in Intermediate One against Hampton School First Boat. After losing a length in the early part of the race, the crew clawed it back and after a much more effective sprint finished just a quarter of a length down. The Second Boat came second in Novice, and raced hard in Intermediate Three, unfortunately not qualifying for the final.

## **Back on the Cam the Third Boat was the fastest Third Boat in Spring Head to Head.**

Back on Cam the Third Boat was the fastest Third Boat in Spring Head to Head. The Fourth Boat was the second fastest in its category. The Fifth Boat (Graduates and Fellows boat) did well as the only Fifth Boat, beating all but one Fourth Boat, including our own. The Fifth Boat then beat several Third and Fourth Boats at Champs Head.

The First Boat made progress throughout the Term but narrowly missed qualification to the final in Intermediate Two at the Metropolitan Regatta.

As always, in the May Bumps, some very unusual races were seen. The Fifth Boat (Graduates and Fellows) and the Sixth Boat (Rugby boat) had both bumped and been bumped in the first three days and were three boats apart on Saturday. The crews in between them bumped out. An ejector crab was then caught in the Fifth Boat; in the period of time it took the Sixth Boat to gain the five lengths the ejected four-man climbed back in and Fifth Boat restarted just ahead of the Sixth

Boat who then careered into grassy corner. It was very close, but the overbump was given by the umpires.

The Fourth Boat did well to row over three times before bumping Jesus Fourth Boat on the last day. The Third Boat were most successful boat in the Mays going up three by bumping Girton Second Boat, Robinson Second Boat and Fitzwilliam Second Boat. Well done to them.

The Second Boat rowed over four times in the first two days as sandwich boat; an extremely tiring feat. They were bumped by a fast King's First Boat on the Friday and rowed over again on Saturday, closing in on Robinson First Boat but unable to catch them.

The First Boat rowed over on Wednesday; on Thursday they were bumped by a fast Caius crew who almost reclaimed the headship. On Friday the First Boat almost held off Jesus and were disappointed to be bumped just before the finish. On Saturday the prospect of a down three loomed as Downing claimed overlap, at that point technique seemed to go out of the window in exchange for power. This found the First Boat at the railings a canvas clear. After an epic fight up the reach Downing were bumped by Pembroke at the Railway Bridge and the crew trailed over the line, extremely relieved.

We would like to thank Lance Badman for his efforts and LMBC are lucky to have him for future years. Again, thanks to all members of the LMBCA who provide the support allowing LMBC to exist. Finally, thanks to the Junior Committee who have helped with the running of the club and good luck to Matt O'Connor who will be taking over Captaincy next year. 

## **Neil Houlby & Will Gray Captains**

### **Water Polo**

After successful promotion to the First Division, St John's College Water Polo Club has had a mixed year. With strict new rules limiting the number of Blues allowed in the water, we lacked enough players for our first two matches, this resulted in losses against Magdalene and Christ's. After a burst of enthusiasm our next match against The Leys B saw a great win with almost everybody in the water getting at least one goal. Keeves and So were excellent returning performers, while Alden-Falconer and Scott were two great additions to the team. This result was enough to keep our team full for the rest of term, though the remaining matches were against the two best teams in the League. Our match against The Leys A resulted in a heavy loss whilst our match against Addenbrooke's saw us come closest to

beating them of any other team. Despite these losses we came fourth in the League and this will allow us to continue playing high class Water Polo next season, even though the scores might not be as favourable for us!

With the Cuppers rules allowing multiple Blues players in the water, we managed to field a nearly full squad of eleven players. We won both of our Group matches against Selwyn and a tough St Catharine's team to go through to the quarter finals against Queens'.

Queens' were a very tough team to beat and it came down to a last minute goal for us. The semi-final against Christ's was hard and unfortunately we could not keep up with them.

Thanks to everybody who has played this year.



**Chris Charles**  
**Captain**

# FELLOWS & MEMBERS' NEWS



ST JOHN'S COLLEGE  
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

## FELLOWS' NEWS

DASGUPTA, Professor Sir Partha was elected Foreign Member of the Venetian Academy of Science, Letters and Arts and President-Elect of the European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists (to serve as President from 2010-12). He was also awarded Doctorate Honoris Causa at the Universitaire Saint Louis (Brussels).

DOBSON, Professor Christopher, FRS was made an Honorary Fellow of the following: Keble College, Oxford, Linacre College, Oxford, Merton College, Oxford and Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford. He delivered the 2008 Linus Pauling Lecture at the California Institute of Technology, USA; the 2009 Roy E Moon Lecture at Angelo State University, USA and the 2009 Hans Neurath Lecture at the University of Washington, USA. He was awarded a Royal Medal by the Royal Society for 'his outstanding contributions to the understanding of the mechanisms of protein folding and mis-folding, and the implications for disease'. He is the thirty-ninth Johnian to receive a Royal Medal since its inception in 1826. Professor Dobson also became President of the Cambridge and Ely branch of the Alzheimer Society.

FRIEND, Professor Sir Richard was awarded the Institute of Physics Business and Innovation Medal for outstanding contributions to physics in an industrial or commercial context. He was also jointly awarded the King Faisal International Prize for Science. In 2008 he received the first Pierre-Gilles de Gennes Prize for Science and Industry.

GOSWAMI, Professor Usha has been awarded a Major Research Fellowship from the Leverhulme Trust for her research project 'Dyslexia: A New Theoretical Framework: Rhythm perception, music and language'. The Fellowship enables her to take research leave for two years, from 2009-11.

GRIFFIN, Professor Roger completed the 2009 London Marathon in 3 hours 49 minutes and came third in the 70+ age group.

KERRIGAN, Professor John gave the British Academy Shakespeare Lecture on 23 April 2009, which was entitled 'Shakespeare, Oaths and Vows'.

LANE, Professor Christel published, with Jocelyn Probert, *National Capitalisms, Global Production Networks, Fashioning the value chain in the UK, US and Germany* (Oxford University Press, 2009).

LISBOA, Dr Manucha was awarded the Prémio de Grémio Literário for her book, *Uma Mãe Desconhecida: Amor e Perdição em Éça de Queirós*.

MCCAIVE, Professor Nick has been awarded the Lyell Medal of the Geological Society of London for 2009.

METAXAS, Dr Andrew (Ricky) has had an award named in his honour. The GCMEA Ricky Metaxas Pioneer Award was first given in 2008 at the GCMEA World Congress in Otsu, Japan. The award will also be made at subsequent World Congresses.

PERHAM, Professor Richard was awarded the 2008 Pehr Edman Prize by the International Association of Protein Structure Analysis and Proteomics.

SZRETER, Dr Simon has been awarded the Viseltear Prize by the American Public Health Association. The prize is awarded to historians for outstanding contributions to the study of the history of Public Health.

WORTHINGTON, Dr Martin was awarded the Greenfield Prize for Young Semitists by the American Oriental Society. 

**Dr Szreter joined St John's as a Fellow in 1992 and is a Reader in History and Public Policy. He was recently awarded the Viseltear Prize by the American Public Health Association for his outstanding contribution to the study of the history of public health. His publications include *Health and Wealth: Studies in History and Policy* (2005) and *Categories and Contexts: Anthropological and Historical Studies in Critical Demography* (co-authored 2004).**

## FOCUS ON A FELLOW: DR SIMON SZRETER

In 1981, in Kampala, I learned that historical curiosity can be a very dangerous thing. I was looking down the muzzle of a machine-gun held by a Tanzanian soldier in the doorway of my room in 'Tourist Hotel' on the old central market square. Having been rudely awoken at 3.00am, I can clearly remember his command: 'We know who you are. You are the doctor. Come with me.' After much wrangling I managed to persuade a Ugandan police captain, who was in charge of the operation, that I and my companion were tourists interested in Baganda history. With my preparation for Finals only a couple of years previously, I managed to convince the officer of this somewhat implausible proposition by reciting to him the names of all the known kings (Kabakas) of Buganda, a heritage of which its citizens are inordinately proud.

Detainees died in the police station that night, something that was in fact happening on a regular basis at that time in Uganda, though the western press failed to realise until 1984 that Milton Obote's second regime was probably even bloodier than that of Amin, which it had recently replaced with the assistance of the Tanzanian Army. As soon as the nightly curfew lifted at 8.00am the next morning, we fled back to Kenya the way we had entered the previous day in a black-market 'taxi' (something that looked like a stock-car racer) along a road with rut holes you could hide a lorry in and with money-extracting checkpoints every few miles.

Now I blame all of this on St John's distinguished Africanist, Professor John Iliffe! In my final year as a history undergraduate at Pembroke I had greatly enjoyed studying 'The revolution in Buganda 1856-1900' with him. Two years later, when visiting a College friend, who was a young headmaster in a brand new 'harambee' school, Shieywe in Kakamega, I found myself unable to resist the temptation to cross the border to try to see some of the historic sights of Kampala. My friend warned me not to go – and he was right. I had managed only to see the Protestant cathedral at Namirembe and the grave of the most influential of the nineteenth-century CMS missionaries, Alexander Mackay, before our enforced expulsion.

So when I was asked last year if I would offer an historical contribution to a DFID-funded development conference to be held in Entebbe in September 2008, I leapt at the chance. As an economic, social and demographic historian I have spent much of my time since 1981 teaching and researching the complex relationship between history and policy. In 2002 I co-founded, with Alastair Reid of Girton College, a website where historians publish short, accessible, non-technical papers, drawing out the policy implications of historical perspectives and research in relation to contemporary problems (take a look for yourself: [www.historyandpolicy.org](http://www.historyandpolicy.org)). The Entebbe conference was discussing 'Social Protection for the Poorest Poor in Africa'. What the hard-bitten practitioners wanted to hear from me was how it was that a country with an agrarian economy and lower per capita income and much lower literacy levels than most African countries today, without modern communications systems or overseas aid, had successfully established a universal social protection system for its populace. Furthermore, a system that worked so well that it kept its population free from famine mortality two centuries earlier than any other European country, and contributed positively to the economy's growth and labour mobility, confounding the theories of much conventional liberal economics (including that of Adam Smith himself). This was the 'Elizabethan' Poor Law of England during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. At one point in the large conference I found myself arguing directly with a Ugandan Treasury Minister over the economics of spending on such social security systems, as against roads and schools.

The day after the conference ended the Ugandan government announced that it would be following pioneering Latin American and African countries, some of whose representatives were also at the conference, in embarking on schemes for social protection for the poor. Undoubtedly such schemes have a long, long way to go in the world's regions of dire poverty and will not alone solve its development problems, but I would insist that history would cautiously suggest they are a start in the right direction.

The roads in Kampala today no longer have those outsize rut holes, though tarmac is far from universal. I was able at last to do most of the other things I had intended to do in 1981: to pay a visit to Kasubi, the sacred burial ground of the Kabakas; to visit the excellent national museum, and to take a refreshing early morning swim in Lake Victoria. At the end of a long search I also found my way to the 'Tourist Hotel' I had visited over twenty-five years before. The new manager was fascinated by my story, insisting I take tea and cake with him: 'Come back with your companion any time.' I'm not sure we'll be taking up that kind offer. 🇺🇬

**Dr Simon Szreter**

## MEMBERS' NEWS

- 1945 WOLFF, Professor Michael is a contributor to the *Dictionary of Nineteenth Century Journalism*. The Research Society for Victorian Periodicals, which he founded in 1968, has named the keynote address at their annual meeting the Michael Wolff lecture.
- 1952 PENROSE, Professor Sir Roger, Emeritus Rouse Ball Professor of Mathematics at the University of Oxford and Honorary Fellow, was awarded the Royal Society's 2008 Copley Medal for his exceptional contributions to geometry and mathematical physics.
- 1953 HALL-CRAGGS, John published, with Jane KENNERLEY, (née MILBURN) Volume III of *The History of the Lady Margaret Boat Club*. This is available to purchase from the Development Office at £15 per copy plus £5 postage and packing.
- 1959 CHANDLER, David has been elected to serve as Master of the Worshipful Company of Saddlers of the City of London for the new Company Year starting on 22 July 2009
- HOPE, Lord David has been appointed Second Senior Lord of Appeal and Deputy President of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom from 1 October 2009.
- 1963 BIELBY, Jonathan, Director of Music at Wakefield Cathedral, received the honorary award of Fellow of the Royal School of Church Music on 16 May 2009.
- 1966 HENNESSY, Professor Peter, Attlee Professor of Contemporary British History received the 2008 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Times Higher Education.
- 1967 CLEOBURY, Stephen was made a CBE for services to Music in the Queen's Birthday Honours List.
- IRVEN, Professor John was awarded the Royal Society Creativity in Industry Award in 2008.
- MAWER, Richard was made an OBE for services to Save the Children UK in the Queen's Birthday Honours List.

- 1968 HOYLE, Professor Stephen was appointed Professor of Geography in the School of Geography, Queen's University, Belfast in September 2008 and elected Member of the Royal Irish Academy from 2008.
- 1969 CANNANDINE, Professor David, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother Professor, Institute of Historical Research, was made a Knight Bachelor in the New Year Honours List 2009.
- CHISHOLM, Nicholas celebrated 21 years as Headmaster of the Yehudi Menuhin School. A celebratory concert was held in his honour at the school's new Menuhin Hall.
- 1970 CLYNE, Professor Bill, Professor of Mechanics of Materials and Director of the Gordon Laboratory, University of Cambridge was elected to a Fellowship of the Royal Academy of Engineering in 2008.
- PHILLIPS, Dr Jonathan, Permanent Secretary to the Northern Ireland Office, was made a Knight Commander of the Order of Bath in the New Year Honours List 2009.
- 1976 HAMILTON, Professor Andrew has been nominated Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford from 1 October 2009.
- 1982 WOON, Professor Walter was appointed Attorney General of Singapore in April 2008.
- 1983 FRASER, Peter was appointed a QC in March 2009.
- 1985 KILGOUR, Christopher (Kit) and Amanda are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter, Tamar, on 21 March 2009.
- 1987 KENNERLEY, Jane (née MILBURN) and Michael are pleased to announce the birth of Seth on 4 September 2008, a brother for Jack. Jane is also pleased to announce that Volume III of *The History of the Lady Margaret Boat Club*, which she edited with John HALL-CRAGGS (1953) has been published.
- 1989 SLEIGHTHOLME-ALBANIS, Dr Elisabeth (née ALBANIS) and Gershom are thankful and delighted to announce the births of their twin daughters Daphne Peregrina and Gloria Eliette, two sisters for Stellina, Cecille, Friederike and Fidelis.

1998 MORTON, Dr John received the Cavendish Medal for the Physical Sciences category at the SET for Britain Awards in March 2009.

WILLIAMS, Sue is sorry to announce the death of Dale, her guide dog, on 17 April 2009.

1999 PANAS, Joshua married Marion in January 2009 at the Central Park Boathouse in Manhattan, New York.

2000 THAXTON, Julia returned to St John's College to take up the position of Development Manager.

VIRJI, Salima left her position as Development Manager (Major Gifts) at St John's in March 2009 to move to Oxford, where her husband, Daniel Hyde (King's, 2000), took up the position of Informator Choristarum and Tutorial Fellow in Music at Magdalen College. She is now Associate Development Director at University College, Oxford.

2001 KLEPPE, Dr Anne (née SCHUNK) and Ingo (1999) are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter Sophie Emilia on 21 May 2009.

TOWNSEND, Kim was awarded a Gold Listener Participation Award at the Sony Radio Academy Awards 2009 for her work with Electric Radio at HMP Brixton.

2003 KE, Allyson received a Fulbright-British Friends of Harvard Business School MBA Award from US-UK Fulbright Commission in June 2009.



## DEATH NOTICES

- 1926 SMITH, James Arthur Wilson, 13 April 2009, aged 101.
- 1928 VINCENT, (Stanley) Ralph, 21 December 2007, aged 97.
- 1930 BARTRUM, Dr Peter Clement, 14 August 2008, aged 100.  
SAWYER, Professor (Walter) Warwick, 15 February 2008, aged 96.
- 1931 OLDROYD, James, 12 December 2008, aged 96.
- 1932 WARD, Peter Dudley, 13 January 2009, aged 95.
- 1934 ASHE, The Revd Francis Patrick Bellesme (Pat), 16 January 2009, aged 94.  
DEER, Professor William Alexander, FRS, 8 February 2009, aged 98.  
A full obituary appears on pages 116-8.  
SCHOFIELD, Ernest, 23 February 2009, aged 92.
- 1935 ATKINSON, James Robert, FRS, 9 May 2008, aged 92.  
EASON, Thomas William, 18 October 2008, aged 92.  
HEATH, Karl Edwin, 21 August 2008, aged 91.  
TUCKETT, Dr Ronald Francis, 20 August 2008, aged 91.
- 1936 GUNN (formerly RUGG-GUNN), Alexander Noël, 13 September 2008, aged 89.  
HULME, Allan, 29 December 2009, aged 92.
- 1937 CARTWRIGHT, Harry, CBE, 6 June 2009, aged 89.  
CASE, Humphrey John, 12 June 2009, aged 91.  
HOBSON, Antony John, 24 August 2004, aged 85.  
RUSSELL, Ralph, 14 September 2008, aged 90.  
RUTHERFORD, (Charles) Ian, 5 December 2008, aged 89.
- 1938 BENIANS, The Revd Martin Ackland, 12 October 2008, aged 89.  
DOHOO, Roy McGregor, 28 September 2008, aged 89.  
POSNETT, Sir Richard, KBE CMG, 11 May 2009, aged 89.
- 1939 CHARLESWORTH, Professor Geoffrey Brown, 14 May 2008, aged 87.  
HOWORTH, Roland Heslop, 3 June 2009, aged 87.
- 1940 BOWES, John Foster Lyon, 4 October 2008, aged 87.  
PATON-PHILIP, Philip, 2 March 2009, aged 86.
- 1941 ATTWOOD, Cyril, 25 April 2009, aged 86.  
FENWICK-SMITH, Peter, 31 July 2008, aged 84.  
WIDE, Nicholas Scott, 8 August 2008, aged 85.
- 1942 CROSTHWAITE, Hugh, 3 August 2008, aged 85.  
DOW, James Crown, 7 August 2008, aged 84.  
LOW, Edward David, 16 September 2008, aged 84.
- 1943 BENIANS, (Hubert) Michael, 13 October 2008, aged 83.  
BRAND, Dr (Boris) Peter, 9 July 2008, aged 83.  
HORSFIELD, John, 3 October 2008, aged 83.  
SHIPLEY, William Johnson, 3 May 2009, aged 83.
- 1944 BRADING, George Thomas Robert, 9 May 2005, aged 78.  
CATFORD, Sir Robin, KCVO CBE, 27 May 2008, aged 85.  
GREENER, Paul, 27 September 2008, aged 82.

- 1945 CHAPMAN, Dr (John) Brian, 6 June 2009, aged 82.  
HOLMES, Professor George Arthur, FBA, 29 January 2009, aged 81. A full obituary appears on pages 119-20.  
MACKAY, Graham Derek, 5 December 2008, aged 81.  
WHITE, William Rogers, 27 June 2008, aged 80.
- 1946 MACLEAN, Roderick, OBE, 16 May 2008, aged 86.
- 1947 ASHBY, Peter James, 5 December 2008, aged 83.  
MITCHELL, Neil Burton, 1 January 2009, aged 83.  
SALTER, Dr Clifford Edward, 12 July 2008, aged 79.
- 1948 CULLEN, Patrick Arthur Augustus, 26 January 2009, aged 81.  
DAVID, John, 7 August 2008, aged 81.  
DENMAN, Eric Edward, 22 January 2009, aged 81.  
OFFICER, (Leonard) Adrian, 22 June 2008, aged 80.  
TOWNSEND, Professor Peter Brereton, FBA, 7 June 2009, aged 81.
- 1949 CORBY, Sir Brian, 23 April 2009, aged 79.  
DEXTER, John Alfred, 3 September 2008, aged 79.  
GOULD SMITH, David Henry, 27 November 2008, aged 80.  
SIDGWICK, John Utrick, OBE, 13 May 2009, aged 80.
- 1950 COLVIN, Douglas Walker, aged 79.  
FORD, Dr David John McKenna, 14 October 2008, aged 78.  
WEST, Robert Anthony, 21 December 2007, aged 76.  
WHITEHEAD, Dr Vincent, 23 November 2006, aged 76.
- 1951 BRAY, Donald John, 8 December 2008, aged 75.  
BUTLER, Dr Philip Roderick, 3 July 2008, aged 75.  
MUNN, Professor (Walter) Douglas, 26 October 2008, aged 79.  
PEDDIE, Peter Charles, CBE QC, 3 February 2009, aged 76.  
PRINCE, John, 14 February 2009, aged 76.  
SPINNEY, (Alan) Neville, 23 January 2009, aged 76.  
WARIN, Oliver Noel, 2 December 2008, aged 76.  
WENTWORTH, Felix, 2 July 2008, aged 78.
- 1952 DE VERE, Anthony Charles Mayle, 17 September 2008, aged 78.
- 1954 MARSHALL, Noël Hedley, 16 August 2008, aged 73.  
NAIRN, Professor Alan Eben Mackenzie, 14 January 2007, aged 79.  
SEGEL, Lee Aaron, 31 January 2005, aged 72.  
TURNER, John Warren, CBE, 7 September 2007, aged 71.
- 1956 BIRTWISTLE, Major-General Archibald Cull, CB CBE DL, 18 March 2009, aged 81.
- 1957 BLACKWOOD-MURRAY, Thomas John, 19 March 2009, aged 71.  
MILNER, David Selby, 17 August 2008, aged 71.  
PLEASANTS, Dr Peter Arthur Barry, 20 April 2008, aged 68.  
RAWKINS, Robert, 7 February 2009, aged 70.

- 1959 ANTHONY, John George Henry, 22 March 2009, aged 68.  
 BROWN, Nigel John, 5 June 2008, aged 68.  
 CUNNOLD, Dr Derek Martin, 18 April 2009, aged 68.  
 PHILIP, Dr Graeme Maxwell, 15 June 2009, aged 75.
- 1960 CRAM, Professor (William) John, 20 December 2008, aged 68.  
 GRAY, Simon James Holliday, CBE, 6 August 2008, aged 71.  
 OSBALDISTON, Dr George William, 12 July 2008, aged 73.  
 WOOD, Christopher Edward Russell, 6 January 2009, aged 67.
- 1961 DAVIES, Dr Gareth Griffith, 31 August 2006, aged 63.  
 GREAVES, Dr George Richard Herbert, 24 August 2008, aged 67.  
 KAVALIKU, Dr (Senipisi) Langi, 3 December 2008, aged 69.  
 FRANKLIN, Professor John Hope, 25 March 2009, aged 94. A full obituary appears on pages 114-5.
- 1963 STOBIE, Dr Robert Stewart, 2 May 2002, aged 60.
- 1964 HAWORTH, Ian, 13 May 2008, aged 62.
- 1965 BURTT-JONES, Anthony Charles Christopher, 4 June 2008, aged 62.  
 HOUGHTON, Neil, 22 September 2008, aged 61.  
 LENMAN, Ross Wishart, 26 August 2008, aged 60.
- 1970 YOUNG, The Rt Revd David, CBE, 10 August 2008, aged 76.
- 1973 WATKINS, George Gleave, 22 September 2008, aged 82.
- 1974 PAVLOVIC, Professor Milija, 19 September 2008, aged 58.
- 1977 MOBERLY, Simon David Hamilton, 25 December 2008, aged 49.  
 THOMAS, (Adrian) Mark, 1 May 2008, aged 48.
- 1979 ALPE, Simon, 14 November 2008, aged 48.
- 1981 SPEAK, Peter, 10 July 2008, aged 82.
- 1984 BEARD, Paul Lewis, 15 January 2009, aged 43.





# OBITUARIES



ST JOHN'S COLLEGE  
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

**John Hope Franklin, 1915-2009: Obituary**

John Hope Franklin received many, many awards during his long career. When I visited him in Durham, North Carolina, shortly after his appointment as Professor of History at Duke University, he had not quite finished unpacking. He took me down to his large basement, where he was trying to arrange his library, and I noticed, piled up in a corner, an amazing heap of bulky manila envelopes – dozens of them. When I asked what they were, John Hope giggled shamefacedly: ‘Oh, those are my honorary degrees’. In the end there were more than 130 of them, and also the Holte Literary Prize, the Presidential Medal of Freedom (presented by Bill Clinton) and the presidency of the American Historical Association, among many other distinctions. His masterpiece, *From Slavery to Freedom*, his history of African-Americans, sold 3.5 million copies in his lifetime, and is still selling.

In such a life of recognised achievement his appointment in 1962 as Pitt Professor of American History and Institutions at Cambridge (a one-year post) and election as an Overseas Visiting Scholar at St John’s are inconspicuous. However, they meant a lot to him, as I have good cause to know, and as the handsome dining table that he gave to the Wilberforce Room still demonstrates. He felt at home and honoured in the College but the honour was really all ours. It was a tremendous thing for St John’s and Cambridge to have such a man among us, even for so short a period.

. . . not only was he a good man and a fine scholar, he was part of American History both as a witness and as an actor, embodying and helping to shape times, as well as chronicling them.

In trying to convey his greatness it is easy to focus on his character. Certainly his geniality, energy, sense of humour, limitless kindness and the shrewd straightforwardness of his conversation must all be mentioned. But it is his public record that must be made clear. For not only was he a good man and a fine scholar; he was part of American history both as a witness and as an actor, embodying and helping to shape times, as well as chronicling them.

He was born in Oklahoma in 1915 and witnessed the dreadful race riots in Tulsa in 1921, in which his father’s law office was burned down. By the time he was only six he had discovered the evil gulf that divided black and white Americans,

and had begun to experience the cruel humiliations inflicted on people of his colour. He attended segregated schools and eventually an all-black college, Fisk in Tennessee, which had been founded during the reconstruction period following the American Civil War. There, John Hope was lucky enough to encounter an aspiring (white) teacher who lured him away from law, his first choice, to the study of history. He also met his future wife, Aurelia Whittington, whom he married in 1941 after earning his Masters and PhD from Harvard, one of a handful of black students to do so.

Forty years later I was his passenger when he drove from Knoxville to Durham. We stopped at a service station in the mountains for lunch and he told me that when he and Aurelia were driving in the opposite direction after their wedding, stopping would have been inconceivable. John Hope said, 'you took your life into your hands every time you went out on the road.' A flat tyre might expose you to insult, robbery or worse. The date of their marriage was 7 December 1941, yet they heard nothing of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour until they reached their destination. John Hope refused to serve in the armed services; he would not fight for a country that had no respect for him.

His course was set. His first book came out in 1943, *The Free Negro in North Carolina, 1790-1860*, and for the rest of his life he produced a steady stream of scholarly and often polemical works. All his works were dedicated to showing America what part her black citizens had played in her life, how appallingly they were treated and how urgent it was to free them; not from slavery (that had been done) but from its consequences. He said, 'I want to be out there on the firing line, helping, directing or doing something to try to make this a better world'; and so he was. His greatest moment, perhaps, came in 1954 when he briefed Thurgood Marshall with historical information and analysis for the great *Brown v Board of Education* school desegregation case. It was gratifying to the son of a lawyer to be of such use: 'It was evident how much the lawyers appreciated what the historians could offer. For me, it was exhilarating', he later said.

*Si monumentum requires, circumspice* (if you seek his monument, look around you): if the United States is now a more racially just and harmonious country than it was a century ago, (if not it has an African-American President, which Franklin lived long enough to rejoice in) it is in part because of John Hope's labours; and the books he wrote will continue to illuminate and further the process, just as they so intelligently, diligently and eloquently lay bare the historical roots of America's greatest problem.



### Professor H Brogan (1959)

**Professor Alex Deer, 1910-2009: Obituary**

Alex Deer (he was also called Alec) was first and foremost a scientist – a petrologist. He took part in important geological investigative expeditions in Greenland, he headed and developed two university departments (in Manchester and Cambridge), he was head of a Cambridge college and Vice-Chancellor of the University, and he took a leading role in strategic choices about the long-term development of science and technology in Cambridge. He was gruff, modest, friendly, laconic, tolerant, far-sighted and clear-minded – and a pipe smoker.

William Alexander Deer was born in Manchester in 1910. He completed his schooling at what was then the Manchester Central High School and went to the university there in October 1929, becoming Beyer Fellow in 1933. A Strathcona studentship took him to St John's College, Cambridge, and to the Department of Mineralogy and Petrology at the University.

In the summer of 1935 came what was to prove his big chance, and he took this in a sure grasp. L R Wager, then lecturer in geology at the University of Reading, invited him to take part in an expedition to Kangardluaksuak in East Greenland where the existence of a large Tertiary basic intrusion was suspected. In July 1935 a small ship put out from Aberdeen harbour to get through the ice, having on board four married couples (August Courtauld, Jack Longland, Harold Wager, Lawrence Wager and their wives) and three bachelors (P B Chambers, Deer and E C Fountain). The first three couples returned with the boat in the autumn, but the fourth couple and the three bachelors remained there for 14 months. This was the British East Greenland Expedition of 1935-36. Deer told many stories against himself: for example, that of the polar bear cub that chased the intrepid geological investigator, to the eventual vast amusement of the Greenland villagers (one of whom presented Deer with the pelt).

In 1937, on completion of his PhD, Deer was appointed an assistant lecturer at the University of Manchester. In the following year the report of the expedition appeared and was judged by many to be the most significant contribution yet made to the science of igneous petrology.

The award of a Senior 1851 Exhibition brought Deer back to Cambridge where in 1939 he was elected a research Fellow of St John's. On the outbreak of war, although in a reserved occupation, he joined the Chemical Warfare Section of the Royal Engineers, but soon transferred to the Operations Staff, in which he saw service in the Middle East, Burma and North Africa. He rose to the rank of lieutenant-colonel.

At the end of the war Deer was offered a post in the War Office, but preferred to return to civilian life. He was appointed University Demonstrator in Mineralogy

and petrology and elected Fellow and Junior Bursar at St John's in 1946, changing three years later to a tutorship. In 1950, however, election to the chair of geology took him back to Manchester, where he spent seven years of hard work bringing that department up to the best level in a period of rapid development on the subject. He also returned to polar regions. In 1948 he led a small expedition to northeast Baffin Island. In 1953, as joint leader with Wager, he returned to East Greenland, and 13 years later he was sole leader of his last expedition there in 1966.

Deer's scientific reputation rests outstandingly on his collaborative work with Wager on the petrology of the Skaergaard intrusion in East Greenland. This had been located by Wager's intuition and turned out to be a 2,800 metre vertical section of a gabbroic magna chamber. This study must be regarded as the first modern petrological investigation on such a scale, since it utilised chemical analyses of mineral phases, as well as of bulk rocks and model physico-chemical systems studied experimentally to chart the crystallisation history of a gabbroid melt. It conclusively demonstrated convection systems operating in a silicate liquid, and, with its detailed description of the crystallisation process and of liquid and crystal reaction, has been the model for all petrological studies since.

**In 1961 Deer was elected Professor of Mineralogy and Petrology at Cambridge, succeeding C C Tilley. He threw himself into the development of the department.**

In 1961 Deer was elected Professor of Mineralogy and Petrology at Cambridge, succeeding C C Tilley. He threw himself into the development of the department. But his style enabled staff meetings to end by 6pm, when that important Cambridge scientific institution, The Bun Shop, opened its doors. He was elected Fellow of the Royal Society in 1962. He gave much time to the School of Physical Sciences and to University affairs more widely, serving on the General Board of the Faculties and chairing the major strategic committee, which set the future of scientific provision in west Cambridge, the report of which (1965) bears his name. This contributed decisively to the development of the present – and future – University, in west Cambridge, and, to come, northwest Cambridge. He was Master of Trinity Hall, Cambridge, from 1966 to 1975, and without neglecting his university department he presided genially but crisply over the College during a time of development. He was an obvious choice to be Vice-Chancellor of the University, and served from 1971 to 1973, a frustrating period of student disturbance.

As Vice-Chancellor, Deer chaired the outstandingly successful appointment of Dr Ian Nicol (who died on February 18) as Secretary-General of the Faculties, one of the three principal permanent administrative officers of the University (with whom he had collaborated in the School, and on west Cambridge). Deer fostered changes to the management structure which placed fuller responsibilities for academic management and long-term planning in the general board's, and Nicol's, hands.

After the days of research studentships his first scientific award was the Murchison Fund of the Geological Society in 1945; this was followed by the Bruce Medal of the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 1948. In 1974 he was awarded the Murchison Medal of the Geological Society. As the fruit of his period as professor in Manchester there appeared the five-volume book (1962-63) with Howie and Zussman – known as DHZ in the trade – on the Rock-forming Minerals, a worldfamous textbook of which a one-volume student edition was published in 1966. The present edition runs to 11 volumes.

In 1938 he was married to Margaret Kidd of Manchester and they had two sons and a daughter. Margaret died in 1971. In 1973 he was married to Rita Tagg. She died in 2006. Deer is survived by one of his sons and his daughter.

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## Professor George Holmes, 1927-2009: Obituary

While university historians have increasingly tended to specialise, George Holmes, remarkably, turned his attention from the minutiae of baronial landholdings in England to Renaissance thought in Italian cities.

The son of a watchmaker, Holmes was educated at Ardwyn County School, Aberystwyth, and after attending University College Aberystwyth at 16, he went on to St John's College, Cambridge, where he was a Research Fellow from 1951 to 1954. In 1954 he was appointed Tutor in Medieval History at St Catherine's Society, Oxford (which in 1962 became St Catherine's College). He established the new College's library and was Vice-Master between 1969 and 1971. In 1989 he succeeded Karl Leyser as Chichele Professor of Medieval History, and became a Fellow of All Souls.

His first book was a painstaking and ambitious examination of *The Estates of the Higher Nobility in Fourteenth Century England* (1957). Here he laid bare the management of landholdings and noblemen's relationships with their servants and retainers. In *The Later Middle Ages 1272-1485* (1962) Holmes declared that 'the understanding of a distant society requires an effort of the imagination, exercised as far as possible without nostalgia, sentimentality and contempt'. And noting that a medieval cathedral 'is still, no less than when it was built, the most splendid creation of the medieval world' he urged that 'the easiest way to get a glimpse of the lost world is to stand in a cathedral and try to imagine the aims of its builders'. He would return to the English 14th century with a monograph on *The Good Parliament* (1976), a detailed examination of royal financial demands and the protests they provoked in 1376.

All that would have been a creditable record for any historian, not least in an Oxford history faculty that emphasised the primacy of undergraduate teaching. But Holmes was keen to explore new fields. He learnt Czech and intended to study the reformer Jan Hus but was deterred by the difficulties of gaining access to archives and by the dead hand of communist Czechoslovakia that he had felt in a month's exploratory study in Prague. A magisterial paper in the *English Historical Review* on the crusade that Cardinal Beaufort, Bishop of Winchester, organised against the Hussites, hinted at what might have been.

Holmes's interest in late-medieval English merchants had already led him to study Anglo-Italian trade. And stimulated by a year's sabbatical in Florence, he turned into an historian of the Italian Renaissance. The Florentine Enlightenment (1969) offered a synthesis of art, architecture and ideas. Holmes broadened his European studies by writing a textbook on Europe: *Hierarchy and Revolt 1320-1450* (1975).

Increasingly, Dante, on whom he published a short study in 1980, was the focus of his work. And then he completed his masterpiece, *Florence, Rome and the Origins of the Renaissance* (1986). Concentrating on the years of Dante's life, 1265-1321, he vividly conveyed a sense of the powerful and continual impingement of Rome on – but not domination of – Tuscany and its cities, especially Florence.

In his inaugural lecture he emphasised yet more the impact of cities as agents of cultural innovation. And in his *Renaissance* (1996) he offered a vivid survey that stretched as far as Shakespeare and Rembrandt. If it was avowedly a synthesis, Holmes's interpretative framework and forceful observations were very much his own.

Most recently he was completing a study of the impact on the Italian city-states of that turbulent period in the late-15th and early-16th centuries when Italy became the battlefield for international dynastic wars.

Holmes took on his share of administrative responsibilities, serving as chairman of the Faculty Board, chairing the committee of the Victoria County History, and serving as a delegate of the Oxford University Press. From 1974 to 1981 he was a vigorous editor of the *English Historical Review*. Elected a Fellow of the British Academy in 1985, he was awarded the Serena Medal for Italian Studies in 1993.

Cheerful, relaxed, silver-haired from early middle age, approachable, ever-encouraging, Holmes derived great intellectual satisfaction from his studies. But there was fire in his belly too, as an article in the *Oxford Magazine* revealed. He was fiercely critical of many aspects of the Oxford History School, lamenting that the syllabus did not encourage students 'to enter the world of novel speculation'. For Holmes 'the opening up of the mind by awareness of recent ideas' should be one of the most important functions of a university because it promotes 'an adventurousness and suppleness of thought, a willingness to imagine and experiment'. He called the individual tutorial 'an Oxford shibboleth', criticised the writing of too many ill-prepared essays and urged that research should be more highly valued by dons. He wryly characterised the way Oxford attracted the best scholars by slightly higher salaries and the social advantages of college life but then compelled them to spend more time teaching as 'an upside-down system with a tendency to castrate the intellect'. He warmly endorsed the vast expansion of higher education, drawing from his experiences of Italy the conviction that even 'a smattering of university education spread around is valuable because it alters the general perceptions of a mass of people'.

He is survived by his wife, Anne Klein, a scholar of 19th-century French literature, a son and two daughters (another son predeceased him).

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# POETRY

POETRY



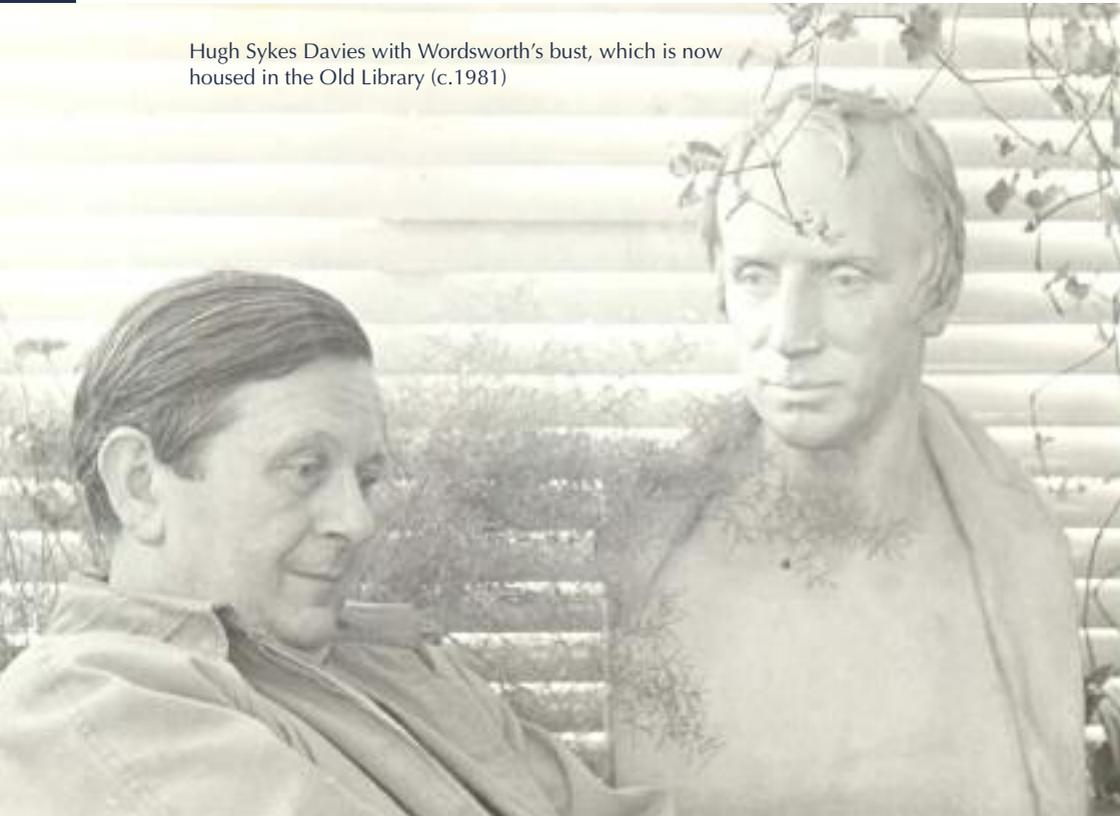
ST JOHN'S COLLEGE  
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

### Hugh Sykes Davies: a centenary

Hugh Sykes Davies was an English scholar and a writer of poetry and prose. He studied at the College from 1928-1931 and was a Fellow from 1933 until his death in 1984. He was also, in 1967, appointed College Rat Catcher. As a young man he was author of the English Surrealists' 1936 manifesto and, in the same year, co-curator of the Surrealist Exhibition in London. For the last twenty years of his life he concentrated his critical talents on Wordsworth's poetry, becoming a Trustee of Dove Cottage. His *Wordsworth and the Worth of Words* was published posthumously in 1986.

Two of his early poems are reprinted here to mark the centenary of his birth. 'Poem' was published in *Contemporary Poetry and Prose 7* in November 1936. Written in 1939 or 1940, 'Farewell to War Poetry' was first published in the *Times Literary Supplement* 77:3955 in January 1978.

Hugh Sykes Davies with Wordsworth's bust, which is now housed in the Old Library (c.1981)



**Poem**

In the stump of the old tree, where the heart has rotted out, there is a hole the length of a man's arm, and a dank pool at the bottom of it where the rain gathers, and the old leaves turn into lacy skeletons. But do not put your hand down to see, because

in the stumps of old trees, where the hearts have rotted out, there are holes the length of a man's arm, and dank pools at the bottom where the rain gathers and old leaves turn to lace, and the beak of a dead bird gapes like a trap. But do not put your hand down to see, because

in the stumps of old trees with rotten hearts, where the rain gathers and the laced leaves and the dead bird like a trap, there are holes the length of a man's arm, and in every crevice of the rotten wood grow weasel's eyes like molluscs, their lids open and shut with the tide. But do not put your hand down to see, because

in the stumps of old trees where the rain gathers and the trapped leaves and the beak and the laced weasel's eyes, there are holes the length of a man's arm, and at the bottom a sodden bible written in the language of rooks. But do not put your hand down to see, because

in the stumps of old trees where the hearts have rotted out there are holes the length of a man's arm where the weasels are trapped and the letters of the rook language are laced on the sodden leaves, and at the bottom there is a man's arm. But do not put your hand down to see, because

in the stumps of old trees where the hearts have rotted out there are deep holes and dank pools where the rain gathers, and if you ever put your hand down to see, you can wipe it in the sharp grass till it bleeds, but you'll never want to eat with it again.

### Farewell to War Poetry

(on the outbreak of war)

I thought you talked too much, and found your verse  
A kind of Nero's fiddling, if no worse.  
Too plain, for you, the face of real danger.  
You wanted to stay pretty in your anger.  
I, waiting for some useful word to come,  
Grew taciturn at first, and finally dumb.

We came at last to noise, dirt, pain and fear,  
And all these rank realities of war  
Give body and savour to your prettiness.  
You'll raise some fine crops on this bloody mess  
That yields to me nothing, was already staled  
With forethought, speeches, and campaigns that failed.

But these red fields, however richly drenched,  
Will one day dry up, crumble, lose their strength,  
And you'll be left to memorize, to tend  
Dead formal gardens in the shifting sand,  
That neither flower nor fade, but make you wonder  
What point there is in life, death, love and hunger.

You'll miss, my friend, these momentary gusts  
Of solid impulse, but their brittle ghosts  
Will hover between the paper and your pen –  
The fighters, fitters, fettlers, solid men  
And skilful women who grew hard and real  
With common purposes in Iron and Steel.



Hugh Sykes Davies speaking at the Surrealist Exhibition (1936)

**Dan Burt**

Dan Burt (1964) grew up in Philadelphia, USA, before coming to St John's to read English. He graduated from Yale Law School and practised law in the US, Britain and Saudi Arabia. He was elected an Honorary Fellow in 2001 and became a British subject in 2004. His work has recently or is soon to appear in *PN Review*, *Poetry Review*, the *TLS* and the *Poetry Archive* (online). Three of his poems are reproduced below.

**Pastiche**

When we two parted  
 In – was it two years? -  
 I unbroken hearted,  
 You shedding tears,

Agreed before wedding  
 In time I would go,  
 The nuptial praying  
 Hypocritical show,

You honored our treaty,  
 Divorced by consent,  
 Spared argy-bargy  
 And waved when I went.

Oh, each used the other  
 We airily said,  
 You mocked your mother,  
 I buried love fled;

You dated others,  
 We dwelt far apart,  
 And fifteen years later  
 Gave one man your heart.

Now well past sixty,  
 I've asked you to dine,  
 Flown to your city  
 An ocean from mine

To thank you for lying  
 When we said goodbye  
 That grief at our parting  
 Would quickly pass by.

**Manqué**

Through fog blown inland off the sea  
 By tumbled walls amidst old trees  
 Summoning verse from memory  
 That others wrote I walk my land,  
 A stiff kneed quondam businessman  
 Fixed on Ulysses, bardic men,  
 Faded notes by dry pen  
 And fear, push come to shove,  
 I am no good at what I love.

**Pas De Deux**

Cranach's Eve in black silk pants  
 Strokes his sleeve: "Perhaps a dance?"  
 He takes her arm and tries the chance  
 With *entrechats* of compliments  
 To show he'll partner her intent –  
 "Black becomes you" then leaps again,  
 "I came for you" – while walking in  
 To dine at cocktail hour's end.

*Adultery begins like this.*

A *glissade* to James and Wharton,  
 Masters of repressed emotion  
 Suggests a theme beyond flirtation  
 And intellectual foreplay,  
 One he floats with a *grand jeté*  
 Confessing to his last affair,  
 A step he risks so that the pair  
 May talk of what has brought them there.

*Adultery begins like this.*

Knee pressed to knee, so close heads turn,  
 Their whispers damn what they might burn  
 At their age for a final passion,  
 Post-coital sweat, enervation's  
 Languorous kind conversations,  
 Wedding rings and guilt in balance  
 With one last abandoned prance  
 To charge senescence with romance.

*Adultery begins like this.*

Coffee, port and sauternes done  
 All rise, the soiree's coda come,  
 Thank the hosts, air-kiss and run.  
 He proffers cheek, like any friend,  
 Unsure how their ballet should end.  
 "Oh must I always lead" she sighs  
*En pointe* with lifted hand to hide  
 Her tongue pushing his teeth aside?

*Adultery began like this.*

Lucas Cranach the Elder (1472-1553), a German painter at the court of The Elector of Saxony and close friend of Luther, painted several versions of the Fall, including *Adam and Eve* (1528) in the Uffizi.





# BOOK REVIEWS

BOOK REVIEWS



ST JOHN'S COLLEGE  
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

**Reviewer: Dr Alison Kesby is a Research Fellow in Law, specialising in international human rights law, public international law and international legal theory.**

Sir Jack Beatson, Stephen Grosz, Tom Hickman, Rabinder Singh with Stephanie Palmer, *Human Rights: Judicial Protection in The United Kingdom* (Street & Maxwell, 2008).

Pp. 813 (excluding tables, appendices and index).

ISBN 978-0-421-90250-3

On 2 October 2000 the Human Rights Act 1998 came into force. Readers may recall the government's oft repeated catchphrase that the Act was to 'bring rights home' such that rights under the European Convention on Human Rights could be vindicated in domestic courts. No longer would applicants need to pursue their claims in the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. In anticipation of the commencement of the Act, Stephen Grosz, Jack Beatson and Peter Duffy published *Human Rights: The 1998 Act and The European Convention* (2000). Part I of that book explained how the Human Rights Act would operate in practice, its 'constitutional status' and relation to existing statutory and common law. Part II examined the European Court's case law on the key Convention rights. Although originally conceived as a second edition of Grosz, Beatson and Duffy, *Human Rights: Judicial Protection in The United Kingdom* is 'an almost entirely new book' (p. ix). Part II has been omitted and the subject matter of Part I expanded to some 800 pages of expert commentary. As to the authors, Sir Jack Beatson, Justice of the High Court, Honorary Fellow of St John's and formerly Rouse Ball Professor of English Law, will be well known to many readers and is sufficient recommendation to purchase the book. His co-authors are distinguished human rights barristers and practitioners. Together they have produced an invaluable resource for legal academics and practitioners alike. In the words of Lord Bingham, the authors combine a 'broad panoramic vision' of the human rights scene with 'a comprehensive, expert, and critical analysis' of the case law and its underlying concepts and principles (see 'Foreword').

The present review, afforded not 800 pages but a mere 800 words, cannot hope to do justice to a work of such breadth. Hence, the discussion below is intended merely to provide the reader with the briefest of tantalising overviews. The focus of the book is the different ways in which human rights are protected in the domestic laws of the United Kingdom, rather than the substantive rights

themselves. As the Human Rights Act is the principal means of protection, it forms the major subject matter of the book. Chapter 1 examines the place of human rights in the laws of the United Kingdom. It is a masterful section that provides the reader with the broad sweep of the relevant areas of law and their interrelation. Chapter 2 considers the values underlying the European Convention such as 'human dignity', 'democracy' and 'equality' and the Court's approach to interpreting and applying the Convention, whilst Chapter 3 examines the general principles applied by domestic courts in human rights cases (namely legality, proportionality, equality, weight, deference and latitude) with a separate section on national security.

Having set out these values and principles, the authors proceed to explore the scope of protection provided by the Human Rights Act (that is, its personal, territorial and temporal scope) (Chapter 4) and its impact on the interpretation of primary and subordinate legislation of the UK Parliament (Chapter 5). The rules and principles applicable at common law and under the Act to decision-making by public officials, and the remedies available for breaches of Convention rights, form the subject matter of Chapters 6 and 7 respectively. Finally the authors examine the protection of human rights in Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales under the devolution statutes and the effect given to the Convention at common law in Scotland and Northern Ireland. Some consideration is also given to the place of the Convention in the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement.

Of the plethora of books published on the Human Rights Act over the past ten years, *Human Rights* is unique in providing an integrated analysis of the different methods of human rights protection. It is refreshing to find a book that adopts a multifocal approach to human rights protection in the UK and addresses complex issues of the interrelation of the different bases of protection. In this respect, the authors' decision to omit the former Part II and considerably expand their treatment of Part I is welcome. Looking to the future, we might ask whether further human rights reform is on the horizon. Would a 'British Bill of Rights' enhance human rights protection in the UK? At the very least, any such Bill would need to go further than the minimum requirements of the Convention (pp. 80-1). In this context, one of the book's greatest contributions may well be the authors' pertinent reminder of the enduring importance of the common law protection of human rights. In their opinion its contribution should not be 'underestimated' or 'neglected' and yet its development has slowed, if not halted, since the commencement of the Human Rights Act. Indeed, they remind us that if the Act were ever to be repealed, and not replaced with a bill of rights, it is to the common law to which lawyers would need to turn (pp. 81-2).



**Dr Alison Kesby**

**Reviewer: Ben Alden-Falconer is a current History student at St John's and was a caller in the 2009 Telethon.**

## Tom Rob Smith, *Child 44* (Simon & Schuster Ltd, 2008).

Pp. 490. ISBN 978-184737126-3

Tom Rob Smith credits St John's with awarding him the Harper-Wood Studentship, which gave him the opportunity to spend six months in Italy attempting a first novel after graduating in 2001. That novel came to nothing, but since then he has gone from strength to strength. Having completed his debut novel *Child 44*, and received critical acclaim worldwide, he already has Hollywood in his sights – with award-winning director Ridley Scott and scriptwriter Richard Price (of *The Color of Money*) backing him. Far from resting on his laurels, he is powering on, having completed the sequel, moved onto his third book, and kept up with his own screenwriting. This is a Johnian whose place in the limelight is only set to grow.

Entering his stylish penthouse in a converted jam factory in London, with panoramic views across the City, it is clear that he is now a far cry from his third-year view of the Kitchen Bridge and The Backs. He remembers being lured from his room by that view, justifying sitting in the sun by taking Aristotle's *Poetics* to read, only to find out later that not a word had sunk in. And, although Smith insists that how people position themselves at Cambridge bears little relation to what they go on to do in the outside world, much that he did here clearly feeds in to his later success.

Describing himself as an 'opportunistic writer' who has always loved plots, for much of his early career the opportunity to write came in the form of plays. He was the first student to win funding to put on his own play from the prestigious Marlowe Society. This exposed him to the commercialised nature of Cambridge theatre with audience levels of just eight – a sharp shock after the guaranteed audiences he had been used to at school. After Cambridge too, it was his scripts that paid the bills, getting his first proper job at talkback Thames after replying to an ad he saw in *The Guardian*: one of the extremely rare ones that said 'no experience required'. From there he had a succession of jobs in TV, before ending up in Phnom Penh with the BBC storylining Cambodia's first soap opera, which led onto a commission to write a film based on Jeff Noon's *Somewhere the Shadow*. It was while researching real-life cases of serial killers for this that he came across the story of Andrei Chikatilo, who had murdered and cannibalised around 55 women and children in Russia over a 13-year period beginning in 1977. Chikatilo was to form the basis of his thriller, *Child 44*.



Ben Alden-Falconer

The book itself is moved back 30 years to the months before and after Stalin's death. This shift back in time not only makes the Russian people truly naive to the possibility of a serial killer, but also allows events to be played out within the complex moral climate of the Soviet system. This makes the detective story all the more compelling. The State's refusal to admit that such 'capitalist social problems' could exist in their supposedly more equal society allows the murders and mutilation of children to carry on unabated, with local authorities blaming homosexuals or the mentally ill for the deaths – but never

'normal' Soviet citizens. To investigate further is to challenge the State, and everyone is aware of the dire consequence this could have on both themselves and their families.

Leo Demidov, the saviour of the day, is an unexpected choice for a hero: a state security officer whose normal job involves interrogating and torturing anyone who so much as thinks about questioning the Stalinist status quo. The sort of guy who has forced any niggling doubts about his work from his mind, justifying his actions on the greater good and the necessity of cruelty to unlock the gates to a 'perfect state'. It is such a mindset that at first sees him dogmatically follow state policy, burying evidence of the murder of a junior colleague's child. It is only when the tables are turned and he finds himself on the outside of this system, saved from execution only by the unexpected death of Stalin, but still exiled to the Ural mountains, that he begins to investigate further.

With a background in television it is hardly surprising that Smith originally conceptualised the story as a screenplay. Perhaps this is why the book has a number of action movie moments that would not go amiss in an episode of *24*. Smith, however, is quick to point out that his film success was not foreseeable. His agent had told him: 'From a commercial point of view it is crazy. Unprecedented. Hollywood hasn't made any movies about Stalinist Russia that haven't been war movies.'

Amid the pacy chase scenes the book draws you into the more serious suffering and fear that held 'Communist' Russia together. It is the distinctive situation that the Stalinist regime created, and how this interacts with the murders that are taking place, that makes the book. As Smith puts it, 'The story and the location are completely intertwined.' He exposes how the Stalinist attempt at a Communist ideal is fettered with flaws, first pulling the reader into the brutality of the fight for survival in the gulags, then the fear that gripped ordinary Russians' lives – you never knew who would denounce you. Ultimately, Smith is showing how a fundamentally good man could have found himself committing horrors to sustain it. Yet this more serious edge (no doubt stimulated by his prolific reading of history books on the period) does not weigh the story down. In fact, Smith has undoubtedly achieved one of his original aims: to write a compelling page-turner that will engross the daily commuter, pulling them away from their squashed, seatless reality on the District line. 

**Ben Alden-Falconer (2008)**

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 Lauterpacht Centre for International Law, University of Cambridge  
 Dr Leake  
 Mr Tom Leake (BA 2002)  
 Dr Ephraim Lev (Overseas Visiting Scholar 2003-4)  
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Department of History, University of Southampton  
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The Revd Dr Malcolm Torry (BA 1976)  
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Mr Murali Vadivelu (2002)  
Ms Maryann Varsamides  
Professor Raimundo Vicente (PhD 1955)  
Professor Claudio Vita-Finzi (Fellow 1961-4)  
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Professor Donald Winch  
Professor Walter Woon (LLM 1983)  
Dr Julian Wilmot Wynne



# COLLEGE NOTES



ST JOHN'S COLLEGE  
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

## College Officers

The College Officers as of October 2009 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 2009, the College Council consists of:

	The Master	
The President	Dr Dörrzapf	
Professor McCave	Professor Woods	
Dr Metaxas	Miss Tomaselli	
Dr Colwell	Mr Ewbank	
Professor Lane	Dr Burdakov	
Professor McFarlane	Dr Kesby	

## The Fellowship

Elected to a Fellowship under Title C:<sup>1</sup>

Zoubin Ghahramani (BSEng 1990, BA 1990, University of Pennsylvania; PhD 1995, Massachusetts Institute of Technology)

Elected to a Fellowship under Title B:<sup>2</sup>

Georgina Louise Evans (BA 1999, University of Birmingham; MPhil 2003)  
 Mete Atatüre (BSc 1996, Bilkent University; PhD 2002, Boston University)  
 Henri Louis Alistair Johnston (BSc 2001, University of Warwick; PhD 2007, Cornell University)

Dr Akhilesh Basi Reddy (BA 1998, MA 2002, MB, BChir, PhD 2003, Downing College)

Elected to Fellowships under Title A:<sup>3</sup>

David Christopher Ellis (BA 2005, CASM 2006, Trinity College)

James Kneller Harmer (BA 2005, MPhil 2006, Corpus Christi College)

Stephen John Thompson (BA 2005, MPhil 2006, Trinity College)

Andrew William Truman (MSci 2004, London; PhD 2008, St John's College)

<sup>1</sup>Title C = Professors

<sup>2</sup>Title B = Teaching Fellows and certain College Officers

<sup>3</sup>Title A = Research Fellows

In view of these appointments the complete list of the Master and Fellows, as of October 2009, 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

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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 McConnell

Dr D R Midgley

Professor P H Matthews

Dr M Richards  
 Professor J F Kerrigan  
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 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  
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## Honorary Fellows (alphabetical order)

Sir Richard Aikens  
 Professor J M Ball  
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 Mr J M Brearley  
 Lord Browne  
 Mr D M Burt  
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 Sir Brian Cartledge  
 The Revd Professor W O Chadwick  
 Mr C N Corfield  
 Professor Sir David Cox  
 Sir Percy Cradock  
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 Sir Christophor Laidlaw  
 Sir Tim Lankester  
 Professor E S Maskin  
 Sir Jonathan Miller  
 Sir Mark Moody-Stuart  
 The Rt Hon the Lord Mustill  
 Sir Roger Palin  
 Professor Sir Roger Penrose  
 Professor J G A Pocock  
 Mr D W Pountney  
 Professor Lord Renfrew  
 Sir Michael Scholar  
 His Excellency Dr M Singh  
 The Rt Hon the Lord Templeman  
 The Rt Revd P K Walker  
 Sir Douglas Wass  
 Sir David Wilson

## Benefactors' Scholars

Elected to Benefactors' Scholarships from 1 October 2009:

Kerr Francis Johnson	Physics, University of Edinburgh
Hannah Pincham	Education, Homerton College, Cambridge
Joanne Caroline Smith	Earth Sciences, St Edmund Hall, Oxford

Douglas Stanford	Mathematics, Stanford University, USA
Michael Shih	International Relations, Princeton University
Joni Marie Henry	English, St John's College, Cambridge
Venkatakrishnan Aiveliagaram	Molecular Biology, Vellore Institute of Technology, India
Joanna Bethia Fawcett	Pure Mathematics, University of Waterloo
Anuradha Pallipurath	Chemistry, VIT University, India
Victoria Louisa Hall	English, King's College, Cambridge
Sophie Brockmann	History of Science, St Catharine's College, Cambridge

Volume 109 of the Eagle (2007) did not record the Benefactors' Scholars for that year. The list is therefore included in this edition.

Elected to Benefactors' Scholarships from 1 October 2007:

Laura Biron	Philosophy, Queens' College, Cambridge
Jonathan David Bradbury	Spanish, Pembroke College, Oxford, and Trinity Hall, Cambridge
Raina Annelise Brands	Management Research, Clare College, Cambridge
Tamara Broderick	Pure Mathematics, Princeton University
James Alexander Castell	English Studies, Homerton College, Cambridge
Spencer Will Durbin	Development Studies, Yale University
Zachariah Gompert	Zoology, Texas State University

Eva-Maria Christina Hempe	Materials Science and Metallurgy, Ludwig-Maximilians Universität, Munchen
Yan Sherry Huang	Physics, Imperial College, London
Luca Incurvati	Philosophy, University of Rome
Virginia Langum	Medieval and Renaissance Literature, Trinity College, Dublin and Emmanuel College, Cambridge
Esther Laufer	German, Ruhr-University Bochum and Darwin College, Cambridge
Robin Markwica	International Studies, University of Freiburg, Germany and Corpus Christi, Cambridge
Edward Joseph McNeilly	History, University of St Andrews and Peterhouse, Cambridge
Alexander James Middleton	History, Pembroke College, Cambridge
Charlotte Olivia Roberts	English Studies, Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge
Emma Rose Schmidgall	Physics, California Institute of Technology
Aswin Sai Narain Seshasayee	Bioinformatics, Anna University, Chennai, India
Ariane Isabelle Tschumi	History and Philosophy of Science, Harvard University

### Larmor Awards 2009

The following received the Larmor Award in June 2009:

Amiya Bhatia  
Thomas Chidi Chigbo  
Scott Keith MacLennan  
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