

The Eagle

2006

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Further information about dining arrangements and contacting the College is given on page 67

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MESSAGE FROM THE MASTER

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Vive laeta Margareta

Richard Perham

NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

COMMEMORATION OF BENEFACTORS SERMON

30 April 2006

We gather this morning to do something that members of this community have done for centuries, indeed for as long as there has been an identifiable community on this site. People have gathered for nearly five centuries as members of a college and as residents of the Hospital of St John before that. We have come here to remember with thankfulness those who by their generosity over those centuries have provided the resources to make the community what it is. We do that in the context of an act of worship, of Christian worship. You might view that as an historical accident, or as quaint tradition or as an acknowledgement that the Church does these things better than anybody else. All those things would, I think, miss something very significant. Far from being a relic of a past age, what we are doing here this morning provides a very appropriate response to a very contemporary situation.

Before the Reformation, benefactors of the College and of the Hospital were remembered in masses offered for them. As in the case of Hugh Ashton, whose tomb stands in the Ante-chapel, these were often connected to the distribution of not inconsiderable sums of money to members of the community, conditional upon their attendance (a practice that could usefully be revived, I feel). The statutes of John Fisher and of Henry VIII lay a duty on all Fellows and scholars to recite each day Psalm 130 and to pray for the souls of the benefactors as well as providing, among other things, for a quarterly requiem for the Foundress. In 1570 the post-Reformation Elizabethan statutes of the University prescribed a commemorative service in colleges three times a year. This was reduced here at St John's to the current yearly commemoration after 1860.

The community here has changed out of all recognition in those centuries, as has the world in which we are set. Yet one thing that has remained constant is the presence of acts of thanksgiving and worship.

It is on the significance of worship in a community such as this that I would like to concentrate this morning. Now clearly the College Chapel is a place set aside explicitly for worship. However, we should strenuously resist the temptation to think of worship as something that goes on only in places like this one or that it is something that is only, or even mainly, done by people who think of themselves as religious. Worship is something that we all do, and, significantly, we do it most overtly when we gather together in the company of others. This morning's service is a good example of that.

The root of the English word 'worship' means 'ascribing worth'. That clearly is what we are doing when we worship in a religious context, but it is equally clearly something that goes on much more widely. Almost any human activity involves, explicitly or implicitly, ascribing worth. We reveal what we think of as good and worthwhile by the way that we act; because our actions have goals, they are directed towards something. We ascribe worth by what we do each and every day of our lives. So, as one writer has put it, 'Every human life is an act of worship'¹. And we learn what is worthwhile, what to ascribe worth to and what to discard or to avoid, from other people. That is why gatherings are so important, and gatherings such as this one especially so since here we articulate what this community thinks is worthwhile.

Colleges and universities are communities that are built around people learning and finding things out, either things that they did not know before or that nobody knew before. One of the things you have to learn here is how to learn. By example in lectures, and by trying for ourselves in supervisions and seminars and publications, we learn what counts as good work or sound reasoning or useful inquiry. By participating in the business of a university we learn what the values of an academic community are, and to what sort of things worth is ascribed. In the processes of learning our hearts are lifted, our vision is enlarged and our understanding is deepened. Inquiry and worship are activities that are intimately linked. More specifically we learn from our interaction with other people what are the values of this particular academic community. So it is that we heard earlier on in the service, the list of (some of) the College's benefactors. Through it we are telling the story of the College.

It is no accident that one of the clearest ways of communicating a community's values is by telling its story.

So then we gather together for worship. We are being quite explicit about that this morning, but we do it less explicitly at many other times and in many other places in our learning from others. What is it that we learn here, apart from the specific content of our areas of study? With any luck we learn in the striving for intellectual excellence and in the give and take of life together, that there is more to life than the accumulation of wealth, there is more to success than the exercise of power, there is more to goodness than promotion. If our hearts have been lifted and we really have got the point of academic inquiry, then we will realize that such activities are valuable in themselves and not just for what they can gain us. Education is about much more than training for the job market and about the acquisition of transferable skills, even if that is the language that we have to learn to speak to function in the world as it is.

The specific theme of what we are doing here this morning is giving thanks, thanks for those who by their example and their generosity have made the College what it is today. Being thankful is also intimately woven in to all acts of worship. The medieval mystic, Master Eckhart said, 'If the only prayer you say in your whole life is "Thank You", that would suffice.' The thing about being thankful is that we are taken out of the 'me-centred' self sufficiency that we are so prone to. In thanking someone, we acknowledge that we lack something and that they have supplied what we were missing. We are acknowledging a connection, a bond. We are admitting to our dependence on others. However stunning our exam results are and however long our publication list gets, that is always a thought that will lead us closer to fulfilment and closer to God.

So worship and the cultivation of an attitude of thankfulness contribute to the health of an academic community. How does it help us to address the challenges of our contemporary world, a world in which worship and religion play a perhaps unexpectedly large role?

We find ourselves in an odd position with respect to religious belief at

the moment. A generation ago a confident secularism was in the ascendant. The commonly accepted orthodoxy was that religious belief was something that belonged to a past age. Religion could confidently be expected to wither away into quaint irrelevance before too long. Issues of belief however have forced their way back into secular consciousness in new and disturbing ways. September 11 was not the first example of that but it remains the most obvious and the most jarring. What makes people, in the name of their religion, do such terrible things? Religion and belief are back on the agenda, however uncomfortable that is for the secular mindset, and one of the things that is obvious from the varied reactions to this is just how much modern secularists misunderstand religious belief. However, having forced religion into a box where it was thought it could safely be forgotten, its unexpected escape serves to make religion something that is perceived as not only mysterious but suspect and potentially dangerous as well. That is why occasions such as this one are necessary if we are to address the challenges that face us. We need to practice worship and to understand it, to acknowledge that it is a part of all of our existences and not just a pastime of the religious minority.

Jonathan Sacks, the Chief Rabbi, in his 1990 Reith Lectures, *The Persistence of Faith*, spoke of the paradoxical way that increasing secularisation does not make questions of religion go away, but rather emphasises the urgency of our need to understand the resources and the wisdom that the great faith traditions contain. More than a decade later the truth of this has become even clearer. As we try to make sense of the terrorism that has forced itself to the front of our political consciousness since September 11, one would have to be very blinkered indeed to think that we can negotiate our way through the uncertainties and hazards of this new world without understanding what religion is and why it matters, even if it does not personally matter to us. In such a context the resources of humane religious belief especially need to be available, and they are best made available by having worshipping communities that practice such humane belief accessible to us.

The post-Enlightenment mind is accustomed to viewing religious belief, and the 'worth-ascribing' that goes with it, as a personal thing and as

divorced from the exercise of political, economic and cultural power. Hence, to some extent the western bafflement and rage at the events of 9/11. If religion is a personal thing then how can religious belief mandate violent action against others? This is simply not playing by the rules. The classification of terrorists as either fundamentalists or fanatics, though accurate, also serves to indicate that their motivation is simply beyond us. We cannot comprehend how people could act in such a fashion and so we put them in a separate enclosure labelled 'lunatics'. However, when put in the context of political and economic power relations, resurgent Islam makes more sense as a reaction to the literally imperial reach of western political, economic and cultural power. Disillusionment with what the West offers but then fails to deliver provides the backdrop for the rise of Islamist political parties in many parts of the world and thus forms the context for the growth of terrorism. This is why what we are doing here this morning not only underpins the intellectual life of an academic community, it also provides a perspective and resources for living in an increasingly alarming world.

In short the College is a healthier place for having religious worship, humane religious worship, practised at its centre. It is healthier academically as the honest search for God naturally supports the honest search for truth. It is healthier personally and socially, as a community that is open to a range of human experience that does not exclude the religious is better placed to welcome a variety of humans and their varied experience, religious or otherwise. It is healthier politically because it remembers a tradition that is older than the individualist secularism that prevails at the moment.

Jeremy Caddick
Dean of Emmanuel College

I am grateful to Malcolm Underwood, the College Archivist, for his help in providing information about the history of the Commemoration service.

¹ Kenneson, P, 'Worship, Imagination and Formation' in Hauerwas, S and Wells, S (eds), *The Blackwell Companion to Christian Ethics*, Oxford: Blackwell, 2004, p54.

THE TRIANGLE SITE

An appreciation by the College Archivist and the Master

The area now known as 'The Triangle Site', a cluster of buildings in front of the Great Gate and bounded by Bridge Street, St John's Street and All Saints' Passage, is clearly identifiable on the earliest reliably-detailed map of Cambridge, that produced by William Hammond in 1592. These buildings have housed a wide variety of trades and occupations over four centuries and, as St John's prepares a comprehensive redevelopment of the site for Collegiate and commercial use, the opportunity arises to wander round an ancient corner of Cambridge in the mind's eye,



The Triangle Area, 1592

looking both backwards and forwards in time, and highlighting some interesting aspects of a complex, ongoing story.

In Hammond's map, orchards lie north of the churchyard of All Saints', a church that stood across the street from Trinity College Chapel until 1865. South-west of these orchards, and separated by a wall from the main churchyard, is an 'empty' space, formerly, perhaps, the cemetery of the Hospital of St John the Evangelist. This site was later occupied by College buildings, the whole complex coming to be known as 'The Pensionary'. Swept away in the 1870s to make room for a University Divinity School, the Pensionary consisted of two stables - one for the College, the other originally reserved for the Bursar - a bakehouse, a coach house, and the houses of Mr Peach the butler and Owen Jones, College cook. Bakehouse and yard are shown evocatively in the accompanying photograph.



The Old Bakehouse, 1876

Next to the cook's house was a dwelling occupied by Miss Mutton, a milliner. At that time, Peach's house was numbered 1 All Saints' Passage, while those of the cook and Miss Mutton were, respectively, 8 and 9 St John's Street. The Divinity School was reconveyed to the College on 21 April 1966, but remained under lease to the University until the Faculty of Divinity moved to the Sidgwick site in 2001.

The College did not secure another permanent estate in the Triangle until the nineteenth century. Comprising numbers 67 to 70 Bridge Street, this was acquired in 1818 through the benefaction of James Wood, then Master of the College. Wood's gift was in fact a union of two estates. One centered on the home of the Ewin family, the south part of the large Georgian block, now number 69. The other, from number 70 Bridge Street round the corner to 2 All Saints' Passage, comprised properties belonging to a Cambridge brewer whose daughter married a Cambridge Doctor of Divinity. William Howell Ewin, owner of the family property in the later eighteenth century, was a graduate of St John's; his unhappy story is told in *The Eagle* 2005. A deeply unpopular man, Ewin prudently resolved to leave the city after his house was ransacked in a riot during 1790, selling the property to Dr Isaac Pennington, President of St John's. By his Will in 1817 Pennington bequeathed the whole estate to James Wood, and so it came to the College at his death later that year, along with the Royal Oak public house, number 70. The block was afterwards broken up into different tenancies. Wine merchants occupied number 68 from 1847 until 1905, when an antiques dealer moved in, but some rooms were let to a doctor, Arthur Cooke of the Royal College of Surgeons, already the tenant at number 69. There, drink had also given place to medicine: at one point the residence of Ekins, a brewer, number 69 was a medical practice by 1892. Doctors occupied the whole of both premises from 1946 to 1962, when they were converted to a single College hostel.

The medical colony developed another limb at number 67, where a doctors' practice has continued down to the present day. Number 67 was an inn during the eighteenth and for most of the nineteenth centuries, but when demolition of the Pensionary displaced the College baker in 1877 it became the baker's residence, a new bakehouse being

built at the same time in the yard by a local builder, James Tompkins. The baker was succeeded as tenant in 1894 by the College cook, one Mr Parsley. After 1903, number 67 was used for University lodgings. In 1917 the house was let to a doctor, Charles Searle, but College bread was still baked in the yard until the early 1940s. From 1921, an upper-floor room was let to Frank Edgar Stoakley, bookbinder, and Stoakley's has shared the yard building with other tenants since 1947, binding, among other books, thousands of scholarly dissertations.

Number 70, known in the seventeenth century as the Wildman, in the eighteenth as the Royal Oak and recently as the Flying Stag, forms part of the third large estate in the Triangle, running round to number 2 All Saints' Passage, and also including number 1 All Saints' Passage until the late seventeenth century. The Flying Stag was one in a series of buildings along Bridge Street, owned from 1733 by Thomas Day, a Cambridge brewer. By his Will in 1749 Day left his Bridge Street properties to his son-in-law Henry Waterland, a Fellow of Magdalene. Waterland in turn divided his Cambridge property between his daughters and grandchildren, and eventually the Royal Oak passed with numbers 67-69 to Dr Wood and, finally, to St John's.

In 1873 the College, whose choristers had hitherto been educated with those of Trinity, sought premises for a new Choir school. It was decided to give the Choir schoolmaster, George Edmund Lister, the former Royal Oak as a house and to build a new schoolroom in the yard. The builder, in 1874, was James Tompkins, but it is clear that Henry Russell (Fellow 1849-1886) had a hand in the design. Lister's successor was the Reverend Sam Senior, who held his post from 1912 until 1955, when the school relocated to 73 Grange Road.

The tenancy was soon filled, and with distinction. Glyn Daniel, Fellow and noted archaeologist, took a lease of the old school, which was converted into two rooms on the ground floor and a single room above. Henceforth this was known as the Studio. Eventually, Glyn Daniel and his wife Ruth moved into the house, and a garden took shape in the playground. Elements of the former pub were incorporated in this new Flying Stag, notably the curved window on the ground floor. The bucolic atmosphere was enhanced by a timber balcony, installed in 1974

on the house's south elevation. When Professor Daniel died in 1986, his widow, a notable benefactor to the College Chapel, continued as tenant until her death in 2000.

From the interior of the estate we continue our tour of the perimeter, numbers 71 Bridge Street to 2 All Saints' Passage. Number 71 was known by 1782 as the Union Coffee House. In 1814 it had a coffee room, parlour, sitting rooms, bedrooms and offices. Later in the century the Moore family, and their successor Clifton Cox, ran hairdressing and sports outfitting businesses. From 1937, shortly after the College bought the property, to 1984, the shop housed a pharmacy, thereafter providing premises for a clothing store and, more recently, a photographic shop. Part of number 72 was occupied by Thomas Stearn, photographer, whose studio was 'newly-erected' according to auction particulars of 1865. Stearn & Sons remained until 1971 when the ground floor became a hairdressing salon.

The properties, now numbered 73 Bridge Street to 2 All Saints' Passage, were sold by Waterland in 1769. Number 73 became the shop of a wine merchant and then a bookseller until the 1930s, when occupied by Piggots the cutler. Numbers 73 and 7 All Saints' Passage were conveyed by Trinity College to St John's in 1938, along with number 6. Confectionery, clothing and hairdressing trades have maintained a strong presence in this range. In number 5, on the eve of the First World War, an exotic touch was briefly added by an Indian restaurant, a use associated in the minds of many later Johnians with number 1A. Newman the hairdresser took a lease of number 6 in 1959, and moved to his present premises in number 5 – bought by the College in 1941 – in 1967. Upper floors in the latter property were for many years occupied by William Thomas Thurbon, and his wife Alice. Bill Thurbon began working in the College in 1920 and was Bursar's Clerk from 1955 to 1970. For another twenty years Bill assisted in organizing the records of the College.

On the site of 2-4 All Saints' Passage, three properties were sold to the College in 1820. In 1833 the Cambridge Philosophical Society moved into the present imposing block, erected for it by C Humfrey, a local builder. The Society was eventually unable to meet continuing

expenses and sold up in 1865. After alterations that added one storey, the building was let to Ralph Carpenter, tailor and robe-maker, and parts were occupied by a number of sub-tenants including private tutors and the University Church Missionary Society. Perhaps the most famous tenant of number 2, the Hawks (sporting) Club, succeeded the Missionary Society as sub-tenants in 1886, taking over the whole tenancy in 1919. After 1963 it retained a lease of certain chambers, including a beer room and a billiard room, finally quitting the property in 1966.

The property adjoining the former Divinity School is now numbered 1 and 1A. This was sold away from the rest of the Bridge Street/All Saints' Passage range before the estate passed to Thomas Day, and before any rebuilding of the frontages, so preserving more of its original, timber-framed, gable-ended construction than any other house in the Triangle. In 1810 Edward Litchfield, fruiterer, acquired the house and gave it his name. Litchfield House continued in private occupation, but 1A, the recently demolished nineteenth-century building, saw many commercial uses: in the 1890s a hairdresser was in occupation, in Edwardian days it was the All Saints' Varsity Toilet Club, and in the 1940s the Peacock Buffet. By 1952 it was occupied by the Taj Mahal Indian Restaurant. The whole property was sold to the College only in 1956. Shortly afterwards, art galleries were established in number 1, while the Taj Mahal, trading in the late 1960s as the Shahi restaurant in 1A, endured until 1973. The Cambridge Music Shop succeeded the galleries in 1964, and a decade later occupied the whole site. After it reduced its operations to 1A in 1984, the restaurant aspect was revived in the former Litchfield House, where Perfect Setting combined a tea-room with a linen and gift-shop until the late 1990s.

Our tour has now brought us back to the former Divinity School. Beyond it, the western side of the Triangle runs from 11 St John's Street round to 66 Bridge Street. Number 11 is the site of the Merry Boys Inn, which adjoined the stables of the College before 1877. It remained an inn until 1911, when it was let to a fruiterer and florist. From the 1920s number 11 was successively the Goldfish Café, a tobacconist, and a tailor. The College acquired it in 1940. Since the 1960s the shop premises

have been used by bakers, latterly specializing in the provision of lunchtime rolls and cakes. The tailoring trade in numbers 14 and 15 (owned by the College since 1947) can be traced from Reuben Buttress in the mid-nineteenth century to Moss Bros today.

We are now almost back to where we began this tour. William Gallyon, the gunmaker, whose family business had traded at number 66 Bridge Street from the mid-nineteenth century to 1982, sold to the College in 1942 numbers 16 and 17 St John's Street and 63-65 Bridge Street, and the firm sold it number 66 in 1983. The pipes and smoking materials now on display in this curved frontage reflect a long tradition. Number 65 was occupied as a tobacconist until 1960, when the corner was taken over by electrical retailers. In the mid-1980s we find a foretaste of the present plan to redevelop the Triangle in the extensive alterations to upper floors on the corner site: numbers 63, 64 and 65 were reallocated to these upper floors, and provision was made for Junior Guest Rooms and other College rooms and commercial accommodation.

Malcolm Underwood

With the impending move of the Divinity Faculty to its new building on the Sidgwick Avenue site, the College began a searching consideration of the future of the Divinity School and indeed of the whole Triangle Site. Much of it was by now in need of extensive refurbishment. It was soon apparent that the Divinity School itself would be difficult, if not impossible, to take into sensible College use. Numerous ideas were canvassed and explored: a tourist centre for the University and City; a home for a new research centre for the Arts and Humanities; a hotel. None proved sustainable but the idea of an Arts and Humanities Research Centre, promoted by two Fellows of the College, Dr Robert Tombs and Dr Ulinka Rüblack, captured the imagination of the University. The Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences, and Humanities (CRASSH) was ultimately opened in 2001, with financial help from the College among others, in buildings on the Old Press site formerly occupied by the Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics, which had moved out to its new premises on Wilberforce Road. The most promising prospect currently being



Work in progress, Divinity School and 2 All Saints' Passage, February 2006

pursued by St John's is to turn the former Divinity School into a restaurant and perhaps piano bar, a proposal for which planning permission has been sought and gained. The outside was cleaned and essential roof repairs were carried out in the autumn of 2005 and work continues.

Meanwhile, ideas for redeveloping the rest of the Triangle Site for a mixed College and commercial use were fermenting. The architects van Heyningen and Hayward came up with an interesting design, which was much modified in detail during what turned out to be protracted discussions over two to three years with the City planning authorities but which has been essentially retained in its major elements. The plan now is for the doctors' practice to move from 67 Bridge Street to a renovated 2 All Saints' Passage, a move which is scheduled for early 2007.



67 Bridge Street and neighbouring buildings, looking south, July 2005

When that phase is complete, work will begin elsewhere. The intention is to create new premises for income-generating commercial activity on the ground floor facing outwards all round the site; at the same time the upper floors will be converted to provide forty-four new or refurbished units of accommodation for junior members and Fellows, with the emphasis there on looking inward into the site and away from the pedestrian and vehicular traffic outside. An entrance to what is effectively a new Court of the College will be fashioned from All Saints' Passage, made possible by the demolition of number 1 (the former Cambridge Music Shop).

The overall importance of this development to the long-term future of the College is hard to overstate. The Triangle Site will provide St John's with accommodation similar in effect to that of Whewell's Court in Trinity. Not least it will enable us to offer rooms, immediately opposite the Great Gate of St John's and effectively within the College walls, to junior members currently housed in various hostels scattered around Cambridge. Our surveys indicate that this will be particularly attractive to graduate students, especially those from overseas. The commercial implications also deserve mention. Relocation of junior members from hostels to the Triangle Site will make it possible for the College to look at redeveloping its current hostel accommodation in ways that better reflect its true capital value. Thus the high cost that cannot be avoided in the intrinsically difficult redevelopment of the Triangle Site will, we hope, be offset by a better income from the College's investment portfolio.

As we approach the 500th anniversary of the College's foundation, we can take pleasure in this latest and most auspicious turn in the long and fascinating history of the College's connection with this important plot of land and the buildings thereon.

Richard Perham

THE FIRST NORMANDY LANDING IN JUNE 1944

In his book *Most Secret War*, R V Jones begins the chapter on 'D-Day' by writing...

another problem was approaching its climax: this was the coming operation to land in force in Normandy. Ever since 1940 I had known what my part must be, whether or not it was formally assigned to me: to see that everything possible was done to knock out, by jamming, deception, or direct action, the chain of coastal radar stations that the Germans would inevitably build up. This had been my answer in 1941 to A P Rowe when he asked me what good it was my collecting detailed intelligence on all German radar stations: some time, I had replied, we were going back and those stations might stand between our success and failure.

And the following pages deal with this 'knockout', mainly by 'direct action', in other words, air attack. The 'direct actions' developed into a series of very heavy air attacks on the known German radar stations not only in the intended landing area itself but also roundabout so as not to draw attention to the specific area of the intended landing. The efficiency of the 'knockout' process was of course continuously monitored in the usual way by aerial reconnaissance and checking the radar transmissions.

But quite independent of this process, each of the three services, the RN, the RAF and SIS (Secret Intelligence Service) had had throughout the war a continuous need for information on German radio transmissions, be they communications, radar, or navigational aids. Therefore each had its own chain of small listening stations scattered along the south and east coasts of Great Britain.

It seemed to those in overall charge of planning the invasion that there was one small area – that of the landing itself, including all radar sets that could conceivably overlook it – and one short time – the night of the actual invasion – for which it would be well worth while to have a more

detailed back-up to the normal surveillance process. They therefore asked the three services to provide special facilities for this purpose from their normal chains of listening stations.

The scheme was that there should be a small committee of representatives of the three services meeting daily at Stanmore, the Headquarters of the AEAF (Allied Expeditionary Air Force). They would receive current information about radar transmissions from the three radio monitoring services and they would produce regular digests for the information of the AOC (Air Officer Commanding) in planning current operations. This was the ERF Committee (the initials of Lieutenant Commander Evans for the RN, Squadron Leader Ricketts for the RAF, and Mr Fereday for the SIS), the order being that of the seniority of the service itself. It was intended that this Committee would begin to operate about three weeks before D-Day, so that there was plenty of time beforehand for an efficient system to be set up at leisure.

During a preparatory month the three of us visited the most relevant of our own intercept stations, explaining the scheme to Commanding Officers and making convenient arrangements for teleprinted digests of each night's interceptions to be transmitted to Stanmore by 6.00am each day.

We were assigned our own room at Stanmore, amply provided with telephone and teleprinter communications. We first met at 6.00am twenty-two days before D-Day to prepare a common digest of German radar transmissions during the previous night. Of course most of these were from major radar stations that had not been attacked so far. As already mentioned it was not part of the planning to reveal the actual area where the landings were to take place by clearing the major radar stations away too soon. Particular attention was paid to transmissions from stations already more or less completely destroyed, to see how successful the Germans had been in restoring them to serviceability. I was of course very familiar with this aspect of running radar stations, having been posted to the Naval Staff direct from being in charge of maintaining efficiency and serviceability in the six small radar stations of the Orkney and Shetland Command. There, where communication

difficulties during winter weather often cut off isolated stations, they were all fully equipped to deal with storm damage as well as breakdowns in the electronic equipment.

We were all on the lookout for the possibility that the Germans might have developed a small inconspicuous readily transportable radar that could easily be moved into gaps in their radar chain produced by the bombing of the major stations. So far there had been no sign of such development and the Germans were not known to have such equipment in normal production, but it always remained a possibility. Although a great many reports had had to be consulted in compiling it, the full list was quite simple and straightforward.

At 10.00am all three of us took the list to the office of the AOC, in time for him to take it into account in finalising his plan of action for the day. Should any queries arise each of us could have answered from the reports from our own service's chain if necessary, clearing up any minor queries by telephone. This was soon done and then we were all free for the rest of the day.

Luckily by this time my normal work had expanded so much that I had two permanent officer assistants who were accustomed to keeping the pot merrily boiling on occasions when I was absent from the office. For example in the ordinary course of business, every two or three weeks I would need to go down to Bletchley Park to sort out some technical problem arising from a decoded German signal, which would take up to the best part of a day.

Of course the affairs of the ERF Committee took precedence over these other reasons for absence, and during the weeks before D-Day, either someone else looked after them, or they had to wait.

It had been planned from the first that the ERF Committee would open up contact with the naval people actually organising the landings, as soon as they thought it would be useful. For that purpose, on the last Saturday before D-Day as soon as we had presented our usual list to the AOC, I had been advised that I was to take it down to Haslemere to present it to the naval organisers of the landings themselves, and

answer questions. This I duly did and, as a result, an agreement was made for the ERF Committee to send regular reports to them, but by teleprinter rather than in person. They knew who we were and for day to day queries had only to lift up a scrambled telephone.

This meant returning to London by train in the middle of the Saturday afternoon. Not only were the corridors jam-packed, but I had to share a First Class compartment with sixteen other people. In those days on the Southern Railway the compartments were all the same size, but in the First Class ones the seats were more comfortable and much deeper, restricting the floor space. There was no room on the floor for thirty-four feet, and little spare space with seventeen. So we all had to travel from Haslemere to London standing on one foot, and a good deal of shuffling about was needed when one got tired and wanted to change feet.

Arriving at Waterloo, obviously the Military Police were expecting a lot of passes to check, because there were a lot of them on the platform. The train came in. All the doors opened. A wall of people emerged, sweeping the Police away and nearly off the other edge of the platform. Altogether a remarkable experience. Luckily everyone was very good humoured. Not only were they having leave on the eve of battle, but a long period of uncertainty and anxiety was about to end.

Day by day the list of functioning radar stations got shorter in the most gratifying way. There were minimal signs of repair of damaged stations and no sign at all of the dreaded inconspicuous mobile unit that we were so carefully trying to detect. Finally on the night of D-1 only a single continuous signal from a radar transmitter was detected and on the night of the invasion itself, none at all.

How much the work of all those connected with the ERF Committee had been appreciated at AEAH headquarters was shown by the fact that a letter was sent to Evans's Commanding Officer, extracts of which are printed below, and corresponding ones to the Commanding Officers of the other two:

14 June 1944

...I wish to express my sincere appreciation of your generosity in loaning to me the very valuable services of Lieutenant Commander Evans, during the period when we were attacking enemy Radar installations.

I found that Evans was a complete master of his subject and gave me the most valuable advice, as a result of which we were able to direct destructive effort in the most economical manner that could be expected in war and achieved results beyond our fondest hopes...

It is notable that the letter is dated 14 June, only eight days after the landings themselves had taken place, and although the landings had been successful and footholds had been secured, fierce fighting was still raging to extend and secure them further.

Although the members of the ERF Committee themselves had been little more than errand boys it is always a pleasure to know that one's work has been appreciated. However, Captain Layman also commended the naval chain of small listening stations, whose members, together with those of the other two chains, had done all the actual work, and he could be relied upon to pass on the SHAEF (Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force) commendation to the Commanding Officers of the relevant stations involved.

But membership of the ERF Committee itself carried with it more substantial pleasures – pleasures of the flesh, which more than compensated for the inconveniences associated with the ERF Committee changes in daily timetables. Never during the whole of the war would I be so well fed.

Naturally the American Servicemen stationed in Britain did not use up any of the limited food available to the British, but were fed from the United States: in the case of the AEAF Headquarters, which had its own airfield, direct by air.

There was ample time for a substantial cooked breakfast between the preparation of the list and its presentation to the AOC. When we were

free after presenting the list there was even more time for a substantial cold buffet lunch with no meat rationing. My lodgings in Holland Park lay between Stanmore and Whitehall so that I could conveniently call in and have a two or three hour sound after-lunch sleep, a convenience I had got accustomed to when studying German at Giessen in 1933. After my sleep I would then return to the office in the middle of the afternoon to pick up the threads of the normal day's work.

This making up of sleep seemed wise to avoid accumulated tiredness, as I had to get up at 4.30am in order to be sure to be at Stanmore by 6.00am. The Board of Admiralty had made very plain the importance that they attached to the avoidance of tiredness by their insistence throughout the war on every member of the Naval Staff taking a regular compulsory day off a week irrespective of the current state of the conduct of the war. This was not a problem during the twenty-two consecutive days of the life of the ERF Committee, as for the duration of the assignment I had been on temporary loan from the Naval Staff to the staff of SHAEF, where the rules were different.

Autobiographical Addendum:

During the Long Vacation of 1933, as a scientist learning German to help with my work, I was staying for eight weeks with Professor Eger and his family at Giessen, on the suggestion of one of the tutors at St John's. It was while staying with them that I first discovered the merits of a sound afternoon's sleep when the nights were necessarily short. At first my working day began at 5.30am, with breakfast at 6.00am, followed (as trams were not yet running) by a walk to the University in time for Professor Küster's lecture at 7.00am and a morning in the Department of Botany. Then home, lunch, sleep through the heat of a Central European summer afternoon, a swim in the river and there I was, bright-eyed and bushy-tailed, ready for a highly educational evening in a beer garden chatting and singing songs with my fellow students. Non-working days were spent of course with the Eger family, but the weather being consistently fine, both Professor Eger and his wife usually retired for a rest during the heat of the afternoon.

Thus it was usually convenient for me to go on having a sleep and a swim in the River Lahn. After about four weeks Professor Küster's lectures came to an end, and the University vacation began. My work was then reduced to the occasional botanical excursion, and I could spend almost all my time with the Eger family. As my stay with them extended to eight weeks in all, there was plenty of time, and ample opportunity, to form lasting friendships. After seventy years and a war, the old Professor's granddaughter, who now lives in England, still comes to call on me several times a year.

George Clifford Evans

ON THE RIVER AND IN THE FIELD

During Lent Term 2006, the College Library hosted an exhibition of photographs and other items, providing a glimpse into the history of organised sport at St John's from the nineteenth century onwards. The accompanying photographs were among those featured.

Football has a long history at St John's. Sir Simonds D'Ewes (1618) took part in a rough form of the game, more an excuse for fighting undergraduates from Trinity than a sport. John Charles Thring (BA 1848) published the *Rules of football* in 1862, stipulating that 'Kicks must be aimed only at the ball'. St John's AFC was formed in 1876, and by 1879 the College could boast its first Blue: E J Wild, who played in the victorious Cambridge sides of 1879-1881. Since then the College has consistently provided members of the University team.

Johnians have been involved in rugby from its earliest days. Four St John's men played in the first Varsity match against Oxford in 1872, and the College's Rugby Football Club was formed in 1876. Several Johnians have played at international level, from J M Batten (BA 1875) in 1874, to Rob Andrew (BA 1985), who played for England seventy-one times between 1985 and 1997.

Cambridge University Cricket Club was founded in 1820, and Johnians played in some of the earliest Varsity matches, beginning with Stephen Winthrop (BA 1830) in 1829. The date of the foundation of the College Cricket Club is uncertain, although first mention of it is made in *The Eagle* for 1861. A number of Johnians have achieved international success, notably C Aubrey Smith (BA 1884), also a successful stage and film actor, Freddie Brown (1929), Norman Yardley (BA 1937), Trevor Bailey (BA 1948), and Mike Brearley (BA 1963), who led England to their famous 1981 victory over Australia at Headingley.

'The Johnian Boat Club' was founded in 1825 and soon took the name of its boat 'The Lady Margaret'. The Club was Head of the River for four consecutive years in the 1850s, again in 1872 with the help of the great J H D Goldie (BA 1873), and again in 1926. 1949-1954 was a golden age: LMBC achieved five consecutive Headships at the Mays, and six Club

members rowed for Great Britain at the 1952 Helsinki Olympics. More success has followed. The first LMBC Women's boat appeared on the river in 1983.

It is not clear when competitive athletics began at St John's but the *Cambridge Chronicle* for 24 November 1855 includes a report on the 'St John's College Foot Races'. The College has produced some world-class athletes, notably the shot-putter R L Howland (BA 1928, Fellow and Lecturer in Classics) and Chris Brasher (BA 1951), who won Gold in the 3000 metres steeplechase at the 1956 Melbourne Olympics.

While the Library has hundreds of fine photographs documenting the sporting history of the College, there are many gaps, and members of College seeking a permanent home for sporting photographs are most welcome to contact the Librarian.



The 1961-1962 College Rugby team, including 'The voice of darts' Sid Waddell (BA 1962) (seated, far left) and Prof P F Clarke (BA 1963) (back row, far right), a former Fellow of the College, and former Master of Trinity Hall.



The College Cricket team in 1886. This photograph features Charles Toppin (BA 1886) (seated, second from right), who played for the University in the 1885-1887 Varsity matches.



LMBC First Boat bumping First Trinity at the Willows in the May races of 1905.



Tennis courts on the Paddock in front of New Court c1920.



The College Hockey Club was founded in Lent Term 1899. This photograph of the 1901 team features R P Gregory (BA 1901, Fellow) (seated second from right) who played in the Varsity matches of 1901 and 1902, scoring twice in Cambridge's 1901 win.

Jonathan Harrison
Special Collections Librarian

DIRAC AND PROJECTIVE GEOMETRY

An article¹ in the 15 September issue of the science journal *Nature* has posed some interesting questions concerning the mathematical methodology of Paul Dirac (1902-1984). In the present note I would like to respond to these questions. It is my hope that it might be of interest to Johnians.

The origins of Dirac's mathematical methodology in quantum theory, which he called the 'symbolic method', remained obscure during much of his lifetime. Some people have likened it to mathematical wizardry. Dirac – especially in his younger years – was laconic, letting his work speak for itself. It was masterfully set forth in the successive editions of his book, *The Principles of Quantum Mechanics* (1930, 1935, 1947, 1958), which remains required reading for quantum theorists. Einstein, who was notably cool to quantum mechanics, nevertheless praised the first edition – which is admittedly difficult reading – as 'the most logically perfect presentation of quantum mechanics'. Over the years the abstract, almost austere, style of the early editions moderated and, in the third edition, Dirac employed the 'bra and ket-vector' notation that is now commonly used by mathematical and theoretical physicists.

In his own reminiscences² and interviews^{3,4}, Dirac made the surprising admission that his approach was deeply influenced by projective geometry, although it is never mentioned in any of his scientific publications. In the *Nature* article, Farmelo called this Dirac's 'hidden geometry', and recounts a lecture he gave at Boston University on 30 October 1972. It was reported that in the discussion following his talk, when asked to explain the relationship between quantum theory and projective geometry, Dirac was unresponsive.

The explanation involves several issues: the nature of projective geometry, the use that Dirac made of it, how he came to have this knowledge, and why he was silent in Boston. The algebraic apparatus of projective geometry permits one to visualize geometrically the notions of linear independence/dependence, and mappings between various geometric configurations. The latter are represented by matrices

whose products need not commute, and there is also a notion of duality which is analogous to the relation between bra and ket-vectors in quantum theory. The visualization does not necessarily mean drawing explicit pictures, but rather ‘sorting out’ various relationships between points, lines, planes, and more generally subspaces of a projective space. In other words, to anyone familiar with ‘both’ projective geometry and quantum mechanics, there is a certain resemblance. Today, one would more likely think of a relationship between linear spaces rather than projective geometry, but in Dirac’s student days projective geometry was more commonly taught.

However, the influence of projective geometry was conceptual, rather than substantive, and it did not necessarily lead to the derivation, or solution, of a particular equation. The primary mathematical tool of theoretical physicists before the creation of modern quantum theory was differential equations. Projective geometry – even the use of matrices – was essentially unknown to physicists. It was exclusively the province of pure mathematicians where it was widely regarded as a paragon of abstraction and elegance. However, since it lacked any immediate physical application, it was virtually unknown to physicists unless they had a formal training in pure mathematics, which Dirac had.

Dirac’s knowledge of projective geometry was essentially a fluke. He entered Bristol University in 1918 as a student of electrical engineering, and after receiving his BSc, First Class with Honours, he was unable to find a job as an engineer. The Mathematics Department at Bristol had been very impressed with his ability, and offered him the opportunity to informally attend – without paying any fees – its Honours courses in mathematics. He accepted, and spent the next two years studying mathematics. During this time he came into contact with Peter Fraser (1880-1968), whom he later described as ‘a wonderful teacher’. One of Fraser’s favourite subjects was projective geometry.

On a personal note, I might add that many years ago, as a post-doctoral researcher, I came to Cambridge specifically to learn projective geometry from Sir William Hodge. When Dirac entered St John’s

College, Cambridge, in 1923, he became acquainted with Henry Baker (1866-1956), who was a Fellow of his College, and Lowndean Professor of Astronomy and Geometry. Baker was the author of an encyclopaedic set of volumes on geometry, and Fraser had been one of his pupils. On Saturday afternoons during term time in Cambridge, Baker held informal 'tea parties' at his home, which included presentations of recent geometric results. Dirac regularly attended these tea parties, and he gave his first lecture on projective geometry at one of them²!

The symbolic ideas and abstract geometry in the first volume of Baker's treatise⁵ served as 'guides' for Dirac's mathematical thinking, and was probably his most extensive introduction to abstract mathematics. Today, upon reading Baker's discussion, there is little doubt that it served as a mathematical precursor to Dirac's formulation of quantum mechanics.

As Dirac told Kuhn⁴, 'A great deal of my work is just playing with equations and seeing what they give ... I don't suppose that applies so much to other physicists. I think it is a peculiarity of myself that I like to play about with equations, just looking for beautiful mathematical relations which maybe don't have any physical meaning. Sometimes they do!' Three years before his death, he repeated this view in an essay⁶ which bore the provocative title, 'Pretty Mathematics'.

Dirac's fondness for 'thinking geometrically', as he called it, should not be over emphasized: he simply used it since he knew and liked it! This is probably why he chose not to mention it in his published work.

An unpublished set of notes⁷ for Dirac's lecture at the Boston meeting is preserved in his archives at Florida State University. It was handwritten in pencil on a ruled tablet, and consisted of 'talking points' rather than complete sentences (with obvious abbreviations). I quote only from the first page:

There are basically two kinds of math. thinking, algebraic and geometric.

A good mathematician needs to be a master of both.

But still he will have a preference for one or the other.

I prefer the geometric method. Not mentioned in published work because it is not easy to print diagrams.

With the geometric method one deals with equations between algebraic quantities.

Even tho I see the consistency and logical connections of the eqns., they do not mean very much to me.

I prefer relationships I can visualize in geometric terms.

Of course with complicated equations one may not be able to visualize the relationship, e.g. it may need too many dimensions.

But with the simpler relationships one can often get help in understanding them by geometric pictures.

It is usually better to use the methods of proj. geometry rather than Euclidean geometry.

Why?

Proj. geometry has more power.

One can get more general theorems, usually with less work.

The likely reason for Dirac's unresponsiveness, as described by Farmelo, is that during the Summer School (31 July-12 August 1972) at Varenna, he had presented his detailed recollections², which he knew would be published. Probably he saw no reason to repeat them in Boston, and perhaps he felt an obligation not to recount this material in deference to his Italian hosts, since it is likely that the sale of this volume contributed to the funding of the Summer School. As it turned out, these recollections appeared in print five years later, and remain Dirac's most extensive account of his early life and times.

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1. Farmelo, G, 'Dirac's Hidden Geometry', *Nature* 475, 323, 2005.

2. Dirac, P A M (edited by C Weiner), 'Recollections of an Exciting Era', in *History of Twentieth Century Physics*, New York, Academic Press, 1977. See in particular pages 113-114 (for Fraser); pages 115-116 (for Baker).

3. Mehra, J & Rechenberg, H, *The Historical Development of Quantum Theory*, Volume 4, Berlin, Springer-Verlag, 1982. See pages 10-15, (studying in Bristol); pages 45-47, (early study in Cambridge, and Baker's 'tea parties'); pages 161-175 (motivation for the calculus of q-numbers).
4. Kuhn, T S, 'Interview with P A M Dirac, 7 May 1963', Niels Bohr Library, American Institute of Physics.
5. Baker, H F, *Principles of Geometry*, Volumes I-VI, Cambridge University Press, 1922-1925. See in particular, Volume I: *Foundations*, Chapter I: Section III – 'Introduction of Algebraic Symbols', pages 62-69.
6. Dirac, P A M, 'Pretty Mathematics', *International Journal of Theoretical Physics* 21, 603-605.
7. Dirac, P A M, 'Use of Projective Geometry in Physical Theory', unpublished manuscript, Box 2-28-35, The Dirac Collection, Archives of Florida State University.

IN DREAMS BEGIN RESPONSIBILITY

I have become, in the last two years, that curiously European phenomenon: an Intendant. To English ears the word has a particularly German resonance to it so I was delighted to discover Sir John Evelyn referring to Sir Christopher Wren as His Majesty's Surveyor and Intendant of his Buildings. But the word must have come to the Germans from the French who used it frequently as an administrative function. It derives, like our word 'intend', from the Latin 'intendere', meaning to extend, direct, intend, and promote – no doubt its administrative interpretation is to be taken in the sense of someone who typically intends a great deal but achieves little – giving rise to the well known proverb: 'The road to hell is paved with Intendants.'

'Intendere' itself contains 'tendere' – to stretch – which is a connotation I find particularly useful. Intendants do a lot of stretching – rarely in the gym I'm afraid – but particularly of budgets, other people's talent and, often, patience, and above all of the tolerance level of audiences. Where and what, in my case, is this audience? Well, hopefully very large numbers of them will be sitting on the bank of Lake Constance this summer, as I am Intendant of the Bregenz Festival in Austria.

The Festival, like so many artistic initiatives in Europe, began in the immediate aftermath of the war in 1946 as an open-air performance on pontoons moored in the harbour. Later, a permanent open-air auditorium was constructed on the bank with a stage facility based round a core built in the lake. This auditorium has been gradually extended over the years, so that it now seats 7,000 people, which means that *Il Trovatore*, which plays there this summer over twenty-five times, will achieve an audience of almost 200,000 people.

Most open-air venues assume that their function is to offer a product carefully decaffeinated so as to remove anything as noxious as challenging cultural content. But if my primary administrative responsibility in Bregenz is to sell 200,000 seats, then my primary artistic responsibility is to treat this massive audience as a gathering of sentient human beings.

Bregenz is however by no means only this *Volksfest* on the lake: on the shore there is also a full-size indoor theatre which presents opera and a concert series, a magnificent modern studio space featuring a programme of contemporary work, a charming small theatre in the town, and a very spectacular modern art gallery in which the Festival presents a contemporary chamber music series. This variety of performing spaces enables the festival to pursue its ideal of bridging the cultural divide between the commercial and the popular on the one hand and the contemporary and innovative on the other. In other words, Bregenz refuses and stands contrary to the ghettoisation of modern culture, where what is popular is stripped of all challenging content and presented as if a mass public were unable to comprehend anything other than the obvious, and where the new is presented exclusively for small groups of *cognoscenti*.

In German-speaking countries it is particularly difficult to stand against the trend for compartmentalisation in the arts because of the malevolent force of the expressions 'E' and 'U' music – in the 'E' corner 'Ernstes' music: serious, and, when it is modern, frequently extremely unpleasant, worthy and academic, and in the right corner the 'U' stands for 'Unterhaltung' – entertainment – a dread slur in the German language somehow expressing a visceral fear that anyone in the process of 'taking' culture might do anything so tasteless as to enjoy themselves. But to confuse culture with the bogus solemnity of a cult is to play into the hands of that particular priesthood that would always try to isolate culture as the plaything of the few, something requiring special understanding, which rapidly translates of course to special amounts of money and special social status.

The particularly democratic quality of our Festival comes from the Lake Stage – the Seebühne – because there can clearly be no social snobbery about an audience of 7,000 people a night, particularly when they are equipped to resist all eventualities from heat to rain, and wind to mosquitoes. But 7,000 people on the banks of the lake as the sun sets have the power to suggest something else, something that goes back to the oldest origins of theatre, of festival, perhaps of tourism itself, something that suggests ritual and pilgrimage.

There is clearly so much that is tawdry and pointless about most modern tourism with its cheap superficiality, its disposable uniforms and accumulated bric à brac of souvenirs and sun products, its dreary queues and endless traffic jams and its malicious ability to destroy precisely that which people set out to see, that it requires a big leap of faith to use the words ritual, let alone pilgrimage, in reference to a mass-public summer festival. But a leap of faith is precisely what is required of those who manage our cultural assets, for only when that leap is taken does culture begin to perform the vital personal, social and political role that makes it an essential part of civilised life.

If we wish then to be idealistic about the function of our Festival, what can give it the right to touch on such concepts as ritual and pilgrimage? Surely it is its role in the communal regeneration of our imaginative faculties, those faculties which lie at the very heart of our existence as civilised social beings.

Of all the human attributes that are dulled by the long annual grind of work and personal survival surely it is the imagination that suffers the worst, whose room for manoeuvre is the most cramped by the stress of modern existence. A festival welcoming its guests in the summer ritual of renewal must be like a cool spring of the imagination ready to reinvigorate and massage back to alertness that most essential human function.

Of course it is true that every cultural artefact possesses the power to refresh our ability to imagine. A book or a poem or a picture can be contemplated alone and on their own with the same effect. Every work of imagination is in a sense an attempt to embody the imagination that created it in that work itself, and thereby to preserve in crystalline form its power so that others may draw on it later. A work of art embodies a particular perception made by the artist, which by definition goes beyond the mundane and which records that perception in some unique form for posterity. This perception, an original way of seeing, hearing, or thinking, typically portrays some aspect of our real world through the sharpened awareness of the subconscious that is the artist's particular tool. These are the 'dreams' to which Yeats refers in the title of my lecture.

The difference with the public art forms, such as theatre, concert music, opera and so on is that the act of renewal is no longer strictly private, but communal. The world of the imagination is an intensely private one, yet the fact is that in the theatre we allow ourselves to experience, be swayed by and overtly express all kinds of highly intense emotions, notwithstanding the fact that we are sitting among strangers. Indeed, the emotional experience is possibly intensified precisely because we are among strangers, or certainly by the emotional charge released by several thousand people identifying simultaneously with the same experience. And this communal experience I believe to have important social and political aspects. That is to say that the exercise of the imagination is one of the most fundamental prerequisites for a civilised society, that one of the primary functions of the arts is as a stimulus for our imaginative faculties, and that the communal exercise of the imagination is a vital social and political act, reinforcing the proper role of imagination in our communal life.

This is what I take to be the heart of Yeats' quotation: 'In dreams begin responsibility'. If as a society we only take responsibility for what we know, then we are a narrow, unworthy and fundamentally uncivilised body. Only the imagination can inform our awareness of what we do not know, and thus arouse our genuine compassion and understanding for the 'stranger'. And dreams are typically the door into the world of imagination, a world of alternative reality that opens our minds to other areas in which the exercise of the duty of responsibility is no less important than in the mundane world that surrounds us. The reason why one may perhaps dare to use the words ritual and pilgrimage about a summer arts festival lies in the possibility that the communal experience of the renewal of the imaginative faculties does indeed have such essential health-giving properties, not only for the body politic but for the mind politic as well.

If this is indeed all true, then it places considerable burdens of responsibility on us, the custodians of this mental health farm. The responsibility to be democratic is a powerful one: how can one allow any kind of social exclusivity to ration the availability of a stimulus to the imagination? And yet the contest over the ownership of culture is a perennial social and political battle: indeed whenever people in the arts

begin to feel depressed by the feeling that they have become marginalized and irrelevant they only need look at the fervour and vituperation with which people fight over the 'possession' of the cultural idea. This is because the function of the artist is constantly torn between the palliative and the provocative, and those who would like to 'own' culture often find it hard to accept the provocative along with the palliative.

The palliative – a word that many artists today will find extremely provocative – comes from the element of the decorative, which is the means of presentation. In music, for example, one might distinguish between the musical idea and its structural, architectural development, and the orchestration of that idea, which is what transports the idea to the listener. Since the word beauty is so tendentious, I prefer perhaps to think of the concept of delight as being that emotion which draws us towards a work of art: delight in the sounds that we hear, delight in the sheer pleasure of colour and form, delight in a magical touch of virtuoso performance.

Art begins with superfluity: despite all the romantic myths of artists starving in garrets, a society that cannot produce enough to eat will produce little art. Art begins at the moment human society transcends bare necessity. But when we speak in a modern context of delight, and of things beyond the necessary, we are quickly close to something called luxury, and hence the perennial struggle of art to be at the same time luxurious in its superfluity, whilst resisting being classed merely as a luxury commodity. The rich quite naturally seek to surround themselves with delight, to build delightful homes and to fill them with delightful objects. I notice that this probably applies to Cambridge colleges too! This not only makes life more pleasant but it also constantly reassures them that they really are rich. Many of these delights with which they surround themselves are exquisitely made and may employ many of the same techniques as a work of art, but they are not works of art because they are the delight without the perception, the orchestration without the idea, and there is of course nothing wrong with that – no one wants to sit for long on an idea: a beautiful chair has another purpose.

But of course the rich man also buys real works of art, and displays them among his other delights, so that the two become confused, and the work of art that was supposed to act as a challenge to the imagination becomes instead a means of comfort and reassurance, confirming the owner in his perhaps complacent sense of well being. And when this rich man goes out to be entertained, he may well wish his entertainment to perform a similar function. He believes that he 'owns' the art for which he has bought a ticket, and therefore the theatre may well in its décor and ambience also seek to reassure him and his friends that all is well and that the world is ordered as they would wish. It is in these circumstances all too possible that the work of art displayed will become entirely palliative, a super luxury object that suggests to its audience that they own not only the material goodies of the world, but also the ideas and the spirit of the world too.

But the act of creating a work of art remains fundamentally provocative since its basic purpose is to reveal the alternative reality that exists beyond the material, and this can ultimately only threaten the absolute security of the material world by suggesting a hidden but vital alternative. The history of opera itself quite specifically embodies this conflict, reflecting in its basic subject matter the transference of power from the aristocrat to the bourgeois and the migration of the opera house from the court to the city.

The architecture of the opera houses in Vienna, Paris, London and Milan all bear the subtext that the upper middle classes are now the kings irrespective of whether an actual king existed in any of those cities at the time. These gilded and ostentatious buildings were clearly designed to reassure the new masters of their hold on power. But the subject matter of the works they went there to see constantly contrasts on the one hand self-satisfying images of authority and grandeur with, on the other, the suggestion of the fragility of such power. The typical nineteenth-century opera plot continually questions the permanence of the power it simultaneously displays and celebrates through its insistence on the conflict between the reason that supports power and the instinct that defies it, between duty and love, between the masculine and the feminine.

This very exclusive and masculine world of the nineteenth-century opera audience for example liked to allow itself to be titillated with the idea that its hold on power might easily be threatened by the unbridled and irresistible sexuality of a lower-class woman such as Violetta in *La Traviata*. The haut-bourgeois husband and father naturally visited such women himself after dinner, and so enjoyed seeing himself as a member of the gay and ebullient social life depicted on stage. But for the benefit of his wife and daughter who accompanied him to the theatre he needed Papa Germont to turn up in the third act and reassert a conventional moral order, and indeed it was absolutely essential that the sensually explicit Violetta who had beguiled him throughout the evening should die at the end so that his daughter could leave the theatre with an appropriate moral message in her mind.

Politically as well as sexually, the nineteenth-century opera offered its audience the titillation of danger. Revolutionary mobs storm across the stage in *Simon Boccanegra* and *Don Carlos*, a reminder that the nineteenth century was marked by an approximately twenty-year cycle of revolutions – 1830, 1848, 1870 – and the other perennial theme of nineteenth-century opera is that of national independence. Rugged national heroes such as William Tell, Amonasro or Dalibor could on the one hand be seen as the independent enemies of aristocratic power and privilege, someone with whom the *nouveau riche* might identify, but ultimately all such pieces imply the seizure of power by the people, all too easily identified as the social strata immediately and impatiently just below that which ‘owned’ the opera house.

The nineteenth-century audience then accepted and perhaps even revelled in the titillation provided by a considerable degree of ambivalence in the opera house: the social ambience was clearly reassuring, but the content of the works created for them embody a quite radical level of artistic questioning of the status quo, politically, socially and even sexually. This suggests a considerable degree of self-confidence – a ruling class that was comfortable with the danger and questioning functions of art. In the far more democratic context of our own times however, the audience that likes to believe that its social class owns culture as displayed in these traditional emporiums of high

bourgeois art is not nearly so comfortable with the provocative element of art.

Carmen is a good example. The mere fact that opera had descended to the squalid social milieu of a sexually explicit gypsy was for the nineteenth-century audience a visceral shock. One hundred and fifty years later, *Carmen* has been transformed into a picturesque picture postcard from an idealised Spain, and vociferous sections of the audience are happy with that and absolutely do not want to be reminded of its originally revolutionary and shocking intent. And the element of delight in Bizet's music is so beguiling that it can permit the work to be taken purely decoratively, something which is a complete betrayal of its original intentions.

In the same context, it is instructive to see how the totalitarian robber barons of the twentieth century displayed extreme nervousness about artistic meaning, and sought to establish their new ownership of ideas by the ruthless control of all cultural output. The issue of 'possession' of the means of cultural expression is well demonstrated by the infamous poster produced as early as 1927 at the time of the premiere of Krenek's Jazz Opera *Johnny Spielt Auf* at the Vienna State Opera. Flanked by swastikas is the line: 'Unsere Staatsoper ist einer frechen jüdisch-negerischen Besudelung zum Opfer gefallen.' "'Our" State Opera has become the victim of a Jewish/nigger desecration ...etc.' This is the reaction of a section of society that goes to the theatre solely to see itself flatteringly reflected in the mirror, and is disgusted to find someone else looking out from the other side.

In precisely the same way, Stalin went to the opera to see himself as the Tsar – no matter that in *Boris*, his favourite opera, the Tsar dies tormented by guilt over one murdered child, perhaps proving Stalin's point that one murder is a crime but a million merely a statistic! The point was that the image of power and the stirring music that accompanied it combined to reassure him that he had truly acquired the trappings and attributes of his Royal predecessors. No wonder that when by pure chance he attended the already highly successful Shostakovich opera *The Lady Macbeth of Mstensk* and found himself confronted with a mirror held up to the squalid reality of Russian

provincial life he took it as a personal insult, not bothering to notice that this was theoretically a critique of the mercantile class under the Tsars. Even Stalin's apparently benign interest in culture invoked terror. One famous story starts with the charming fireside image of Stalin listening to a radio broadcast of a concert. At the end of the concert he telephoned the broadcasting company to congratulate them on the concert, and asked for a recording. Terror and consternation: no recording had been taken! After much arduous telephoning, the orchestra was finally reassembled by about three in the morning, the concert was repeated, recorded, and a pressing made available to Stalin, the story says by breakfast time.

Alongside the social and political forces that would like to capture the message of culture for their own ends, art is also by no means safe from the agendas of artists themselves. The first half of the twentieth century with its disastrous experiments in demagogic politics produced a visceral revulsion in the art world of post-war Europe against the whole notion of popular appeal. Similarly, the urge to distance art from its potentially debased status as a luxury consumer object led many artists to reject and despise the entire decorative element of delight that had always been the initial measure by which art attracted its audience. It would have seemed very odd indeed to Mozart or to Poussin deliberately to make their works ugly, and yet brutalism has been a recurring theme of post-war art in all branches.

Of course, to many in Europe it seemed after the war inconceivable that one could respond to Europe's immediate history with any element of delight. Delight, instead of being the necessary gloss, had become insultingly trivial. The bitter irony in that is that perhaps at precisely the moment when the public had most need of the consolation of delight, artists felt least able to provide it, and indeed ruthlessly sought to exterminate it, pouring intellectual and artistic contempt on anyone who dared to exhibit any element of this tawdry commodity. The retreat from the horrors of the mid-century into a kind of rigorous intellectual purity is understandable, but was the beginning of a catastrophic dislocation between modern art and its audience which has loosened somewhat in the past two decades but in other aspects persists to this day.



Il Trovatore (photograph taken by Bernd Hofmeister)

The element of ‘mystery’ contained in the 10% of art, which transcends its 90% element of craftsmanship, has always made it susceptible to being captured by an arcane priesthood who seek to control access by controlling the ability to comprehend it. This process has been quite beautifully illustrated by the operation of the Turner prize in this country. Entry to this high-profile event is ruthlessly controlled so that only art is accepted, which requires the priesthood at the Tate actually to explain why the object is a work of art at all, let alone to explain its meaning.

If, however, we believe that art has the universal ability to widen, develop and refresh the imaginative capacity of human beings, then it is clearly vital that those of us who are its custodians are continually alert to the danger that it might be possessed and subverted either as the decorative trophy of a social elite, or the tool of any particular political agenda, or indeed become the arcane Masonic language of an inner cult.

Our responsibility is ultimately not dissimilar to a doctor’s: to maintain this health-giving medium available for all and free of any narrow ulterior purpose. In Bregenz, we have the special responsibility to transport the full range of stimulation and complexity that culture has to offer to a large, non-specialised audience – a privilege that carries with it the duty to communicate – to be challenging yet comprehensible.

In the above paragraph I have let drop the dread English ‘e’ word – a word to set alongside the dread German concept of ‘Ernstes’ music: elite. If we are to speak about the democratic right of ordinary people to have access to art and culture then we cannot in the English context proceed without dealing with the negative force of this word. And the complication here is that when a word such as ‘Elitism’ is brandished as a thoughtless slogan, it is extremely difficult to get past the inevitable admission that we must, and indeed should, proudly make that, yes, art IS elitist. It is elitist in the sense that it represents the sum of a certain kind of human aspiration, an elevated plane of imaginative thinking allied to a superlative technical skill that yields perceptions beyond the thought of ordinary people and a level of technical execution that is unique.

That admission is already enough for some philistines to wish to vandalise it and every other indicator of superior quality, and they are always ready to obfuscate the debate by confusing the ownership of art by an elite social group, which we have discussed above, with the inherent elitism of an exclusively precious object or perception. The issue with which the lazy egalitarianism of recent times must be confronted is: do you really want to dilute what is unique and exceptional in art in order to avoid reminding the ordinary person that such achievement is beyond him? Or should you not rather concentrate on the access to this unique body of work that allows every person to come near and have their imaginative power stimulated and renewed? Not everyone can make art, but everyone who wishes can experience it: this should be the democratic and egalitarian cultural slogan, just as 'No compromise on standards, no compromise on accessibility' should be the educational one.

Some gainsayers may of course doubt that this rejuvenating power exists, so I would like for a moment to explore the mechanism whereby, in the context of an opera performance, the imagination of the audience is stirred. The answer lies I believe in the interaction of dimensions. Music clearly exists in its own dimension – a structure of sound in time which is capable of stirring feelings of considerable significance in its listener, but which is itself beyond meaning. Music is essentially an abstract language, albeit an incredibly precise one. Its meaning as music is made clear through the vast range of instructions that are embodied in its written form – a highly complex and detailed series of signs that determine exactly how each second of sound is defined in terms of pitch, speed, rhythm, articulation – almost everything one could conceive of in fact except for meaning!

The second dimension of an opera is the text – a dimension whose qualities are almost exactly opposite to music. The means by which text is written down is extremely simple and economical; these simple letters will usually convey a quite clear meaning, but no explicit instructions as to how it should be performed. In a play, this issue is left to the director and his actors to work out; in an opera, we must assume that the composer has predetermined most of the performing options of

the text through his musical instructions, above all of course moving this text quite uncompromisingly through the medium of time which is music's specific domain. Text has no time: music without time is practically inconceivable. The relationship between the conceptual precision of the word and the abstract, self-obsessed world of the music is extremely important and one may perhaps even measure this relationship graphically: a page of music may contain over a thousand different signs conveying precise instructions – the text on the same page may amount to only thirty letters, but the meaning of these letters will nonetheless be relatively clear.

We can take a simple example: the melody of *La Ci da Rem La Mano* is well known to you all: Mozart has chosen a deliberately naïve, insouciant melody that could easily describe someone sitting under a tree admiring the flowers. But this is a scene of seduction and exploitation. The dramatic irony of Mozart's choice only becomes apparent through, initially, the text, further enhanced by the action. The music on its own would actually not be capable of conveying this irony – a fact rigorously exploited later by Shostakovich who was able to hide his necessary irony under the mantle of music's innocence of meaning. The word is a small beacon of sense which gives a pinpoint of defined meaning to the great sea of music on which it floats.

The appropriate kind of word to employ in these circumstances is something quite specific and different from a word which has a purely literary function, and this has given rise to a lot of misunderstanding about the nature and quality of *opera libretti*. Verdi always asked for 'La Parola Scenica' – the theatrical word – by which he meant a concise and blindingly clear verbal image that could anchor in an instant the massive and turbulent musical forces he wished to deploy. To fulfil its function of providing a counterweight to the vast abstraction of musical force, the text in word and story must be simple, clear and concise; the apparent banality of an opera text or story when studied on its own is by no means always an indication of literary laziness – it represents an intelligent understanding of its true function in an opera, and a pragmatic calculation of what may in these circumstances be comprehended.



Bregenz Auditorium (photograph taken by Markus Tretter)

Because the opera has still a third dimension: that of action and image, which introduces an entirely different level of instruction and interpretation. This is of course where I as director come in, and I find myself at the bottom of the pile when it comes to the distribution of information. The conductor and his musicians, for example, have a massive overload of information, and the struggle of a musician's life is to get beyond the point of mere technical realisation of all the instructions he must fulfil so that he can actually reach the level of performance and, above all, of interpretation. The director and designer who are responsible for realising music and text in three dimensions must begin in the first instance with interpretation partly because their instructions are typically very minimal, and partly because these instructions, unlike those of the violin player, are from the start unrealisable on a one-to-one basis.

A typical scenic direction for example would be 'In the Hall of the Temple', or 'On a deserted mountainside'. Quite clearly neither of these

locations can actually be realised, even on so large a stage as the Seebühne in Bregenz. Similarly, much operatic action revolves around things, particularly sex and death, which can in the end only be simulated rather than actually realised. Furthermore, in a world which is defined by the abstract language of music, an attempt at naturalism would seem in any case entirely out of place. Action and image – the third dimension – therefore represent an attempt at a three-dimensional realisation of the idea rather than the reality suggested by text and music.

This notion – the realisation of the abstract language of music in a three-dimensional image – is always a huge leap in the dark: no wonder that it is also often the subject of intense controversy. At the beginning of the last century, there was a huge investment of creative energy in various attempts to link music with specific colours, graphic patterns, and kinetic images. Wonderfully ingenious and complex machines were constructed to translate music into combinations of colour. In fact, whatever the relationship in physics between sound and colour may be, the representation of music in a visual medium remains above all a challenge to the artistic imagination.

And this challenge belongs as much to the audience as to its creators. This is the journey on which our 7,000 people are led each evening. A large part of this will be unconscious of course, and indeed should be so. But whilst they are hopefully being beguiled by the delight inherent in music, image and story, they are also participating in a highly complex exercise of the imagination, traversing planes of the abstract, the concrete, textual, visual, and aural, and even, in our case, with the added impact of a vast amphitheatre of the natural world in addition. This is the communal act that justifies the existence of subsidised culture and the central importance of the imagination in a civilised society. In 2005, we asserted this importance with a particular poignancy and also, alongside our idealism, with humility because we know that culture can fail, and fail utterly. The sixtieth anniversary of the end of the war was clearly the last significant occasion at which we could experience live testimony from this tragic time, and it carried a special resonance across Europe.

Art, as we have said, is beyond necessity, and so we must acknowledge that it always lies within the power of necessity to become dire enough to eradicate altogether a human being's free room for imagination. How else can we begin to describe the abdication of the imagination by the German nation – a nation of profound cultural sophistication? Having spent two of my years at St John's reading History there is still the vestige of an historian lurking in my consciousness, and I cherish the notion that the function and indeed duty of history is to make the past comprehensible to us. Despite the massive amount of scholarship over the intervening years, one cannot yet say that the collapse of a significant segment of European civilisation into barbarism has been rendered comprehensible. I was reminded of this as I flew back recently from Tokyo to Zürich. If this gruelling twelve-hour flight had taken place exactly sixty years before then only the last ten minutes would have been over territory not ruled by murderous madmen of one variety or other. Having passed Petersburg the clouds cleared long enough for me to look down and identify the Baltic coast and Königsberg, the capital of East Prussia, almost to the day when sixty years before the Red Army was about to unleash a terrifying onslaught of death, rape and perhaps justified revenge.

We flew on over Pomerania, the so-called Baltic Balcony, over provinces where three centuries of culture was about to be entirely razed from the map. How many copies of Goethe and Schubert would be incinerated in the following two months? One baronial family, having endured a decade of persecution by the Gestapo for their suspected resistance, calmly awaited liberation by the Russians. They were of course taken straight into the garden and shot. But far too many of these officers continued right to the end to fail to see their direct responsibility for the enormity of what had happened: how else to describe this other than as a grotesque failure of the imagination?

'In dreams begins responsibility.' This combination of the abstract with the concrete, of the unconscious with the conscious, implies to me everything that the arts have to offer as a social and political means, as a vital reminder that not everything can or should be determined by material necessity, and that not everything can or should be determined

by what we know. What we do not know, and can only experience in the world of the imagination, is perhaps the most vital ingredient for our future - so that we can create a society that embraces the unknown, that is not afraid of the unfamiliar, and can generously exercise its imagination on the problems and needs of others. This is our dream of artistic purpose: this is our responsibility as insignificant and temporary custodians of a great European tradition that must never again be allowed to subside into impotence and abdication.

D W Pountney
(BA 1969, MA 1973)



Elephant by Joanna Moore



Chapel at Dawn by Raph Shirley



Ishinca Valley, Peru, by Hannes Opelz



Prayer Flags, Nagenla Pass, Tibet, by Ian Pong



Sunset, Conwy, North Wales, by Glen Walker

THE JOHNIAN OFFICE

Once again, the Johnian Office has had a busy and productive year and there have been many highlights. As you will know, the University launched its 800th anniversary campaign this year, which aims to raise £1 billion for Collegiate Cambridge. All the Colleges are taking an active part in the Campaign and any gift to the College, although it will stay with the College, as the donor wishes, will also count towards the University's target. The College continues to benefit from the foresight and generosity of many benefactors and this year has been no exception. In November, Johnians received a letter from the Master telling them about the magnificent benefaction from Mr Nick Corfield (BA 1981, Hon Fellow 2001) to set up a matching fund for donations to our Bursary Scheme. At the time of writing, nearly £700,000 has been raised in this way, with gifts coming from some Johnians who matriculated in the 1930s to others who matriculated as recently as 2002. This is enormously encouraging and we are grateful to each and every Johnian for their support.

As many of you will know, the College will be celebrating its 500th anniversary in 2011 and the College is planning to launch a fundraising campaign, which will be a focus of the celebrations to mark this landmark in the College's history. You will receive more information about the Campaign in the coming year and we urge you to support it in any way that you can. Our aim will be to provide the College with a secure financial footing for the future and to ensure that we remain a top college in one of the highest-ranking universities in the world.

This year, it has been a pleasure to see many Johnians, some for the first time in many years, at events in the UK and overseas. In September, Johnians in the Oxford region joined the Master for dinner at Corpus Christi College, by kind permission of the President, Sir Tim Lankester (BA 1964). A small group then joined Clare Laight, the Associate Development Officer, for dinner at the Athenaeum Club at CalTech in Pasadena, California. In November, the University launched its 800th anniversary in the USA at events in San Francisco and New York. Johnian receptions were organised in both cities to coincide with the

launch events, and we were delighted to see more than 100 Johnnians and their guests at both events. Thanks must go to our hosts, Dr Marylyn Djie (PhD 1995) in San Francisco, and Sir Philip Thomas (BA 1970) in New York.

Back in the UK, a lively Christmas drinks reception was held at Goodenough College, by kind permission of Mr Roger Llewellyn (BA 1986). In March, another transatlantic flight took us to New York to attend Choral Evensong, sung by the College Choir, in front of a packed congregation of Johnnians and New Yorkers, at St Thomas' Church on Fifth Avenue. This was the highlight of the Choir's tour of the East Coast of the USA. Toronto was the next destination for the first meeting of Canadian Johnnians in over ten years. Our thanks go to Mr Steve Rosenhek (LLM 1985) for allowing us to enjoy the spectacular view from his offices for this event.

In April, the Master flew to Hong Kong to attend the University's 800th anniversary launch event in Hong Kong. While there, he joined thirty Johnnians and their guests for the first Johnnian event to be held in Hong Kong, where Professor Louis Cha was guest of honour. Our thanks go to Mr Julian Walsh (BA 1978) for hosting the event at the Hong Kong Club. Finally, we moved to the more tranquil setting of Poole in Dorset for a gathering of Johnnians in the South West. The Haven Hotel proved to be the perfect setting for a very convivial evening, where the Master was joined by forty Johnnians and their guests.

In addition to the programme of events organised by the Johnnian Office, we are also happy to provide support for Johnnians wishing to organise reunions in College and elsewhere. There were also the usual opportunities to return to St John's for the events in connection with the University Alumni Weekend, the Johnnian Society Dinner, the MA Dinner and the Johnnian Dinners.

This year has also seen the start of work on *St John's: Excellence and Diversity*, a book about all aspects of the College. For more information about this publication, please see the end of this section. Also, continuing on from the success of Volume 1 of the *Register of Twentieth-Century Johnnians*, work continues to gather information on all members

of the College (see section below on Biographical Information), but in particular we have started to look towards the publication of Volume 2 of the *Register* in 2011. The book will include biographical entries for all Johnians who came up to the College between 1950 and 1999. The Biographical Assistant, Fiona Colbert, will continue to oversee this ambitious project, helped by Jo Utting, who joined the office earlier this year as Register Project Assistant. For further information, or to purchase a copy of Volume 1, please contact Fiona on 01223 338772 (email: f.colbert@joh.cam.ac.uk).

The Johnian Office is located in F2A Chapel Court and you are welcome to call in when you are visiting Cambridge to find out about events and news in College. The Office is generally open on weekdays from 9.00am to 5.30pm (except between 1.00pm and 2.15pm) and we can be contacted by telephone on 01223 338700 and by fax on 01223 338727.

Remember to look at our website, www.joh.cam.ac.uk, for more information about the College's activities and please do not hesitate to contact us – we look forward to hearing from you.

Clare Laight

The Johnian Office can be contacted as follows:

Tel: 01223 338700

Fax: 01223 338727

Email: Development-Officer@joh.cam.ac.uk

The members of the Johnian Office are Catherine Twilley (Development Officer – on maternity leave until January 2007), Clare Laight (Associate Development Officer), Amanda George (Development Officer's Assistant and Praelector's Secretary), Fiona Colbert (Biographical Assistant), Jo Utting (Register Project Assistant), Suzanne Szczetnikowicz (Data Entry Clerk) and Alison Owen (Johnian Office Intern).

Information that you may find useful is given on page 67.

Dining Privileges

You are reminded that Johnians of at least six years' standing have the privilege of dining up to three times a year at the Fellows' Table at College expense. The College is also happy to provide accommodation in College free of charge for the night that you dine, if there is a guest room available. It is worth noting that there may be very few diners in the depths of the Long Vacation. You may find dining at other times of year more convivial. Please note that your dining privileges do not entitle you to bring a guest to dinner and that there are some evenings when dinner is not available.

If you would like to exercise your dining privilege, please contact the Steward's Secretary, Mrs Mansfield, on 01223 338686 (email: s.m.mansfield@joh.cam.ac.uk) and to book accommodation please call the Accommodation Officer, Mrs Stratton, on 01223 339381 (email: s.m.stratton@joh.cam.ac.uk).

Please note that Johnians admitted as Affiliated Students must be of five years' standing before they are entitled to dining privileges, and those admitted as Graduate Students must be of three years' standing.

Johnian Dinners

The Johnian Dinners for 2007 will take place in March and June. The first Dinner will take place on 31 March 2007 for matriculation years 1967, 1968, 1983 and 1984, and invitations will be sent out in the autumn.

The second Dinner will be held on 30 June 2007 and matriculation years up to and including 1947, and 1974, 1975 and 1976 will be invited. Invitations will be sent out in January 2007.

The matriculation years that are due to be invited to the Johnian Dinners in 2008 and beyond are under review owing to the very large year groups involved.

Please note that these are matriculation dates (ie the year you first came up to St John's) and are provisional.

Chapel Services

Johnians visiting Cambridge are reminded that they are most welcome at the College Chapel Services. During Full Term, Choral Evensong takes place at 6.30pm every day except Monday and there is also a sung service at 10.30am on Sunday. The dates for Full Term for 2006-2007 are as follows:

Michaelmas Term	3 October to 1 December
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Lent Term	16 January to 16 March
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Easter Term	24 April to 15 June
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Information about the Services can be found on the College website, which also includes notice of forthcoming concerts and tours.

Biographical Information

We continue to send print-outs of the information that we hold on you on our database with invitations to Johnian Dinners. This has given you the opportunity to request that any inaccuracies be amended and also to update us on any new family or career information, and we are pleased to have received so many responses so far.

In between these mailings, please continue to update us with biographical information on the record sheet sent with this year's edition of *The Eagle*. We are also happy to receive information by fax or email, and it should be sent to:

Fax: 01223 338727 or Email: Biographical-Assistant@joh.cam.ac.uk.

We are quite often asked for addresses by Johnians who have lost contact with their contemporaries, but we can only do this with your permission. If you are happy for us to release your address for this purpose, please make sure you give your consent on the enclosed Biographical Record Sheet. If you have already given permission you do not need to do so again.

Punts

Non-resident members of College may use the College punts at a cost of £4.00 per hour during the summer vacation (ie during July, August and September). The punts are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Those wishing to hire punts should go to the Cripps Porters' Lodge to see if any are available.

College Merchandise

We are pleased to be able to offer a selection of College merchandise at preferential rates for Johnnians. Items include Christmas cards, brooches, cufflinks, baseball caps, fleeces, umbrellas and compact discs featuring the College Choir. Please contact Amanda George (a.l.george@joh.cam.ac.uk) for further information. Goods can be purchased by cheque, cash or credit card.

College Facilities

Johnnians are welcome to visit College at any time. If you would like help in arranging a reunion dinner the Johnian Office will be pleased to help. If you would like to find out about arranging a private dinner or a conference, please contact the Catering and Conference Department on 01223 338615. There is also a limited number of College Guest Rooms available for Johnnians (booked through the Accommodation Officer, as above). A charge is made for the use of such rooms, except on the nights you exercise your dining privileges.

Gifts to the College

We are grateful to all those who have made gifts to the College. Recent donations are listed elsewhere in *The Eagle*. If you are considering making a gift to the College, please contact the Johnian Office. Further information about ways of giving can also be found on the website at www.joh.cam.ac.uk/Johnian/support.html.

ST JOHN'S: EXCELLENCE AND DIVERSITY

Johnians will have read in Issue 19 of the *Johnian News* that excellent progress has been made with the forthcoming book on St John's. The Editor, David Morphet (BA 1961, MA 1979), now expects very early completion of the text. The book, which will be fully illustrated, will look at all aspects of the life of the College as it is today and has been within living memory – including accounts of people past and present; of achievement in science and the humanities, economics, engineering, law and medicine; of social changes in recent years; and of links with the wider world as well as sport and the lighter side of College life.

There is still time to subscribe to the book at the special advance price of £37.50, including postage and packing to UK addresses. This represents a substantial saving on the retail price of £45.00. Names of those who subscribe before September will appear in the book. If you would like to subscribe, please complete the form, which was attached to the brochure sent out some weeks ago and return it to Third Millennium Publishing, 2-5 Benjamin Street, London, EC1M 5QL. Alternatively, you can subscribe online at www.tmiltd.com.

David Morphet

BOOK REVIEWS

J.A. Charles and A.L. Greer, *Light Blue Materials: The Department of Materials Science & Metallurgy, University of Cambridge: a History*. Pp. 272. Maney, 2005. ISBN 1-904350-35-6. [Royalties from the sale of this book go to a student-assistance fund in the Department.]

Descriptive phrases such as ‘stone age’ or ‘iron age’ remind us that the human race has developed and used various classes of material over several millenia. For most of that time progress depended on intelligent deductions from empirical observations combined with (sometimes inspired) experiments. Nevertheless, the urge to gather and publish systematic information has long been hard to resist. The major work *De Re Metallica* by Georgius Agricola was published as long ago as 1556 but it was to be some centuries before the study of metals or other useful materials was accepted as a proper activity for a university. In the UK, it was not until the nineteenth-century that the need to provide education in science and engineering at the highest levels was finally recognised: the culmination of a process that had started at a basic level with the industrial revolution.

In Cambridge, the Natural Sciences Tripos was first examined in 1851, although the University did not immediately provide facilities for teaching practical aspects of those subjects, and education in engineering gradually emerged from the Mathematical Tripos, the initial appointment to the Chair of Mechanism and Applied Mechanics being made in 1875. A few colleges, pressed by influential Fellows of the time, did set up laboratories. The long-since demolished chemical laboratory in St John’s, which was situated behind New Court, was an important example, while Sidney Sussex provided the base for the ground-breaking, high precision work on phase equilibria in alloys by Heycock and Neville. This book charts the rise of the present-day Department of Materials Science & Metallurgy from antecedents in such laboratories, through the provision of space for research and then teaching in Metallurgy in the University’s Chemical Laboratory, to the establishment of an independent Department of Metallurgy. Also, the subsequent evolution of its title to reflect the growing incorporation of

research and teaching involving other classes of technologically important materials: organic polymers, ceramics, magnetic and electronic materials, superconductors and most recently bio-medial materials, with work on metals continuing to play an important part. The authors have strong connections with the two Colleges arguably most closely involved with the emergence of Metallurgy as an independent academic discipline in Cambridge and with the Department: Dr Charles, a Fellow of St John's, joined the Department in 1960 and, although now retired, is frequently to be found there; Professor Greer, a Fellow of Sidney Sussex, is currently the Head of Department.

The book consists of two approximately equal parts, the first an illustrated history and the second a compilation of information including the Class Lists for Part II from its inauguration in 1938, and for the much more recently instituted Part III from 1999, PhD graduates from 1932 onwards, with the title of their dissertations, and a substantial selection of group photographs starting from 1938. Above all, the photographs demonstrate the dramatic increase in size of the Department since its creation, as well as the great changes in the demographic characteristics of the staff and graduate students over that period. Although one might have supposed that all, or at least most, of this information would have been available in one place, regrettably that was not the case and the authors are to be congratulated on recovering and assembling so much from different sources! Although not possible within the restricted confines of the present book, much interesting information can be mined from this compilation. For example, the Part II Class Lists record the names of over 130 Johnnians, many of whom have gone on to successful careers in academia or industry directly building on the subject while others have made their mark elsewhere. The data also reveals how the numbers of undergraduate and graduate students have evolved while the titles of the PhD dissertations tell a lot about the historical development of the subject within the Department and more widely.

After a survey of the national background in the nineteenth century and a brief account of the University's acquisition and development of the

New Museums Site, some or other parts of which have been the Department's main base throughout, we are led systematically through the chronological sequence leading from the laboratories of St John's and, especially, Sidney Sussex to the successive funding by the Goldsmiths' Company of a Readership in 1908, the erection of the single storey 'Goldsmiths' Laboratory', still in use today, in 1920, and the endowment of a Chair, first occupied in 1932. After outlining the events leading up to the creation of the Goldsmiths' Professorship, separate sections deal with major events during the tenure of successive Heads of Department. Of particular interest, not least because hitherto buried in archives, are the analyses of possible reasons underlying the choices made by the Electors of the first two Goldsmiths' Professors: Professor Hutton and Professor Austin, one on each side of World War II. Not every topic is easily allocated to these sections and so a considerable number of panels are interspersed in the text, most consisting of brief accounts of the contributions of various individuals to the work of the Department over the years.

Of major significance amongst points of Johnian interest is the contribution of George Liveing (Fellow 1853-1860 and 1880-1924, and the driving force behind the establishment of the University Chemical Laboratory) in supporting Heycock and so nurturing the development of metallurgy. Without Living's support one may wonder if metallurgy would ever have grown and achieved independence in Cambridge. An early Johnian researcher in metallurgy, working on optical metallography in the Engineering Department around the end of the 19th century, was Walter Rosenhain, who subsequently moved to the NPL and is commemorated by the annual Rosenhain Medal and Prize of (what is now) the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining. A rather more recent example is the work pioneered by Dr Charles himself, linking metallurgy to archaeology, long a notable subject in St John's.

Generally the text retains the reader's interest well and flows smoothly, although a tricky problem arises for multiple authors writing about an institution with which they are closely associated when it comes to mentioning the activities of just one or other of them. Use of the first

person is difficult but use of the third, the authors' choice, is also not ideal. The development of research activities from the days of Heycock and Neville onwards is well represented while the parallel evolution of the undergraduate courses is somewhat less detailed. There is no index as such but the Contents pages are very informative. A rather small number of typographical errors and one or two historically uncertain statements await the eagle-eyed reader; it is a major achievement to have so few!

Anyone acquainted with life in the Department in any period will find much of interest in this book. Johnian readers unconnected with the Department will appreciate the College's involvement in its history and can enjoy the political undercurrents, academic and national, around the emergence of a new academic discipline.

John Leake

John Iliffe, *The African AIDS Epidemic: A History*. Pp.224. James Currey Publishers, 2006. ISBN 0852558902

It is difficult to fully appreciate the scale and human impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic from any single perspective, be it bio-medical or sociological. Early this decade Nelson Mandela declared that the virus has caused more deaths in Africa than 'the sum total of all wars, famines, and floods, and the ravages of other deadly diseases such as malaria.' By mid-decade, experts agreed that the epidemic was merely reaching 'the end of the beginning'. The most recent statistics tell us that over 25 million Africans have HIV/AIDS, 13 million have already died of the disease and 12 million children have been orphaned, but the current global prognosis is that the worst is yet to come. Against this background, it is surprising that, until now, there has been no historical account of the epidemic in Africa, let alone the comprehensive, scholarly and human-centred history of the African AIDS epidemic that John Iliffe has written.

A brief outline of key themes in the book illustrates its breadth and depth. There is an explanation of the origins and nature of the virus,

discussion of the unique progress of the epidemic across the African continent, and the circumstances that have exacerbated its impact. Detailed attention is given to the responses of governments, international bodies and NGOs, the effects on healthcare services, the search for remedies and vaccines, and wider implications of new biomedical developments. Iliffe also addresses the moral and political controversies associated with HIV/AIDS and the diverse impacts of the epidemic on households, social systems and the economy. In short, the book represents a much-needed in-depth historical account of the most serious epidemiological and human catastrophe of modern times.

When President Thabo Mbeki famously asked why Africa had suffered the most terrible epidemic, his provocative and partial answer focused on underdevelopment, poverty and exploitation. John Iliffe tackles the question in more profound terms from a sequential historical standpoint. The advantage of his approach lies in how it reveals four distinct, if inter-connected historical dimensions to the epidemic which explain its scale and impact in Africa.

First, Iliffe argues that the growth of the epidemic makes sense only if understood as involving a sequence of events. He describes and analyses the obvious contributing factors of poverty, underdevelopment and social inequalities of power relationships, and considers debates about culturally distinctive African sexual systems, but his decisive answer to Mbeki's questions is 'time'. In Iliffe's view, the fact that Africa has had the worst epidemic is because AIDS had established itself in the general population long before anyone fully recognised the existence of the disease.

A second advantage of the historical approach is that it allows for elucidation of how and why the virus evolved with such speed and complexity. Iliffe highlights the uniqueness of the process (and the virus itself) as it evolved under the direct, horrified gaze of medical scientists, and shows how the distinctive characteristics of the virus have shaped both the disease, and all human responses to it.

A third valuable consequence of an historical perspective on HIV/AIDS is that many of the most critical aspects of the epidemic come into

clearest focus only when viewed against the backdrop of urbanisation and the massive demographic growth of the twentieth century. All of Iliffe's expertise as a long-standing leading authority on African history is brought to bear in his evaluation of key factors and processes across the continent, leading to his argument that under the epidemic must be seen as a consequence of key historical factors: those associated with Africa's colonial legacy as well as developments of the later twentieth-century.

Finally, the historical perspective reveals the extent to which the epidemic has changed over time and how it continues to mutate and evolve. In some parts of Africa, the prevalence of HIV has declined, while other countries continue to experience an explosive expansion of infection rates. There is a fascinating account of shifts in infection rates between men and women, richer and poorer sectors of the population, and changes in human responses to the disease. At every turn, such changes require and provoke new questions to be asked about human rights, local and global inequalities, and survival strategies, which must surely concern all human populations, everywhere.

John Iliffe has described his book as having a 'modest purpose'. His intention was to provide an introduction for students and other interested readers to the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Africa through a synthesis of existing literature, organised in historical form. He has greatly exceeded his objective to produce a remarkable history, one which will appeal to a wide and diverse readership. John has not only written an accessible history of the impacts of AIDS across Africa, but has also made a valuable contribution to contemporary understanding of the bio-medical, social and cultural implications of the epidemic that will affect many future generations. This book will be an excellent general-purpose resource for anyone interested in Africa in general, or the spread of HIV/AIDS in particular. It provides a key starting-point for any student seeking an in-depth understanding of the complexity of this contemporary human tragedy. At the same time, specialist readers familiar with the technical literature on AIDS epidemiology or pharmacology will find its historical and socially-orientated perspective illuminating.

This is a very important book which fills a profound gap in scholarship on Africa and HIV/AIDS. It opens up questions of great importance and provides us with an insightful basis for further reflection and research on what surely must be the most terrible catastrophe of modern times.

Helen Watson

Richard Llewellyn Brown, *A Classical Vet in Modern Times*. Pp. 287. Athena Press, 2005. ISBN 1844013308

Richard Llewellyn Brown and I just missed each other. He graduated as a veterinary surgeon from St John's in June 1981 while I matriculated into the same course that October. But apart from that near miss, our two ships sailed very different courses through life. To the extent that this story is autobiographical, its author's pre-University education, immersed as it was in public school Latin and Greek, couldn't have been more different from my comprehensive schooling. And while it might be thought that all veterinary surgeons must have pretty similar work experiences, his life working in areas as diverse as a veterinary officer in Mayan Indian territory and a partner in a mixed practice in Aberdeenshire has been poles apart from my academic life in Cambridge, teaching Ophthalmology at the veterinary school and Pathology to the veterinary and medical students at St John's.

And yet there are always connections linking us. I was expecting these to be veterinary of course but never classical. Yet even in the first few pages of the book, Brown is taken back in a dream to his school days where the book on his desktop was Kennedy's Latin Grammar. The same Benjamin Hall Kennedy that is, who as Regius Professor of Greek, looks down on me in my rooms in First Court as I supervise. Those who learnt their pathology from Dr Derek White in the same rooms, as indeed did Richard Llewellyn Brown, may remember Kennedy's stern nineteenth-century visage glaring down on them. Yet Kennedy himself was a link between classical times and today – he was one of the first to support women's admission to the University, playing a prominent role

in the founding of Girton and Newnham Colleges. He would, I am sure, have enjoyed the copious classical references in this book. Not perhaps quite so much the veterinary allusions, be they neurologically compromised lambs or cats with abscesses. For even though our professional lives might be so widely separated, these common cases do connect us.

For, if you'll excuse the phrase, there are always dogs' anal glands to be squeezed wherever you are in the world and regularly owners quite as fractious as their snarling pets. So in some of the stories meshed into this book I can readily empathise with the author. In others – the caesarian section performed on a cow half way up a cold dark mountainside for instance – I can only count myself lucky not be in Brown's boots! For as the blurb on the back cover tells us, 'laughter and information are offered in large measure... in this highly detailed and humorous picture of rural life'.

My problem with this book is that I can never quite understand why the general public would be interested in the nitty gritty of a 'downer' cow paralysed after calving, or an ailing calf. But as James Herriot showed thirty years ago and the myriad of veterinary programmes on the television these days, there's something about this way of life and the animal and human interactions that characterize it, which does seem to draw in those who have never experienced it, except perhaps from the client's side of the consulting room table. If you are the sort of person attracted by such stories this book will I'm sure be, as they would say, right up your street. And even more so perhaps, as you are reading this review in *The Eagle*. For many of the general populace might be put off by the copious literary and classical references herein, while old Johnnians are, I guess, more likely to revel in those than readers without any knowledge of Persius, Pirsig, Swift and Shakespeare to name but four.

The veterinary aspects of the book are, I fear, not so much 'modern times', as an area fast disappearing from practice life. The majority of the examples given are what we would call fire-brigade work – rushing to an ailing pony, an emergency operation on a sick cow or a house-call to a sickly lamb. The economics of farming these days, in the wake of

Foot and Mouth and BSE, mean that, in the south of England at least, such veterinary work is becoming a rarity. As such, this book is a welcome reminder of a life's work so sadly slipping away from many vets who work entirely in small animal practice, rarely setting foot out of the practice to see an animal in a back garden, let alone a hillside.

The detail noted above, brought out in the discussions between Brown and his old Classics Master, who mysteriously wants to 'see practice' with him as he goes from farm to farm, ranges from the competition commission's rulings on the prescribing of veterinary medicines to the clinical details of treating a prolapsed uterus in a cow. This detail is somewhat perplexing in its intensity until the very end of the book when all is revealed. Yet I am not sure whether non-veterinary readers will really enjoy being immersed to quite such depth in the clinical niceties – or is it nasties? – of diarrhoeic calves or a horse riddled with lice.

Having said that, the next book on my reading list this holiday is *Saturday* by Ian McEwan which delves into the intricacies of neurosurgery in equal gory detail. I'm finding that a fascinating read, so perhaps it is just my familiarity with the veterinary world that makes Brown's book a somewhat less gripping read as far as I'm concerned.

Brown's last classical quotation, 'Pro captu lectoris habent sua fata libelli – the fate of books depends on the capacity of the reader' (Terentianus Maurus, *De Literis Syllabis*) probably shows that I am hardly the ideal reviewer for this book. More than overly familiar with the veterinary world but with no classical education whatsoever, I feel in too deep already with the veterinary aspects of the book but, if you'll excuse my staying with watery allusions, all at sea with the classical quotations!

That didn't stop me from enjoying the read however, and I am sure that many will revel in this book. I can warmly recommend it as a thoroughly good eye-opener on a veterinary lifestyle that is all too quickly ebbing away and an education that, as I said right at the beginning, I never had the opportunity to enjoy in the first place!

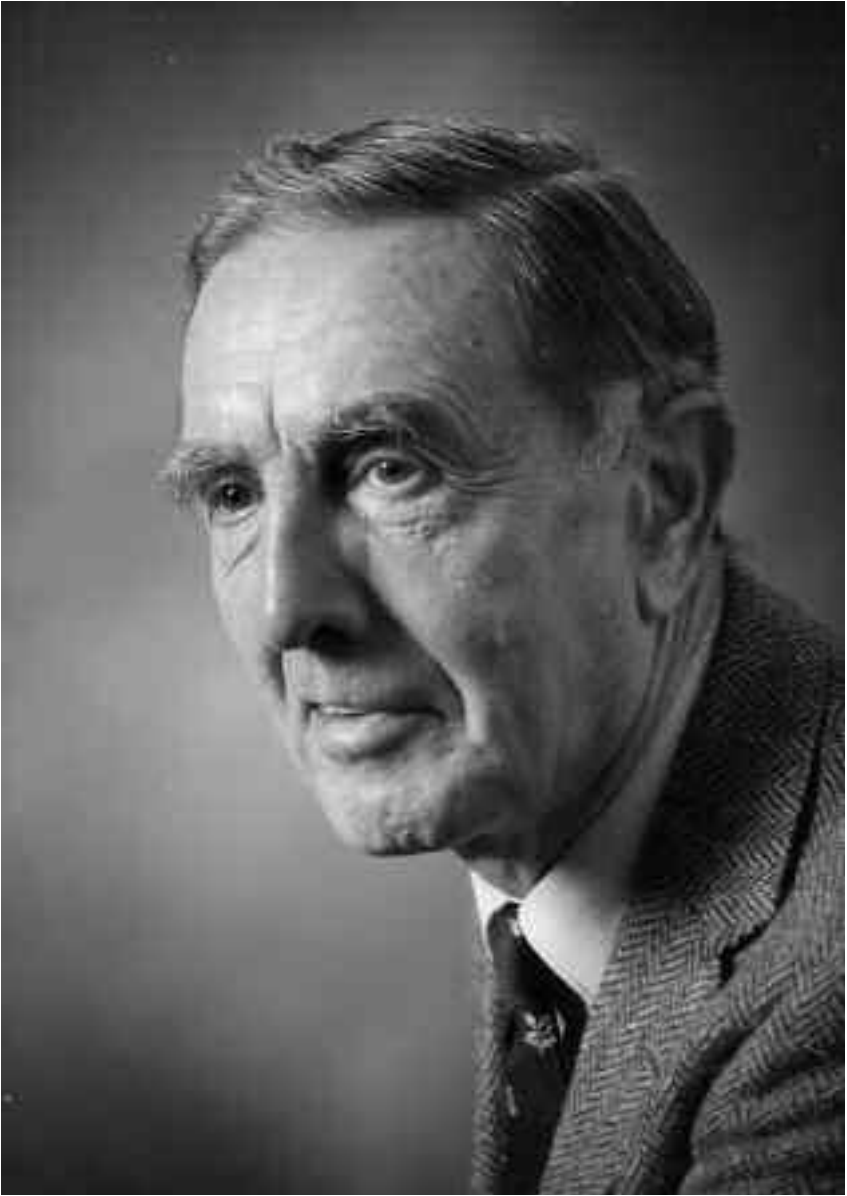
David Williams

OBITUARIES

Dr Kenneth George Budden, 1915-2005

Kenneth (known to many as Ken) Budden was a distinguished physicist particularly noted for his work on the propagation of radio waves in the ionosphere, initially as an experimentalist and subsequently as a theoretician. He was born in Portsmouth on 23 June 1915 and, with the exception of three years when his father's job took the family to Barrow-in-Furness, he grew up there. He came up to St John's from Portsmouth Grammar School in 1933 as a Major Scholar and read Natural Sciences, achieving First class results in Prelim, Part I and Part II, in which he chose to specialise in Physics, graduating BA in 1936. In parallel with his studies in Cambridge Kenneth took the examinations for the external London BSc, which he gained in 1935, a not uncommon practice in that period. Following Part II, he joined a group in the Cavendish Laboratory under the supervision of J A Ratcliffe working on the propagation of very-long-wavelength radio waves, a topic on which Maurice Wilkes was also working at the time. He completed his PhD in 1939 and that year was awarded the Hamilton Prize (then set at £20 compared with £1,200 in 2005-2006) for 'a dissertation embodying research carried out in the University on the theory and practice of radio communication'.

In the early years of the Second World War he carried out research and development in radar and telecommunications in several locations around the UK, including the Telecommunications Research Establishment (TRE) at Worth Matravers, where for a time his sister Stella was also working. An early achievement, subsequently recognised by the Royal Commission on Awards to Inventors, was the height-finding system used in 1940 and 1941 to guide night-fighters to intercept enemy aircraft. Bill Penley, a colleague from his time at TRE, recalls that Kenneth was an active member of a small choral group until the need to work seven days a week brought it to an end. In 1941 he was sent to the British Air Commission in Washington DC and remained there until late 1944. At the beginning of 1945 he was transferred to represent the Director of Communications Development in South-East



Dr Kenneth Budden

Asia, based in Kandy in what is now Sri Lanka. In December 1945 Kenneth became Director of Research for Delanium Limited, a company set up to carry out research on the uses of carbon obtained by a novel process for carbonising coal, but the company's emphasis soon moved away from scientific research. It was while they were all based in London that Clifford Evans introduced Kenneth to Nicolette Longsdon.

In 1947, shortly before he and Nicolette were married, Kenneth was appointed a University Demonstrator in Physics, and was elected to a Fellowship in the College and appointed Director of Studies in Physics. He joined the restarted Radio Group (later Radio Astronomy Group) in the Cavendish, and over the ensuing decade his research focussed progressively more on theoretical topics. In addition to over sixty scientific papers, the most recent published in 1994, he produced four textbooks in the area of propagation of radio waves with particular reference to the ionosphere. The first of those, *Radio Waves in the Ionosphere*, published in 1961, remains a classic. One of Kenneth's significant contributions (and the subject of the second book) was the development of the wave-guide-mode theory of propagation for radio waves in which the earth's surface and the ionosphere are treated as the two conductors of a wave-guide. That theory was known to some at the time as the 'Budden theory', although Kenneth dismissed that description with characteristic modesty. Nevertheless he had been the one to see the potential in the earlier ideas of others. Soon after EDSAC 1 was commissioned he recognised and made good use of the opportunities offered by the advent of digital computing. In the University he became a University Lecturer in 1953 and then a Reader in 1965, retiring as Emeritus Reader in 1982. The outstanding quality of his research was recognised by election to a Fellowship of the Royal Society in 1966 and by a number of awards including the Gold Medal of the Royal Astronomical Society in 1999.

Kenneth was also an excellent and conscientious teacher. Those whom he taught, whether in lectures or supervisions or examples classes for the theoretical option in Part II, recall with great affection not only the skill he displayed in illuminating topics across the subject but, above all, the enormous energy demonstrated. In supervisions the phrase 'paper

and pencil exercises' acquired new significance as one watched with fascination as the point broke away from one after another of the row of hand-sharpened pencils that were always neatly aligned in readiness at the start. Would the supply be sufficient? Somehow it always was!

When he gained tenure as a University Lecturer in 1956 Kenneth and Nicolette decided that the time had come to move to a better house and they were able to lease a plot in Adams Road from the College. In due course they had a splendid house built and developed a magnificent garden from what Kenneth describes vividly in his unpublished autobiographical memoir as a 'neglected meadow' where (amongst other things) bees were kept and honey produced. Over the years a host of people ranging from overseas visitors to successive generations of Johnian undergraduates enjoyed generous hospitality there. When they were not entertaining visitors or looking after the garden, Kenneth and Nicolette enjoyed active relaxations that included country walks with the dogs and playing the piano. Although they had no children of their own they maintained close contact with their wider family. His sister Stella has written the following note: 'Our parents were not in good health and as a young man Kenneth became very important to me. We played piano duets together (mostly transcriptions of the Beethoven symphonies) and followed his passion for long country walks. After he went up to John's I turned down a place at Girton because I did not want to depend on a brilliant brother. He took a great interest in my children and became a friend to my husband who (as it turned out) had benefited from his help as a Part II Physics undergraduate at Selwyn.'

Committed Christians, Kenneth and Nicolette regularly attended Sunday Evensong in College. Kenneth delivered at least two sermons in College, including the sermon at the Service of Commemoration of Benefactors in May 1981, which was published in *The Eagle* in 1982. In that sermon, *inter alia*, he drew a distinction between 'laws of nature', specifically the laws of thermodynamics, and other physical laws, and drew attention to a thought-provoking distinction between eternity and time: eternity as a time-like dimension but distinct from, and orthogonal to, time. They were also deeply involved with the church of St Edward, King & Martyr for many years.

Kenneth's final years were unfortunately clouded by the progressive development of Parkinson's disease throughout which he was looked after by Nicolette with touching devotion. He passed away on 4 September 2005. He will be remembered for many years to come not only as a brilliant physicist and an inspirational teacher but also for his touching modesty.

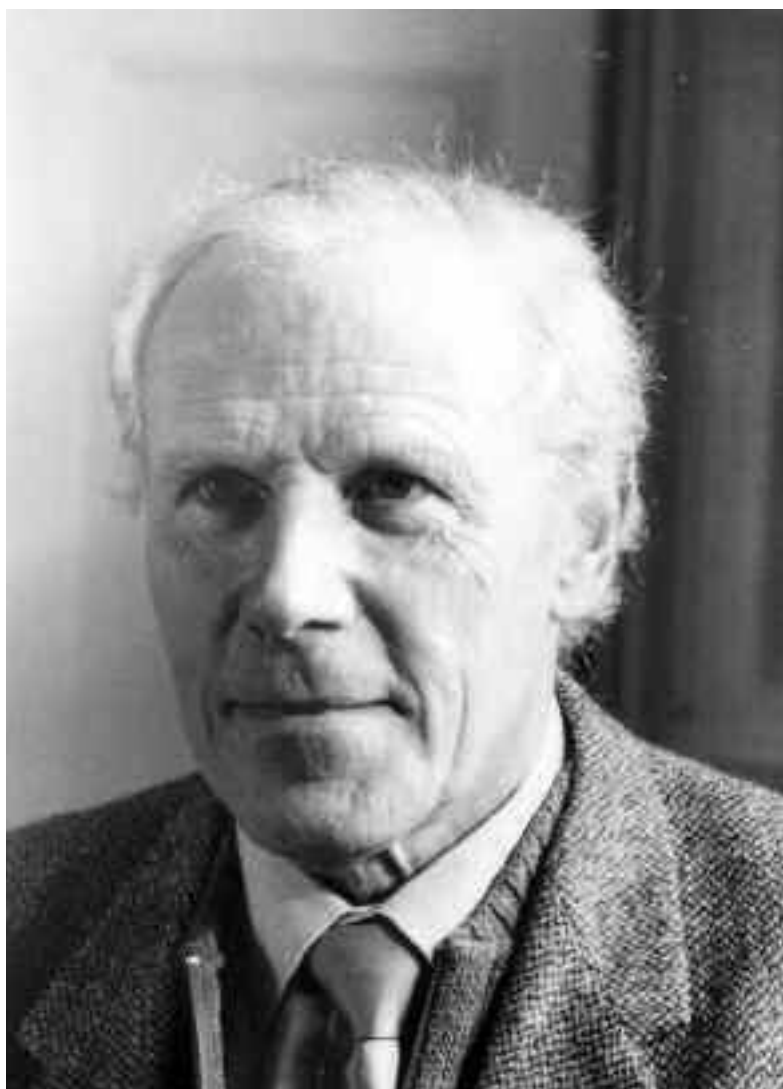
John Leake

**(with help and advice from Roger Griffin, Steve Gull,
Peter Harbour, John Kilgour and Stella Oates)**

Arthur Guy Lee, 1918–2005

Guy Lee was a leading Latinist of his generation in Britain. Accounts of his scholarly contribution were given in *The Times* of 10 August 2005 and *The Independent* of 8 September 2005. That contribution sprang from his profound love and understanding of poetry, modern as well as ancient, English as well as classical. He was gifted in other things, too: if poetry was one of the poles of his being, another was music. He was an accomplished pianist, who especially loved making chamber music with friends: a favourite image in my head is of him tackling the Kegelstatt Trio with the fierce concentration he gave to what he minded about.

Guy (inevitably, given his date of birth: 5 November, and the fact that his father was working for Guy's Hospital) was schooled at Loretto and came to the College as McAulay Scholar in 1936: he and the late R D Williams were the Great Classical Men when I came up in 1939. Then there was wartime service in Signals, at first in Iceland, where Guy picked up Icelandic. In 1945, to his amazement, he was elected to a Fellowship of the College, and remained a Fellow for sixty years, until his death. He was a University Lecturer in Classics from 1949 to 1982. He was also, for more than twenty years, Librarian of the College, with a rich knowledge of books and manuscripts: there is a lovely portrait drawing of him in the Small Combination Room, standing in the Library with the great Mr Buck (you remember?) hovering behind.



Guy Lee

Guy was loved and admired as a College teacher and as a Tutor, influencing always by gentle suggestion and guidance. There are still plenty of Johnians around who will remember that benignity: ('Well, I expect you *could* have said that, but how about this?'). He was not self-effacing: that suggests fear, and Guy was without fear; but he was supremely non-self-promoting.

So, he was a translator. He translated the Latin poetry of love. Perhaps that sounds like second-order activity, but into serious translation goes all that scholarship has had to teach and all that literary sensitivity has to contribute and all that the deepest concentration can achieve in elucidation. And, be it added, into it goes a whole philosophy, changing with age and maturity and with advancing times and fashions, of what translation must seek to achieve.

Guy had one or two ups-and-downs of health, but was basically of powerful physique and strong constitution. He was fortunate in being loved and cherished by Helen, his wife, and adored and admired by their two adoptive sons. He was a reasonable golfer, proud indeed of having once holed in one, and, with Helen, a doughty walker. But a particularly sad thing happened late in his life: he fell and banged his head and after that couldn't read music.

I think he might have liked us to call him IUSTUM ET TENACEM PROPOSITI VIRUM.

John Crook

Lord Brightman, 1911–2006

John Anson Brightman was the first of four modern Law Lords who prefaced their careers by reading Law at St John's.

Brightman was born on 20 June 1911, the younger son of a country solicitor. After school at Marlborough College he followed his elder brother to St John's; he played an active role in the College and University Association Law Societies.



Lord Brightman

Brightman was called to the Bar by Lincoln's Inn and joined Chancery Chambers. His legal career was interrupted by the War, during which he was first a Seaman and then a Lieutenant on an anti-submarine frigate on convoy duty in the Atlantic and Mediterranean and finally, after Staff College, a Lieutenant Commander and Assistant Naval Attaché at

Ankara, where he met and married Roxane Ambatielo with whom he lived happily ever after.

After the War, Brightman resumed his practice at the Chancery Bar; he was a brilliant draftsman – concise and lucid – of trust and commercial documents and court pleadings. He was an expert in estate duty and other taxation problems; he was highly regarded for his sound advice in family affairs. Margaret Thatcher was one of his pupils before she became immersed in politics and she remained a friend and admirer. In 1970 Brightman was appointed a Judge of the High Court Chancery Division and proved to be sound in his decisions and popular with litigants for his fairness, courtesy and patience. Between 1971 and 1974 Brightman was a Judge of the National Industrial Relations Court where he avoided political controversy and proved to be popular with employers and workers. In 1979 Brightman was appointed to the Court of Appeal and in 1982 he was elevated to the House of Lords. His judgements were distinguished by a thorough grasp of the law and an adherence to principle and precedent without losing sight of common sense. Brightman retired as a Law Lord in 1986; he became an active member of the House and presided over several important select committees and pursued his interest in ‘legislative drafting in plain English’.

Brightman was very proud of his election as an Honorary Fellow of the College in 1982, and continued to attend the annual dinner of the Law Society and to dine at High Table on the infrequent occasions when his other duties allowed, and so long as his age and digestion permitted. His son went up to St John’s in due course and is now a hospital consultant. Brightman and his wife shared many interests, including an enthusiasm for the Arctic and Franz Josef Land, and Brightman became an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society in 2001. In appearance Brightman was tall, upright and handsome; he was reserved but not aloof, a loyal friend and supportive colleague and a kind and entertaining companion. He was well liked by all Johnnians who knew him.

Lord Templeman

Professor Richard Ghormley Eberhart, 1904–2005

An inveterate visitor to graveyards, the popular American poet Richard Eberhart, who has died at the age of 101, often wrote about death. 'Cover Me Over', written some 70 years ago, is narrated from the grave, and its short span suggests eternity. 'Cover me over, clover;/ Cover me over, grass./ The mellow day is over/ And there is night to pass./ Green arms about my head,/ Green fingers on my hands./ Earth has no quieter bed/ In all her quiet lands.'

Some of Eberhart's family have had this inscribed on their gravestones, and much of his work is suitable for the purpose. A cheerful, equable man, with a passion for flying kites, sailing a yacht and skiing, his moral sense brought a preoccupation with death.

Eberhart was born in Austin, Minnesota. His father was a self-made man who worked in the meat-packing business; his home at Burr Oaks was later celebrated in his son's poetry. Eberhart himself was a keen footballer and debater, and developed a taste for poetry at the age of 15, when the family had to adjust to more modest circumstances after his father's firm was hit by an embezzler and his mother contracted lung cancer.

Eberhart briefly attended the University of Minnesota before going on to Dartmouth, New Hampshire. On graduation in 1926, he went to work for the Chicago department store of Marshall Field & Co as a floorwalker and advertising copywriter. In 1927, his poems were published in Harriet Monroe's *Poetry* magazine.

Eberhart also decided to go to Cambridge, working his passage aboard a tramp steamer in the Pacific. As he chipped rust, he never revealed his history or aspirations, lest he feel out of place as the crew journeyed to Hong Kong and Manila. Finally, a German captain offered him a free passage to Europe, though, once at sea, he was forced to be an oiler in the hold – or be thrown overboard.

He eventually jumped ship at Port Said, paying his way from there to England, where his mother's small legacy supported his study at St John's College, Cambridge, under F R Leavis, I A Richards and



Professor Richard Eberhart

Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch. Among his friends were William Empson, Kathleen Raine and T H White.

Eberhart's work appeared in an anthology, *New Signatures*, published by Leonard and Virginia Woolf's Hogarth Press, and he wrote a long poem, *A Bravery of Earth* (1930), which was inspired by his journey round the world.

Back in America, the Wall Street crash meant even less money. Eberhart worked in a slaughterhouse, until becoming tutor to the Procter soap family's children in Florida, an experience that equipped him, in September 1930, to take up the post of tutor to the King of Siam's son, who was spending a year in the US. These events were satirised in 'The Rape Of The Cataract', a work less successful than its near-contemporary, 'The Groundhog', which was Eberhart's most famous work.

Eberhart felt more akin to the British nineteenth-century poets Wordsworth, Blake and Hopkins than he did to his American contemporaries, and he made the everyday metaphysical. His earnings from the King of Siam financed a year in Berlin, after which he returned, in 1932, to study at Harvard.

He dropped out in 1933 in the midst of the Depression, and taught at St Mark's Episcopalian school in Southborough, Massachusetts, where Robert Lowell was a pupil and W H Auden a fellow-teacher for a memorable month, on Eberhart's invitation.

Redundancy in 1940 coincided with the Second World War. Now a mild Episcopalian, Eberhart signed up with the US naval reserve, and joined the army in 1942. By then, he had met, and soon married, Helen Butcher.

Teaching young recruits how to fire guns troubled him, and the names of many of those who died soon afterwards are memorialised in Eberhart's poem, 'The Fury Of Aerial Bombardment': 'they are gone to early death, who late in school / Distinguished the belt feed lever from the belt holding pawl.'

After the war, Eberhart joined his father-in-law's floor-polish firm for a number of years, relishing the business life as much as his friend Wallace Stevens did (he was also friends with William Carlos Williams and an enthusiast for the Beat poets). By 1952, he had enjoyed a period with the Poets' Theater at Harvard, during that era's penchant for verse drama. He then taught in various American universities, returning to Dartmouth in 1956.

Across the Eisenhower/Kennedy eras, Eberhart held the Library of Congress post now denoted as that of Poet Laureate, and won all the usual prizes, including the Pulitzer and the Bollingen.

Though his life had become quieter, his poetry continued to reflect a concern with life and death, or death in life. Prolific, and variable, he often dropped work from one collection to another (there is, as yet, no complete edition of his writing).

His wife died in 1993. Their son and daughter survive him.

Christopher Hawtree

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Jim Williams, 1935–2005

James Herbert Williams was born in 1935 in Camberwell, London, where he lived with his parents and sister until the age of five. He then moved to Newmarket with his mother and sister to live with relations as war had broken out. He attended school in Newmarket where he became interested in sport, especially football and cricket.

At the age of 15 he left school and got his first job working for the railways. This was clearly not the job for him and he left shortly afterwards to take up a position at Fenner's cricket ground in Cambridge, serving under a Mr Cyril Coote, which he did until his National Service where he joined the Royal Artillery. At the end of his National Service he returned to Fenner's.



Jim Williams

Shortly after this he got his first position as a Head Groundsman at the Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough, where he stayed until 1963, and then he came to St John's College as Head Groundsman. At that time the College used to play a Staff v Fellows cricket match where Jim was invited to play, along with other members of staff including the Boatman, Roger Silk. The Fellows batted first and this was no problem for Jim and Roger as they dismissed the Fellows all out for a very low score. The following year neither Jim nor Roger were invited to play again.

In 1985 he married his wife of 20 years, Rita. Typical of Jim, who wanted no fuss, they got married at the Register Office with two witnesses: Rita's Mum and Dad, followed by a wedding lunch at Tesco consisting of two cups of tea, two cups of coffee, and four sausage rolls, and then back to work for 12 noon.

In 1999 Jim and Rita retired to King's Lynn, where he enjoyed living until his death in June 2005.

Jim treated all people the same, regardless of their background, and was a pleasure to know and work with.

Keith Ellis

Dick McConnel adds:

I first met Jim when I joined St John's in 1979 and shortly after was elected Senior Treasurer of the Field Clubs. This effectively made me Jim's boss, or as he put it, 'the governor'. I knew very little of what was expected of me, but Jim seemed to know everything, and effectively told me what to tell him to do.

I last saw Jim and Rita in King's Lynn in May 2005 when I was on the way to a school governor's meeting. He was, even then, the same fiercely loyal man of few words and strong opinions who, on a shoestring budget for most of his tenure, produced the best playing fields in Cambridge. He and Rita had six very good years in King's Lynn, with Jim tending his collection of military memorabilia (and the

lawns of the other residents of the small estate where they lived!). It was a privilege to have worked with Jim, and to have known him and Rita for so many years.

Personal recollections from former students:

I'd cross over Queen's Road, push open the iron gate into SJC playing fields, and walk up the slope across the cricket outfield towards the pavilion to change into my boots for training. Every time that I did this, it seemed the same figure would be leaning against one of the pavilion pillars: possibly pre-war beige anorak visible from the road and gradually 'man of all weathers' face coming into view.

'All right, Jim?' 'All right, Mark'. Every time.

Good memory. Permanent picture and picture of permanence.

A lot of time at John's revolved around the sports ground, the pavilion and Jim providing the kind of College glue and part of so many Johnians' memories that is beyond most of us.

A good man, a good College man and sadly missed.

Mark Coombs (1979)

When I first met Jim Williams, he scared me. He seemed old, insular, unfriendly even. I should have known better. He was actually one of the kindest and most honest men I've ever known. His gruffness disguised a deep-seated shyness which remained with him all his life. It also allowed him to cope with the more absurd demands made of him by some of the more high-minded and insular College sports players and captains. Those of us he chose to make friends of were blessed. To witness one of his smiles was one of those pleasures to savour, because it could transform any day, no matter how miserable. To hear him talk of games gone by was to be allowed to delve into the rich traditions of the past, but without rose-tinted spectacles. And with expletives. That was our real-life education.

Jim saved my life, actually. After the first couple of hockey practices, he took me, the still green-behind-the-ears fresher goalkeeper, to one side, and told me he thought it would be a good idea to buy a face mask. 'Game's a lot faster up here', is what he said. I followed his advice that day. The next day in the pre-match warm-up I was hit in the face by a ball that bounced just before our Centre Forward connected with it – without the mask I'd have been dead. So concerned was Jim for my health later that season (probably understanding that skill was sadly lacking) that he offered me a lacrosse body guard when we were due to play Fitzwilliam with Derek Pringle taking the short corners. 'Hits the ball harder than anyone I've seen', was the reason he gave. That was the thing about Jim. He knew everything about every sportsman at the University. Especially those who might threaten his beloved College's supremacy at hockey, rugby, cricket and football.

The playing fields might just as well have been children for Jim, because he cared about them deeply. Not just about the way they looked, not just because he did his work with pride, but because he was connected to them in a way that only a few of us are ever lucky enough to be connected to the earth. They were part of him, and he was part of them. To mistreat his pitches was to mistreat the man himself. He would have a fit if anyone tried to play if conditions were too wet or too frosty, or in any way not perfect for the pitches to remain relatively unscathed.

Many people wondered, and probably still do, why and how Jim decided to get on better with some people than others. I'm not sure he ever made a conscious decision about that, but I do believe that he had a soft spot for those of lesser talents who tried their best. He could be scathing of the attitudes of the more talented players (and talent can bring with it arrogance), because very often they didn't subscribe to the team ethos that Jim believed was at the very centre of playing sports. What Jim wanted to see was people trying for the sake of the College *and* themselves.

When I heard Jim had died, I told my friends that I had just lost the man who had taught me everything about sport and life. About everything to do with dignity, striving and fairness. Because that is what Jim taught me. The man leaning against the pavilion in his shirt sleeves and

waistcoat, smoking a cigar, brown face creased with character, eyes shining. The man I still see there every time I walk across the playing fields he'll always be a part of.

Richard Pierce-Saunderson (1978)

I remember arriving at St John's in the autumn of 1979. I was amazed by the size of the playing fields – Jim's 'estate' – not more than 800 yards from the centre of town: the two rugby pitches, two soccer pitches, two hockey pitches, cricket square, the tennis courts, and all the grounds for the Choir School. It was a huge area, and it was perfect, with the parallel mowing lines that proved what a great groundsman Jim was. In the four years that I was there (and I spent a lot of time on Jim's estate) I don't remember a blade of grass out of place – and woe betide any stray leaf that happened to fall, immediately raked up by hand by Jim and his men.

Meeting Jim for the first time was an intimidating experience. Withdrawn into his anorak, hidden under his cap, shrouded in cigarette smoke, this was a groundsman to be respected, with his beady and critical eye observing every movement over his land. One could have been forgiven in thinking that those pitches were there to be looked at, not played on. And Jim wasn't one to be intimidated by status or reputation. Current or future international rugby star they might have been – and there were lots of those at the time (Marcus Rose, Rob Andrew, Simon Smith, Mark Bailey, Huw Davies, Iain Morrison, Fran Clough, Paul Ackford) – their rugby studs carved up Jim's grounds like any other mortal's. Pity any young Varsity team secretary who thought he could just turn up with the team for training on St John's grounds without checking with Jim, regardless that the following day was the match against Fiji. 'Bugger off' meant what it said.

That was, of course, just to preserve his pitches. It wasn't until you drove 80 miles three times per week to train and play in a mud bath at Richmond Athletic Ground (or Harlequins etc) that it all sank home. Then we all respected the quiet, loyal and dedicated man. Then we

recognised his expertise, his selflessness and his dedication. Then we appreciated the importance of the hours Jim spent seeding, mowing, lining and rolling his pitches. Then we remembered the hours Jim spent umpiring, watching and supporting his boys. Then we heard again the muffled words of encouragement and congratulation, and felt the true warmth of the real Jim.

Jim's boys we were, and we didn't know how lucky we were, or just how much we owed to him.

We do now.

Jeremy Macklin (1979)

COLLEGE SOCIETIES

The Adams Society

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

David Turton
President

Art Society

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

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

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

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

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

Zoë Gilmore
President

The Choir Association

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Alastair Roberts
Chairman

The Choir

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

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

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

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

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

The Choir returned from the Christmas break to record a CD of music for Advent and Christmas, which will be issued by Hyperion in late autumn 2006. The Chapel was filled to capacity for the first candlelit Epiphany Carol Service held on Saturday 21 January. Having received

many favourable comments, it is intended to make the service an annual event. It was particularly pleasing to welcome twenty members of the St John's College Choir Association and their families to the service.

After a year's break, the BBC returned to St John's on Wednesday 1 March to broadcast the Ash Wednesday service live on Radio Three. We were particularly pleased to welcome Philip Moore, Master of the Music at York Minster, to the service – Philip had been commissioned by the College to compose a new set of canticles, which were premiered during the service. The Choir is very grateful to the St John's College Choir Association for the generous contribution made towards the costs of the commission. Members of Clare College Choir joined the Choir for a well attended Evensong on Saturday 11 March. The service included the Howells St John's service and the Howells *Requiem*. The Lent Meditation service on Sunday 12 March was the first of three services to be recorded as part of a trial to webcast from the Chapel via the College website. Readers may listen in to services by visiting www.joh.cam.ac.uk, then following the link from the Chapel & Choir pages. Further services will be added to the site soon.

On Saturday 18 March, the Choir travelled to Ashwell near Royston in Hertfordshire, to perform a concert at St Mary's Church. A capacity audience had a preview of the concert programme to be used during the forthcoming tour of the USA. We were delighted to see Peter Rose, former Head of Music at St John's College School, who made his first appearance in public following his recent serious illness.

On Wednesday 22 March, the Choir set off for a twelve-day tour of the USA. After two hours hatching an escape from Atlanta airport, we headed for Chattanooga, where a capacity audience gave us a very warm reception. From Chattanooga we headed to Vero Beach in Florida, then to New Britain, Troy, Greenwich (where we were delighted to catch up with former Choral Students Andrew Tomlinson, Geoff Silver and Stephen Shorter), Buffalo and Wooster. The music programme for the tour included the *German Mass* by Mendelssohn and, for the second half, the local promoters were given the choice of a *Requiem*, either by Fauré or Howells.

The highlight of the tour was a day spent in New York. A special Evensong at St Thomas' Church on Fifth Avenue, New York, was a particularly outstanding event, where John Scott, Organist and Director of Music at St Thomas (Organ Scholar at St John's 1974-1977), accompanied us on the organ. During the service, prayers were said for Richard Thompson, a New York based Johnian, who had recently passed away. The service was followed by a reception at the University Club, where the Choir and the Gents entertained the Johnian guests with a varied programme of music.

The Choir's first recording with Hyperion Records, *Mendelssohn Sacred Choral Music*, was released on 1 May 2006. The CD (reference number CDA67558) can be purchased from the Johnian Office at the discounted price of £13 plus p&p. Gonville & Caius College Choir joined with the Choir on Sunday 7 May to sing the *Jongen Mass*, with musical accompaniment provided by members of London City Brass. As part of the May Week celebrations, the Choir will join with the Music Society and the St John's Singers for the traditional May Concert on Monday 19 June. The programme for this year's concert is Mozart's *Krönungsmesse*, Haydn's *Insanae et vanae curae* and *Divertimento 'Der Geburtstag'*, plus a selection of items from the Gents.

Looking ahead, the year will finish with a recording of Belgian Organ Masses for Hyperion and performances at two concerts: the first at St Werburgh's Church, Chester, as part of the Chester Festival on Thursday 13 July; and the second at Carlisle Cathedral, as part of the Carlisle International Summer Festival on Friday 14 July. The Choir's best wishes go to Matthew Brown, Richard Wilberforce (Altos), Finbarr Cosgrove, Robert Shorter (Tenors), Tom Goldring, James Oldfield, Tim Scott (Basses), Quintin Beer, Stephen Fort, William Pargeter and Alex Robarts (Choristers), who leave at the end of the year.

Caroline Marks
Choir Administrator

The Classical Society

The Classical Society has continued to thrive this year, thanks to the new intake of fresh-faced first years and the dependable support of older years, graduates and Fellows. The pre-term drinks and choice nibbles, kindly hosted by Dr Gowers, allowed us all to mingle and discuss our plans for the year ahead.

First on the agenda was our annual play reading and, following a robust performance of Aristophanes' *The Frogs* last year, it was decided that it was high time for some tragedy. Our thanks go to Bob Lister for providing the texts for Euripides' *Bacchae* which was performed with gusto by all who attended. Special note must go to Professor Schofield for his energetic chorus, and to Chris Whitton for his amusing portrayal of Pentheus. As ever, the evening had a special ambience, and we are very grateful to Professor Crook for the use of his rooms and for providing refreshments.

Our guest speaker this year was Richard Woff from the British Museum who gave a very interesting multi-media presentation on 'Visual Representations of Ovid's *Metamorphoses*'. The slides incorporated both close-up images of ancient artefacts and samples of relevant literary texts, and provided excellent stimuli for further discussion. It was a very enjoyable evening and the talk was well received by all who attended.

Classics Desserts is perhaps the most eagerly anticipated event in the Classical Society's calendar and this year did not disappoint, as we were treated to copious amounts of wine, port, cheese and fruit in the pleasant surroundings of the Wordsworth Room. The atmosphere was fun and relaxed and, as the wine flowed in the glowing candlelight, the evening drew to a reluctant close. This was not before some symposiastic games had taken place (not least a cracker-eating competition presided over by Professor Schofield and won by Emily Baker). We were also treated to some snippets of a first-year philosophy essay that was to be written that evening and cannot have failed but to be improved by the high-brow conversation and bacchic revelries the Desserts afforded.

As the Easter Term sets in and all are busily preparing for Tripos exams, we look forward to the final meeting of the Classical Society. The Classics Lunch in the Wordsworth Room falls just after exams and forms a welcome precursor to the happy festivities of May Week.

Our thanks go to all those who have supported the Classical Society over the year, especially our Treasurer, Professor Crook, and also Professor Schofield and Dr Gowers. Here's to a similarly enjoyable diary of events next year!

Beth Harper and Hannah Willey
Presidents

The Economics Society

The Economics Society kicked off this year with the traditional 'meet and greet' evening to welcome the freshers into the Society. Pre-dinner drinks were held in the pleasant surroundings of New Court to allow the first years to network with their fellow peers, important to a Society which actively encourages such integration between the years. After such strong intra-College bonding and the delights of the Hall menu, we headed out to the Economics Night at Coco's for further bonding. As per usual, it was the veterans of the Society who were struggling the next morning!

It was a somewhat quiet year for the Society, with our Director of Studies, Robert Evans, being sorely missed whilst away on sabbatical. Our thanks go to Sir Partha Dasgupta and Dr Susanna Sällström-Matthews for stepping in to fill the role in the Michaelmas and Lent Terms. Easter Term, however, saw the departure of Susanna on maternity leave, and we would like to wish her all the best in the coming months.

The Society is now awaiting the election of the new Presidents of the Society at the Annual Dinner later in the Easter Term. We are sure that they will carry on the role with enthusiasm and look forward to their ideas for the Society in the year ahead. We wish them the best of luck.

In May week, the Society is planning to hold a summer Garden Party to celebrate the end of exams and say farewell to our fine third years.

Anne-Marie Brewer and Charles Willison
Presidents

Film Society

The Film Society is one of the College's largest and most high-profile societies, and so it is surprising that this is its first appearance in *The Eagle*. The year began with the traditional Squash, where we were pleased to welcome back old faces as well as attracting many new members. Michaelmas Term began with Douglas Adams' *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, a film of particular Johnian significance. As I write, *The Constant Gardener* has been our best-attended film so far, but animated pictures remain Johnian favourites with *Wallace & Gromit* and *Madagascar* both attracting large audiences. We had hoped for a large audience at our planned showing of *Ghostbusters*, but an error by our distributor meant that the film was sitting in Edinburgh rather than running through our projector. We have been keen to increase the variety of films we show, and our commitment to more specialist titles led to films being shown in partnership with a range of College and University societies, including Amnesty International and the University Mountaineering Club.

Social events are an important part of the Society's life and this year has been no exception. We have had several enjoyable Halls, our first-ever Christmas party, and are now looking forward to relaxing at our May Week Garden Party. The Annual Dinner in Lent Term was again very well attended and this produced some of the year's most memorable moments. Members of the Society who have graduated recently will also be pleased to know that, for the first time in several years, the word 'port' was successfully pronounced during the Chairman's speech. This year's Dinner, however, will be remembered for the inspiring words of Luke Butcher, who made an excellent last-minute replacement for our Senior Treasurer, Dr Helen Watson, who was regrettably delayed on her way back from London.

I am very proud of the fact that we are now the only Cambridge College to use 35mm film for all of our showings. By the end of this academic year we will have admitted over 3,500 paying customers to our thirty-eight film showings. None of this would be possible without the hard work and dedication of our members, of which there are over fifty. Messing about with reels of film in the early hours of the morning when you should be writing an essay isn't easy, but everyone manages to keep smiling (at least most of the time).

Members have been a great source of ideas for films, social events and the future direction of the Society, and I would like to thank everybody for their input. I am indebted to my Committee for their help and support over the past year. Chris Thomas skilfully handled the technical aspects of the Society's operations as Head Projectionist, managing to virtually eliminate technical problems and to re-invigorate the projection side of our operations. His legacy will be a fantastic training programme for the projectionists of the future.

As Film Secretary, Craig Morrison's diplomacy has been invaluable when negotiating with film distributors, couriers and sponsors. He has consistently excelled in the unenviable task of turning a muddle of film suggestions into a thought-provoking and entertaining programme. Jennifer Edwards bravely took on the role of Head Publicist after it failed to be filled in the first round of elections. Her enthusiastic leadership of our team of hard-working and imaginative publicists has successfully attracted large audiences from across the University. In the role of Social Secretary, Peter Attard Montalto must be thanked for the extravagant Annual Dinner and his valuable contributions to Committee meetings. He also produced one of the biggest surprises of the year by managing to bring the Dinner in below budget.

I would also like to extend particular thanks to Louisa Nye for the valuable experience she brought to the Committee, and to Paul Hufton for his stint as Secretary. Jennifer Edwards has been elected as Chair for next year and I would like to take this opportunity to wish her and everyone on next year's Committee the very best of luck.

I have had a fantastic time as a member of the Society over the past three years and I will be sad to leave it behind. I hope that I can find the time to return and catch the occasional showing.

Matthew Cannon
Chairman

The Gentlemen of St John's

Once again this year, the Gents have played in a full range of top-quality concert venues, from St John's Chapel, to the Royal Albert Hall, to The Maypole. Onwards goes our charitable mission of uplifting the lives of many audiences, whilst helping the College uphold its rigid academic standards.

Of course, people leave our musical ensemble every year, but we lost seven men at the end of last year (one or two of them not for the first time), with twenty-seven years of experience amongst them. We wish especially good luck to Lester, John, George and Andrew with their future music careers in far-flung capital cities (Nicholas Charlwood has also progressed quickly in his chosen field, now doing an MPhil in International Relations at St John's). There was, at such a startling departure, some concern, but the Gents crossed their fingers, opened themselves welcomingly and were rewarded with some outstanding talents. Tom Goldring returns from his year as a vocal guru in the USA, to complete his third year, even though he did forget to bring his heart home. James Diggle joins our Alto section – that, unfortunately, being only the first of his female attributes! Fortunately, John Lattimore joins the same department, his breath-taking machismo helping to balance the Altos somewhat. Russian Bass, Edward de Minckwitz III of Kartl-Kakheti, joins us from somewhere around Birminggrad, having sung at Glevum Colonia Cathedral during his gap year. James Williams Oldfield retires into the Gents, having had a long and successful career with another unmentionable choir. Leon 'Thatcher' Charles is promoted from Durovernum Cantiacorum to St John's as Organ Scholar. Finally, ensuring racial representation, Welshman Sam Furness, a pilgrim from

the 'barren land', having trodden the verge of Jordan, plants himself in Cambridge.

December saw the recapitulation (quite literally) of The Maypole Christmas Caberet, our first opportunity to show College that of which the new Gents are capable. Once again, standing space ran short as the night got underway. With many a winter ale flowing, CD sales rocketed as the Gents once again solved a multitude of Christmas present crises. Ed de Minckwitz's heart-warming rendition of 'Mary's Boy Child' received much acclaim, surpassed in popularity only by talk of who 'the old guy with a beard and really low voice' was, in the shape of Mr Oldfield.

A few days later, we shipped off to London to hit the big time. The Gents headlined at the Royal Albert Hall alongside our long-time supporter and close friend, John Rutter, and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. Rising to the task and filling the largest of auditoriums, we received, by far, the loudest applause of the night. It was especially good to have a few of the old guard back to help out. Thanks go to the Dean for allowing us to take our cassocks with us, and to John Rutter for providing us with some 'spiritual' electric candles for the performance – we looked fantastic. With two angelic performances in one day over, we headed out to enjoy a much-deserved, less angelic night on the town.

Closer still to Christmas, the Choir toured Estonia. An incredibly successful tour was also marvellous fun, and some Gents saw their first real snow. Of course, we found many less formal opportunities to perform around Tallin, although Finbarr Cosgrove declined that opportunity. Elsewhere, it was good to see the new members of the team maturing into their roles, Sam Furness beginning what looks to be a high-flying career. Also of note was James Diggle, who at this stage began to show the oral potential that has since materialized in a number of very well-received performances.

A Choir tour to America occupied a large slice of the Easter vacation. Though a busy tour, the Gents found plenty of time for the usual displays, and it seemed that the Americans were very appreciative of

what we had to offer. All being well, a future Gents tour of the USA seems likely – but I'm not taking responsibility for it! We recently slotted in a performance to an intimate audience at Charterhouse shortly before the start of the Easter Term – returning to the choral home of Mr Furness.

After the disappointment of singing with only one top-quality Ball last year, a number of Gents (especially Mr Diggle) were quite keen to do more this year. On top of the all-important 5.00am St John's May Ball set, we also have the exciting opportunity of White Tie at the Peterhouse May Ball. Various other private engagements and, of course, the best Garden Party in Cambridge, make for one of our busiest May weeks for some time. It doesn't look like stopping at that either, with the planned 'M25' tour this summer, including a concert for Macmillan Cancer Relief, and culminating in the Gents returning to the Eton Choral Course series. Rumour from the last visit is still resonating after four years. Thanks go to the St John's Choir Association for their financial assistance with this project. Plans for the summer also include (time allowing) a CD recording of Christmas arrangements – so watch this space.

All that remains is for me to wish well those who are leaving this year, all of whom will be sorely missed. James Williams Oldfield leaves for London, where income from his numerous scholarships at various singing colleges is rumoured to rival the outrageously high St John's lay-clerk fee. Tim 'Ralph' Scott leaves the Choir after four years of faithful service (having nearly defected to Trinity only once), launching into uncertain waters, although he is currently hoping to help increase collegiate bureaucracy. Matt Brown sets out on his missionary voyage to the New World, to help educate the philistines in the way of English choral music, following the path of Sir Steve Scott Samuel Shorter two years ago to a lay-clerkship at Greenwich in Connecticut. He will, of course, also then be on the same continent as his long suffering partner, albeit five hours' drive away. Tom Goldberg is set to launch onto 'the high seas of international finance': with internships literally begging for the supply of his application and intellectual consideration, it seems likely that, in a few years, he will be set to purchase The Maypole.

Robert Shorter leaves to have an exotic gap year, starting off with a cookery course in Surrey. Finally, we also say a sad goodbye to Finbarr Cosgrove, although he will be around next year and I'm sure will continue to play a large role with the Gents.

Wishing my successor, James Diggle, every bit of luck and judgement in running what is an increasingly large operation next year. I know the following twelve months will be just as action-packed as the last.

Gareth John
Manager

The Helvetic Society

This year was very active for the Helvetic Society, with the continuation of the Annual Trip to Switzerland during the Easter Vacation and several delightful Dinners in College. The Society also expanded its membership significantly, due to our ongoing efforts to involve more Johnians in the Society's activities.

The Annual Trip was again to Zermatt. We travelled by train from Geneva through the beautiful Swiss countryside: along the shore of Lake Geneva, past rolling Swiss farmland and then up into the Alps themselves. All went smoothly, apart from yours truly managing to leave an entire (large) suitcase on the train at Visp while changing onto the Matterhorn Express! Fortunately, Swiss efficiency saved the day and the bag was retrieved at Brig and sent back to Zermatt within the week. This year, our accommodation in Zermatt was at the abode of a Swiss family, with whom the Society has been building strong links. We hoped that by staying with a traditional local family we could integrate more fully into the Swiss culture.

We continued our tradition of enjoying an evening of fondue and raclette, both local inventions that have gained European popularity. These may only be simple peasant dishes but the Swiss take great pride in their cheese, and for good reason! Apart from enjoying the local culture, we also found time to participate in some skiing, that most

Swiss of pastimes. The weather treated us extremely well, although several runs had certainly suffered from exposure – the price you pay for only being able to travel during the University vacations. I am happy to report that the journey back to Cambridge was, fortunately, much less eventful. All those involved agreed that the trip was a great success, and certainly one that we hope to be able to continue into the coming years!

David Knowles
Chairman

The History Society

After enjoying the 100th annual History Society Dinner last year, the Society marked the beginning of its second century with great success. The Society continues to provide the historians of St John's with the opportunity to develop their historical knowledge outside of the Tripos, and also to meet and converse with one another away from the formalities of academia. It has certainly been a highly interesting and enjoyable year.

We began in the Easter Term of last year with a Garden Party, in the picturesque location of the Fellows' Garden. Historians and their guests indulged, with the opportunity taken by some to showcase their talents on the croquet lawn. The first talk of the year took us outside St John's, to the relaxed atmosphere of the living room of Professor Paul Kennedy, the J Richardson Dilworth Professor of History at Yale University. Paul Kennedy is internationally known for his writings and commentaries on global, political, economic and strategic issues, and spoke to the Society about the history of the United Nations. It proved to be an interesting and engaging topic, and the opportunity to converse with a leading international authority on such an intimate basis was appreciated by all.

The first speaker for the Society was our very own Dr Robert Tombs. He offered a unique and illuminating discussion entitled 'Marianne and les rosbifs: how the French imagined the British c1800-2000', which provided an original and thought-provoking insight into how we are viewed across the channel.

The next visitor was Dr Jeevan Deol, who teaches and lectures both at Cambridge and at the School of Oriental and African Studies. The topic under discussion was 'Al Qaeda – The History of an Idea', not only highly topical, but an important foray into a subject that undoubtedly has become misconstrued and somewhat misunderstood in the public eye.

We moved into 2006, and our final term under the current History Society Committee, with an eclectic mix of historical subject matter for perusal. Cambridge University's Dr Malcolm Gaskill entertained us with an extremely interesting talk on 'Matthew Hopkins and the English Witch Hunt of 1645-7'; St John's College PhD student, Hilary Larkin, enlightened the Society on issues of cultural identity in the early modern period; and we were delighted to host Professor Mark Ormrod, Head of the History Department at York University. Professor Ormrod spoke to us about the political structures and ideas of later medieval England, a topic that engaged not only those medievalists among us, but anyone with a broader interest in monarchy and government.

The highlight of the year was undoubtedly the Annual Dinner in the lavish setting of the Senior Combination Room. The achievements of the past year were reflected on in a speech by the Secretary, Juliet Courtney, and we were honoured to receive Professor Tony Badger, Master of Clare College, as our special guest. His talk was stimulating and most amusing, and the evening was enjoyed by all present.

I would like to offer my utmost thanks to my Committee, Juliet Courtney as Secretary, and Jonathan Knight as Treasurer, for their hard work and dedication. Thanks must also go to the Senior Treasurer, Dr Peter Linehan, whose long involvement with the Society has been integral to its success and to the wider intellectual development of those historians at St John's who, year upon year, enjoy the diversity and tradition of the History Society. It gives me great pleasure to offer my best wishes to the incoming Committee: Hugo Cartwright as President, Nush Chakravarty as Secretary and Dom Palma as Junior Treasurer. I have every confidence that under their tenure the Society will continue to go from strength to strength, and can think of no better advice than to bear in mind the words of Ernest Benians, Master of St John's College

1933-1952: 'the true treasure of the College is the original purpose of its foundation, made stronger or weaker by its fulfilment in each succeeding generation.'

Edward Andrews
President

Jazz@John's

Now in its eighth year, Jazz@John's has firmly established itself as one of the most popular events the College has to offer. The classic blend of quality live music, a relaxed environment and the cheapest bar in Cambridge was never at risk of failing, but this year has seen the Society's reputation rise to an unprecedented level. There are now some 1,200 members on the mailing list, virtually guaranteeing ticket sell-outs but requiring the unfortunate duty of turning latecomers away.

As always, Jazz@John's continues to attract many graduates, although it has been pleasing to see an increasing undergraduate contingent, and even more significantly – a much larger Johnian crowd. Clearly impressed by the quality of entertainment, no fewer than thirteen Johnians joined the Jazz@John's Committee this year, along with a fair number from other colleges. An army of bar staff ensures that liquid refreshment flows all evening, whilst a dedicated technical team tirelessly twiddles knobs at the mixing desk; the scene staff never fail to completely transform the Fisher Building into the perfect venue; and our Advertising Chief makes posters at which to marvel.

Then of course, there's the music. Vice-President, Tom Stambollouian, has maintained the diversity of Jazz@John's, and kept the quality high. From more experimental jazz by Four Brothers and a Ghost, to classics by Mingusology; from funk and soul specialists Capricorn, through to regular favourites such as Josh Kemp and Sara Mitra, there's been something for everyone. Furthermore, eager listeners can now enjoy the music from the comfort of their own rooms. Having invested substantially in sound equipment this year, we now have the ability to record and master tracks from Jazz@John's events. Production of a CD

is in the pipeline but in the meantime, jazz fans can access selected tracks from our website, www.jazzatjohns.co.uk.

It is now that thoughts turn to this year's Garden Party, and the question of whether we can emulate the resounding success of the last. With Dennis Rollins' Bad Bone & Co, nominated for the BBC Jazz Awards Best Band 2006, booked to perform, we look forward to a special performance in the beautiful surroundings of the Fellows' Garden, made even better by a glass or two of champagne. Continued sponsorship from Deloitte will be put to subsidising tickets, so students can enjoy maximum value for their money.

It only remains for me to thank all of the Committee for being so dedicated, but especially Paul Scrivens for his web-mastering and book-keeping; Justin Salamon for updating the website to its current glory; Tom Stambollouian for his determination in booking only the best; Julian Johnson for his technical expertise; Matt Farrington for keeping the bar so well-run; and Miranda Buckle and Emily Foster for their extraordinary creativity. Jazz@John's could not have done so well this year without them, or Deloitte's financial support. Good luck to Faye Goldman, Julian Johnson and Anneka Dew who will be taking on the respective roles of President, Vice-President and Bar Manager next year. May the success of Jazz@John's long continue.

Jennifer Hon
President

The JCR

It has been a year of superlatives for the Junior Combination Room Committee (or so we would like to think) – the best Freshers' Week and June Ent ever, as well as a revolutionary and extremely well-received programme of investment. I am also pleased to report that rent negotiations were about as successful as we could hope. I even broke with our tradition of splendid isolation, to attend CUSU Council frequently enough to feel that the best interests of St John's would be served by threatening disaffiliation.

As Treasurer, Jono Abecassis was extremely successful in not only keeping the JCRC solvent, but also in sanctioning some revolutionary and very popular expenditure, even if his desire for rugs for the JCR was thwarted. Andre Almeida carried on fighting for eclectic music as President of the Boiler Room Sub-Committee. He did not lose his faith, despite occasional frustration caused by the lack of enthusiasm from some musically less-well-educated members of College. Publicity Officer Hannah Carmichael's newly-electronic 'Binliners' were the pride of the Committee and her decorations transformed the Ents. Her relentless enthusiasm helped her to survive being forced to remove 200 staples single-handedly. Nirup Chawhan served as the face of St John's to potential applicants, bringing his unique flair for aesthetics to the post of Access Officer. He successfully marshalled volunteers for the shadowing scheme and a number of other occasions.

Services Officer, Peter Coulthard, is lucky enough to be my successor, and his successes with the Buttery and Fitness Centre, not to mention the wildly popular 'cutlery amnesty' (proceeds: one fork) will undoubtedly be eclipsed by further great works. The elusive Mr Patrick Harty was always an enthusiastic contributor to discussions when present, even if his role as Computing Officer did not, in fact, allow him a vote. Without him, meetings would undoubtedly have been much less interesting. Vice-President, Ben Hills, was an absolute stalwart throughout the year, but especially in his organisation of Freshers' Week. The enjoyment of the week by freshers and Committee alike is a tribute to his success.

Mike Horridge, in his role as Equal Opportunities Officer, ensured the continued representation of minority interests in College and beyond. His contributions were vital to our discussions, where he made sure that nobody was excluded by any of the decisions made. Elena Kazamia, our very own Unorthodox Greek, proved an enthusiastic Secretary. The minutes she took are still somewhere 'for safe keeping'. Her Open Mic Night was such a great success that she will repeat it this year, this time as JCRC Vice-President. Charlie Marriott, following a truly memorable performance in hustings, set out in search of photo shops to help her in producing the Yearbook. Her help with the organisation of the June Ent was invaluable.

One-Woman Welfare Army, Franki McClure, took an impressively personal approach, not only managing College involvement in campaigns, but also undergoing Peer Support Training and doing her very best to keep all of the rest of us on the straight-and-narrow. Antonia 'T' Teixeira must surely be one of the most enthusiastic Entertainments Officers in the history of the JCRC. Ents were always packed, financially successful, and enjoyed by all (including, on many occasions, the Committee themselves). As External Officer, Charles 'Waki'waka had the difficult job of providing diplomatic representation for one of the most fiercely isolationist Colleges, and provided a much-needed voice of calm in our heated debates about our position within CUSU. After fighting for the creation of Green and Charities Officer, I was disappointed to see Liz Yarrow facing such difficulties in her role. However, when she attended meetings, she was especially keen to fight for issues close to her heart.

It has been a great pleasure to work with these fine Johnians, and although we may have officially celebrated our retirement, those of us who are no longer on the JCRC are very much looking forward to a June Ent, at which we will not be responsible for anything at all.

Greg Lowden
President

The Johnian Society

The Johnian Society Dinner and Annual General Meeting were held on Saturday 17 December 2005 in the Hall. The President of the Society, Sir Neil Chalmers, proposed the toast to the College and the Master replied. Professor Peter Hennessy (BA 1969, PhD 1990) and Mr Adam Balon (BA 1994) were elected Ordinary Members of the Johnian Society Committee for six years from 1 January 2006, while Mr Francis Baron (BA 1967) was elected President for one year from the same date, and Sir David Rowe-Beddoe (BA 1961) was elected Vice-President.

The other main annual activity of the Society is the Golf Competition, organised by Mr John Loosley. Those participating benefit from being

able to stay in College and dine, as well as taking part in the competition at the Gog Magog golf course. In 2005 the Johnian Society Lecture was given by Mr David Pountney (BA 1969) who spoke on 'In dreams begin responsibility'. The lecture is reproduced in this edition of *The Eagle*.

The Society continues to support the College financially through gifts for the Access Bursary Scheme (£2,000 again this year) and by adding to the income available from the Johnian Society Travel Exhibition Fund (more than £2,300) to enable a larger number of students to benefit. This year seven Travel Exhibitions, each of £600, were made available.

The Committee is reviewing the aims and activities of the Society to enable it to provide greater value to the College and to engage more with its members. We are developing a mission statement and looking at ways of using the Society's resources to support its aims. A questionnaire has been put together that will be sent to Johnians, both members of the Society and non-members, to seek views on how the Society should develop in the future. Ideas that we are looking at include informal evening networking events, mentoring of students and events to enable Johnians in similar professions/fields to meet. In the meantime, we hope to see many of you at the next Annual Dinner, to be held on Saturday 16 December 2006 (the application form has been circulated with this edition of *The Eagle*).

Catherine Twilley
Secretary

The Johnian Society of the USA

This past year, the Johnian Society of the USA has had many wonderful events, culminating in a marvellous tour by the College Choir across the East Coast. Last Spring, former Master, Peter Goddard, hosted the Society at his seventeenth-century home, Olden Farm, and 100 Johnians and their guests were treated to an outdoor barbecue amidst flowering orchard trees and a sweeping view of the main buildings of the Institute for Advanced Study, where Professor Goddard is now Director. The green and pleasant grounds of the Institute famously provided time for

Einstein, Godel, Kennan, and many other leading intellectuals of the twentieth century to walk around and think, much like our College.

The JS-USA has had a remarkable year. Nick Corfield, a member of the JS-USA and St John's College (BA 1981, Honorary Fellow 2001), made a magnificent donation to St John's College, in the form of a £1m Matching Programme for Bursaries. Nick will match donations made by other donors for bursaries (scholarships), pound for pound. When we founded the JS-USA, we had hoped – outrageously we thought then – to provide \$1 million of support over a period of years. To have Nick's support at this level is extraordinary and the Society is enormously grateful. Importantly, in setting up part of his gift as a matching programme, Nick encourages other Johnians around the world to support, or increase our support, for the Bursary Scheme and other work of the College.

There are few better ways to endorse the work of the College than to ensure that any student, regardless of personal finances, can come up to Cambridge. The Collegiate system of teaching at Cambridge in weekly supervisions is an expensive way to teach. However, supervisions are an extraordinary way to learn, a gift to students lucky enough to be taught, one-on-one, by a Fellow of the College. Thus, supporting bursaries today is a philanthropy of the highest impact: a gift helps a student in need attend St John's; a gift helps the College support the supervisory system; and right now a gift is doubled by Nick Corfield's matching and is increased again by the tax advantage. There has never been a better time to help the College build its endowment for bursaries.

The Society is grateful for the continued support of the College for our work, and the very strong and consistent support from the Master, Professor Richard Perham, who guides our work and visits us often, and the able help of the Johnian Office.

Marc Feigen
Chairman

The Lady Margaret Pilgrimage Society

The Lady Margaret Pilgrimage Society was founded to promote travel to sites of religious interest. Excursions traditionally include a day trip to a cathedral in the UK during Lent Term, with a more substantial expedition abroad during the vacation. Although the excursions are to sights of Christian heritage, they are open to everyone, and our current membership spans from atheist to Anglo-Catholic.

In September 2005, four members of the Society headed to Spain to walk the last 320km of the pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela. This was coordinated by our former President, William Cartwright-Hignett, who has walked and cycled the *camino* several times. Gwilym Evans, John Simmonds and Emma Brown, together with William, set off from Leon on a pathway that would take them across mountains, over streams, through farmland, gorse and heather and the occasional motorway and industrial estate, to the site of the relics of St James.

Our journey was riddled with blisters, tendonitis, hurt knees and burn-marks from vicious backpack straps. Footwear ranged from the sensible to the absurd; one member's wellington boots carried him bravely for two days before they were finally abandoned, and a certain female was sighted walking over thirty kilometres in her bright pink flip-flops. The hospitality of the Spanish was astounding: there were often nurses who seemed willing to attend to the sweaty and blistered feet of the limping. One, I recall, was even called Maggie. However, it took some members of our party a good while to trust that their blister solution, which consisted of driving a needle and thread through the dead skin – was both effective and pain free.

A typical day took us twenty-five to thirty kilometres closer to Santiago. We would usually walk about six of these before breakfasting. Lunch would be taken at a bar, often a three-course meal at a special price for pilgrims. This would consist of an indiscernible soup, followed by a dead animal (sometimes unspecified) in sump oil with chips, and some sort of milk-based dessert. However, the main redeeming feature of Spanish cuisine is that it is often served with a choice of a litre of *agua* or *vino* – although this is perhaps an indication of the quality of the

wine. Sharing a litre of wine before embarking on another ten or so kilometres is ill-advised, as I believe we all learned at some point on the journey. We would aim to arrive at our accommodation before dusk, or, more often, to find accommodation before dusk. This varied between the municipal refuges – where there were usually more than thirty bunk beds in the same room, and thus a cacophony of snoring – to hotels with en-suite bathrooms, reserved for such times when we were feeling especially pathetic.

We made many acquaintances, and on our arrival in Santiago de Compostela we were not strangers. There were lots of opportunities to practice our languages: a casual call of '*buen camino*' could lead to the most extraordinary, multi-lingual and heavily-gesticulated conversations. Two German students from Cologne walked with us for much of the way, and stayed with us in Santiago de Compostela. The hospitality of the pilgrims and the Spanish, despite the language barriers, was astounding, and made for a very pleasant journey. It is hoped that future generations of the Society will consider the *camino*.

Arriving at Santiago we were greeted by bagpipes as first we glimpsed the *catedral*. Inside, it was richly decorated with a striking altar piece, with the relics of St James in a modest casket in a crypt underneath the Catholic decadence. The famous thurible, weighing seventy-five kilograms and standing at about two metres high, swung over the heads of congregation to the accompaniment of triumphant organ music. The soprano member of our party found herself a little too close for comfort to the holy pendulum when she sang during the Pilgrims' Service. That evening, having befriended the organist, we were treated to a recital of French harpsichord music and a guided tour of the bars in the area, where we tried *queimada*. The bright yellow decor of the following day's Ryanair flight was not pleasant to behold, but we reached home refreshed and ready for the academic year.

The St Paul's excursion in Lent Term took place one blustery Saturday. My involvement in the trip was as an observer for, owing to the demands of the Cambridge Music Tripos, I was left stranded at my piano with only *Das Wohltempierte Klavier* for company. However, mobile phone technology gave me some insight into the day, for there

were several calls from individual members of the Society to attempt to establish the whereabouts of their comrades. I gather from those involved that it was a most 'jolly' day, that 'the only whispering in the Whispering Gallery came from the tourists', and that no-one dared sing to try out the seven-second echo. All arrived home present and correct and, since to my knowledge the dome is still standing, one concludes that no harm was done.

Thus has our year unfolded. Our Annual Dinner is to be held next term in the Wilberforce Room, and there is interest in a trip to Italy during the long vacation. Our German friends are keen for a reunion in Compostela and they hope to visit us in John's soon. In the meanwhile, we all look forward to the post-exam period of relief and revelry.

Emma Brown
Secretary

The Lady Margaret Players

The Lady Margaret Players has seen something of a revival this year, with the intake of a large group of theatre enthusiasts to the College resulting in a Committee of ten, a remarkable increase on the past few years. This, combined with the hard work and dedication of the Committee, has resulted in the rejuvenation and re-emergence of a Society that, though hugely appreciated within College, had yet to make its name on the map of Cambridge theatre.

The year started with an impressive production of Seneca's *Thyestes*, a grotesque tragedy telling the story of two brothers' struggle for the throne. A simple but majestic set, involving a long table and sweeping white drapes from ceiling to floor, complemented a version of the play that concentrated on the epic scale of the tragedy, with Joey Whitfield's *Atreus* receiving critical acclaim from reviewers.

The unfortunate and unforeseeable withdrawal of *Troilus and Cressida*, the Easter Term main show, left a gaping hole in the Society's calendar, but some last minute arrangements led to the successful substitution of

a week of diverse and entertaining one night stands and short performances, an event so successful that it may well come to be an annual occurrence. These inexpensive, lighthearted evenings were kicked off by the Improvised Comedy Ents Society, fresh from the success of *Whose ICE is it Anyway* and *Lights, Camera, Improv!*, both performed to sell-out audiences at the ADC Theatre earlier in the year. The one-off performance, *Improv@John's* was a highly slick and entertaining hour of fast-paced games and conversations, improvised on the spot and inspired by suggestions and contributions from the audience. The reputation of the group resulted in a packed house, and an audience who spent the full hour rolling in the aisles and left begging for more.

Another highly successful short run was that of *Eclectica*, described as 'a strange and wonderful mix of poetry, music, stand-up and song' and masterminded by LMP Artistic Director, Deborah Grayson, whose organisation and enthusiasm resulted in a relaxing and diverse evening of entertainment that was hugely enjoyed by participants and spectators alike.

The next project staged by the Lady Margaret Players was a long-anticipated departure from traditional Cambridge fare, a show providing a sense of innovation and diversity, which played a large part in the emergence of the Society as a respected component of the Cambridge theatre scene. *Tricycle*, self-effacingly described by its creator, Richard Braude, as a 'multi-media art mess!', was a highly impressive combination of devised work, improvisation, movement and dance, complemented by carefully chosen music and lighting to create a dramatic experience in which the audience were 'invited to be art'.

The project currently underway sees further expansion of the Society, as we take *Brick Walls* to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. This new play, a collaboration by Footlights stalwarts Thomas Eccleshare and Dan Mansell, moves to the festival following sell-out success and sensational reviews for performances at the Corpus Playroom and as part of the ADC Theatre's 100-year anniversary show *Celebration*. The short play,

described by *Varsity* reviewers as ‘captivating and hilarious!’ and by ADC President, Benjamin Deery, as ‘exciting, original and innovative’, follows the fate of two builders who, having accidentally bricked themselves into a house, amuse themselves with the inventions of their own overactive imaginations. The play is set to be performed at the Smirnoff Underbelly, one of Edinburgh’s most prestigious and exciting venues, and this, combined with the proven quality of the show itself, will provide an important stepping stone in the emerging importance and prominence of the Lady Margaret Players.

Further important steps taken by this year’s Committee towards the projection of the Lady Margaret Players as a more renowned and important Society within Cambridge, have included the refurbishment of our technical equipment by Technical Directors, Mike Carratt and Caspar Green, and the creation of the Society’s first University-wide mailing list by Communications Officer, Zoë Gilmore. Most excitingly of all, however, the recruitment of Tim Gordon as Computer Officer has seen the creation of the Lady Margaret Players’ own website for the first time, providing information about the Society itself and its Committee, our performing space in the School of Pythagoras, our upcoming shows, and archives of pictures and programmes of past plays and events.

The Committee’s dedication to the re-emergence and promotion of the Lady Margaret Players has led to a year of successful and innovative productions, which, by their fresh and exciting nature, their popularity and their fantastic critical reception, have both entertained and impressed audiences, and led to the establishment of the Society as an important and respected contributor to the wider scene of Cambridge theatre.

Laura Bates
President

The Larmor Society

The Larmor (Natural Sciences) Society President for 2004-2005, Alex Wilber, last year introduced the new Committee as 'very keen', while I was described as 'almost alarmingly competent' – a lot to live up to! We enthusiastically sought to meet Alex and the Society's expectations by organising a series of talks, as well as expanding the number of socials.

We began in Easter Term 2005 by 'sharing' the Tutor's Garden Party, providing nibbles prior to the Hog Roast. The Committee also helped to serve the hog and salad, with Dave Knowles and Rich Skidmore enthusiastically taking on the duty of butcher. Easter Term and the long vacation also involved a lot of work behind the scenes, preparing a 1A 'Alternative' Course Guide, organising talks and compiling the accounts.

Michaelmas Term began with the Committee attending the Freshers' Lunch to offer our opinion on 1A courses. Despite my best efforts, few of the first years were convinced that a field trip to Arran in early April makes Geology the best 1A subject. The freshers were welcomed into the Society by a Hall with pre-dinner cocktails. We also held the Annual Book Sale, allowing members either to buy significantly discounted textbooks, or dispose of that copy of Stryer's *Biochemistry* that has sat unopened on their shelf for more than a year, and get some cash in the process!

A number of talks were held during Michaelmas and Lent Terms. Our guest speakers included Professor I N McCave, who spoke on Climate Change, and Dr S Best, who explained recent developments within the University in bio-ceramics. All our speakers were invited to dine with members of the Society after their talks. We enjoyed a number of interesting conversations over dinner and all learnt something from our speakers.

Lent Term featured the Desserts for the 1As, where Fellows and older students attempt to promote their chosen subjects. As always there was lively discussion about the options available, with overly enthusiastic proponents for the various subjects present (I once again did my best to

convince all those present that Geology is the best option – with mixed results). The input of the Fellows, both at the event and during its organisation, is particularly appreciated.

Easter Term began with sixty undergraduates and Fellows attending the event that is the highlight of the year, the Annual Dinner, in the SCR. Data Connection kindly sponsored the event for the second year running. It was once again a pleasant evening, with the members turning out in black tie. The Committee elections were announced at dinner, as has become tradition. Congratulations to Craig Lumb (President), Hana Hijazi (Junior Treasurer), Lindsey Mehrer (Secretary), Ben Wynne, Kay Jenkinson and Dave Woods on their election. I wish them all the best of luck for next year and am sure they will do an exemplary job of running the Society.

Finally, a huge thank you must be said to the Committee – Dave Knowles, Hana Hijazi, Craig Lumb, Richard Skidmore and Nada Kozman – and to Professor Conway Morris (Senior Treasurer), Dr Johnstone, Dr Wood, Dr McConnel and Dr Metaxas for all their help over the year.

Michelle Pope
President

The LBGT Society

After a quieter than usual 2004-2005, the LBGT (Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay and Transgender) Society has again been fairly active during the 2005-2006 academic year. Securing Associated Societies' funding has yet again allowed us to expand on the range and number of events that the Society has been involved in this year.

The majority of the Society's role entails providing for the welfare and social wellbeing of LBGT members of College. As such, social events, including drinks before the weekly LBGT club-night 'Unique' at Club Twenty-Two (now renamed Precious after years under the Unique banner), have been very popular and well-attended by a cross-section of College, both LBGT and LBGT-friendly. In addition, the funding has

allowed for the expansion of our current library of LGBT-interest DVDs and the possibility of magazine subscriptions to publications dealing in LGBT health and welfare issues. A new event for this year was the inaugural St John's LGBT Society Annual Dinner – consisting of a mix of both undergraduates and graduates. This took place in the intimate surroundings of the Parsons Room at the end of Lent Term, and was followed by a night out at Unique. Possible developments of this meal could be to invite alumni to the dinner, though this is for next year's President to muse on.

Events to look forward to include the May Week LGBT Garden Party, which we are hoping will be attended by a cross-section of LGBT Societies from across the University, and also the Annual General Meeting, where next year's expenditure and personnel will be decided. My thanks go to Clive Hillman for his role as Senior Treasurer and his continuing assistance to, and support of, the Society. Also, thanks to everybody within the College who has attended any of our events this year – without the wider support of College these events would neither be possible nor so helpful for so many people. One of the major themes of recent years has been an increasing attendance at Society events of LGBT-friendly members of College. Although the Society's focus should remain on its LGBT members, this is a trend that should be encouraged and one that I'd like to see continuing.

Mike Horridge
President

The May Ball

When describing Oxbridge May Balls, typical student newspapers latch onto the clichéd adjectives of 'opulence', 'indulgence' and 'extravagance'. However, with this overzealous enthusiasm for polysyllabic language, it becomes hard to distinguish between the good and the very best. St John's College May Ball Committees have long strived to surpass the standards set by their peer colleges. But this year's Ball demonstrated that it is no longer just meeting the targets, it is setting its own: '... there is a distinct whiff of the Man United about a

Trinity coasting on former glories that seems to have been outstripped...' (Varsity, June 2006).

It would indeed be easy to become complacent about the success of a May Ball at St John's College. However, the Committee of 2006 showed a genuine passion to inject a new lease of life: a 3.30am formal breakfast in the SCR, a Victorian bandstand in Second Court, the moving of the casino into the Old Music Room, the transformation of our familiar bar into a traditional pub, a chill-out Indian Marquee in New Court, the shooting of 'Survivors' Photo' in First Court and a programme unrivalled in its artistic flair. This is not to say that these new ideas were realised without a fight. A main band that won't sign?... Apply double the pressure... Skies threatening to open?... Order one thousand umbrellas... A helter-skelter that won't fit through the gates? ... Let down the tyres.

As a result, St John's May Ball created a truly unique experience. Guests were entertained by one of the most spectacular fireworks displays to illuminate the Backs. The musical acts ranged from the ever-popular cheese to the dirty rumblings of Drum and Bass. The exuberant performances of the Mystery Jets and Hot Chip were counterbalanced by the classical sophistication of *The Marriage of Figaro*. Food became an attraction in its own right, with a fruit mountain decorating the centre display of Hall. The menu highlights included ostrich burgers, game sausages with mash, Indian Moghlai, chicken fajitas and the traditional steak baguettes and hog roast. There was an overwhelming array of drinks, from champagne in reception to Phil Macartney's own concoction, Victoria's Secret Cocktail, served in an elegant silver fountain. It is the attention to detail that sets us apart. We offered Fish hairstyling, a perfumery, punt rides and fairground games. This year's theme of the Victorian age channelled Subscene's incredible creative talent. A twenty-foot banner of Queen Victoria was complemented by a fairy-lit miniature of Crystal Palace, maps of the Colonial Empire and painstakingly hand-painted signs. Third Court was reworked with a carnival atmosphere: carousel horses were framed by the arches, a painted Ferris wheel hung from the tower and a sweet stall even boasted seaside rock imprinted with 'St John's May Ball 2006'.

The standard of May Balls is becoming increasingly high. There is a danger that by surpassing ourselves every year, each Committee makes its successors' lives increasingly difficult. However, with sheer determination, a vision of greatness and an absolute conviction to the cause, each May Ball is reinvigorated with a fresh energy. Admire this year's achievement of the greatest ever St John's May Ball. Then cast your mind to a year from now when your expectations will be blown out of the water once more...

St John's May Ball Committee has many people to thank for their assistance and support, including the Master and Fellows of the College, Commodore Harris and the College Authorities. The list is too long to show appropriate gratitude here but we would like to pay particular tribute to Ben Parker, who has chaired the Committee for the past four years and has always provided a perfect balance of rationality and humour (radio banter included!).

Amanda Sinden
President

The Medical Society

In the glorious wake of the previous year's Centenary Dinner and celebrations, expectations were high for the Medical Society in 2006. Medical alumni from seven decades were present in Hall for that magnificent occasion, a testament to the hard work done by last year's Committee.

In the summer, having endured the infamously gruelling Medical Sciences Tripos, we hosted a lavish Garden Party. With the fiscal prudence that characterised her reign, last year's President, Kate Burke, was absolutely insistent that every penny of our resources be spent before she left her post. To ensure this was the case, we bought food from Pret à Manger and the Ugly Duckling Restaurant, probably the most expensive takeaway in Cambridge. If anything was missing, it was a bouncy castle, an oversight that the Committee does not intend to repeat.

The academic year began as befits such a convivial Society, with the welcoming of our first year intake at the Cheese and Wine evening. It is perhaps the most eagerly anticipated event in our calendar, with some extremely busy members, only a month prior to their finals, selflessly clearing their diaries to ensure their presence for this 'meet-and-greet' session. As usual, the Committee excelled itself in providing food and drink to satisfy even the most discerning taste buds. By the end, many of the freshers were speechless - one assumes, in appreciation of such a wonderful evening. Indeed, a few could barely contain their gushing approval.

For the Annual Dinner in Lent Term, we returned to the austere surroundings of the Combination Room. Having feasted on sumptuous food and fine wine, we enjoyed an excellent speech from our guest, Professor Steve O'Rahilly FRS, Head of Clinical Biochemistry at Addenbrooke's. He offered predictions as to the future direction of our profession: some encouraging, others, particularly with reference to the managerial structure of the NHS, less so. The traditional Awards Ceremony that followed surprised some members, not least the winner of the inaugural Chris Kelly Memorial Prize. The winner is the person the Committee feels is most likely to waste his or her hard-earned Cambridge Medical Sciences degree in pursuit of a career that will better suit his or her particular skill: namely, the accumulation of money. Ironically, if recent press reports are to be believed, that person might be well advised to open a GP surgery.

Strong communication is not a quality for which the President has been renowned this year. I am therefore incredibly grateful for the tireless work of my Committee: Ruw, Ash, Becky and Emil, who have often done jobs that I was not even aware of. The less than democratic manner in which these positions of leadership are chosen has clearly succeeded again. Finally, I wish the best of luck to President-Elect Ashley Simpson and hope that in the future the Medical Society continues to illustrate the virtue of combining hard work with no less diligent play.

James Alexander
President

The Modern Languages Society

The Modern Languages Society kicked off the year by listening to the returning fourth years talk about their experiences on their year abroad, which was, as ever, very entertaining. Our guest speaker in Michaelmas Term was Gareth Jones, currently a Film Studies PhD student at St John's (although formerly a Cambridge linguist), who came to talk about his career as a director, script writer and film producer in various European locations. This was followed by a question and answer session for the budding film-makers among us. It was also reassuring to know that not all linguists go on to become teachers!

In Lent Term, the College Lectrice, Liliane Campos, organised a trip to the Institut Français de Londres in Kensington, as part of a retrospective of the films of Jean-Pierre Bacri and Agnès Jaoui, two of the leading lights of contemporary French comedic cinema. The group very much enjoyed the showing of *Kennedy et moi*. Later in the Term, we watched *On connaît la chanson*, which also featured Bacri and Jaoui, and which had us in hysterics. This contrasted greatly with our trip to the Arts Picturehouse to see the thought-provoking *Caché*, the ending of which kept us talking for days afterwards. We even managed to squeeze in a Dessert in the Wordsworth Room, which was very well attended and which gave everyone a chance to wind down at the end of Term. We are already looking forward to our Garden Party and Annual Dinner, which will be held during May Week.

Many thanks to Junior Treasurer, Izzie Kaufeler, and to College Rep, Julia Angell, as well as to Dr Midgley and to Liliane Campos for their support.

Rebecca Walton
President

The Palmerston Society

Nothing focuses the mind, so the saying goes, like a bicentenary. Like its eponymous founder, the Palmerston Society's appetite for a fresh

conquest only grows with maturity. This year saw the appointment of a reformist President, who immediately set about challenging the legacy of cronyism, waste and corruption, bequeathed by the previous incumbent. An antiquated fiefdom of sinecures and sycophants was transformed into a dynamic and flexible organisation tailored to the challenges of terrorism and globalisation that a college society faces in the twenty-first century. Instrumental in this was the streamlining of the bloated executive into two new offices: the Junior Treasury, ably staffed by Richard Mackenney, and the Permanent Secretariat, under the fastidious care of Adam Sivner. Unfortunately – and much to their chagrin – the demands of the reform agenda prevented Messrs Mackenney and Sivner from being able to devote their full energies to assisting the President, and it thus fell upon him to uphold a long administrative tradition within the Society and organise everything himself.

Such adverse beginnings, however, did not beget despondency. Year on year, like the great man himself, the Palmerston Society continues to prove its stamina. The social calendar began with a successful drinks evening in the Old Music Room at the kind invitation of Miss Tomaselli, which gave undergraduate guests their annual opportunity to see other students studying their own subject. Nerves quickly settled as the champagne flowed and the room reverberated with anecdote and badinage; after a summer hiatus, the SPS community was whole once more. The event set the tone for the rest of the year – the rock-climbing in the Peak District was a particular highlight – and before we knew it, the showpiece event of the SPS year was upon us, the Society's Annual Dinner. An event of such magnitude is never without its complications, and this year proved no different. Big decisions needed making: whether the previous President's *avant garde* policy of inviting a guest speaker should be renewed; whether goat's cheese was heavier than salmon; and whether the three-years-graduated signatory on the Society chequebook should be contacted, given some delicate personal dynamics.

But made they were. The Dinner brought together the undergraduate and graduate communities from SPS and International Relations, a combination that proved very successful and can hopefully provide a

basis for future events. The Society was also delighted to welcome Edward Chaplin, British Ambassador to Iraq 2004-2005, as guest speaker, and his insights into politics were enjoyed and appreciated by all. All in all, it was a fitting event to cap off another year of progress for the Society, and we wish the Leviathan Elect, Ashley Elliott, every success for next year.

Jonathan Yiangou
President

The Purchas Society

The Purchas Society has had another very successful year. We welcomed nine freshers, saying goodbye to eight retiring third years, all of whom, inspired by Samuel Purchas himself, sailed off into the sunset.

The customary Purchas Tea Party, at the beginning of Michaelmas, started proceedings off in style, as we welcomed our new members with the help of light summer refreshment. 'Purchas Paddlings', later on in the Term, gave those who travelled far and wide across the globe an opportunity to share their experiences with the Land Economists who had only braved it as far as Bognor. We heard the terrifying account of Lou Mallam, who was held hostage on a bus in Africa, whilst Nick Bell scared (or is it scarred) us even more by talking for 'three' hours about India. It should not be forgotten that, although we are named after Samuel Purchas, the first St John's Geographer, he never in fact left his armchair whereas, from the evidence of 'Paddlings', travelling is clearly more of a passion for our group.

Our first speaker of the year was Dr Bayliss-Smith, a Fellow here at John's and an active member of the Society. He regaled us with tales of how College life was when Samuel Purchas was an undergraduate. I believe it is safe to say that we have got it easy!

The next speaker visiting the Society in the first Term was a Cambridge Geographer, Dr Cearns. After dining in Hall and consuming his fair share of wine and port, Dr Cearns spoke energetically on the subject of the 'Psychogeography of The Clash'. This involved explaining how rock

band, The Clash, reflected accurately, through their lyrics, the social overhaul that occurred in the late 1970s. It also involved some truly awful singing!

Lent Term began with the now established 'Purchas Desserts'. After much frivolity in Hall, we moved in to the Wordsworth Room to enjoy the culinary delights it had to offer. We were joined by Dr Clive Oppenheimer, also a Cambridge Geographer, who spoke briefly about our founder's influence on the arts. It proved to be an interesting insight, one that only made us prouder to be Purchasians.

Later on in the Term, we were entertained by Purchas favourite Jim Duncan, who is rapidly gaining a reputation as being as entertaining as our 'Purchas Pin-Up', Imran James. Dr Duncan spoke about coffee as an industry and how it affects different people and places around the world.

This Easter Term saw the launch of a brand new Purchas event. In order to recuperate some of the financial losses made by the retiring Committee resulting from some mathematical miscalculations, we had a Purchas Punt Trip. Floating down the Cam with fellow Purchasians was a great way to unwind and forget about the stress of exams.

At the time of writing, the Purchas Annual Dinner has not actually taken place, but we will be fortunate enough to be joined in the SCR by Loretta Napoleoni – author of *Modern Jihad, Tracing the Dollars behind the Terror Networks*. The Society has been very lucky to get her as she is an incredibly established author, researcher and government advisor. Among a list far too long to even summarise: she advises the Homeland Security on terrorism; has worked for the IMF, UN and European Bank for Reconstruction and Development; is Chairperson of the Countering Terrorism Financing Group for the Club de Madrid; and was responsible for bringing together Heads of State to discuss new strategies for combating the financing of terror networks. Needless to say, it is going to be a very enjoyable evening: a fitting end to a truly fantastic year for the Society.

This leads me seamlessly on to thanking the retiring Committee. Rob Petit has worked tirelessly in organising our year-long entertainment

and will deserve his time as President next year. James Longman has managed, somehow, to do less as Treasurer than I have done as President, something he, as only he can, will be very proud of. Claire McCarroll, as Librarian, has done an excellent job in preserving the works of Samuel Purchas. Imran James has also been radiant in his role as 'Purchas Pin-Up' and we look forward to his annual speech at this year's Dinner. Finally, I would like to wish the new Committee (after election at the Dinner) the very best of luck in ensuring that the Society continues to grow and thrive in the future. Good luck to all those graduating this year, and to our founder – thanks for the memories.

Ben Hills
President

The SBR

As yet, the fate of the Samuel Butler Room has still to be decided, with elections only a few days away, but the race is hotting up and, no matter what the outcome, I'm sure the SBR will be in safe hands. Our term as the SBR Committee started with a wet Garden Party, and it was only fitting that balance be maintained with our farewell event, an Ice Cream Social, set for a beautiful May day, being a complete wash out.

It goes without saying that the members of this year's SBRC have ensured that a diverse social life can be up for grabs to those Johnian graduates who can handle it. Tom and Hilary have been a great team – from kiddies' picnics to relaxing Sunday brunches and on to the more riotous Ents, they have guaranteed that every social niche of graduate life is catered for. Mark has led us through the culinary delights of a number of Cantabrigian establishments, which served as a timely reminder that maybe Hall in John's isn't all that bad. Joe's unique liaisonistic style has ensured that graduates remain safe from the necessary evil that is the JCR. Sophie, who we sadly lost to the rigours of third year PhD, was kind enough to stay on as SBR Sport Secretary and pass the torch of Secretary to the SBR to St John's resident Committee junkie, Heather. Both have been excellent in keeping me on my toes throughout the last year. In adapting an existing role, the SBRC

saw, for the first time, an all-in-one Welfare and Environmental Officer. As well as being on hand to ensure that our mental welfare didn't waver too drastically, Laura initiated a programme at all St John's graduate accommodation to provide facilities for efficient waste recycling. Hopefully, this is an excellent start to a more environmentally-friendly college. By no means least, Sebastian has been on hand to safeguard student finances in College when the economically-challenged SBR President has been faced with tricky concepts such as 'capital expenditure'. Many thanks to you all.

As ever, graduate life is changing. With the advent of wireless network connections in the SBR, our research has become mobile. Our interactions and affiliations outwith College are also changing, with the roles of the Graduate Union and CUSU being challenged by the graduate members of St John's. The interplay between college MCRs and student bodies at University level is a vital facet of graduate student life in Cambridge, making it all the more important that it is productively scrutinised. A focus of the SBRC has been to improve Junior Members' privacy in College. We consider this to have been a great success and are thankful to College for allowing us the opportunity to tackle this issue. Finally, one of the most important aspects of graduate life, which I urge future members of the SBR to embrace and develop, is our tradition of exchanges with Balliol College, Oxford, and the University of Uppsala. Given Balliol's fantastic performance during our Formal Hall exchange, I'm sure St John's can do even better to show our less-fortunate counterparts that they would rather be at St John's than at Oxford.

Without support from College staff, the SBR would not have been able to meet the needs of the Johnian graduate community. From the Bursars who helped us work towards a better understanding regarding student rents, to the indispensable staff in the College Offices and Catering and Conference, who helped remedy our many ineptitudes. Without support from the bar, our vital stocks of port and sherry would have run dry, causing chaos throughout the graduate community. And to the Senior Members of College – the Tutor for Graduate Affairs, the Senior Tutor, the unique Fellow Borderer, the President, and the Master,

Professor Perham – the graduate community is indebted to you all for allowing us the opportunity to enjoy such an institution.

As our supervisors celebrate the return to our PhDs, all that remains is to wish our successors good luck, and hope that their initial enthusiasm is sustainable. After all, the graduate community quite rightly prides itself on being diverse – it's keeping it happy and diverse that makes it fun.

Iain J MacLeod
President

The Theological Society

A College founded by the illustrious and pious John Fisher and Lady Margaret Beaufort should be proud of those students who have chosen to follow their example. However, the theologians at St John's are more likely to meet ridicule than praise. One can just hear the overabundance of scientists in our courts sniggering in their sleeves at those of us who have chosen a less, shall we say, practical discipline to study: 'Oh, you aren't too worried about getting a job, then?', 'how quaint', and blank stares are frequent responses to the announcement that one is studying Theology.

In response to these common misconceptions about the continuing importance, applicability, and validity of theology as an academic discipline, the Theological Society meetings this year addressed the intersection of theology with modern culture. In the first meeting of Michaelmas Term, Dr Jeremy Begbie of Ridley Hall, Cambridge, and the University of St Andrews, expounded on musical theory, explaining the Trinity on a grand piano. A month later, Dr Gary Burge, of Wheaton College, explicated the frightening theologies driving American politics in the Middle East. In Lent Term, Dr Diana Lipton, of Newnham College, guided us through a psycho-analysis of the rabbis and high priests of Judaism, and Dr Erik Tønning of Lincoln College, Oxford, dazzled us with the importance of theology for understanding the writings of Samuel Beckett. We end the academic year with the

charismatic Rex Walford of Emmanuel College and London's West End, who plans to direct our minds toward theology in the theatre.

As President of the College Theological Society, it has been my hope that these meetings would provide Johnian theologians with the necessary ammunition to battle those who see our field as unnecessary and outdated. I would like to thank Duncan Dormor, Senior Treasurer, for his support during the two years of my Presidency, and I wish all the best to my successor.

Caryn Reeder
President

The Winfield Society

The Winfield Society has had another very successful year. The arrival of the new freshers was as exciting as ever and, once they forgave us for the title of 'The Lawdown' (our guide to studying law at St John's) they proved very friendly! Welcome drinks and a Formal Hall with all the current members of the Society persuaded them we weren't too bad either, and the close bond across the different years of lawyers continues to be one of the greatest strengths of St John's.

Once again, we have been very fortunate in the number of City solicitor firms wishing to sponsor events. Meals with Allen & Overy, Linklaters, Macfarlanes and Herbert Smith were very enjoyable, and the Annual Christmas Party at the Slug and Lettuce, once again supported by Freshfields, ended the first term in style.

The Annual Dinner held on 11 February 2006 was a great success, with all members of the Society, past and present, being invited. With a reception, six course meal and post-dinner drinks it was a very enjoyable evening, and we would encourage all the members of the Society to come if they get the chance! We were privileged to have Lord Hope of Craighead as our guest speaker this year, and his speech provided a valuable first-hand insight into the current reforms of the House of Lords.

The Annual Mooting Competition, kindly sponsored by Simmons & Simmons, took place in Lent Term, and offered an invaluable (if slightly daunting!) opportunity for our first years to get a lead on their University rivals. The standard was very high indeed, and Andrew Fei emerged as the well-deserved winner after an extremely hard-fought final. Success was also had at University level, with Johnians making up half the participants in two finals of the University Competitions: Louisa Nye and Craig Morrison took St John's to the final of the University Team Competition (to be beaten 'by a nose'), while Charlotte Tan and Rachel Greenwood both made it through five rounds of one of the most competitive Fledglings Competitions in recent years to reach the final.

The Winfield Society has also travelled further abroad this year. In April we journeyed to London to visit the Inns of Court, a great opportunity for members interested in the Bar to see the other side of the profession, and in May we were fortunate to be invited by Lord Hope to join him for a day 'behind the scenes' at the House of Lords and Privy Council, a unique chance to see the highest Courts in person.

All in all, it has been a very enjoyable year. We would like to thank our excellent Committee: Louisa Nye, Rachel Greenwood, Rachel Lovell and Felix Wong for all their hard work throughout the year, and we wish next year's Committee the best of luck. We are sure that St John's Law will continue to go from strength to strength!

Craig Morrison and Emma Jacob
Presidents

COLLEGE SPORTS

Men's Badminton

Badminton at St John's continues to grow from strength to strength. Once again, large numbers of talented and dedicated freshers have bolstered all the squads. The Kelsey Kerridge practice sessions continue to prove popular, and provide excellent opportunity for all abilities to play together and raise the standards of badminton being played. Once again, we thank College for providing the necessary funding for these highly beneficial sessions.

The annual College tournaments provided relief from Easter Term stress and saw Chris Cleaver narrowly beat Mike Horridge in the Men's singles final. James Greene and Sara Litchfield were victorious in the mixed competition. The season concluded with a glorious dinner in the Wordsworth Room, which was well attended by all members of the Club. As Captain, I would like to thank Mike Griffiths, Tim Gordon and Sam Gibbons for their work as team Captains, and all the players for a highly enjoyable season.

First Team

The First team had a steady season, maintaining our status in the First Division during both Michaelmas and Lent. This was no mean feat following the loss of half the previous year's team. Chris Thomas and Chris Lonergan stepped up from last season's successful Second team to join Chris Cleaver, Tom Holroyd, Mike Horridge and freshman Nick Sutcliffe. Whilst retaining First Division status is certainly no small achievement, with greater consistency a title challenge could have been possible. Unfortunately, we were knocked out of Cuppers at the quarter-final stage by a Jesus team fielding three Blues, but still managed to finish the season with a highly satisfying League victory over Cuppers champions Trinity – a feat not achieved for several seasons.

Second Team

There was a feeling of *déjà vu* with regards to the Second team as this year, once again, saw relegation followed by promotion. Due to a combination of new personnel, stronger opposition and administrative issues, the team was relegated from the Third Division at the end of Michaelmas. Despite this setback, the team showed great resolve under inspirational Captain, Mike Griffiths, to go through Lent unbeaten and become worthy champions. Excellent performances were supplied from the dependable lawyers, Robin Scott and James Williams, with large contributions from Ian Pong, Pete Dannatt, Jamie Douglas, Tim Gordon and the legendary Carl van Heyningen.

Third Team

The Third team maintained their status in the Fourth Division, with a squad comprised of mainly freshers. The team was hampered by a change of Captain half way through the year as Tim Gordon stepped up to the Second team, leaving the highly capable Sam Gibbons in charge. The Third team's games are always fun, most noticeably evident in the entertaining Second's versus Third's derby – the result of which belied the standard of badminton the team played. The squad of Sam Gibbons, Pete Hatfield, Nikhil Dodhia, Rob Hackney, Will Smith, Rob Liu and James Goldsmith can look forward to using their experiences of playing College matches as they progress into the Second and First teams.

Chris Lonergan
Captain

Women's Badminton

This year the First team consisted of the experienced players from last year: Nina Marinsek, Laura Spence, Clare Blaukopf, Sara Litchfield and Sarah James. We were also lucky to gain two very skilled new members on the team, Katy Lutley and Ali Gaudion, who saved us whenever numbers were short.

The First team was especially successful in the Michaelmas Term in maintaining its position as third in the League. Our only defeats were to

Catz and APU, and those were very close matches. Lent Term matches proved to be more difficult, with several of our players injured. Despite this, with appearances from our enthusiastic Second team players, Karen Ng, Hana Hijazi and Liz Durkin, we fought to remain in the First Division.

A major highlight of this year was reaching the finals in Cuppers. Following amazing victories over Queens' in the quarter-final and Catz in the semi-final, we lost against Girton in a closely-contested match. Our team included the Blues player, Emily Manuel, and a new member, Wei Jia Zhang.

Before I hand over the captaincy to Sara Litchfield and Sarah James, I would like to thank all those who played. I've really enjoyed my time as Captain and wish you all every success for next year.

Meha Bhayani
Captain

Second Team

The Second team enjoyed a successful Michaelmas Term, losing only one close match and winning the Second Division. This meant moving up to join John's First team in the First Division in Lent Term. Despite fighting hard, this Term was less successful due to the higher standard and the number of injuries that knocked good players out of the matches. However, it was the taking part that counted, and fun was had by all. Committed players from last year's team, particularly Karen Ng and Hana Hijazi, remained dedicated and played consistently well. Newcomers Liz Durkin, Laura Brogan, Loren Lam and Omay Lee also displayed great enthusiasm and contributed to the successes of 2005-2006.

Sara Litchfield and Sarah James
Second Team Captains

Basketball

'Transition season' will best define this year's basketball. Although we didn't manage to climb to the performances of previous years, which included top College League Basketball, all in all we gained a few skilful players, who will hopefully be able to carry the team in the next few years.

After the departure of some big names holding the team together in previous seasons, we kicked off the season with a rather minimal squad. Down low, we had the never-ending Brian, who is still arguably one of the League's best defenders and Stavros (aka 'short tempered Greek'), with solid shooting and passionate basketball. At the top we had Nir, attempting to improve the assists/turnovers ratio, and Janek, giving us pace at fastbreaks and solid defending, while producing some interesting shots when we didn't need them. Completing the squad were the enthusiastic Martin and Gopalan, who contributed mostly on the moral side, and also the odd point here and there.

From the first game we knew that this year there was no need to fight about who was going to keep the trophies, as our main aim was to keep the games interesting. The First Division seemed to improve over summer. The few losses that followed didn't exactly help to keep our hopes high, but things were starting to look brighter towards the end of Michaelmas Term and at the start of Lent, where basketball seemed to get more popular. We were joined by the new faces of Michal, with many centimetres of talent, quick Velisarios, with good finishing skills, and consistent Kevin, who showed us at every game that he came to work. George, recovering from his long injury, was a dominant factor near the baskets once again, and all together we started showing some sparks of good basketball. After the bad start, avoiding relegation was the main aim.

Two wins later, one in the last game of the season against rivals Trinity, we were sure that we had managed to escape. However, due to a last minute change of the rules, we were shocked to find out that the number of relegated teams had been increased and that we were one of them. The last chance of saving some dignity this season was in

Cuppers. However, a tight loss 37-31 after a battle against a tough Darwin team killed those hopes as well, leaving us thinking that at least life would be a bit easier in the Second Division.

A special thanks to George, Brian and Chris – this year likely to be their last year of College Basketball (although they are announcing this every year) – who will remain with us at the Hall of Fame.

Nir Shub
Captain

The Eagles

Throughout history and across many cultures, the Eagle has been lauded as the greatest of birds. The Roman legions drew strength from its aristocratic appearance. The American Indians worship its power. The ancient Greeks were inspired by its combative nature and Sir David Attenborough recently praised it for its ability to mate in mid-flight at up to sixty miles per hour. I am confident that these next few lines will demonstrate that the current members of our society are once again upholding all of these virtues.

This year the Club has had to battle to maintain its executive status, resisting fierce pressure for admittance from Men's Lacrosse players. Indeed, in the time it will take you to read this article, scores of men around the University will have picked up their sticks for the very first time and been awarded a Half-Blue. However, the Club stuck to its guns and the contributions made by Eagles to both Johnian and University sport has once again been immense.

Looking back to Lent Term of 2005, it was to be another frustrating summer for the Cricketers. Despite a couple of impressive centuries from Captain Eagle Smith, the team would go out of Cuppers in the quarter-finals, effectively ending the competitive season there. For the Second XI, the season was notable for a team comprising almost exclusively members of 69 Bridge Street, who took on and defeated Kings' College First XI. Despite an early feast of buffet bowling from

Eagle Buxton, the combination of wingless Keswani's 'cleverly disguised straighter ball', a six from Eagle Lloyd that smashed the pavilion window, and Eagle Holmes' umpiring saw a Johnian victory.

The Blues team, captained by Eagle Mann, won a thrilling one-day Varsity match at Lords, with fast bowler Eagle Kemp being awarded his first Blue. However, outstanding performances from two of Oxford's top-order batsmen saw the five-day game slip away, although Eagle Mann assures us that the match, lost by an innings and 213 runs, was closer than the score suggests. Eagle Haldar put his Bollywood career on hold to represent Centaurs and gain his first University colours.

It almost seems unnecessary to touch on College Hockey, as I'm certain that anybody unfortunate enough to pass within earshot of Eagle Lloyd this year will no doubt have been lectured on the subject extensively. However, his militant approach to sport has paid dividends, with the team winning both the League and Cuppers, to complete an impressive double. *En route*, Eagle Lloyd fell agonisingly short of 100 goals for the Club, although this is ultimately more impressive than his University tally of zero. Eagles Palmer, MacKenney, Sym and Chat all contributed invaluable and the services of Eagle Dye were occasionally called upon. Overall, it has been an excellent year for the Hockey Club, although recent startling revelations that it is pre-dated by the College Lacrosse team have threatened to put a dampener on celebrations.

At University level, having been relieved of his heavy social secretarial duties, Eagle Sym joined Eagle MacKenney in representing the Wanderers in a narrow 2-1 Varsity defeat. Unfortunately, the Blues were also defeated 2-0, a game in which Eagle Palmer finally picked up the Blue he richly deserved. There was double disappointment for Eagle MacCleod in his fourth Karate Varsity match. The team narrowly lost and Heather Cuss refused to hold his hand on the way home!

In Association Football, much credit must go to Eagle Verdon, who took the decision to put University commitments to one side and concentrate on captaining John's. Admittedly, at the beginning of the season, the League title looked, like Eagle Verdon's first touch, to be a long shot. The campaign received another blow when it emerged that, in a moment of childishness, Eagle Verdon abused his position of authority

and decided to play himself as a striker: presumably hoping to trouble opposition defences with his searing pace. Nevertheless, the team performed admirably and ended up with an equal number of points to Churchill, although a superior goal difference saw Churchill crowned as champions. In Cuppers, a frustrating 1-0 semi-final defeat to Fitz confirmed that in a season of such fine margins, the Club would ultimately end up trophy-less.

At University level, the season brought mixed fortunes for the Blues' side. Whilst results in the traditional fixtures were exceptional, the BUSA team mirrored Eagle Adams' inability to turn promising situations into points, and was relegated. However, battling in the face of disappointing undergraduate results, Eagle Adams saw that Oxford was put to the sword in a tense 1-0 victory. The win, as only the second since 1988, was a fitting celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Club.

Eagle Ashcroft reluctantly took time out from his favoured sport of virtual American Football to compete in the Badminton Varsity match and collect a second Half-Blue. Despite the team's loss, his return to the court represents a personal achievement in itself after a year-long lay off with a knee injury. Admittedly, when it came to writing about Social Secretary Eagle O'Connell's contribution to sport this year, the task appeared to be a difficult one. Despite captaining them last season, a hand injury curbed his involvement in the University Fencing team. Nevertheless, he turned his attention to the social aspect of the Eagles Club with the advent of the all-day social, thus inadvertently organising more socials in one day than Social Secretary Emeritus Eagle Sym managed in an entire year.

In Rugby Union, the change of Captain signified the dawn of a new era. With the departure of Eagle Wells to Saville Row, there were fears that his inimitable brand of expansive rugby would be lost forever. However, the Red Boys once again treated the rest of the League with the disdain that they deserve. The League title was wrapped up by early February with Eagles Elliot, Dye, Buxton, Andrews, Smith and Murray providing the spine of the team. Furthermore, the team followed up last year's Cuppers success with another triumph, as John's finally managed to stamp its undergraduate authority onto the competition.

All opposition was swept aside and even a potentially tricky semi-final tie against graduate college Hughes Hall, a team containing many promising Management Tripos students, failed to halt the charge towards victory.

On the University front, congratulations are extended to Eagles Murray and Andrews who played in the LX's Varsity match. Unfortunately, whilst the Under 20+1s were able to call upon the boot of Eagle Smith, the driving power of Eagle Andrews and the safe hands of Eagle Buxton, they couldn't reverse a first half capitulation, despite a spirited fight back. Eagle Dye adopted a similar spectator role to last season. Meanwhile, Eagle Holmes followed David Beckham to Spain, joining up with *Los Galacticos* of Madrid's semi-professional rugby team.

A remarkable turn of events saw Eagle Andrews, who is normally considered to be a rugby player, selected to represent the Blues in the heavyweight Varsity Boxing. Despite having negligible boxing experience, Eagle Andrews was confident that he could overcome his lack of expertise and experience with a rigorous training schedule to complete a Rocky Balboa-esque rise to the top. Keen to whip Eagle Andrews into shape, Eagle Mayne-Harvey offered some tips on a well practised weight loss technique that he perfected during his initiation a year ago. Remarkably, it seemed to work and Eagle Andrews defeated a more experienced boxer to gain his first Blue.

In Basketball, former secret services assassin and session enforcer Eagle Elia followed up his year as Captain with another season of fine displays for the Blues. Indeed, he was so disappointed following this season's Varsity defeat that he demanded that I shouldn't mention it in any report. As such, if I disappear following the publication of this year's *Eagle*, at least you'll know what has happened.

In University Sailing, huge credit must go to Eagles Clay and Heywood as the Blues team put in an outstanding performance to win the national BUSA championships, making them the only university team to have done so this season. Eagle Heywood has since been elected as the Captain for next season and we wish both the best of luck in the forthcoming Varsity match.

Last, and most certainly not least, attention must turn to the Boat Club. In the May Bumps last summer, the First Boat went up three places to second on the River, their highest position for fifteen years. However, whilst no-one ever doubted their continuing ability in the obnoxious wearing of horrible red blazers, the new academic year saw the Club threatened by the end of an era, as Eagle Brand was pensioned off having devoted his best years (in fact most of his years) to the Club, and Eagle Clay joined him in his retirement. Eagle Russell rowed on and, after the First Boat went down one to fifth on the river in the Lent Bumps, he too called time on a distinguished College rowing career. As such, we wish the new crew the best of luck in trying to hold their position this summer. Meanwhile, rumours continue to circulate that the Lady Somerset Boat might make another last minute appearance.

I would like to thank a number of Senior Eagles for their support this year: Dr McConnel for his work as Senior Treasurer and for assisting Wendy Redgewell in organising the Dinner; Dr Linehan for continuing to provide a finely manicured wicket for the post-dinner room cricket that is enjoyed by all; Keith for the outstanding sports pitches; and the Master for allowing us the use of his garden for our splendid Garden Party.

It has been a great honour to take charge of the Club this year and I'm sure that my successor will find it in good health. The Club will continue to elect only the finest Johnian sportsmen to ensure that it remains at the forefront of both College and University sport for the foreseeable future. After all, as Henry Hudson so aptly put it: 'you cannot fly like an Eagle with the wings of a wren.'

Nunc est bibendum.

Nick Pantelides
Big Bird

The Flamingos

2006 has been another exceptionally successful year for the Flamingos. The current twenty-six members of St John's finest sportswomen boasts three University Presidents, two University Captains, six Blues and ten Half-Blues, which I believe highlights the continued strength, importance and prestige of the Flamingos.

Fledgling Emily Manuel has maintained her impressive form as the stalwart of the University Badminton team. Earning her third Blue this year, Emily has consistently been in the top sixteen University badminton players in the country and is currently seeded Number One in Cambridge. As Captain of the University team, she has been instrumental in its hugely successful season, as it finishes the year unbeaten in BUSA, earning a promotion into the Premier League of BUSA next season.

Fledgling Ammie Brewer decided to put down her racket, having earned a Tennis Blue last year, to pick up a netball instead. Wing Attack Ammie was a member of the victorious Varsity Netball team, narrowly beating Oxford 29-28 in a nail-biting match this February. Within College, Ammie is also a key member of the Ladies' and Mixed Hockey teams, adding to her impressive record as a multi-talented sportswoman.

Flamingo Dilly Nock is another dedicated sportswoman well-known on the University sporting scene. As well as being an experienced member of the successful University Lacrosse team, Dilly also plays a key role off the pitch in running and promoting women's sport. Dilly has recently been awarded the position of Ospreys' President, the umbrella sporting society for women's sport in Cambridge, a true honour that we are proud to have been bestowed on a Johnian.

In the water, Flamingo Sophie Pickford has been making waves as Vice-Captain of the University Ladies' Water Polo team. Representing the University on numerous occasions, Sophie has even played for the Men's team in a recent tournament where she was awarded the 'top goalkeeper' prize. When not in the water, Sophie dedicates much of her time to improving the conditions and funding of sportspeople in the

College, a cause to which she is very dedicated, and which we, the Flamingos, are most grateful that she has undertaken.

From the pool to the ice-rink, Fledgling Ariane de Hoog is the first ice hockey player to become a member of the Flamingos. This is her fourth year representing the University, holding the positions of Assistant Captain in her previous season, and Captain this season. From one veteran University sportswoman to another, Flamingo Fiona Danks starred in the Varsity Volleyball match this year, alongside Fledgling Lindsey Mehrer. They both contributed to the team's successful season, with the University Volleyball Squad emerging triumphant at the top of the League rankings, tied with Loughborough, for the first time in the Club's history. Beyond University level, Fiona excelled, earning a place on the English Universities' squad for her fourth consecutive season.

On the football pitch, Fledgling Becks Fisher maintained her position as the most successful striker in the University, starring in both the University and College teams. The victorious Varsity Squad beat Oxford 3-2 this year, as well as reaching the final of the county Cup. As an individual achievement, Becks was also the top scorer for the University team this year.

Flamingo Kosnatu Abdulai recovered from injury this season to put her blistering pace to use once again on the rugby pitch. As well as being President of the University Rugby Club, and playing in the Varsity match, Kosi also enjoyed another season on the wing for the England Students' Squad. Away from the pitch, Kosi has also enjoyed success on the athletics track and is currently training for her fourth Blue as a University Jumper.

I would like to thank Dr Helen Watson and Dr Nancy Perham for their continued support and assistance. The talent and commitment of the Flamingos are inspiring and the numerous achievements highlight the unrelenting strength of the Society. The Flamingos have been fundamental to numerous University and College sports teams, and are a testament to the ethos of St John's dedication, commitment and flair.

Kosnatu Abdulai
President

Men's Football

This year has been a season of 'almosts' for the Mens First XI. After a transitional year, John's once again asserted themselves as the team to fear in College Football. However, by the slimmest of margins, the cabinet in the bar will remain devoid of footballing silverware for another year. Meanwhile, the Second XI have once again retained their place in the Second Division, playing entirely against other college First teams.

The start of any season begins with the anxious wait to see what new fresher talent will arrive to replace last year's departing stars. In particular, I was concerned at the start of the season that, with the departure of Mike Gun-Why, we would struggle for the lack of an angry Scouser to stand in the centre-circle not moving very much. Fortunately, however, Mike Edwards, equally Scouse, equally angry but slightly leaner, arrived to fill his boots.

Our back line was bolstered when Robbie Munroe arrived from North of the Border, and soon achieved the distinction of becoming the only first year Land Economist to be chastised by his tutor about working too hard. Meanwhile, our attack was bolstered by the arrival of Ben Gibson, chasing a stray egg over from the rugby pitches and, having found himself amongst a group of more skilful, more coordinated athletes, decided to try his hand playing the beautiful game. And he improved immeasurably when we suggested he try using his feet instead.

Another important addition to the team worth mentioning was when Moh Murphy checked his emails and found that he'd been called into the First team squad, three years ago, by James Bryan! He may have been a bit late, but at least we didn't have to have Skinner in goal.

So to the beginning of the season: in the League, a vindictive fixture computer saw us start away to last year's First and Second place teams, Trinity and Fitz. However, despite a wobble late on, Trinity was beaten more comfortably than the 3-2 score suggests. Against Fitz, a twenty-five-yard Ash Simpson volley seemed to have Goal of the Season all wrapped up. That is until Mikey Adams, the speeding parakeet, and darling of Cambridge newspapers, stepped up to fire in a thunderbolt

from thirty-five yards in off the underside of the bar, giving us a 2-1 win. A better goal you will rarely see – earning him the Goal of the Season award. After this, a comfortable 2-0 win against Churchill took us top of the League, but was notable mainly for Skidmore's decision to pick a fight with the only person I've ever met bigger than Moh. Needless to say, he lost it, but that's commitment for you. And with a broken arm he got to spend lots more time with his girlfriend.

This was also the first of several games to be televised by Kazmore Productions and made available on the new Pete Coulthard endorsed wide-screen JCR TV. Using this new influx of TV money, we were able to shop abroad and bring in some new talent before the beginning of our Cuppers campaign. Jonny Chavkin arrived from New York, bolstering the attack and able to provide much needed advice to many a referee and opposition linesman. He was also able to partake in such traditional Cambridge pastimes as the wearing of 'robes' to matches and handing out 4-1 drubbings to the townies from APU, and notching a hat-trick in a 16-0 drubbing of the priests of CFTC, as our Cuppers campaign got off to a flying start.

Our League campaign continued with a tough 2-2 draw at Caius. If you believe what you read in the Cambridge newspapers, the game was notable mainly for a virtuoso individual performance from the Captain – single-handedly on a mission to win the game by himself. Then again, these same papers thought Ben Gibson to be the most gorgeous man in Cambridge, so that has to be taken with a pinch of salt. The Term was wrapped up by a 3-2 win against a physical but uninspired Catz side that put us top of the table at Christmas.

Lent Term was notable mainly for injuries that hampered us throughout the rest of the season. Nick Bell was felled by a particularly heavy-looking snowflake, the weight of which was enough to dislocate his feeble shoulder. Meanwhile, Mike Edwards, Ash Simpson, James Browne, Rich Skidmore, Ross Flanigan and Dave Barley all finished the season on the physio's bench after sustaining long-term injuries whilst battling for the cause. With so many key players unavailable in the run-in, it was perhaps inevitable that our challenge should falter, and

despite an excellent battling 1-0 win over title rivals Jesus, a 2-1 defeat to Darwin and a 1-1 draw with relegation strugglers, Christ's were enough to end our League campaign. Despite accruing a massive twenty points, we had to settle for second place, finishing runners-up to Churchill on goal difference.

Meanwhile, in Cuppers, a soft draw saw us cruise comfortably through to the semi-finals against Fitz, but our failure to convert chances was punished by the sharp finishing of their Blues forward, and we crashed out 1-0 in disappointing circumstances, effectively ending our season.

This year has been notable for the number of players who have stepped into the First team and become key players despite previous seasons on the fringe or even in the Seconds. It's hard to believe that before this year neither Ben Hills nor Wakiwaka had more than about five First team games between them, whilst Sang Nguyen and Ross Flanigan both stepped into the team from the Seconds during Lent Term to do a great job. However, this season's Most Improved Player is awarded to a player that, at the start of the year, hadn't ever started a First team match. After a fine season raiding down the left touchline, Steve Quinn became one of the first names on the team sheet for both John's and for Falcons, and the level of his improvement is such that he will go on to captain the Falcons next year.

This year's Player of the Season award was hotly contested – with Moh Murphy's newfound ability to turn up on time making him an immediate contender. James Verdon topped the scoring charts with ten goals, whilst last year's winner Chris Cleaver had another fantastic season. However, the award this year goes to another defender – one who has started every game this season and been a model of consistency and solidarity – that is Yosuke Charles Wakiwaka.

This year has seen an unprecedented contribution by John's players to the University set-up at all levels. In the Kestrels Varsity, Chris Cleaver earned the Man of the Match award for a typically resolute defensive performance, but was unable to stop them sliding to an unfortunate 2-1 defeat. The Falcons were represented by a Johnian defensive quartet of Steve Quinn, Waki, Robbie Munroe and James Verdon, and all played

key roles as the Falcons stormed to their first Varsity match victory since 1998, ending a seven-year losing streak by winning 2-0 at Oxford's Iffley Road Stadium. The massive Johnian contribution this year is reflected by the fact that Steve Quinn and Robbie Munroe will respectively captain and vice-captain the Falcons next year.

In the Blues, Nick Pantelides was determined to mould himself into his new role as a tough uncompromising Centre-back, and one of the first names on any Blues team-sheet. Meanwhile, Mike Adams, so disappointed at losing last year's Varsity, has, over the last twelve months, improved his game by dodging all booze and female attention in a show of dedication rarely seen at this or any level. The dedication was to pay off, as both were able to inspire the Blues to deliver their first Varsity win in five years, winning 1-0 in a scrappy encounter at Craven Cottage. They were also able to scrape a lucky 0-0 draw against the Falcons.

Thanks must be extended to Keith for preparing such excellent pitches week-in, week-out, and for his support of the Club in general. Mark Koller and Alex Beard have both done fantastic jobs with the Second and Third teams respectively, both teams having great success. I'd also like to thank my Committee; Dave Barley, Chris Cleaver, and, most importantly, Vice-Captain, Rich Skidmore, who has worked tirelessly behind the scenes this year.

To have come so close and yet been ultimately unsuccessful in both Cup and League will always leave a taste of disappointment. If we hadn't suffered such a freakish injury crisis then who knows what we might have achieved. However, despite this, I still feel that we can be proud of the improvements that have been made. With most of the squad still in their first and second years, the Club should be able to look forward to great successes in the coming seasons.

James Verdon
Captain

Women's Football

No one knew what this season had in store for the Women's team. Facing the prospect of a new division and, with the loss of so many players, it was anyone's guess. Of course, there was no need to worry – a fresh influx of talented second years, third years, graduates and, not forgetting our one and only fresher, Smee, meant that picking the starting eleven was always a challenge.

Our new arrivals were put to the test earlier than they had expected against Churchill, the team list being met with several surprised comments such as: 'Is that really my name? But I've only been to one training session!' The 3-2 result may have been a little closer than we were used to from last year, but we had won our first game as a new team. More wins followed, including a 10-0 drubbing of King's, where I was glad to see that at least some things never change with Becks adding seven goals to her growing tally.

With such impressive form it was soon clear that we were in the running for one of the two promotion spots along with Sidney and our old arch-enemy, Pembroke. Despite guest appearances from last year's Captain and Vice-Captain, along with a brave performance from Katy who was forced to save goals instead of scoring them, we suffered our first defeat.

Injuries and illness in the second term meant that new signings had to be made, with the addition of Esther from the Eddies team and our new goalie extraordinaire, Hannah. The deciding Pembroke game arrived and a decidedly injury-hit John's team gave it their all. We tried everything, even dragging a certain Liverpudlian spectator on to play the second half, but it wasn't to be. Even so, we bounced back to finish off our season with a 6-1 defeat of Downing, with newest addition to the striking unit, Hana, scoring what is surely the first of many goals. All of this added up to us finishing third in the Division, proving once and for all that despite the unorthodox way we were promoted last season, it was fully deserved.

Team-bonding this year has been high on the agenda, thanks to Jo and Lesley's new and very popular tradition of a trip to the pub after every

game. Charlie and Chloe have delighted us all at training with their 'interesting' outfits, and super-sub Steff has shown just how committed she is by coming on in every game, despite an injury.

It's taken hard work and determination from coaches and players but everyone has improved hugely over the year and we've become a team any Captain can be proud of. Most important of all we've had fun, enjoyed ourselves and entertained the fans along the way.

Ali Gaudion
Captain

Men's Hockey

Following on from our two previous undefeated League championships, St John's had excellent potential going into this year's campaign. Despite the setback of losing several senior players, we retained the League in fine style, winning all eleven matches and fulfilling a famous College rule. And if that wasn't enough, we rewrote the record books by completing a Cup treble, winning the Cambridge Cuppers and continental Doxbridge tournament.

The season began with the Club securing a lucrative sponsorship deal with Deloitte, resulting in the Club's astute financiers promptly spending the best part of three thousand pounds on kit. The Club now sported the traditional red home outfit, as well as an eye-catching all white away kit. The Club's well-renowned image of 'the best dressed men in Cambridge' would not be lost this year, in spite of the loss of Andy Fenn and Johnny Yiangou from the side.

It appeared the money was well spent, with a mixture of militant professionalism and continental flair spreading fear and panic into the first few opposing teams, the results reading 7-0 and 8-0 against Corpus and Clare in the League, and a 16-0 win over Churchill in the first round of Cuppers.

It was in the second half of the first Term that two incoming freshers announced their coming of age into the Club. The purchase of

continental marksman Jacques Yelland, from Paris Saint-Germain, seemed a shrewd investment as he won a plethora of short corners in the next two matches against unbeaten League pretenders Emma and Cam City. Against Emma, with the team conceding their only goal of the Term, newcomer Fergus Morrison rescued the team, scoring two sublime drag flicks, the second firing into the top-right corner in the last minute to win the game 2-1. Against Cam City, Fergus again scored a drag flick *en route* to a 2-0 victory. All was well at Christmas with the team sitting at the top of the League and progressing to the quarter-finals of Cuppers, although St Catherine's loomed ominously in the same half of the draw.

After the well-deserved break, the team hit top form. A defence marshalled by keeper Andrew Wheatley-Hubbard conceded only three goals in the first twelve matches of the season. In the centre, rock solid tackling by James Goldsmith complimented the vast reach of Alex Beard, whose continental forays forward were a sight to behold. On the flanks, Wing-Backs Rob Shorter and Ed Drage snuffed out opposition attacks and redistributed the ball to the midfield with pinpoint accuracy. Even when depleted, the Club's defence remained impenetrable with the quick hands of Tom Dye in goal, and with the ever reliable Dan Fallon and Fraser Reid always at the Captain's call.

As in previous seasons, the catalyst for the Club's success was provided by the midfield. Two Blues, Rich Mackenney and Mike Palmer, played when fit and eligible, lending unrivalled experience and ability to the team. Fergus Morrison played on the right, with old hand and ex-University player Matt Richardson playing on the left. At the heart of the team played James Sym – an ex-John's Captain himself, linking the teams with fluid ball movement, lifting team spirits and driving us forward with familiar shouts of '*ad gladium Johannus*'.

Up front, Jacques Yelland and another debutant, Oli Samuelson, threatened to take the Captain's position. Oli marked an impressive debut against Corpus with a goal, and continued to make appearances in almost every game. Jacque's lightening wobble and quick feet earned him a place on the University side but eight goals for the Club this season haven't done him justice. Always involved in rapid counter-attacks, and winning uncountable numbers of short corners, Jacques led

the College strike-force, and helped his Captain reach 100 goals for St John's.

The Club reached its Annual General Meeting top of the League and in the semis of Cuppers (with results reading 6-0, 5-0, 4-0, 7-1, 23-0, 3-1 in the League and an 8-2 win over Cup-fancied Caius) with St John's playing some of their best hockey in over three years. Congratulations went out to Fergus Morrison and Dan Fallon as the incoming Captain and Secretary, and to James Goldsmith as the Captain's Player of the Season. Special recognition was given to Rich Mackenney and to James Sym for their services to the Club in their time at John's. James Longman became the new curry Captain.

The following weekend, John's scheduled their two biggest matches of the season, a semi-final clash and a League decider, both against a Catz team that had matched us blow-for-blow up to this point. In the semi-final we reluctantly played, both without our best player and on a frozen pitch. Playing a side choc full of Blues we scrabbled to resist a barrage of attacks marshalled by Mikey Williamson, taking a break from his England and NL Premier League duties. Nevertheless our unparalleled team spirit drove us forward and we took our chances with two fabulous set-pieces to win 2-1, marking the seminal moment in many College Hockey careers. We followed it up with another nerve-racking match to decide the League, scoring in the last few minutes to beat Catz again, this time 3-2.

We played the Cup final as hot favourites, in front of a capacity crowd at the Leys. Holders Jesus were duly dispatched with the aid of two sublime drag flicks from Fergus Morrison, the second firing into the top corner to win the game 2-1. Finally, we could wash down our half-time Kiplings by drinking from a cup not seen in St John's since 1998.

Buoyed by our double domestic success, the Club crossed the Irish Sea to face other continental challengers in an attempt to complete an historic Cup treble. Commemorating the founding of the Hockey Club exactly 500 years ago, we beat seven teams dressed as royal courtiers (including Catz for the fourth time this season), *en route* to the Doxbridge trophy.

And so I hand the reins over to Fergus Morrison, the incoming Captain, and wish him the best of success in the forthcoming season.

God Bless the Hockey Club.

David Lloyd
Captain

Ladies' Hockey

This year, the Ladies Hockey team was well prepared for another successful season in the First Division. Kit arrived in perfect time for our first match, a landmark occasion since the women haven't owned their shirts for quite some time! Of course, the ubiquitous Deloitte made this all possible. Our team was bursting with talented freshers and our older players showed plenty of enthusiasm for the new season. Raring to go, our first match was against a composite team - Peterhouse and Corpus. We were winning 1-0, but the match was cut short when our talented Blues' fresher Sophie Lynch (and Player of the Season), perfectly chipped the ball into the Goalie's knee cap! We settled for a comfortable 2-0 victory but were disappointed the match couldn't continue! Next up was Caius but they only turned up with five players, so in true Johnian style we lent them half our team and played a friendly match.

Our strong set of eight freshers has been a real asset to the team. Ellie Roberts joined the defence whilst Anneka Dew, Sarah Mackie and Bex Roberts stepped into mid-field and forward positions. Emily Baker, our Goalie, brought formidable strength to the team. Beth Harper (second year) was keen to take up hockey again since school, and has enjoyed her comeback up front. Our Vice-Captain and Social Secretary, Ilona Moyter, was the perfect party animal to organise a fun social in Michaelmas for everyone.

We dominated in our matches against Jesus and Emma, winning 7-0 in each match. Top goal scorers included our other fresher University players Tash Tanna and Anna Stanley. Lydia Tong's imaginative play up-front was matched by her strong team spirit. The reliable midfield

consisted of the old favourites Ammie Brewer, Anya Perry, Charlie French and Sara Litchfield, who showed slick passing and creative stick work. This was backed up by our formidable defence, Katy Lutley, Ilona Moyter and Anne-Marie Cumberlidge, whose tackling skills and quick reactions were noted. Sarah Kitson and Charlie Bruce showed their commitment playing hockey as much as possible in between doctor duties and PhDs.

The Ladies' Club has gone from strength to strength, and this year we were pleased to come third in the League, only losing matches to Catz and Girton who were the League Winners and Runners Up respectively. We were pleased to make the quarter-finals of Cuppers but unfortunately lost out to Catz's team who were stacked with university players. The team's success was celebrated at the Annual Hockey Dinner. I pass on my duties as Captain into the skilled hands of Tash Tanna who will be assisted by Anna Stanley as Vice-Captain. Let's hope League Champions are on the cards for next year!

Naomi Longworth
Captain

Mixed Hockey

It was that champion of the epigram, James Sym, who is said to have coined the slogan 'Mixed hockey: six-aside with bollards'. However, this year's crop of freshers, as well as the already established beauties further up the Club, ensured that the 'bollards' would be significantly more active and shapely than their moniker suggests. Indeed, having such talented ladies to save the blushes of the men on several occasions meant that the team eased past skilled opponents with nary a break in their stride; even the strong Catz finalists were no match for a mixed team that has been the unexpected source of some of the finest hockey seen in St John's this year. The 5-0 score line in the final was a fair reflection of the excellence and diversity evident in our squad.

Traditionally the bastion of the flirt and the 'poodle-faker', mixed hockey at St John's has seen its share of snappily dressed, strikingly

good looking and smooth-talking players. Making up in charm and panache for what they lack in actual skill, even the laziest team member, on realising the day's opponents are of the fairer sex, has been known to pull himself out of bed, letting neither antisocial start time nor horrendous hangover deter him. And so it is that, despite the team's unprecedented victory this year, it is not without a note of sadness that we say farewell to the Mixed Cuppers campaign of 2005-2006, and with it some of the finest poodle-fakers ever to have graced this College. Messrs Richardson and Yiangou, we salute you.

Richard Mackenney
Mixed Cuppers Captain

Mixed Lacrosse

On paper this year, St John's Mixed Lacrosse team was far superior to any other. In theory, it would have been possible to field a team composed entirely of players who had, at one point or another, played for the University. As ever, the team exhibited two styles of play. The fast-moving, dynamic and aggressive boys defended to the death. David Knowles and Ben McNamee, joined by Chris Smith, newly arrived from the dark side, and our secret weapon, made up an exclusively Cambridge Blue back three. In attack were the more controlled and decidedly more skilful girls. Particular mention should go to four-year veteran and ex-Captain Dilly Nock, and Lucy Puddle, both of whom represented CUWLC in Varsity matches this year.

With so much to offer, it is hardly surprising that the team reached the semi-finals of the inter-college League with an unbeaten run of games. However, with a team consisting of players committed to many other areas of University life, we struggled to reach our full complement for the later matches. The semi-final against Selwyn was a showcase of the talents of the newer members of the team, and we were unfortunate to lose by one goal in an evenly fought game.

Cuppers this year was mostly a non-event. Poor organisation saw many colleges drop out and, even with all our strength and depth, we could

not field a complete team midweek on possibly the coldest day of the term. A composite John's-Pembroke team performed with spirit and while perhaps not progressing very far, the determination not to give up in appalling conditions and the humour with which the situation was dealt, were admirable.

Throughout the season, it has been wonderful to see the enthusiasm with which Johnians new to the game have joined the weekly League matches. It is testament to my Vice-Captain, Bella Hunt, who encouraged and coached, that so many returned week after week, and it bodes well for the future of the team.

Franki McClure
Captain

Lady Margaret Boat Club

The Club continues to rely on the support of a small number of former members who bring the benefit of their experience to coaching our crews, while other members provide advice and support to the Captains. The LMBC Association has made possible the training camps at York and Eton, through its financial support, as well as funding the men's Henley campaign. The LMBCA has also paid for a set of oars for the men and a set for the women this year. The Club's other main equipment purchase was a new VIII for the men.

We are delighted to be able to report that the LMBC is now sponsored by Bank of America in a three-year arrangement. This is a significant boost to the Club, providing much-needed funds, and we hope that Bank of America will also appreciate the benefits it receives.

Other good news is that the generosity of Mr Hugh Stewart, stalwart of the Club, has enabled an elegant dormer window to be created in the coaching room at the Boathouse, giving the room a new lease of life and a fine view of the river. We are very grateful to him. In addition, the College is funding the building of a shed to hold our IVs, which we hope will be ready for the new academic year.

Lady Margaret Boat Club – Men

Henley 2005

For the first time in some years, the LMBC was able to send a crew to Henley, consisting entirely of members of the Club. Ed Clay from the First May Boat was, unfortunately, unavailable due to his participation in the concurrent Varsity sailing match and was replaced by Ben Russell, who had stroked the Second VIII in the Bumps. The Cambridge and rowing calendars conspired such that the qualification race fell only six days after the last day of the Bumps and three days after the College's May Ball. Nonetheless, the crew, under the watchful eye of Roger Silk, was soon back on the river, first in Cambridge and then in Henley. Unfortunately, the difficulties of peaking again so soon after the Bumps, and of recovering from the celebrations of the first half of the week, proved too much to overcome, and the crew missed out on qualification by a mere four seconds.

The Henley VIII

Bow	Gerald Weldon
2	Mark Brand
3	Ben Russell
4	Chris Milton
5	Gary Olney
6	Ed Russell
7	Dave Wilson
Stroke	George Wallis
Cox	Hayley Fisher

Michaelmas Term 2005

Enthusiasm in the Club for a challenge on the Lents and Mays Headships was evident and resulted in a slightly unusual and experimental form to the Michaelmas Term. Despite the loss of the majority of the previous year's May Boat, a very high proportion of the Lower Boats returned, together with a couple of fresh faces. Aided by Nick Geddes (Captain 1997-1998, now resident once more in Cambridge

and acting as 'Resident Coach'), something akin to a squad system was established.

Provisional crews were set very early on and, after feedback from an exceptionally well-attended and useful coaches' meeting, these were refined a couple of weeks later. A Light IV was selected as the Club's Premier Boat, with an unprecedented four Coxed IVs and a Development VIII below. The Light IV won Cambridge Autumn Head and then overtook Downing coming out of Ditton Corner in the first round of the University IVs. A poor row in nasty conditions in the semi-final against First and Third saw us lose narrowly. This was especially disappointing as it was one of the crews we had beaten the previous week, which subsequently went on to win the final. The following week saw the crew race the Fours Head on the tideway, where a creditable row put us just under half-way down in the S2 Coxless IVs category. This was especially impressive considering that only after the event did we realise we had badly bent our fin on launching (which explained the frantic 'bow-side corner' calls, despite the large sweeping bends of the Thames!). My thanks go to Tim Fisher-Jeffes and Mark Brand for their great efforts with the crew, and to Jan Trnka for steering so well, with or without the fin.

The four Coxed IVs progressed well under the care of the many coaches who gave up their time to help. I would especially like to thank Nikki Brotton, Henry Addison, Camilla Waugh, Ben Symonds and Megan Goldman.

The 'Lowden' crew suffered from injury problems in the run-up to the University Fours. Nonetheless, it showed great fight in the race against the eventual winners, King's, and lost by only ten seconds despite suffering a broken footplate. Enthusiasm from the 'Diggle' Four led to being entered in the First Division of the University Fours competition despite a good chance of winning the Second Division. Having won the first round against Fitzwilliam it lost narrowly to the other eventual finalists, Christ's. Both crews were entered for Fours Head, but illness led to only the Diggle Four racing. An outstanding row saw the crews come twenty-second out of fifty-nine in the S3 academic category,

beating crews from Jesus, Magdalene, Queens', Robinson and Wolfson amongst many others.

The other two IVs raced in the Lower Division of the University Fours. Good progress in the weeks leading up to the event caused some optimism about their chances, but both crews lost eventually to different First and Third crews. Nonetheless, simply having the depth within the Club to field these crews was a great success and their efforts against higher-ranked opposition must be applauded; undoubtedly the time spent rowing in Fours was extremely beneficial to the technique of all concerned.

The Light IV

Bow	Jan Trnka*
2	Andy Truman
3	Ben Russell
Stroke	Gerald Weldon

*Steers

The First Coxed IVs

Bow	Mike-Luke Jones	Bow	Geoff Wright
2	Tom Marriott	2	Mark Morgan
3	Warwick Bloore	3	Jack Westwood
Stroke	Greg Lowden	Stroke	James Diggle
Cox	Kat Saklatvala	Cox	Franki McClure

The great success seen thus far in developing a strong and deep squad led to the unprecedented decision to enter a parallel First VIII and IV for Fairbairns. Whilst undoubtedly weakening the chances of short-term success, this allowed the squad as a whole to progress much faster. The First VIII, coached by Amir Nathoo and Bill Budenberg, put in some long outings over the lock but never quite gelled together, coming a slightly disappointing thirteenth. The First IV, coached by Gareth Lane and Uli Förster, pulled out a storming result to finish second out of seventeen College Fours, beaten only by the same King's Boat that had won the University Fours earlier in term. A Second VIII also raced and

finished as the third College Second Boat, an all-important four seconds ahead of First and Third; the Development VIII also raced as an unprecedented thirty-two oarsmen and coxes competed for LMBC.

The First VIII

Bow	Mike-Luke Jones
2	Greg Lowden
3	Jack Westwood
4	Tom Marriott
5	Gerald Weldon
6	Mark Morgan
7	Jan Trnka
Stroke	James Diggle
Cox	Franki McClure

The First IV

Bow	Andy Truman
2	Warwick Bloore
3	Frank Scheibe
Stroke	Ben Russell
Cox	Kat Saklatvala

A positive term for the senior squad was bolstered by the results of the novices, who happily reconfirmed LMBC's expertise at teaching large numbers of beginners to row at a good level. The Men's Club fielded five crews. The first Novice Boat progressed well in Clare Sprints until being disqualified for steering into Jesus whilst the better part of a length up; disappointed to lose out, the crew worked extremely hard for the remaining time before Fairbairns. A result of second (unfortunately behind the same Jesus crew) was very respectable, as was that of the Second Boat, which finished thirteenth, beating a string of other First Boats along the way. Credit too, to the other novice boats that worked hard and improved greatly over the term. Huge thanks are due to all the coaches of the various crews and to Lower Boats' Captain, Mark Curling, whose efforts are reflected both in the term's successes and the huge numbers of ex-novices who continued into Lent Term.

The traditional logistical nightmare that is 'Chases Week' again ran at the end of term, giving seniors and novices the chance to get to know each other and have a taster of the Bumps racing that the Lents bring. A good turnout was a taste of things to come, and the week finished off with the traditional and infamous curry.

Lent Term 2006

As usual, the senior men held a pre-term training camp at Dorney Lake, Eton. An exceptional attendance meant that we were able to boat an VIII and a IV every day, and indeed the entire First VIII was eventually composed of those who had attended. All those present benefited enormously from the focus provided by a training camp, from the traffic-free conditions found off-Cam and from the quality of the coaching available. The final day was an opportunity for the coaches to see the progress made by the squad and to discuss plans for the term. My thanks to Guy Pooley for arranging the use of a launch, to Chris Atkin, Chris Morgan, Andy Jones, Sandy Black, Nick Geddes, John Hall-Craggs, Jon Rhodes, Amir Nathoo and Gerald Roebroeks for coaching and/or attending the meeting and, above all, to the LMBCA for its extremely generous support of the camp, without which many of the athletes would struggle to attend.

Back in Cambridge, 2000m ergo tests and a conveniently timed Head race on the Cam aided crew selection and training for Bumps began, with the Men's Club fielding a pleasing six boats. The benefits of the previous term's squad system in terms of the strength and depth of the Club were especially obvious at the upper end of the squad. No fewer than eight First May or Lent Colours competed for seats in the First VIII, of whom five were eventually selected, the remaining seats being filled by rowers who had shown great promise at Eton.

The First Lent VIII

Bow	Jan Trnka
2	Matt O'Connor
3	Patrick Marti
4	Andy Truman
5	Gary Olney
6	Ed Russell
7	Gerald Weldon
Stroke	Mark Morgan
Cox	Charlie Willison

The Second Lent VIII

Bow	Jack Westwood
2	Mark Curling
3	Hugo Cartwright
4	Tom Marriott
5	Warwick Bloore
6	James Diggle
7	Ben Russell
Stroke	Greg Lowden
Cox	Kat Saklatvala

Roger Silk made good progress ironing out individual faults with the First Boat before Jon Rhodes took over. Boat speed really started to pick up, and Jon's two-week stint ended with Robinson Head, in which the crew came third, a pleasing twelve seconds behind a Caius crew that had been training together for a term-and-a-half. Illness unfortunately then took a severe toll; our five-man crew had already been suffering at Robinson Head, and further illness forced us to scratch from Bedford Head, depriving us of much-needed race experience.

This state of affairs continued for much of the next week (for which time Nick Geddes took up the coaching reins) up to and including Pembroke Regatta. A comfortable victory over Wolfson in the first round set up a clash with Caius, the Headship crew, and the one on which we had most set our sights. Adrenaline flowing, we led by a seat off the start. Coming through the railway bridge the lead had been pushed out to two seats, helped by almost non-stop pushes and a rating approaching thirty-eight. Unfortunately this proved too high a tempo for us to maintain, and the fragile rhythm fell apart, allowing Caius to win by half a length, but we took much heart from the experience.

During this time the Second VIII had laid down a strong claim to being the fastest Second Boat on the river by some considerable margin. A victory in its category in Robinson Head preceded being the second fastest College crew at Bedford Head (after Churchill I, nearly an entire Bumps Division higher), and a win in Pembroke Regatta by a margin that in no round was less than four lengths. Many thanks must go to Henry Addison, Tim Fisher-Jeffes, Paul Haines, and John Durack for their excellent efforts with the crew.

The First VIII enjoyed an excellent preparation for Bumps, overseen by Mark Brand. Problems pushing-off on the first day exacerbated the first-day nerves of an inexperienced crew, and we struggled to make much impact on Downing; meanwhile, Jesus was beginning to pressurise and the crew failed to maintain its composure under pressure, succumbing at the railings. The second day saw a marked improvement in the rowing and a whistle was to be heard coming into Grassy Corner. A rather unfortunate line, however, saw us practise our parking manoeuvre on the outside of the corner. Whilst our chances of a bump

had been destroyed, we managed to push off and restart whilst still a length clear of Churchill, which was, once again, rapidly pushed into the distance leading to a comfortable row-over.

The third day dawned with us determined to show our true ability. Once again, we got a whistle coming into Grassy, but this time a fine corner saw us close to within half a length, and gain overlap around Ditton. A side-by-side race ensued up the reach, with Charlie finally converting the bump at the houses with half a length of overlap. The final day saw us again chasing Downing. Coming out of Ditton we closed to half a length, but a revitalised Jesus crew behind was also pushing hard. Forgetting our composure of the day before, we reverted somewhat to the nervous and poor rowing that had characterised the first day and Jesus converted the bump at the White House. A very good Boat on our day, and certainly faster than both Jesus and Downing, we badly suffered from a lack of race-practice and failed to perform when under pressure, a most disappointing end to a promising campaign.

The Second VIII, starting fourth in the Second Division, hit Girton on the first day coming out of Grassy Corner. The second day saw the crew chase Caius II for the Second-Boat Headship; a good race ensured a bump at the Pink House. A somewhat easier bump on Magdalene on the Friday resulted in Head of the Second Division, necessitating some improvised repairs to the bow before racing as sandwich boat at the bottom of the First Division. A good start saw a gain on Fitzwilliam, but unfortunately, St Catharine's, starting two places ahead, proved to be exceptionally slow, and the crew was unable to make its bump before Fitz converted. The Saturday brought a comfortable row-over Head of the Second Division, followed by an even more comfortable bump on Catz whilst rowing, once more, as sandwich boat. This feat saw LMBC II finish in the First Division for the first time since 1998, and earned the crew its oars, the first Lady Margaret crew to do so for some years.

The Third Boat, having looked strong all term, suffered from a very high starting position to finish down three. Having lost the Third-Boat Headship on the third day to FaT, Spoons were thankfully avoided on the final day leaving the boat in a position to reclaim 'its' Headship next year. The Fourth Men, consisting entirely of this year's novices, gelled

extremely well as a crew. Bumps on Wolfson II, King's II, and Hughes Hall on the first three days promised a chance to earn its oars on the last. Approaching Grassy, the crew had overlap on Clare Hall but, despite the evidence later found of paintwork on the hull, no bump was awarded and its prey escaped. Praise must also go to the Fifth and Sixth Men's Boats, which worked steadily all term but were victims of the increasing pressure for a limited number of Bumps spots, thus failing to get on.

My thanks, of course, go to all the crews' coaches for their time and dedication: to John Durack for umpiring and thus relieving us of some of our marshalling duties; to all our supporters and bank-parties who provided invaluable assistance; and to Gerald Roebroeks, for expertly poling off all the crews each day, whilst simultaneously maintaining the fleet and doing the other countless (and often thankless) tasks of a Boat Club Manager.

With the Lents completed, a somewhat modified crew resumed training for the Head of the River Race on the Tideway in London. Coached by Geoff Ball and Gerald Roebroeks, progress was made under the slightly less-pressured circumstances. Having already had to make some changes in the crew from the Lents, matters were not helped by our Stroke falling off his bicycle en route to catch the train to London. As it was, by now, outside of the Cambridge Term, substitutes were not easy to find at such short notice, but fortunately our Cox, Charlie Willison, had – in a past life – been an accomplished oarsman, and so was moved to the other side of the rudder strings. Coxing cover was then provided very kindly by Hayley Fisher (for a practice outing) and Henry Addison (for the race). The final placing of 245th out of 406 was quite respectable in the circumstances. My thanks go to Mr and Mrs Willison and to old oar, Pete Mallin-Jones, for providing somewhere to stay the preceding night.

The term was rounded off by the Henley Boat Races over Easter, where the Club was again well represented. For the men, John Davey occupied the three-seat in the Lightweight Blue Boat. Although the results failed to go their way, John deserves our praise and admiration for his commitment and determination throughout the year.

May Term 2006

The traditional pre-term camp at York, with Jamie MacLeod providing superb coaching, was, as ever, a huge success, giving the crew time and space to work hard on fitness and technical weaknesses. The amount of distance covered (and the complete lack of carnage found on the Cam) means that this camp is easily worth two or three weeks in term-time. This year, the camp was extended by two days and finished with a trip to Nottingham City Regatta. This provided invaluable experience for the crew in a multi-lane setting and saw us come second in both the S3 and S4 categories (out of about ten crews in each case). Once again, our thanks go to the LMBCA for providing the means for us to continue to run these crucial training camps.

After returning to Cambridge and the CUCBC Small Boats Regatta and Colquhoun Sculls (for which we had a healthy entry), the complete York VIII was selected as the First May VIII, whilst the Second Boat was based around the Second Lent VIII.

The First May VIII

Bow	Mark Curling
2	Gerald Weldon
3	Andy Truman
4	Patrick Marti
5	John Davey
6	Jan Trnka
7	Matt O'Connor
Stroke	Ben Russell
Cox	Amy Atkinson

The Second May VIII

Bow	Jack Westwood
2	Mike-Luke Jones
3	Alex Groot
4	Tim Angliss
5	Warwick Bloore
6	Hugo Cartwright
7	Richard Van der Wath
Stroke	Greg Lowden
Cox	Kat Saklatvala

For the first three weeks of term, the First VIII was coached by Roger Silk. A few injury problems aside, all members of the crew made good technical progress, which culminated in a solid row in the final of Poplar Regatta in pretty dreadful conditions, to come third overall, beating Emmanuel and Churchill Colleges. With many individual flaws now sorted out, the crew was really able to start to gel in the middle slot, under the watchful eye of Andy Jones. A slightly disappointing row in

a minor regatta on the Cam proved to be the catalyst for an extraordinarily productive period for the crew, with each outing yielding huge improvements.

This culminated in a very strong performance at the Metropolitan Regatta. The heats of S3 VIIIs saw us drawn in the neighbouring lane to a Liverpool VIII being coached by Sir Steve Redgrave for a television series, the aim being to take eight people from non-rowers to Henley in six months. The watching camera crews failed to disturb us, however, as we powered off the start into second place, which we then held through to the finish. We had a dreadful start in the final of the 21-Boat event, lying in last place with 400m gone. Picking up the pieces, we moved rapidly through the back half of the field, ending up in fourth place, only an agonising third-of-a-length behind the second-placed crew. A very worthwhile lesson was learnt but, nevertheless, this was an outstanding result in what is the premier English regatta prior to Henley.

Focused now on the Bumps, Paddy Gillespie took over as finishing coach. The crew had already suffered on the erg earlier in the term from his training ideas, but Paddy now took on the task of making the final few tweaks and preparing us mentally for racing. The first day of the Bumps saw the First VIII close up to almost a length off Caius at Head by Grassy Corner. An unfortunate line through the corner saw us park on the far bank but we managed to push off and row over with no damage done, with Caius too far away to have any realistic chance of bumping.

Not content with merely having the CUBC President in its boat, Caius was so rattled that it imported more Blues into the boat on subsequent days. Despite this, the near-Lightweight LMBC Boat, with only one (Lightweight) Blue onboard, turned up to the start, confident of still giving Caius a run for its money. Not disappointing, a superb row off the start again saw us close on Caius ahead, but again we met the outside of Grassy Corner, this time because of catastrophic rudder failure. Unlike the previous day, however, this left St Catharine's, which had been kept on station up to that point, with the easy task of rowing straight past us, which they did effortlessly.

Somewhat rattled by our seeming inability to race more than two minutes of the course, some corner practice before the next day helped rebuild confidence. Now chasing a Catz boat, almost all of whom were Blues, Half-Blues or Internationals, the boat had a solid, if unspectacular, start. Relief at making it around Grassy Corner was short-lived as Queens' started to threaten, closing to a quarter-of-a-length around Ditton Corner. However, the crew had faith in its own ability, and the quality of rowing started to pick up down the long reach. A big push out of the Corner to regain nearly a length's clear water was followed by a series of pushes along the remainder of the course whenever Queens' looked like threatening.

The final day saw the best row of the week. A fine line and solid commitment through the corners saw Queens' at least a length down by The Plough and more by the railings. Catz ahead, meanwhile, had barely moved beyond station. Queens' put in an enormous push down the second part of the long reach, and especially coming through the railway bridge. Gaining a very optimistic whistle at Morley's Holt seemed to spur Queens' to even greater things, but it was a case of too little too late; perhaps closing to half-a-length at one point, the crew always looked a containable danger by that point in the course.

I would like to thank all the coaches for their commitment and time and to pay tribute to the crew for working so hard throughout the term. Despite containing only one past May Colour, the crew was clearly of a comparable speed to those around, most of which were stacked with Blues. Were it not for crashing (largely due to rudder failure) on the Thursday, the crew may well have held off the challenge from Catz. As it is, down one to third on the river is by no means shabby, and leaves the Club in a strong position to challenge for the Headship in 2007, helped by the fact that at least eight of this year's crew will still be around.

The loss of rowers at the top end of the Club filtered down, of course, to the Lower Boats. An initially very weak Second VIII made good progress all term, and particularly in the run-up to Bumps. My thanks go to their coaches: Amir Nathoo, Tim Fisher-Jeffes, Nick Geddes and Bill Budenberg.

Bumps began with Wolfson I in front and Fitzwilliam I behind. Fitz had been strong all year, and on the first day the Second VIII was bumped, but not before taking much heart from its performance relative to the surrounding crews. On the Thursday it was being chased by CCAT I, which closed to near-overlap on the crew coming down the long reach. A superb and gritty effort, however, saw it held at bay, and the crew pushed back to row over two lengths clear. The third day saw another fantastic effort, closing up on Peterhouse I to gain three whistles coming up The Plough reach. Not quite managing to close up the remaining distance, Peterhouse pushed back up the reach, hanging on to fight another day. On the final day, the crew was hopeful of making up those final few yards on Peterhouse. Unfortunately it was not to be, with Peterhouse bumping an abysmal Downing II early on, leaving the crew to be chased by King's I. Good determination saw King's held off for most of the course, but alas the crew could not quite go all the way, being bumped at the White House. A somewhat unlucky end to a campaign that could have seen the boat up one, had it bumped Peterhouse the day before.

The hugely inexperienced Third Men worked hard and benefited from the excellent coaching of Henry Addison and Gerald Roebroeks. On the first night the crew was bumped by Pembroke II, which went on to win its oars, and then by a strong FaT III on the second. Not deterred, the crew regrouped and had a solid row-over on the third night, setting itself up for a bump on Clare II on the final night to end the week on a high.

The Fourth Boat suffered from being unfortunately positioned relative to other crews, falling to Caius III and Selwyn III, both of which won their oars, and also to Queens' III. The Fellows, rowing as the Fifth VIII, bumped Downing IV on the first night but fell to Clare Hall I and Clare IV on the final two nights. The Sixth VIII, consisting, in part, of novices this term, 'won' its Spoons.

I would like to thank the entire Club for making this such an enjoyable year, and I have great confidence handing over to the new Captain, Jan Trnka. A large number of returning oarsmen, together with the prospect

of fresh talent, keep the Headship firmly within our sights, and I am sure that you will all join with me in wishing Jan the very best of luck.

Vive Laeta Margareta

Gerald Weldon
Captain

Lady Margaret Boat Club – Women

Michaelmas Term 2005

With the arrival of another intake of keen freshers, Michaelmas Term saw the women's squad split into two. Four novice crews were established, whilst the returning seniors, boosted by a couple of new additions, formed an VIII and a IV. The VIII began the term with crew-building work, then split roughly into two for the University IVs competition, with a race before the event to decide which crew took the honour of being the First IV. This crew was subsequently knocked out in the early stages of the event by the eventual champions, whilst the Second IV finished as runner-up of its Division, after facing a very strong Clare IV in the finals.

The two IVs then merged back into the VIII after the competition, boosted by the additional technical skill picked up during the time in smaller boats. Training continued, despite the cold and increasingly short days restricting available water time. The first race as an VIII was in the Winter Head, where the crew performed very strongly to finish third of the College VIIIs. Final preparations for Fairbairns were hampered by illness, but recoveries were made in time for the crew to race, where a good row led to being placed fifth of thirty-five Women's VIIIs, an excellent result. The Senior IV spent the term focusing on developing technique, and chose not to race until Fairbairns. Despite the lack of race experience the crew rowed well, showing the great improvements that had been made throughout the term, and finishing tenth of the College IVs.

The novice crews made good progress over the course of the term, with strong performances both on land at Queens' Ergo competition and on the water in Clare Regatta and Fairbairns. In the latter event the First Novice VIII finished third overall, and the Second Novice VIII finished twelfth as the fastest Second VIII.

Lent Term 2006

The Lent Bumps campaign started with the traditional pre-term training camp based at Dorney Lake, the venue for the 2006 World Rowing Championships. With world-class facilities and high-quality coaching from Palo Gledhill and Cath Mangan, the women's squad had an excellent week. The twelve rowers and two coxes were a mixture of novices and seniors, allowing fresh talent to integrate into the squad and set a strong base for the term to come. The weather was kinder than expected and, with more spacious accommodation than in the past, the blistered hands and aching muscles also seemed easier to bear. Our thanks go to the LMBCA for its financial support of this camp.

Back in Cambridge, crews were selected, and the high novice retention rates allowed us to put out four women's crews. The First VIII was also delighted to make use of the new set of blades that had been generously provided by the LMBCA, with the other crews also benefiting as equipment was passed down. The first race for the top boats was the Cambridge Head to Head, allowing an early chance to test ourselves against the opposition. Both crews put in strong performances, each finishing fourth of the crews in their respective Bumps Division. The First VIII went on to race Robinson Head a few weeks after, shortly followed by Bedford Head, where a very strong row led to second place in the S3 category, behind only Clare College, which went on to gain the Lents Headship.

Lent Bumps brought mixed fortunes. The Fourth Boat had suffered a lack of water-time, and despite making good improvements over the term, failed to get on. The Third Boat had suffered similarly, particularly due to poor weather conditions causing river closures in the run-up to the Bumps. It had an excellent row in the getting-on race but narrowly missed out on a Bumps place. The Second Boat was keen to continue up the Bumps charts after last year's successes, and started the week

strongly, bumping Darwin I on the first day and Magdalene I on the second. Hopes of another bump on day three were sadly dashed as the Division was stopped due to other crews' failure to clear the river. Despite having been within a canvas of the boat in front, a technical row-over was given. A strong row on the final day saw the crew chasing an over-bump but sadly the course ended before it was able to sufficiently close the gap, finishing up two overall.

The First VIII got off to a shaky start, going down to First and Third on day one and then Newnham on day two. However, the crew learnt from the experiences and rowed over clear on day three, and again on day four when pressured by a very strong Trinity Hall crew behind. It was, however, a slightly disappointing week overall, as the relative inexperience of the crew had taken its toll on the first two days.

Both First and Second VIII went on to compete at the Women's Head of the River Race in London on 11 March. Having been unable to race the previous year due to a clash with Bumps, it was a new experience for most people, although both crews performed well. The Second VIII finished towards the top of the novice category, and the First VIII finished high amongst the S4 entries, and ninety-seventh place out of 270 overall.

First Women's VIII		Second Women's VIII	
Bow	Katie Hunt	Bow	Emily Roberts
2	Izzie Kaufeler	2	Anna Wood
3	Elizabeth Smee	3	Alice Charnley
4	Lara Maister	4	Julia Clarke
5	Claire Jarvis	5	Hannah Lane
6	Clare Harvey	6	Rose Chaffé
7	Susan Kendall	7	Clarissa Scholes
Stroke	Emma Davis	Stroke	Charlotte Wheeler-Booth
Cox	Franki McClure	Cox	Ashraf El-Mashad

The Henley Boat Races occurred soon after the end of term, in which Philippa Rock and Hannah Stratford competed for Cambridge in Blondie, the women's reserve boat. Despite a strong performance, they were sadly beaten by their Oxford counterparts, Osiris. Clare Harvey

had also been training with CUWBC over the course of the year and was the official spare. Congratulations are due to all three for their hard work and commitment.

Easter Term 2006

With the squad boosted by returning triallists and others picking up their oars again after time out, term got off to a good start with a training camp held on the Cam and at Ely. Under the expert guidance of Roger Silk, the First VIII took advantage of a clear river to get some quality water-time before the start of Full Term.

Three crews were then selected to begin preparations for the May Bumps. Exam pressures limited the amount of racing the crews were able to schedule prior to the Bumps, but the First VIII competed in Champs Head where it put in a strong performance to finish fifth of the College VIIIs, an encouraging result in the lead-up to the Bumps. Unseasonable weather limited the water-time available to the lower crews due to high winds, but the cooler temperatures were a welcome relief during hard training sessions!

Summer finally arrived, and with it the Bumps. The Third VIII had a strong start to the week bumping New Hall II on Wednesday and then rowing over on Thursday. Unfortunately, it fell later in the week to Corpus I and Darwin II, both of which earned their blades over the course of the week.

The Second VIII started the week chasing Robinson I, our Boathouse partners. A very fast start gained the crew an initial advantage, on which it was able to capitalise and win the bump fairly quickly. This pattern seemed to be repeated over the course of the week as it went on to bump Caius II, Pembroke II and Emmanuel II on successive days, without ever needing to row more than half the course before bumping. An excellent performance earned the crew its blades, and fourth place.

The First VIII had a more difficult week, conceding bumps to Trinity Hall and Newnham on the first two days. A revised crew order on day three boosted performance and a fast chase against Downing led to a thrilling race. Agonizingly, Downing got the bump just a couple of

hundred metres from the finish line. Fortunes improved on the final day when a solid Churchill crew moved in close but was pushed away by a determined effort leading to a well deserved row-over. The overall result of down three does not do justice to the strong but inexperienced crew.

Sadly, we were unable to compete at Henley Women’s Regatta as it clashed with the Bumps, but I look forward to seeing a Lady Margaret crew there next year.

First Women’s VIII

Bow	Elizabeth Smee
2	Megan Daniel
3	Philippa Rock
4	Lara Maister
5	Hannah Stratford
6	Clare Harvey
7	Susan Kendall
Stroke	Emma Davis
Cox	Franki McClure

Second Women’s VIII

Bow	Emily Roberts
2	Izzie Kaufeler
3	Alice Charnley
4	Gemma Driscoll
5	Clarissa Scholes
6	Katie Rickman
7	Nina Marinsek
Stroke	Anna Wood
Cox	Ashraf El-Mashad

As ever, the successes of the year are due to the hard work and commitment of a large number of people. My thanks go out to all those who have been involved in the Women’s Club over the year, especially to my Lower Boats Captain, Izzie Kaufeler, for her dedication and enthusiasm throughout. We are greatly indebted to all those who have coached the crews over the year, particularly the large number of old boys and old girls who have provided so much support and advice as well as excellent coaching. Roger Silk has, as ever, been invaluable in selecting and preparing the Lent and May VIIIs for the Bumps, and Gerald Roebroeks has worked tirelessly to provide coaching and advice, in addition to looking after the fleet of boats and the Boathouse. Finally, huge thanks go to the LMBCA for its continuing support of the Club.

I leave the Women’s Club in the capable hands of Gemma Sykes, and wish her every success in the coming year.

Susan Kendall
Captain

Netball

The season got off to a promising start with lots of talented new freshers joining the Club, as well as some familiar favourites from the second year who remembered that they could play netball after all. A special mention goes to Elena Kazamia, who miraculously converted her basketball skills to become a fantastic shooter, despite her continental interpretation of the 'no contact' rules. We were also lucky this year to import some talent from New Zealand in the form of Lizzy Cottrell and Justin Graham.

In the League we won every match convincingly, even when playing with six players rather than the full seven. A particular highlight was beating both Newnham and Homerton (effectively all-girl Colleges famed for their netballing prowess) in one morning. As a result, we were crowned Champions of Division Two, and have now been promoted to the First Division, where we belong. The first round of Cuppers took place at Churchill, where we overcame the abuse of the strong home crowd to beat Churchill with style, in the most exciting match of the morning. Despite this, Girton subsequently failed to beat Churchill, which meant we lost out on goal difference. As a result, we were placed third in our group and so were unable to fulfil our potential in the next stage.

Special mention should go to the endlessly versatile Stacey Kalita, Abena Dlakavu, Caroline Hartley and Alexie Frize-Williams, as well as Lizzie Rogers, who has been an excellent Mixed Team Captain/Social Secretary, and an invaluable member of the team. I would also like to thank Justin Graham for his unfaltering willingness to umpire our matches, and for introducing us to some new rules! On a sad note, we will sorely miss our shooting star and Second team Captain, Ruwani Abeyratne, who leaves after three years on the team.

It has been a pleasure to captain the team for the last two years, and kit everyone out with some particularly attractive little red skirts. I know the team will be in safe hands with Stacey Kalita, Caroline Hartley and Lizzie Rogers at the helm next year.

Alex Godlee
Captain

Mixed Netball

The St John's Mixed Netball Squad has had an excellent year both in terms of achievements and the general amount of fun had. Despite a late start to our League games, we managed to climb the League table, without losing a single game. Within two and a half weeks we played seven games, winning all but one, and shooting from bottom of the League to second: an incredible feat. We have now been promoted into the top League, and look forward to facing the best teams in Cambridge next year. In Cuppers, our team reached the quarter-finals, beating the Number One seeds, Emmanuel, in our first match. I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who has played so enthusiastically this year. Special recognition goes to the boys – from those who were learning the game as they went along, to the advanced skills of our sole Kiwi – real men truly do play netball!!! The Squad comprises: Lizzie Rogers, Justin Graham, Giorgis Petridis, Jaime Royo Olid, Charles Wakiwaka, Pete Coulthard, Lou Mallam, Abena Dlakavu, Alex Godlee, Elena Kazamia, Stacey Kalita, Susanna Rickard, Alexie Frize-Williams and Caroline Hartley.

Lizzie Rogers
Captain

Men's Rugby

It is difficult somehow to imagine a Rugby Club without its 'Fridge'. Indeed it is hard now to imagine the Red Boys without their motley collection of freshers so important on the field and so central to all that occurs off it. But when last year's Captain, Matt Maitland, the sizable figure of Rob Wells, and others, left last summer for the big smoke after four years, it was with some trepidation that the remaining players contemplated a new season, and the cauldron of top flight College Rugby.

I remember the nervous expressions of familiar faces in our inaugural training session glancing round and sharing a common realisation that we few were now 'senior' players, old hands of a Club with a record to uphold. However, these doubts were washed away in an evening of

profound jollity as the Club commenced its first social occasion of the year at the curry house, where a good number of Spanish friends were made under the fatherly eyes of the Club's oldest and dearest supporter, Uncle Jamal.

On the pitch, a young, experimental John's side took on the old boys in a hard fought encounter with a number of first years out-playing their opposition, despite the colossal weight advantage. The game was played in good spirits, the highlight being provided by Fabio and his manic dash for the line only to be felled in a blaze of glory by the slowest of slow front-row forwards.

And so the season proper commenced with a string of solid victories, beginning with a fine win over the 'village' on home soil. John's then ran out eventual 19-0 winners against a shirty and dogged Girton side in a game where Edmund decided he didn't want to play any more, choosing to invent a staircase on the rump of a 'cheating' Girton player and earning himself a meeting with the rather splendid Head of the Disciplinary Panel. In the third week of Michaelmas, a characteristic brace from the forbiddable Welshman brought victory over a stubborn Downing side, in spite of the blowing gale.

With a solitary try conceded in these opening fixtures, a John's side easing into its customary stride came up for the first time against the old enemy. The usual pre-match rhetoric – Dye gesticulating over the fields to John's Chapel tower and calling us all to its defence – was interrupted by a very unusual saga. With Smithy out injured, the Hound (our man in Madrid) had been called in to cover. And so in the final minutes before the game we awaited his arrival from Luton airport where the Club's social fraternity had provided him with the very best form of liquid refreshment after the plane journey. Thus refreshed, and with seconds to the whistle, the best looking man in John's arrived to take the field in a game which, although won, left the side despondent in the knowledge that with greater challenges ahead, plenty of work was still required. A 56-0 rout over Pembroke did little to alter the situation before the Christmas break.

Lent Term began with a bruising encounter with Magdalene, coming

from behind to win 19-10. A convincing victory over Downing the following week took us to Jesus for the away fixture. Jesus required a win to stay in the top flight, whilst victory for John's would all but seal the League. But the Red Boys came out and put in the best performance of the season to date – winning 30-0 with the closing try, crossing the length of the pitch and numerous pairs of hands. Ripples of a hearty 'sign on' bellowing from the far touch line went unanswered by the dwindling home fans.

The League was won, with John's suffering a solitary defeat of the season to Pembroke in a bizarre game at home. Thus proven fallible, the side entered the uncertainties of the knock-out Cuppers run where a walk-over against Robinson led us to another old enemy: Hughes Hall in the quarters. The ferocity of last year's encounter led to feverish speculation... which 'Blues' were going to play? In the end Hughes Hall turned out a poor side, the game being stopped after half time at 54-0. Proof, if it were needed, that a team with a few star players will never stand up to a side that has trained together and played together.

The season coming to a climax, John's prepared for a semi-final versus Magdalene with injuries to Drage and Thompson adding worry to an already nervous build-up. The game was won 19-10 in the hardest fight I can remember. Outstanding performances from a back-line that had been firing all season kept out the Irishman Magee, while the Forwards worked themselves to a standstill in a game where John's had only one third of the possession.

Two sessions of flair touché and the last of the bemoaned 8.00am lineout sessions later, the team arrived at Grange Road on the final Wednesday of Lent Term, to defend the Cuppers' trophy against Christ's. A frenetic opening quarter settled before the break to allow John's their stride – Murray and Buxton going over to open the account. In spite of an ill-judged cross-field punt from the Captain, the team remained focused, playing some quality rugby to the half-way mark. The next forty minutes produced the greatest display of champagne rugby I have witnessed at John's; finishing with a 53-0 victory, the greatest margin of victory, I believe, in a Cuppers final to date.

But the success of the season, I think, lies in the characters that make up this current batch of Red Boys. Buxton has learnt to catch the ball, but in tackling he remains wholly incapable. Gnome is still jealous that Bidder looks like him, just faster (perhaps prettier). Duncan still cannot play more than fifteen minutes without fainting. Gilly, with his head band and long hair, heralds from an altogether different age, as does Rupert, who cannot feel pain. William throws tantrums when he can't do flair and Effie still wishes that gin and tonics were served at the pavilion. Who will forget Dave 'the Fridge' Wood rumbling onto the field topless to exchange shirts, the festivities of the Christmas party or the holiday antics?

As always, the Club owes an enormous debt of gratitude to Keith for providing a pristine pitch, to Richard Samworth for his Backs coaching and expertise and to the higher echelons of the College for their support this season.

The Club moves into 2007 with an unprecedented 'triple double' firmly in its sights. As we say goodbye to some of its favourite sons – Dye, Gillespie, Alexander, Thompson, Barnes and Welch – the foundations for a new generation sit ready and prepared to extend this golden era in the SJCRUFC.

Ashley Elliot
Captain

Women's Rugby

Admittedly we may not have got off to the best of starts, but, with typical Red Girl resilience, our new recruits bounced back from consecutive defeats against Catz and Churchill to put the Meerkats in their place. From this point on we proved a tight unit, working to amount a points total both on and off the pitch. Indeed, perhaps the secret to our success lay in a strong team spirit, with unique bonds between coaches and players.

Consistently strong performances from Charlotte 'Points' Marriott, Charlie French, on-pitch Captain Yuheng Zhou, and our favourite

booze-fuelled Winger, Jo, saw the team cruise through to Cuppers semi-finals, undoubtedly the crucial match of the season. Despite a typical all-round team performance, we were ultimately outdone by their secret weapon, who even outpaced Pell and eventually Girton in the final. That said, we had undoubtedly evolved into a formidable outfit, battling together as a true team with each woman playing her part. The contrasting scores bore testament to our improvement, losing just 17-5 in the semis, as opposed to 47-5 in October.

We are particularly grateful to our four fantastic coaches: Paddy, D-rage, Flemming and Tino, whose commitment and enthusiastic team-talks have been essential to our success. Thanks to Keith and his team for providing and maintaining the pitches this year and, as ever, to our two fans (they know who they are).

We wish next year's team, captained by Hannah Lane, the best of luck, and are booking our Grange Road seats now, to watch the good ladies of St John's bring the Cuppers title home next year.

Lesley Airey, Lucy Puddle (Captains) and Juliet Cook (Secretary)

Men's Squash

This year has been a very good year for Men's Squash at St John's. The addition of two new Blues standard players, in the shape of Jamie Douglas and Nick Sutcliffe, to accompany the veteran, Mark Ryan, meant that the depth of quality we already had was greatly enhanced at the top end. As such, our teams have been very successful in all competitions.

The Michaelmas League campaign set the standard for the rest of the year – fielding four teams required a large co-ordination of manpower to make sure that all fixtures were played. After a sustained effort though, the First team were rightly promoted back to Division One and the Third team was also promoted, with good performances posted by both Rob Miles and Michal Antosik, winning all their matches. The Second team narrowly missed out on promotion after a narrow defeat to Magdalene. The Fourth team also came second in their division and

narrowly missed out on promotion, with Mike Palmer putting in a good effort to win all his matches.

The Lent Leagues were always going to be more of a struggle after the First and Third teams gained promotion, and we were further hampered by injury across the teams. However, even without all results finalised, it looks as though all the teams have consolidated their positions in their respective divisions, with the Fourth team very close to gaining promotion. Special thanks to Chris Cleaver, Farouk Hadeed and Aaron Clements-Partridge for their efforts in helping to secure this promotion. In the First team I'd also like to thank the ever-present Peter Scott for his continuing commitment to the cause, and also Robin Kemp and Anish Bhuvra for their efforts and good results towards the end of the season.

In the Cuppers competition, St John's has been absolutely unbeatable. The team of Jamie Douglas, Nick Sutcliffe, Mark Ryan, Mike Horridge and Peter Scott are currently undefeated, and are waiting for the finals to take place to cement their hold on the trophy. This achievement should hopefully cap what has been an excellent year for Men's Squash, with a large number of people playing on the ladder, attending the Wednesday social practices and eager to get into the teams.

A very pleasant and enjoyable dinner in the Wordsworth Room rounded off the Lent Term. Congratulations go to Mark Ryan and Jamie Douglas for being awarded Blues after their victories in this year's Varsity match. I'd like to thank Dr McConnel for his continuing support in running the Squash teams and his pressing for maintenance to the courts in College. Thanks are also due to everybody who's played squash for St John's this year – without the massive support from people eager to play squash in College it wouldn't be possible for St John's to run such successful teams. Hopefully the tastefully-designed kit we now have should encourage future generations of Johnians to keep up the good work on the squash courts and allow Johnian domination both in the Leagues and in Cuppers to continue well into the future.

Mike Horridge
Captain

Ladies' Squash

St John's College Ladies' Squash has fielded two strong teams with the capacity to call on players in reserve. This is no mean feat given traditional problems with ladies' recruitment. In addition, our teams have shown nothing but success in League results. After Michaelmas Term, the First team was convincingly promoted to the First League. The Second team remained in the Second League but emerged relatively stronger since it was then built up with teams promoted from lower Divisions.

Our First team has involved Lucy Puddle, Frieda van Belle and Amanda Sinden. Lucy is tied to many other sporting commitments but the common basics of footwork and fitness training are readily transferable and she was selected as the first player for the Varsity Second Squash team. Frieda was a new recruit to the College scene. She arrived with a solid background of tennis training which she was able to adapt effectively. With her power, speed, stamina and enthusiasm, she is one to look out for!

Our Second team included Andrea Kuesters, Yuheng Zhou and Jules Cook. Andrea Kuesters has likewise been training with the University Second Squash team. The experience of University-level coaching, practising racquet skills and playing similarly-matched opponents, cannot be underrated and was aptly demonstrated in Andrea's performance. Finally, Yuheng Zhou and Jules Cook have both proved to be inspiringly dedicated players. They've also been involved in College Rugby and were able to use this controlled aggression to best advantage on the squash courts!

St John's contingent was out in force at the Queens' Cup knock-out tournament. This event is held over two days, involving entries from college teams across the University. Yuheng lost her first match but moved with hope into the Plate competition. She fought hard but unfortunately lost this one. Amanda won the third/fourth play-offs and her victor from the semis went on to meet Frieda in the finals. Tension was high as we were faced with John's players both in the Men's and Women's finals. Although Frieda lost a close match, it was incredible to

see her playing in the final of a University-wide tournament, especially after only signing up to College Squash a few weeks previously!

We are lucky to have the support of the Men's Club with coaching from Mike Horridge, Peter Scott and Mark Ryan. Our thanks go to them and, in particular, to Mike, for organising our social events including the Squash dinner. Let's hope that renovations to the Cripps' Squash Courts will attract future talent and enable this core of Ladies' Squash players to grow and fulfil the Club's promising potential!

Amanda Sinden
Captain

Swimming

Improving on last year's performance, which saw John's win the Men's and Overall Cuppers competitions with the Women a close second, was always going to be tough. I'm delighted to report, however, that this year the Women's team put in a tremendous performance, dominating the competition and winning by a considerable margin. An inexperienced Men's team, containing just two swimmers from last year's victorious outfit, and hindered on Cuppers Weekend by both injury and illness, put in a performance to be proud of, finishing sixth behind some very strong competition. Together this proved easily enough to retain the Overall Trophy.

The weekend started in much the same vein as last year, with both the Men's and Women's teams ensuring that there was a Johnian representative in every single final, both individuals and relays. This is a feat that is fast becoming a College tradition, yet one that only a single other college managed to emulate.

There were so many good swims on Finals Day that there is barely room to document them all. Warwick Bloore put in two exceptional swims, competing in the Breaststroke. In the Heats he managed to qualify for the A final, despite injuring his shoulder in the process. In the finals he surpassed this by bravely finishing in Bronze Medal Position whilst

carrying his injury. First years Clarence So and Chris Charles were both called upon at the last minute to swim in more events than planned, due to the aforementioned injury, performing with distinction and enthusiasm throughout. They are both exciting prospects, and now have some experience and good swims upon which to build. Stelios Elia also deserves mention for solid performances in the Individual Medley as well as both relays, the only disappointment being that he won't be around to compete in future years!

It was the Women, however, who justifiably stole the limelight from the Men. Izzie Kaufeler incredibly managed to better last year's performance, winning the title in both the Individual Medley and Butterfly. Emma Davis was also in fine form, winning the Freestyle and only narrowly being forced into second in the Backstroke. Both Emma and Susan Kendall, who put in a good swim for the 50m Breaststroke, deserve special thanks for their service to the College Swimming team over the years. Another swimmer in her final year who warrants considerable credit is our very own Blue, Morgan Barensen, who was in unstoppable form all weekend and made an important contribution to the team's success.

To conclude, I would like to wish the swimmers in their final year at John's (Emma, Susan, Morgan and Stelios) the very best for their future, and offer heartfelt thanks to every member of the team who can all be proud of their performances. It's great to know that, again, two of the three swimming trophies can call St John's their home for the coming year.

Aaron Clements-Partridge
Captain

The Cricket Club

Easter Term dawned, following a particularly dry Lent, which caused the home pitch to yield some bounce in the early season for the quicks. However, the pre-season friendlies were mainly dominated by batting, where we showed a keen nose for the chase, successfully overhauling

large totals against the Suffolk Gents and the Jesters. Against the Suffolk Gents, Charles Marsh hit a gallant 99 not out, ably supported by Chris Smith, Nic Ross, Chris Rice and a resilient lower order to chase 230. Then, Chris Cleaver and Ben Smith were the stars as we chased an even larger total against the Jesters. In both these matches our bowlers suffered as a result of a flat pitch and experienced opposition. However, strong performances were turned in by the likes of Tim Gordon, Martin Lowes and fresher Jonny Ariyaratnam, whose accurate off-spin is surely a hope for the future. Other prospects from the new intake include Rupert Walter, whose all-round skill belies his home behind the stumps, and Dave Wood, who graciously took time out from his intensive protein-supplemented exercise programme to successfully turn his hand at both batting and bowling.

We suffered a heavy loss to the Stoics in mid-May, despite the return of College stalwarts, Debs Haldar and Nick Charlwood. The Stoics racked up an enormous total on a benign pitch, although Dave Shackleton showed some promise with some neat off-breaks. When the roles were reversed, we eventually capitulated well short of the target, despite a strong start from Shackleton and Murray.

The pre-season friendlies over, we proceeded directly to Cuppers, which unfortunately turned out to be a damp squib in several ways. A heavy rain shower delayed the start of our first-round match, and opponents, Selwyn, could only muster ten players. They were promptly skittled for 24 by accurate bowling from Haldar, Lowes and returning Blue, Robin Kemp. This total was comfortably chased by Mike Palmer and Murray, beating the impending rain and allowing a return to College in time for the FA Cup final.

At this point the weather intervened, providing us with three weeks of consistent rain and, thus, halting our season until after exams. With luck we will have a full calendar of fixtures in June and a solid performance in Cuppers. I would also like to wish Robin Kemp and Ben Smith the best of luck for their upcoming Varsity matches.

Come the end of this season, we will be losing a number of great servants to the Club in Debs Halдар, Nick Charlwood, Mike Palmer and Charles Marsh, to name but a few. It has been a pleasure to play with them and I wish them every success for the future. I am very grateful for the support I have received this season from Vice-Captain, Karan Keswani, and Secretary, Chris Cleaver. As ever, the Cricket Club is enormously indebted to Keith and Catharine for their tireless work in the pavilion, and I cannot thank them enough for the support and guidance they have given me and the team as a whole.

Jono Murray
Captain

COLLEGE NOTES

College Officers

The College Officers as of October 2006 are:

The Master	Professor R N Perham MA PhD ScD FRS
The President	J A Leake MA PhD
Senior Tutor	M Dörrzapf MA PhD
Senior Bursar	C F Ewbank MA MBA
Deans	Revd 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 D L McMullen MA PhD FBA
Director of Music	D N Hill MA DMus
Chaplain	Revd C R Hillman MA BSc

The College Council

As of October 2006, the College Council consists of:

The Master

The President	Professor Simons
Professor McMullen	Dr Plaisted
Professor Johnstone	Professor Manton
Dr Tombs	Dr Lees
Dr Midgley	Dr Dörrzapf
Dr Colwell	Mr Parker

The Fellowship

Elected to Fellowships under Title B:

Albert Galy (PhD 1999, Institut National Polytechnique de Lorraine)

Christopher David Jiggins
(BA 1993, Emmanuel College; PhD 1996, University College London)

Elected to Fellowships under Title A:

Jesse Dean Billett (AB 2001, Harvard University; MPhil 2003, King's College)

Richard Henry George Garner (BA 2002, Gonville and Caius College)

Simon Michael Humphrey (MChem 2002, University of East Anglia)

Markus Emil Pagitz (MSc 2003, Technical University of Munich; MPhil 2004, Corpus Christi College)

Martin John Vittorio Parodi Worthington (BA 2000, University College London; MPhil 2002, St John's College)

In view of these appointments the complete Fellowship as of October 2006 is as follows:

The Master (Professor R N Perham)

The President (Dr J A Leake)

Dr G C Evans
Professor Sir M V Wilkes
Professor J A Crook
Dr E D James
Professor R A Hinde
Dr R H Prince
Professor J R Goody

Mr G G Watson
Dr J A Charles
Dr D J H Garling
Dr G A Reid
Professor P Boyde
Dr P A Linehan
Dr A J Macfarlane

Professor D L McMullen
 Dr E K Matthews
 Mr R G Jobling
 Dr A A Macintosh
 Professor J Staunton
 Dr C M P Johnson
 Professor M A Clarke
 Dr A G Smith
 Dr W D Armstrong
 Professor J A Emerton
 Dr R A Green
 Professor J Iliffe
 Dr J H Matthewman
 Professor M Schofield
 Dr G A Lewis
 Professor R F Griffin
 Dr T P Bayliss-Smith
 Professor S F Gull
 Dr H P Hughes
 Dr P Goddard
 Professor P T Johnstone
 Professor I M Hutchings
 Dr H R L Beadle
 Dr J B Hutchison
 Professor S F C Milsom
 Professor N M Bleehen
 Dr D G D Wight
 Dr J A Alexander
 Professor Sir R H Friend
 Dr R E Glasscock
 Dr R P Tombs
 Dr R E McConnel
 Dr D R Midgley
 Professor P H Matthews
 Dr M Richards
 Professor J F Kerrigan
 Professor G J Burton

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

Professor S C Reif
 Dr D M Fox
 Dr D M A Stuart
 Dr A M Nicholls
 Dr M Dörrzapf
 Dr V J L Best
 Dr P Antonello
 Professor R Parker
 Dr P T Miracle
 Professor A W Woods
 Commodore J W R Harris
 Dr S M Best
 Dr P M Geraats
 Dr S E Sällström Matthews
 Dr P T Wood
 Dr C Teleman
 Professor C M Dobson
 Dr S Olsaretti
 Mr B J Parker
 Dr E J Gowers
 Dr Y Batsaki
 Mr D J Dormor

Honorary Fellows

The Revd Professor W O
 Chadwick
 Professor W A Deer
 The Rt Hon Sir Percy Cradock
 Professor Sir Bryan Hopkin
 Sir Jonathan Miller
 Dr M Singh
 The Rt Hon the Lord
 Templeman
 Sir Douglas Wass
 Sir David Wilson
 Sir Brian Cartledge

Dr M E Sarotte
 Professor U C Goswami
 Dr D N Hill
 Dr R J Samworth
 Professor G W W Barker
 Dr K Johnstone
 Dr A B Reddy
 Dr S Houghton Walker
 Dr D L Williams
 Miss S Tomaselli
 Dr G S X E Jefferis
 Mr M P O'Neill
 Mr C F Ewbank
 Mr E W Holberton
 Mr I S Burns
 Dr A Galy
 Mr M J V P Worthington
 Mr J D Billett
 Mr M E Pagitz
 Dr C D Jiggins
 Mr R H G Garner
 Mr S M Humphrey

The Rt Hon the Lord Griffiths
 Sir Derek Jacobi
 Professor Sir Roger Penrose
 Professor Sir John Horlock
 Professor Sir David Cox
 The Rt Revd P K Walker
 The Rt Hon the Lord Mustill
 Mr Justice R J Goldstone
 The Rt Hon the Lord Hope
 Sir Tim Lankester
 Sir Christophor Laidlaw
 The Rt Hon the Lord Browne

Professor M A King
 Mr J M Brearley
 The Hon Mr Justice Frank
 Iacobucci
 Ambassador Andrew Jacovides
 Sir Michael Scholar
 The Most Revd Dr P F Carnley
 Mr D M Burt

Mr C N Corfield
 Sir Mark Moody-Stuart
 Professor J D Harvey
 Professor E S Maskin
 Professor Lord Renfrew
 Sir Richard Aikens
 Professor Sir John Ball
 Sir Jack Beatson

Benefactors' Scholars

Elected to Benefactors' Scholarships from 1 October 2005:

Harry Adamson	Philosophy, Christ's College, Cambridge
Karl Barth	Philosophy, Peterhouse College, Cambridge
Rebecca Farbstein	Archaeology, St John's College
Jin He	Education, Homerton College, Cambridge
Daniel Heys	English, St John's College
Gideon Mailer	History, Peterhouse College, Cambridge
Hannes Opelz	Literature, St John's College
Ryan Roark	Oncology, Brown University
Mark Stokes	Cognition, St John's College
John Weisweiler	Classics, Pembroke College, Cambridge
Claire Wilkinson	Classics, St Anne's College, Oxford
Diego Winkelried	Economics, St John's College

Elected the Luisa Aldobrandini Student:

Fabio Galasso, University of Rome, PhD in Engineering

College Calendar – Main dates

Details of events for Johnnians, including those listed here are available on the College's website (www.joh.cam.ac.uk) and from the Johnnian Office (tel: 01223 338700 or email: Development-officer@joh.cam.ac.uk)

Michaelmas Term 2006

October

Sun	1	First day of Term
Tues	3	Full Term begins
Sat	14	Congregation (2.00 pm)

November

Sat	11	Congregation (2.00 pm)
Sat	25	Advent Carol Service (applications for tickets should be made to the Chapel Clerk)
Sun	26	Advent Carol Service (applications for tickets should be made to the Chapel Clerk)

December

Fri	1	Full Term Ends
Sat	9	Congregation (2.00 pm)
Sat	16	Christingle Service in Chapel Johnnian Society Dinner (application forms are circulated with <i>The Eagle</i>)
Tues	19	Michaelmas Term ends

Lent Term 2007

January

Fri	5	First day of Term
Tues	16	Full Term begins
Sat	27	Congregation (2.00 pm)

February

Sat	24	Congregation (2.00 pm)
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March

Sun	11	Lent Service (applications for tickets should be made to the Chapel Clerk)
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Fri	16	Full Term ends
Sat	24	Congregation (11.00 am)
Sun	25	Lent Term ends
Sat	31	Johnian Dinner

Easter Term 2007

April

Tues	17	First day of Term
Tues	24	Full Term begins
Sun	29	Service of Commemoration of Benefactors at 10.30am

May

Sat	12	Congregation for MAs and others (11.00 am)
Thurs	17	Ascension Day: Music from Chapel Tower at 12 noon
Sun	27	Whit Sunday
Tues	29	Oak Apple Day

June

Fri	15	Full Term ends
Tues	19	May Ball
Fri	22	Staff Outing (College closed)
Mon	25	Easter Term Ends
Wed	27	Open Day for prospective students (contact the Admissions Office for details)
Thurs	28	General Admission
Fri	29	Open Day for prospective students (contact the Admissions Office for details)
Sat	30	Johnian Dinner

Long Vacation 2007

July

Mon	9	Long Vacation period of residence begins
Sat	21	Congregation (11.00 am)

August

Sat	11	Long Vacation period of residence ends
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FELLOWS' APPOINTMENTS AND DISTINCTIONS

ANTONELLO, Dr Pierpaolo, was appointed Senior Lecturer in Italian at the University of Cambridge, in October 2006. He also had published *Il Ménage a Quattro. Scienza, Filosofia, Tecnica nella Letteratura Italiana del Novecento*, Florence: Le Monnier, 2005.

BARKER, Professor Graeme William Walter, FBA, has been appointed Chair of Sub-Panel 33 (Archaeology) for the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise. He has been re-appointed to the Council of the Arts and Humanities Research Council 2006-2009, and has also been appointed Chair of the Steering Committee of the AHRC Research Centre for the Evolution of Cultural Diversity. He is a member of the 2005 Review Committee of Archaeology at the University of Leiden, Netherlands.

BATSAKI, Dr Yota, had her article 'Clarissa, or Rake versus Usurer', published in *Representations*, University of California Press, Winter 2006, Vol 93, No 1: 22-48.

CHARLES, Dr James Anthony, has had the following books published: *Light Blue Materials, The Department of Materials Science and Metallurgy, University of Cambridge, A History*, Maney, 2005; *One Man's Cambridge* (Biography of J H V Charles), Folly Press, 2006.

DOBSON, Professor Christopher Martin, FRS, was elected a Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences in 2005.

EDMONDS, Fiona Louise, was appointed a Research Fellow at St John's in October 2005 and University Lecturer in Celtic History in the Department of Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic at the University of Cambridge in January 2006.

GRIFFIN, Professor Roger Francis, now 70, ran the 2006 London Marathon in 3:33:10 and came second in his age-group.

HOLBERTON, Dr Edward William, had his PhD conferred by Trinity College, Cambridge on 25 March 2006.

HOWARD, Professor Deborah Janet, was appointed the Ruth and Clarence Kennedy Professor in Renaissance Studies at Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts, for the Spring Semester (January-May) 2006.

JOBLING, Raymond George, has been appointed a Trustee of Pharmacy Healthlink, a national charity, from 2006, and from September 2006 will finish his time as Secretary to the inter-collegiate Senior Tutors' Committee. His publications include reports, articles and contributions to proceedings.

MANTON, Professor Nicholas Stephen, FRS, gave the St John's College Lecture 2005, entitled 'Mature Physics and Speculative Physics', at the University of Hull.

OLSARETTI, Dr Maria Serena, was promoted to Senior Lecturer in Philosophy at the University of Cambridge, in October 2005.

REIF, Professor Stefan Clive, as principal investigator, has been awarded a grant of over £475,000 from the Arts and Humanities Research Council for a project at the University Library. This award is intended to fund the Genizah Research Unit's ongoing work of decipherment and description, the preparation of several new catalogues, and the digitisation of some 16,000 Genizah manuscripts. He has also arranged for the Mosseri Genizah Collection of around 5,000 items to be housed at the University Library, where they will be conserved, described and digitised.

SCHOFIELD, Professor Malcolm, FBA, was elected President of the Classical Association for 2005-2006.

SZRETER, Dr Simon Richard Stanislaw, had *Health and Wealth. Studies in History and Policy* published by University of Rochester Press in 2005.

TOMASELLI, Sylvana, was a founding member of the Europäischen Zentrums für philosophische Geschlechtertheorie (European Centre for the Philosophy of Gender) in Seigen, Germany, in May 2005. In addition, she wrote 'Civilization, Patriotism and the Quest for Origins', in *Enlightenment and Feminism*, Sarah Knott and Barbara Taylor (eds), London: Palgrave, 2005.