



Johnian News

Issue 14

Michaelmas Term 2003

New Master for St John's

In the spring of this year, the Fellows formally accepted the resignation of Professor Peter Goddard from the Mastership of the College from 5 January 2004 and embarked on a succession of informal meetings to identify and learn about individuals who might succeed him. Then, in accordance with the procedure laid down in the College Statutes, they assembled in the Chapel on the afternoon of Thursday 6 November to make the election. Thus, Professor Richard Perham was elected and he will be installed as Master in another ceremony in the Chapel early in January 2004.

A distinguished biochemist with an international reputation, Professor Perham will be known already to many generations of Johnians. Following National Service in the Royal Navy, he came to St John's to read Natural Sciences in October 1958. Following a very successful progression through the Natural Sciences Tripos, he undertook research in the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology. He was elected to a Research Fellowship in the College in 1964 and gained his PhD degree in 1965. His undergraduate contemporaries will recall his enthusiasm for the LMBC, which has continued through many years service as Senior Treasurer and then President, to say nothing of founding the Fellows VIII in 1970. The success of an early Fellows' Boat, coxed by the present Governor of the Bank of England, is still spoken of in hushed tones.

As his scientific reputation developed, Professor Perham held a succession of posts in the Department of Biochemistry, becoming Reader in the Biochemistry of Macromolecular Structures in 1977 and Professor of Structural Biochemistry in 1989. He was elected FRS in 1984. From 1985-1996, he was Head of the Department of Biochemistry, during which time - and in considerable part, due to his efforts and powers of persuasion - that Department was able to put up a substantial new building. He has held Fellowships and Visiting Professorships at Yale, Heidelberg, Sydney and the National Institute of Health in the USA.

In parallel with his work in Biochemistry, Richard Perham maintains a close interest in the education and broader development of members of the College. He was a

Tutor for ten years, from 1967, and supervised in his subject over many years. Some thirty years ago, he and I served together as President and Senior Treasurer of the May Ball Committee. Little did we realise that the time would come when we would work together as Master and President of the College. Richard Perham has also been President of the College, from 1983 to 1987.

Many organisations, locally, nationally and internationally, have sought help and advice from Professor Perham. One of the international responsibilities that has brought him special pleasure has been working for the Marshall Aid Commemoration Commission, helping to select US Marshall Scholars and Marshall-Sherfield Fellows. Here in Cambridge, amongst many other duties, he has served the University Press for a long spell as a Syndic and a member of several important committees of the Syndicate.

The College's Statutes require a Master to retire at the end of the academical year in which he or she reaches the age of 70 and so Richard Perham's tenure will end on 30 September 2007. Although this means that his period as Master will be relatively short, he has a number of aims and ambitions for the College.

The College is looking forward to welcoming Richard and his Canadian-born wife, Nancy, a cell biologist and Fellow of Girton College, to the Master's Lodge early in the New Year. Their daughter, Temple, now lives in Brooklyn, New York, and their son, Quentin, in Brampton, nearer home.

Welcome!



College News

The President

Dr John Leake is a University Lecturer in the Department of Materials Science and Metallurgy and specialises in X-Ray Diffraction and Microstructural Characterisation.

John Leake came to St John's College as an undergraduate in 1958 to read Natural Sciences, and received his BA in 1961. Following research into electron distribution in metals, he received his MA and PhD in 1965.

In 1966, he was elected Research Fellow at St John's and spent time as a Research Associate at Brookhaven National Laboratory in the USA. In 1968, he became a University Lecturer in Materials Science and Metallurgy and a Teaching Fellow of St John's College.

He is a Fellow of the Institute of Physics (FInstP) and a Fellow of the Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce (FRSA). During his time at St John's, John Leake has served on the College Council and has been the Director of Studies in Natural Sciences. He has also been the Senior Treasurer for the May Ball Committee, the JCR Committee and the Punt Syndicate.

In addition to his College commitments, John Leake has also served as a member of the University Council. ☸

The Winfield Society

The Winfield Society held its annual dinner in February, reinstating the tradition of inviting all Old Johnians who read Law or are now in the legal profession. Apologies were received from far-flung locations including Canada, Australia and Pakistan, but almost 100 alumni, from as far afield as Luxembourg and as long ago as 1936, were able to join current students and Fellows in Hall for a dinner sponsored by Allen & Overy. Former Lord Justice of Appeal, Sir Anthony Evans, braved the snow to give an entertaining speech which afforded equal airtime to discussion of the divided legal profession and the difficulty of catching London buses! Lord Mustill, who returns to Cambridge this year as a Visiting Fellow, was prevented by the weather from attending the dinner, but was able to act as guest judge for this year's Simmons & Simmons mooting competition. He selected Anna Bentley as the winner, and Andrew Fenn as runner-up.

The Winfield Society hopes to continue to involve alumni in its programme of events, and looks forward to holding a similarly successful dinner in early 2004. ☸

On Friday 25 July, 34 members of the Johnian Society competed for the Marshall Hall Cup at Gog Magog Golf Club. The competition was an individual stableford and the winner was George McCaw with 37 points off a 15 handicap; the runner up was Sir Roger Palin with 36 points. David Baker won the veteran's salver, and the afternoon's foursome competition over 9 holes on the Wandlebury course was won by John Jenkins and John Loosley. The weather was very wet but the courses were in excellent condition and the buffet was also excellent. The next meeting will be at the Gog Magog Golf Club on Friday 30 July 2004. ☸

Johnian News aims to keep Johnians in touch with the College and with each other. It is published twice a year by St John's College, Cambridge.

News, articles, letters and photographs to be considered for inclusion in *Johnian News* should be sent to The Johnian Office, St John's College, Cambridge, CB2 1TP; Fax: 01223 338727; development-officer@joh.cam.ac.uk



College news

The Johnian Office is in the process of putting together a programme of regional reunions for Johnians around the UK. If you would like us to organise an event in your region, or if you would like to help us to organise an event, please contact the Johnian Office. ☼

On 20 September 2003, the College hosted the first of these events in Oxfordshire. 'Local' Johnians were invited to attend a dinner at St John's College, Oxford, by kind permission of Sir Michael Scholar, Johnian, Honorary Fellow of St John's College, Cambridge, and President of St John's College, Oxford. Thirty-six Johnians joined the Master and Mrs Goddard for a very enjoyable evening. ☼

The fifth Hinsley Lecture took place on Thursday 6 November in College. Sir Stephen Lander, former Director General of MI5, gave an informative talk entitled 'International Intelligence Co-operation: A Modern Perspective.' ☼

Johnians will be interested to hear that the College's Head Gardner, Vaughan Crook, celebrated 25 years' service in July this year. Two more members of the garden staff have also clocked up 25 years, two others have 20 years and one has 14 years. ☼

The Senior Tutor

Dr Matthias Dörrzapf took over the post of Senior Tutor of St John's College in October 2003, having been a Fellow, Lecturer and Director of Studies at the College since October 1999. In 1991, he gained qualifications in Mathematics and Physics at the University of Karlsruhe, Germany, followed by a Certificate of Advanced Study in Mathematics in 1992 (Queens' College) and a PhD in Mathematics in 1995 (Queens' College and Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics [DAMTP]). Dr Dörrzapf has been a Postdoctoral Researcher at the Lyman Laboratory of Physics at Harvard University and has worked for Deutsche Bank in Frankfurt and New York. He and his wife, Valerie, have twin girls called Madison and Kimberley, who were born in September 2000. ☼

Annual Visit of Margaret Beaufort Middle School

Every autumn, the College is visited by the Year 5 schoolchildren of Margaret Beaufort Middle School in Bedfordshire, which was opened in 1962. The school's name is linked with Lady Margaret Beaufort, mother of King Henry VII, who was born at Bletsoe Castle in 1441. The children are in their first year and have been at the school for about four weeks when they visit the College. The trip therefore helps them by historically contextualising their namesake.

This year was no exception, as on Friday 3 October two coach-loads of approximately 85 nine-year olds plus teachers and a few parents arrived to learn more about St John's. Their day began with a piece of historical re-enactment in the Hall by the Archivist, Malcolm Underwood, who summarised, in character and period costume, the events surrounding the foundation of the College by Lady Margaret and Bishop Fisher.

The children then split into their three classes to visit, in turn, the Chapel, the Master's Lodge, and the Old Library, where they were given guided tours and supplied with historical facts. They were also able to ask questions to help them fill out their worksheets. Many of the children seemed especially taken with the smallest book in the Old Library (approximately one inch long!) and waited patiently to take their turn to hold it and (carefully - under supervision) look inside! The day concluded with packed lunches and a 'shop' in Hall, where College pencils, pens, history guides and novelty bugs were available for them to buy - this part always causes much excitement!

We are very grateful to all those, including the accompanying teachers and parents, who helped us to make this day really enjoyable and hopefully one that the children (and the staff involved) will remember. ☼



Johnian Weekend 2003

*On 4, 5 and 6 July, the
College hosted the fourth
Open Weekend for Johnians*

Approximately 500 people attended the weekend, from as far away as Australia and Texas, together with their families and friends. The weather remained fine throughout the weekend, which enabled the guests to make the most of what the College had to offer. Highlights of the weekend were the tours of the gardens by the Head Gardener, the historical landmarks of the College Courts by the Archivist and the Ghosts of St John's by the Dean of College. Those lucky enough to be able to purchase one of the limited tickets for the wine-tasting event were treated to a fine selection from the College cellars by Professor Conway Morris. This year we were delighted to host an exhibition of paintings by Nick Bashall (1976) in the upper-croft of Pythagoras. His work is mainly portraiture, but he has also spent time in Afghanistan and Kosovo painting for the British Army. He was on hand throughout the weekend to answer questions about his work. ☸



Changing Rooms: College habitats over five centuries

This term's Library exhibition tells the story of undergraduate accommodation, drawing on material from the College Archives and Library. Here are some snippets which it is hoped will be of interest to members past and present.

Originally, the Master assigned chambers to Fellows only. Students lodged in their tutor's rooms, each having his own study under lock and key. The 16th-century statutes state that no more than four scholars should share a room, with no more than two to a bed. As well as being cramped, it must have been cold. One Master recalled how students would 'run up and down for half an hour to get a heat on their feet' before going to bed.

To access their garrets, students in First Court had to climb a steep staircase from their tutor's rooms on the first floor. Second Court garrets, however, could be reached from the main staircases. The extra freedom this allowed students was later regretted, since in 1654 a patrol of Fellows was instituted to prevent 'scholars meeting in chambers & there spending their time in undue eating & drinking, and vaine idle talking'.

While Second Court eased overcrowding, students still shared, even Fellow Commoners like Symonds D'Ewes (adm. 1618). The southern range of Third Court was the first in the University to be built two rooms deep, following the then popular Wren design. The south range of First Court would later be adapted to the same pattern.

Ambrose Bonwicke was sharing rooms in 1710 but as numbers declined during the 18th century students came to live on their own. Not that there was space for two in the small garret in O Second Court ('the tub') occupied by James Wood (adm. 1778, later Master).

In 1805 the poet Henry Kirke White wrote 'I sleep on a hair mattress, which I find just as comfortable as a bed ... I have three rooms - a sitting-room, a bedroom, and a kind of scullery'.

Increased numbers after the Napoleonic Wars prompted the building of New Court, which provided ninety student sets. But it soon became normal for students to spend some time out of

College. PH Mason wrote to one pupil's father in 1888 offering lodgings with 'very respectable people. It is better than where the attendant is a young servant girl, I think'.

1863 saw the demolition of the Labyrinth, immortalised by Samuel Butler in *The Way of All Flesh*: 'Behind the then chapel ... there was a 'labyrinth' ... of dingy, tumbledown rooms' reached via a 'sinuous passage', from which it took its name.

Lord Morton recollected that in 1906 there was 'no such thing as sharing a set'; each 'was equipped with a hip-bath', and the College was 'extremely short' of toilets. By 1911 the College had electric lighting and by 1922 a bath house.

With the building of Sir Edward Maufe's Chapel and North Courts (1938-40) and the Cripps Building (1964-7) the 20th century added greatly to the College's stock of rooms, so that today most undergraduates can be accommodated in single or shared sets in College for three years.

The exhibition runs until January 2004. Members of College are welcome to visit Monday to Friday 9am - 5pm. ☺



Oxford to Cambridge

Earlier this year, two undergraduates of St John's decided that they needed a challenge and that to do it for charity would give them the incentive they needed.

On 27 September 2003, three Cambridge students set off from St John's College, Oxford, on a 93-mile marathon to St John's College, Cambridge. The aim of their journey was to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Relief.

The students, Christian Percy, who is reading Chinese at St John's, Roko Mijic, who is reading Maths at St John's and Simon Harger, a medical student from St Catharine's, were aiming to complete the marathon within 24 hours. After setting off at midday on Saturday 27 September, they arrived back in Cambridge 23 hours and 47 minutes later.

The students, all aged 19 decided earlier in the year that they needed a challenge and that raising money for a charity would give them the incentive they needed to go out and complete the challenge. All three students have been indirectly affected by cancer in recent years and this was their motivation for choosing to support the Macmillan Cancer Relief charity.

The boys ran for approximately 35 miles of the journey and walked the remaining 58. Members of their families travelled in cars close to the runners to provide them with food and water throughout the journey.

The students have raised approximately £750 for the charity from a variety of sources, and they are still accepting donations. If anyone would like to support Christian, Roko and Simon, you can contact Christian via the Johnian Office or at cwsjp2@cam.ac.uk.

In September, the staff of St John's College took part in the *World's Biggest Coffee Morning* in aid of Macmillan Cancer Relief and raised £200 for the charity.



Johnian Society of the USA

The Johnian Society of the USA was officially launched in April 2002. Its aim is to keep US Johnians in touch and to contribute to the fund-raising efforts of St John's. The chairman of the Society, Marc Feigen, speaks below about the Mission of the Society.

The mission of the Johnian Society of the USA (JS-USA) is to strengthen the bonds of friendship and support between St John's College and its members who are residing in the United States of America. In 2000, under the guidance of the Master, Professor Goddard, we organized a Committee of committed Johnians in the US (Michael Barea, 1957; Paul Droar, 1965; Angela Garcia, 1982; Paul Hammer, 1997; Andrew Jacovides, 1955; Neil Law Malcolm, 1968; Michael Neiditch, 1968; Humphry Rolleston, 1974; Richard Thompson, 1954; Kevin Tierney, 1961; Humphrey Tonkin, 1959; and myself).

We launched the Society in April 2002, organizing cocktail parties, concerts, dinners, breakfasts and lunches in five US cities. Enthusiasm and attendance has been high, and we are especially gratified by the many Johnians who have come to a Johnian event for the first time, on either side of the Atlantic.

The JS-USA also seeks to provide the College with needed financial support. We believe that alumni must support their College, that as members of the College for life we should support the College for life.

Recently, I met with a Johnian who told me that he subscribed to the "English version" of support for his College and University. If that were so, he would leave his fortune in a bequest to St John's! After all, the College was built on five centuries of extraordinary gifts of land and capital by a long line of loyal Johnians. (It is important to note that the College's inheritance is not the result of the accretion of a few gifts, compounded over five centuries; rather, in every century, many loyal Johnians have been most generous to the College.)

For more information about the Johnian Society of the USA, visit www.joh.cam.ac.uk/jsusa

In the US, we support the notion of private support for universities. There are state universities (such as the University of California) which are government supported and do great work. But our very best universities: Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Dartmouth, Stanford, MIT, Penn and Columbia, are private. Certainly, governments support these universities, but largely through competitive grants for research rather than blanket grants for undergraduate teaching. These universities are funded through fees and endowment based on a loyal lifetime of giving from alumni and friends. Indeed, 75% of Princeton and Dartmouth graduates give to Princeton and Dartmouth every year. As a result, these institutions can afford more, not less, access for underprivileged students; they maintain and enhance their physical structure; they pay their faculty wages that they need to support their families comfortably; and they do not rely on government policy, which is subject to change.

It is the dream of the Johnian Society of the USA to spread among our alumni in the US a similar loyalty to St John's. There are only 600 of us here, but this number grows every year. We plan to do our part, following in the College's great tradition of alumni support.

This may take years. For now, only about 20% of Johnians in the US support the College each year. Those who do are very generous and are committed year after year to help St John's; for this we are enormously grateful. Proudly, we have so far endowed four Bursaries to ensure that students of lower economic means can afford to attend the College, buy books, and live reasonably. However, we are working to see higher levels of alumni giving in the future.

Going forward, we plan to hold a series of lectures this spring, inviting eminent Johnians to New York. We also hope to launch the John Fisher Society, for members like the visionary Bishop Fisher who ensured the founding of St John's, making our extraordinary experience at the College possible. ☸



Dates for your Diary

As part of the regional reunion programme, Johnians residing in London are invited to attend a drinks reception at the Honourable Society of Gray's Inn on Wednesday 17 December. Drinks will be served at 6.45pm in the Large Pension Room. The Master and Mrs Helen Goddard will be the Guests of Honour. Invitations were sent out in October; however if you have not received your invitation and would like to come, please contact Clare Laight in the Johnian Office. ☼

As usual, the Johnian Dinners for 2004 will take place in March and June. The first Dinner will take place on Saturday 27 March 2004 for matriculation years 1964, 1965 and 1966, and invitations will be sent out in the autumn. The second will take place on Saturday 26 June, and matriculation years up to and including 1944, 1985, 1986 and 1987 will be invited. ☼

Next year's Linacre Lecture takes place on Friday 7 May 2004. The lecture will be given by Professor Stephen O'Rahilly and will be entitled "Obesity and the hard-wiring of human appetite". ☼

Notices

The Sermons of John Boys Smith, edited by Malolm Torry and with a foreword by Dr Macintosh, is now available to purchase from the Johnian Office for £12.50 (postage and packing not included). Please contact Amanda George in the Johnian Office for more details. ☼

St John's College is pleased to announce the release of two more CDs: Stanford, *Anthems and Services*, and Lennox Berkeley, *Sacred Choral Music*. Both recordings feature the Choir of St John's College, conducted by Christopher Robinson, and are the latest additions to the Naxos collection. Both CDs are available from the Johnian Office. ☼

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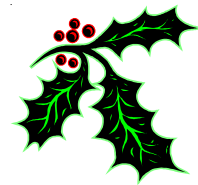
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Register of Twentieth-Century Johnians

The first edition of the *Register of Twentieth Century Johnians*, Volume 1, 1900-1949, will be published towards the end of 2004. Many people have already requested a copy, by filling in the blue form that was sent out with *The Eagle* 2003, but if you haven't done so yet it is not too late. For further details, please contact Fiona Colbert, Biographical Assistant, Johnian Office, St John's College, Cambridge, CB2 1TP, Telephone: +44 (0)1223 338772, Email: f.colbert@joh.cam.ac.uk. Fiona would also be interested to hear from anybody who might be in a position to volunteer to proofread the *Register* prior to publication. A few people have already expressed an interest in helping with this, but if anybody else would like to help, please contact Fiona. ☼



Christmas Merchandise Orders

A selection of merchandise is available from the Johnian Office (an order form is enclosed with this newsletter). You are advised to submit your order as soon as possible so that we can make sure that you receive it before Christmas. Please note that we are now taking credit/debit /switch card orders **only** for overseas (non-UK) orders. This is to ensure that we charge the right postage for each package sent. The postage will be calculated at the point of despatch and a receipt will be enclosed with your order. If you have any queries, please contact **Amanda George**, tel: **01223 338700**, or email: a.l.george@joh.cam.ac.uk.

