

Michaelmas Term 2007

JOHNIAN news



NEW MASTER FOR ST JOHN'S COLLEGE NEWS THE CHOIR TRIP TO VENICE ALUMNI NEWS
STUDENT NEWS SADKO'S ANTARCTIC VOYAGE NEW RESEARCH FELLOWS DEVELOPMENT NEWS



Welcome to the first new-look issue of *Johnian News*.
We hope you enjoy it.

If you have any comments, or would like an article or
piece of news considered for publication, please
contact: Amanda George, Publications Officer.

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Passing the Baton: A new Master for St John's

As I write, the day on which I am admitted to the office of Master of St John's is now less than two weeks away. The nine months or so since I was 'pre-elected' have been some of the most enjoyable of my life. I have particularly relished the chance to begin to get to know an increasing number of the great community that makes up the College – no small task as it includes 250 or so dedicated members of staff, nearly 1,000 current undergraduates, graduates and Fellows, and close to 12,000 other Johnians who live and work across the globe! It has been a hugely rewarding and often humbling experience to discover how much St John's means to so many people in so many different ways.

I am often asked what I feel like to be taking on my new role. My reply is always much the same: 'Extremely

surprised, hugely privileged and looking forward to it enormously'. Our 500th anniversary is now less than four years away, and a major fundraising campaign is soon to be launched. We are in an exceptional position to build on the experience and strengths of half a millenium, and so to reach new heights in providing the finest intellectual experience and all-round education to gifted students from all backgrounds. In true Johnian tradition, we wish to enable every single member of the College to achieve their ambitions – and more – in whatever field of endeavour they choose.

On a more personal note, I am fully intending to follow in the footsteps of my illustrious predecessors by remaining as active in research as I can without compromising in any way my role as Master. [continued...]

Passing the Baton: A new Master continued



Chris and Mary Dobson



Richard and Nancy Perham

My wife Mary, an historian of medicine, and I, celebrated our thirtieth wedding anniversary just a few days ago and, with our two sons, are looking forward very much to life in the Master's Lodge. After a whirlwind six years of association with St John's, Mary and I feel an enormous sense of belonging, allegiance and simply pride in the College, and we look forward to welcoming as many members as possible of the great Johnian family into our new home in the years ahead.

Professor Chris Dobson

I count it an enormous honour to have been at the head of this great College of ours and I have learned much from the experience. To borrow from Robert Graves, 'The mind's eye sees as the heart mirrors: Loving in part, I did not see you whole'. As Master, I have been privileged to see the full breadth and depth of this impressive institution of which we are all part. In the run-up to our 500th anniversary I sense a buzz about St John's and a readiness to grasp the opportunities opening up before us to promote our fundamental core values: open access, excellence, diversity, tolerance and generosity of spirit. Donations are beginning to flow; the affection and care of Johnians wherever they may be is deeply gratifying. I have enjoyed marvellous

support from the Fellows, the Chaplain, the Lodge staff and Johnian/Development Office, the College staff across the board, and not least my wife Nancy.

As Master, I have been privileged to see the full breadth and depth of this impressive institution of which we are all part.

I have had many happy times with the junior members (I treasure the memories of General Admission) and with countless Johnians worldwide on my travels. From 1 October, I become a Fellow again. In addition to continuing with my academic work, I hope still to be in a position to welcome back to St John's the many friends I have made here over the past half century, and not least in the past four years as Master. I wish the College and the new Master all success and look to the future with confidence.

Vive laeta Margareta!
Professor Richard Perham



New President For St John's



John Leake


Mark Nicholls

Dr John Leake (President, St John's College, 2003-07):

It seems no time at all since I became President for the customary four-year stint. It has been a memorable time. Unusually, but for entirely straightforward reasons, I have been privileged to oversee the elections of two Masters. However most of the President's duties involve dealings with the Fellows and with various internal College matters that are generally invisible from outside. A more visible aspect that I have particularly enjoyed has been meeting non-resident Members of the College, whether at dinner on ordinary evenings or at various special events.


My thanks go to all those who have helped in whatever ways and my best wishes go to Mark for his time in office, not least in anticipation of the quincentenary in 2011.

Dr Mark Nicholls (Tutor and Librarian, St John's College; President, 2007-):

I am honoured to be taking up the Presidency in October, though all too conscious that I have an exceedingly hard act to follow. It is a particular privilege to hold this office during the run-up to the College's quincentenary, and to play a part in developing the many exciting events and initiatives that will mark this important period in our history. I look forward to meeting and talking to many Johnians over the next four years. 


St John's College News

Anna Cornell leaves

Anna Cornell joined St John's in August 1999 as Admissions Tutor's Assistant. We were sad to say goodbye to Anna on Friday 3 August, as she left the College to take up her new role as Registrar at St Mary's School in Cambridge. We wish her every success in her new job. 




Sheila Smith retires

At the end of June 2007, St John's sadly said goodbye to Sheila Smith, who had been with the College for an incredible forty-seven years and was a veritable fount of knowledge. Audrey Lanfear, who has worked for St John's for fourteen years, both in the Tutorial Office and the former Johnian (now Development) Office, took over the role of Senior Tutor's Assistant on 1 July. 


Professor John Crook - sadly missed



Johnians will be deeply saddened to hear that John Crook, Fellow since 1951, Emeritus University Professor of Ancient History, formerly College Lecturer in Classics and President 1971-75, died in Cambridge on 7 September 2007, aged eighty-five. A full obituary will appear in *The Eagle* 2008. 

St John's College News continued


Library Grant

The Library has secured a grant of £48,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund to catalogue and enhance access to the Sir Fred Hoyle Collection. The Hoyle Project will officially commence early in 2008, including a series of Hoyle Days aimed at local residents, at which Johnians will be especially welcome. Look out for further information in the Lent 2008 issue of *Johnian News*. 


Hogwarts eat your heart out



Designated as a collection of national importance by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council, the College Library aims to encourage new user groups to derive educational benefit from the Old Library Collections. It has been awarded Learning Links Funding for 2007-08 by the MLA. This will pay for teachers from local schools to work with staff, developing visits tailored to their programme of teaching, and encouraging them to make the most of the diversity and richness of the Special Collections.

The Library successfully piloted a visit with St Matthew's Primary School in July this year. Examples of the children's work have been displayed on the Ground Floor of the Library. 


Degree Ceremonies

Due to the restructuring of the Development Office, the Tutorial Office now carries out all the administrative work of the Praelector (degree ceremonies); anyone wishing to have their degree conferred should contact Audrey Lanfear, a.r.lanfear@joh.cam.ac.uk. 

Commemorative Stamps




On 22 March 2007, Royal Mail issued commemorative stamps for the bicentenary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade, 1807. Two prominent Johnians, Thomas Clarkson and William Wilberforce, were among those honoured in this way, along with Granville Sharp, Hannah More, Ignatius Sancho and Olaudah Equiano.

Julietta Edgar, Head of Special Stamps at the Royal Mail, said: 'The work of the Abolitionists galvanised thousands of people from all walks of life, and their long and dedicated struggle against slavery culminated in the 1807 Act of Parliament. The stamps, which mark this important anniversary, will be seen by millions of people around the UK and I hope, make us all reflect on how a particularly inglorious period in our history was brought to an end.' 

Johnian Society Golf 2007

The weather was unusually kind for the annual Johnian Society Golf Meeting held at Gog Magog Golf Club on Friday 27 July. The courses were in first-class condition and provided a good challenge for both the low handicappers and the more senior players. In the morning a stableford competition was held for the Marshall Hall Cup and this was won for the second year in succession by Stuart Southall; the runner-up was John Salter, who also won the Posnett Salver. In the afternoon foursomes the winners were Stuart Southall and George McCaw, with Martin Samuelson and Nigel Snaith runners-up. In the evening the members dined with the Master and Fellows in the Combination Room.

The next meeting will again be at the Gog Magog Golf Club on Friday 25 July 2008, and any Johnians not already on the mailing list who wish to receive details should contact John Loosley, Stonehatch, Oakridge Lynch, Stroud, GL6 7NR (tel: 01285 760460, email: john@loosleyj.freeserve.co.uk). 




Open Weekend 2007

The Johnian Open Weekend, which is held biennially, provides a unique opportunity to rekindle old friendships in a relaxed, informal atmosphere, yet surrounded by the ever-magnificent backdrop of the College. It is an opportunity to bring the whole family to St John's, to join in a variety of activities if you wish, and to view all the recent developments in College.

This year's Open Weekend, which was held on the 7 and 8 July, was no exception. A rare glimpse of sunshine in an otherwise wet and grey July allowed alumni to enjoy a beautiful summer weekend of garden parties and punting trips on the Cam.

Reunion dinners were held on the Friday and Saturday evenings, and the Master and his wife hosted two tea parties in the garden of the Master's Lodge, where a tea-tasting was offered by Johnian Will Cartwright-Hignett (BA 2005), of First Class Teas, Cambridge. Johnians were reminded of the treasures of the College's Old Library courtesy of the Librarian, while other tours covered the history and ghosts of St John's.

Younger children were entertained with a bouncy castle on Upper River Court, and adults could view various exhibitions, including a stunning display of the College silver.

We hope that those who attended will have enjoyed the experience and will come back to visit us again soon! 

DR TOM HYNES awarded Pilkington Prize


Eleven University of Cambridge lecturers were recognised for their excellence in teaching, at an awards ceremony for the 2007 Pilkington Prizes on 20 June.

All of the lecturers have made outstanding contributions to the development of teaching in their departments and faculties. The benefits of their work have reached not only students at the University, but also other students and professionals worldwide.

The selected lecturers, who included Dr Tom Hynes, a Fellow of St John's and also a Senior Lecturer in the Department of

Engineering, were awarded their prizes by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alison Richard.

In a typical year, Dr Hynes may be found demonstrating computing to first-year undergraduates, lecturing part 1B students in thermo-fluids and mathematics, and lecturing in specialist modules on turbo-machinery.

All of Dr Hynes's courses are noted for their clarity, and his success in conveying mathematics to students was a particular cause for congratulations. 



Choir strikes a chord in Venice

In April this year, the Choir of St John's College, in association with the Centre for Acoustics and Musical Experiments in Renaissance Architecture (CAMERA) undertook a series of public choral experiments in Venetian churches. A three-year research project, hosted by the University of Cambridge, and funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council, was launched in February 2005 under the direction of Deborah Howard, Professor of Architectural History in the Faculty of Architecture and History of Art, and a Fellow of St John's. The Choir's visit to Venice was further supported by a kind donation from the Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation.

The research project seeks to clarify how composers of sacred music in sixteenth-century Venice took account of the acoustic properties of existing architectural spaces, while the design of churches, in turn, had to respond to the new demands of musical polyphony. As part of the project, the Choir explored the relationship between sound and space in the sacred music of Venice half a millennium ago, using music by Adrian Willaert, Andrea and Giovanni Gabrieli, Claudio Monteverdi, Palestrina and others.

The project's first conference, held in the beautiful Sala dei Cipressi at the Fondazione Cini in Venice in September 2005, has already been published in a bilingual volume

entitled *Architettura e Musica nella Venezia del Cinquecento*, edited by Deborah Howard and Laura Moretti (Milan: Bruno Mondadori, 2006). A follow-up conference was held in Cambridge in September 2006. This second meeting re-assembled the same team of architectural historians, musicologists and acousticians in an informal workshop to plan the week of choral experiments in Venice. The workshop was supported by the British Academy.

The Choir arrived in Venice on Easter Sunday 2007 carrying several suitcases of musical scores in the most authentic possible editions, chosen with the generous advice of Cambridge musicologist Iain Fenlon. The Choir stayed at the Istituto della Pietà, the orphanage where Vivaldi taught, and was able to enjoy its stunning roof terrace with a 360-degree view over the city.

During the week, the Choir and Organ Students were engaged in an intense and exhausting programme of musical experiments in twelve different churches, offering not only different types of structure (domes, flat wooden ceilings, Gothic vaults, raised choirs, choir stalls in the nave etc), but also a diversity of institutional patronage. The experiments were further enhanced by the contributions of two female sopranos, Rachel Bagnall and Emilia Hughes, also Choral Students from Cambridge Colleges.

In each church, different kinds of musical repertoire were tried in various spatial configurations, based on the most historically plausible possibilities. Plainchant (*falso bordone*), polyphonic motets and split choir compositions (*coro spezzato*) were used in order to find out which music projected most successfully in different contexts. In each venue, around fifty members of the public attended the experiments and completed questionnaires giving their views on the musical effects. In some churches where preaching was particularly significant, examples of the spoken voice were recorded using the local priests, and, in one case, the College's Dean, Duncan Dormor.

As well as helping with CAMERA's research, the Choir accompanied a sung Evening Mass in St Mark's on Easter

The acoustic effects were fascinating, and the different churches gave remarkably varied and distinctive results. In almost every case the results were not too far from the predictions of the project leaders, but interestingly the variations were far more marked than anticipated.

Matthew Dilley, the recording engineer, used battery-operated portable equipment for simplicity and mobility, with a very advanced 'sound-field' microphone, specially hired for the purpose, which records all-round sound, and can be converted into stereo sound for CD distribution. In addition, the three-dimensional sound can be studied in the acoustic laboratory of the Music Faculty in Cambridge or at the Fondazione Cini in Venice. After preliminary editing, there are seven CDs of recorded music for study purposes, as well as two beautiful CDs of the Choir's two public concerts.



Pictured top left: Double-choir polyphony in the Church of the Frari. Pictured above: Concert at the Frari, 10 April 2007

Monday, with the singers hidden from view in one of the high organ galleries above the chancel. The effect of an angelic sound from this mysterious source was unforgettable. The Choir also gave two very successful public concerts: one in the Church of the Frari, with Titian's magnificent altarpiece of *The Assumption of the Virgin* as the backdrop, and one in the Church of Santo Stefano.

Dr David Hill, the Choir's Director of Music, fifteen Choral Students and seventeen boy Choristers were lively and enthusiastic collaborators, whose combination of musicianship, phenomenal sight-reading skills and good humour was quite remarkable. Two Organ Students also took part, both of them truly outstanding musicians. Dr Hill's remarkable musical knowledge and sensitivity were crucial to the success of the project.

A suitcase-full of audience questionnaires, devised by Arup Acoustics in Cambridge, were analysed in Cambridge this summer by an Engineering student under the supervision of Dr Raf Orlowksi, Director of Arup Acoustics Cambridge, and Professor Malcolm Longair of the Cavendish Laboratory. Meanwhile Dr Davide Bonsi of the Fondazione Scuola di San Giorgio in Venice has made scientific acoustic measurements of all the same churches. This means that it will be possible to compare the objective scientific data with the more subjective listener responses.

The interdisciplinarity of this project has been extremely exciting. The innovative collaboration between musicians, musicologists, architectural historians and scientists has been inspiring throughout, and a book presenting the research results is now in preparation.



Alumni News



Rachel Beckett

Rachel Beckett (née Lewis, BA 1989, MA 1992) has published a book with a difference. Rachel studied Anglo-Saxon and Old Norse during her time at St John's, followed by History of Art, after which she worked in reference publishing, making a career in editing and writing reference books, including a volume on medieval art for children. But illustration has always been in her blood, which is why she eventually took an MA in the subject at Buckinghamshire Chilterns University. Soon after completion of the course she chanced on a text that immediately appealed to her eccentric imagination. It was a verse story about a 'crafty old crow' by Paul Winward.

'Jem Crow had just the right blend of wanton insouciance and maverick charm to captivate me at once. As soon as Paul saw my first drawing he recognised his character grinning back, and told me I had the job. So that's how the crow began to fly and an "atrimony began". Feathers awry and dressed in a slightly dishevelled check waistcoat, Jem rises each morning from his chaotic nest ready to launch another bout of mayhem, for which children in the vicinity invariably get the blame.'

20% of profits from book sales are being donated equally to Rainforest Concern (which preserves threatened rainforest for future generations) and Demelza Hospice for Children. *Crafty Old Crow* costs £5.00 and was published in 2007 by Frootcake. It can be bought at www.frootcakebooks.co.uk.



Mike Brearley

Mike Brearley, OBE, (BA 1963, MA 1967), the former England Cricket Captain, will serve as the next President of Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) for one year, starting on 1 October 2007. In his highly successful sporting career, Mike Brearley not only represented, but also captained, England, Middlesex, Cambridge University and MCC. During his period at Cambridge University, he hit centuries in two Varsity matches at Lord's. After his retirement from cricket, Mike Brearley wrote an acclaimed book called *The Art of Captaincy* (first published in 1985), and has since become a leading psychoanalyst. He studied Classics and Moral Sciences (Philosophy) at St John's, and is now an Honorary Fellow of the College.



Louis Cha

Professor Louis Cha, OBE, is one of the most influential and widely-read modern Chinese-language novelists (under the pen-name Jin Yong), a founding editor and publisher, and also Honorary Fellow of Robinson College and Cambridge University Honorary Degree-holder.

At the age of eighty-three, Professor Cha received his St John's College MPhil at the MA ceremony on 12 May 2007, accompanied by family and friends, and in the evening enjoyed a celebratory dinner. Professor Cha's MPhil dissertation was on the institutional and political aspects of the imperial succession in seventh-century China.



The Development Office has just learned that Professor Cha has recently begun a PhD at St John's. He is delighted to be a Cambridge student once again.



Gemma Robinson

Dr Gemma Robinson (BA 1996, MA 2000, PhD 2003), is Lecturer in the Department of English Studies at Stirling University. Her research interests include Caribbean writing, especially poetry; Guyanese culture and politics; postcolonial literatures and cultures; Black British writing; and slavery in the Americas. She is the Editor of *University of Hunger, Collected Poems and Selected Prose of Martin Carter* (Tarsat: Bloodaxe, 2006). Gemma was invited to speak at a book launch celebrating Guyanese poetry, including that of Martin Carter (who is recognized as one of the foremost Caribbean writers of the twentieth century and especially known for his *Poems of Resistance*), at the Guyana High Commission in April 2007. According to recent national press, Gemma has 'carefully and lovingly restored Carter's poems, each with painstaking notes for the contemporary reader. [...] It's a fantastic collection – moving, challenging, stirring and chilling'.



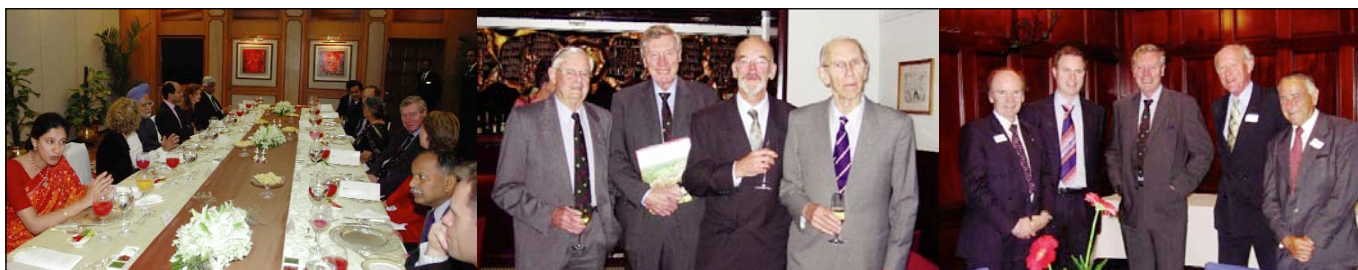
OverseasEvents

In March this year, the Master and his wife, Dr Nancy Lane Perham, visited India and Australia to attend a series of Johnian events. This was the first time that the Master had visited these countries for alumni events and the warm welcome they received was greatly appreciated and very encouraging.

In Delhi, the Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, kindly hosted a dinner at his private residence to which Johnians living in Delhi

Commonwealth Fellows. Many attendees at these events were also former tutorial pupils of Professor Perham. The Hon Justice Kim Santow, whose son, Edward, recently completed an LLM at St John's, kindly hosted a lunch for the Perhams at the University of Sydney on 23 March. Justice Santow came to the College in 1998 as a Fellow Commoner and until 31 May this year, he held the position of Chancellor of the University of Sydney.


On 24 March, Johnians and their guests joined the Master for dinner at the Women's College at the University of Sydney and guests included Emeritus Professor Carrick Chambers, an Honorary



were invited. It was a great honour that the Prime Minister agreed to do this for the Master and for the College. Among the guests were Mr Mark Runacres (BA1981, MA 1985), the former Minister and Deputy High Commissioner in New Delhi, Mr Leo Puri (BA 1987, MA 1991) of McKinsey and Co, and Dr Ursula Weekes (BA 1994, MA 1998), who, in 2004, was awarded a Commonwealth Scholarship for post-doctoral research at the National Museum Institute in New Delhi, India. The Vice-President of the Oxford and Cambridge Society of India, Mr Sumant Dhamija, an alumnus of Emmanuel, also hosted a drinks reception in honour of the Perhams to which all Cambridge alumni in India were invited.

Following a brief trip to Mumbai to meet with Johnians in the area, they flew to Australia to attend events in Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra and Perth. There are nearly 300 Johnians living in Australia, several of whom came to Cambridge on the Overseas Visiting Scholar Programme, as Fellow Commoners and


Research Associate at the Botanic Gardens in Sydney, and Professor Jarlath Ronayne (PhD 1969), Director of the Sunway University College, Malaysia. The dinner in Melbourne was held at Trinity College, Melbourne University. St John's helped to found Trinity College in 1872, and in 1972 Professor Perham was in Australia to attend the centenary celebrations on behalf of the College. The Alumni Dinner in Canberra was hosted by the Vice-Chancellor for the University and we were delighted that Johnians made up the largest group of alumni from all the colleges. The final stop of the visit was Perth to visit Johnians living in and around the west coast. A reception was held at the University Club of Western Australia and the guests included The Most Revd Dr Peter Carnley, Primate of all Australia (Fellow, 1971-72 and Honorary Fellow, 2000).

Our thanks go to the Johnians and guests of Johnians that attended these events, which would have not have been so successful without your support. 

RegionalEvents



On Saturday 14 April, Mr David Livermore (BA 1961, MA 1965) and his wife Gina very kindly hosted a Drinks Reception at their home, Bossington Mill, in Houghton, near Stockbridge. A group of fifty Johnians and their guests attended, with the ages ranging from twenty-four to ninety-five! The Master updated the guests with developments from the College and spoke of his recent trip to India and Australia. It was a very enjoyable evening with plenty of good conversation, and Mr and Mrs Livermore must be thanked for their generosity.

The Master and his wife then travelled to Lewes, near Brighton, on Friday 8 June to host a Reunion Dinner for Johnians at Pelham House. Approximately fifty Johnians and their guests joined the Perhams for drinks on the terrace on a lovely summer's evening before enjoying a delicious meal. The Master told those gathered news from the College, and there was much laughter late into the evening as stories and anecdotes from the past were exchanged. The Development Office organises a programme of regional events which are designed to give Johnians the opportunity to get together in their local area. The programme for 2007-08 will include events in Manchester, Edinburgh and Ireland (please see Dates for your Diary on Page 23 for more information). If you are interested in acting as a Regional Representative for your area, please contact Clare Laight in the Development Office. 

Historic triple- Double for the Boys in Red!

The College Men's Rugby team have accomplished the outstanding feat of winning both the League and Cuppers competitions for the third consecutive year.

Captained by Oli Buxton, the team proved to be an unstoppable force throughout the season, culminating in a 16-3 victory in the final, over neighbours Trinity.

Previous Cuppers wins were against Christ's 53-0 (in 2006), and Fitzwilliam 48-18 (in 2005). It wasn't just the outcome, but the style in which they won, that was so impressive. Their consistent good form has ensured that the Cup and League Shield were returned to what has now become their familiar resting place, in the trophy cabinet in the College Bar.

A large and enthusiastic crowd of Johnians cheered them on from the stands at Grange Road, to the rousing strains of

'You'll never be at John's!' The whole College congratulates them and their coach, Dr Richard Samworth, Fellow and Lecturer in Mathematics, on this remarkable achievement.

Richard Perham

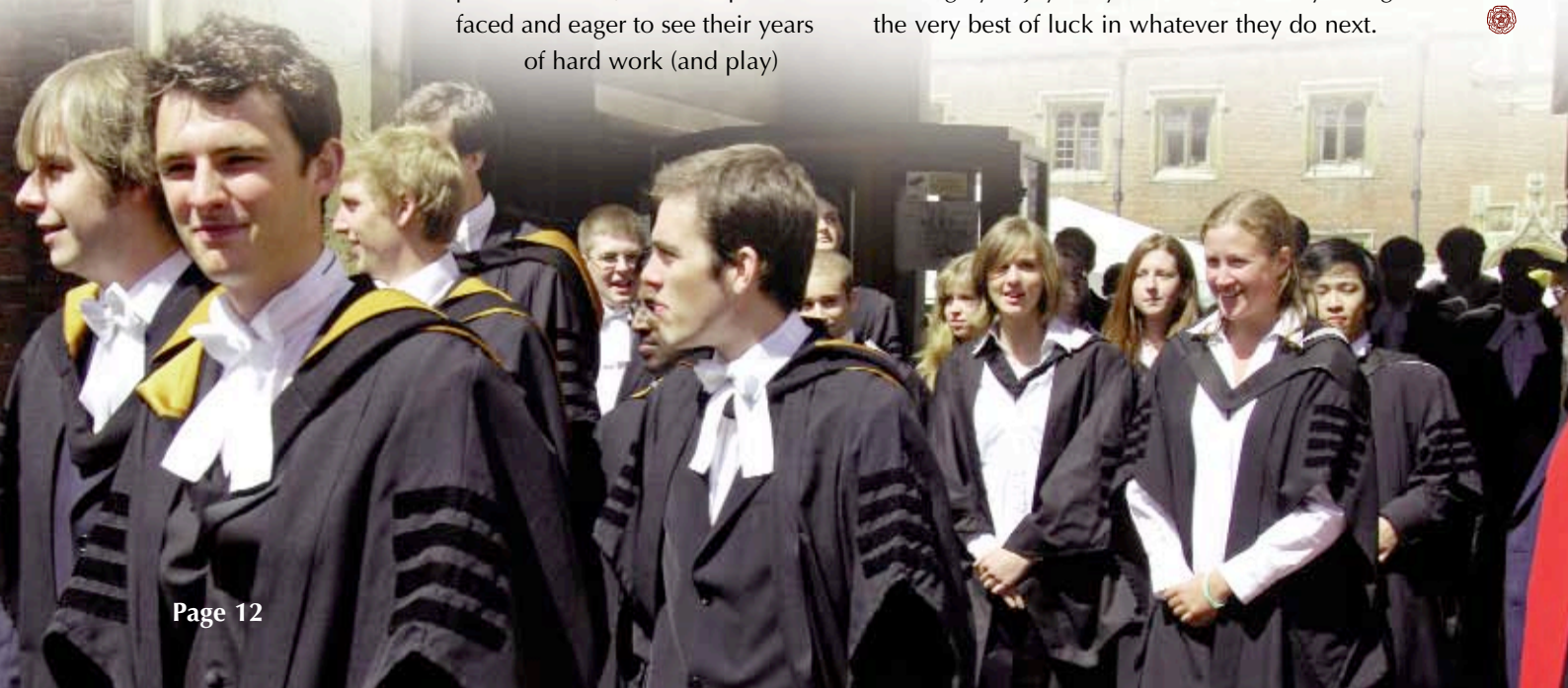


*Back row: Jono Murray, Oli Buxton, Gus Maclay
Front row: Will Hall, Rich Lym*

BA Day

Having survived the post-exam festivities that St John's has to offer in abundance, the Graduates of 2007, along with their proud families, turned up fresh-faced and eager to see their years of hard work (and play)

culminate in their Cambridge degree. Although the sun did not exactly shine, the rain was respectful of the occasion (a surprise in one of the wettest summers for a long time!), and the day, including a buffet lunch in First Court, was thoroughly enjoyed by all. We wish this year's graduates the very best of luck in whatever they do next.



Graduands' Garden Party

The Development Office organised its first Graduands' Garden Party on 21 June 2007, for those due to graduate a week later, in the beautiful setting of the Master's Lodge gardens. Despite the constant threat of rain, the sun persisted and the afternoon was enjoyed by over one hundred graduands, Development Office and Tutorial staff, the College Nurse, and the hosts - the Master, Richard Perham, and his wife, Dr Nancy Lane Perham.

While the Pimms flowed, Development Office staff took the chance to find out what this year's energetic batch of leavers will be getting up to once they leave the College. We discovered that an encouraging number are staying on to do further study at Cambridge, whether it be a PGCE, MPhil or PhD; the medics are going on to do their clinical training, either at Addenbrooke's Hospital, in London, Oxford, or elsewhere; and, as expected, many are off to London to begin their careers in a variety of fields, from working on transport solutions for the 2012 Olympics with the Transport for London Graduate Scheme, to management consultancy, banking, and law.




The graduands were thrilled to take away a memento of the College

in Washington, before travelling in Damascus, and finally doing a Masters in International Relations; his girlfriend meanwhile is also taking a year off to do an internship at a think tank, and then in the European Parliament in Brussels, before joining her boyfriend to travel Damascus and learn Arabic!



Others are taking some well-earned time out to travel the world or to do work experience with charities such as the ABC Trust (which helps Brazilian street children), before going on to do further study or start their careers. We met one brave young man hoping to join the Royal Navy as a Submarine Warfare Officer, but only after having corrective laser eye surgery, and another who will be working as a structural engineer in Manchester. One Choral Student is staying on as Lay Clerk with the Choir, whilst also taking on the role of Choir Librarian for a year; his friend told us that he was taking a gap year to work for a while at the Chatham House think tank, and then to do an internship

The afternoon was brought to a fitting conclusion with an inspiring and nostalgic speech from the Master, who reminded departing students that they would always be welcome in College or at Johnian events around the world. He also took the opportunity to speak about the College's Development Strategy, explaining that support from current and graduating students is the best endorsement for a fundraising campaign. He finished off by informing those gathered that they could take away a College baseball cap as a memento of their time here, which (as the pictures show) proved to be the highlight of the afternoon! 

Lucy Treibel:

Recovery and

I arrived at St John's two years into what would become an eight-year struggle with chronic fatigue (ME), and so my memories of College are mixed. My time in Cambridge was wonderful – meeting my husband (Thomas Treibel, BA 2003, MA 2007), and many good friends – yet massively frustrating. Academically-speaking, I missed out on so

developed training programme claiming great results for chronic fatigue sufferers. My first reaction was, I confess, 'awful name'; when I researched it, however, I rapidly realised it was what I was looking for. The LP teaches a way of taking control of your body by re-training unconscious parts of your brain, using a mixture of neuro-linguistic



Beatrice Manda, in the chicken shed she built with her first loan

MLF success stories

much; and in my third year I became seriously unwell. After barely getting through finals, I decided not to battle on, but instead to concentrate on regaining my health before choosing a career or further study.

Three years later, somewhat better but unable to work, I heard about the Lightning Process (LP), a recently-

programming, cognitive behavioural therapy, osteopathy, hypnotherapy and life coaching.

Last November, feeling hugely supported by my family and by the prayers of my friends, I began my three-day LP course. By the third evening, I was perhaps 70% better; two weeks later I felt almost completely healthy. It was totally astonishing, and

Regeneration

remains so: a true miracle! Redirecting habituated neurological pathways was mentally and physically challenging, but within weeks my brain and body had adjusted, and I was no longer ill.

I now have an entirely new life, and find it hard adequately to express my gratitude for it. Thomas and I got married this



Lucy and Thomas Treibel, 14 April 2007

year, and our lives together have begun without the constant constraint of my health. Day-to-day activities are no longer a problem, and this September I will begin an MA in African Studies at SOAS, a long-cherished dream.

Meanwhile, I have been volunteering for a wonderful charity called the MicroLoan Foundation (MLF). A micro-

finance charity, they provide small loans and business training to groups of women in rural Malawi, enabling them, individually, to set up fledgling businesses such as vegetable stalls and clothing shops. With the continued support of MLF staff, and further loans once each sum is repaid, after only a few months each woman's business is well established. The repayment rate is an astounding 97%, after which the money is recycled into another loan.

Malawi is the ninth poorest country in the world, and is being ravaged by HIV/AIDS. Many women – considered responsible for the upkeep of their families – care for the orphans of family and friends as well as their own children. Giving these women the capability and confidence to run successful businesses has shown that they can work their own way out of the poverty trap, while providing food and education for their families for a lifetime.

The charity has impressed me hugely with its approach to micro-finance, and its ethos in the tiny UK office – there are only two employees; unpaid volunteers and interns take on the rest of the work in order to maximise the sums of money sent to Malawi. I am helping with their biggest annual fundraising project, the Grand Walk, along London's beautiful Grand Union Canal this September. We hope to raise a total of £100,000. By the time you read this, I'll have done the Walk – feeling enormously excited that I can.

Lucy is happy to be contacted at: lucy.treibel@gmail.com if she can be of help to anyone. The website for the LP is: www.lightningprocess.com.

If you are interested in finding out more about the MicroLoan Foundation, or making a donation, please look at their website: www.microloanfoundation.org.uk, or contact Tom Hall on 020 8996 1730.

Lucy Treibel (née Allen), BA 2003, MA 2007



In The Wake Of James Wordie And Others: *Sadko's Antarctic Voyage*

The Antarctic has long beckoned me. I kept in touch with the school friend who declared at the age of fourteen that he would spend his life in Polar affairs – and duly did so. At Cambridge I dined in Hall under the benign eye of (Sir) James Wordie or Colin Bertram; and watched jerky archive film at the SPRI (Scott Polar Research Institute). So when my thirteen-metre cutter, *Sadko*, reached Ushuaia in the Beagle Channel, I knew where I had to go next.

base of the British Graham Land Expedition (BGLE), 1934-37, a small and highly successful exploration which deserves to be much better known. James Wordie, by then Honorary Secretary of the Royal Geographical Society, was a leading supporter of the project, and proposed the outline of its work plan. In the team were several Cambridge men, of whom two were Johnians, conspicuously Colin Bertram, later a celebrated polar scientist, sometime Senior Tutor of



*Crossing the Antarctic Circle
(Noël Marshall is third from the left)*



Chilean memorial



Sadko at Melchior

On 5 January this year, I set out for a six-week trip to the Antarctic Peninsula with four friends. We intended to explore as far south as conditions allowed and then to conclude with a pilgrimage to Elephant Island. After an unexpectedly calm crossing of the Drake Passage, we followed the 'tourist route' as far as the hospitable Ukrainian research base, Vernadsky, at 65° 15' S, formerly the British Faraday base and the oldest continuously-functioning station in Antarctica. The first building constructed on the site in 1947 was the Wordie House, now a protected historic site under the Antarctic Treaty, and recently restored to include an interesting display of contemporary fittings and equipment.

Sir James never went there of course, but other Johnians had been there in the 1930s, when the site served as the interim

the College, and for eight years Director of the Scott Polar Research Institute.

Few recreational visitors, whether in commercial cruise ships or in yachts, go beyond Vernadsky. Further south, secure anchorages are scarce, the charts unreliable and the ice conditions unpredictable. Again we were lucky. At the cost of one uncomfortable afternoon, when we threaded our way through thick ice, with an anxious eye over our shoulders in the hope that we would be able to retreat if necessary, we were able to cross the Antarctic Circle on 19 January, and to moor beneath the abandoned British base on Detaille Island at 66° 52' S. This was the limit of the itinerary for which we had a permit. But for the record: we were still over 300 miles north of the furthest south reached over the sea ice by Colin Bertram's sledging party in 1936. In the process they proved

to the world that the western shore of 'Graham Land' was an unbroken peninsula and not a chain of islands between the Weddell Sea and the Pacific. En route they traversed and subsequently named the 'Wordie Ice Shelf', beyond which seven glaciers and capes in the King George VI Sound are named after members of the expedition, including Bertram and Moore, the second aforementioned Johnian.

Sadko's visit to Detaille was involuntarily extended because large floes of sea ice drifted in and pinned the boat into the bay. When the ice moved out we followed. We took a leg out into the Pacific Ocean for one day before returning inside the chain of offshore islands and making our way back northwards during the following weeks to the South Shetland Islands.

unfriendly-looking of a fringe of boulders and using it as a quay in the split seconds between the rise and fall of the surf. Ashore we picked our way through the rocks and the ragged carpet of seals and chinstrap penguins that have colonized the area where Shackleton's men built their hut.

Following consultation with Professor Perham, I had brought a bronze plaque to commemorate the survivors of the *Endurance* including, specifically of course, Sir James Wordie. Alas, because of the strict requirements of the Antarctic Treaty, we had to take our tribute away with us and I propose to leave it to the College. Just to stand on that historic strip of barren shore, wedged between cliff and offshore island, with the surf growling on both sides, was an emotional experience.



Site of boat-hut of Shackleton's men

Sadko at Detaille from Seaward

Icebound at Detaille

By dawn on 10 February we could just distinguish the rocky outline of the south-west corner of Elephant Island which had been heralded for some time by the stench of penguin rookery wafting over miles of sea. The weather map received by radio fax indicated that heavy weather would move in later in the day so we pressed on, motoring as necessary, and accompanied by occasional large tabular icebergs which had probably drifted round from the Weddell Sea. We skirted Cape Valentine, where Shackleton made the abortive attempt to find refuge, and ran the last seven miles to Point Wild. During the following two hours we succeeded in getting the crew ashore in two successive parties, while the ship motored in gentle circles.

The spit has narrowed since 1916 and there is now no beach as such. Landing from the dinghy involved choosing the least

We were not able to linger and by the middle of the night it was blowing a full gale. Although the weather moderated, the six days it took to beat back to Cape Horn, barely visible in cloud and rain, were heavier going than our outward passage. By 21 February we were safely back in Ushuaia. Although volumes have been written about the unique quality of the Antarctic Peninsula nothing really prepares you for the impact at close quarters of the scenery, the wildlife, the atmosphere and, for us, the reward of 'doing it yourself'. Truly the cruise of a lifetime.

Noël Marshall (BA 1957, MA 1992)



Notes

- 1 A re-published edition of *Southern Lights*, by John Rymill, leader of the BGLE, is available from the Knell Press, Malvern.
- 2 A full account of *Sadko's* cruise should be published in *Roving Commissions* 48, the journal of the Royal Cruising Club, by Acanthus, Wellington, Somerset, in March 2008.

Continuing Excellence: Research Fellows 2007

Alison Gwendoline Kesby came to St John's in October 2004 to begin her PhD in Public International Law, her thesis title being 'The Right to have Rights'; she received both Benefactors' and Commonwealth Scholarships. She commenced her Title A (Research) Fellowship in Public International Law at the College this October.

She began her education in Sydney, Australia, her native country, which culminated in a BA in Germanic Studies in 1997 (for which she received a medal), and an LLB in 1999 from the University of Sydney. After graduating, she worked as a Judge's Associate in the Federal Court of Australia and after that as a Solicitor in Sydney for nearly two years.



In October 2002, she began an LLM, specialising in International Law, at Jesus College, Cambridge, obtaining First Class Honours in June 2003. She was awarded the BRD Clarke Prize for the best overall performance in the LLM and the Clive Parry Prize for International Law. Alison supervised undergraduate students in Public International Law at St John's from October 2005 to June 2006.

'During my Fellowship I will be researching the concept of the "border" in international law. I am fascinated by the meaning and significance of borders in international law and in our contemporary context: how they are conceived, how borders shape identities and how they affect people's lives. I am extremely grateful to St John's for the unique opportunity to pursue this research and am greatly looking forward to contributing to the life of the College.'

Anna Louise Mallam came to St John's in October as a Research Fellow from St Catharine's College, Cambridge, where she obtained her (First Class) MSci in Chemistry. She subsequently studied there for a PhD in Biophysics, more specifically Folding Studies on Knotted Proteins, which involved investigating the folding pathway of a unique dimeric protein system containing a trefoil knot buried deep in its backbone structure.

While at St Catharine's Anna was awarded Skerne Scholarships in 2002 and 2003, and in 2006 was Winner of the Prize for Outstanding Research, and Winner in the Sciences Category of the St Catharine's Prize for Distinction in Research.

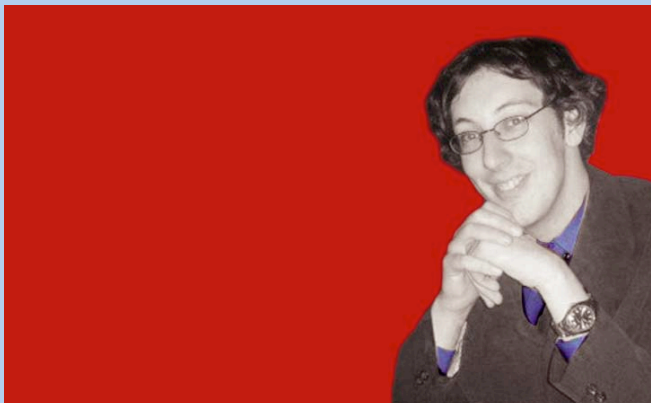


Anna has presented talks and posters at the Department of Chemistry, and at both the Gordon-Kenan Graduate Research Seminar on Protein Folding Dynamics and the Gordon Research Conference on Protein Folding Dynamics in the US.

'A complete understanding of the mechanisms that govern protein folding would not only allow for rapid protein structure prediction, using information gained from the Human Genome Project, but also provide valuable insights into the relationship between protein misfolding and many human diseases. A Research Fellowship at St John's College gives me the opportunity to continue my work into how a chain of amino-acids manages to "knot" itself to form a functional protein, a feat that until relatively recently was thought impossible. Knotted proteins are an extraordinary example of biological self-assembly, and determining their folding pathways will provide new models of folding that will be of significance to the whole protein-folding community.'

David Gerard Conlon has been a student at St John's since 2003, gaining Part III Mathematics with Distinction in 2004, and then taking up a PhD in Combinatorics. In October this year, he became a Title A Fellow, and his research is in Pure Mathematics.

David has had a long-standing interest in mathematics, representing Ireland twice in the International Mathematical Olympiad while still at school. From there, he went on to Trinity College Dublin (TCD), where he graduated with a First Class BA degree in Mathematics in 2003. During his time at TCD he was awarded several prizes, most notably the Toronto Scholarship in his second year for achieving the



highest overall mark in the College's annual scholarship examinations and the Bishop Law Prize in his final year for the highest grade in the degree.

David was awarded a Gates Scholarship and a College Benefactors' Scholarship in order to study at Cambridge University and St John's. While at Cambridge he has received the Wright Prize, on the basis of his Part III exams, and a Smith-Knight prize for a mathematical essay written in the second year of his PhD.

'The award of a Junior Research Fellowship at St John's means a lot to me. I have had a wonderful experience at the College over the last few years and I am honoured to have been given this opportunity to further my research in such a warm and welcoming environment.'

Jonathan Robert Mair began his Research Fellowship in Social Anthropology at St John's in October, having obtained his BA (First Class with Distinction) in 2000 in Social Anthropology and MA (2004) at King's College, Cambridge, where he also studied for his PhD in Social Anthropology, his thesis title being 'Belief, knowledge and the discourse of ignorance in contemporary Inner Mongolian Buddhism'. He was elected a Scholar of King's College and awarded the Richard's Prize in 2000.

'I am delighted to be joining St John's this year and I'm looking forward to getting to know everyone. I am a social anthropologist interested in religion, ethics and cognition. I



have been working for the past few years in the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, northern China, on the revival of Buddhism among the Mongols there. During my Fellowship I shall be extending this research to look at the role of Mongolian Tantric gurus and their teachings on self-cultivation. This research will contribute to a collaborative project based in Cambridge looking at Buddhist ethics and self-cultivation throughout Asia.'



The College aims to promote research by providing Research Fellowships for outstanding young academics.

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DEVELOPMENT News

The summer vacation is a curious time in which to work in a college environment. Fighting one's way through ambling tourists and skittish conference guests, it is difficult not to feel like some kind of living exhibit. I did once work at a wildlife park and now have a certain amount of sympathy for the residents of that establishment.

In spite, or maybe because, of an audience, this is a time of great activity in the Development Office. As you will read (right), Clare Laight and her team are working hard to expand and improve services for, and communications to, Johnians across the globe. The fruits of these labours will become apparent quite quickly and the hope is that a great many more of our alumni will attend events, contribute to publications, offer careers advice to current students and generally feel more involved with the College.

Plans for the College's major fundraising drive are also advancing. The Campaign is likely to be the most ambitious undertaken by an Oxbridge College. This is not due to any hubris on the part of St John's; rather it is because the challenges we face are writ so large. Increased global competition for the best students and staff, the introduction of tuition fees, and providing state-of-the-art facilities in an historic setting have huge financial implications.

The College is not facing a battle for survival – and it would be ridiculous to say so; however we must drive forward an ambitious, progressive vision if we are not only to retain our current position but also aspire to be pre-eminent. What Cambridge has achieved on a fraction of the resources enjoyed by its US peers is truly remarkable but it's clear that this cannot continue indefinitely. St John's intends to be in the vanguard of efforts to push the University to the very summit of the world's universities.

I can't sign off without mentioning the contribution of Richard Perham. Rarely has any Head of House given so much time and energy to a college community. His deep affection for St John's, and Johnians everywhere, is obvious to all those who meet him – he has been, and will continue to be, a wonderful ambassador. I just wish he would stop making those of us many years younger than he feel so unfit, antisocial and lacking in *joie de vivre*.

Stephen Teal
Development Director

When you came up to St John's you became a lifelong member of a unique and great College. As alumni, we hope that you will wish to continue your association with the College and be proud to do so. Over the years, I have realised that one of the great advantages of studying at Cambridge and in particular St John's is the variety of activities, clubs and societies that are available to students. In the coming years, we will be working to expand the range of events, so that they reflect the opportunities that were available to you in College. So, in addition to the usual dinners and drinks receptions, we will also arrange events and activities that provide academic and intellectual stimulation as well as social and professional networking events. We will also launch a careers programme, where alumni will be invited back to College to speak and pass on valuable career advice to the current students.

You will also notice a transformation of Johnian publications, not least, in the first instance with the *Johnian News*. We hope that you have enjoyed reading these pages, which contain news of alumni, fellows, students and staff in addition to general College news. If you have something that you think might be of interest to your fellow alumni or any general feedback, please contact Amanda George in the Development Office. Amanda, whom many of you will know, has recently been appointed Publications Officer and has responsibility for compiling and editing the *Johnian News* and *The Eagle*.

Since I started working at St John's in 2003, I have had the pleasure of meeting many of you at events in College, around the UK and overseas. I continue to be overwhelmed by the number of Johnians (and the variety of St John's ties) that attend our events. Whether it be at a regional event in Dorset or a Johnian dinner in College, I have not yet been disappointed. Thank you for your support of the work that we do and we hope to see you (and your ties) again soon, either in College or around the world.

Clare Laight
Head of Alumni Relations



Information AND DIARY DATES



The Advent Carol Services this year will be held on Saturday 24 and Sunday 25 November. Please keep an eye on the Chapel pages of the College website for further information and to apply for tickets, www.joh.cam.ac.uk/chapel_and_choir/.

The 2008 Johnian Dinners will take place on Saturday 29 March and Saturday 28 June. Due to the unprecedented large year groups to be invited to these dinners, the College is considering whether to introduce a third Johnian Dinner. Further information will be available on the website in due course.

The annual Johnian Society Dinner takes place on Saturday 15 December 2007. This year for the first time members of the Society are able to bring a non-Johnian guest to the dinner. There will also be a buffet lunch in Hall, and the eighteenth Johnian Society Lecture will be given in the afternoon by Lord (Nigel) Crisp (BA 1973, MA 1977), Vice-President of the Society. His talk is entitled 'Global Health Partnerships'.

The Johnian Society will be hosting a London Reception on Friday 18 July 2008 at the House of Lords. Invitations will be sent out in the new year.

LMBC History. Jane Milburn (BA 1991, MA 1994) has completed the text of the LMBC History covering the period 1957 to 1982. The post-1982 period will form a second volume, and coincides with the arrival of women in the College. If you have any photographs depicting highlights of the period, including Head of the Mays between 1958 and 1983, please contact: John Hall-Craggs, The Lawn, Brightwalton, Newbury, Berkshire, RG20 7BP.

Merchandise. We will shortly be launching an exciting new range of St John's College branded goods, which will be available to purchase online and also in person from the Main Gate Lodge (First Court). Items will no longer be available directly from the Development Office. We regret that we are unlikely to have a mail-order service ready in time for Christmas, but please keep an eye on the website in early 2008 for further details of the new range, www.joh.cam.ac.uk/johnian.

Choir CDs

can now be purchased online, www.stjohnscollegecambridge.co.uk/cdsales, or by telephone on +44 (0) 1223 338782.



Dates for the Diary

Additional events will be added to this calendar throughout the year and you should keep an eye on the Development Office webpages, www.joh.cam.ac.uk/johnian/events/.

November

20th Seventh Hinsley Memorial Lecture
24th Advent Carol Service
25th Advent Carol Service

December

11th Christmas Drinks Reception, London
13th Regional Alumni Dinner, Edinburgh
15th Johnian Society Lecture and Dinner

February

4th Regional Alumni Event, Belfast
5th Regional Alumni Event, Dublin

March

4th Regional Alumni Dinner, Manchester
29th Johnian Dinner

April

12th 25 years since matriculation Dinner (1983)

May/June

TBC 30 years since matriculation Reunion (1978)

June

28th Johnian Dinner

July

18th 50 years since matriculation Dinner (1958)
18th Johnian Society London Reception
25th Johnian Society Golf Competition

London venues

The College is hoping to host several events in London in the coming years; unfortunately, mounting venue costs are making this increasingly difficult. We would be grateful to any alumni who can provide or suggest venues for our forthcoming events.





ST JOHN'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE



Gifts to St John's College will count towards the total funds raised for the Cambridge 800th Anniversary Campaign.

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