

JOHNIAN news





Welcome to the Lent 2010 issue of the *Johnian News*!

The border photo features a phrase well-known to many Johnians scratched into the Chapel roof. While we do not condone graffiti in any form, we thought this particular message should be shared with you, along with some of the Chapel's many hidden gems.

We are still looking for stories of night-climbing at Cambridge from Johnians who may remain anonymous. If you would like to tell your story, or to put forward any other news for inclusion in the next newsletter, please contact the Editor by 30 September 2010.

Don't forget to check our dates for the diary for events where you can meet with fellow Johnians.

The Editor

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Cover photograph: Ceiling of the Chapel reflected in the lectern, Ben Gallagher.



2011 | 500 Years

500 years of St John's College, Cambridge

Save the date!

The College's quincentenary in 2011 is rapidly approaching and preparations are well underway to celebrate our very special birthday. Since our foundation in accordance with the wishes of Lady Margaret Beaufort on 9 April 1511, St John's has been a world leader in politics, literature, music, sport, and of course academic endeavour. In this year, therefore, we aim to celebrate five hundred years of Johnian excellence.

Johnians will be welcome to attend a series of events throughout the year in Cambridge, the UK and beyond. We hope that there will be something to appeal to everyone and as part of the year we warmly encourage you to bring friends and family to see the College. Two extra-special quincentenary weeks will take place in July and September during which Johnians and their guests will be welcomed back to College for a vibrant programme of events – full details will be enclosed in the next issue. Fascinating Johnians who are leaders in their field will lead debates in these weeks on key issues facing our world today – come and have your say!

Next year also sees the publication of a new College history, edited by the Dean of College Dr Peter Linehan (1961). This volume, of between 600 and 700 pages, will provide the first comprehensive study of the College from its foundation up to

the present day. Thanks to a very generous gift by a Johnian benefactor, we are delighted to announce that all alumni will be entitled to collect a copy free of charge. Further details of how those resident further afield may secure theirs will be circulated in due course.

2011 is also a special year for the Choir of St John's College, who will be marking their fiftieth anniversary. In addition to their usual busy programme, Easter will see the Choir embark on a major tour of the US and they will top and tail the year with concerts at prestigious London venues. A celebratory dinner for former members of the Choir will take place in the summer and throughout the year they will be performing extensively.

We hope to welcome as many Johnians as possible back to College over the course of the year, or to see you at one of our events in the UK and throughout the world.

2011 is set to be an extravaganza of drinks, dinners and debate. Look out for further details in the Michaelmas *Johnian News*.

If you have any questions or suggestions please contact us: development@joh.cam.ac.uk



Alumni News

Cast Offs

Sarah Evans (2006), President of the St John's Film Society, reviews *Cast Offs*.

As co-director of *Cast Offs*, Channel 4's latest foray into thought-provoking comedy drama, Amanda Boyle (1992) is no stranger to provocative, thoughtful and revolutionary projects. This brilliantly observed six part series aired last November to a plethora of admiring reviews thrilled by its pointed satire and dark humour. A fictionalised reality TV show about six disabled people marooned on a remote island, *Cast Offs* seeks to cut sharply through the mire of trite sentimentality that so often surrounds explorations of disability onscreen.

For Amanda, getting involved with the production was an obvious choice and one she describes as a 'unique experience'. She particularly relished the opportunity to work with lead writer Jack Thorne, a regular for *Skins* and *Shameless*, and with the 'very talented cast', in her biggest directing job to date. Her experience making award-winning short films, her years spent at Working Title Films, and her time involved with the exciting theatre scene in Cambridge, helped to prepare her for this immense challenge. As a Philosophy student at St John's, supervised by Professor Heal, 'a woman I greatly respect', Amanda was able to immerse herself in both acting and devising productions. From Shakespeare to musicals, Greek tragedy to 'a very silly comedy show', Amanda's 'lasting impression' of her time here is of 'some thrilling theatrical collaborations with very dynamic women', which convinced Amanda that her future lay in directing film.

I found *Cast Offs* an engaging and unsettling viewing experience, one that was well worth its frequently uncomfortable scenes. It's also extremely funny, by turns wickedly amusing and wrenchingly moving. The three episodes that Amanda directed, 'Dan', 'April' and 'Carrie', are filled with subtle and achingly nuanced performances from the central cast, each of whom share their character's disability. Victoria Wright, who plays April, evokes a quiet, desperate sadness in her portrayal of a grief-stricken woman, protected only by a gently sardonic wit honed over years of coping with the reactions of those around her to her cherubism. Peter Mitchell is also winning as recently paraplegic Dan, struggling to renegotiate life, and his relationship with his well-meaning father, in very changed circumstances. Throughout the series, it is very apparent that far from being their defining characteristic, as so often in depictions of the disabled on screen, their disabilities are but one part of their lives, and only a fraction of the stories that they have to tell. I can only urge you to catch this unmissable series on 4OD if you have not already had a chance to see it.

One of an emerging generation of female British filmmakers, alongside Andrea Arnold (*Fish Tank*, *Red Road*), who are offering new and exciting possibilities from the medium of film, Amanda is now working on her first feature film, and a big multimedia project with the National Theatre. Based on the talent in evidence here, I'm excited to see what she has in store for her audience next.

Cast Offs was nominated for the Royal Television Society's Best Drama Series Award 2009.



Alumni News

Republic takes off from Trafalgar's Fourth Plinth

Ian Walker (2000) put forward LaundryRepublic, his dry cleaning startup, to take part in the Trafalgar Square Fourth Plinth living art display on a whim. Three days later his business partner, David Lambert, was up there in the rain, dressed as Superman and ironing dozens of red underpants!

BBC News Online picked up the story and ran it on their business front page for a week, and since then nearly all their clients have mentioned the event. It led, directly or indirectly, to articles in the *Financial Times* and *The Times*, and shows how guerrilla marketing can hugely increase recognition for the cost of a fancy dress costume and 25 pairs of M&S Y-fronts!

That was in October 2008, a year after Ian and David had left their jobs in the City to start a business providing London's first twenty-four hour locker-based laundry and dry cleaning service. Since then, LaundryRepublic has expanded rapidly; proof of concept is now established, external finance is on the horizon,



and over the next few months Ian hopes to roll out the service throughout Central London. 'Starting out in the depths of the recession actually allowed us to negotiate harder and obtain great deals on rent and equipment. Proving the concept in a recession carries a lot more weight.'

Ian is very happy to hear from other Johnians with ideas and advice to discuss the business.

Find out more at www.laundryrepublic.com



Sir Jonathan Phillips

Sir Jonathan Phillips KCB (1970) has been elected Warden of Keble College, Oxford from Michaelmas 2010. Sir Jonathan is currently Permanent Secretary of the Northern Ireland Office and has a distinguished career of nearly 33 years in the civil service. After working in the Department of Trade and Industry, Sir Jonathan became Political Director of the Northern Ireland Office in 2002 and he also sits on the Honours Committee for Community, Voluntary and Local Services.

Sir Jonathan read History at St John's before undertaking doctoral research on the campaign for government funding of Catholic higher education in Ireland in the late nineteenth century, one of the key elements of the home rule debate. This surely has stood him in good stead in his most recent position!

Sir Jonathan is in excellent company as one of four Johnian heads of house at Oxford colleges, as well as a Johnian Vice-Chancellor, Professor Andy Hamilton. We wish him every success in his new venture.



Johnians tee off

Thirty-one Johnians competed for the Marshall Hall Cup on Friday 31 July at the Gog Magog Golf Club. This cup, presented by the famous lawyer Sir Edward Marshall Hall, has been competed for by Johnians since 1925. Once again the winner was the unbeatable John Jenkins with David Hunt the runner-up. The Posnett Salver, presented by the late Sir Richard Posnett, is for the competitor with the best score of age plus Stableford points. John Salter was declared the winner for the third year running. In the afternoon members played a foursomes competition over nine holes and the winners were Richard Nye and Michael Mayes with John Scott and Roger Palin the runners-up.

The College once again provided splendid hospitality and we dined on Thursday evening with the President and Fellows in the Combination Room.

We will be playing again at the Gog Magog Golf Club on Friday 30 July 2010 and any member of the Johnian Society not already on the mailing list who wishes to receive details should contact John Loosley, Stonehatch, Oakridge Lynch, Stroud GL6 7NR (tel: 01285 760460, email: john@loosleyj.freemove.co.uk).



Life at the Lodge



Simona Giunta (2006), PhD student and President of the St John's College Women's Society, met with Dr Mary Dobson, the Master's wife and 'First Lady' of the College, to find out more about Mary and life at the Lodge.

Dr Mary Dobson was formerly Director of the Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine and a Fellow of Green College, Oxford. As an historian of medicine, Mary's research focuses on the history of malaria, both in England and in the tropics. She is the author of a wide selection of books, ranging from academic and popular science, to books for children, including the *Smelly Old History* series. Her latest book, *Disease – the Extraordinary Stories Behind History's Deadliest Killers*, has already sold over 50,000 copies and she is now writing a companion volume on the story of medicine.

When, in 2007, Professor Chris Dobson was elected Master of the College, they made the Lodge their home, together with their two sons, Richard and William. Having left full-time academic life behind when she moved from Oxford, Mary now juggles her writing and family life with College duties which includes 'spending a fair amount of time looking at and filling in our multi-coloured electronic diary and attending or hosting many College and University events.' But, she adds, 'the College staff are amazing and we rely completely on them for just about everything.'

Sitting in front of the log fire with a glass of red wine, Mary is at ease in her College home. 'Chris and I met 35 years ago at Merton College in Oxford. Chris was a Research Fellow there and also had the grand title of "Deputy Principal of Postmasters" (more mundanely, Junior Dean!), which included having to make sure all the girls were out of this male-only College by midnight. No surprises which female undergraduate (there were no mixed undergraduate Colleges in Oxford when I went up to St Hugh's in 1973) was amongst those who frequently had to be escorted off the premises. We were married a couple of years later in Merton College Chapel!' Besides gaining a First Class degree in Geography, Mary also has two Netball Blues from the 'other place' and she remembers Chris coming to watch her play in a Varsity Match and being beaten beaten by Cambridge!

In 2001, Professor Dobson became a Fellow of St John's and after a couple of years of commuting between Oxford and Cambridge, the family moved to a house in Park Parade, overlooking Jesus Green, and made St John's their second home. 'It wasn't hard to convince Chris that moving to Cambridge was a great decision.' Mary laughs, reminiscing on how her affection for Cambridge goes a long way back.



'I have always loved Cambridge; as a child I used to come here with my late father. I remember sunny afternoons and cream teas at the Garden House and the Orchard in Grantchester. And during my undergraduate and graduate research, I spent many happy hours in Cambridge, including working in the Old Library of St John's researching the "Secret Remedy" of Robert Talbor, who was a sizar at St John's in the late seventeenth century and, though described as a "Quack Doctor", was later knighted by Charles II for his discovery of a treatment for malaria. I hope one day someone will help me write up this story for a film!'

Despite the fast pace of life at the Lodge, Mary says, 'I take a deep breath now and again and remind myself how very privileged we are to be here and to share so many wonderful experiences in this magnificent College.' Life at the Lodge has led Mary to meet some fascinating people from all walks of life. 'I especially recall a trip at very short notice to New Delhi to meet Dr Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India and a proud Johnian. It was an event I will never forget even though we were in India for only 25 hours on that occasion.'

Having lunch with Dr Singh, hosting the Chancellor, the Duke of Edinburgh, in the Master's Lodge, and meeting the Queen on the occasion of the eight hundredth anniversary of Cambridge University are just a few of the highlights of Mary's life in the Lodge. Mary remembers the Queen's visit with particular affection, especially when Her Majesty – who had two sons at Cambridge University – asked Chris whether he preferred Oxford or Cambridge. 'I am glad to say he answered correctly!'

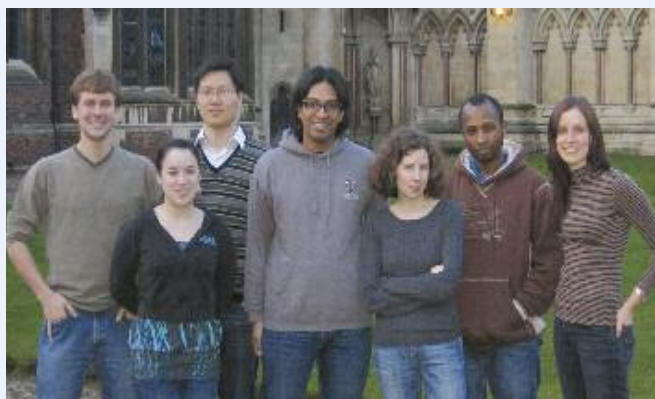
As for the future, Mary is already looking forward to next year's celebrations of the five hundredth anniversary of the foundation of the College.



50 Years of the SBR:

A Celebration of the SBR and the Graduate Students of St John's

The Samuel Butler Room (SBR) Society celebrates its fiftieth anniversary this year. Today, the SBR is a hive of activity, with more than 300 candidates reading for higher degrees from all corners of the globe and across all academic disciplines, representing a diversity not easily found elsewhere. This milestone brings the opportunity to reflect on the profound and pioneering impact that post-graduate students have had on College life.



The Cambridge PhD was only introduced in 1921, and the first Johnian to be awarded a PhD was Leslie John Comrie, a student from New Zealand, in May 1924. Among the earliest cohort of post-graduate Johnians was Paul Adrian Maurice Dirac. Dirac was awarded his doctorate in Physics in June 1926 and won the Nobel Prize in Physics nine years later, in 1933; his portrait adorns the Hall now. The first woman associated with this College in any capacity was a post-graduate student at Sheffield University, Eileen Rubery, who was elected to a Meres Studentship in 1971. In 1981, nine research students were the first women to be formally admitted as members of the College.

In October 1957, the post-graduates started demanding the exclusive use of a room. By 1960, these pioneering students formed a cohesive unit and were eager to have their own representation in College, separate from the JCR. The set in I1 First Court was declared a junior common room in 1957 and named in honour of the Johnian author and poet, Samuel Butler. This room was colonised by post-graduates from its beginning, and in 1960 they made an official application for approval of their de facto occupation of the space, separate from the JCR. Eventually, the College Council accepted this new state of affairs, with the first constitution of the Samuel Butler Room Society submitted in 1968 and finally accepted in June 1973. Today, this constitution forms part of the standing orders of the College and the SBR is an integral part of the College community.

Fifty years after the events of 1960, the SBR remains true to its founding principles: 'the representation of the interests of the Graduate Student members of the College and the internal management of the Samuel Butler Room, and the provision of such entertainment and amenities as are thought fit.' The SBR has representation at all levels of the College administrative structure; graduate students are overseen by a Tutor for Graduate Affairs; a SBR Committee is elected annually to promote graduate interests. The College's newest court, Corfield Court, provides accommodation dedicated to graduate students.

This fiftieth anniversary was celebrated at a festive dinner on 20 March 2010, and we look forward to the next fifty years of research and Fellowship as a post-graduate community.

Shakir Mohamed (2007) and Margaret McCarthy (2008)
(President and Secretary of the SBR 2009-10)



Fred Hoyle: An Online Exhibition

Find out more about the life and work of Johnian astronomer Sir Fred Hoyle (1915-2001, Fellow and Honorary Fellow 1939-2001) with this new online exhibition. Created by the Library's Fred Hoyle Project, view photographs, artefacts and original documents that reveal Hoyle's inquisitive mind and combative personality. Visit:

www.joh.cam.ac.uk/library/special_collections/hoyle/exhibition

From June to October, the Library exhibition will be: Gap Years for Gentlemen: a panorama of the Grand Tour, 17th-19th century.

The Michaelmas Term Library exhibition will be: Johnian Prime Ministers: Goderich, Aberdeen and Palmerston.

The College Library is open to visitors between 9.00am and 5.00pm Monday to Friday. To find out more visit: www.joh.cam.ac.uk/library



Medical Society Alumni Dinner 2010

The Medical Society is pleased to announce the Alumni Dinner to be held on Saturday 9 October 2010. All medical alumni and current students will be invited. The Committee hope that it will be a rewarding new addition to the Society calendar, giving alumni the opportunity to come back to St John's, reconnect with old friends and pass on some of the experience they have gained during their career.

We are sure it will also prove to be an exciting and enjoyable event for present students, allowing them to meet those who have studied here in the past, gain valuable careers advice and a broader perspective on Medicine. The black tie dinner will be held in Hall, and there will be a guest speaker. Invitations will be sent out in the summer.



Johnian Women

With traditionally male dominated sports such as football now seeing a rise in popularity amongst women and this translating into successful and prominent women's teams, we met up with two Johnian women making a name for themselves on the sporting field.



Hannah Wells

Hannah Wells, captain of St John's College Women's Rugby Football Club, shares her experiences.

Women play rugby?! This was once the reaction to the thought of women playing this physically tough and challenging sport. However, it is pleasing to see women's rugby becoming ever more popular and gaining in recognition.

I was introduced to the sport by a friend from Cambridge University Air Squadron (CUAS) who encouraged me to attend a training session with Cambridge University Women's Rugby Football Club (CUWRFC). I was warmly welcomed by the girls and coaches alike. From that moment on I have been engrossed by the game. As a third year Engineering student and a member of CUAS, I seem to make a habit of being attracted to traditionally male-dominated worlds.

With training sessions four times a week and twice weekly matches it is a demanding schedule. Cuts, bruises, and even the odd broken bone, are all par for the course. Refining the art of the drop-kick, a necessary skill as I am a forward in the University team, is proving to be somewhat of a personal challenge, although it is at least the source of much amusement for the coaches! However, this is a small price to pay for the sense of elation felt when playing well. The commitment and camaraderie amongst us is phenomenal; teamwork on the pitch builds a real bond between women from all kinds of different personal and academic backgrounds. As there is such team-spirit and trust on the pitch, it is not surprising that socialising plays a key role in the whole experience too. I have made some great friends through the sport, who I am sure will remain friends for life.

The coaches are incredibly demanding but also supportive, always knowing how to get just that bit more out of us; it seems success breeds success. Last season saw CUWRFC celebrate a double victory at the annual Varsity Match against Oxford. Both matches displayed the intense rivalry and sense of pride at stake; both Blues (First Team) and Tigers (Second Team) won convincingly. This surely has to be the highlight of my rugby career so far. In addition, CUWRFC gained first place in the British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS) national league for 2008-9. Both teams are continuing to maintain this high standard of play during the current season.

Hannah is not just an integral part of the University team but also plays for the College rugby team. Though, as she explains, her route into College rugby was not conventional...

I am somewhat unusual in that I played for the University and then joined the College team; as one might expect, most play for their college first. I enjoyed playing for St John's last year in what proved to be a successful season, under the expert captaincy of Carol Evans. We fielded a strong side with some experienced players, which helped to ensure that St John's continued to be one of the most successful teams of recent years.

I now have the honour of holding the position of captain for St John's. From the outset this has proved to be a challenging role as we suffered a huge setback last summer when most of the team graduated. October saw us undertake a huge recruitment drive for new players and often those that join the team have never played rugby before coming to University.

With a newly formed team, our first game of the season proved to be a steep learning curve, but what was lacked in skill and experience was made up for in sheer guts and determination. We have benefitted greatly from the able and enthusiastic coaching of Chris Hall, Ben Wilson and Rory Van Zwanenberg and greatly appreciate the encouragement given by our male counterparts. It is a thoroughly enjoyable sport, a great way to make new friends and, as they say, 'character building' in the best possible sense.



in Sport...



Ellie Fielding

Ellie Fielding, a second year Biological Anthropology student, has been playing cricket since she was nine. She is now captain of the Cambridge Women's team that last year beat Oxford at Lords by ten wickets and was promoted to the premier league of University cricket.

Inspired by the international success of the England Women's cricket team, Fielding has aspirations for Cambridge to secure a top position in the league and to challenge the leaders Loughborough, half of whose players are in the England squad. In recognition of this success, Ellie led a campaign to raise the status of Cambridge cricket to full Blue status, joining football as a leading University sport for women. Speaking to Ellie it was clear she was delighted to get Blues recognition from the University: 'It shows they understand not only how hard we've worked and how far we've come but also that the standard of women's cricket is very high indeed.'


At primary school in Torquay, Ellie started with kwik cricket plastic bats and balls and then moved on to become Devon U15 player of the year and toured St Lucia. She was captain of the county girls U17 team but has also played in male teams since she was 13. She became captain of the Torquay Boys team at U17 level and in the summer of 2008 became the first ever woman to captain a men's team in the Devon League when she became skipper of Torquay 2nd XI.

'The only way to improve,' she says, 'is to play against strong teams and playing against men is a great challenge. Women aren't as strong but can win with technical skill and by playing the game differently.' Ellie says that she hasn't found any discrimination in the men's game. 'In fact,' says Fielding 'there is a very good acceptance of women in cricket now and playing against men can actually be an advantage. No one wants to get bowled out by "the girl", so they get more stressed and I get them out!'

As an accurate right arm off spinner Ellie has got the best bowling average in the Cambridge team of 6.7. Her best match figures last season were 3 for 10.


When not captaining the Cricket team, Ellie also strokes the John's Women's first boat, and plays in the John's netball and football teams. She started playing for John's men's cricket but couldn't fit it all in to her busy schedule.

Although Fielding wants to win, it's the camaraderie that gets her up so early in the morning. 'I am really enjoying my time at John's and it's a great privilege to play for the University. We've got strength and depth in the Cambridge team but it's the team spirit that wins us matches – if

you don't love being together and playing in the team you won't have a great time and you won't have the edge.' 



Field Sports Campaign Launch

In celebration of the launch of the St John's College Field Sports Campaign a reception will be held for invited Johnians at One Great George Street, London on Wednesday 28 April 2010. The Campaign has benefited from a £1 million donation from an anonymous foundation to establish a matched funding scheme for field sports. It is hoped that this will encourage Johnians to get involved with the Campaign and offer their support to this important area of College life. The evening's entertainment will include the Johnian jazz trio, Classico Latino (previously featured in the *Johnian News* Michaelmas 2009 issue) and Johnians will take on students in a sports quiz, to be hosted by St John's own Dr Dick McConnel. 



Hidden Gems of the Chapel

The College Chapel, designed by Sir George Gilbert Scott and built between 1866 and 1869, was built to replace the old Chapel, the foundations of which remain visible in First Court. The new building, while familiar to most Johnians, is home to myriad details which can easily go unnoticed. Just a few of them are brought to light here.

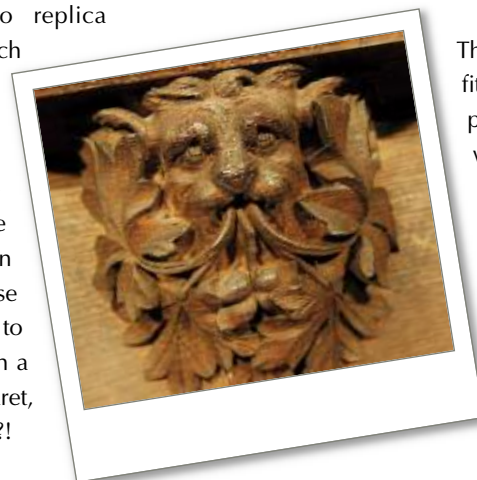


The coat of arms of Bishop John Fisher, confessor to Lady Margaret Beaufort, was scratched off the arch later retrieved from his chantry when all signs of allegiance to Fisher were removed following his opposition to Henry VIII's divorce to Catherine of Aragon and the Act of Succession. The coat of arms, incorporating Fisher's rebus, a fish over an ear of wheat, can be seen on the two replica arches, which are positioned either side of the

original. Henry VIII, sovereign when the College was founded, is himself depicted above the main entrance, together with Queen Victoria, during whose reign the new Chapel was built. And who better to accompany that king than Bishop Fisher, standing on a depiction of vice, accompanied by Lady Margaret, holding her College with ignorance beneath her feet?!



In the antechapel sits a statue of James Wood (1778), who came to the College as a sizar, being unable to afford the fees and whose ghost is said to roam the stairs over the kitchens where he lived as a student. Wood went on to become Master of the College (1815-39) and left a legacy which included contributions towards the building of the Chapel and New Court. Above the portrait of Lady Margaret Beaufort is his hatchment. This was traditionally hung over the door of the deceased's house before being moved to the parish church, and depicts aspects of a person's life and achievements.



The rear row in the choir stalls is fitted with hinged seats designed to provide a ledge to lean against when standing. As in many churches and cathedrals, these misericords are ornately carved. Amongst the stalls salvaged from the old Chapel hide an eagle and a bat, while a green man can be found under the stalls commissioned for the new Chapel.



Johnians who left the College before 1980 may not recognise the paintings which decorate the vaulted wooden ceiling above the nave, which illustrate the eighteen Christian centuries up to the construction of the Chapel. The

cartoons in the side Chapel are in fact architect's drawings for ceiling figures but Saint Edmund, patron saint of East Anglia, is the only one of these to appear on the ceiling. In contrast to the nave, the ceiling of the antechapel is vaulted in stone to support the tower above it, but clad in wood which is also richly decorated, but is far less visible because it has not been cleaned!

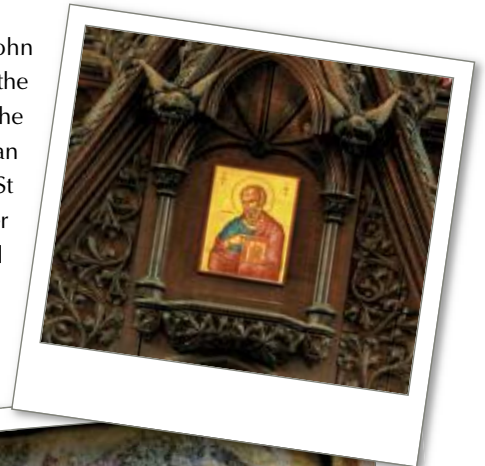
Amongst the vividly coloured pillars of Devonshire, Irish and Serpentine marbles which adorn the apse is the oldest part of the Chapel: the arches of the piscina from the old Chapel have been incorporated into the credence table. The table of the piscina originally included two basins, the western was a plain circular shape while the eastern was a trefoiled circle.



The many biblical scenes depicted in the stained glass windows, produced by Clayton and Bell between 1866 and 1869, include an image of St John in a barrel of boiling oil before the Port Latin Gate, the event commemorated by the Port Latin feast held in College every year.



The image of St John displayed at the top of the screen was a gift to the College from the Russian Orthodox Parish of St Ephraim the Syrian after they had used the Chapel over the course of a summer while Westcott House was out of use.



This painting of a hand was found during work on the Hall in 1927, but we are not sure what it is or where it has come from. It may be from a wall painting depicting the crucifixion or an image of Christ displaying his wounds.

Among the paintings on the ceiling of the nave is Isaac Newton, with an apple by his feet, but we are not sure what is in his hands. Is it an armillary sphere or something else entirely? 🌀



Johnians are welcome to attend Evensong in term time, which may allow them to take a closer look at the Chapel. The antechapel is open to visitors every day. For details about Chapel services or hiring the Chapel facilities, please visit www.joh.cam.ac.uk/chapel_and_choir or contact Stephen Stokes, Chapel Clerk, 01223 338676 or s.v.stokes@joh.cam.ac.uk.

Student News

Making our Mark – Women at St John’s

The foundation of the St John’s College Women’s Society (SJC WS) in 2007 coincided with the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of women’s admission to the College and emphasised the important contribution made by women to the College community.



The Women’s Society kick-starts the academic year with our popular presentation, ‘All about a Junior Research Fellowship’, which attracts over a hundred students. This event is followed by further inspiring talks from prestigious speakers on a variety of topics. Dame Sian Elias, the first woman to hold the post of Honourable Chief Justice of New Zealand, spoke to us about her fascinating career defending the rights of the Maori people. Gwenne Henricks, Vice-President of Caterpillar, explained how she reached the top position of a male-dominated industry and Jolien Veldwijk, from Concordis International, talked about her active involvement in projects in Afghanistan and The Democratic Republic of the Congo, which encourage peace-building processes and strengthen the position of women in these countries.

The Women’s Society provides a range of social activities and prides itself on the establishment of the first ‘Parents Group’ in College to enhance participation in College life for students with families. The Society has rapidly become an integral part of St John’s and has shaped the College landscape in terms of awareness of women, families and a range of contemporary issues faced by students of both sexes. We aim to actively pursue the promotion of women’s representation throughout the College hierarchy and look forward to making our mark on St John’s College for many years to come.

Simona Giunta (2006) – Founder and President 2007-2010
Carla Lancelotti (2006) – Treasurer 2007-2009 and Webmaster 2007-2010



The Global Poverty Project

The aim: to catalyse the movement to end extreme poverty. The technique: by clearly and simply illustrating the opportunities and challenges through the 90-minute presentation, ‘1.4 Billion Reasons’.



The Global Poverty Project was launched at the UN High Level Event on the Millennium Development Goals in 2008 and is supported by the UK Government. The idea behind the Project is to educate and raise awareness about extreme poverty. The uncomfortable truth, which many prefer to ignore, is that 1.4 billion people live on less than \$1.25 a day. If public opinion can be changed it is much more likely that action will be taken (be that on an individual or a collective level).

Hugh Evans, the founder of the Project, is currently studying at Cambridge and has set up a Cambridge team of students and local residents. A number of Johnian students and alumni have supported the Project, with recent graduate Matti Navellou (2006) now working for the Project full-time. This year the team has organised the presentation on 26 February in Cambridge, and has built How-To guides to provide detailed information about how each individual can take action.

St John’s College has been inspirational in its support of the Project, sponsoring both the launch in Cambridge last year and the presentation this year, and providing publicity. The Master has been hugely supportive and spoke at both the launch and the presentation, while the Gentlemen of St John’s have supported the Project through the sales of their recent CD. It has been exciting to see such a close bond develop between the College and the Project and we hope that St John’s will continue to play a leading role in the movement.

Merrow Golden (2007)

For more information about The Global Poverty Project please visit www.globalpovertyproject.com



The Paul Beard Sports Fund



Paul Beard (1984)



Paul celebrating the 1987 win with Nigel Topping and Jim Freeman



The 1987 Varsity Match

1986-87	1987-88
M.P. TOPPING	P. HEALY
P.A. BEARD	G.A. POINTER
G.A. POINTER	C.F. CALDERWOOD
N.P.W. BOOT	J.P. FREEMAN
M.S. HILLARD	N.P. TOPPING
D. ALLOCHURCH	P.L. BEARD
A.J. BEETHAM	A. JONES
C.D. MOORE	I.W.R. SINGLETON
N.E.J. HAMPSON	N.A. ALLEN
A. JONES	N.J. WATSON
I.W.R. SINGLETON	S.P. PAVES
J.P. FREEMAN	N.E.J. HAMPSON
J.J. KRUMINS	J.R. HOPE
S. CORBITT	W.L. SCHOFIELD
C. HEWITT	J.S. ALLISON
W.J. MALLISTER	J.C.K. CUMBERIDGE
N.J. PILGRIM	J.P.S. JONES
	I.H. DAVIES
	W.J. MALLISTER
	J.S. PLATTS
	A.J. BEETHAM
	C.D. MOORE
	D. ALLOCHURCH
	J.P.B. HALL
	N.P.W. BOOT
	M.S. HILLARD

It was Paul Beard's love of sport that drove him during his time at St John's and continued to inspire him throughout his life.

Blessed with a natural athleticism and inimitable competitive spirit, Paul was widely known among his contemporaries for his outstanding contribution to College sporting life. Following two years as a bench replacement in the Varsity Match, Paul stepped out at Twickenham in 1987 with two other Johnnians, Jim Freeman and Nigel Topping, and played a crucial role in the 15-10 Cambridge victory. Paul also represented the College in hockey and waterpolo, captained

the College cricket club, and took a keen interest in swimming and squash.

After graduating, Paul poured his enthusiasm and dedication to sport into helping others, in particular young

people, to take part. He was widely regarded in his local community as a sportsman and leader, being credited with the rejuvenation of Berkhamsted Raiders Football Club. As a qualified level 2 coach he was also instrumental in the training of junior cricket players for the Berkhamsted Cricket Club.

Following his sudden passing last year, a number of Paul's close Johnnian friends were inspired to create a College fund in his memory. Paul's passion for sport and his dedication to helping others are commemorated by an endowment fund to help Johnnian men and women meet the costs of taking part in sporting activities. Income from the fund will be used 'to contribute towards the expenses of Johnnians playing University or College sport with a preference for rugby, cricket, hockey, football, racquet sports, swimming and waterpolo'. The fund has already raised in excess of £40,000 and will make its first awards this academic year.

The College plans to build on the generosity of Paul's family and friends by inviting others to contribute to the fund. If you would like to make a donation, please visit our Campaign website www.joh.cam.ac.uk/johnnian/campaign, or contact the Development Office by telephone on 01223 330723 or by email development@joh.cam.ac.uk.



Spotlight on Admissions

With universities' admissions policies and trends regularly hitting the headlines, we asked members of St John's to share their experiences of the admissions process.



Alice Meredith and James Gill

Alice Meredith, JCR Access Officer & second year Philosophy student

Talking with school pupils during open days, school visits and the shadowing scheme reveals just how many terrifying myths about applying to Cambridge there are to dispel. Many pupils think they won't stand a chance either applying or once they get here; that the interviews exist to catch people out; that they won't fit in with people here; are unaware of the financial support that College can provide; or believe that students spend every waking hour cramming in musty libraries. Not likely! Just spending a couple of hours with undergraduates quickly dispels these misconceptions, and my role is to find some friendly St John's students to chat with school pupils and show them what life here is really like. And if a teacher says their pupils want to see a student room, it'll be me who's gathering up ancient mugs and shoving them into the sink, before subjecting my poster collection to critical inspection by a dozen teenagers!

College aims to make the admissions process as straightforward as possible and, however scary the interviews may be, you quickly realise that it doesn't matter where you came from, it's an opportunity to spend an hour with an incredibly intelligent person who wants to discover your potential. It's important for us to make sure that bright students from every background realise that applying is worth the effort, and to ensure that St John's remains a place with a diverse group of students and a fantastic atmosphere.

James Gill, first year Mathematics student

When I started looking into degree courses I was hesitant about applying to Oxford or Cambridge. My reasons are shared by many sixth formers; there had been very few successful applicants from my school in the last decade, and I thought it would be a hassle, with the interview, extra tests and forms. I was also concerned about the atmosphere: would everyone be too busy working? Would it be too expensive? However, I applied for the Shadowing Scheme run by CUSU – for pupils in state sixth forms which rarely send people to Oxbridge – and was allocated an undergraduate at St John's. It's remarkable the effect of actually being in the environment for a couple of days, seeing supervisions and formal hall, and talking to current students. It was great fun! I left enthused and sure it was worth an application at least. There was a talk from an admissions tutor who cleared up worries about the nature of the interviews and the Supplementary Application Questionnaire. It also allowed me to correct some of the misinformation I encountered at school. For example, it was suggested to me more than once that I would have a better chance if I submitted an open application, which was not the case. In the end I was successful in my application, which I may not have made without the work of access at this College.

Chris Cotton, Schools Liaison Officer

All Cambridge colleges know that they can attract thousands of vastly intelligent students from around the country without putting any great effort into doing so. But they have also, in the last decade or so, become more aware of their responsibility to recruit an undergraduate body which more fairly represents the spread of talent across the school population, and to ensure that all those with the intellectual capacity to thrive at Cambridge have the confidence to apply.

In this respect the admissions process begins long before an applicant submits his or her form. Colleges now appreciate that the process of opening themselves up to gifted school students who might otherwise be reluctant to apply must start many years in advance. As Schools Liaison Officer I work with secondary school students of all ages. With those who have taken their GCSEs the task is twofold. I inform them about the Tripos system, student finance, writing effective personal statements and preparing for interview. More challengingly, I aim to normalise Cambridge and St John's as an emotionally and financially viable

option for any highly capable student, whilst emphasising that studying here represents a huge academic undertaking. Visits to the College are key to this, as is interaction with current undergraduates and Fellows.

I also promote participation in further and higher education to younger school pupils. The focus is much less Cambridge-centric, and I concentrate on discussing the intellectual, social, and



Chris Cotton

professional advantages of continuing in education past the age of sixteen and how their attainment at school can influence their options once compulsory schooling has come to an end.

St John's recently acquired five new link areas, towards which most of my efforts will be directed: Bolton, Rochdale, Blackburn with Darwen, Shropshire, and Telford with Wrekin will join Lambeth, with which we have an established relationship through the EAGLE project. I would be delighted to hear from students or Fellows who would like to be involved in the new schools liaison programme, especially those who grew up and went to school in one of our new link areas. I would also be very pleased to hear from Johnians who work in education and to arrange events for pupils.

Dr Helen Watson, Admissions Tutor

St John's receives over 800 applications for undergraduate courses each year, and is able to make in the region of 170 offers. To these applications, we never apply any form of positive discrimination, whether on the grounds of race, gender or school background. Furthermore, the admissions process is needs-blind: it is essential, if we are to be able to offer places to those applicants with the most potential to thrive here, that an offer should not be dependent on ability to pay. We are in

the fortunate position of being able to offer a number of hardship grants so that no student should have to leave St John's for financial reasons. The College community then benefits from a diverse student population of the brightest young minds.

Of course, each applicant's experience is different and some will have been presented with a more challenging education



Dr Helen Watson

and greater opportunities to broaden their horizons than others. This is where the interviews are crucial: we look for how an applicant uses their knowledge to deal with questions that they have not previously encountered. Every piece of information with which we are provided will be carefully considered when deciding whether an applicant has the potential and enthusiasm for their subject to be able to thrive at St John's. This includes exam grades, predicted grades, national or University admissions tests as well as information about the school attended and problems such as lack of teaching staff. After two interviews, extra details such as class size, taking on part-time work and the school's average performance compared to the applicant's can make the difference to an application by providing evidence of excellent potential. And if an applicant chooses to mention a family connection to the College or University, the antics of their forebears will not be held against them!



If you would like to find out more about the admissions process at St John's, see www.joh.cam.ac.uk/admissions or contact the Admissions Office: admissions@joh.cam.ac.uk or 01223 338703 or 338685.

St John's Innovation Centre



You may have heard of St John's Innovation Centre, but what is its purpose? Here is an inside look at what goes on there...

St John's Innovation Centre (SJIC) is an incubator for knowledge-based enterprises in their early stages, offering flexible accommodation and assistance with setting up and running a business. The Innovation Centre was opened in 1987 as part of St John's Innovation Park, which now hosts a number of other buildings occupied by knowledge-based companies. The development was the brainchild of Christopher Johnson, Senior Bursar from 1970 to 1991, and was inspired by his visits to US universities and science parks. Trinity College had opened the Cambridge Science Park in 1970, and St John's also decided to invest in the growth of 'Silicon Fen': the growing cluster of high-technology industries in the Cambridge region. St John's Innovation Centre Ltd is wholly owned by the College, which remains involved in the running of the business, and is led by Managing Director David Gill.

The 1990s saw two important developments: the addition of Dirac House (named after Professor Paul Dirac, Fellow of the College from 1927 to 1984 and winner of the 1933 Nobel Prize in Physics) to create more office space within SJIC itself; and the construction of the Jeffreys Building next door (named after Professor Sir Harold Jeffreys, Fellow 1914-1989, whose

work led to the revival of Bayesian probability) to offer suitable units for mid-tier firms.

The Centre itself now provides 53,000 square feet of business accommodation for around sixty companies, each typically employing between two and twenty people. Tenants benefit from the Centre's 'street' layout, which encourages formal and informal contacts with other companies. Approximately 15% of tenants on site offer services directly relevant to high-tech start-ups; occupants include intellectual property solicitors, a web designer, a recruitment firm, and marketing and accounting specialists.

The Centre's activities go much further than provision of business accommodation and conference facilities. Regular lunchtime seminars are organised for tenants on subjects such as tax and accounting for start-ups, dealing with difficult people and changes to company law.

Promoting enterprise across the region...

With funding from government agencies, SJIC offers free business advice services to growing firms across the region, not only its tenants. The Centre is one of the Enterprise Hubs recognised by the East of England Development Agency (EEDA). Regular meetings with other Enterprise Hubs encourage the sharing of better practice and the evolution of new services for tenants. The Centre recently began to deliver the 'Inspiration for

Growth Programme' on behalf of the Greater Cambridge Partnership, an association of public, private, academic and community interests in the region, which enables these sectors to cooperate in increasing economic opportunities. Inspiration for Growth will work with any Cambridgeshire-based company with fewer than 50 employees and an annual turnover below €10 million. The package of support available includes individual surgeries and attendance at relevant workshops throughout the year.

The business services offered by the Centre do not end

advice and the partnership has also established the Entrepreneurship & Innovation Exchange website to facilitate interaction in the sector across Europe and beyond: eandix.ning.com

Showcasing tomorrow's successes

Returning closer to home, SJIC organises the Cambridge Enterprise Conference, the first of which took place in the College's Fisher Building in 1997. These events are aimed mainly at innovative firms and bring in leading practitioners



Accommodation at SJIC


- Office space from 100 to 2,500 sq ft.
- Premises fitted out to individual requirements.
- Notice period from one month.
- Star Service for businesses in the inception phase: 'Star' or virtual tenants use the Centre as a business address. Meeting/conference facilities can be booked as and when required.
- 'Hot desking' service: hire broadband-enabled desks with a printer from one hour. Access to other facilities on site, such as the restaurant and common room.

there. Drawing on his experience in banking and venture capital, David Gill and his experienced management team run a series of workshops for businesses in the East of England looking for external funding. These 'Understanding Finance for Business' workshops are provided free of charge thanks to funding from EEDA, which selected SJIC to deliver the initiative because of its track-record in assisting growth firms and its expertise in finance.

...and throughout Europe

SJIC is also the co-ordinator of an EU initiative, the Achieve More Partnership (AMP), which brings together incubators and clusters across the EU to share tools and practices that benefit knowledge-intensive firms. Many of the findings of AMP will be fed back to the European Commission as policy

and researchers from around the world to broaden the horizons of entrepreneurs in their early years. Recent themes have included internationalisation and accelerating growth. The eleventh Cambridge Enterprise conference is due to take place in April 2011, with a press day in September 2010 to showcase some of the most promising recent Cambridge start-ups.

As an incubator, St John's Innovation Centre not only provides business accommodation and services to its tenants but also promotes innovation-based enterprise at a regional and European level. Some of SJIC's success stories grew from the research conducted at the University, such as E-Stack, an award-winning spin-out formed in 2006 to provide low-energy ventilation systems, co-founded by Professor Woods (1982). Other Johnian business triumphs include Global Inkjet Systems, co-founded by Nick Geddes (1995), and Datanomic, co-founded by Richard Marsh (1989). 

To find out more, visit www.stjohns.co.uk



Acknowledgements

With thanks to David Gill, Managing Director of St John's Innovation Centre, and Professor Ian Hutchings, Chairman of St John's Innovation Centre Ltd and Fellow of the College, for their assistance with this article.

Global Inkjet Systems

Setting up his own business was not immediately on Nick Geddes' mind when he graduated from St John's in 1998 with a degree in Computer Science and fond memories of three years rowing for Lady Margaret.


During his six years in investment banking Nick found he really missed the challenge and excitement of new and evolving technologies, so he made a bold move – he quit his job and joined a small Cambridge-based software consultancy where he developed software solutions for industrial inkjet (digital) printing systems.

However, this still didn't satisfy Nick's craving for technological challenges. In the context of inkjet printing he could see great potential for integrated solutions involving both hardware and software, but could only realise his vision by striking out on his own. He was fortunate in teaming up with Jim Brotton, a highly experienced electronics engineer and successful high-tech entrepreneur. Together they founded Global Inkjet Systems (GIS) in late 2006 and moved into premises in St John's Innovation Centre. Their first fully integrated printhead operating system was ready to go to market early in 2007, and customers were delighted with the result!

Since then the business has grown from strength to strength, taking on new staff, developing an impressive portfolio of

products and acquiring new customers throughout the world. The company currently operates with six full-time staff and draws on a pool of highly experienced part-time engineering and technology specialists on a project by project basis. SJIC has proved to be an ideal location during the start-up phase, giving GIS exceptional support and the flexibility to move into larger premises as the company has grown.

It hasn't all been a bed of roses for GIS, though. At the beginning of the credit crunch, a large customer GIS had come to depend on was closed down by its parent, leaving a significant revenue gap. Fortunately, thanks to a buoyant market for GIS products, the company quickly diversified its customer base, but it was a salutary lesson not to become overly dependent on any one customer.

GIS has always aimed to be self-funded and keeping an eagle eye on cash flow – the killer of so many start-up companies – has been an absolute must. Finding and retaining talented staff within the competitive Cambridge arena is also a significant challenge, but GIS is confident that its thriving business and open company culture will continue to attract the right applicants and help support significant future growth. 

For more information visit www.globalinkjetsystems.com.

Datanomic

Datanomic is a software business founded in 2001 by Dr Richard Marsh (1989). The idea for the business came from experience of trying to resolve problems for large companies which held lots of information on databases and were suffering because of errors and inconsistencies in this data. It seemed likely to be a widespread problem that would only worsen as the amount of information stored in databases increased.

Setting up the business in Cambridge had the advantage that there were many people nearby willing to offer advice and share experience: Walter Herriot, then Director of St John's Innovation Centre, was one of these.

With seed funding provided by business angels, Datanomic started trading in June 2001. Over the next two years a small but very hard-working team fought hard to win customers for its new ideas, and successfully built up a high profile set of clients.

In 2003 Datanomic secured venture capital funding, moved to the Jeffreys Building adjacent to SJIC, and expanded the team. Several key

people who had been involved with another successful Cambridge start up – Geneva Technology – joined Datanomic and were instrumental in continuing its growth. The current CEO of Datanomic was one of the Geneva team.

Against the backdrop of a difficult 2009, Datanomic continued to grow its sales and delivered record results – in part thanks to lessons learned from operating in difficult times in its early days. The company recently signed a deal with Barclays Bank, which will implement the software internationally to perform data checking as part of its anti-money laundering regulatory compliance. Later in the year, Vodafone won an industry award for its use of Datanomic's software as part of its mobile phone money transfer service in emerging markets. Over 150 blue-chip clients are now using the Datanomic software.

Richard Marsh left Datanomic in 2005 after four years as CEO to pursue an MBA at IMD in Lausanne, Switzerland, and now works as a venture capital investor in technology companies. 

The Campaign Board

The Campaign Board was formed in 2008 to bring together a group of Johnians to act as advocates and ambassadors for the Johnian community and to provide the College with informed advice as the Campaign progresses. The Board is formed of 18 alumni, together with senior members of the College. We are now at the halfway point in the Campaign, with the aim of raising £50 million by the end of 2012. The funds raised are directed towards four key areas: attracting the best, furthering academic excellence, enhancing College life and strengthening the endowment. To find out more about the St John's College Campaign, visit: www.joh.cam.ac.uk/johnian/campaign



Jeremy Marshall

Jeremy is Chairman of the Campaign Board. He graduated in 1984 having read History at St John's and since then has worked in the City in private banking. He is currently CEO of C.Hoare and Co, the UK's oldest private bank. Asked for his reasons on getting involved with the Campaign, Jeremy said 'I feel a deep debt of gratitude for

everything that St John's gave me and I think this is a very small way of giving something back. I am also involved with the Woodland Trust and we all benefit today from the foresight and generosity of our ancestors

who planted and cared for, say, an oak tree, which can live for up to 900 years. I think we have a similar responsibility to try and help those coming after us at St John's, for example by strengthening the College's endowment. This has been well managed over recent years but urgently needs more funds to help us remain among the world's greatest institutions. But the Campaign is not ultimately just about raising money. It is much more about deepening the ties that bind each of us to the College. We all probably remember being told on matriculation: once a Johnian always a Johnian. The Campaign should be above all concerned with making us all feel even more part of St John's and there are many ways this can be done: for example, it is very helpful having alumni speak about their time at St John's to schools.'



Heather Hancock

I matriculated in 1984, and read Geography (Part 1A) and Land Economy (Part 1B, II) – it was a passion for Land Economy that brought me to Cambridge, and a lucky break that brought me to St John's. After graduating I practised as a land agent for a short while with Carter Jonas, but found it a 'dead men's shoes' career in those

days. I moved into the public sector, with a variety of roles: highlights included being Private Secretary to three Home Secretaries, the first Chief Executive of The Millennium Commission, and running the Yorkshire Dales National Park. In 2003 I joined Deloitte as a Partner in their Consulting practice. I was elected to the Board of the firm in 2006, and in 2008 was made Managing Partner for Innovation and Brand and joined the UK Executive. I lead Deloitte's public sector strategy capability, and our Olympic services globally including our sponsorship of London 2012. Outside of work, I have been a Trustee of The Prince's Trust for ten years, chaired the BBC's Rural Affairs Committee for eight years and am a Governor of Giggleswick School. I'm married to Mark Hancock (Hughes Hall 1987, Blues Captain) and have two sons; I'm a passionate gardener and a very bad shot. I joined the Campaign Board because I want to make sure the College can give more people like me, from schools with no Cambridge experience or contacts, the opportunity for a life changing education.



Alec Callander

I matriculated in 1979 to read Mathematics. After graduation I joined Baillie Gifford, which at the time was a small firm of institutional investment managers in Edinburgh, employing 35 people and managing £500 million. I started off as a trainee investment manager, managed portfolios for a few years and then moved onto the client side

of the business, trying to win and then look after large UK pension fund mandates. Over the last nine years, as Joint Senior Partner, I have been involved with the internal management of the business, which has become much more complex, as we now have 650 staff and manage £55 billion.

I became involved with the Campaign when I wrote to the Vice-Chancellor contrasting my experience giving a donation to the College (easy) to giving to the University (not so easy!) and made a couple of suggestions. I was then asked to join the University's Campaign Council to represent the College. I subsequently joined the College's Campaign Board when it was set up.



The Beaufort Society



BEAUFORT SOCIETY
ST JOHN'S COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

The Beaufort Society was founded by St John's in 2009 to recognise the contribution of those promising a donation to the College via a will or estate plan.



The Society is named in honour of the College's Foundress and first legacy donor, Lady Margaret Beaufort, and has adopted the Beaufort motto, *Souvent me souvient*, and Lady Margaret's flower, the marguerite, as its emblem.

The Society already has over a hundred members who will be invited to an annual event, enabling them to keep in touch with the College and each other. Members are also presented with a silver membership pin in the shape of a marguerite, a symbol of their special connection to St John's.

The Society launched last year at its inaugural event in October, and will meet again on Saturday 30 October 2010. Further details will be available later this year.

To find out more about the Beaufort Society or about leaving a legacy to St John's please contact:
Sarah Westwood, Development Office, St John's College,
Cambridge CB2 1TP, UK Email: s.westwood@joh.cam.ac.uk
Tel: +44 (0) 1223 330724 

Souvent me souvient:



Henry Dowson (1964), more commonly known as Harry, contributed much to mathematics through his academic work, and a great deal to his friends through the quiet warmth of his personality. His life demonstrates the transformative power of education when combined with talent and strength of character. Harry spent only a brief time at St John's, but it was a period of his life he never forgot, and one that is commemorated by his extraordinarily generous gift to the College in his will.

Harry was born in 1939 in Newcastle upon Tyne to parents who were both in service; his father, Ridley, was a gardener and his mother, Frances, a lady's maid. Harry was a bright child and gained a scholarship to the Royal Grammar School in Newcastle, where he won prizes in mathematics and chemistry, ultimately gaining a Ministry of Education State Scholarship to King's College, Newcastle, now Newcastle University. He was once again a prize-winning student, and gained a First in Mathematics with special honours in 1960. He stayed on for a PhD in Functional Analysis under the supervision of Dr John Ringrose, funded by a

Henry Richard Dowson FRSE (1939-2008)

'You could easily make a big mistake about Harry. If you saw him wandering down the street you could conclude he was nobody special. It took time to appreciate his intelligence, integrity and quietly understated kindness. Everyone had a soft spot for Harry, even colleagues who could not agree about anything else.'


Dr Neil Dickson

Government Research Studentship. When Dr Ringrose moved to Cambridge to take up a Fellowship at St John's in 1961, Harry came with him and spent two years here before completing his PhD in 1964. This achievement is all the more remarkable given that during this time Harry contracted tuberculosis, and spent more than one term in Papworth Hospital.

After leaving Cambridge, Harry pursued a successful academic career, holding teaching posts in the Universities of Swansea, Newcastle and Illinois, before moving to the University of Glasgow, where he remained for the rest of his life, attaining a Readership in 1975. He was elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 1978, the same year in which he published his book, *The Spectral Theory of Linear Operators*, which has served as an essential reference on the subject ever since. His contribution to mathematics was significant with 26 papers to his name. After taking early retirement in 1990, he continued his research, remaining a member of the University of Glasgow's Department of Mathematics and a central figure on the editorial team of the *Glasgow Mathematical Journal*.

He made many friends at Glasgow and his former colleague, friend and executor, Neil Dickson, recalls Harry's encouragement of more junior researchers and his generosity to newly arrived students from overseas. Harry led a simple, bachelor life, enjoying collecting coins and stamps and the

pleasures of a good malt whisky. He also took a great deal of satisfaction in managing his investments and built a fortune out of a modest income, very little of which he spent on himself. Harry chose to leave the bulk of that fortune, nearly £1 million, to St John's. The College clearly meant a great deal to him and he came back at regular intervals, most recently to the Alumni Weekend in 2007. In addition to his memories of a happy time at St John's there is perhaps another reason for his attachment. In his later years Harry researched his family history and discovered that he was a member of a line of Johnians on his father's side: the Featherstonhaughs. One of Harry's ancestors, the Rev Henry Featherstonhaugh (1712), served as Foundress Fellow from 1717-1729, and it must have given Harry a great deal of pleasure to uncover this link and to know that his legacy would commemorate a Johnian family connection.

This quiet, unassuming man was at St John's for quite a short, and not untroubled, time and went on to achieve many other successes elsewhere. Nevertheless he was immensely proud to have studied at St John's. He is remembered with great affection by those who knew him, and by the College he loved so well. 

We gratefully acknowledge the assistance of Dr Neil Dickson and Professor John Ringrose FRS. The photograph is reproduced by kind permission of Dr Simon Wassermann.

Development News

St John's Online Community



Become a fan of the College on Facebook! You can join our growing online community, which features regular updates of College news, events and photos of St John's: www.facebook.com/stjohnscambridge. You can also stay in touch with your fellow alumni by joining the St John's College, Cambridge group on LinkedIn.

Launching very soon will be our regular e-newsletter. Please make sure we have your preferred email address by emailing development@joh.cam.ac.uk.



Johnian Dinners

The College Council has approved some changes to the schedule of Johnian Dinners. There will be two dinners, as usual, in March and June of each year. In addition, there will be a Johnian Lunch, to take place in June, to which Johnians and their guests will be invited. The changes have been made to enable as many Johnians as possible to return to College for Johnian Dinners and incorporate the 25 and 50 Year Reunion Dinners.

The schedule for the next ten years is as below and can also be viewed on our webpages.



	Spring Dinner	Summer Dinner	Summer Lunch	25 Years Since Matriculation	50 Years Since Matriculation
2010	1978, 1979	1950, 1971, 1972	1965, 1966	1985	1960
2011	1991, 1992	1952, 1953, 1956	1998, 1999	1986	1961
2012	1980, 1981	1957, 1973, 1974	1967, 1968	1987	1962
2013	1993, 1994	1954, 1955, 1958	2000, 2001	1988	1963
2014	1982, 1983	1959, 1975, 1976	1969, 1970	1989	1964
2015	1995, 1996	1956, 1957, 1960	2002, 2003	1990	1965
2016	1984, 1985	1961, 1977, 1978	1971, 1972	1991	1966
2017	1997, 1988	1958, 1959, 1962	2004, 2005	1992	1967
2018	1986, 1987	1963, 1979, 1980	1973, 1974	1993	1968
2019	1999, 2000	1960, 1961, 1964	2006, 2007	1994	1969
2020	1988, 1999	1965, 1981, 1982	1975, 1976	1995	1970

Calling all non-members!

The Johnian Society is delighted to invite all remaining non-members to join the Society, with the life membership fee of £25 optional for a limited time.

Membership entitles you to:

- The opportunity to stay connected as a Johnian to the College and to other Johnians, enabling you to make a real difference by participating in the life and development of the College;
- Representation, via Committee members, on the College's Development Committee and more widely via a vibrant relationship between the Committee and the College;

- Access to Society events, often at a reduced fee;
- Supporting current students through bursaries and travel exhibitions.

To become a member or to check your status, contact the Development Office on 01223 338700 or development@joh.cam.ac.uk.

Details of this year's annual dinner, which will take place on Saturday 11 September, may be found with the form enclosed with this *Johnian News*.



Missing Johnnians



1971 Matriculation photograph

We have lost touch with Johnnians from the following selection of matriculation years. If you have any information about their whereabouts, we would be grateful if you would contact the Development Office: email development@joh.cam.ac.uk or telephone 01223 338700. Please note that we believe these details to be correct at the time of going to press.

1971	Kenneth P Langley	1972	Alan D Marter
John A Balkoski (Jr)	Standish Lester	Kayode Adetugbo	Stephen J Maxfield
Nicholas A Burton	Nicholas Lomonossoff	Philip M Beart	John W Miller
John R Carr	Saleem T Malik	David Beswick	John L Mills
Raymond W Cowie	Philip McCarthy	Alan J Bishop	John R Morris
Leslie Croxford	Geoffrey P Mountain	Guillermo A Cardenas y Vazquez	John C Muir
Christopher D Cutter	Godwin K Nukunya	Derek N Carstens	Eddy C Ndekwu
William B Dendy	Colin G Penny	David R Case	Christopher L Rich
Stephen Entwistle	Stephen J Prosser	Christopher M Chaplin	Michael J Seltman
Geoffrey T Fergusson	Fernando Rello	Robert M Cooper	Paul M Slater
Simon D Foxall	Roy A Rosenzweig	Robert A Corlett	Christopher P Smith
Hernán F Fuenzalida	Griffith O Rowlands	Trevor J Downing	James A Smith
Keith Gibbs	Richard K Shead	Harold H Dressler	Michael J Turner
Jon L Heberling	Clive G Smith	Jonathan R Dutton	Peter J Webb
Robert M Hill	David M Thomas	Peter H Flack	Michael W Wood
Anthony J Hillyard	Paul W Vann	Michael J Grist	
Derek I Hughes	Kabiridin M Walji	Robin Haigh	
James J Hughes Jr	Martin H Webber	Kenneth Hughes	
David Johnstone	Philip J Wilkinson	Sarath K Jayakody	
Sean Keohane	Lewis Willmott	Kiyomi Kawaguchi	
William J King	David C Wilson	Gerard P Lepage	



1972 Matriculation photograph



Dates for the Diary

April 2010

- 11 Donor Lunch (by invitation only)
- 28 St John's College Field Sports Campaign Launch (by invitation only)

May 2010

- 14 MA Dinner (by invitation only)
- 18 Britten Sinfonia: Imogen Cooper directs Beethoven
- 25 Paris Drinks Reception

June 2010

- 8 Evensong in Chapel
- 12 May Bumps Drinks Party, Caius Fields, Fen Ditton
- 15 May Ball (for information and tickets see: www.stjohnsmayball.com)
- 17 Garden Party for Graduands
- 25 Choir perform at Thaxted Festival
- 26 Johnian Dinner (up to 1950, 1971 and 1972)
- 27 Johnian Lunch (1965 and 1966)

July 2010

- 2 GOLD, The Saint, Paternoster Square, London
- 11 Family Day
- 23 25 Years Since Matriculation Dinner (1985)
- 30 Johnian Society Golf Competition

September 2010

- 11 Johnian Society Day
- 18 50 Year Matriculation Dinner (1960)
- 24-26 University Alumni Weekend
- 25 Alumni Weekend Dinner

October 2010

- TBC Entrepreneurial Networking (to register interest please contact the Development Office)
- 30 Beaufort Society Lunch (by invitation only)

November 2010

- TBC Winfield Society networking event
- TBC Advent Carol Service
- 27 Thanksgiving Lunch

December 2010

- 4 Lunch for first-year students and their families
- TBC London Christmas Drinks
- 9 Varsity Match
- 18 Johnian Society Christmas Dinner (members only)



ST JOHN'S COLLEGE
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