

JOHNIAN news



Welcome to the Lent 2011 issue of *Johnian News*!

Our Quincentenary year is finally upon us and we hope that the list of forthcoming events on page 3 will give everyone something to look forward to. Elsewhere in this issue you can read about some of the many and varied things that Johnians have been up to, including building emergency shelters in disaster zones and setting up microfinance initiatives in Africa, as well as catching up on news from your College. We welcome contributions so please get in touch if you would like to share your news with the Johnian community. Submissions for the next issue should be sent by September 2011.

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Print: Marstan Press | 0208 301 5900
Photography: Capital Prints, CARE/Evelyn Hockstein, Alice Hardy, Samuel Butler archive, Richard and Beth Kahle, Nicola Coles, Ben Ealovega, Christopher Wagner, Nic Marchant.
Cover Photography: Capital Prints, Samuel Butler archive, Richard and Beth Kahle, Alice Hardy.

QUINCENTENARY EVENTS

May

- 3 Linacre Lecture
- 13 MA Dinner
- 14 Sir George Gilbert Scott in Cambridge, A Study Day
- 21 Bach Cantata Evensong

June

- 2 Ascension Day
- 9 Joint Evensong with Trinity (at Trinity)
- 11 Family Garden Party, Barrow Court
- 14 Evensong for Johnians
- 15-18 May Bumps
- 18 Lunch for present and former Fellows under Title A
- May Bumps Picnic
- 21 May Ball
- 23 Garden Party for Graduands
- 28 Joint Evensong with King's
- 29-30 Henley Picnic

July

- 1-2 Henley Picnic
- 2 Johnian Dinner (up to 1950, 1952, 1953, 1956)
- 3 Johnian Lunch (up to 1950, 1998, 1999)
- 4-10 Quincentenary Week
- 9 50 Years Since Matriculation Dinner (1961)
- 15 Campaign Benefactors' Dinner
- 16-17 Choir Reunion Weekend
- 28-29 Johnian Society Annual Golf Competition

September

- 3 LMBCA Regatta and Dinner
- 5-19 Telethon
- 9 25 Years Since Matriculation Dinner (1986)
- 10 Johnian Society Day (invitation enclosed)
- 17 Field Clubs Dinner
- Heritage Open Day
- 19-25 Quincentenary Week
- 23-25 University Alumni Weekend

October

- 13 Edinburgh Reunion Dinner
- 29 Beaufort Society Lunch
- 30 Premiere of Judith Weir composition at Evensong

November

- 15 St John's Unbirthday Party
- 18 Concert, Ely Cathedral and premiere of Jonathan Harvey composition
- 24 Thanksgiving Dinner
- 26 Advent Carol Service
- 27 Advent Carol Service

December

- 3 Family Lunch
- 8 St John's at the Varsity Match
- 15 Concert, Royal Festival Hall comprising London Christmas Drinks
- 20 Concert, Birmingham

LIBRARY EXHIBITIONS

April to July

College Centenaries, a display of College faces through five centuries

August to December

St John's College: a photographic history

QUINCENTENARY ORGAN RECITAL SERIES

A year-long series of organ recitals by former Johnian Organ Students started at the beginning of the Lent term on Sundays at 6.00pm. For further details, see the website.

QUINCENTENARY CONCERT SERIES

Friday, 18 November, at 7.30pm – Ely Cathedral

Elgar	<i>In the South</i>
Bruckner	<i>Christus Factus Est</i>
Mahler	<i>Songs from Des Knaben Wunderhorn</i>
Walton	<i>Belshazzar's Feast</i>

The Choir of St John's College, Cambridge
Philharmonia Orchestra

Andrew Nethsingha **conductor**
Dame Ann Murray **mezzo soprano**

Thursday, 15 December, at 7.30pm – Royal Festival Hall

Elgar	<i>In the South</i>
Howells	<i>One thing I have desired of the Lord</i>
Harvey	<i>I love the Lord</i>
Howells	<i>A spotless rose</i>
Parry	<i>I was glad</i>
Walton	<i>Belshazzar's Feast</i>

The Choir of St John's College, Cambridge
Philharmonia Orchestra

The College Choir is joined by other Cambridge college choirs and a number of alumni singers.

Johnians will also be invited to a drinks reception in the Royal Festival Hall complex for which places will be limited.

A full list of events with further details is available on our website: www.joh.cam.ac.uk/quincentenary

A new etching of St John's



The architectural etcher, Andrew Ingamells, spent six months last year making a limited edition of etchings of the College. What makes these prints so special? The answer takes us back to the seventeenth century.

Sometime in the 1680s an immigrant from Danzig, David Loggan, made two large fold-out engravings of St John's. Both were aerial views, one a landscape size side-on image from the south looking north, and the other, the better known of the two, a portrait size image showing the College from its eastern St John's Street elevation looking west. Over a twenty-year period Loggan made engravings of all the colleges at Oxford and Cambridge, but in the case of no other college was he to make two large plates involving different views of the same set of buildings. In 1690, he published the two St John's prints along with those of other colleges in *Cantabrigia Illustrata*.

It seemed appropriate to produce a new aerial perspective print that would provide a definitive image of the College as it now appears. Ingamells' etching is the first such print of the College for more than 320 years. It was decided that the main image should take its cue from Loggan's original east-west elevation, and that panels beneath should illustrate the Divinity School and Corfield Court as well as the southern façade of New Court. Says Ingamells, 'It's the most complicated line-drawn etching I've ever made. I had to sort out the perspective of the buildings west of the river so that the image is visually coherent as well as accurate.'

The Printmaking Process

Any printmaking that involves scoring a mark onto a metal plate, including engraving, etching and gravure, is known as an intaglio. Engraving (Loggan's



preferred technique) requires the artist to make a mark straight onto copper with an engraving tool, a graver. Etching is a process whereby marks are made by scratching through a hard waxy surface laid onto the copper plate with a needle, so that when immersed in acid, the copper is incised along the lines made by the needle. The artistic advantage of etching over engraving is that, because it is easier to make an incision in wax with a needle than it is to cut straight into copper with a graver, it allows much freer and 'painterly' expression. A close relative of etching is gravure – a photo-etching process dating from the 1860s that enables a photographed image to be transferred onto copper, and for the printmaking process thereafter to proceed as with an etching.

In making the plate for this etching Ingamells used a combination of gravure and traditional etching. First he made a detailed drawing (at a rate of approximately a square inch a day). This drawing was then photographed and a positive image of it placed over a copper plate, which was itself covered with a light-sensitive gelatin. In a light-box the exposed gelatin hardened to form a protective ground over the copper plate, while the gelatin under the dark lines of the drawing could be

washed away. The plate was then immersed in acid, and so etched along the lines of the drawing. Not all of the lines from the drawing appeared on the plate, however, so the plate was completed by traditional etching methods of covering it with wax (known as a ground) and then cut into with a needle as and where necessary. The plate was then etched in acid as before and the waxy ground cleaned off. When cleaned and inked up, the plate was then placed on the bed of a hand-operated etching press and paper passed over it under the weight of a heavy roller to make each individual print. 🇬🇧

St John's College:

A Gravure Etching of its Grounds and Buildings By Andrew Ingamells

There are only 175 of these etchings for sale at £225 each including delivery within the UK. The image size is 27 x 18" (685 x 475mm) and each is signed and numbered by the artist. If you would like to buy one, please call Capital Prints on 020 7704 6808, email stjohns@capitalprints.com or write to Capital Prints, PO Box 6293, London W1T 6WD.



Woman and baby outside CARE transitional shelter



CARE shelters amid earthquake ruins



Inside CARE shelter



Shelter provides a base from which to recover livelihoods

Images © CARE, Evelyn Hockstein

CARE at home and abroad



Lizzie Babister (1996) studied Architecture at St John's for seven years. Since leaving, she has conducted research around temporary and transitional shelter following humanitarian emergencies alongside her architect training. Lizzie is now Shelter and Reconstruction Senior Specialist for CARE International, one of the world's top three overseas aid and development agencies.

Why did you make the transition from working in an architecture firm to working for a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO)?

I qualified as an architect in 2004, while working with The Design Buro in Leamington Spa. I'd always been interested in emergency shelter, and my ultimate goal throughout my studies was to work in this field. Following the 2004 South Asian tsunami, I had the opportunity to second from the architectural firm as an Emergency Shelter Coordinator for various NGOs, and again following the Pakistan earthquake in 2005. This gave me the hands-on experience I needed, and I joined CARE full-time in 2007.

What led you to work for CARE?

CARE is the only large NGO in the UK with a focus on emergency

shelter. We have a developmental approach to relief that enables us to support vulnerable families in preparing for, coping with and recovering from emergencies, rather than just addressing the immediate phase of an emergency.

What kind of emergencies does CARE respond to?

Anything that carries the risk of a humanitarian disaster. We respond following natural disasters, from floods and earthquakes to landslides, tsunamis and hurricanes. We also respond following conflict-related emergencies, for example where homes have been destroyed by war, or more commonly, where there are vast numbers of refugees who have had to leave their homes and need shelter.

Can you summarise what your current role involves?

I support CARE's teams in the developing countries where we operate, running shelter projects in emergency relief, recovery and reconstruction. I offer support with project management, technical advice and recruitment. This is done either by travelling to those countries or remotely from the UK.

What has been your proudest achievement in your current role?

CARE has recently been commended by the Department for International Development and the Red Cross for our work in coordinating with the UN and national governments. I was immensely proud of this, because it shows that we are doing things right; we are responding to emergencies not just swiftly but in an effective way, hand in hand with other agencies and the governments of the countries where we work. It is coordination with other parties that sets a solid foundation for long-term reconstruction work. CARE remains with communities for as long as we are needed after an emergency, and our work can only be effective and efficient if we are working with local governments, other NGOs and of course the communities we serve.

What was the most important thing you learnt during your time at St John's that you use in your job today?

The Architecture course at Cambridge encourages students to respect the existing context rather than putting their own stamp on it. This aligns well with the approach of international organisations to humanitarian work. Ninety per cent of CARE's staff are from the countries in which we work, because we appreciate the need for communication, consultation and sensitivity when engaging with local communities.

Where are you hoping your career will lead you next?

I hope to establish the first shelter team in the UK with enough staff to enable us to build up a core of expertise and support a career path into this line of work.

Lizzie's shelter team at CARE are currently working to rebuild homes and communities in Haiti following the January 2010 earthquake, in Pakistan following the floods in August 2010, in Benin following flooding in September 2010, and in Liberia, assisting refugees from the Côte d'Ivoire.

For further information about CARE International please visit www.careinternational.org.uk.

College News

Rowing through the QUINCENTENARY



The LMBC Association is particularly excited to be celebrating the Quincentenary year by inviting former rowers and supporters of the Boat Club to a number of key events, culminating in a scratch regatta and reunion dinner on Saturday, 3 September. This event will not only celebrate the history and achievements of the Boat Club but will serve to highlight the importance of securing a future of equal distinction. The Boat Club forms an integral part of College life, and is firmly rooted in the vision of the St John's College Campaign to sustain all-round excellence. As such, the dinner will also mark the launch of a new era of fundraising for the LMBC through a joint collaboration with the LMBCA and St John's. We look forward to telling you more about our key priorities and objectives over the course of the year.



Upcoming Events

May Bumps Picnic | Saturday, 18 June

A perfect opportunity to relax with family or friends whilst cheering on the LMBC! Bring your own picnic and gather around the LMBCA marquee; seating is limited so please bring a blanket or chair and an umbrella. Please note that you will need to bring your own refreshments and take any rubbish away with you. Parking can be difficult, so please allow time to secure a space at one of the designated car parks or use alternative methods of transport.

Location: Caius Meadow (also known as Ditton Meadows, on the opposite side of the towpath), Fen Ditton, from midday onwards. Look out for the LMBC colours.

What next? This year's gathering is very informal and there is no need to book.

Henley Picnic | Wednesday to Saturday, 29 & 30 June, 1 & 2 July

John Durack will once again be hosting a picnic lunch on the first four days of Henley Regatta. This is always a great event and John has generously offered to make it the focal point of celebrations at Henley as part of the LMBC fundraising year.

Location: Henley Cricket Ground (behind the Little Angel Pub), during the lunchtime break in racing.

What next? You are welcome to join the picnic at any time. Booking is not required.

Regatta and Dinner | Saturday, 3 September

A scarlet tie reunion dinner for former members of the LMBC. A scratch regatta will be held from 1.00pm onwards, followed by a dinner in Hall. This is a wonderful chance to get together with old friends and relive your LMBC days. We encourage you to form your own crews before the day but there will be plenty of opportunity to join in the fun regardless.

Location: 1.00pm onwards at the LMBC boathouse; 7.00pm for dinner at 7.45pm in Hall.

What next? This will be the focal point of the LMBC anniversary celebrations and we anticipate it will be popular. We advise you to reply early to avoid disappointment and regret that we cannot offer places to guests. Please respond to the formal invitations in June.



Lent Term 2011

Interested in Everything: drawing inspiration from the collections of Samuel Butler

In July 2011, the College Library will embark on an ambitious project to make the collections of the Johnian polymath Samuel Butler (1835–1902) accessible to scholars and the general public. The project is made possible by generous support from the Heritage Lottery Fund. Best known for his satirical and utopian novels *Erewhon* and *The Way of All Flesh*, Butler was an artist, musician, photographer and thinker whose controversial views on evolution and classical authorship challenged the Victorian establishment. He also contributed to the very first issue of *The Eagle*!



London c1890

This two-year project will create a new and accessible catalogue of the Butler Collection and an associated website including digital images of photographs, paintings, artefacts and manuscripts from the collections, with accompanying explanatory text. Conservation work on fragile items in the collections will ensure that these are available for future generations to study. Open, free events both within and outside the College will allow people to see the world through the eyes of Butler and his artistic, literary and scientific contemporaries, and will challenge them to think outside the box, just as he did.



Butler in his rooms with some of his paintings

Professor Sir Maurice Wilkes, Sir Christophor Laidlaw and The Right Reverend Dr Peter Walker – sadly missed

It is with great regret that we announce the deaths of Professor Sir Maurice Wilkes, Sir Christophor Laidlaw and The Right Reverend Dr Peter Walker.

Sir Maurice Wilkes came to St John's as an undergraduate in 1931 to read Mathematics. A pioneer in Computer Science, he built the world's first operational computer, EDSAC, in the 1940s and set up the first taught qualification in Computer Science. Sir Maurice returned to St John's as a Fellow in 1950 and remained here for the rest of his life. He died on 29 November 2010.

Sir Christophor Laidlaw (1940) read Modern Languages and was appointed an Honorary Fellow in 1996. Sir Christophor was a

senior executive of BP for many years, then took up various chairmanships and non-executive roles, including at ICL. He died on 27 November 2010.

The Right Reverend Dr Peter Walker was Bishop of Ely from 1977 to 1989 and as such served as Visitor to the College. On his retirement from the post he was appointed an Honorary Fellow of St John's. Dr Walker returned to Cambridge in 1995 and spent his final years living in Grantchester. He died on 28 December 2010.

Full obituaries will appear in *The Eagle* 2011.

West meets East

Simona Giunta (2006) recently completed her PhD in Cancer Research. She has since embarked on a unique expedition with her partner, Alistair Field.

The urge to travel the world, typical of nomadic cultures, has been a fascinating anthropological conundrum for centuries. The dichotomy of the modern spirit, torn between the need for sedentary stability and the desire for nomadic exploration, is beautifully described by Paulo Coelho in *The Zahir*: 'When they passed through cities, the nomads would think: The poor people who live here, for them everything is always the same. The people in the cities probably looked at the nomads and thought: Poor things, they have nowhere to live.'

As an Italian, I grew up strongly rooted in my home soil. Studying in an international environment like Cambridge broadened my horizons. All of a sudden, I felt empowered to shape my journey autonomously and my nomadic spirit was unleashed. It came about ten years late by English standards, but with it came the decision to go and see the world, or at least a part of it.

The 'West meets East Journey' that we embarked upon in December stemmed from the idea of exploring an area of the globe not only geographically, but also conceptually, far. Historically, Western society has not envisaged anything farther than the eastern hemisphere of the Earth; even places like Hawaii or the Wild West are not regarded as far and they appear more vivid in our imagination. This is not so much due to a geographical scission, but a sociological separation, possibly developed due to long-standing political issues with the Middle East. The propaganda perpetuated by the media over the last decade has meant that, while physical boundaries were being dismantled, psychologically the East has seemed a remote and unknown place.

Our journey, originally born as an extended Silk Route, has shaped into a taster of diverse countries. We have started our journey touring the four corners of Australia, kangaroos, beaches and sports events included; we are now tracing our way over the rolling hills and stunning scenery of New Zealand, before stepping into the cultural incognita that China and India represent, impregnated with traditions and beauty. We are hoping to catch glimpses of these ancient cultures by exploring more remote areas, where urbanisation, modernity and globalisation have yet to extend their grasp.

Because I am fully aware of how privileged and fortunate my life has been so far, simply out of the luck of being born in a certain place, with a certain family, I could not allow this journey's aim to be solely the pursuit of exploration. Nothing, no experience, landscape or emotion can be lived happily and fully thinking that so many people in the world are missing out, thinking that our luck feeds on their loss. And because as a child I dreamt of doing the things I do now, I have decided to raise money for UNICEF, a worldwide charity that helps all children, regardless of their geographical location, to be able to dream and achieve their dreams.

Donate to UNICEF and read our up-to-date travel diary on our website: www.simonaandalistairtravel.com. Thank you and keep the dream alive!



Johnians still in tandem

In the last issue of *Johnian News*, we reported on Johnians Richard (2003) and Beth (2006) Kahle as they set off on their journey from Cambridge to Cape Town on a bicycle built for two. The intrepid duo have sent us their latest news.



After cycling through Holland, Germany, Austria and Italy, crossing the Alps and the Apennines, we finally began the African leg of our journey when we left Tunis (after a six-week delay waiting for Libyan visas and a wisdom tooth extraction) on 2 January 2011.

High on a limestone plateau, with the warm desert sun rapidly fading, we pitched our tent for the night. When we next looked across the wadi, we noticed two shepherds, dressed in hooded woollen cloaks silhouetted against the fiery evening sky. They watched us in silence before finally moving their sheep and goats away. Later, one of the shepherds returned to our campfire, bringing woollen blankets to keep out the chill of the clear night. Before the sun rose in the morning, he arrived again with hot, fresh bread that had just been baked in a tagine and a bowl of his own olive oil for breakfast. Such unexpected, simple gestures of friendship and hospitality would characterise our journey through North Africa.

Even during the protests and rioting of the Jasmine Revolution, when President Ben Ali was forced from power, we were sheltered by the kindness and generosity of Tunisians in the Sahara desert. They told us where we should go to avoid the most serious problems, helped us through unofficial roadblocks and even took us into their homes when the situation

deteriorated. Over bread cooked in the desert sand and delicious couscous, the people told us openly about their frustrations and their hopes.

This openness, dynamism and confidence presented a sharp contrast with Libya, the next country on our route. Although the country clearly aspires to be a modern Arabic state, the regime seemed to have successfully stopped people from questioning it and we found the society very closed. Halfway across Libya, the protests in Egypt erupted. We spent days struggling with the decision as to whether or not to continue by bicycle through Egypt. However, Egypt made the decision for us by ceasing to issue tourist visas from Libya. This meant that we had to rethink our plans drastically. Visas for the Sudan can only be obtained in Cairo or Aswan, so not being able to enter Egypt would also mean missing out on the Sudan. With increasing uncertainty over the security situation in Egypt, we made the difficult decision to fly out of Libya to Ethiopia and restart our cycling there. We are now in Addis Ababa and looking forward to cycling through the high Ethiopian mountains and down the East African rift valley. Missing out on some of North Africa means that we have more time to explore the east and south of the continent; we can't wait to begin our adventure again!

www.tandemafrica.com



Master Chefs at St John's



Many, if not all, Johnians will have enjoyed at least one meal in the Hall or the Buttery here at St John's. But did you know that the chefs can cook up to 1,400 fresh meals in a day? Or that preparation for a feast can take up to three days?

We spoke to two of our chefs, Kevin Doughty and Damian Murphy, about their inspirations and the pressures in the kitchen. Both chefs also took part in the annual University of Cambridge Culinary Competition in October last year. Kevin was awarded Gold/Best in Class for cold sweet and Overall Best in Show, while Damian was awarded Bronze in the live cooking competition.

As pastry chef, many Johnians will have had the pleasure of tasting one of Kevin's desserts and he admits that pressure can mount when preparing for a feast, as food can be more extravagant and guests are expecting something special. Damian points out that it is nothing like the stress of working in a hotel or restaurant kitchen. Front of house staff and the chefs start preparing for feasts at least three days in advance. Preparation includes polishing silver, sorting the china, table settings, preparing stocks and ordering ingredients. On the night of the feast there could be up to 280 people dining and 5 courses to cook, present and serve.

Both Kevin and Damian say it is the variety of work at John's which they enjoy as private functions, alumni dinners, conferences and even the Buttery require different skills and styles of cooking each day. For Kevin another aspect he particularly enjoys is that everything they produce is from scratch. St John's tries to use local firms or small firms as far as possible. The cheese is supplied from Cheshire, Cambridge-based Hilary's supplies some of the vegetables, while most of the meat is sourced from Suffolk.


Suppliers were a big consideration for Kevin and Damian when it came to their entries for the University Culinary Competition, as they wanted to use quality ingredients. It was Damian's first time entering the competition and he based his dishes around foods in season. Another consideration for Damian was that he was cooking live in front of judges and he had to produce his dishes in an hour and a half – he admits the prospect made him nervous!

For Kevin, who has competed for the past three to four years, the competition is a good way for him to use skills that he perhaps doesn't get to use in the day to day environment of the kitchen. He also sees the competition as a good way to learn and talk to other chefs about new ideas. Kevin starts his ideas by using a notebook in which he has collected different recipes, flavours and tips over the years. Normally, three months before the competition Kevin starts to put together his dishes and will then practise them for up to two months before competing. The Catering and Conference Manager, Bill Brogan, said 'I am very happy for them, we gave them all the support we could and they have done really well.'

Both Kevin and Damian appreciated the input and support from the other chefs in the kitchen as well as the catering

team as a whole. Kevin notes that having a different pair of eyes to critique your dish is useful for presentation. Input on flavours, colours and design can help pull the dish together and it is this constructive criticism that both chefs take on board.

At St John's there are sixteen chefs in total who are split between two shifts and staff the kitchens for up to sixteen hours a day! Damian says they work with a good team and everyone is always prepared to help out when needed. On each shift there will be eight chefs, all with different responsibilities to make sure that the food is prepared and cooked to the highest quality and that it all runs smoothly. The chefs have also undergone extensive training covering food hygiene and Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP). Menus are the responsibility of the Catering Manager and the Head Chef. Both draw on their extensive knowledge of different cuisines to make the menus varied and exciting.

For Kevin and Damian it is this variety of menus and dining styles that makes St John's the perfect place for them to keep creating their culinary delights. 

A Choral Foundation for St John's: Launch of a new campaign



On Friday, 18 February, the Choir celebrated the College's five hundredth anniversary with a stunning performance of Haydn's *Creation*, accompanied by Britten Sinfonia and soloists including Allan Clayton (2000). The performers received a standing ovation from the audience in a packed St John's, Smith Square, in London.

At a reception following the performance the Master, Professor Chris Dobson FRS, and impresario David Pountney CBE (1966) introduced a new fundraising Campaign in support of the Choir. Guests, who included performers, Johnians, Fellows of St John's, prominent musicians and other supporters, heard Professor Dobson explain that the Choir has no separate endowment of its own and competes for funding with the College's other activities. David Pountney, former Director of Productions at English National Opera and now Director of the Bregenz Festival, spoke compellingly about his time as a chorister under George Guest and the profound and positive influence it had on his life and subsequent career. Both stressed the importance of the Choir to the College and the wider world and urged those who love the Choir to support the Campaign, which aims to

raise £5 million to establish a Choral Foundation by the end of 2015. The Foundation will support the Choir's educational activities including scholarships, choristerships and singing lessons, as well as providing much-needed funds to cover the costs of performances, tours and recording. Donations towards the Choral Foundation will count towards the College's Campaign to raise £50 million.


Philip Oakes (1980), who gave £100,000 in 2008 to establish the Oakes Fund to support commissions of new music for the Choir, was at the reception and said:

Only later in life did I fully appreciate how privileged I was to study at St John's. Having been fortunate enough to have had my time there paid for by others, the College setting me up for my subsequent career, I felt it only right I should give something back. Listening to such a beautiful sound in our Chapel, in the knowledge I've somehow contributed, is such an emotional experience. I now attend Choir events not just delighting in the music, but also greatly appreciating the warmth with which I'm received on every occasion. St John's Choir is special not only

for its excellence, but also for the friendliness of those who bring about such excellence. I can't recommend donating to the Choir strongly enough, and I urge you to join me.

The Quincentenary Concert was the first of two such events sponsored by Dr Kamal Ahuja (1977), Scientific and Managing Director of The London Women's Clinic. Kamal studied embryology at St John's and has since enjoyed a highly successful career in the field. He and his wife, Anna, are two of the Choir's strongest advocates and the College is extremely grateful to them both for their support.

Despite their late return to Cambridge on Friday night the Choir were back in harness in the College Chapel the very next day. You can hear the service of Saturday, 19 February, via the webcast page of the Choir's website: www.sjcchoir.co.uk.

To find out more about the Choral Foundation Campaign and how you can contribute, please visit: www.sjcchoir.co.uk/foundation or contact Sarah Westwood in the Development Office (s.westwood@joh.cam.ac.uk; 01223 330724). 

A BUST OF BISHOP FISHER




As part of the year of celebrations to commemorate the five hundredth anniversary of St John's, the College has received a replica of the bust of Bishop John Fisher, which was unveiled at a ceremony on 9 April. This project has been made possible thanks to the generosity of Marc Feigen (1983), Chairman of the Johnian Society of the USA.

Confessor to Lady Margaret Beaufort, Bishop Fisher was instrumental in carrying through Lady Margaret's wish to found the College. The original bust by Florentine sculptor Pietro Torrigiano was made during Fisher's lifetime and is now owned by the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. Former Dean of Discipline, Dr Linehan, came up with the idea that St John's should have the bust of Bishop Fisher on display for the Quincentenary year. In the end, the College Council commissioned a replica of the original so that the bust could remain on display 'at home' for centuries to come.

The design team for the replica consisted of the Master, Professor Chris Dobson FRS, the President, Dr Mark Nicholls, Dr Peter Linehan, Art Historian Dr Frank Salmon and Marc Feigen. John Draper at the Metropolitan Museum of Art kindly gave permission for the replica to be made in 2010 and sculptor Ron Street of the Metropolitan Museum of Art set to work. Once the sculpture was made, art restorer Rick Jordan patinated the bust.

The bust now stands on a new plinth in the original bay window of Hall. The College is very grateful to the efforts of all those involved, and particularly to Marc Feigen and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, for making this possible.

An article on the making of the bust will feature in *The Eagle* 2011. 

The world at his fingertips

James Bowden (1992) read Mathematics and Computer Science at St John's. A firm advocate of Braille, James was recently appointed chair of the UK Association for Accessible Formats (UKAAF) Braille Coding Group.

Braille, named after its inventor, Louis Braille, is the tactile reading and writing system used by many blind and visually impaired people today. To me, it is amazing that such a simple concept as six raised dots can be used to represent everything from basic letters, numbers and punctuation, through to different languages, advanced mathematics and even music.


I started learning Braille at the age of six in a mainstream primary school, but it was at New College, Worcester that I was exposed to a wider range of Braille codes. At St John's I used Braille extensively for study, along with a computer with speech software. Producing Braille took quite a large proportion of my time, especially because of the complex notation involved with some topics. Sometimes I felt that I was spending more time just making material to study rather than actually studying it. My final-year dissertation was (perhaps unsurprisingly) on the subject of transcribing text into Braille using a computer.

I now work for Dolphin Computer Access, specialists in access technology, which includes making computers talk and developing software to convert documents into a variety of alternative formats (large print, Braille, audio and so on).



Perhaps one of the more eccentric things I have done in my Dolphin career is to read through an entire 100,000 word dictionary to improve the English pronunciation on one of our programmes. Great for playing Scrabble though!


At the end of 2010, it was a great privilege for me to be appointed chair of the UKAAF Braille Coding Group. UKAAF's aims and objectives are to aid service providers, transcribers, educators and end users in setting a minimum standard for accessible formats, including Braille. The wider aim of the organisation is to enable print-disabled people to have an equal opportunity to access information in its many forms. The Braille Coding Group deals with the development of literary and technical Braille codes used in the UK and also cooperates with Braille organisations and authorities from around the world.

I firmly believe that Braille has a vital role to play in the lives of visually impaired people and am excited about the possibilities for Braille in the future. 

Field Clubs Dinner – Saturday, 17 September



As part of the five hundredth anniversary celebrations the College is pleased to host a dinner for all Johnians who were members of a College 'field' sports club at any stage during their time at St John's. We hope this event will give Johnians a chance to be reunited with old teammates and friends in this very special year.

The event will include an 'open afternoon' in the sports pavilion, followed by a drinks reception and black tie dinner in Hall. Johnians who played College sport should have received a formal invitation recently. We anticipate that demand for this event will be high and therefore regret that we cannot offer places to guests. If you have not received your invitation please contact Alice Hardy (a.hardy@joh.cam.ac.uk; 01223 338605). 

The Girl King



Meg Clothier (1996) read Classics at St John's. Her first novel was published in March 2011 and she is now working on her second book.

I first read about Queen Tamar of Georgia when I was researching a very dry essay about post-Soviet identity for my Master's. Five thousand words of shameless academic-ese later (an awful lot of pseudomemory and symbolic violence...), I had the beginnings of an idea that became *The Girl King*.

To Georgians, Tamar is Boudicca, Elizabeth I and Queen Victoria rolled into one – a flawless national icon. She presided over Georgia's twelfth-century golden age, ruling an empire that stretched far and wide across the Caucasus.


To me, she was the ideal heroine for a swashbuckling adventure tale. The princess thrust upon her father's throne, the conniving courtiers, the wicked husband, the valiant lover – all the elements you need if you're trying to be, say, Alexandre Dumas with a touch of Philippa Gregory.

It helped that I was besotted with Georgia. I had visited while working as a journalist for Reuters and had been bowled over by the extrovert people, the hilltop churches and the potent moonshine. So when I had Tamar kidnapped while hiding out in the Caucasus mountains, all I had to do was remember a walking holiday in the remote region bordering Chechnya.

Coming up with an idea for Book Two was harder. Reading around Tamar's contemporaries, I met Andronikos Komnenos, a glamorous, villainous anti-hero of Byzantine history. I wanted to write about him, but I knew my publishers would prefer another heroine – consistency is a big part of genre fiction. So I investigated the women in his life and found a promising candidate.

Agnes, a French princess, was shipped east as a child-bride. She outlived two emperor husbands, some of the bloodiest years in the empire's history, including the sack of Constantinople by Crusaders in 1204; and what's more, she was madly in love with the son of a famous general.

Bingo. Violence and sex. I was on my way.


The Girl King by Meg Clothier is published by Century, £12.99. 

How's that?

Johnian becomes Chair of World Cricket Committee

From 1 October 2011, Mike Brearley OBE (1960) will be the Chair of the World Cricket Committee. Having captained the University of Cambridge team, Mike became Captain of the England Cricket team in 1977 and led them to the World Cup Cricket Final in 1979 as well as captaining the winning Ashes side in 1981. In 1978 Mike received an OBE. Mike now works as a psychoanalyst in private practice in London and until

recently was President of the British Psychoanalytical Society. As well as his private practice work, Mike writes and lectures on leadership and psychoanalytic topics and does part-time cricket journalism for *The Observer*.

We are delighted that Mike is also President of the Johnian Society for the Quincentenary year. 

Arcubus: the heart of the City



George Bush (1977, Chaplain 1989–94) has been rector of St Mary-le-Bow in the City of London since 2002. With no more than 20 resident parishioners (but many banks and law firms) and – perhaps enviably – no Sunday services, George has inherited a tradition which seeks to engage Christian wisdom with the commercial and financial life

of the City. He suspects that the crisis since 2007 has made bankers and fund managers much less opaque and generally more fluent about their working practices and economic objectives, and has also heightened the significance of free flowing credit for growth and sustainability. Yet financial exclusion remains a huge problem; the province of Niassa in Mozambique has a similar land area to England and yet there are currently only five bank branches.


groups which typically demonstrate repayment rates of 97%. Arcubus is working with experienced NGOs to deliver 21,500 loans to 9,000 people, together with 17,500 new savings accounts, which will have demonstrable benefits to employability and living standards, health, diet and education.

As one would expect from the City, George and his team are not just asking for donations (although they are always welcome), but are encouraging investment in a charitable bond (through Allia, the social profit society) which provides a safe haven for capital and offers a choice of 0%, 5% or 10% over a fixed five-year term. It is an ingenious device: 80% of sums invested are lent to social housing providers (with the ‘double-whammy’ of supporting affordable housing in the UK). The absence of tax, bonuses and dividends leaves the remaining funds immediately available for Arcubus to set up microfinance initiatives in Africa’s poorest communities. At the end of the five-year period, the social housing provider repays the loan with interest and all the investors are repaid. It is one example of an increasing desire to see money invested for social purposes.



St Mary-le-Bow and other partners (supported by the Corporation of the City which is passionate about fostering growth in Africa) have formed Arcubus (more formally the City of London Social Investment Fund) to raise funds to strengthen microfinance facilities principally in Mozambique and Southern Tanzania. The money raised will be used for small loans guaranteed by peer

George recalls his time as Chaplain with particular affection and is very conscious of all that St John’s has given him. He is delighted to meet – and bump into – other Johnians now working in and around the City, who are a formidable pool of talent and good humour.

www.arcubus.org.uk 



Student News

The Winfield Society

Visit the Supreme Court

In January 2011, students from the Winfield Society, the law society of St John’s College, arranged a visit to the Supreme Court.

The day was kindly hosted by Lord Hope of Craighead (1959, Honorary Fellow). We began the day with an introduction to the Court; Lord Hope explained the history of the Court, including the design of the Supreme Court logo, a floral design representing England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. His Lordship also warned us that another student protest was scheduled to end in Parliament Square that day, and that we would be able to use the special exit reserved for the Law Lords if events escalated as they had in recent weeks! We were then given a fascinating and informative tour of the Court by Lord Hope’s judicial assistant, Peter Webster. The Court, now located in Middlesex Guildhall, had been very successfully restored from its previous use as a county court, retaining much of its original character while also modern and progressive.

The Law Lords were hearing two cases that day, first as the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council hearing a criminal appeal from Granada, and second, a commercial case concerning statutory interpretation. The two cases provided an excellent contrast, and we were fortunate to witness the highest levels of advocacy. At the end of the day Lord Hope kindly met us once again, and debriefed us on the cases we had seen, highlighting the necessity of highly skilled counsel in assisting the Court to understand the relevant law and come to a decision. The students of the Winfield Society are grateful to Lord Hope for being so generous with his time and for his patience in answering our questions.

Alistair Williams (2007) 

Life in the SBR




Lindsay Brainard is originally from Ohio, USA, and is currently pursuing an MPhil in the Faculty of Philosophy as a 2010 recipient of the Davies Jackson Scholarship.

When I matriculated as an MPhil student from the USA in October without previous exposure to life at Cambridge, I was delighted to encounter a lively and diverse postgraduate community in the Samuel Butler Room. The receptions, tours, graduate talks, and nights out

in town that constituted Freshers’ Fortnight conveyed a sense of Johnian camaraderie so enticing that I promptly signed up as a member of the SBR committee. Since taking a place on the Social and Dining Subcommittee, I’ve had the chance to be involved in the planning and execution of several events that turned out to be highlights of the social calendar for postgraduates at St John’s. These included a Halloween hostel crawl on Madingley Road, fortnightly Sunday brunches, the SBR Christmas dinner and ceilidh, regular coffee tastings, and a Chinese New Year party. Though the tenure of this year’s committee draws to a close at the end of Lent term, there are a few more festivities on the horizon, among them a Mardi Gras celebration and a murder mystery dinner.

In addition to these special events, the SBR has been a constant hub of activity since the beginning of Michaelmas term. It is unusual to enter without finding fellow Johnian postgraduates playing board games and billiards, watching films, or making use of our newly acquired piano and sheet music collection. The popularity of BA Table – a special Formal for postgraduates held twice weekly and followed by port and sherry in the SBR – has precipitated so great a demand for tickets that we’ve negotiated more seats. Every Thursday night, the SBR becomes the gathering place for Compline singers and attendees to relax with hot chocolate, port, and good company.

Being surrounded by a congenial and energetic cohort of Johnian postgraduates has fostered a strong sense of connection to the College, which I already feel after only two terms as a member. 



BEAUFORT SOCIETY
ST JOHN'S COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

The rise and rise of the Beaufort Society:

Second annual meeting, October 2010

Members of the Beaufort Society celebrated its first anniversary last October, and enjoyed a first taste of the Pol Roger Quincentenary Champagne in the Old Library. Over lunch members enjoyed a capella singing by the Gentlemen of St John's, and afterwards heard about the College's admissions policy, toured the newly renovated Cripps Building and Merton Hall, and enjoyed the College Archivist's insight into some of St John's architectural oddities. The guest speaker over lunch was writer David Nobbs (1955), author of the Reggie Perrin novels. David spoke of the honour he felt joining those who care so much about St John's, and entertained members with memories of his time in College and of another memorable speaking engagement:

In the Hall of St John's, 54 years ago, I made my first act of rebellion. I came in to dinner dressed in yellow oilskins, but with a gown and tie. I was asked to leave and I enquired where in the regulations yellow oilskins were banned. I won, but it was a pyrrhic victory. I have never had such an uncomfortable meal, boiling and sweating. I learnt about making sacrifices for one's principles.

I decided to save my rebellions for my writing. That was the great thing about Reggie Perrin.



David Nobbs with his wife, Susan

He could say the things we want to say but can't. I particularly like the comment he made at the British Fruit Association Conference at Billberry Hall. He arrived late for lunch having had a few drinks to calm his nerves and one of the speakers told him, 'You missed a fascinating talk from Dr Hump. His thesis was that fruit cannot be, and indeed should not be, more or indeed less competitive than the society for which and indeed by which it is produced.' 'Really?' said Reggie. 'That is uninteresting.' Haven't we all wanted to say that?

One of my previous speaking engagements in Cambridgeshire was at Whitemoor High Security Prison. A prisoner wrote telling me that he and four other fans of my work met in their Wednesday Club to discuss the arts. I accepted his invitation to speak. Flattery will get me anywhere.

On arrival I was seriously frisked by security. They told me to relax. Then I was taken to a waiting room where a group of nervous speakers and instructors sat twitching. I was told to relax. We were asked to wait for a few minutes while the sex offenders were taken to their activities. They had to go separately or the other prisoners would tear them apart. We were told to relax. You can imagine how relaxed I was by then.

At last I was taken to a small room with 16 prisoners and just one very slightly-built young female warder. A middle-aged man approached me and said, 'Hello. I'm the fan that wrote to you. Bad news, I'm afraid. The other fans have been replaced by four Cypriots.'

He could say the things we want to say but can't. I particularly like the comment he made at the British Fruit Association Conference at Billberry Hall. He arrived late for lunch having had a few drinks to calm his nerves and one of the speakers told him, 'You missed a fascinating talk from Dr Hump. His thesis was that fruit cannot be, and indeed should not be, more or indeed less competitive than the society for which and indeed by which it is produced.' 'Really?' said Reggie. 'That is uninteresting.' Haven't we all wanted to say that?



Members of the Beaufort Society assemble on the Kitchen Bridge during a tour of the College's architectural oddities

The first question was: 'Why did they make such a bad film of Tom Wolfe's marvellous book *The Bonfire of the Vanities*?' 'I'm afraid I haven't read the book or seen the film.' I could feel my credibility slipping away rapidly.

Maybe the second question would be easier? It wasn't. 'Which Cypriot novelists do you admire?' I should have thought more quickly and said, 'Constantinos Thessanopolos. You haven't read him? Oh, you should. He's very up and coming.' But I didn't. I said, 'I'm afraid I haven't read any Cypriot novelists.' I had no credibility left.

The next question seemed easier. 'Have you ever met Prunella Scales?'

'Yes, she's a lovely lady.'

'I know. That's why I'm going to marry 'er.'

'Her husband, Timothy West, might have something to say about that.'

'I got plans to deal with 'im.'

I struggled on. Somehow the three hours passed, but it was terrible. How can I describe how terrible it was? Afterwards, my wife and I went to a Little Chef, and I enjoyed it.

I loved my time at John's. It was a privilege to be here. I remember climbing in late one night, rather the worse for wear, and meeting the Dean on the Bridge of Sighs, also rather the worse for wear. 'Nobbs,' he said sternly, 'you are sent down. You are rusticated. You will leave this morning. You will leave on the milk train.' 'Yes, sir,' I said. 'Sorry, sir.'

The next afternoon I met him in Second Court. 'Ah. Nobbs. Things going well?' he asked.

The Beaufort Society was founded in 2009 to recognise the contribution of those remembering the College in their will. It next meets on Saturday, 29 October 2011. Membership is open to anyone who lets us know they have made provision for the College in their will.

For more information, please contact Sarah Westwood in the Development Office (s.westwood@joh.cam.ac.uk, +44 (0) 1223 330724).

Campaign Update

The St John's College Campaign has now reached a total of £41 million towards our goal of £50 million by the end of 2012.

These results are a tribute to the generosity of Johnians and the warmth they feel towards St John's. Over the past few years St John's has become the most successful fundraising college in Cambridge and we are working hard to raise the remaining £9 million. However, there is little doubt that St John's, and the rest of Cambridge, will need to raise considerably more if we are to retain our world-class status. The implications of the changes to the funding of universities and their students are still to be fully understood, but it seems likely that the College will not reap the full benefit of the rise in fees, yet at the same time will bear the brunt of the need for greatly increased student support.

Just as pleasing as the large sum that has been raised has been the greatly increased participation of Johnians. Four years or so ago some 3% of alumni had made a gift to the College Campaign; in the UK this figure is now just under 20%, and in the USA nearly 25%. The overall participation rate is now nearly 17%. The value of many, lower level donations should not be underestimated and we hope that the 2011 celebrations will encourage even more Johnians to show their support. Another pleasing aspect of our fundraising efforts has been the response to the various entreaties to remember the College in wills – the Beaufort Society now has over two hundred members, and many more have made anonymous provision.

On all fronts we are doing well and it is hoped that Johnians also appreciate the College's continuing efforts to stay in touch, with the Quincentenary providing a fantastic centrepiece.

Donor Profile

Zip Jila (2002) read Law at St John's and is now a solicitor at Bingham McCutchen in London. Zip supports the St John's College Campaign by making a regular gift to student support and access schemes.

Without a doubt, the three years that I spent at St John's were, taken as a whole, some of the happiest of my life so far. Not only did I have my first experience of living away from home but I also met some wonderful people at College who have become very good friends. My studies at St John's taught me the tools of my trade. Over the three years, I established a bond with the College that will last a lifetime, so much so that every time I return, I get a warm feeling as I walk through the Great Gate.



As a former President of the Winfield Society I try to attend the Winfield Dinner as often as possible and always enjoy talking to the current students, offering them my views on starting out in the profession. I was fortunate enough to receive funding from St John's which enabled me to study for my LLM at Harvard Law School. This was a great opportunity and I had a wonderful year in Boston. After leaving College, I set up a standing order contributing a small amount to the College annually and continue to do so. For me, this is just one way of giving back to College, with the aim that the students of today and tomorrow will receive just as great an experience at St John's as I was fortunate enough to have. Although financially, individual donations are often tiny compared to the size of the central endowment fund, I am a strong believer in Tesco's philosophy, 'Every Little Helps'!



Alumni Update

St John's College, Cambridge: A History


Edited by Peter Linehan


Within a generation of its foundation on the site of a decayed hospital at the behest of Lady Margaret Beaufort, England's queen mother, the College of St John the Evangelist had established itself as one of the kingdom's foremost educational establishments: in the words of one notable contemporary as 'an university within it selfe' indeed. And in the period thereafter – the years between 1511 and 1989 covered by the present volume – St John's has continued to provide its fair share of Prime Ministers and Nobel laureates not to mention sporting heroes as well as to irrigate the rich loam of the nation's history in all sorts of other unexpected ways and places.

However, not until the organisation of the College's archives and records in the present generation has it been possible to describe

in sufficient detail the full story of that progress and adequately to trace the College's development and achievements in recent centuries. The present history, the first since the early 1700s to provide a systematic and informed account of the subject, seeks to make good this historical defect. It is published in celebration of the quincentenary of the College's foundation.

Thanks to the generosity of a donor every member of the College will be able to apply for one copy free of charge. Copies will be available for collection from the College Library from early May. Johnians who are unable to collect their copy from the College may request one from the publisher, subject to a postage and packing fee. An order form is enclosed.

 We now have over 1,000 fans! Join us to keep up to date with what's going on in College. Visit www.facebook.com/stjohnscambridge.

 The Johnian professional network is extending through LinkedIn. Join the St John's College, Cambridge group to find out more about the amazing careers of Johnians.

 Have you received our new monthly newsletter? It will now be sent each month to keep you up to date with what is going on in our Quincentenary year. Make sure we have your correct email address by contacting development@joh.cam.ac.uk.

Commemorative merchandise
The College has produced a special range of merchandise to mark our five hundredth year. It is available to order through www.stjohns-online.co.uk. Items are also available for purchase in person from the Great Gate.

Pol Roger Vintage 2000
The College's very own vintage champagne is available for purchase in cases of six bottles or three magnums. Individual bottles are also available in person from the College Bar. The offer ends on 2 December 2011, so order soon to avoid disappointment!



Missing Johnians



We have lost touch with Johnians 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.

1975

Isaac H Abraham
Rupert P Bentley-Taylor
Michael F Bowman
Carman Bradford
Ian Brown
Michael D Hartney
Ian D Hough
Axel Johannsson
Robert F Kidd
Michael A Levene
William R Liston
Bruce R Macdonald
Tushar Mehta

David J Osborne
Stephen J Park
Roger Parks
Paul M Parvis
Richard A Pratt
Alistair J Price
Graeme O Reid
Ian S Scott
Robert F Smith
Wilfrid J Swansborough
Robin N White

1976

Christopher D Barlow
Rupert H Bawden
Anthony J Berry
Ian Brenson
Anthony D Buonaquisti
Henry B Clark
Kevin J Daly
Kevin P Donnelly
Brian A Fay
Paul A Govan
Ronald P Kenny
Chau-Rong Lo
Kenneth C Lowe

Ronald T Lyman
John P Lynch
James A Mesher
Hartley D Mitchell
Harris Myers
Robert P Newton
Stephen B Russ
Andrew J Smith
Lance G Steward
Peter S Taylor
Nigel C Turner
Owen K Wheatley
Michael M Winter 



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