

the brick

THE NEWSLETTER FOR KEBLE ALUMNI

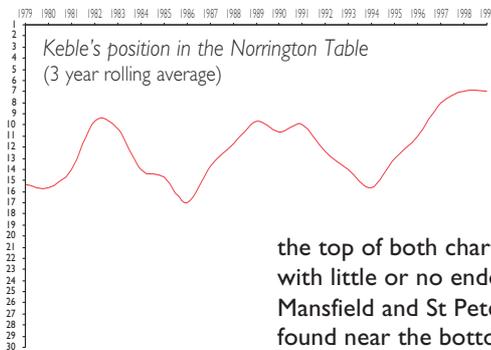
issue 17 • michaelmas term 1999

REASONS TO BE CHEERFUL: 1

As reported in *The Record*, of Keble's 128 finalists this summer, 38 achieved Firsts. This is a record haul, not only for Keble, but for any Oxford College, ever, in the history of the Universe. (Shared, admittedly, with Wadham, lest we become too smug.)

Outstanding as it is, this record only confirms a trend: in 1997 the College came third in the tally of Firsts and in 1998, second.

Over the past three years Keble Finalists have gained 95 Firsts, an achievement matched only by Univ and surpassed only by St John's (with 97).



These results have placed the College firmly in the top ten Colleges in the Norrington Table. This system, which awards 10 points for a First, 8 for a Ii, 6 for a Iiii and so on, provides a method of ranking Finals results by college, regardless of the number of finalists in each college. Apart from a slight dip in the early 90s, Keble's performance in the Table has shown a steadily strengthening trend.

The 1999 results display strength across a wide range of subjects. Engineering and Chemistry lead the charge with five Firsts each; English, Law and Modern

History each bagged four. Overall, the sciences just pipped the arts and social sciences, 20 to 18 — close enough for the statisticians to argue that honours were even, since, University-wide, a higher proportion of Firsts are awarded in the sciences.

Keble's results are an exception to the widely held — and broadly correct — perception that there is a correlation between a college's wealth and its academic performance. Wealthy colleges like St John's and Merton are usually at or near

the top of both charts, whilst colleges with little or no endowment, such as Mansfield and St Peter's, tend to be found near the bottom. This year none of the officially 'poor' colleges (a group, consisting of those receiving grants from the wealthy colleges, from which Keble emerged just five years ago) appeared in the top half of the Norrington Table. But interestingly, Keble's tuition costs per student — the costs associated with teaching our undergraduates — are lower than those of all but two colleges.

And for real statistics wonks, how about this? Keble's academic cost per Norrington Point (tuition cost divided by total points) is the lowest in the University: 14% lower than the average, and just half that of the most extravagant college.

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REASONS TO BE CHEERFUL: 2

The Observer carries an article about 'The New Establishment'.

To illustrate the piece it has a montage, with our own Ed Balls ('85, PPE) and Yvette Cooper (a.k.a. Mrs Ed Balls) in front of a photo of our very own Chapel, viewed from the Parks.



The new elite who run our equal society

Behind the mask you'll find the new ruling caste is just like the old, writes **Simon Kuper**

IT WAS A confusing few days. First we had Tony Blair raging at the 'forces of conservatism' within the 'Establishment'. Then William Hague retaliated, claiming Blair, a 'fortysomething public school-educated barrister from Islington', was an arch-enemy of the 'Establishment'. Then we had the 'New Labour' conference last week where there was almost total silence on the subject of the Internet. Blair, by contrast, told his delegates: 'A new spectre stalks the land: the spectre of technological revolution.'

Would the real Establishment please stand up?



- OLD ESTABLISHMENT v NEW ESTABLISHMENT
- Guardian
 - Fizzy mineral Water
 - ICA
 - Seattle Coffee Company
 - Son of a Banquet
 - Son of a refugee
 - Long weekend in Palo
 - Virtual Wealth
 - Black cab
 - Contempt for John Bull
 - Prospect
 - Football
 - Douglas Coupland
 - The Gap
 - Islington
 - K.D. Lang
 - Brunch
 - Frasier
 - Pale blue jeans
 - Laptop
 - Goat
 - Monuments
 - Olivia Evans
 - Lottery
 - Cherie Blair
 - Trevor Phillips
- *For any futurology tomes on Tony Blair's read...

UNIVERSITY CHALLENGE



Congratulations to Jon Elford, Olly Comyn, Robert Keeling and Rory Bryant, who braved the acerbic tongue of Jeremy Paxman to pull off a convincing win over Trinity College, Cambridge in the first round of University Challenge. Round Two should be broadcast on 14 February — the rules forbid us from announcing

their opponents in advance. Getting to the first round is an achievement in itself: 250 teams apply for 28 places. But since the competition started in 1962, Keble has had two winning teams — in 1976 and 1987.

On Thursday 24 February, we will be

holding 'Keble Challenge' — a tripartite contest between the SCR, past winners and the 1999 team. Old Members are very welcome to come along and watch the contest (Pusey Room 8.30pm). If you would like to sign in to Hall for dinner beforehand, please contact Denise Battsby in the Development Office (01865 282338).

GEORGIA TIES



Michael Adams, President of the University of Georgia, celebrating the opening of Georgia's Student Centre in Oxford, with Judy Shaw, Director of the UGA at Oxford Programme, and the Warden. Georgia's students enjoy Associate Student status at Keble, and have thrown themselves fully into College life.



The now-regular roofing work continues — here above Hall.



KEBLE WOMEN'S LUNCH

A lunch was held in Hall on Saturday 13 November to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the admission of women to the College. Over 120 female Old Members and 50 current graduates and finalists were present, generating what was described as 'a different noise' in Hall.

Professor Dennis Nineham, the Warden in 1979, and one of only four men present,

recalled some of the difficulties which accompanied this dramatic change in College life. The 1979 contingent numbered only 25 out of a total intake of 124. Since then, the balance between men and women has improved — there are currently 172 female and 281 male undergraduates. Following a lively speech by Victoria McLean ('88), a rousing toast was proposed to the future of the entire College.

NEW LIBRARY LIGHTING



A quiet snooze in Keble library is a pleasure that has been enjoyed by generations of students. Alas, we can no longer succumb to the twilight charm of this lofty building. Our library is, to the dismay of the lazier undergraduates, now one of the few in which it is a delight to work and easy to stay awake. New, inconspicuous halogen bulbs have driven away the gloaming and highlighted not only the books but the many beautiful architectural features as well. The warm glow emanating from the double doors will no doubt tempt many on their way out of Hall.



The improvement in the Library lighting is part of a larger project to light Butterfield's architecture more effectively. The second phase, taking in the main stairs and landing, highlighted (literally) another feature — 120 years of cobwebs. As the song has it, 'it all makes work for the working man to do'.



So that's where those books were!

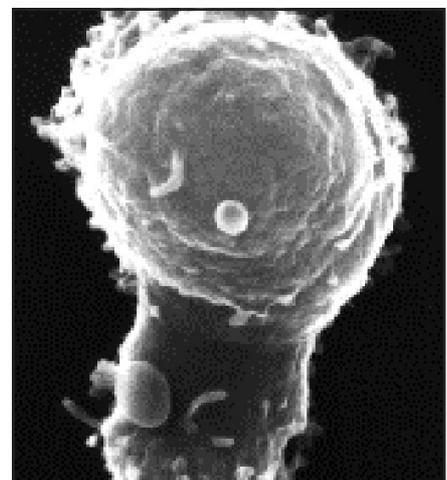
THE GOOD SHIP KC MEDSOC

Dr Simon Hunt waxes nautical about medical matters

On 10 November, the Keble Medical Society was launched by Prof Sir James Gowans, FRS, former Secretary of the Medical Research Council and discoverer of the function of the lymphocyte. He metaphorically cracked a bottle of bubbly over the new ship's bows; she set sail, crewed by current Keble biomedics, under the energetic captaincy of Tom Bird, and witnessed by some Oxford-based Keble medical doctors and various other Great and Good. We intend our voyages to rally this company for frequent discussion

meetings, for the welcome of distinguished speakers and for the maintaining of contact with former Keble biomedics (*the brick* readers included) whose experience may help shape attitudes and career plans for young crew members. We thank the drug companies who sponsor us.

Our ship does need an inspired new name — one that holds faith with the interests of non-medical physiologists as well as medics. What hero or heroine could best lend their name to this new venture? The most apt suggestion by a *the brick* reader wins its inventor a meal for two at High Table.



A lymphocyte, vital immune defence blood cell

YEAR GROUPS NEWS

The second year Group Conference was held on Saturday 25 September — over 40 out of the 50 years since 1945 were represented.

Following a review of the progress made since March, the main subject for discussion was to develop ideas for the new style Gaudy weekends. Invitations have already gone out for the first of these will be in March 2000 for those who matriculated between 1981–5. Planning has already started for the second such event which will be on 7–8 July 2000 for the 1986–90s.

A couple of Year Groups, notably 1955 and 1973, used the Drinks Party at the Athenaeum at the beginning of September to get a party of their year together. By popular request, this event

will be repeated next year, slightly later in September.

On 26 November, a group from 1954 met for lunch at College. From Yorkshire, Lancashire, Devon, Wales and Kent they came and if the level of conversation was anything to go by, this event could be judged to have been a huge success.

Groups from 1949 to 1953 have plans for a couple of gatherings clustered in centres outside London and Oxford.

Mike Binnie ('57, Year Group organizer), is setting out in early January 2000 to walk 800 miles from the mouth to the source of the Narmada River in India on



Mike prepares for the coming adventure

behalf of Global Cancer Concern (India). The Narmada, one of India's most sacred rivers, rises in the forested hills of Central India and flows into the Arabian Sea about 150 miles north of Bombay. Anyone interested in learning more about this adventure is welcome to contact Mike on 01483 284007.

KEBLE ONLINE

This article should be read in conjunction with the blue registration form which is enclosed with this issue of *the brick*.

At the Year Group conference in September, there was a demand from many delegates for a Keble Old Members Directory. It was felt that the Year Group initiative would benefit greatly if Old Members could contact each other more easily than at present.

After much deliberation, we have decided to set up a password-protected Directory attached to the Keble Alumni page on the College website. We anticipate that this will go live early in February.

Enclosed with this issue of *the brick* is a form to

The alumni section of the College website can be found at <http://www.keble.ox.ac.uk/alumni/>

register for access to the Directory. The signed form should be returned to the Development Office, whereupon the password mechanism will be explained.

Each Old Member will have a page, recording matriculation year and subject studied, together with current address. Old Members can opt to include more information by ticking the appropriate box/es on the registration form, or they can request that their address be withheld from the Directory.

For Old Members not on the Internet, we can, on request, supply a printed list of their Year Group address list.

The Directory will be updated each month in the same way that the *List of the Lost* currently is.

WILLIAM BUTTERFIELD 1814–1900

Keble College is probably the most flamboyant example of Butterfield's work. It is his biggest and grandest commission and his only educational institution. He was given the freedom to design everything from the facades and layout to the stained glass windows and doorknobs. It is fitting, therefore, that the College should be at the heart of the celebration of his life and work on the centenary of his death. We have joined with the Revd Alan Moses, Vicar of All Saints Margaret Street in London, (another of Butterfield's most famous buildings), to organize this tribute, to be held on Saturday 19 February.

We start at 12.30pm with drinks in the SCR before lunch in Hall at 1.00pm. Between 2.30 and 4.00pm, there will be lectures on Butterfield in the Pusey Room. After tea in ARCO, there will be Sung Eucharist in Chapel at 5.00pm with music from the Keble Choir.

Tickets (cost: £20.00 for the day) are limited and will be allocated as bookings are received. If you wish to take part in this celebration, please contact Denise Battsby in the Development Office (01865 282338) or email denise.battsby@keb.ox.ac.uk.



GAUDY WEEKEND

The first of the new-style Quinquennial Reunion weekends will be held on 17–18 March 2000. Invitations have already gone out to those who matriculated in the years 1981–5 inclusive.

Most of the planning has been done by a small working party representing the year groups concerned, and it is hoped that the

programme will offer a sufficient variety of activities to encourage a good attendance from all five years.

There will be a traditional Gaudy Dinner in Hall on Friday night. On Saturday, there will be a choice of cultural and sporting activities during the day, a Year Group meeting for each year in the afternoon, followed by an informal Dinner in the evening.

DIARY

Sunday 16 January 2000

Start of Hilary Term

Friday 28 January 2000

London Dinner at the Cavalry and Guards Club, 127 Piccadilly, 6.30 for 7.00pm. Details and booking form in *The Record*, or contact the Development Office.

Saturday 19 February 2000

Celebration of William Butterfield's work, on the 100th anniversary of his death. See left for details.

Friday and Saturday 17–18 March 2000

Quinquennial Reunion for Old Members who matriculated in the years 1981–5 inclusive. If you are in this group and have not yet received your invitation, please contact the Development Office.

Friday 31 March–Saturday 1 April 2000

New York Reunion. Invitations will be sent out early in January to all Old Members now living in North America.

Sunday 30 April 2000

St Mark's Day Service, 5.30pm in Chapel. Sermon given by The Very Revd John A Simpson, Dean of Canterbury. All welcome.

Friday 5 May

Eric Abbott Memorial Lecture: 5.30pm in the Chapel
'A knowledge of Angles: how spiritual are the English?', given by Revd Canon

Dr Martyn Percy, Director of the Lincoln Theological Institute, University of Sheffield.

Saturday 27 May 2000

MA Degree Day for 1992 matriculands. Invitations will be sent in January 2000.

Saturday 3 June 2000

Last day of Eights Week.
Garden Party from 3.30–5.30pm. Open to all Old Members and their guests and to parents of second year undergraduates. For tickets (£7.00 per person) please write to the Development Office, Keble College, Oxford, OX1 3PG.

Rowing Society Dinner and AGM — Invitations will be sent to Society members in April. If you are not a member but would like to join, or if you have not received your invitation by 1 May, please contact Isla Smith in the Development Office on 01865 272794 or isla.smith@keb.ox.ac.uk.

Friday 30 June 2000

Keble Association AGM and Summer Dinner. Application form in Hilary issue of *the brick*.

Saturday 1 July 2000

Family Day. Application form in Hilary issue of *the brick*.

Friday and Saturday 7–8 July 2000

Quinquennial Reunion for Old Members who matriculated in the years 1986–90 inclusive. Invitations will be sent out in March.

COMPETITION CORNER

We are grateful to Robin Wilson, Fellow and Senior College Lecturer in Mathematics, for another couple of brainteasers.

Please provide answers to both questions.

In order to emulate King Arthur, the Keble dons replace High Table by a round table. One evening ten dons turn up to dine. The Warden places Professor Allison on her right and Dr Hawcroft on her left. Unfortunately, Professor Gittins will only sit next to Dr Archer and Mr Hollis; Dr Heyes won't sit next to Professor Allison, Mr Hollis or Dr Archer; Professor Oldfield won't sit next to Drs Hunt or Hawcroft or Professor Allison; Professor Harris won't sit next to Drs Hunt or Archer or Professor Allison; Mr Hollis won't sit next to Dr Hawcroft or Professors Harris or Allison; Dr Hunt won't sit next to Drs Heyes or Hawcroft; and Dr Archer won't sit next to Dr Hunt.

Professor Allison and Dr Hawcroft are happy to sit next to anyone.

Find all the possible seating arrangements.

What is the largest number that can be obtained as the product of positive integers whose sum is 100? (For example, $30 \times 25 \times 25 \times 20$ is one such product, but is not the largest possible.)

Solutions, please, to
The Development Office
Keble College
Oxford
OX1 3PG

to arrive no later than 1 February. The first correct answer to both puzzles to be drawn from the hat will win dinner for two at High Table (provided they are willing to sit next to anyone).

ROBIN WILSON

Robin Wilson is Keble's Senior College Lecturer in Mathematics. He has taught mathematics at the Open University since 1972 and, when not involved in matters mathematical, sings in various choirs and participates in numerous operatic productions. He has recently been made a Fellow by Special Election and has just published a new book, together with John Fauvel and Raymond Flood, entitled *Oxford Figures: 800 Years of the mathematical sciences*, (OUP: price £35)



TRIO OF CAPTAINS

The College is making a very significant contribution to rugby this year as three University teams are captained by Keble men.

Blues captain, Norm Celliers, a South African, who has represented Western Province U21 and U23 and captained his nation's U19 side, will lead Oxford in the 118th Varsity match. Evan Weston's place in the pack brings Keble's tally to two. Under Norm's determined leadership, the Dark Blues have recorded victories over Bristol, Leicester and Northampton this term.

Captaining the team he played for last year, Mark Schofield, an Economics and Management finalist, is captaining the U21s. Having played at county level for Warwickshire and co-ordinated Keble's efforts last season, he brings considerable experience to a distinctly

youthful side. He realizes a long-held dream as the U21s play at Twickenham for the first time.

Miles Norris, a Geography finalist, deservedly takes charge of the 'Whippets', the University 4th team. After two injury-plagued seasons on the sidelines, Norris is at last able to use his talents to fulfil a deep-rooted ambition to put Cambridge in their rightful place. Involvement in many College sports from rowing to rounders ensures that he'll have plenty of supporters on Varsity Match Day.



(left to right) Norris, Schofield and Celliers

TRYING TIMES

Following an admirable performance last season, losing only to Teddy Hall in League finals, Keble Women's rugby team is hoping for success in this term's inter-college tournament. The team, strengthened by the addition of some new players, has already seen victory this term, beating Hertford 15-10 and Wadham 15-5. These successes owe much to the enthusiasm and skill of the Captain (Claire Linney), who is currently playing in the Blues Squad.

The Women's team, established just two years ago, has benefited from the dedication and coaching skills of Huw Gildon and Miles Norris, with the recent addition of Tim Johnston. Norris, returned from injury, has been playing for the 'Whippets' (4th University team), whom he managed in his first year.

KEBLE DRAMA SOCIETY

The disclosure that a theatre has been included in the plans for the new building, (tentatively called 'son of ARCO' by some students; how charming ARCO is regarded as a mother) has produced mixed feelings in the Drama Society. Joy, that at last there will be a venue within College for all the talent that presently has to go elsewhere for suitable dramatic opportunities, and also jealousy, because most of us will have moved on before the building is commissioned. Still, the show must go on...

Highlights of the year have included our out-going President Flo Miller's sensitive and intelligent performance in the highly praised production of Stoppard's *Arcadia*; first year Victoria Martin writing for and acting in the new comedy *Suck It and See*; Roland Oakshett in the improvisational satire *Nicki Narcissus* at

the Burton Taylor; Alastair Smith, who seemed to be involved backstage somewhere all year; Joe Hervey in Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*; Kathy Rice-Oxley's show-stopping Eliza Dolittle in *My Fair Lady* at the Old Fire Station; and Katy Brand shining brightly in the Alternative Revue's *Hello There*.

Arguably though, the high point of Keble's dramatic efforts — so far — has been its success in University Drama Cuppers. Benedict Fisher, a first year English undergraduate, won the award for 'Best New Writing' for his monologue, *Ash*, which he wrote, directed and in which he starred. Although nominated for 'Best Actor', 'Best Design' and 'Best Show', he was unable to achieve a Titanic-style clean sweep. Other Keble entries included Andrew Marshall's production of Ayckbourn's *Bedroom Farce* and *Killers*,

directed by Rich Lewis and Karen Parton.

Keble drama stays at home next term when the second annual Keble Arts Week takes place 3-12 February 2000. As the committee organizing this assembles, the Keble Drama Society continues to be busy with a variety of projects, promising a bright future for Keble's valuable contribution to drama both within the College and throughout the University.

* Finalists Flo Miller and Katy Brand have enjoyed further success in the Playhouse production of *Marat/Sade*. The play — a portrayal of Marat's assassination by inmates at a lunatic asylum under the direction of the Marquis de Sade (who wrote the original) — was both striking and grotesque in turns — certainly a challenge for two already accomplished actresses.

KEBLE MUSIC

The College hosted the University's first large musical event of the year on the Saturday of 1st week, a full baroque orchestra accompanying the College Chamber Choir in a lively performance of Handel's *Samson*, conducted by Stephen Bullamore and featuring soloists Claire Booth (soprano), John Cotton (alto), James Elliott (tenor) and Giles Underwood (bass).

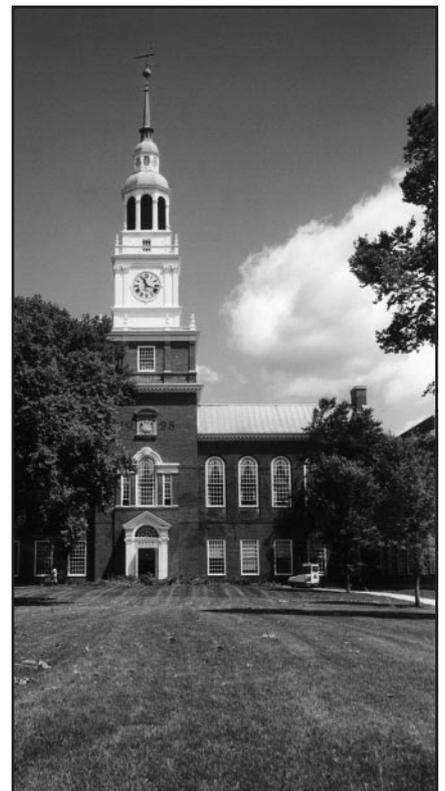
Other performances have included Duruflé's *Requiem*, sung by the College Chapel Choir, and Rutter's *Requiem* by the College Chorus. The Chapel Choir has also had a busy term singing in various services, including All Souls' Day, Remembrance Sunday, the College Corporate Communion and the Advent Carol Service.

Plans for the new building are tremendously exciting — the proposed music practice rooms and theatre will provide superb facilities for our enthusiastic and talented musicians.

DARTMOUTH

Marcus Starling (Archaeology & Anthropology) and Kathleen Rice-Oxley (Classics) spent the Summer Term at Dartmouth College as part of the student exchange scheme. Marcus writes about their experiences.

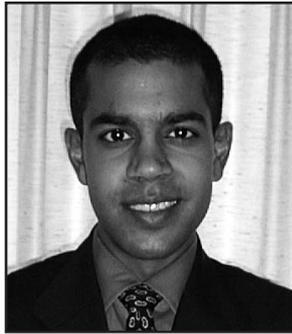
Kathleen contributed to cultural life with a prominent place in the drama scene, including a full-costume musical and a subtle American critique of British colonialism. I concentrated on studying languages, with classes in Spanish and German for 12 and 6 hours respectively. Language teaching, using the Rassias method, is one of the College's strengths. Dartmouth's outdoor and sporty life meant I got the chance to go canoeing or swimming every week, walk up Mount Moosilauke on Independence Day, go on a 3-day canoeing trip into Maine and over to Vermont to play table-tennis. The friendly atmosphere at Dartmouth and its lively social scene combine well with high standards of class teaching and facilities.



PEOPLE

Old brick editors never die... they just go on to higher things.

Kannon Shanmugam ('93, Classics M.Litt.), the founding editor of *the brick*, has landed every US law student's dream — a clerkship with a Supreme Court Justice. After his two years at Keble, Kannon attended Harvard Law School before starting his one-year clerkship with Justice Antonin Scalia in July. He's one of a very select group — there are nine Supreme Court Justices, and each has just three or four clerks. They're worked extremely hard and allegedly paid a pittance. But, like the editorship of *the brick*, a clerkship looks terrific on a cv.



PPEer Under Publication

Daniel Collings, a third year PPE student, is celebrating the publication of *Britain Under Thatcher*, written with his co-author, Anthony Seldon, the founding director of the Institute of Contemporary British History in London, and published by Hodder and Stoughton.



students and undergraduates, would be equally useful to anyone interested in the period. It deals with some of the most important and controversial events of the '80s, such as the Falklands War, the miners' strike and the introduction of the Poll Tax.

Daniel has been working with Anthony Seldon on various projects, including *Major: A Political Life*, throughout his undergraduate career. It may be a while before we see another book from him,

though — he not only has his Finals coming up but also feels that he 'needs a bit of a break' before embarking on a new project.

The book provides an overview of the Thatcher Government from 1979 to 1990 and, though aimed at A Level



The Warden, flanked by her son and daughter, proudly displays her CBE, awarded for her 'contribution to Classical Scholarship.'

the brick

the brick is written, designed and produced by current Keble undergraduates and graduates, with the assistance of the Keble Development Office.

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The Warden goes 'down under' for Dinner with Old Members in Sydney in July.