

NEW BUILDING ON COURSE TO START THIS YEAR



△ Model of the new building

Work on the last new building in College will start before the end of the year. That is the optimistic message from the Bursar, Ken Lovett, following progress on two key fronts.

'Planning consent was always going to be a major hurdle,' he says. But the problems came from an unexpected quarter. Oxford City Council and the Victorian Society raised few questions about Rick Mather's design, which complements his 1995 ARCO Building. But the site, at the south end of the Fellows' Garden, encompasses a single storey building housing a transformer station and a Fellow's flat, part of the 1970s development on Blackhall Road designed by Ahrends Burton Koralek. Remarkably for a structure less than thirty years old, the ABK buildings were listed Grade II* last August, so replacement of this unit requires the consent of the Secretary of State.

'We are delighted the ABK Building has achieved this distinction,' says the Bursar. 'But

where there is now accommodation for just one Fellow, we aim to have a 250-seat theatre and a common room and a music room and six seminar rooms and twenty study-bedrooms.' It is a measure of the quality of Mather's design that English Heritage, who advise the Secretary of State on listed

building matters, have now recommended approval.

Fundraising was another challenge. With £1.5mn pledged by Sloane Robinson (see *the brick* issue 16) and £500,000 given by other benefactors, the College launched a campaign for a further £2mn. As Roger Boden, Keble's Development Director, explains, 'We decided to talk to a small group of Old Members who might give substantial help. We didn't want to mount a general appeal so soon after the launch of the Year Group initiative. That is a long-term project which we hope will involve all Old Members. For the new building, we needed a short, sharp, targeted campaign.'

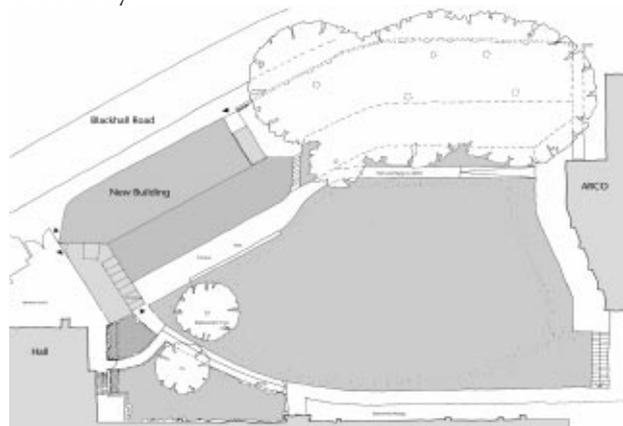
With a team of fifteen volunteers chaired by Jeremy Hardie (Fellow and Tutor in Economics, 1968–75; Chairman of W H Smith Group PLC, 1994–9) the campaign has so far contacted about 200 Old Members. £900,000 has been raised in six months, and Boden is optimistic about passing £1mn by Easter. 'If we pass that figure,' says the Bursar, 'I'm confident

Governing Body will give the project the go-ahead.'

With planning hurdles overcome and funds coming in, the pressure is now on the design team to deliver final plans. This might have been less of a challenge had Rick Mather not been appointed master-planner for the redevelopment of London's South Bank Arts Centre. His proposals were unveiled in February to critical acclaim, and the team is now back hard at work on the Keble project.

So if all goes well, the College will have its last new building within the curtilage by the summer of 2002. The Warden is in no doubt as to the importance of the project. 'What we decide now will affect how Keble develops this century and beyond. Fortunately, the challenge comes at a point when the College is perhaps stronger than at any time in its history. So, like our Founders, we are prepared to take bold decisions. I am very confident that, as a result, Keble will have one of the most distinguished, versatile and attractive buildings in the University.'

Plan of the Fellows' Garden



DIARY

APRIL
30
St Mark's Day Service

5.30pm in Chapel. Sermon given by The Very Revd John A Simpson, Dean of Canterbury. All welcome.

MAY
5
Eric Abbot Memorial Lecture

5.30pm in Chapel. A knowledge of Angles: how spiritual are the English?, Revd Canon Dr Martyn Percy, Director of the Lincoln Theological Institute, University of Sheffield.

27
MA Degree Day

For 1992 Matriculands

▽ Last year's MA Day


JUNE
3
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. Invitations will be sent to parents in April.

Rowing Society Dinner & A.G.M.

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

30
Keble Association A.G.M and Summer Dinner

See booking form enclosed with this issue.

JULY
1

Family Day

See booking form enclosed with this issue

fun for all the family!

7–8

Quinquennial Reunion

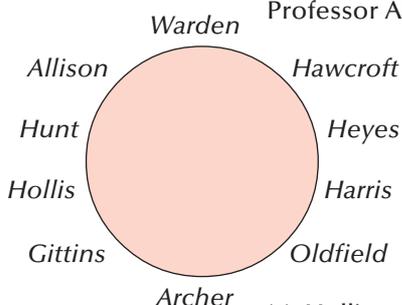
Quinquennial Reunion for Old Members who matriculated in the years 1986–90 inclusive. Invitations will be sent out in April.

see page 7 for a report on the first quinquennial reunion

COMPETITION CORNER

Solutions to the questions we posed in issue 17, Michaelmas Term 1999

1. 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.

There are two possible seating plans (see left). Heyes and Harris may be interchanged.

2. 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.)

Two 2s and thirty-two 3s, or One 4 and thirty-two 3s.

Congratulations to Gerald Bettridge ('56) whose correct entry was the first to be drawn from the hat: dinner for two at High Table awaits, the seating plan is under construction. (Correct solutions were also received from Iolo Jones, Peter Jelfs, Bruce Andrews, David Squire, Miles Blackford, John Wiggins and Victoria Field.)

the brick INTERVIEW: MARK BUTCHERS

Nazish Minhas talks to Keble's new Chaplain and Theology tutor.

3

What are your first impressions of Keble?

I've felt warmly welcomed by everybody, Fellows, staff and students, and have found the environment enjoyably stimulating. I was looking for a challenge, and have certainly found it here.

Tell me about life before Keble.

I was born and brought up in Twickenham. Most of my life, I have lived in London, apart from 3 years studying Classics at Trinity College, Cambridge and 3 years at Chichester Theological College. I was ordained in 1987 and served as a curate in Chelsea, and then at a Keble parish in Mitcham. In 1994, I became incumbent of four rural parishes in mid-Devon.

What has challenged you most?

Because I have always been a parish clergyman, the structures of being a chaplain are different, as are the ways one meets and gets to know people. I have had to work out a fresh pattern of life, as I try to discover how to be a priest in very different circumstances. I think I am getting there — I hope so!

What has surprised you the most at Keble?

The biggest surprise is the percentage of students who have a faith, both Christian and non-Christian — it is about 20% of the student body, which is far higher than I'd anticipated.

How would you define your role as Chaplain?

There are two main aspects. One is leading and organizing the worship in the Chapel, particularly the College communion on Sunday. Keble has a very distinct tradition at the Catholic end of Christian faith, which I want to preserve. That role of lifting the college community to God in prayer, I see as very important. The other key aspect is the pastoral care of the student community. Keble already has a very good welfare structure, and I would like to be an active part of that. I decided that one of the best ways to get to know the students was to eat lunch in Hall a few days each week, rather than always eating with the SCR.

How do you combine your pastoral and academic roles?

I've decided not to teach this year, but first to settle into my pastoral role. I would also like to finish my Ph.D. on the Theology of Creation.

What are the best and worst things about Keble?

The feel of the College is excellent. It is very down-to-earth, and I have found the variety of students here with different backgrounds and upbringings very exciting. The academic stimulation means I find myself in the middle of some tremendous discussions. Against that, I do miss the countryside and being able to work from home.

What motivates you in life as chaplain?

My faith. I came to my Christian faith in my teens, and was inspired by the life of prayer and service of Christians I met then. I also enjoy encouraging people to think critically about life and belief, and I am quite happy to engage in that with both Christians and non-Christians.

You have a wonderful chapel choir. Are you musical yourself?

Sadly not. My musical career didn't even get as far as recorder lessons! But I enjoy listening to music, and to stand at the altar each Sunday surrounded by such sublime singing is wonderful.

Which historical character do you relate to most?

I have great admiration for Athanasius, for his courage, thought, and for defending his understanding of the Christian faith in the face of a serious threat to Christian orthodoxy. In reading his writings I felt inspired by him.

When you have a spare day, what do you do?

Much of my spare time is taken up with the family. I also love playing tennis but sadly I have not had the chance to play since I have been in Oxford but I am hoping to soon. I enjoy reading and going to the cinema, or going out for a meal.

How have your family taken to Oxford?

My children Anna (10) and Joe (8) were adamant that they didn't want to leave Devon, but much to our relief, they have settled in well at their new schools.

Hilary, my wife, has recently started working as the Oxford branch organizer of Volunteer Reading Help that finds and trains volunteers to give extra support for children who have difficulties with reading. That has helped her settle and she's enjoying coming to social events in the College when she can.



AWESOME '87s

The President of the University Quiz Society assumed the Jeremy Paxman role. Round One saw 'Others' — Barker ('97), Slaughter ('76 capt.), Drahun ('71) and Boden ('65) — overwhelm Keble SCR, who fared well but lacked the swift reflexes required to reach the buzzers first. A rout by the omniscient winners of the 1987 series over the current College team followed. This team — Brindle ('81 capt.), Smith ('85), Goodfellow ('83) and Follows ('85) cruised to a stunning victory over the 'Others' in the Final.



Our prestigious champions stepped down and retired to the audience, graciously moving aside for a 'commiseration' round between JCR and SCR. Of the night's rounds, this was the closest run. In a nail-biting finish, the JCR clinched victory in the closing seconds.

A spokesman for the SCR said 'We were confident that he had the right men for the job. With Peel's knowledge of Fat Boy Slim, Taylor's expertise on the sitcom 'Friends', and Hanna's grasp of small bones, we felt sure that we would put in a great performance. It just wasn't enough on the day.'



△ Challenge teams through the ages...plus the triumphant Keble Challenge winners.

COXES & BOXERS

The MCR Committee has been working to increase the participation of Keble's graduate women in College life. Currently, women make up 25% of the MCR, whereas the percentage in the JCR is 40%.

Graduates are rightly proud of the Keble MCR Women's VIII. This crew qualified for Torpids and would have formed Keble II had the rowing not been cancelled. They will be back on the river in the summer, representing the College, the MCR and graduate women in particular.



Meanwhile, off the water, at the instigation of the women members, the Committee held a boxer short competition. The event was a huge success, attracting a predominantly female audience from both MCR and JCR, as well as MCRs from other colleges. It transpired, however, that when it comes to men in underwear, women show absolutely no loyalty to their own college, the prize being awarded to a St John's graduate.



KA-OTIC FUN DAY



The Keble Association Sports Day will take place on Saturday 6 May at the Keble Sports ground. Generous sponsorship from the KA has ensured that planning can get under way for the day, as well as providing each participant with a T-shirt to commemorate the event.

Around 200 JCR, MCR and College staff members will compete in teams of eight. Events will include egg and spoon races, sack races, limbo contests and three legged football. The planning committee hopes the day will be a great fun day for all members of the College, whilst raising funds for Rag, the university wide charities group.

△ T-shirt design

SECOND KEBLE ARTS WEEK

With a programme of drama, music, poetry, dance and photography, Keble Arts Week serves to promote the arts by encouraging talent in any field. It is made possible by sponsorship of £1,000 from the Jack Lane Bequest (see issue 12), which is administered by the Keble Association.

Arts Week began with Robin Wilson's 'Alice in Kebleland,' an 'informal dramatic presentation in 8 fits'. While some of the more extrovert members of SCR, JCR and College staff bravely trod the boards to portray the family, friends and fictional characters of Lewis Carroll — including the Warden as Mrs Liddell — the host outlined intriguing maths puzzles to torment the scientists in the audience.

Ben Hewitt and Joe Hervey hosted an intimate evening of surreal and funny improvisation in ARCO for all budding impromptu comedians. Even though there was no specific theme, much of the fun came from impersonations of College members.

Rhythm took over as Keble dance president Indy Gill invited members to display their skills at the dance demonstration. The university team put on an exhilarating show of tango and salsa and other ballroom dances. The audience was encouraged to participate at the end, getting a bit of free coaching from some of the best dancers in Oxford.

The question, 'Does being a minority hinder student life in Oxford?' provoked enjoyable and heated argument. A debating panel of Gareth Carpenter, Rehana Azib, Gavin Plumley, and the chair of the OUSU women's committee, concluded that Oxford wasn't a bad place for minorities and that opportunities were there for everyone.

In association with the Oxford English Society, Emma Dunford organized a poetry recital and workshop with Oxford graduate and illustrious poet Kate Clanchy. Kate, who has tutored many of Keble's English students before, gave a real insight into the world of professional poetry. Some of Keble's own poets, notably Gavin Plumley, were given the opportunity to recite some of their work.

The 'Keble 2000' photography exhibition in ARCO offered a refined and artistic evening at which Emma Campbell's impressive portraits of Oxford and India, and Guy Collender's and JCR President Ewan Morgan's brilliant travel photography were displayed.

Cuppers 'New Writing' winner Ben Fisher reproduced his performance of 'Ash', an ironic, emotional and tense monologue that pointed to the lack of meaningful originality in theatre today.

Headlined by the famous all-female acapella group 'The Oxford Belles', a Band's Night showcased bands from Balliol and St Hugh's, as well as the newly-formed Keble House band, starring soulful frontman Alex Smith and James Hayduk on drums.

No Arts Week would be complete without choral activity, and the awe-inspiring sound of the Annual Eight Oxford Chapel Choirs' Concert filled Butterfield's Chapel, providing a fitting end to the events. Plans are already afoot for the third Arts Week. It promises to be just as successful.



SPORT

Resourceful Oarsmen

Keble Rowers have improved in fitness and confidence by competing at events outside the constraints of Oxford's rowing calendar. The 2nd Eight came up against a number of well-established rowing schools at Wycliffe near Gloucester. Canal racing proved a novel experience, necessitating interruption of the stroking rhythm, during practice sessions, to duck periodically to avoid low bridges. A respectable 43rd place was achieved out of the 118 boats.

Both 1st and 2nd Eight fared well in the downstream races at Worcester, despite the 2nd Eight's fear of disqualification for the loss of a bowball after an altercation caused by the incompetent steering of other coxes. After some improvisation with a woolly hat and some string, an alternative was fashioned and the crew finished 31st out of 115 boats.

After the disappointment of yet another cancelled Torpids (when will OUBC get it act together?), the crews now look forward to the much shorter but more nerve-racking ordeal of Eights Week.

Cresta Triumph



Jon Elford (captain) and Alexis Wain made up half of the University team which won the Oxbridge Cresta Run Cup this year. The Cresta Run, near St Moritz, is a toboggan race of just under a mile, run on a course shaped from ice, in which speeds of 90 miles an hour are attained. The victory over Cambridge would have been greater had points for style been awarded to the 'Shuttlecock Club' – membership is made up of those who 'fly' out of the Run.



Rugby Blues

Following a disappointing run at the end of Michaelmas, Keble lost their three opening league games and it became clear that anything other than two victories would result in relegation. Inspired by the leadership of captain Spencer Craig, two outstanding victories over Brasenose and St Edmund Hall preserved first division status.

A Cuppers draw brought Keble up against a relatively weak St Catherine's side and a Brasenose team reinforced with several Blues and U21s players. Keble defeated St Catherine's 25-0 but could not hold off Brasenose, despite the valiant efforts of Blues scrumhalf Jamie Weston. That match (22-8) brought an abrupt end to Keble's Cuppers campaign.

Fives Alive

Eton Fives is a hand-ball game, played in a three-sided court by two teams of two players. The back of the court is completely open as the design is based on a bay formed by the buttresses at the base of the chapel steps at Eton College, where the game originated. The court's profusion of surfaces and angles can be used to great effect by the skilled player, as simple shots often become unpredictable ricochets. The player making the return of service shot can repeatedly refuse services until they get one that they like. There is usually no referee or umpire so all players are on their honour to admit foul shots and to allow 'lets' where there is any doubt – absolute fair play is an essential aspect of the game.

Keble remains a force in Eton Fives, providing three of the past four University Captains including Andrew Sentance for last year and Thomas Swerling for this. Fresher Tony Reekie-Solomon has also made a big impact in the sport, and will be pushing hard for a place in the top six, and therefore a coveted Blue, in this year's Varsity Match, where a strong Oxford side will strive to reverse last year's defeat. Keble's Dr Ian Archer retains his position as Senior Member and Treasurer of the OU Eton Fives Club.

OLD MEMBERS' NEWS

A Weekend of Firsts

The weekend of 17–18 March saw the first of the new-style Quinquennial Reunions which have arisen out of the Year Group initiative. Over two hundred members from the years 1981–5 attended a traditional Gaudy on Friday evening. The Warden and Peter Hutton ('82) were the first to use the newly installed PA system which ensured that for the first time everyone present was able to hear what was being said. An impressive turnout for the



Survivors' picture on Saturday morning proved that levels of stamina have not diminished over the years. Following a presentation on the current state of the College and its plans for the new building and the future, everyone broke into Year Groups to discuss future events.

A range of activities was on offer in the afternoon. For some it was the first time they had been back in

a boat since leaving Keble about 15 years ago; some reconvened football teams of old; and for others it was the first time they had seen the College from the Chapel roof. For everyone, congregating in the JCR for tea, the years rolled back as it seemed for all the world like an undergraduate Saturday afternoon. An informal dinner in Hall and a Bar Quiz rounded off the proceedings.



A montage of pictures taken of the weekend will be on the Keble webpage. Hopefully they will evoke happy memories for those who were present and will enable those who were not able to come to share in some of the atmosphere of a superb weekend



Travel Scoop

Rhiannon Batten (1993, Archaeology & Anthropology), currently Commissioning Editor at *The Independent*, has been named Young Travel Writer of the Year by the Travel Trade Gazette, winning the Barbara Land Memorial Award in November 1999. She has also been nominated for Press Gazette Young Journalist of the Year, and the winner will be announced on 21 March.

First Come, First Served

Congratulations to Andrea Harber-Kelly (1991, *English*) who was the first Old Member to log in to the new Keble Old Members' Directory. She wins a copy of the widely acclaimed Keble Choir CD, *Lux Mundi*.

So far over 1300 Old Members have registered for access to the Directory and that number increases daily with Members contacting us via the link in the website itself. Opinion has been predominantly favourable, and, as usage is logged, we can see that the Directory is being visited regularly (the Year Group representatives were right!).

We have taken the feedback into account and are already planning improvements to make the Directory more user-friendly and to incorporate further search possibilities. We are currently working on setting up individual Year Group pages, so that Old Members will be able to communicate with each other directly. Any Old Member who wishes to register to use the Directory, but has not already done so, can write to or email the Development Office (alumni.directory@keb.ox.ac.uk) and the access mechanism will be explained.

Old Members in Print

Years Not Wasted 1940–45 by Keith Panter-Brick ('46). Letters home from POW camp in Poland. Published by The Book Guild 1999. ISBN 1 85776 329 7

You have been allocated Uganda by Alan Forward ('54). Letters from a District Officer in Uganda. Published by Poyntington Publishing Co. 1999. ISBN 095366 970 X

The Rollesby Chronicle by Ron Pallas ('58). Historical account of the fictional Rollesby family in the 14th century. Published by The Book Guild 2000. ISBN 1 85776 418 8

AND FINALLY...

'There is a Light...'



but it is temporarily hanging at the Tate Gallery as part of the exhibition, *Ruskin and the Pre-Raphaelites*. The *Light of the World* was painted in 1853 by Holman Hunt and purchased by Thomas Combe, whose widow donated it to Keble in 1872, on the strict understanding that it would hang in the Chapel. However, William Butterfield would not allow for this in his designs and it was first hung in the Library. A lengthy and acrimonious correspondence was conducted in *The Times* as late as 1904 as to who was responsible for the damage caused to the painting after it was hung above hot water pipes. Finally it found its home in the Side Chapel, which was purpose-built in 1892 to provide an appropriate setting for its display.

Ruskin and the Pre-Raphaelites at the Tate Gallery, 6 March to 29 May

Letter from the Clocktower



Greetings

The blackbirds are singing, a carpet of crocuses and daffodils is spread under the tree in Pusey, Butterfield's bricks are glowing in the slanting afternoon sun – all is well with our world.

But look, here is the Warden, walking purposefully across the quad, no doubt on her way to chair yet another meeting of the Conference of Colleges, as they wrestle with the knotty question of University and college funding. She passes the gardeners, busy at work on a new planting design which is revealing features previously obscured by overgrown shrubs. When did we last see the lovely double window at the door of the Chapel, I wonder? It's just another of the Bursar's projects. And there, indeed, he marches, rolls of plans for the new building tucked precariously under his arm. With that wild look in his eye, he's obviously late for an appointment with the architect. He gives a cheery wave to Dileepan Joseph, President of the MCR, who's proudly carrying Woolly the Sheep back to its rightful place as mascot of the MCR, following its harrowing experience of a kidnapping by Christchurch rascals.

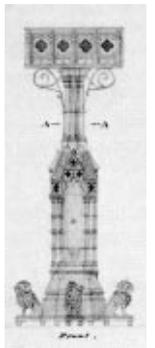
Spring is indeed in the air, and whilst, personally, I am not rushing out to buy a new hat, we are all watching with interest to see whether the couples who won the Valentine's Day Blind Date competition end up being able, at the very least, to speak to each other. (The JCR Entz reps came up with this idea as an attempt to improve relations between Keble and St John's. It has been made clear, however, that derision at our dinosaurs and our bricks must cease if this sort of event is ever to be repeated.) All, no doubt, will be revealed in the next issue of our scurrilous sister publication, the internal Brick.

Rapunzel

Butterfield Centenary

In February, the College was the focus of celebration of the work of William Butterfield. Old Members and Butterfield devotees attended lectures by Dr Jonathan Mané-Wheoki (University of Canterbury, New Zealand) on *William Butterfield and the Architecture of Ritualism* and by Dr Geoffrey Tyack (Fellow of Kellogg College) on *William Butterfield, Keble College and High Victorian Architecture*.

Both speakers illustrated their lectures with a fascinating array of slides, which they used to put this distinctive style of architecture in context. Whilst the design for Keble was traditional in its layout in



quadrangle form, it broke from the Oxbridge custom insofar as college accommodation was situated on corridors rather than on staircases. Most earlier Oxford colleges have entirely enclosed quads but the effect of space Butterfield created by having a wide passage between Liddon and Pusey Quads at the Lodge is something which familiarity makes one take for granted.

Marjory Szurko, The Librarian, mounted an exhibition in ARCO, which emphasized the breadth of Butterfield's vision; from the churches at Horton cum Studley and All Saint's, Margaret Street, through Keble, Merton and Balliol Colleges in Oxford, to the Anglican Cathedral in Melbourne, Australia.

The day of celebration ended fittingly with a sung Eucharist in the Chapel.