

the brick

HOW DO THEY DO THAT?

As any visitor to the College website will know, work on the new building started in January.

The first big job is piling. The basement floor is 6 metres below ground level, which requires the sinking of a 'curtain wall' of very deep piles. These will contain pipes through which water will circulate to fuel the building's heat exchange system. Here's how they do it:



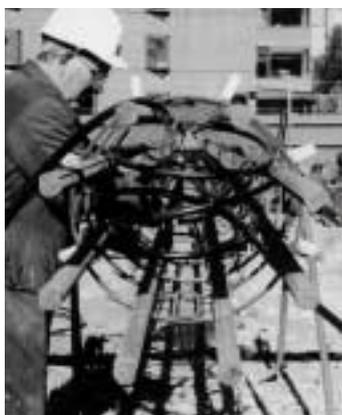
◀ This is the drill that makes the holes



▶ This is the cage that goes in the tube



△ This is the tube that goes in the holes



△ This is the pipe that goes in the cage

▽ And this is the end result; concrete, cage, pipes and all



◀ This is the concrete being poured in the tube that holds the cage that holds the pipes



◀ This is the tube coming out of the hole



When the piling is finished, the area enclosed by it will be dug out. If all goes according to plan (and the weather has been surprisingly kind so far) work on the basement floor will begin in May.

DIARY

APRIL	22	22	MAY	11	19
	Trinity Term Begins	St Mark's Day Service 5.30pm, Chapel. <i>Sermon given by The Very Revd Michael Perham ('71), Dean of Derby. All welcome.</i>		Eric Abbott Memorial Lecture Deep time: does it matter? <i>Lecture given by Prof. Stephen R L Clark of the University of Liverpool.</i>	MA Degree Day <i>For 1993 Matriculands.</i> <i>If you have not received an invitation and believe you are eligible, please contact the Development Office.</i>
MAY CONTD	26			26	
	Garden Party 3.30–5.00pm. <i>Open to all Old Members and their guests; to parents of second year undergraduates and guests of first year graduates.</i> <i>For tickets (£7.00 per person), please write to the Development Office. Details and formal invitation cards will be sent out in April.</i>			Rowing Society Dinner and AGM <i>Invitations will be sent to Society members in April.</i> <i>If you are not a member but would like to join, or if you have not received your invitation by 1 May, please contact the Development Office.</i>	
JUNE	23	29–30	JULY	20	21
	Keble Ball 2001 <i>See page 5 for details.</i>	Quinquennial Reunion <i>Quinquennial Reunion for Old Members who matriculated in the years 1955–9 inclusive.</i> <i>Invitations will be sent out in April.</i>		Keble Association AGM and Summer Dinner	Family Day
				<i>See booking form enclosed with this issue.</i>	

COMPETITION CORNER

These three pictures should inspire you to write some verse on the subject of Butterfield/bricks/Keble, or all three. The contributor who provides the judges with the most amusement will win Dinner at High Table for two, plus an overnight stay in College, on a date of their choosing.

Please send contributions to The Development Office, Keble College, Oxford, OX1 3PG to arrive no later than Friday 8 June 2001.



THE BRICK INTERVIEW: LARRY SIEDENTOP

3

Mathias Vaa, 2nd year PPE student, interviews Larry Siedentop, Fellow and Tutor in Politics, following the publication of his recent book.

What did you do before you came to Keble?

Well, I grew up in the US, went to a Dutch school before going to Harvard, arriving in Magdalen in 1960 on a Marshall Scholarship. I then proceeded to Nuffield, first as a research student and then Fellow, where I stayed until 1968. For a few years after that I was a lecturer at two colleges, Jesus and Keble, and in 1972 I went to Sussex, where I taught Intellectual History and Political Theory. I came back to Keble as a Fellow in 1973.

What motivated you to become an academic?

I liked reading and *trying* to think, although there are times now when one suspects that academic life is a conspiracy to prevent one reading.

And what role do you see academics playing in society?

The first thing one needs to do is to distinguish between the arts and sciences. The point of a liberal education is to distance oneself from the current division of social labour, to begin to make possible a more detached and critical view of society. The danger in the arts side is that they are being seen from a merely utilitarian angle which distorts their meaning. In that respect I have always had some reservations about British higher education, apart from PPE and other joint honour degrees, because people have traditionally specialised too quickly. There is quite a lot in fact to be said for the US liberal arts degree.

With the recent publication of your book, *Democracy in Europe*, would you say that its impact has lived up to your expectations?

I am very pleased. I suppose one always has to distinguish between one's hopes and one's expectations, I can honestly say that my expectations have been exceeded. The messages I have had and the people I know who have read it, Gordon Brown, Henry Kissinger, Romano Prodi and Tony Blair, have been remarkably encouraging.

Is there a crisis in Europe?

There is a kind of crisis in Europe; a crisis of confidence in public opinion, a crisis of democratic legitimacy, which is one of the reasons that I started writing the

book. I think the crisis is going to be prolonged, not least because of the issues raised by enlargement but also because for the first time since 1958, the French who have been the dominating influence on the European Union do not know what they want.

Oxford is also often said to be in decline or crisis. Do you agree?

I think 'decline' is over-simple. The system is certainly subject to great pressures at the moment and because it has remained perhaps the least centralised university in the Western world it has had some difficulties coping with these pressures. One joke I have often made is that whereas Cambridge has reached the 17th century, with the nation state having arrived, Oxford is still in the 15th, the state being just over the horizon, although that is changing rapidly with the centralization and division of the University into separate faculties. The great strength of Oxford has been its relaxed quasi-aristocratic attitude towards academic work, and although now that is readily perceived as flawed or outdated. In some ways, by giving students a lot of latitude, emphasising work on your own and where possible finding groups of like-minded people to spend your time with, at its best, Oxford achieves standards perhaps higher than anywhere else.

I understand that you will be leaving Keble soon, what do you intend to do afterwards?

Well as you may know I retire in about 2½ years. I have some writing projects: two unfinished books, and one or two projects beyond that. One is a big intellectual biography on Tocqueville which I started ages ago but couldn't complete because the family papers have only recently been released. Then there is a book on the history of individualism, a fair part of which is written. So, I am not without projects.

When you leave, what will you take away from Keble?

Above all the memory of many excellent undergraduates. Also, certain mixed feelings about Victorian architecture. And a pleasant conviction that many of the problems which some Oxford colleges face, breaking through traditional social barriers and reaching out, Keble has been able to deal with, and indeed achieved this some time ago. Gordon Brown's strictures about open access hardly apply to Keble.



Allen Lane Penguin

TEXTILE TREASURE TROVE

Katrina Collison describes her trip to Northern Laos

As an Archaeology and Anthropology undergraduate, I was obliged to arrange three weeks of fieldwork. Whilst most of my peers went to archaeological sites to study Roman villas or Celtic field systems, I surprised my tutor by announcing that I was going to Laos to study textiles.

My trip took me to remote mountain villages, set in stunning and unusual scenery. Weaving is an integral part of village life and the variety of items produced is amazing. The recipes for vegetable and plant dyes were closely guarded secrets, handed down from one generation to the next. Typically, red and gold woven wedding shawls will each take up to six months to weave and would fetch several hundred pounds in Britain. But I also learned about a completely different way of life and attitude to the world, amongst some of the friendliest people you could hope to meet. Laos, one of the world's poorest countries lacks

basic plumbing and clean water in most areas, yet even in the remotest village it proved obligatory to watch Britney Spears on DVD as we ate our meals! In this country which has only been re-opened to visitors in the last five years, I found that the Lao went out of their way to be friendly and helpful to tourists.

The town I stayed in had a population of 50 000 and we lodged in the hotel in the area. Within a week we were known as 'the group of white people'!

I would like to thank the Keble Association for their sponsorship.



AULD LANG SYNE NTOMDADLANA

An instant Keble tradition was established this term with the College's first-ever Burns Supper. John 'Windbag' Claxton, the College Chef, piped the haggis up through Hall to High Table, ably assisted by Steve 'Tartan Trews' Peedell, Deputy Chef and Emil 'Kilty' Hernandez, Assistant Butler. The acoustics of the Hall were more than able to cope with this assault.

The Address to the Haggis was conducted with great gusto by Anthony 'Sonsie Face' Johnston and the Immortal Memory was delivered by Alastair 'Reekin' Smith. Roger 'Great Chieftain' Boden, the Bursar, proposed the Toast to the Lassies and Isla 'Tattie' Smith, the Development Officer replied.

The date is in the diary for a repeat performance next year.

Tim Johnson recounts his African adventure

There was no way I was prepared to go through a three-year archaeology degree without visiting at least one exotic location. If your site has an unpronounceable name, is accessible only via an incredibly uncomfortable cross-country car journey, and an arduous climb every morning, interest must increase at least fivefold.

So, imagine digging in the middle of the South African bush, miles from anywhere, on top of a 1230m hill called Ntomdadlana. It was neither rainy, nor squalid nor snake-infested. In fact, our decidedly comfortable project involved excavating two Late Iron Age



(1100–1700 AD) hilltop villages in the Drakensberg foothills of Kwazulu-Natal. Our task was to explain the cultural discontinuity

between these sites and those of earlier periods; the desire to build small settlements in inaccessible places and start making disappointingly boring pottery. These were clearly new people, with some form of different social set-up, although there were hints in the settlement pattern that they were not so conceptually divorced from their other Iron Age counterparts. It felt like real archaeology: a constant flow of exciting discoveries and theories. Close your eyes and you could see Indiana Jones; or Tony Robinson jumping about in your trench.



Steve Peedell, Emil Hernandez, John

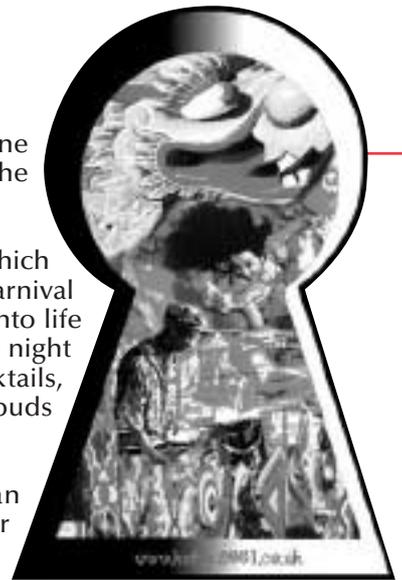
△ Claxton

THE BALL'S IN YOUR QUAD

Close your eyes and remember what you were doing on the last Saturday in June 1999. I am guessing that many of you were enjoying what proved to be one of the best balls in Oxford — Keble Ball '99.

Nearly two years on, preparations are well under way for the next Summer Ball, which will be even better. Keble2001, on Saturday 23 June, will open with a spectacular carnival featuring sky dancers and acrobats. As the sun sets, the three stages will burst into life with performers from all corners of the globe — once again the highlight of the night will be a midnight set from one of the nation's favourite bands. Caribbean cocktails, champagne and unusual beers will all feature on the drinks menu, whilst taste buds will be titillated by an array of international foods.

Tickets are a snip at £75 (non-dining), and for just an extra £20 you can enjoy a delicious four course meal. Please send all ticket requests or enquiries to: tickets@keble2001.co.uk, or check out the Flash web page at <http://www.keble2001.co.uk/>



5

OPERA FEMINA

Opera Femina is an all-female opera company, co-founded by soprano Sarah Estill (History, 1988), which is to be launched with performances of two rarely heard works in Keble Chapel on Saturday 5 May.

A new translation of Puccini's one act opera, *Suor Angelica*, will incorporate a performance of Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater* in an innovative approach to performing conventions. Sarah will sing

the title role of Angelica and will be joined by fellow professionals and members of Keble Music Society. Sarah, who has performed all over the world, felt that a company focusing on women in opera would provide an interesting angle for re-evaluating our view of the medium, whilst also providing a platform for young, professional, female singers and musicians.

For ticket information email: kathryn.schofield@keb.ox.ac.uk

ARTS ALIVE

The 3rd Keble Arts Week started with a Poetry Evening, with readings of published material, as well as the work of unsung Keble poets. This was followed by a preview of the Oxford Playhouse production *Little Shop of Horrors*.

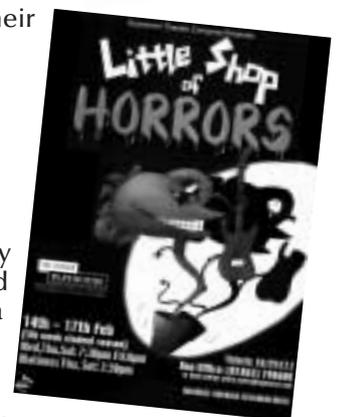
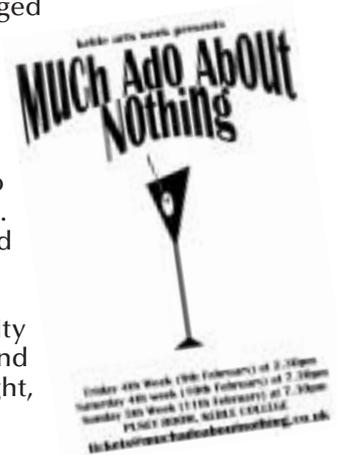
The main attraction was *Much Ado About Nothing*, staged by Keble's Drama Society. David Furness, director, and Ben Hewitt, producer and drama president, entertained audiences with a very funny and unaffected production. Special mention should be made of Ben Richards for his honest Claudio; Edward Cadwallader for a dead-pan Conrade; and Joanna Franks and Rebecca Jenkinson who were respectively demure and flirty as Hero and Margaret. David Botham, Tom Williams and Sarah Gillinson provided the excellent music.

A *Pictionary* and charades Evening provided an opportunity for comedy and sheer exhibitionism. Bands from Keble and neighbouring colleges performed in a popular Bands' Night, with the Oxford Belles as the main feature.

Thanks go, once again, to the Keble Association for their generous sponsorship of Arts Week.

HORROR OF HORRORS

The most popular show of this year so far was undoubtedly *Little Shop of Horrors*, staged this term at the Oxford Playhouse. An enjoyable, upbeat musical, with a particularly quirky plot, it is a successful combination of comedy, romance, great music and stars a giant man-eating plant. This production was 'Choice of the Week' in every student and local paper and was seen by over three and a half thousand people over its four-day run. The cult comedy musical included performances by Keble students Claire Linney and Nicky Huggett; Jo Hayduk was in charge of costume design.



Bully for them!

Last term's efforts ensured that the Women's hockey team made it through the preliminary stages of Cuppers, qualifying to play a combined Christchurch and Balliol team in the quarter-finals. Of the numerous strikes at goal, only 3 made it in, but they were enough to ensure a place in the semi-finals against Teddy Hall. Keble won in great style with a final score of 5-0; Hattie Dean, celebrating her nineteenth birthday, scored twice. The final, against Queen's, was a closely fought match. Despite huge support for Keble, Queen's proved to be the stronger team with some key players and they won 2-0. Our side's strength was its ability to play as a team, though the individual talents of Sarah Mulryan and Kerri Shields deserve special mention.



Blues Brothers

Oxford's Rugby Blues, captained by our very own Jamie Weston and with Olly Julian at number three, were victorious in the 119th Varsity match at Twickenham in December. The University First XV overcame terrible conditions to lift the Bowring Bowl for the second year in a row, in front of a crowd of 55 000. Cambridge surrendered an initial lead in the 72nd minute and allowed Hertford's Ross Jennings through. With vital support from the scrum, he made the final try on the right wing to give Oxford a narrow victory at 19-16.



▽ Dom Siddall



Dom, Ed and Gym

Dominic Siddall and Ed Inett represented Oxford this year in the Men's Gymnastics team, with Dominic also captaining and coaching the team. A major highlight of the season was a trip to an International Student Competition in Holland where both won medals. The pair took part in the Varsity Match, but failed to prevent a narrow Cambridge win. Ed finished sixth overall with a personal best of 8.3 on Floor; Dominic was narrowly beaten into second place, despite recording an event high score of 9.7 on Floor. Both Keble gymnasts will receive Half Blues and are aiming for further success in the BUSA Gymnastics Championships in the Easter vacation.

Reach for the Skis

In December, 49 undergraduates left Oxford heading to Courmayeur for the first Keble Ski Trip. Although it was the beginning of the season, the snow conditions were superb, enabling everyone's skiing to improve dramatically. Much fun was had on and off the slopes with awards being presented at the end of the week for both categories. 9feet.com sponsored the whole trip helping to provide t-shirts to everyone that went and fleeces to those who wanted them. There was a real mix of experience on the trip including 29 complete novices who especially enjoyed a day of skiing at Pila where it is planned that Keble will return next year to make this into an annual event and the start of Keble Ski Club.



△ Novice Emma Bullard

▽ The whole party



STOP PRESS

Congratulations! Dave Streule and Iain Calton have secured places in the 2nd University Lightweight Boat and Elizabeth Alpass and Caroline Bailey made it into the 2nd University Women's Boat. They will all compete at Henley on Sunday 1 April.

Beware! Here be dragons!



Enter the world of Bilbo Baggins, Gandalf the Sorcerer and their dwarf companions in their quest to confront Smaug the

Dragon and reclaim the priceless treasure he guards. The adaptation of Tolkien's novel, *The Hobbit*, by Glyn Robbins (1959) was well received in the West End and is currently on a tour of the country. Theatre critics praised Glyn's imaginative adaptation and Roy Marsden's brisk direction: adults and children alike revelled in the journey through Middle Earth which this production provides.



Information on spring tour dates can be found at www.vfpltd.com

Costing the Earth

Alex Kirby (1959), presenter of R4's *Costing the Earth* writes:



Costing the Earth, a half-hour programme broadcast 18 times a year, is one of BBC Radio Four's main environment slots. It spends longer than a

news report on a story, and it gets in and out more quickly (and unobtrusively) than a camera, so it ought to reach the people and places other programmes don't. (It once landed the producer and me in a small boat with a stalled engine in the Bay of Bengal at dusk, which nearly wasn't another story at all.) We delight in seeing stories we've done picked up weeks later by newspapers and TV. The ease with which meat contaminated with foot and mouth disease (or worse), for example, can enter the UK, which we reported in early January, made it to the news bulletins in late February. But my standard Keble third in Theology is getting rustier all the time.

Opera Buff

In April, Tony Hall (1970) will leave his post as Director of News at the BBC, to take up one of the most challenging positions in the arts world, Executive Director of the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden.



The ROH has been much in the press over recent years on a number of fronts: funding, management style, ticket pricing, acoustics, refurbishment and, most notably, for the number of chiefs it has managed to get through in the last five years or so.

After his appointment, he said: 'The Royal Opera House means so much to so many people and as a lifelong devotee, it means a huge amount to me. After building BBC News for a decade, the Royal Opera House will be another great challenge.'

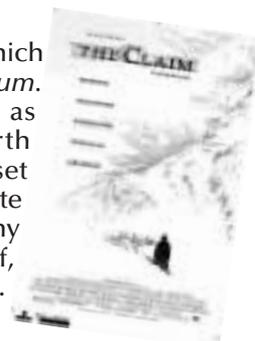
With his experience of being responsible for a very large workforce at the BBC, it is hoped that under his tenure, the ROH will enter a period of stability. BBC colleagues are quoted as saying that he is more than able to cope with the pressures of a high-profile job — he will need to! We wish him well.

Claim to Fame

Frank Cottrell-Boyce (1979) is carving out a name as a screenwriter of distinction, although not always without controversy in the case of some of his projects. Hot on the heels of *Hilary and Jackie* and *Welcome to Sarajevo*, comes *The Claim*. Inspired by the Hardy novel, *The Mayor of Casterbridge*, it is set in the American West, 20 years after the Gold Rush of 1849. Against the spectacular scenery of the Sierra Nevada, it is a story of ambition, retribution, revenge and redemption.



His next major project, and one about which he is very enthusiastic, is *Pandaemonium*. It is likely to cause some discussion, as it takes a negative view of Wordsworth and his dealings with Coleridge and is set during the summer in which they wrote the *Lyrical Ballads*. Coincidentally, Dorothy Wordsworth is played by Emily Woof, whose mother edited Dorothy's journals.



AND FINALLY...

8

Home House

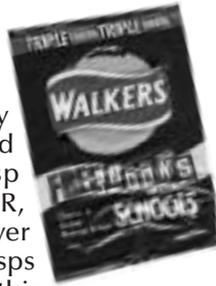
Sincere thanks are due to Dave Norwood (1988) who hosted a splendid Drinks Party at Home House on Thursday 22 February. Of the 130 Old Members who attended, almost 80% were post-1980, with the most senior person dating from 1938!

The atmosphere was great, with 'older' Old Members able to chat easily with many of the College's recent leavers. Dave has been rash enough to suggest that this should become an annual event. So, look out for details in 2002!



Munch Bunch

The Church of England Primary School in Islip benefited recently from a serious crisp eating programme by the SCR, MCR and JCR. A collection of over 2000 tokens from Walkers Crisps and The Times have enabled this tiny school to order more than 40 books — odd relationship books, newspapers and crisps!



Old Members in Print

Kota Mama: The search for the ancient peoples of the Andes and their trade routes to the Atlantic and beyond by Richard Snailham (1950) (with John Blashford-Snell). Published by Headline Books. ISBN 0 7472 2281 9

Significant Others

Judging from the numerous messages from Old Members, the Reunion weekend on 16–17 March for the 1960–4 Year Groups was a huge success.

Saturday started with three thought-provoking lectures from members of the Fellowship: Richard Washington talked about the weather — in the academic sense of the word; Ralph Hanna challenged Chaucer's place as the *Father of English literature*; Jessica Speight discussed the ramifications of the Pinochet case for the extradition process. Concurrent with the lectures was a guided tour of the *Treasures of the Ashmolean*.

After lunch, and in the face of bitterly cold weather, keen botanists set off on a *Tour of Secret Gardens*, taking in the private gardens of Wadham, New and Trinity colleges. The less green-fingered were treated to a rare viewing from the College archives, and a brief talk on *Butterfield and the Gothic revival*. The adventurous also took to roofs of the Chapel and ARCO to get new perspectives on the dreaming spires.

After tea, the Bursar delivered a 'State of the College' address, and the Warden was on hand to answer questions. Finally, a splendid dinner ended the weekend, to which — for the first time — wives and partners had been invited. The tremendous atmosphere in Hall confirmed that this break in tradition was most welcome.

Moving Magnolias

