

the brick

<http://www.keble.ox.ac.uk/> the newsletter for Keble alumni issue 23 – michaelmas term 2001

CHIPS, CHAIRS AND ROLLING STACKS

Over the next nine months, the College will undertake a £150,000 programme to improve facilities in the Library.

In Hilary Term, a new security system will be commissioned using technology originally developed for retail businesses. The system, which involves inserting an electronic chip into each of the Library's 33,000 volumes, will prevent borrowers from 'forgetting' to sign books out. And it will make stock-taking much more accurate and efficient, allowing books to be scanned electronically without removing them from the shelves. This will greatly assist the Librarian and the Tutors, who have regularly to review and weed their subject holdings to create space for new titles.

Alongside this high-tech investment will come the long-overdue replacement of the 60 chairs in the Upper Library. Having searched in vain for illustrations of Butterfield's original chairs, the College commissioned Luke Hughes & Company to adapt one of their designs. The result, a strong, elegant high-backed oak chair with a leather seat, should survive many generations of students and greatly enhance the appearance of the Library

bays. By a charming coincidence, Luke Hughes's father, William, was a student at Keble. He came up in 1935 to read History and went on to become His Honour Judge Hughes. His widow, Jenny, has very kindly offered to donate one of the chairs to the Library as a memorial to him.

A third project concerns the Library stacks, the two floors of books, manuscripts and

archives that lie behind the blank wall in Pusey Quad. During the 2002 summer vacation the stacks will be emptied, the contents removed to various temporary homes, and rolling stacks installed on the ground floor and half of the first floor. This will increase shelf space and also create room for a Librarian's office and an area for archivists and researchers to work.

Have your own chair in the Library — for life!

When Luke Hughes' mother (see main article) offered to donate one of the new chairs to the Library in her husband's memory, it prompted the thought: perhaps others would like to 'name' a chair for themselves or for a spouse or friend who was at Keble.

For a donation of £300, which can be paid in a lump sum or in instalments by standing order, you can present a chair to the Library. Each chair will have a permanent brass plaque incorporated into its back with the name and matriculation year of the Old Member.

There are only sixty chairs, so if you would like to reserve one, please get in touch with Isla Smith at the Development Office, Tel: 01865 272786, email:



isla.smith@keb.ox.ac.uk. Chairs will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. The closing date for applications is 31 January 2002.



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DIARY

Jan	6	25	Feb	15	21
	Hilary Term Begins	<p>London Dinner</p> <p><i>Cavalry and Guards Club, 127 Piccadilly, London W1. Details are on the booking form included with The Record 2001 or contact the Development Office.</i></p>		<p>Richardson Lecture</p> <p><i>5.30 pm, Pusey Room. Lecture by Dr Paul Pettitt, Research Fellow and Tutor in Archaeology and Anthropology, Neanderthals: the evolutionary rise and fall of an Ice Age superpredator. All Old Members welcome.</i></p>	<p>London Drinks Party</p> <p><i>Home House, Portman Sq., London. Booking form included with this issue.</i></p>
Mar	15–16		Apr	21	
	<p>Quinquennial Reunion</p> <p><i>for Old Members who matriculated in the years 1965–9 inclusive. If you have not received your invitation, please contact the Development Office.</i></p>			<p>St Mark's Dinner</p> <p><i>St Mark's Day Service in Chapel is followed by Dinner for present members of College, including all classes of Fellows.</i></p>	Trinity Term Begins
May	3	25			
	<p>Eric Symes Abbott Memorial Lecture</p> <p><i>5.30pm, Chapel. Lecture by The Revd Mark Oakley, Priest of St Paul's, Covent Garden (Title to be announced)</i></p>			<p>Garden Party</p> <p><i>Old Members can apply for tickets from the Development Office. Invitations will also be extended to second year undergraduates, first year graduates and their families.</i></p>	

COMPETITION

College Conundrum

Take the first letter from the following clues which have been jumbled up to form an anagram. The result is a word closely connected with the history of Keble. (Hint: many of the answers are to be found in *The History* booklet.)

Send answers to the questions and the final word to The Development Office, Keble College, Oxford OX1 3PG. The prize of Dinner and overnight accommodation for two awaits the lucky winner.

- Co-founder of Oxford Movement
- _____, Burton and Koralek, fill in the blank
- Surname of 6th Warden of Keble
- Keble was founded under what sort of Charter
- Name of the 1995 building in Fellows' Garden
- Alternative name of river running through Oxford
- What famous manuscript was given to the College by Sir Thomas Brooke in 1911
- Christian name of Holman Hunt's patron
- Surname of Keble's first Warden
- Surname of current Warden

THE BRICK INTERVIEW: THE WARDEN

Scott Johnson (1999), a graduate student in Late Antiquity, interviews the Warden as she looks forward to a sabbatical in Hilary Term.

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What is your main goal for this time off?

I am currently between academic projects, and I hope that this sabbatical will allow me the time to make headway on a new book. I have just finished co-editing three new volumes for the *Cambridge Ancient History* and the long-term project of translating and commenting on Eusebius' *Life of Constantine*. I want to do something new. My book that has had the most impact is *Christianity and the Rhetoric of Empire* (1991), in which I said a number of things that I thought needed to be said at the time. Ten years on, however, I now think that the last chapter has too much closure. I want to reopen it and extend the work.

What will the new book be about?

I'm actually working on two books. One is for Blackwell's on understanding Byzantium, a book with a broad-sweep for their 'People and Places' series. The second is on orthodoxy and heresy in Byzantium, broadly speaking, but really it's about understanding the intellectual project of Christianity. The theological and political debates of the period were, I think, about tolerance and intolerance, but I want to focus more specifically on how the writings of Byzantium reflect the ways in which the Byzantines are trying to define what knowledge is. The terms orthodoxy and heresy aren't just about religion 'over there', so to speak, as it might seem in the modern world, but they are actually about the content of knowledge. In the period I study this is what Christian scholars and writers were trying to do, to produce their own philosophy of knowledge. For me, debates about right belief and wrong belief are clearly central to that, even today.

Where are you planning to spend your time during the sabbatical?

Initially, at Princeton. I will be among a group of professors and graduate students from Oxford travelling there in January. We're participating in a colloquium that is part of the larger Oxford-Princeton academic link. The colloquium is on the relationship between Jews and Christians in the late antique world, which is a subject I have worked on before. You see, I believe in joined-up thinking, and this is what the Oxford-Princeton partnership is about, getting scholars and students talking to one another both in the sciences and in the humanities. I will stay on at Princeton to do some research there, and will stay with Nigel Smith, our former English Fellow. Then I will spend a couple of weeks in Athens where I have a number of colleagues

and friends, and from where I can do some travelling.

You have been quite busy over the last few years both within and outside the college. What exactly have you been doing?

Well, for the past two years I have been the Chairman of the Conference of Colleges, the body which represents all colleges and permanent private halls at Oxford. The Conference makes decisions about the way the colleges and halls interact with the university on all sorts of levels and it meets at least once a term. I spent a lot of my time working on this, but now that it is finished I am happy to be free of that responsibility.

Another commitment that has just ended is the Review of Royal Peculiars, commissioned by The Queen. The Royal Peculiars are Westminster Abbey, St George's Chapel, and the Chapels Royal, and we investigated these historic institutions and wrote up a report that recommended improvements in their governance. My experience as Chairman of the Cathedrals Fabric Commission for England, which oversees and approves all building work done at the forty-one English cathedrals, was valuable for this.

What accomplishments are you most proud of?

I suppose being made CBE in 1999 is my highest honour. This was given for my 'service to classical scholarship' and not for any administrative work. Obviously, being Warden of Keble is a great honour, but it is not primarily an academic job, so it was wonderful to be recognised for the scholarly work I have done. Also, my teaching is very important to me: it is one of the most rewarding things I do. I have four D.Phil. students submitting this year and several more who are still writing, and it is exciting and satisfying to see their development and accomplishments. I have always taught, and it keeps me grounded.



TRAVELS WITH THE LECTIONARY

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Margaret Sarosi, The College Librarian, had an unusual travelling companion to Passau, Bavaria recently. She was escorting Keble College Manuscript 49, the *Regensberg Lectionary*, to an exhibition there.

1267 and 1276, it consists of legends, sermons and homilies for lessons at matins on feasts of saints throughout the year.



The *Regensberg Lectionary* depicting Christ in Majesty

Librarian, Margaret Sarosi, views the Lectionary



In 1876 it was sold to a bookseller in Regensburg who had offered to sell it to the Regensburg Bishopric, and then to the State, without success. It is not yet known how it made its way to London but it was purchased by Thomas Brooke, the bibliophile from Ellis in Bond Street and later bequeathed to the College by his brother Charles Edward, Canon Brooke in 1911.

The exhibitors chose to display the illustration of Christ in Majesty with all the saints, where Margaret of Hungary is depicted as a nun in Dominican habit. Over 700 guests attended the grand opening ceremony in St Stephan's Cathedral, Passau — the speeches were dramatically interspersed with organ music by Liszt and Beethoven. Afterwards guests were bussed over the Danube

to the Museum, part of the 13th century fortress, where a feast had been laid out and there was a chance to see the exhibition.

In 1983, the *Lectionary* was last exhibited in Regensburg to commemorate the

750th anniversary of the foundation of the Dominican Convent for which it had been produced. Written between

Before escorting the Lectionary home to Keble in October, Margaret visited the Convent where it had been housed for six centuries. She wondered whether the nuns there now had any proprietorial feelings about the Lectionary, but was received, unannounced, with kindness. She was not able to see their Cloisters as the Convent is a closed community but Sister Johanna very kindly gave her a guided tour of the Chapel. She learnt that the nuns, far from feeling deprived, were relieved that the Lectionary was housed and well cared for at Keble. It had become a burden to their 19th century predecessors to deal with the many visitors who had wished to consult it and they had applied to their Bishop to sell it even before the Convent fell on hard times and the consequent sale of their library.

Medieval award



Junior Dean, Nicole Green has been awarded a 2001–2 War Memorial Scholarship for doctoral studies by the National Chapter of Canada IODE. Having completed a Master of Studies in the Research Methods in the English–Medieval Period, she has made a manuscript discovery which will further knowledge in the medieval booktrade in London.



Fresh(er) Talent

'We was robbed!' came the cry of twelve young, naïve Freshers as the judges announced their decision; 'The script is out of date and irrelevant,' they said. 'Some issues, with regard to 11 September, were crossing a line that should never have been crossed.'

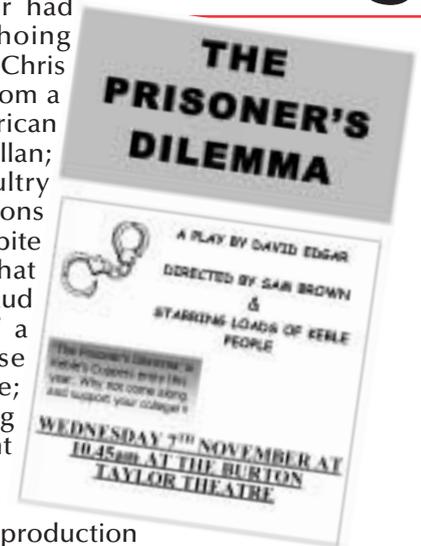
Little did those all-respected judges from OUDS know that *The Prisoner's Dilemma* by David Edgar had only just finished its premiere run in Stratford with the RSC and was due to transfer to the Barbican in just a few weeks. Honour was slightly restored as Jonathan Walker was nominated for Best Technical Design.

Cuppers — a competition for 1st years. For some people this is the first taste of what Oxford drama is really like; for others, a chance to tread the boards for the very first time.

Keble had two entries this year — *The Prisoner's Dilemma* and *My Mother Said I Never Should* (with Pembroke). The former consisted of a company made up entirely by Keble Freshers, some willing and enthusiastic, others dragged in by the bootlaces. With eight actors, *The*

Prisoner's Dilemma had one of the largest casts of the 2001 competition, and was quite an undertaking. Every character had a different accent; a deep, echoing Russian, played with great verve by Chris Tod, in a charming brown shirt from a charity shop; variations of American by Marcus Gleave and Toby McMillan; Natalie Banner delivered her sultry Ikea-land inflection; Chris Salomons gave his best shot at Afghan, despite nobody being too sure what that actually sounded like; Nik Piachaud produced his interpretation of a first generation American whose parents come from Eastern Europe; and Andy O'Keefe did winning work at maintaining his Irish accent throughout.

With a committed and enthusiastic production team, the company has begun to explore its own artistic potential. It was an enjoyable and memorable experience, and if nothing else, brought some much-needed relief from the obligatory freshers' parties.



Dracula

Keble has seen a renaissance in the performing arts recently. Keble provided the production crew and lead actor (Nik Piachaud) for a new adaptation of Bram Stoker's *Dracula* that was performed at the Old Fire Station in 7th week. The depth of the repressed passions encapsulated within the story, and the frisson of lust and horror, sex and death, made a potent combination. The play received incredibly enthusiastic reviews from the student press and had good ticket sales. Hooked on the success of the venture, Ashish Marwaha's production company (AKM Productions) are currently looking for new projects, while many of the crew are now involved with another production, a magical dance-based adaptation of *Hansel and Gretel* to be performed at the OFS next term.

Orchestra

The debut concert of the Keble College Orchestra took place in Keble Chapel this term and set the tone for the future by performing an ambitious programme. A grand, stately rendition of Beethoven's *Egmont Overture* opened the concert, followed by Bach's Violin Concerto in A Minor, complete with harpsichord. The violin solo was played with great charm by Orchestra Manager Elisabeth Bates (2nd Year Classics). A dynamic performance of Mozart's *41st Symphony* rounded off this highly praised performance. The fabulous acoustics enhanced the programme and the splendid Victorian gothic setting made for a wonderfully atmospheric and enjoyable evening for all. This concert was sponsored by the Keble Association through the Jack Lane Bequest Fund.



△ Elisabeth Bates in Chapel

Top Marx

A run of fantastically raucous evenings ensued at the Old Fire Station Theatre in 5th Week when the cast of *Animal Crackers* hit the boards. Keble director Sam Leifer (3rd year Classics) resurrected the Marx Brother's comedy with fantastic style. The direction was both witty and intelligent, while the players were well cast, and very, very funny. The play performed to packed houses, and received deservedly enthusiastic reviews in the student press, including being named 'Play of the Week'. The production company are still going strong and are currently casting for *A Clockwork Orange*, to be put on at the Old Fire Station Theatre next term.



SPORT

Ian Tucker Memorial Award



James Down (1998) and Miles Norris (1997) are pictured after they received the Ian Tucker Memorial Award for excellence at rugby. Ian (1996) was himself an excellent rugby player and tragically died whilst playing for the University in a match against the Saracens in October 1996. This award was established by his family in his memory.

Keble wins Christchurch Regatta!

Congratulations to Keble Novice A Crew who won Christchurch Regatta! Having beaten St Benet's, Christchurch, Teddy Hall, Linacre, Hertford and St Hugh's, they took the Final by storm, leaving Exeter two lengths behind.



△ Recruitment



△ Training

▽ Victory



First Class Frisbees!



The Keble team, captained by the enthusiastic yet novice Sarah Keeley, were certainly not favourites to win Ultimate Frisbee Cuppers, having begun practises only a week before. The five-a-side tournament uses rolling substitutes so the college needed to provide at least 8 players to keep going for the 20 minute matches. An amalgamation with Exeter made this possible. After several long matches, with excellent defensive play from Sam Simpson, the team won their group play offs and then beat St Anne's 6-1 in the semi-finals. The final against

Somerville was the hardest challenge (Somerville's team has the current and ex-Blues Captain). After several amazing runs by Jon Ball, matched by the skill of Grant Mitchell, the team were at a 6-6 tie at the end of the match. A hard cap of 2 points would win the match. Keble claimed the first extra-time point, but Somerville out-manoeuvred them for the second. As the last frisbee was thrown decisively into Keble's end zone, the mighty Mitchell made an amazing catch before the Somerville defence could knock it out of the air, clinching a famous victory.

OLD MEMBERS' NEWS

Planet of the Clones

Patrick Furlong (1997) writes.

On the first day of my new job as a researcher for the forthcoming Channel 4 documentary series *Planet of the Clones*, the director told me she needed to find frozen meat that was at least a hundred years old, and suggested trying to contact Inuit communities in Alaska. After a number of days, the best I had come up with was a seven year old skunk an old lady in Boston had stored in her freezer — please don't ask why.



Strange as it might seem, there was an important point to all this. Up until now, cloning extinct animals, à la Jurassic Park, has long been considered impossible. You need a perfect living cell to do it — something you surely won't get from any kind of prehistoric animal remains.

However, researchers in the States have recently discovered a new type of natural 'spore-like' mammal cell, able to

survive for incredible periods of time in frozen tissue. We wanted to test the hardiness of the cells present in frozen samples of various ages — hence the drive for centenarian frozen steaks! In principle, if such as a cell were found alive in the frozen remains of, say, an Alaskan Mammoth, an ordinary elephant as host could be used to breed the world's first extinct animal.

Is it really possible? Well, you'll have to watch the programme to find out, but don't expect Woolly Mammoths or Sabre-Tooth Tigers at your local safari park straightaway.

Planet of the Clones is due to air on Channel 4 in March/April 2002.

Old Members in Print

Fear, Greed and Panic — The Psychology of the Stock Market, by David Cohen (1965). Published by John Wiley and Sons. ISBN 0-471-48659-0

'Down the Supermarket Aisles', Memoirs of an International Food Scientist, by Ronald Clarke (1960). Published by Ashby Press, 2000. ISBN 0-953-66080-X.

Perverse Subsidies: How Tax Dollars Can Undercut the Environment and the Economy, by Norman Myers (1954), with Jennifer Kent. Published by Island Press, 2001. ISBN 1-559-63835-4.

Let's Congo

Lizzie Parsons (1997) has recently embarked on a 10-month voluntary programme in the Democratic Republic of Congo with the Church Mission Society. Aid workers estimated that more people have died during the war in the Congo than any comparable conflict in recent memory, meaning extreme hardship for many Congolese people.



For the first two months of the programme, Lizzie will be in Bunia, working with a British Missionary called Judy Acheson who runs a youth centre and an agricultural project with plans for a commercial depot and a girls project. With money from UNICEF, there are plans to set up a 6-month residential course for ex-child soldiers and displaced/street girls.

Currently, due to an escalation in the fighting near Bunia, she has had to retreat to Kampala in Uganda but hopes to rejoin her project when the situation becomes more stable.

Her Swahili is not yet fluent but it is improving!

Reunion Dates for 2002

15–16 March 2002 for years 1965–9 inclusive

21–22 June 2002 for years 1970–5 inclusive

Not taken your BA, MA, D.Phil., etc?

The University has recently reorganized Degree Day allocations. There is a one-off 'extra' ceremony on Saturday 27 April 2002 at which Keble can present up to 60 people. Please contact the Development Office if you would like a booking form. Places will be allocated on a first-come basis, as completed booking forms are received. (Tel. 01865 282338, Email. events@keb.ox.ac.uk).



Many congratulations to Chad Varah CH, CBE (1930), Honorary Fellow, who celebrated his 90th birthday on 12 November.

AND FINALLY...

Several works of art with a Keble connection have been in the news recently.



Thanks to the generosity of three Old Members, the College has acquired these studies of John Keble's hands by George Richmond (1809–96, RA). Richmond's portrait (left) of Keble, aged 52, hangs in the SCR.



A group of churchmen and politicians including John Keble (standing far left) and William Gladstone in conversation with the Bishop of London at Fulham Palace. This drawing was auctioned at the same time as the studies of Keble's hands.

Lantern Auction



Holman
△ Hunt

The brass lantern portrayed in *The Light of the World* went under the hammer at a staggering £46,000 at Bonham's recently and was bought by an anonymous bidder. The College (as well as Manchester City Art Gallery and St Paul's who both have later copies of *The Light of the World*) was keen to acquire the lantern with a view to reuniting it with the painting. However, with bidding at that sort of level, despite offers of financial help from Old Members and friends of the College, this proved impossible. Made in 1852, it had remained in the family of Thomas Combe, Holman Hunt's patron. Hunt's meticulous design was rich in religious symbolism. It

is thought that the seven sides represented the seven churches of Asia; the seven stars related to the seven angels of the seven churches; and the seven variously shaped apertures symbolised the diversity of spiritual gifts. The arched openings are reflected in the overall shape of the painting which is reminiscent of an altar piece.

