

# the brick

<http://www.keble.ox.ac.uk/> the newsletter for Keble alumni issue 26 – michaelmas term 2002

## IT WAS ALL RIGHT ON THE DAY!

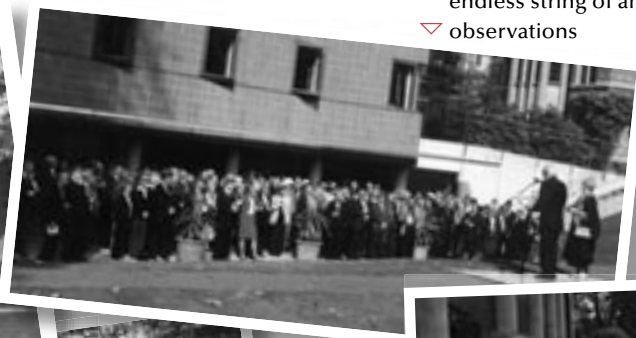
From the pictures of 'work in progress' in the last issue of *the brick*, one could be forgiven for thinking that the building could not possibly be ready in time. It was a close run thing, but the Sloane Robinson Building was opened on Saturday 5 October, one day ahead of the start of Michaelmas Term. The sun shone, the College looked good and the whole day was one of great celebration.

Sir Anthony O'Reilly names the Newman Quad and regales the audience with an apparently endless string of amusing jokes, stories and observations

Trio of benefactors, George Robinson (1975), Hugh Sloane and Sir Anthony O'Reilly



The Sloane Robinson Building



The Warden and Desmond Watkins (1952), at the door of the Andrew and Christine Hall (1969) Music Room prepare to unveil the new grand piano.



The Warden, The Bursar and Mrs Victoria de Breyne after the opening of the Victoria de Breyne Room, the Nurse's Room



Lunch in Hall



George and Susan Robinson, Hugh and Kate Sloane after the unveiling of the donor plaque; George Robinson and Hugh Sloane with Rick Mather, the proud architect




More jokes at the opening of The O'Reilly Theatre

Richard Thornton (1952) and Mrs Susan Thornton open the Thornton Gallery



# DIARY

Jan	19	31	Feb	21	
	Hilary Term Begins	<b>London Dinner</b> <i>Cavalry &amp; Guards Club</i> 127 Piccadilly London W1 <i>Booking Form enclosed</i>		<b>Richardson Lecture</b> <i>5.30pm Pusey Room</i> <i>Dr Richard Washington, Fellow</i>  African Rains and Ocean — Atmosphere Interaction	
Mar	21–22	27	Apr	27	27
	<b>Quinquennial Reunion</b> <i>For Old Members who matriculated in the years 1976–81 inclusive. If you have not received your invitation, please contact the Development Office.</i>	<b>London Drinks Party</b> <i>Home House</i> 20 Portman Square London W1 <i>Booking Form enclosed</i>		<b>St Mark's Dinner</b> <i>St Marks' Day Service in Chapel is followed by Dinner for present members of College, including all classes of Fellows.</i>	
May	3	9	31	3	9
	<b>Degree Day for 2002 Finalists</b>	<b>Eric Symes Abbott Memorial Lecture</b> <i>Chapel 5.30pm</i> <i>Lecture by Professor Duncan Forrester, Edinburgh University</i>		<b>Garden Party</b> <i>Old Members can apply for tickets from the Development Office.</i> <i>Invitations will also be extended to second year undergraduates, first year graduates and their families.</i>	<b>Rowing Society AGM and Dinner</b> <i>Invitations have been extended to all members of the Rowing Society. If you have not received your invitation, please contact the Development Office.</i>

## COMPETITION RESULT

Friend of Keble with Quad named after him  
 Keble's first Fellowship was in which college  
 Surname of man who chose Butterfield as architect of Keble  
 Who described Keble's smile as 'beamy'  
 What is depicted above altar in the Chapel  
 Keble was Vicar of ...  
 Architect of K1 and K2  
 What happened in Keble on 25th April 1876  
 Saint's day falling on Keble's birthday  
 A class of Fellow

Pusey  
 Oriel  
 Liddon  
 Yonge  
 Christ in majesty  
 Hursley  
 Rick Mather  
 Opening of Chapel  
 Mark  
 Emeritus  
 = **POLYCHROME**

Congratulations to Arthur Sellwood (1933), a regular Competition contestant, who was first out of the hat. Dinner for two at High Table awaits.

# THE BRICK INTERVIEW: CHRISTOPHER PURVIS

3

Emily McLeod (*Philosophy and Theology* 2002) interviews Christopher Purvis (*Greats* 1970) as he comes to the end of his time as Chief Executive of Japan 2001.

## Tell me about Japan 2001?

Japan 2001, running from May 2001 to March 2002, was a series of events, planned to foster a lasting knowledge and interest in Japan and its culture, which ended up involving 3 million people — it was a huge success. The key event, a Matsuri Festival in Hyde Park, attracted a quarter of a million people; and over 2,000 other events were organized throughout Britain, ranging from theatre to 'Japan Days' in schools. It differed from other arts festivals as we allowed anybody to participate: it was a self-defining festival which evolved and snowballed.

## Did living in Japan interest you in the culture?

Yes. After leaving Oxford, I became involved in Japanese business and moved to Japan in 1982 where I stayed for ten years. Japan got into my blood and is now like a second home.

## Is Japan very westernized or is the eastern influence still dominant?

On the face of it, Japan seems completely different from the West — not surprising as it was an isolated nation for many centuries. Lately, however, my view has changed and I now think that the Japanese are no more different from us than, say, Continental Europeans. There was an assumption that I would have great difficulty dealing with both the British and Japanese involved in Japan 2001. In fact, I found the cultural differences between, for example, artists and businessmen of the same country greater than those between, say, artists from Japan and artists from Britain. I aimed to highlight the similarities rather than differences.

## How would you respond to critics who claim that Japan 2001 was too elitist?

Robustly! How can you say that an event attracting 3 million people is elitist? And anyway there should always be some elements of a programme which appeal to an intellectual and artistic elite. Shinto art is pretty recherché. The vast majority were a wide variety of grassroots events, appealing to a wide audience.

## What have been your favourite moments of Japan 2001?

I have two in particular. The first was when I travelled all over the country in the space of 24 hours to see a variety of events: Welsh children making paper; Japanese craftsmen working at Lake Windermere; a wonderful exhibition of modern art at the Hayward. The second was a

fantastic moment in Hyde Park at the end of the Matsuri when the head of the Parks police force said that it was the first major weekend event when not a single arrest had been made.

## Do you think other countries and cultures would benefit from a similar project?

Yes and no. I am very keen that there should be greater opportunities for people around the UK to become more involved with other cultures. But it is difficult to imagine for which countries a similar festival could be out on. Some, such as the United States or France, are so well known to us that such a festival might be considered pointless; others such as China I suspect do not have the kind of following that Japan has — and it was all the enthusiasts around the country who made Japan 2001 such a success. There are now 6,000 young people who after university went to Japan on the JET scheme and are now back here; many of them were involved in Japan 2001.

## What did you think of the novel *Memoirs of a Geisha* by Arthur Golden?

The world of the geisha is a very special one. I have had the good fortune to be taken to wonderful tea houses in Tokyo, Kyoto and Nagoya. The combination of good food and drink, attractive ladies making the most elegant and witty conversation, music and dancing, as well as silly party games, makes for the best possible evening. But the geisha world is now a tiny one; there are only a few hundred geisha. Golden was clearly keen to make his book dramatic. In the process, I suspect he has led many to believe that this world is typical of Japan today when most Japanese have no connection with it at all; at the same time the cultural aspect of that world is somehow diminished in the book at the expense of sex and action.

## What are your future plans?

When I retired from banking 5 ½ years ago I had the specific intention of concentrating on the arts and cultural worlds. This has been realized as I am now involved in three broad areas: Japan, music and the financial world. I believe strongly that the bilateral relationship between Japan and Britain is of the utmost importance and needs to be nurtured. To that end I chair a new project to create a cultural centre in London which aims to make people more familiar and aware of Japanese culture, as, most people — even after the success of Japan 2001 — still perceive Japan to be a strange and different place.





# OUT AND ABOUT IN THE COLLEGE

## 4

### Prague Tour

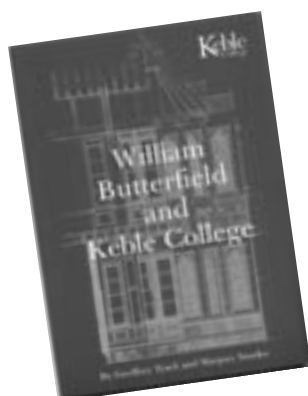


In early September, The Choir travelled to Prague and performed four concerts, each with a varied repertoire. Over the week, there was music from Byrd to Bainton, Brahms to Britten and Bach to Bairstow, to name but a few. The first two concerts were in Prague itself at St Nicholas in The Old Town Square and at the Bresnov Monastery. Having received hospitality from the Chaplain, it was a pleasure to sing a service at The Anglican Church of St Clement's. The other two concerts were outside Prague at Jicin and at Veseli ad Luznici. The different venues, wonderful acoustics and superb settings made for a very successful tour. In spite of the fact that there was extreme flooding at the time, the people provided generous hospitality for all. The tour would not have been possible without the sponsorship of The Keble Association and The College.



### Chips, Chairs and Rolling Stacks — Update

Most of the books in the Library now have electronic chips in them, making the borrowing and control of books much easier; the splendid new chairs are in constant use and most recently the new rolling stacks have been re-stocked. New windows shed light in the upper stack which now also has a small reading room for archivists and researchers.



#### William Butterfield and Keble College

A new booklet on the work of William Butterfield, by Dr Geoffrey Tyack and Marjory Szurko, has just been published. To order a copy, please see the order form enclosed with this issue.

#### The Light Invisible

The sixth CD to be recorded by Keble College Choir has just been released. The Light Invisible features a selection of carols, from the very familiar to some lesser known. An order form is enclosed with this issue of *the brick*.





### 'Ones to watch...'

So said the revue in *Cherwell* about both *Falsettos* and The O'Reilly Theatre. The inaugural performance in the Theatre was a triumph and the choice of this musical was particularly ambitious.

Keble's own Sam Brown directed with great maturity. The cast's performance was full of high energy and the musical accompaniment was excellent, with no fewer than 42 songs ranging from emotive solos to numbers with complex vocal harmonies.

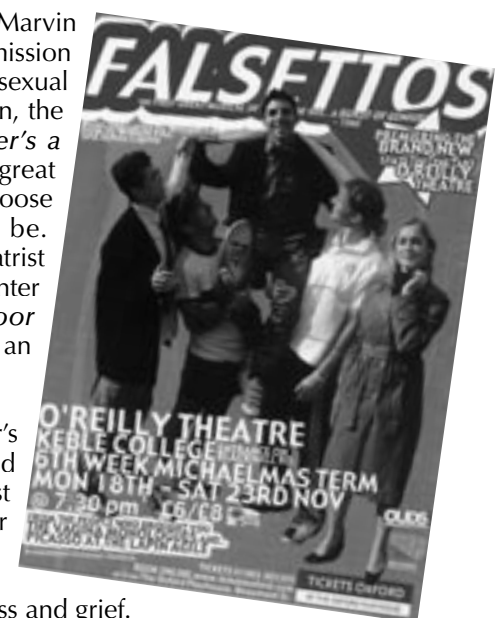
The show opens, and the stage is set, with the four males in the cast singing *Four Jews in a room bitching*. This camp, not always politically correct musical, had a cast of seven who sang and danced with great exuberance throughout — it was great fun.

The plot in short: Trina and Marvin are divorced following the admission by Marvin that he is a homosexual and in love with Whizzer. Jason, the son, sings touchingly *My father's a homosexual* and later with great sensitivity about his wish to choose how his bar mitzvah should be. Trina marries Mendel, a psychiatrist and Marvin's close friend. Enter *the lesbians from next door* and you are presented with an explosive mix.

The climax comes at Whizzer's bedside as he lies ill and dying, with the whole cast gathered for Jason's bar mitzvah. Amazingly, all the characters are united in their common sense of loss and grief.

The trip through *Falsettoland* was an enjoyable and enlightening journey, leaving the lines *Bitch, bitch, bitch, bitch, funny, funny, funny, funny* and *This here is love when we're talking face to face* ringing in your ears.

All in all, an excellent evening!



## Pentathlon

*'Pentathletes are the most beautiful people, as they are built for both strength and speed.'* Aristotle, *Ars Rhetorica* 1361 b 7–11.

Aristotle concluded this because Pentathlon is a sport of sports — 5 to be precise. Originating as essential skills for military men, the modern pentathlon has been refined to a 200m swim, air pistol shooting, fencing, a 3km run, and show-jumping. Oxford is renowned for being a centre

of the sport's development enhanced by Olympic Gold Medal winning former Blues Pentathlete, Stephanie Cook, at Sydney in 2000. Keble has its very own budding Pentathlete, Iain McLeod, a second year medic, who took up the sport last year. Coming from a background of competitive swimming and running, Iain has only three more phases to master. That's one year with time to spare to pursue medicine before the 2008 Olympics!

▽ Plinth Pentathlete



## Women's Rugby

KCWRC have retained their considerable reputation. Chewing through Christ Church, un-sticking a Worcester, Somerville and Peter's composite, and toppling Teddy Hall B's with ease — the ladies were only just held off in the semi-final against the creatures from Corpus.

Leading by example, Lucy Callaghan, captained the side in style, by making breakaway tries that pierced the backline of the defence with the sharpness expected of a Keble Lawyer. Fiona Hinds, this year's OUHC Captain proved also that she could run rings around the opposition without the aid of her hockey stick.

Newcomers to this year's squad, Lucy Counter and Sophie Westlake, have proved their worth. Keble women are certainly showing that they are back to defend last year's victories and their future opponents should be very scared — I was!



## Sports of Sorts

*Darts — a drinking game? Members of Keble College Darts Team, Phil Routledge and Gaz Brocklesby, answer some controversial questions:*

**Q: Is darts a sport?**

A: Yes

**Q: Why?**

A: Darts requires skill, patience, practice and training like any other sport

**Q: Is it possible to 'play' a sport whilst drinking a pint and smoking?**

A: Top level darts players don't tend to drink or smoke while they play — but like other sports players they do so in their free time.

**Q: Should we introduce darts as an Olympic Sport?**

A: Yes — we have the best darts players in the world so it might help bring home a few more medals.

*Before returning to the bar for some more 'training', Gaz and Phil both agreed that darts has the potential to be a professional sport, but at Keble it remains firmly in the 'social's court.*



## Freshest Talent

- John Aldiss, having played rugby for his county and representing Midland Colleges at school has been whipped up by the OU Whippets.
- Caroline Ford has proven her credentials of West of England U18 Captain, and Captain of Somerset U21, by being selected to play left midfield for OUHC.

## Cross Country Cuppers

Keble men ran to victory with their small but potent team of Andrew Prenter, Iain Mcleod, Jasper Hasell and Laurence Hulatt.



## Narmada Pilgrimage

In early 2000, Mike Binnie walked 800 miles from the mouth to the source of the Narmada River in Central India and raised money for an Indian Cancer charity. On 5 January 2003, he will walk from the source to the mouth but on the opposite bank and cross by ferry to return to the point

where he started out three years ago, thus completing his *parikrama* or pilgrimage. The sponsorship money which he raises will help to support the Gwalior Children's Hospital. For further information, Mike can be contacted on (01483) 284007 or via the Development Office.



△ An early bath, familiar to all rugby players

## Old Members in Print

*East to the Amazon*, ISBN 0 7195 6032 2 (John Murray), by Richard Snailham (1950).

*How the Child's Mind Develops*, ISBN 0415 21654 0 (Routledge), and *The Father's Book*, ISBN 0470 84133 8 (John Wiley), both by David Cohen (1965).



## Reunion Dates for 2003

21–22 March 2003 for years 1976–81 inclusive  
4–5 July 2003 for years 1982–6 inclusive

## Rocking after Mods

Can you identify any of these people? Most are from Keble, c 1964, allegedly. No prizes this time, but if a larger, scanned copy will help please apply to the Development Office.

## Celebration Dinner

Twenty five Old Members who matriculated before 1945 met up for Dinner in College on Saturday 28 September. Old photo albums sparked happy memories and a wealth of stories.



# AND FINALLY...



## Oriental Odyssey

John Slade ('56 Chemistry) will be one of 100 people doing a sponsored bike ride to raise money for MENCAP. The challenge is billed as 'a nine-day, 395km bike ride from The Great Wall to Tiananmen Square... through breathtaking scenery in a stunning mountain landscape'. As there are only five cycling days, it is a serious undertaking!

For information, see the web site [www.cyclechina.freemove.co.uk](http://www.cyclechina.freemove.co.uk) or contact John at [jas58@tutor.open.ac.uk](mailto:jas58@tutor.open.ac.uk) or (01287) 632569.

## Able Types are 21!

As we celebrate issue 26 of *the brick*, our mailing house, Able Types, celebrates its 21st birthday. Able Types was set up to offer employment opportunities in the competitive market to disabled and employment-handicapped people. All College publications have been mailed by Able Types since 1994 — we thank them for the exemplary service which they have offered us over the years and wish them all success in the future.



### *the brick*

*This is an ode to the humble house brick,  
He's thought not too clever, in fact rather thick,  
But he's classically proportioned architecturally sound,  
He's symmetrically sculpted, oblong not round.*

*Though Roman invented, anciently designed,  
Nothing suitable has replaced him, in these modern of times,  
Fashionably attractive, perhaps lacking in style,  
He's very sought after, this fashionable tile.*

*Though perceived as ungainly, not at all slick,  
He's solid and reliable, your dependable 'brick'.*



## The Warden in China

In September the Warden made a first visit to China and spent a very successful two weeks there. During her stay she gave seven lectures or talks in five different universities as well as being able to meet up with several Keble Old Members. Summed up in the Warden's words 'it was a tremendously good experience and I now feel I have a pretty good understanding of some aspects of their academic activity'.

