

the brick

<http://www.keble.ox.ac.uk/> the newsletter for Keble alumni issue 27 — hilary term 2003

YEAR GROUPS COME OF AGE WITH LAUNCH OF THE TALBOT FUND



Keble's first undergraduates, 1870, pictured with
△ Warden Talbot (also inset) and Mrs Talbot



The centre pages of this special issue of the brick describe some of the initiatives that the Talbot Fund will help make possible.

But why the Talbot Fund?

Edward Talbot was Keble's first Warden. The fact that he was 26 when he took up the appointment in 1870 probably indicated that this 'new' college was going to be slightly different from other Oxford colleges — anyone who knows Keble would agree that this turned out to be the case. He was determined that Keble should become the equal of the established colleges. And not just their equal — he wanted Keble to set standards that others would strive to match.

Five years ago the College started the Year Group initiative — the first of its kind in Oxford. The aim was to achieve greater involvement by Old Members in the life and work of the College. The approach, following the example of leading American universities, was to build up Year Group organisations. The goal was to strengthen the College, academically, culturally and financially.

Year Groups work on a five-year cycle built around the Quinquennial Reunion. This year sees the start of the second round of Reunions, and with it the launch of the Talbot Fund. The Fund has one simple aim — to encourage every Old Member to participate in Keble's future by making a regular donation. Large or small is of secondary importance — it is participation that matters.

The Fund is aimed at all Old Members, but there is particular emphasis on the year groups approaching their next Quinquennial Reunion. This year, for example, those who matriculated in 1981 (the first year to be approached) have already raised their participation rate from less than 5% to more than 30%.

One hundred and thirty years on, careful management and bold initiatives have enabled Keble to do things wealthier colleges would scarcely have thought possible.

As one Head of House remarked to the Warden, "There are the rich colleges, the poor colleges, the middling colleges ...and then, there's Keble".






△ The 2002 matriculands with the current Warden (also above), Professor Averil Cameron



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⑥ hockey — rugby — rowing — blues ⑦ old member news ⑧ odds 'n' ends

DIARY

Apr	27	27	May	9
	Trinity Term Begins	St Mark's Day Service 5.30pm, Chapel Sermon given by the Right Reverend Richard Harries, Bishop of Oxford. All welcome.		Eric Symes Abbott Memorial Lecture 5.30pm, Chapel Lecture by Professor Duncan Forrester, Edinburgh University 'Racism and Sectarianism'. 
May cont.	10-11	31	31	
	John Keble in Context An international Colloquium: an assessment of Keble's influence on the history, theology and literature of 19 th Century. Speakers include Stephen Prickett, Michael Wheeler and J R Watson. All enquiries to Dr Kirstie Blair (kirstie.blair@keb.ox.ac.uk)	Garden Party 3.30-5.00pm. Open to all Old Members and their guests; to parents of second year undergraduates and guests of first year graduates. Tickets £8 from the Development Office.	Rowing Society AGM and Dinner Invitations have been extended to all members of the Rowing Society. If you have not received your invitation, please contact the Development Office.	
Jun	28	Jul	3	4-5
	Keble Ball See below for details		Keble Rhodes Scholars Dinner If you have not received information, please contact Tori Roddy in the Development Office. tori.rodody@keb.ox.ac.uk	Quinquennial Reunion For Old Members who matriculated in the years 1982-6. If you have not received your invitation by mid-April, please contact the Development Office. 
Jul cont.	12	Aug	2	
	Family Day, Keble Association AGM and Summer Dinner A day of fun and games for all the family, with Summer Dinner in the evening. See booking form enclosed with this issue. KA AGM, Pusey Room, 5.30pm. 		MA Degree Day For 1995 matriculands. Invitations will be sent out in April. If you do not receive an invitation and think you are eligible, please contact the Development Office.	

CATCH THE BALL!

Saturday 28 June 2003

Music to suit all tastes will be on offer as well as a sumptuous selection of gastronomic treats and fine wines. In addition, there will be fair ground fun to keep the big kid in everyone content, Bohemian artists to rival those found on the Parisian left bank, not to mention a cosy casino.

What better excuse to return to Keble and reminisce about days gone by whilst dancing the night away in the College's red-bricked majesty!

For tickets (£60 non-dining, £80 dining), please email katie.burningham@keb.ox.ac.uk

www.kebleball2003.com



THE BRICK INTERVIEW: ISLA SMITH

Vic McLean, Year Group rep for 1988, interviews Isla Smith, Development Director, on the fifth anniversary of her arrival at Keble.

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Did you have any prior connection with Keble?

No, I had never been to Oxford prior to moving here, far less Keble. I couldn't even have identified William Butterfield as the architect of these crazy buildings.

What was your first major undertaking?

I had to recruit Year Group representatives for all of the years since 1945. This requirement had not been mentioned at the interview! I am pleased to say that most of the reps who were recruited at the outset are still in place today. We have significantly reduced the List of the Lost and the quinquennial cycle of Reunion weekends has become well established.

What do you consider to be the most important project you are working on at present?

Without doubt, the launch of the Talbot Fund. I hope that from the variety of projects chosen there will be something to appeal to all Old Members and that by supporting them, they will feel more engaged with the future prosperity of the College. For me personally, I feel most affinity to the Oxford Bursary Scheme. It is important that anyone who has the ability to go to university, whether it is Oxford or any other, should have the opportunity to do so. Financial limitations should be no deterrent.

How have recent changes in Government policy affected Keble?

It has become clear that all universities, not just Oxford, will have to rely more on fundraising and, in the case of colleges like Keble, the contribution made by Old Members will become increasingly important.

What effect will higher tuition fees have?

It will be much harder for students who apply to universities which impose these higher fees. The burden of debt will increase significantly and the provision of modest maintenance grants will only offer a partial element of assistance. Oxford is currently deciding on its stance on whether to apply higher tuition fees.

Does Oxford need the extra money?

Oxford is facing a serious recurring deficit. All departments and faculties have already made substantial cuts. The funding derived from recent changes will not take effect before 2006 and will only come in over 3–5 years; even then it is not enough to cover the existing teaching deficit.

How will Keble cope with these changes?

This is a time of great uncertainty. As a college, we already subsidise each undergraduate to the tune of £1,500 each year and the amount needed is likely to rise.

With what other major projects have you been closely involved?

Early in 1999, it was decided to try and raise funds for the last building to be built on the Keble site. It was important that this building contain the facilities which Keble needed most. Opened in October last year, we have the use of a magnificent new building with a theatre, a common room, a music room with grand piano, six seminar rooms and twenty ensuite study bedrooms. Nearly all of the funds came from Old Members of the College, or through their efforts, as can be seen on the plaque in the foyer.

What do you most enjoy about the job?

I think what I enjoy most is the variety of what each day brings. When you pick up the telephone, you never quite know who is on the other end and what they might wish to ask for or ask about. On the other hand, when you phone someone and say that you are phoning from Keble College, you generally get through to the person in question straightaway.

What is the most unusual thing you have had to do?

I had to arrange a lunch for the Blenheim Girls — young women recruited by MI6 during the war who worked at Blenheim Palace but who were billeted at Keble. I started off with two but found 96 of them, and 65 came to lunch. Many had not seen each other for 50 years and despite age and disability, most insisted on revisiting their old rooms and the four corners of the College. They also regaled us with tales of blackout and coal rationing and they could not believe the transformation in the heating and plumbing departments.

What do you like least?

You mean, apart from compiling the back section of *The Record*! I do not like it when the students are not here, particularly in the summer vacation. I cannot describe the buzz which accompanies the arrival of the students as they return at the start of each term — it is what we are here for, after all!



DECK THE HALL



Investigative work has taken place this term on the Hall ceiling in preparation for its restoration, which will probably be carried out over the next three successive Michaelmas terms. Conservators have taken samples of paint and materials; examined the stained glass windows; assessed the soundness of the roof timbers; established the composition of mortar and have conducted cleaning trials on all surfaces, both horizontal and vertical, to advise on the appropriate way to proceed. Above the scaffolding, brighter panels have emerged after hours of painstaking work, allowing us to anticipate what will be seen when the restoration is complete.



Concert Critique

Keble Arts Week opened officially with the much-anticipated concert by Keble Choir. The evening commenced with an address by Roger Sainsbury, President of the Keble Association, who commented that he was proud to have been supporting such a worthwhile venture. The concert itself comprised of three sections: the uplifting overture from Mozart's 'The Magic Flute', Vaughan Williams' rousing 'Five Mystical Songs' and Durufle's haunting Requiem. Skilfully conducted by Scott Ellaway, who recently received conductorship of the prestigious Arcadian singers, the pieces were alive with emotion and energy. The soloists, Jenny Bacon and David Salmon, delivered powerful yet controlled performances that left the Chapel resonant and the audience charged. A thoroughly enjoyable evening.



KEBLE ARTS WEEK 2003

Arts Week went off to a flying start with the Art & Photography Exhibition, held in the Douglas Price Room. Laura Croft organized an excellent exhibition, using the space brilliantly, and filling the room with a wide variety of artwork by Keble students.

Keble Chamber Choir and Orchestra, conducted by Scott Ellaway, presented a packed Chapel with a wonderful performance of Duruflé's *Requiem* and Vaughan-Williams's *Five Mystical Songs*.

Events held in the Theatre included a bands night, showcasing some of the contemporary music talent in Keble, and Robin Wilson's *Alice in Kebleland*, which enlightened the audience on aspects of Charles Dodgson's life at Oxford.

Dance Night, featuring belly-dancing troupe *Beledi*, and Indian dance troupe *spin allowed*, was followed by a dance demonstration by the OU Dancesport Club, accompanied by the Inter-College Jazz Band. This event showed off the new Theatre, allowing normal seating to change to a ballroom setting in the space of a short interval.

This year's Drama Cuppers, Ed Chappel, provided a taste of his writing talent with his new play, *Ecce Homeless*, especially commissioned for Arts Week. Oxford University Jazz Orchestra filled the Theatre with yet more quality jazz and to finish, a screening (again in the Theatre!) presented the work of professional digital film group *onedotzero* to Keble students.

All of this goes to show that Keble is making its mark in the arts, and with a venue like the O'Reilly Theatre, students' potential can find its full expression in a way which had hitherto been impossible. Special thanks must go to all those who helped organize Arts Week and make it a big success, and to the Keble Association for its invaluable support.



The Colours of Justice

Stephen Lawrence was murdered a decade ago. *The Colours of Justice*, included moving snippets which invited the audience to be part of the inquiry, which was using sensitive and especially powerful words associated with the performance. The actors delivered clips of getting behind the event to get back to the real people involved, prompting the reaction that one should stand up for what one feels is right even in the face of adversity.

Imran Khan, the lawyer, and Chris Myant took questions from the audience raising the issues of institutional racism and the impact of the case upon society at large. The performance put the audience on the spot and challenged us to assess our own understanding of justice. Khan spoke of getting behind the event to get back to the real people involved, prompting the reaction that one should stand up for what one feels is right even in the face of adversity.



SPORTS

Significant sport successes from the fields to the River for Keble, with numerous individuals winning Blues in a variety of sports.

Fields of victory

Keble Men's hockey team has enjoyed a highly successful season, coming second in the University league. Sterling performances from Alex Miles, Ian Rotsey and Mike Campin, all in their last season, along with new goalkeeper Tim Oliver, helped Keble to score eight victories out of eleven matches played.

Men of Steel

In the wake of Keble Rugby team's stampede to victory in Cuppers 2002, the men had a lot to live up to this season. The year got off to a good start with Captain, Robert Steel leading Keble to some strong wins against St Anne's/John's, Oriol and Queen's.



The second of the leagues proved to be more of a challenge, with losses in the first game to the newly promoted side of New College, 12–37. The next match against Univ was therefore a *must win* to stay up in the first division, from which Keble have never fallen. Our *Men of Steel* delivered and Keble won 20–19, having been 0–19 down at half time. The team made a valiant effort in Cuppers, but unfortunately were beaten in the semi-finals to a very strong St Peter's side 36–7. All round, another good year for Keble men's rugby.

River Rage

Despite disappointment at the cancellation of the fourth day of racing in Torpids, KCBC more than deserved to celebrate the results of the first three days. Two men's and two women's VIII's, including many novices, raced and quickly proved their worth notching up ten bumps in twelve races — an eleventh would have been recorded if the race had not been called off midway through.



△ Mens 1st Eight



△ The cause

Springtime Blues

Keble had its fair share of Blues this term, with first-years Caroline Ford and Fiona Mitchell, for hockey and lacrosse teams respectively and second-year Fiona Hinds also for hockey. Another first-year, Becky Young achieved Blues in both swimming and rugby. University squash proved to be a Keble-dominated sport, with Kerri Shields, Samir Desai, Nick Hillyard and Paavo Piik all representing Oxford in the Varsity match.

Keble had four people rowing for Oxford at Henley on 30 March this year — Jeni Tod, coxing OULRC, Mel Shaw in OUWLRC, Sarah Mulryan in Osiris and Paul Rogers in Nephthys.

OLD MEMBERS' NEWS

AllLearn

Make sense of today's stock market; Why smart people do stupid things; Understanding Beethoven; The mind of the master; Islam and The West.



△ www.AllLearn.org

These are just some of the possible courses on offer through a joint venture between Oxford, Stanford and Yale Universities. A wide range of online courses covering many compelling subjects are written by distinguished academics from the three universities and are available to graduates who enrol in time. So far over 2,000 students from 27 countries have signed up. Why not join them by logging on today and looking at the Course Catalogue to find out what is available and how to enrol! Even if you have never

taken an online course, these courses are designed to be easy to use, as you can participate anytime and anywhere you can connect to the Internet.

Panda Power

Kyla Evans (1989), is Head of the Press Office, World Wildlife Fund.

When I first started working for WWF, I thought that saving the planet was something that was done only by scientists in remote parts of the world. How far from the truth could I be? Over the past 4 years, with nothing more than a click of a mouse, WWF's Panda Passport members have helped stop a proposed tiger slaughter in Kelantan (the northernmost state on the East Peninsular of Malaysia); contributed to the decision by major airport developer to pull out of plans to build a new international airport in the heart of the Florida Everglades; halted the flooding of magnificent wilderness areas in the Icelandic Highlands, and



prevented the construction of dams on both the Vistula River in Poland, and the Tong River in South Korea. 40,000 people who care about our planet, who are short on time but who want to take action have already signed up on www.passport.panda.org. Isn't it time you too became an online conservation activist?

Reunion dates for 2003-4

4-5 July 2003 for 1982-86

19-20 March 2004 for 1987-91

2-3 July 2004 for 1992-97

The Fi McD Fund

A Burns Night Ball was held at the Dorchester Hotel on Friday 24 January to launch a charity fundraising drive in memory of Fiona McDiarmid (1980). Fiona died in August 2002, aged 40, after a battle with breast cancer. The Fund will raise money jointly for Breakthrough Breast Cancer and the Fiona McDiarmid Journalism Bursary. The Bursary will enable an aspiring young journalist, who lacks the means, to attend the University of Westminster diploma course in journalism. For further information about the Fund, please contact Isla Smith at the Development Office.



△ Fiona McDiarmid



Keble turned out in force, from l to r: John Rosier, Betsy Firestone Coles, Mark Russell, Isla Smith, Louise Latimer Smith (Whitewright) Rob Jolliffe, Jane Clay (Pugh) Elizabeth Horner (Grant), Patrick Berton, Trisha Berton (Comley), Steven Brindle, Anne Dickson (Strickland), Sally Ann Rosier (Procter), Tim Donnelly.

Old Members' Publications

The Grey Man, by Colin Barrow (1948). Published by Copernicus Gesellschaft. ISBN 3 9804862 9 X

Dear Images: Art, Copyright and Culture co-edited by Daniel McClean (1990). Published by the Institute of Contemporary Arts and Ridinghouse. ISBN 1 900300 37 0.

AND FINALLY...

Proctorial Procession



The sun shone, the traffic stopped, the tourists on the Oxford Tour bus photographed as the procession led by The Warden and Dr Ian Archer (Fellow in History) moved to Convocation House where he was installed as Proctor for the next year. There was a celebration lunch in Hall afterward at which Ian's family, Fellows, History students, Keble staff, and members of the University mixed together in a very happy atmosphere.

Is his two year old nephew, Jack, the youngest person to lunch at High Table?



Old Bank Backs Down & Co

To raise funds for their respective trips to Sri Lanka and Bulgaria, James Down, Jo Head and Katharine Jamieson organised a *Builders and Bunny Girls* night in the College bar last term. The star prize was a night at the Old Bank Hotel, generously donated by the hotel's manager, Steve Lewis. The whole event raised £950 and was a great success.



James is currently teaching English for two and a half months in Sri Lanka at an orphanage, prison and a Buddhist temple. In the summer, Jo and Katharine will work in a Bulgarian orphanage for a month. Thanks the Old Bank Hotel for its generous support.

△ James Down



Four Colours Suffice...

...even if his jerseys usually have far more than that! Dr Robin Wilson's recent book charts the history of the solving of the following puzzle: take any map, divide into regions and attempt to shade it so that no region is the same colour as its neighbour. Simple? Well, not entirely, as this puzzle took 150 years to solve.

Four Colours Suffice; How the map problem was solved by Robin Wilson (2002). Published by Allen Lane Science (Penguin Press), ISBN 0 713 99670 6



Danish Streaky Bacon

During the early 1860s, Ferdinand Meldahl made plans to rebuild Castle Frederiksbørg in Denmark, originally built in 1560, but which had been partially destroyed by fire. Later that same decade Butterfield's work began on Keble. Could it be that Butterfield took his inspiration from the Dane, or was the Danish architect a fan of Butterfield?

Thanks to Dr David Chandler (1954, History) who pointed out the similarities in architectural style.