

the brick

<http://www.keble.ox.ac.uk/> the newsletter for Keble alumni issue 29 — michaelmas term 2003

BRICK UPON BRICK



The Sloane Robinson Building has just scooped two prestigious architectural awards. Not only was it judged to be the best brick-built Public Building of 2003 but it was awarded the Supreme Winner of the Brick Awards — the brick equivalent of an Oscar.

The architect, Rick Mather, pictured right, was presented with the awards, at a glittering award

ceremony at Grosvenor House in October. The judges liked 'the bold sculptural feel of the building and its use of stack-bonded soldier courses as an ordering principle throughout the construction' and commented 'that the building is a fine example of how the manipulation of brick can create complex, rich and unashamedly modern architecture'.

The judges also felt that the building speaks the architectural language of the adjacent 1995 ARCO building, itself an award winner, and 'that its richly textured wall surface forms a striking response to Butterfield's ornate elevations opposite'. Praise indeed!



WHAT? NO WATTS?

Kate Johnston writes.

To the regret of many, this term has seen the departure of the painting that hung at the end of Keble Hall for nearly three decades, *The Story of Boccaccio*, painted by G F Watts in 1844 and depicting a scene from Decameron.



△ G F Watts 1817–1904

Born in London, to an ordinary family, Watts rose to the heights of Victorian cultured society. He was befriended by the pre-Raphaelite painters and was briefly, but unhappily, married to the teenage Ellen Terry. Not part of a particular school or group, he became known as the 'Victorian Michelangelo', producing a significant number of mainly allegorical pictures.

The Story of Boccaccio was acquired for Keble at the request of Douglas Price, then senior History fellow, who responded to an advertisement in the Sunday Telegraph placed by the Tate Gallery which had no room to store it. He persuaded Governing Body that the painting would be well suited to the style of Keble Hall. Despite initial setbacks over its installation, it was put in position in September 1974.

Now, after 29 years, the painting has been returned to the Tate following a decision by Governing Body. There was a general desire to return the Hall to Butterfield's original design and it was decided not to incur the considerable cost of storing and reinstalling the painting as a result of the Hall cleaning project. Yet, whilst Douglas Price may have been disappointed, Butterfield would not. Notoriously possessive about his work, it is unlikely he would have been impressed with Watts' painting. Having designed every element, it is possible that he envisaged only one painting in Hall, the portrait of John Keble behind High Table. Furthermore, to some, its position seemed wholly inappropriate architecturally as it cut into the truss design, obscuring the brick pattern and stone banding.

Like it or not, the painting may well be missed by students past and present and by High Table guests as it always provided a talking point. Will the original wall prove to be as much a point of debate as the painting itself?



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⑤ drama ⑥ rugby — hockey — swimming pool ⑦ old member news ⑧ odds 'n' ends

DIARY

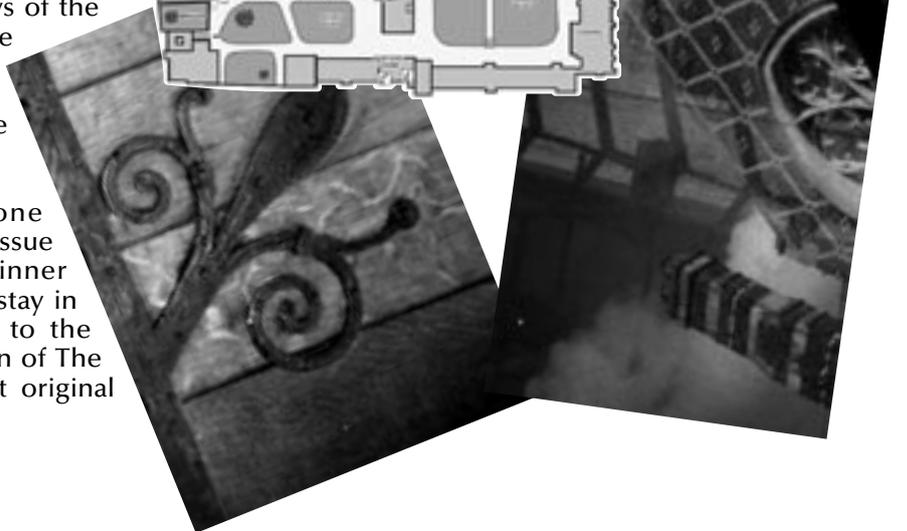
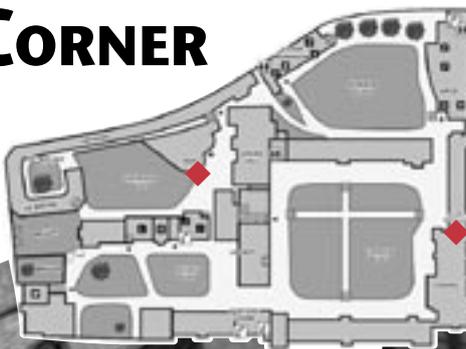
Jan	18	29	Feb	20	26
	Hilary Term Begins	<p>London Dinner 127 Piccadilly, London</p> <p>Booking Form was enclosed with the The Record 2003 also available on the College website.</p>		<p>Richardson Lecture 5.30pm Pusey Room</p> <p>e-Science: will it change Oxford University?</p> <p>Professor Paul Jeffreys, Professorial Fellow, Director of University Computing Services and Directory of Oxford e-Science Centre</p>	<p>London Drinks Party Bankside Gallery, 48 Hopton Street, London SE1 9JH</p> <p>Booking Form enclosed with this issue of the brick.</p>
Mar	19–20		Apr	25	
	<p>Reunion Weekend For Old Members who matriculated in the years 1987–91 inclusive. If you have not received your invitation, contact the Development Office.</p>			<p>St Mark's Dinner St Mark's Day Service in Chapel is followed by Dinner for present members of the College, including all classes of Fellows.</p>	
May	8	28	29		
	<p>Degree Day for 2003 Finalists</p> <p>Eric Symes Abbot Memorial Lecture Chapel 5.30pm</p> <p>Lecture by Fr Timothy Radcliffe, St Dominic's Priory, London</p>	<p>Garden Party Old Members can apply for tickets from the Development Office.</p> <p>Invitations will also be extended to second year undergraduates, first year graduates and their families.</p>		<p>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.</p>	

COMPETITION CORNER

Sadly, there were no winners for the Competition in the last edition, although one person correctly spotted the detail on the door of Chapel. The second picture was a reflection of the side of Hall in the windows of the Bar – very tricky, but all the clues were there!

The photographers were taken at the red diamonds.

To mark the milestone publication of *the brick* issue 30, the usual prize of dinner for two and an overnight stay in College will be awarded to the person who, in the opinion of The Editor, produces the most original new competition.



THE BRICK INTERVIEW: CHRIS PATTEN

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Zoe Flood (2002, *History and Politics*) interviews the new Chancellor.
(Reprinted with the permission of OUSU from *The Oxford Student*, 9 October 2003)



After storming to victory in the highly contested elections in March, Chris Patten was formally installed as Chancellor on 25 June. Zoe Flood talks to the University's new figurehead about fees, the collegiate system and when the Rolling Stones played at the Magdalen Commemoration Ball.

Member of Parliament, Chairman of the Conservative Party, Governor of Hong Kong, EU Commissioner and now Chancellor of Oxford University, Chris Patten has mastered the art of reinvention. It is in his latest guise, however, that he seems to have found a degree of balance in his routine transformation, saying of his installation as Chancellor of Oxford that it is 'as if there is some sort of symmetry' to his life. And an unexpected symmetry at that, as he only decided to run for the post having already seen his name being put forward by the papers and at that time thought of it as 'such an unlikely dream that it couldn't possibly happen'.

While still officially residing in Brussels, Patten is spending more and more time in Oxford looking at ways in which he can use his position to 'help Oxford find its place in the sun'. The exact role of the Chancellor remains undefined, with Patten borrowing a favourite quip of Harold Macmillan, a former Oxford Chancellor himself, and saying that it is the Vice-Chancellor who runs the University, but that 'without a Chancellor, there could be no Vice-Chancellor'. Since the establishment of the Court of Benefactors by Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, Patten's predecessor, the unpaid position has been largely been a fundraising one. The goals that Patten appears to have clearly laid out for himself are very much in keeping with the precedent set by Jenkins. Not only does he appear committed to help raise the £40 million needed just to refurbish the Bodleian Library, but he is also keen to see the provision of new facilities, particularly in the sporting arena, which are a match in quality to the University's renowned academic reputation. He is clearly passionate about ensuring that bursary and outreach programmes are fully developed, having already pledged to help with some of the access campaigns run by the Oxford University Students' Union.

'Were top-up fees to go ahead, although I do believe that Labour may back down', Patten speculates, 'then I don't believe that the maintenance grant offered would be enough'. He is particularly scathing about the Conservative Party's opposition to top-up fees, describing it as 'completely unprincipled' and a purely 'populist policy' that succeeds only in 'undermining the credibility of the Conservative Party'.

Less specifically, Patten believes that his job 'is to help with those changes that Oxford is going to have to continue to make'. When asked about how autonomous Oxford colleges can realistically be in a modern world, he shrugged: 'No one in their right mind is going to take on 700 years of history.'

The collegiate system certainly worked for him, having attended Balliol, a college perhaps more justified than any other in counting its successes by the number of eminent alumni it has produced – these include the past two Chancellors. Patten's best friend from his college days is now Director of Communications of the United Nations and one House of Commons debate was opened by speeches from three Balliol men, Patten included, who had shared a staircase in college. Eminence aside, the dreamy look that fills Patten's eyes when talking of his 'wonderful' days at Oxford is more a result of memories of the simple things – 'the golden summers, cricket and bowls, and cucumber sandwiches'.

'Oxford taught me to write and taught me to think, it was intellectually exciting and socially terrific,' he mused, recalling that at the first 'dance' to which he took his now-wife, the Rolling Stones had performed live.

Having acknowledged the financial pressures weighing on today's students, Patten also noted that students nowadays 'work harder and drink more'.

'Although I'm not noted for my abstemiousness,' he quickly added, chuckling.

'I follow in a great tradition of Chancellors who have taken red wine'.

AIDS AWARENESS

4

Sunniva Taylor, Society President writes.



The *Oxford Student Stop AIDS Society*, has been set up by students to provide an Oxford focus for the international fight against the AIDS pandemic. Our aim is to campaign and to fundraise to help combat this global disaster.

The Society, newly formed this term, already has a Committee of over ten members (six of whom are from Keble) and a membership of over 400 with numbers constantly on the increase. As the sentiment on the website (see below) would suggest, this charity's main focus is on gaining voices and funds. By raising awareness of this pandemic, the Society hopes to help change



attitudes towards an often stigmatised disease which claims so many lives on a daily basis across the world.

Opened by David Ransom, the co-editor of the internationally renowned magazine '*New Internationalist*', the launch of the Society in Keble drew considerable media attention. This launch saw Keble hosting the '*Unite to Fight*' speaker tour, which was comprised of five international speakers, from Tanzania, Uganda, the USA and the UK, all of whom were either infected or affected by HIV or AIDS. The evening, charged with intense emotion was an inspiration and a reminder of the importance of such a campaign.

The Society has also just finished its 'week of action'

for World AIDS Day on 1 December. This was also a huge success with massive student and media support. The week involved the creation of a 'Human AIDS Ribbon' around the Radcliffe Camera, a speaker evening lead by the notable HIV+ South African Judge, Edwin Cameron in Keble College, a day of street collecting and a 'party' at Keble on World AIDS Day. A considerable amount of money was raised for both Terrence Higgins Trust and Cecily's Fund (supporting AIDS orphans in Zambia) and the week emphasised just how many people want to be involved in this campaign and how great the strength of feeling surrounding this issue is among the student population.
www.oxfordstopaids.org.uk

The Great Wall comes to Keble

Emily McLeod writes.

Over the last three years, Keble's bicycle racks seem to have been continually on the move. Firstly, Liddon and Pusey's racks were relocated in Hayward to make the front quads look tidier, then the racks in Newman Quad were also moved to Hayward as building work for the Sloane Robinson Building got under way. Now a new, purpose built park, with 230 cycle slots is taking shape in Newman Quad. A large wall of gabions, concealed by ivy, will ensure that there is a sweep of green on the bank between the newest buildings.

Security and the environment have been taken into account: good lighting and CCTV are features of the new site and the tarmac surface is permeable to allow the surrounding trees to benefit from any rainwater. All this will allow the much neglected Hayward Quad to be developed and landscaped properly. Another major benefit will be the freeing up of access into College via the Lodge as cyclists will now use the entrance from Blackhall Road.



Meena Magic



Meena Parameshwaran (2003, PPE) was the winner of an IBM/Axios sponsored award — she beat 13 other girls who had scored the highest marks in A-level computing in 2002. The competition aims to encourage more women to take up careers in IT. Her prize was a laptop ('very handy' now that she is here!) and a trip for two to the US. She spent time in New York and then travelled to Washington, San Francisco and Los Angeles. After that she chose to travel and work in Africa for Quest Overseas. As a result of the publicity from the award, she received a couple of job offers before she had even come up to Keble. Watch this space!

THE ADVERSARY

Alex Keenan writes.

The final production of Term in the O'Reilly Theatre was OUDS Best of Cuppers. This featured the most exciting and well performed shows from 40 entrants to this year's competition. I'm proud to say that Keble managed to get into the top four this year, winning the prize for Best New Writing and being nominated for the Best Technician award (which would have gone to Mike Jakeman backstage).

The play entitled *The Adversary* was written and directed (and in part acted) by the multi-talented Phoebe Wood-Wheelhouse. The quality of the script was excellent and she performed well in her role as the

Waitress (and in a twist at the end, God). Another excellent performance came from Karen Kerrigan who was well cast as the sultry temptress Satan. Matthias Williams and Richard Massey also performed very well as two angels sent to judge whether Satan had reformed her character. Michael's passion and violent outbursts were convincingly played.

The play was an unconventional look at the Fall of Lucifer and the nature of God's forgiveness that definitely provoked thought on the audience's behalf. I felt however that with such strong writing and able acting it was a shame to cram *The Adversary* into the Cupper's time limit

and I eagerly await the day when Ms Wood-Wheelhouse has the freedom to write a longer, more developed piece.



Not only was it an excellent performance, but also proof of the many talents of Keble's Freshers.

Matthias Williams, Mike Jakeman, Phoebe Wood-Wheelhouse, and Karen Kerrigan.

ANYONE FOR MINCE PIES?

Alex Keenan went to see this term's production of *The Night Before Christmas*.

A prostitute, a dodgy dealer and a repressed homosexual interrogate one of Santa's little helpers. The tone was irreverent, witty and a little on the dark side of funny. My favourite line was 'Are you telling me that Father Christmas is a pusher?' This was in fact exactly what the play was telling us: the Christmas feeling is a drug, distributed by Santa's elves who are addicts themselves and that Santa doesn't live at the North Pole but in Hartlepool.

I thought the play worked well, the dialogue was delivered

convincingly and the direction under Sam Brown commendable. The ending stayed true to the tone of the rest of the production and avoided the happy family cliché. The characters were united, but in debauchery rather than glossy Hollywood romanticism. It was an enjoyable outing and extremely refreshing for a Christmas cynic like myself. The icing on the cake was the mulled wine and mince pies served afterwards.



is coming to the O'Reilly Theatre on Saturday 28 February 2004.

The programme comprises works by Mozart and Tchaikovsky and as well as more contemporary works by the American composer Norman Dello Joio, the neo-classicist Swedish composer, Lars-Erik Larsson. Nimrod Borenstein's Shell Adagio will be given its world première.

Tickets are £15 and are available from the box office. Call 01865 305305 or book online at <http://www.oxfordphil.com/>



SPORTS

6

World Class Winners

Chris Roberts, Captain KCRFC writes.



Roger Waite (Reprinted with permission of The Oxford Student)

Coming second to St. Peter's in the first League, Keble is looking to build on its achievements this term to ensure that the Cuppers trophy finds its rightful place back in the Keble College trophy cabinet.

The highlight of the season thus far was our first game

against 'the Hall' who, until we played them, hadn't lost a game for a whole year. A try in the last minute by John Aldis clinched the victory — 'Shoe the Hall!'

Keble has managed to win all bar one of its matches this term, unfortunately succumbing to a strong St Peter's side with an especially resilient pack. But we have the makings of a great side. The influx of Freshers this year has boosted the squad enormously. We are now concentrating our efforts on the second League and preparing for what will hopefully be a victorious Cuppers tournament.

Ben Blue



Third Year Economics and Management student, Ben Durham is, for the second year running, in the Blues Squad for the Varsity Match at Twickenham. Although he is starting on the bench this time, he hopes that he will get a piece of the action. In a previous incarnation, he played for the England U18 and U21 squads.

Hockey Heights

The combination of seasoned senior players and an influx of quality new ones promises another highly successful season for KCHC. After finishing runners-up last year to a dominant Worcester team (who were unbeaten in League play for 4 successive years) the early fixture between the two sides was to be a good indicator of the team's ability. Spectacularly, Keble won 4-0 with early goals from Alex Shandro and Chris Sibley and the team kept up this form with consecutive victories. Led by senior players Barry McEwan, Fiona Hinds and Rafe Roylance the Club looks set to mount a strong challenge in Cuppers (facing a quarter final) and the League (currently lying second).

Tim Oliver, KCHC Captain 2003-4 writes.



Rosenblatt Opening

Emily McLeod writes.



The new Rosenblatt pool on Iffley Road opened on 5 October this year. The enthusiasm for the project is such that only a hundred places from the core membership of 15,000 students and 6,500 staff remain. The top-class 25 by 17 metre pool has eight lanes and a movable floor. The pool has a high spec chlorine disinfection system and chlorine levels are substantially lower than in comparable pools thanks to the UVA system which has been installed.

The temperature is kept constant, just below 30 degrees, which is cooler than most leisure-orientated pools but typical of training/racing pools. In addition to this there is also a high tech computer surveillance installation to monitor sub-surface activity, alerting the lifeguards to any problems.

It is appropriate that the pool should have been opened in the Rhodes Scholar Centenary year as it is named after the American Rhodes Scholar, Mr Lief Rosenblatt (Magdalen 1974), who made a substantial donation to the £3.7 million project. Keble swimmers and water polo players will have yet another opportunity to excel in a great new sporting arena.



Intrepid Trekker

Mike Gibbs (1974) has been bitten by the sponsorship bug. Not content with his cycle ride to Paris last year, he has recently completed a seven day, 118 km trek through the demanding terrain of the Cederberg Mountains in South Africa. He pledged to raise £2,550 and was pleased to exceed this target to support the work of the Red Cross HIV/AIDS programme in South Africa. Anyone wishing to give further support to this project can contact Mike through the Development Office.

▷ <http://www.photobox.co.uk/mgibbs@mac.com>



Sir Ivor Roberts, KCMG (1964), British Ambassador in Rome meets Geoffrey Nice, QC (1964), Senior Trial Attorney for International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and Dick Alford, CMG, OBE (1963), recently retired as Director of the British Council in Italy, at a chance encounter in Rome.

One to Watch



John Brownlow (1983) is the screenwriter for the eagerly awaited *Sylvia*, starring Gwyneth Paltrow, which tells the story of the relationship between Ted Hughes and Sylvia Plath. Variety lists him as one of '10 Screenwriters to Watch' although such a billing is something he describes as 'a classic case of the overnight success that takes 10 years to happen'. John has come to screenwriting via the intersecting disciplines of producing and directing documentaries, principally because he wants the freedom 'tell the story the way I want to hear it told'. The making of documentaries involves dealing with what actually happened and often means that the best stories 'fall between the cracks'. With a fund of stories in his head, he wants the freedom to write and tell us about some of them. When asked why the relationship of Sylvia Plath and Ted Hughes attracted him so much, he said: 'The story has a universal aspect. It would still an interesting story if they weren't famous or weren't interested in poetry. Two people meet and fall in love. They marry but it's a marriage in which only one of them can survive. This would be a great story anyway: the fact that it's specifically about Ted Hughes and Sylvia Plath just makes it better.'

AND FINALLY...

Come fly with me!



The University Gliding Club got some memorable publicity when a glider 'unfolded' in Pusey Quad recently. Senior Member of the Club, Professor Martin Oldfield, and veteran of 25 years as a glider pilot, was only too happy to pose in the cockpit. All that is missing is his mortar board!



Professor Ralph Thomas (Visiting Fellow 1985–6) receives the G William Morgan Lecture award following his talk at the Health Physics Society, *Accelerator Radiological Protection* – A Personal and
 △ *Privileged Odyssey*.



Pucka Cuppers – our apologies to the Alternative Non-contact Ice Hockey
 △ Cuppers winners for the omission of their photo in *The Record* 2003

Reunion dates for 2004–5

19–20 March 2004
for years 1987–91

25–26 June 2004
for years 1992–97

18–19 March 2005
for years 1945–56

1–2 July 2005
for years 1963–67

Old Members' Publications

How to Manage your Science and Technology Degree, by David Price (1984) Published by Palgrave–Macmillan, ISBN 1 403906 40 8.

Reflecting the Audience: London Theatregoing 1840–1880, by Jim Davis (1968) Published by University of Hertfordshire Press, (Winner of Theatre Book prize for the best book on Theatre published in 2001), ISBN 1 902806 18 2.

Materials for Automobile Bodies, by Geoffrey Davies (1995) Published by Butterworth Heinemann, ISBN 0 7506 5692 1.

Celebrations by MBA Class of '03



Proud parents, families and friends of this year's MBA students gathered on 4 October to see a group of them graduate. If any of the graduands would like a copy of this photograph, please contact the Development Office.