

the brick

<http://www.keble.ox.ac.uk/> the newsletter for Keble alumni issue 30 —hilary term 2004

THE TRUTH ABOUT TUITION FEES

The Education Bill currently facing another vote in Parliament must be one of the most contested and least well-prepared pieces of legislation we have seen in recent years. Oxford has so far been cautious about its response, and not surprisingly — even if the University does charge the full extra amount allowed by the Government — the extra will still fall far short of the University's current annual undergraduate 'teaching deficit' of £23m, and that is not counting the colleges' own shortfall. Nor do we know as yet what will be demanded of us in terms of access requirements as part of the 'management contract' which we will be required to sign with the new regulator. Will any of this help Keble? Not obviously, and it is probably optimistic to think that the University will

pass the extra fee money on to the colleges.

We may also speculate as to the Government's real motives. This Bill is more about 'variability' of charging than about helping universities or students, and thus about creating a market among institutions. If this element is kept and the Bill succeeds, the market will have little scope, unless the Government is indeed thinking long term. Students from poorer families will be helped in the shorter term, but we can be certain that most prospective students and their parents will have to think harder about affording a university education. On our side we will need more robust and more sensitive schemes of financial aid if we are to maintain Keble's open and egalitarian tradition.

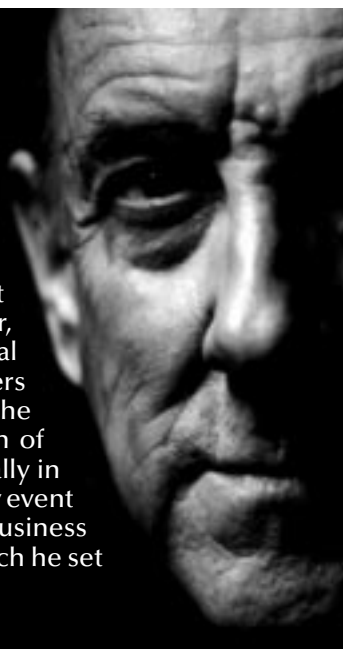
Jim Harris 1940–2004



As we go to press, it is with great regret that we announce the death of Professor James Harris, BCL, MA, DCL, (Ph.D. Lond.), FBA 2001. Jim died on 22 March 2004 at Sobell House, Oxford, after a brave struggle against cancer. He was a Fellow and Tutor in Law at Keble from 1973 to 2004. His wife Jose and his son Hugh survive him. Many of his former students attended his funeral on Thursday 1 April. Details of a Memorial Service will be sent to Jim's old students and information will be posted on the College website when arrangements have been finalized. Donations to two of the charities Jim supported (The Oxfordshire Association for the Blind and the Macmillan Nurses) can be sent c/o A W Bruce Ltd, Funeral Directors, 29 Rogers Street, Oxford OX2 7JS.


New Institute funded by Keble Old Member

A new Institute for the study of science and civilization was formally launched on March 16 as the result of a substantial donation to the University by Dr James Martin (Keble, Physics, 1952). James Martin is the author of more than 100 books on information technology and an authority on the social and commercial uses of computers and technology. He has already funded a chair in computing at Oxford. The first Director of the Institute, Professor Steve Rayner, formerly of Columbia University, New York, and now a professorial fellow at Keble, will soon be joined by another professor, two lecturers and a number of external fellows. James Martin's hope is that the Institute will encourage statesmanship and a broad appreciation of the actual and potential impact of science on civilization, especially in relation to the global problems of the twenty-first century. The key event at the launch, held in the Nelson Mandela lecture hall at the Said Business School, was an arresting presentation by Dr Martin himself in which he set a tough agenda for the new Institute and its first Director.



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⑤ arts week ⑥ rowing — ghosts — rugby ⑦ keble association ⑧ odds 'n' ends

DIARY

Apr	25	May	8	22	28
	<p>Trinity Term Begins</p> <p>St Marks' Day Service</p> <p>5.30pm Chapel</p> <p>Sermon given by The Revd Colin Semper (1958), previously Head of Religious Programmes for BBC Radio. All welcome.</p>		<p>BA Day for 2003 Finalists</p> <p>All places are spoken for but a waiting list is in operation. Please contact Ruth Cowen in the Development Office.</p>	<p>Afternoon Concert</p> <p>by David Owen Norris.</p> <p>see feature below</p>	<p>Eric Symes Abbot Memorial Lecture</p> <p>Chapel 5.30pm</p> <p>Lecture by Fr Timothy Radcliffe, OP, St Dominic's Priory, London</p>
May	29	Jun	25-26		
	<p>Garden Party</p> <p>Old Members can apply for tickets (£9.00, payable to Keble College) from the Development Office.</p> <p>Invitations have been extended to second year undergraduates, first year graduates and their families.</p>	<p>Rowing Society AGM & Eights Week Dinner</p> <p>Invitations have been sent out to members of the Society. If you wish to join and attend the Dinner, please contact Tori Roddy in the Development Office.</p>		<p>Reunion Weekend</p> <p>For Old Members who matriculated between the years 1992-7. If you have not received your invitation by mid-April, please contact Ruth Cowen in the Development Office.</p>	
Jul	3		31		
	<p>Family Day, Keble Association AGM and Summer Dinner</p> <p>Fun and games in the afternoon in Liddon Quad followed by Summer Dinner in Hall and an early opportunity to see the newly cleaned ceiling. (Booking form enclosed with this issue of the brick)</p> <p>Keble Association AGM, Pusey Room, 5.30pm.</p>		<p>MA Degree Day</p> <p>Invitations will be sent out in April to 1996 matriculands. If you do not receive an invitation and feel that you are eligible, please contact Ruth Cowen in the Development Office.</p>		

DAVID OWEN NORRIS IN CONCERT

On Saturday 22 May, David Owen Norris (1972) is giving an Afternoon Concert in the O'Reilly Theatre. Tickets are available from the Development Office. For info please email isla.smith@keble.ox.ac.uk.



The programme will include Beethoven's *Sonata in C Minor Op 13, Pathétique*; Brahms' *Six Piano Pieces Op 118*; Tippett's *Sonata No 1* and Elgar's *Concert Allegro*. After his time as Organ Scholar at Keble, David went on to study at the Royal Academy of Music. As well as numerous recordings as a pianist,

he successfully combined that career with one of presenting and interviewing on Radio 3, most notably *The Works* which ran for several years. In 1991 an American foundation appointed him the very first Gilmore Artist, an award which led to a busy international solo career. He is active in musical education — having been a Professor at the Royal Academy of Music, he is currently a Professor of Vocal Accompaniment at the Royal College of Music.

Appreciation of his performances range from 'A phenomenon at the keyboard' and 'Possibly the most interesting pianist in the world' to 'He can play like a demon possessed, or like a cocktail lounge pianist on hallucinogens, or like the dreamiest caresser of ivories imaginable.'

Come to the Concert and experience this uniqueness for yourself!

THE BRICK INTERVIEW: DR SONIA MAZEY

Emily McLeod (2002, Philosophy and Theology), Kate Johnston (2002, History and Politics) and Alex Keenan (2003, Philosophy and Theology) interview Dr Sonia Mazey who took up her position as Senior Tutor at the start of Michaelmas 2003.

Tell us a bit about your job

Keble is one of six Oxford colleges to appoint a full-time, professional Senior Tutor. This post brings together three College offices, namely Senior Tutor, Tutor for Admissions and Tutor for Graduates. Historically, each of these jobs has been done by a Fellow on top of his or her teaching and research commitments. However, increasing departmental/faculty pressures upon tutorial fellows, combined with the need for colleges to keep pace with important changes occurring both within and beyond the University have prompted some forward-looking colleges to combine these roles in a single appointment.

What is involved in each of the three areas of your job?

As Senior Tutor I have overall responsibility for academic and pastoral matters relating to undergraduate students. As Tutor for Admissions, I oversee the undergraduate admissions process within College each December and liaise with schools and teachers throughout the year. Finally, as Tutor for Graduates, I have overall responsibility for graduate admissions and the academic progress and welfare of graduate students at Keble. All three aspects of the post involve both routine administration and strategic planning, and all three roles require me to work closely with other Fellows, students and staff within the College.

Is there pressure on other colleges to adopt this model?

Yes, I know that a number of colleges are currently considering making such an appointment for the reasons outlined above. The pressures on colleges are now numerous and considerable. Some of these demands come from within the University, but there are increasing financial and regulatory pressures upon colleges from government policy and other external sources.

What are the benefits of this model?

There are also benefits for a college in having one person, who because they have such wide-ranging responsibilities, can see the 'bigger picture' and make links between different policy areas. Full-time professional Senior Tutors also have the time to 'network' within the collegiate University and attend various University and inter-collegiate committees. For example, I attend meetings of the Senior Tutors' Committee, the Graduate Tutors Committee and the College Admissions Tutors' Committee and therefore have a good sense of what's going on in other colleges. Thus, the views of colleges with full-time Senior Tutors tend to be well-represented more widely within the University.

How have decisions taken at University level had an effect on your position?

The University's current plans for the future size and shape of Oxford University have also provided new challenges and opportunities for the College regarding our own plans for the future. The recent reform of the University's graduate admissions procedures is a key part of this development. It's extremely important that we seize this opportunity to ensure that we continue to develop a strong, graduate student community and research culture within Keble over the next few years. In order to achieve this, we will need to work hard to ensure that Keble is attractive to potential students.

What are your personal goals in the job?

To minimize the risk of nasty surprises! More seriously, my personal aim is to work with other members of the College — Fellows, students and staff — to facilitate and promote scholarly activities within a friendly and supportive community. And I'm not just talking about examination results; the College should also be a centre of intellectual and cultural activity in a broad sense. I feel passionately about access. Keble already has a very strong commitment to access and I welcome the opportunities that this post gives me to work with schools and encourage applicants from non-traditional backgrounds. I would also like to see more women students in Keble, especially in science subjects.



MORE BRICK THAN MORTAR BOARD

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After 30 glorious issues of the brick — enough for a small garden wall or perhaps even a barbecue — we ask some of the past and present student team to reflect on the impact their time on the brick has had on their respective careers.



Serving as the first editor of the brick was definitely the highlight of my journalistic career (such as it was). I'm thrilled that the brick is still going after all these years. When we first started, we weren't sure we'd make it to the next week, much less the next year! Like other brick editors, I am sure, I have many fond memories of late nights in Eighth Week (and sometimes Ninth and Tenth!) spent frantically finishing up the latest issue. I'm pleased that it has continued to fulfill its mission of giving Old Members an unvarnished look at life in College.

Best wishes for many more years.

Kannon Shanmugam (1993), Editor 1994, Washington DC



Hilary 1994: The head of the new Development Office, Roger Boden (1965) cultivated my desktop publishing and photographic skills, Kannon Shanmugam's (1993) editorial eye and the wry writing of Mike Talbot (1993). We went to press in mid June but not all of the 5718 recipients was pleased to receive this new missive — '...dreadful...', '...ghastly, arch tone...' wrote readers. Roger went on to become Bursar of the College. Kannon is now a power-lunching litigator in Washington DC. Mike was Junior Dean. But although I may work in London these days, to borrow the lyrics of Stephen Sondheim, 'I'm still here!'

Nick Perry (1991), Producer & Designer 1994-present, London



Congratulations on your 30th issue. I served as Editor in 1998, a time when we published an interview with Colin Dexter on a Keble graduate in Inspector Morse and an article on access (still a topical issue) that prompted many letters. I remember recruiting two undergraduates who thought they would be working for The Brick, the less glossy, more salacious JCR publication.

Dil Joseph (1997), Editor 1998, Edmonton, AB

P.S. What I want to know is who was Rapunzel, writing from the Clocktower?



Little did I know that my days on the brick would lead me to The News (great titles I seem to pick!) in Gosport, near Portsmouth. The job is varied and unpredictable and I will get sent out to cover whatever is happening. My day-to-day stories include writing about crimes, court cases, fires, inquests and council politics, and every now and then there are the unusual tales — a murder, sightings of a panther or a 105th birthday. The odd perk compensates for the long hours — I have looped the loop in a stunt aeroplane and gone on a press trip to Evian. Inspecting overflowing dog bins was one of the more unpleasant assignments, but hopefully that was just an initiation test and won't have to be repeated! All the best for the next 30 issues,

Guy Collender (1988), Editor 2000, Portsmouth



KEBLE ARTS WEEK

<http://www.kebleartsweek.co.uk>

Life Drawing Comes To Keble

On Sunday of Arts Week several aspiring Keble artists received some arty wisdom from Dora Wade. A few others turned up just to gawp at the naked person. I won't say which category I fall into, but I was there, and she was naked (the model, not Dora Wade).



Dora took a reassuringly laid back attitude and we were free to experiment. She was keen, however, on 'props' such as ladders and ivy to complement the model's (ample) physique and there was not a whiff of minimalist chic/cheek. To judge from the display in the Café, Keble has a good number of able sketchers.

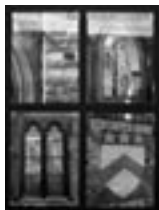


Thanks to Stephanie Garner-Winship for organizing the class, Dora for teaching, the model for putting up with a cold draught for three hours and all who turned up, except for the flesh starved Mathematicians that is...

■ Alex Keenan



Word on the Quad, students spell out what it means to be part of Keble



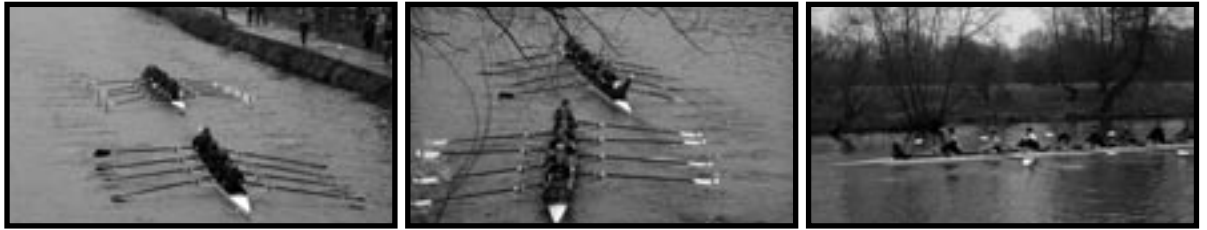
△ Teatime Trio

The Art of Comedy

Chris Milsom and Ed Chappel got together some of the funniest members of the JCR, MCR and even SCR! The Oxford Imps, an improvisational comedy group who used whatever we threw (literally in some cases!) at them and turned the ideas into a slick and professional comedy performance. Kaya Burgess entertained us with multilingual stand-up and David Lentin filmed various short videos including his attendance at a lecture wearing nothing but swimming trunks! Sadly there is no photographic record of the one-man performance of Cinderella by none other than our very own Chaplain, Mark Butchers!

■ Emily McLeod

SPORTS



Blades abounding

Congratulations to the Women's 1st VIII in Torpids as they notched up 6 bumps, and leapt 5 places in the 3rd division over the course of 4 days. The picture shows them on day 3 bumping St Hugh's.

The men (pictured right above, on their way to the start on day 3 and below, back at the boathouse) after being bumped on day 1, went on to row over the next three days, holding their place in the 2nd Division for next year.

Full results for the week can be found at the KCBC website: www.keblerowling.com.



Women's Rugby

Although not the first sport to spring to mind at Keble, Women's rugby is enjoying excellent popularity, especially among visiting American students and is recording considerable success. Despite a defeat by the formidable St Anne's, hopes were high after a very convincing performance against Merton. Captain, Sophie Westlake is ably assisted by Vice Captain Hannah Ormerod in the organization of matches and Keble men's team contribute valuable assistance during training sessions. The team features some promising talent and their progress will be watched in the future. Anyone (girls only please) who wants to get involved should contact the Captain, though it is not for the faint hearted.



From Ghosts Football...

Annual Ghosts Football Match — Saturday 9 October. Anyone wishing to pit their boots against the current College stars, please contact the Development Office.



...to Ghosts Rugby

Not to be outdone by the footballers, Nick West (1993) wants to recruit a team of Rugby Ghosts to take on the College XV also on Saturday 9 October and kick off the Michaelmas sporting calendar! Please email nick.west@breathe.com for details.

KEBLE ASSOCIATION TRAVEL NEWS

<http://www.kebleassociation.org/>

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Excavating the Middle Stone Ages in Zambia

Thanks to support from the KA, last summer I joined a team excavating in the South Luangwa Valley, a remote game management area in the eastern half of Zambia.

The season produced an exceptionally large return in artefacts overall, but much of our time was spent excavating a cliff site on the River Manzi. Well-preserved Early Stone Age and Middle Stone Age artefacts lined a 9m high section in well-stratified horizons, and vertical excavation of the cliff-face was complemented by more traditional surface digging. Elephants regularly visited this cliff-face while we worked, using their tusks to extract saline-rich clay-like deposits.

Luamfwa, in the south, yielded probably the largest collection of spheroids known from a

single site, and vast amounts of Later Stone Age artefacts. At Poachers' Cave, an overhang reached after a long and hilly hike through elephant grass and forest, I had the opportunity to record some geometric rock art, a valuable and exciting new skill.

The season also included a dramatic rescue excavation of important Early Iron Age pottery, as well as some wonderful and at times frightening wildlife encounters, including a hippopotamus sitting on my tent – while I was in it! The advice, enthusiasm and interest shown by both the Zambian communities and government representatives was extraordinary; their kindness uncompromising.



The daily crossing of the Luangwa River on a local pontoon was one of the most wonderful experiences of the time spent there: the sunrise and sunset quiet as we were pulled across the dark river will forever be part of an unforgettable earthly magic that pervaded my experience of the Valley.

■ Marcelle Olivier



Working with Children in Bulgaria

Last summer, we spent two weeks in Bulgaria working at Dom Gavroche, a centre for street children, on a trip partially funded by the KA.

On arrival we were disappointed to learn that we had been beaten to it by Prince Charles. 'Humph', how were we students, tired and pasty looking after an overnight train ride from Sofia, ever going to live up to such royal expectations? It soon became clear that the children were not going to discriminate against our lack of blue blood.

Dom Gavroche offers temporary residential care to 25 children aged 5–18, and provides a much needed drop-in centre for the many children either squatting or living in conditions of extreme poverty in Varna. The dedicated team work as an extended family to provide a safe haven and sense of stability for the children. The confidence and enthusiasm with which they

met us, and squabbled over who was to have the honour of pinning our name badges on, was instant testimony to the project's success.

Our days with the children were filled with trips to local attractions and activities including painting, drawing, making musical instruments, and games. Through it all, we were struck by the children's ability to cope under extremely difficult circumstances whilst maintaining a cheerful and welcoming countenance. The children's uncompromising open-mindedness was truly inspirational.

■ Katherine Jamieson and Katie Burningham



Clay model
△ making in Varna

AND FINALLY...

Così fan Tutte



Little did I know that after conducting a very successful concert in Merton College Chapel in Michaelmas of *Bach's B minor Mass*, I would find myself beside one of the world's most famous conductors, Claudio Abbado. With financial assistance from the Keble Association, I set off to Ferrara to work with Abbado as he rehearsed Mozart's *Così Fan Tutte*. I learnt so much during my week of watching and talking to this inspirational man. The prospect of my own conducting debut on London's South Bank in October is very exciting.

■ Scott Ellaway



Save the Rhino Marathon



I want to raise at least £1,000 for Save the Rhino, so I foolishly agreed to run in the London Marathon on 18 April. My costume weighs 10kg so it may be a shuffle round the 26.2 mile course rather than a run! Save the Rhino supports conservation projects in Africa and Asia and pays for anti-poaching and monitoring patrols — the rhino population has declined from 500,000 in the 1970s to less than 18,000 today. Please help by sponsoring me: guycollender@hotmail.com or 07813 708283.

■ Guy Collender

Keble dominant at Moots

Helen Pugh and David Walsh shared the £500 prize in the Mooting Competition this term. The initial rounds were judged by sponsors, Shearman and Sterling LLP, with the final being judged by Lord Justice Longmore. This competition is an opportunity for law students interested in a career as a barrister to gain first-hand experience of advocacy. Congratulations to Helen and David who were up against strong opposition from teams of BCL students!



Moot Winners, Helen Pugh, centre with envelope, and David Walsh, second △ from right.

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Old Members' Publications

British Watercolours in The Whitworth Art Gallery, The University of Manchester — A Summary Catalogue of Drawings and Watercolours by Artists born before 1880, by Charles Nugent (1980) Published by Philip Wilson in association with The Whitworth Gallery, ISBN 0 85667 547 4

Bread and Ashes, A Walk through the Mountains of Georgia by Anthony Anderson (1972) Published by Jonathan Cape, ISBN 0 22406 300 6 (Hardback) or Vintage ISBN 0 09943 787 2 (Paperback)