

KEBLE BUYS THE ACLAND SITE

On 1 December the College completed the purchase of the former Acland Hospital site. The Bursar, Roger Boden, explains why and how.



The Acland Hospital site occupies 1.7 acres immediately to the south of St Anne's and just a few minutes' walk from Keble. We've known for three years that Nuffield Hospitals would be selling it. We knew, too, that if at all possible Keble had to buy it.

In March, the Governing Body had an 'Awayday' to consider the future direction of the College. One of the key conclusions was that, whilst we did not wish to expand our numbers, we had to provide accommodation for more of our junior members. With some 450 undergraduates and 225 graduate students, Keble is one of Oxford's biggest colleges. But we currently only house 385 students in the curtilage and a further 66 in outside houses. The rest — more than 200 each year — have to look to the private rented market. Such housing is always expensive and often inconvenient and sub-standard. As a result, some good students, especially graduates, are deterred from applying. Housing is an 'access' issue.

Governing Body considered various options but always came back to the Acland. It was the most expensive, but by far the best. In the long term it can be redeveloped to house at least 200 students. And it had one key advantage over other options: it could quickly be converted for student occupancy. This meant we could, within a few months of purchase, move students in from the outside houses and sell the houses to fund part of the acquisition cost. So when, in May, the sale particulars were released, Keble was ready to act. Sealed bids were called for 2 July. Governing Body appointed a bid team of four and, without setting a purchase limit, gave it authority to act as it saw fit — a crucial decision as it turned out.

The team met with its advisers (Carter Jonas and Manches) and decided to make an unconditional offer of £9.5 mn. On 7 July the seller's agents contacted us to say that three bids were 'there or thereabouts' but for various reasons there was no clear winner. We and two others were invited to submit revised bids by 9 July.

The bid team reasoned that, since our offer was unconditional, two conclusions could be drawn: we were not the highest bidder, but the higher bids were in some way conditional. We felt someone might have gone to £10 mn and decided it was worth trying at £10.1 mn. Then we thought the same conclusion might be drawn by another bidder, so we threw in another £10,000 to make the bid £10.11 mn. At 16.45 on Friday, 9 July the seller's agent phoned to say that we had got the Acland.



A hospital one
△ day...

...part of Keble
▽ the next.



This should have been the end of the story. It wasn't. The following Wednesday the seller's agent phoned again to say we had been gazumped. Another bidder had ignored the rules of the bid process and, having been told that its bid had not succeeded, raised it to £10.75mn. As a Charity, Nuffield Hospitals would have to consider this. Our only remedy was to match the figure and we were given 'til noon the next day to do so. We decided that we would match the figure, but only if we could exchange contracts immediately. The lawyers burned the midnight oil, the bank transferred the £1,075,000 deposit without a hitch. We exchanged at 09.50 on 15 July.

DIARY

Jan	16	Friday 28	Feb	Friday 18		
	<p>Hilary Term Begins</p> <p>London Dinner Cavalry & Guards Club, 127 Piccadilly London</p> <p>Booking Form was enclosed with the 2004 Record, also available on the College website.</p>			<p>Richardson Lecture 5.30pm Pusey Room</p> <p>Small Worlds</p> <p>Professor Gesine Reinert, Fellow and Professor in Statistics</p> 		
Mar	Friday 18–Saturday 19		Apr	24	Sunday 24	
	<p>Reunion Weekend</p> <p>For Old Members who matriculated in the years before 1956.</p> <p>If you have not received your invitation, please contact Ruth Cowen.</p> 			<p>Trinity Term Begins</p> <p>St Mark's Dinner</p> <p>St Mark's Day Service in Chapel is followed by Dinner for present members of the College, including all classes of Fellows.</p>		
May	Saturday 7	Friday 27	Saturday 28			
	<p>Degree Day for 2004 Finalists</p> <p>Invitations will be sent out early in 2005.</p>	<p>Eric Symes Abbot Memorial Lecture</p> <p>Chapel 5.30pm</p> <p>Lecture by Revd Nicholas Holtam, St Martin-in-the-Fields</p>	<p>Garden Party</p> <p>Old Members can apply for tickets from Ruth Cowen.</p> <p>Invitations will also be extended to second year undergraduates, first year graduates and their families.</p>	<p>Rowing Society AGM and Dinner</p> <p>Invitations will be extended to all members of the Rowing Society. If you have not received your invitation by the end of February, please contact Tori Roddy.</p>		

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The O'Reilly Theatre

Jan

Tuesday 25–Saturday 29



Enter a Free Man
by Tom Stoppard

Feb

Tuesday 8–Saturday 13

Abigail's Party
by Mike Leigh

Tuesday 22–Saturday 26

New Writing Festival 2005
www.newwritingfestival.co.uk

Mar

Tuesday 10–Saturday 12

Little Shop of Horrors

Book and Lyrics by Howard Ashman with music by Alan Menken

www.doverbroecks.com



all begin
7:30pm

Box Office (01865) 305305
www.keble.ox.ac.uk/life/theatre/

THE BRICK INTERVIEW: ED COODE

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Ed Coode, 1997, Social Studies is interviewed by brick reporters, Emily McLeod and Kate Johnston after winning a gold medal at the Athens Olympics.

What does it feel like to be an Olympic Champion?

It doesn't really feel any different! I guess my life has changed because I have been given a lot more opportunities. When I crossed the line in Athens though, I just experienced a great sense of relief. It only takes normal people to win medals.

Do you feel a different sense of pride rowing for college and country?

Obviously it's very special pulling on the GB vest and hearing the national anthem, and one always feels pride at winning moments. My dedication however is to the sport itself, and it is essentially a selfish pursuit because one always wants to win for oneself.

What are your most memorable aspects of your time at Keble?

Firstly Oxford is a fantastic place to be, but over and above everything else this is down to the people you meet. I have memories of beautiful buildings, Keble especially, but ultimately my time was defined by the people who were with me.

How did you get into rowing?

I began rowing because I was terrified of cricket, it was so painful! When I was at Newcastle University there was a great group of people involved in rowing and I wanted to be a part of that team.

During your journey to the top have there been any particular sources of inspiration?

The coach at Oxford, Sean Bowden, was my real inspiration. Although Matthew Pinsent did come

to my school to give a talk, I may not have been aware of just how inspiring that was at the time. For me there was always something else to go for and I followed that principle of constantly striving for more.

How do you prepare yourself for a race?

I have no particular superstitions: I think that they can be damaging more than anything else. I do have a set routine so that there are no surprises. We wake up several hours before the race is due to start and go for a warm-up paddle and then I like to clean my oar handle. Lying in the boathouse is the worst part; once I'm on the water any doubts begin to fade and it's a lot easier to focus.

Having heard Matthew Pinsent on Desert Island Discs, what would your CD, luxury and book be?

My book would be the complete Aubrey/Maturin series by Patrick O'Brien. I am re-reading them at the moment and they are just getting better and better. My luxury would be a steaming mug of Darlington's coffee and my music... anything but *Zorba the Greek*. I have heard enough of it for a lifetime!

What are you up to at the moment? Can we expect to see you back in a boat for Beijing?

At the moment I am working for a law firm, and am travelling to South America in the near future, generally seeing what life involves when you don't spend at least six hours a day training! I am pretty sure I have retired from rowing, but may consider a return to the squad next year as I am excited about the World Rowing Championships being held in the UK in 2006.



CHANGING ROOMS

In recent years, Keble's graduate population has increased in number and it was felt that the MCR, which had lived a semi-troglodyte existence in the depths of the ABK building for 27 years, was too small and no longer appropriate in the accommodation it provided.

Where could it move to? Removal of the partitions between the rooms in the Clock Tower during refurbishment revealed a superb triple aspect room on the top floor which had been a dormitory for College servants. As a space, this would have been ideal but current disability legislation determined that a lift would have to be installed and there was insufficient space for that.



The solution was to move the Development Office into the first floor of the Clock Tower.

Connecting doors were put through from the old Development Office into the lofty panelled Music Room and the former JCR games room, with wheelchair access from Hayward. So the new MCR has arrived, a long way from its humble beginnings in a small ground floor room in East Liddon in the 1970s and an indication of the increasing importance of the graduate community in Keble.

It seems fitting that the JCR and the MCR should be located side by side. The MCR has gained space on the ground floor but the JCR has acquired a large room on the first floor of the Clock Tower.

The next phase involves the Grade 2-listed Bar: while refurbishment is carried out, the Shaw Stewart Room in the Clock Tower basement (a fitness room in the long-term plan) will serve as a temporary Bar.

Watch for pictures of the new Bar with added space for a live music area in next issue!

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Ramps installed

Returning to College after the long vacation, there were subtle changes. It took a minute to realise what they were. Over the summer extensive re-landscaping took place at the entrances to the Library and to L5, the Liddon staircase which houses the disabled student room. These entrances have now been sloped to allow access under the new requirements of the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Act 2001 (SEND A).

■ Emily McLeod



From Russia to With Love

The season opened with a sell-out run of Stoppard's *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* in 2nd week. The theatre was then pleased to play host to The Oxford Theatre Guild whose production of David Greig's *The Cosmonaut's Last Message To The Woman He Once Loved In The Former Soviet Union* helped foster links with Oxford's town based drama community. The production received rave reviews and led to the *Oxford Times* commenting on the excellence of the O'Reilly

as a theatrical venue. The smash hit musical *Godspell* was performed by the newly formed Musicals of Oxford Production Team and produced by Keble's Ashish Marwaha. This high quality production made brilliant use of the space and the talented cast drew in further sell-out audiences throughout the week long run. The final production of term was the well-received new writing piece *With Love* by Daniel James.

■ Ashish Marwaha



The Cosmonaut's Last Message to the Woman He Once Loved in the Former Soviet Union

By contemporary playwright David Greig, this play is good! The division of the action into numerous short scenes, instead of being divisive, actually served to enforce Greig's complex message about communication (and failure to communicate) in the modern world.

Colin Macnee's directorial choices were well judged and reflective. I particularly admired the decision to transfer scenes involving the cosmonauts to

video, which I feel fulfilled his declared purpose of placing them 'in space but out of time'. One line in particular sticks in my mind, 'maybe it's a message', which for me encapsulated the play perfectly — a failure to communicate, not even recognized as communication.

It is difficult to find a fault with this play, so I won't.

■ Alex Keenan



Oxford Revue goes to the Fringe

Charlotte Cross went with *The Oxford Revue* to Edinburgh during July and August as part of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe with the help of a KA Grant. They performed a compilation of sketches written by the group at various venues, the largest being the Smirnoff Underbelly from the 5–29 August. The show was well received and reviewed, one critic describing it as 'the best student revue at the Fringe'. They met other student comedy groups such as the Cambridge Footlights, and through these contacts they hope to do some collaborative performances in Oxford and the other universities concerned. For Charlotte and her fellow actors it was an unforgettable experience.

■ Charlotte Cross



Prague Prog

This year's Orchestra tour was to the annual Prague Festival of Music in July. We stayed in the Hotel Imperial, a fascinating Art Deco building, much in contrast to the very plain whitewashed stone churches where we played. The programme included pieces by Beethoven, Strauss and Dvorak, Bruch & Elgar and our audiences were very friendly and appreciative. To give an example, when our cor anglais player had to drop out at the last minute, I filled in and improvised in Dvorak's 9th, third movement, some people in the audience came up afterwards and said they actually preferred it that way!

The tour was a healthy balance of rehearsals, concerts and free time. During the latter, I enjoyed listening to other orchestras, something which is rarely possible in Oxford termtime. It also provided not only the opportunity to play in front of a totally different audiences but also to get to know fellow players many of whom I'd only seen across rehearsal rooms! I am indebted to the KA for the grant I received towards this trip.

■ Charlotte Woolley



Charlotte Woolley (c) with fellow
△ musicians

SPORT

Girls Shine At Christ Church

Seventh week this term saw two girls' crews competing in Christ Church Regatta, an annual event for novice rowers where crews compete over four days in exciting knockout races, side by side.



The Keble Women's novice
A crew...
...and B crew



On the Friday the B crew stormed past Christ Church Bs whilst the As battled to the line to see off St Hugh's, securing the presence of both Keble crews on the final day.

Some stylish and gutsy rowing on Saturday saw 16 crews reduced to 8 and then to 4, with both Keble crews still going strong and facing each other in the semi-finals.

The As came up against Hertford in the final but unfortunately for Keble, Hertford triumphed. However there were smiles all around as KCWBC took 2nd and 4th place out of 64 competing crews, an incredible performance by everyone involved. Roll on Torpids!

■ Sarah Williams and Bryony Nash

Keble hosts Ghosts

On 9 October, fifteen of the finest from yesteryear took the field against the current team of young pretenders.



The Ghosts won a keenly contested match by 7 tries to 2. The forwards and backs combined well and the Ghost victory was built around a stream of steady possession. Dan Hudson (1996) and the backs were impressive, John Cloughton (1997) in particular. Special mention must go to the centre partnership of Stephen

Powerlifting Champion

Ben Banks, a third year Mathematician, attended the East Midlands Senior Powerlifting Championships on Sunday 28 November, and won. He lifted 100kg over the Great Britain Junior Qualifier with a total of 710kg; comprising a 270kg squat, 170kg Bench Press and a 270kg Deadlift. Congratulations to Ben!



Varsity Rugby Blue

Congratulations to Ben Durham (pictured centre, celebrating the team's win) who earned a Blue playing in this year's Varsity Match.



Tainsh (1993) and James Ashwell (1993) and also to Tim McAllister (1994) who selflessly filled in at prop. Credit to the College team who dominated at times and scored a couple of neat tries.

Thanks to Tom Swerling (1997) and Ben Durham (2001) who refereed and ensured the spirit of the day was upheld, but particularly to Nick West (1993) for his part in starting a tradition that will hopefully last for many years to come.

Later in the day, the Football Ghosts took to the field. Unusually the A-team match was drawn, and the Reserves won by a commendably large margin.

■ Stuart Mathieson (1994)

TELEPHONE EXCHANGES

'Hello, my name is... I'm an undergraduate at Keble and I'm following up on a letter from the Warden which was sent to you recently. Have you received it? Oh, good!'

Between them, during a telephone fundraising campaign this term, the trusty team of Mike Wallace, Tim Shaw, Alex Keenan, Dalia Iskander, Sarah Walker, Steve Roest and Tom Reynard had over 1000 such conversations and proved very successful in telling people from 1981-97 about the *Talbot Fund* and encouraging them to sign up. However, the students were disappointed to find that some of those they were phoning actually had



The team: l to r: Mike Wallace, Tori Roddy, Tom Reynard, Alex Keenan, Tim Shaw, Dalia Iskander, Sarah Walker, Steve Roest, Isla Smith



Alex Keenan with the Warden at the end of the Telethon

a life and were not sitting by the phone waiting for their call!

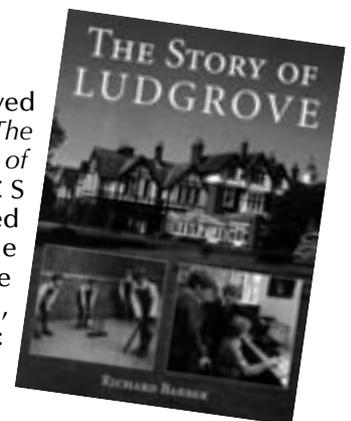
A big thank you to all those who pledged to the Fund and to the students for phoning. Further details on the telethon's success will be included in the annual *Talbot Fund* report but early indications suggest that over £70,000 has been pledged over five years.

If you would like information about giving to the Talbot Fund, please see enclosed leaflet or call (01865) 272794, email talbot.fund@keb.ox.ac.uk

Ludgrove Links

Keble has a long association with Ludgrove Preparatory School and a history of the school *The Story of Ludgrove* by Richard Barber has just been published with Angus McGeoch (1959) acting as managing editor. C N J (Nichol) Marston (1959), joint headmaster since 1973, retired last year after 41 years at Ludgrove. G O Smith, the headmaster who took over the school in 1902 on the premature death of the founder, Arthur Dunn, was also from Keble (1892). He was among

other things a great footballer who played for England and was considered by *The Times* to be 'the greatest centre forward of all time at Association football.' Finally, C S (Simon) Warner (1959) who also retired last year was as science teacher at the school for 28 years. Copies are available from Ludgrove School, Ludgrove, Wokingham, Berkshire, RG40 3AB Tel: 0118 978 9881 for £33 including p&p.



50 Years on!



1954 celebrated this milestone in style at High Table at a lunch on 1 October. The Warden can be seen bringing everyone up to date with what is going on at Keble and in the University at large.

October Occasion



Thanks to our host, Dave Norwood (1988), the Drinks Party at Home House is becoming an annual event. L to r: Dave Norwood, The Warden and Moira James (1979)

AND FINALLY...

2005 Keble College JCR Calendar

A collection of the best black & white student photos from the Arts Week Exhibition last Hilary Term, the College is depicted at its most beautiful: from the mid-summer sun to the snowy quads in winter.

This is a limited edition offer priced at £5.50 each, including p&p. Please send cheques payable to **Keble College JCR**, to Zöe Flood, JCR Vice-President, Keble College, Oxford, OX1 3PG.



A very handsome tree at the entrance
△ to Hall



△ Mark and Miles cooking up their marathon plans

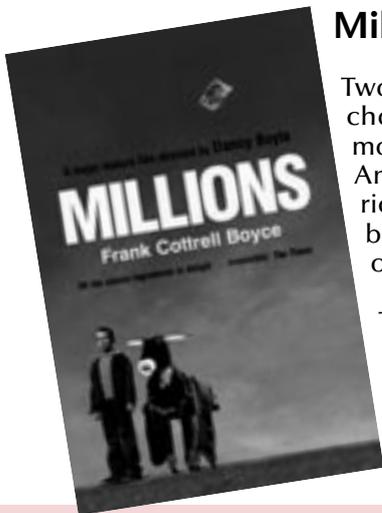
Miles and Markathon

Two Old Members (read 'Nutters'), Miles Norris (1997) and Mark Nunn (1997) are entering the Marathon des Sables aka the World's Toughest Footrace in April 2005 to raise money for Sense (deaf/blindness association) and the Daneford Trust (an educational charity) respectively. It is a 6 day, 155 mile multi-stage run across the Sahara Desert whereby they'll carry all their own kit. Mark and Miles will contend with 70 metre dunes, sand storms and no doubt blisters sent by Satan himself. Please support them by visiting their websites for more information and to donate as much as you can to two most worthy of causes: www.justgiving.com/milesnorris and www.justgiving.com/marknunn

Millions

Two boys, one miracle and a million choices. When a bag stuffed full of money drops out of the sky, Damian and Anthony find themselves very rich. Very rich indeed. Suddenly the brothers can buy anything they want — except the one thing they really need...

To find out exactly what that is, you will have to either read Frank Cottrell Boyce's (1979) book (Macmillan) or wait for Danny Boyle's movie scheduled for general release in March 2005.



Evensong at St Paul's

The Choir will be singing Evensong in St Paul's Cathedral, London on Monday 7 March 2005 at 5pm. The exact details can be obtained from either the Choir website (www.keblechoir.com) or the Cathedral website (www.stpauls.co.uk) nearer the time.

