

# the brick

www.keble.ox.ac.uk the newsletter for Keble alumni issue 40 — trinity term 2007

## ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

This is the fortieth *brick*. The first came out in Trinity Term 1994. Averil Cameron was then still at King's but about to take up the Wardenship, we were midway through construction of the ARCO Building, the endowment was less than £10mn and our annual conference revenues no more than £250k.

The intervening years have seen the completion of the ARCO and Sloane Robinson Buildings for a combined cost of £11mn, all funded through donations. They have seen the acquisition of the Acland site for another £11mn, paid for out of conference revenues (now running at £1.8mn p.a.) and successful investments in the North Oxford property market. The Hall ceiling has been cleaned, the Hayward and de Breyne quads renovated, the College grounds transformed, and the endowment has grown to £25mn. Meanwhile, successive generations of students have continued to bring honour and distinction to the College with their academic, sporting and cultural achievements.

A record to be proud of. But it's worth remembering that 13 years is all it took the College's founding fathers to turn a plan, agreed upon at John Keble's funeral in March 1866, into the glorious reality of the Victorian college, complete with Chapel (opened in 1876), Hall and Library (opened in 1878). It will be important to bear these achievements in mind as we address three new challenges; two from the University, one set by ourselves.

The first is to our academic income. Colleges charge fees for undergraduate and graduate teaching and supervision. In the case of UK undergraduates this fee, prior to 1999, was paid by local authorities on the students' behalf. Gordon Brown changed all that, introducing the 'single cheque' which is now paid to the central University to cover all Oxford's publicly funded teaching and research. For the past eight years colleges have received a per capita sum from the University for teaching UK undergraduates which has increased in line with the increase in the overall grant. That system is due to change from August 2008 and, as currently proposed, low endowment colleges such as Keble will suffer relative to their wealthier peers. After

intense lobbying by the Warden and Bursar there are encouraging signs of a rethink, but we face another six months of negotiation before the position is resolved.

The second challenge comes from the University's 'Campaign of Campaigns', a major fundraising drive for objectives ranging from student bursaries to new departmental buildings and posts. Keble welcomes and supports this initiative. A recent analysis of University endowments reported Oxford (University and colleges combined) as having endowment assets of £2.1bn compared with £2.3bn for Cambridge, £6.5bn (US\$13bn) for Yale and £11bn (US\$22bn) for Harvard. Oxford's position in world rankings shows that endowment isn't everything. But it would be very foolish to ignore the threat posed by these differentials. There is, however, no doubt that the University's campaign will compete with Keble's own fundraising aspirations. Old Members are growing used to the idea that the College is for life, not just for a degree: in the future they will have a range of Oxford institutions—libraries, faculties, departments, museums, sports and arts organization—appealing for funds at the same time as Keble.

The first two challenges have a direct bearing on the third: the redevelopment of the Acland site. For the past year we have been working with Rick Mather Architects on designs that will shortly be submitted for planning consent. The aim is to create a new quad housing 250 students (split roughly evenly between final year undergraduates and returning graduate students) and providing studies and offices for research fellows and visiting academics. The College's student population will not grow but we shall, for the first time in living memory, be able to accommodate every student who wishes to be housed. This will have a major impact, especially on the attractiveness of Keble to graduate students who now make up one third of our number.

The cost of redeveloping Acland is an estimated £44m. Raising this money will be a huge challenge. But, given the College's record since its foundation, who would bet against our achieving it?

■ Roger Boden



contents ② diary ③ interview ④ ball - triptychs - econometrics  
⑤ drama - music - choir ⑥ sport ⑦ old members' news ⑧ and finally...

# DIARY

Jul

Wednesday 20

**General Degree Day**

*Please note: all places to graduate in person are now taken. If you wish to have your MA conferred in absentia, return the booking form at [www.keble.ox.ac.uk/alumni/degree-days](http://www.keble.ox.ac.uk/alumni/degree-days) and £10 MA fee to Trish Long.*

**Retirement Dinner for Adrian Hollis**

*Classicists from across the years should have received an invitation to this event. If you have not and wish to attend, please contact Isla Smith.*

Sep

Friday 14 & Saturday 15

**University-wide Reunion Meeting Minds**

[www.alumniweekend.ox.ac.uk](http://www.alumniweekend.ox.ac.uk)



Greg Smolonski

Sep  
cont'd

Friday 28

**50th Anniversary Lunch for 1957s**

*Invitations to all 1957s will be sent out in July. Please contact Ruth Cowen if do not receive the invitation papers.*



Saturday 29

**Douglas Price Society Lunch**

*Invitations were sent out to all known members in early July. If you have not received one and think you should, please contact Camilla Matterson.*

## Reunion Dates 2008

20–21 Jun 2008  
for 1983–8

19–20 Sep 2008  
for 1989–93  
to coincide  
with the 2008  
OU Alumni  
Weekend.

Oct

Saturday 6

**Ghosts Football Match**

*Any Old Member wishing to play, please contact: Andrew Tingle at [atingle@cgsh.com](mailto:atingle@cgsh.com). Meeting in the Lamb and Flag at 11.30am on the day.*

7

*Michaelmas Term begins*

Saturday 13

**Ghosts Rugby Match**

*Any Old Member interested in playing, please contact: [daniel.hudson@herbertsmith.com](mailto:daniel.hudson@herbertsmith.com)*

Nov

Friday 9

**Richardson Lecture**

*5.30pm Pusey Room  
Professor Steve Raynor.  
Title to be advised.*

**Contacts:** Development Office, Keble College, Oxford OX1 3PG <http://www.keble.ox.ac.uk/alumni/>  
isla.smith@keble.ox.ac.uk (01865) 272786 • ruth.cowen@keble.ox.ac.uk (01865) 282338  
camilla.matterson@keble.ox.ac.uk (01865) 272794 • db.lenck@keble.ox.ac.uk (01865) 272799  
trish.long@keble.ox.ac.uk (01865) 272700 • dev.off@keble.ox.ac.uk

## Keble London Drinks

Old Bank of England pub, Fleet St—third Tuesday every month, next date: Tuesday 17 July, any time from 6.30pm.

Old Members are invited to drop into the OBoE for this increasingly popular get-together. Look out for the Keble scarf!

Join the Facebook group or visit the College website:

[www.keble.ox.ac.uk/alumni/events](http://www.keble.ox.ac.uk/alumni/events)



# THE BRICK INTERVIEW: ADRIAN HOLLIS

3

Ben Lay (2003 Greats) and Thea Warren (2006 Modern Languages) interviewed Mr Adrian Hollis, retiring Fellow and Tutor in Classics since 1967, BPhil., MA Classics, Christ Church (1958)

## What are your favourite memories of life in Oxford?

I've lived in Oxford for more than half of my life, and hazy memories stretch back to 1942 or '43, when my father was working at Blenheim. My first Warden, Austin Farrer, was a remarkable man: very brilliant and modest; in some ways unworldly. Once, he'd given a sermon but didn't possess a radio on which to hear it, so he had to come with us to listen to ours.

On my first evening at Keble, I took the old man sitting next to me at dinner to be a retired fellow and did not connect him with the ferocious reputation of Vere Davidge, who was said to reduce candidates for fellowships to tears, but I got on well with him; his daughter Mary read Classics at Keble and is one of our most devoted Old Members.

My own colleague for 14 years at Keble was Spencer Barrett. He did Greek and I did Latin, except that as a firm atheist, Spencer deemed that the New Testament had been written in Latin.

Dean Lowe of Christ Church was once given a birthday treat of a balloon ride, and as he descended onto Christ Church Meadow, the choir gathered to sing 'Lo, he comes with clouds descending.'

## Has the study of Classics changed during your time at Oxford?

We now teach Latin and Greek from scratch as only a minority have studied both at A level. Essay writing in my time was not so important as it is now—we concentrated on translations and compositions in Latin and Greek prose and verse. We had to read the whole of Virgil and Homer, but modern undergraduates read more books and articles.

I have some ex-pupils from Keble of whom I'm very proud, who have already reached prestigious posts—a fellowship at Balliol and a Professorship of Ancient History at St Andrews and another Professorship of Classics in Toronto. Of course I am sad that Classics will not continue at Keble (at least at undergraduate level) after my retirement.

## Of which of your books are you most proud, and why?

I would definitely say my 1990 edition of the Greek poet Callimachus' poem *Hecale*, about an old woman who entertained Theseus as he went to fight the Marathonian bull. I found that particularly fascinating because there's a good chance of discovering more bits of it, particularly in a tenth century Byzantine lexicon which is undoubtedly quoting fragments of the poem verbatim. I have another book coming out in June, *Fragments of Roman Poetry*. That has been much more difficult since it involves small pieces from up to 30 poets.

## Where has your study of Classics taken you?

I have always liked Rome, and Constantinople—Istanbul. And my son, who was about 12 or 13 when we went to Egypt, said: 'Why are you bothered with Alexandria? There's so little to see.' But I am particularly fond of the city, or rather of the city as I imagine it to have been.

## If you could meet any author whom you have studied, who would it be?

I think that Ovid would be a delightful companion and I would ask him about the nature of that mysterious 'mistake' which was the major factor in his banishment. And I'd like to meet Callimachus too, but I would

be a little bit apprehensive since I would, with some trepidation, ask him whether my attempted restorations of some of his fragmentary poems were correct.

## You are a Postal Chess Grandmaster. Will you play more face-to-face games when you retire?

That's possible, but I think it would have to be a purely social activity. As for Postal Chess, computers put a question mark over that: to what extent should it be legitimate to use computers for things like opening theory? How different is using a computer from taking a book from your shelves?

## What are your other plans for your retirement?

I have toyed with the idea of becoming Dictator of Greater Somerset, but that perhaps must wait. I hope to be discovered at the county cricket ground at Taunton, providing that the county has not been amalgamated with Gloucestershire and Glamorgan to produce Glummershire! We have found a new home in Wells. It has quite a lively cultural life: lectures, and concerts, including part of the Bath Festival. I may write one more book which will necessitate an occasional return to Oxford. Like Ovid ('in studiis molliter esse meis') I imagine myself continuing academic work at a gentle pace. Recently Margaret and I became grandparents for the first time, and we hope that our family will expand and come to visit us.



# AROUND THE COLLEGE

4

## Triptych



A three-movement work for cello, clarinet and piano, written by Keble's Lecturer in Music, Simon Whalley, was performed as the specially commissioned centrepiece of a concert in Oxford Arts Week. The theme was music associated with the visual arts, and three triptychs had been commissioned from three different local artists. The artists were present and their paintings were on display. Simon's piece was very warmly received and combined in perfect measure elegance, excitement and emotion. Recordings are available for purchase from either: [www.simonwhalley.com](http://www.simonwhalley.com) or [www.springlinearts.co.uk](http://www.springlinearts.co.uk)

## Econometric Endeavour

Simon Quinn an M.Phil. Keble student was one of an Economics Department student team which retained the cup in The Econometric Game competition at Amsterdam University in April. The challenge this year was to analyse climate change by distinguishing econometrically the global warming and global dimming effects of pollution on world climate. The team were given a day to scrutinize the problem, model the empirical evidence, and report their findings. The team's report and presentation led them to defeat strong opposition from previous winners (Free University of Amsterdam and Copenhagen University) and new entrants from LSE and Cambridge.

See [www.vsa.nl/activiteiten/econometricgame2007.html](http://www.vsa.nl/activiteiten/econometricgame2007.html)

■ Simon Quinn



Nicholas Fawcett

l to r: Victoria Prowse (Nuffield), Melissa Dell (Trinity), Tom Holden (Balliol), Thomas Flury (Lincoln), Simon Quinn (Keble) and James Reade (St Cross)



The Sundial in Newman Quad was unveiled on 27 April. Reflected in the plaque, the designer, David Harber flanked by Sue & Martin Oldfield, who commissioned the sundial.

## Vanished Volume Returns



A second edition of *Evangelia Apocrypha* by Tischendorf, believed once to have been in the possession of Henry Liddon, a contemporary and disciple of John Keble, was 'donated back' to the College during the annual Garden Party in May. It had been found in the home of a relative of a professor at Nottingham University.

■ Natasha Vashisht

## What a Ball!



On Saturday 5 May, the College was transformed into an Art Deco scene of decadence and style. Guests were welcomed by a string quartet and Champagne cocktails before being ushered into Pusey Quad for the main music. A Coney Island style fair with a bouncy castle and sumo wrestling was set up in Hayward Quad and the JCR was transformed into a casino, with cocktails, jazz and karaoke in the Bar. The 800 guests, including many of the 2006 Finalists who had been in College that day to collect their degrees, contributed to a great atmosphere with many staying until the survivors' photograph and breakfast.

■ Jemima Kettle



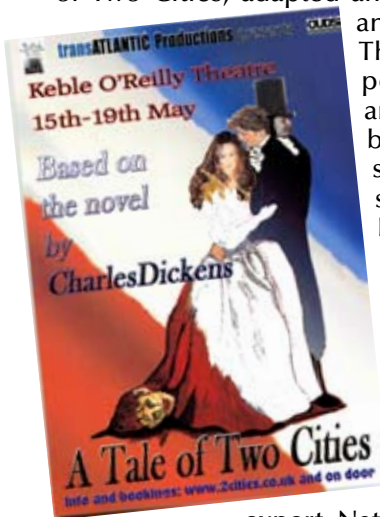
△ The Choir sang their annual open air evensong in early June.

## Keble College Music Society

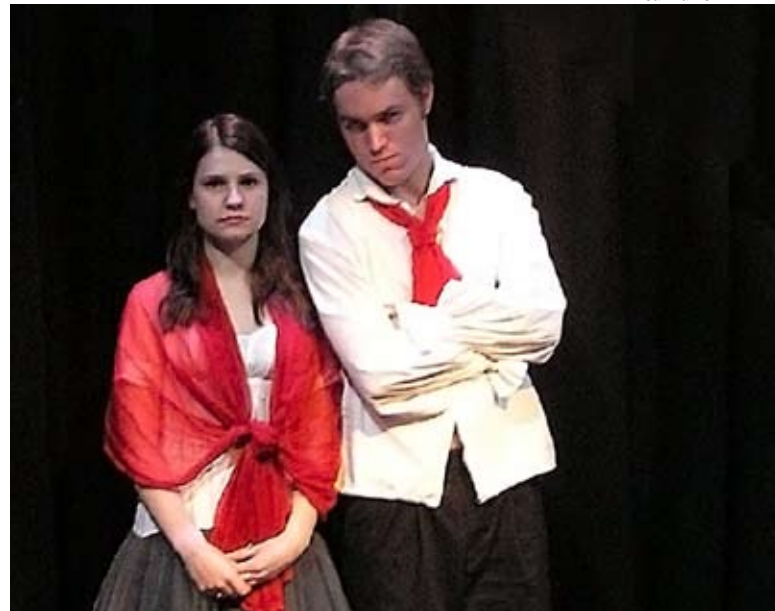
Please email [termcard@keblemusic.co.uk](mailto:termcard@keblemusic.co.uk) with your address if you'd like to receive a printed copy of future KCMS term cards. Alternatively see [www.keblemusic.co.uk](http://www.keblemusic.co.uk) at the start of term where an electronic version can be downloaded. All Old Members are welcome to attend any event free of charge.

## Theatrical Tour de Force

A guillotine blade was the foreboding backdrop for *A Tale of Two Cities*, adapted and directed by George Warren and produced by John Maher. The production, which captured perfectly the danger, intrigue and romance of Dickens' novel, benefited greatly from focussed, self assured performances by six Keble students, including Dan Rawnsley as a vulnerable and broken Alexandre Manette and Rachel Marsden, who was terrifyingly cold in the role of Madame Defarge. They were supported ably by Sam Aldred, Alex Midha, Joe O'Connor and Ed Crocker, and excellent lighting was designed by Keble's resident expert, Nathan Bennett.



■ Thea Warren



△ Rachel Marsden and Ed Crocker

## Dark of the Moon

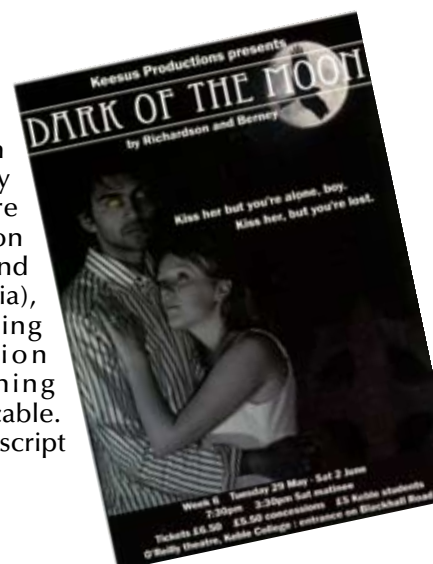
Asia Osborne's production of Richardson and Berney's *Dark of the Moon* is a chilling tale of

love between a witch and a woman rebelling against the dogmatic Christianity of her Appalachian village—the play's mix of comedy and tragedy makes it all the more compelling. Keble students, Simon Cuff, Kate Shouesmith, Sam Aldred and Claire Eustis (University of Georgia), were among the many convincing performers, while production management by Caitlin Lonning (Washington University) was impeccable. Osborne brought together a difficult script with flair and originality.



Ian Bhullar

■ Ian Bhullar



# SPORT

# 6

## Paul Hayes Memorial Cricket Match



Abi Stone

This match pits MCR against JCR. The MCR, with John Hayes and Ed Peel playing, clocked up 133 for 5. Captain Simon Quinn was at the crease for all 30 overs passing a half-century and Ross Bland reached a cool 44. The JCR replied with a rapid 18 runs off two overs but despite a half-century from fresher Max Cole, they were all out in the twenty-fifth over for 113. There was strong bowling from the MCR: 3 wickets for Henry Ashton and 2 apiece for Dominique Pitot, Hayes and Bland.

The MCR 2nd XI League side is undefeated this season with victories over St Catz, Worcester, Balliol MCR, Lincare, Wadham and Wolfson/St Cross. Notable bowling moments were a six wicket haul from Hope against Worcester, five wickets from Rider against Linacre and four wickets for Ashton against Wadham. In bat, Quinn racked up over 300 runs and Bland turned in consistently good performances.

■ Abi Stone

Tom Wild



## Runaway Rugby Victory

KCRFC, back-to-back 1st Division champions this season, continued their dominance over college rugby in Cuppers with comprehensive wins over Wadham (34–10), Worcester (29–0) and New (32–15) to set up a much anticipated final with rivals Teddy Hall.

A combination of captain Pete Bolton's metronomic left-boot and Keble's superior forward pack gave Teddy Hall little territory and possession with which to work. Tries from Blues star Winston Cowie, perennial speedster Tom Ainsworth and the big-hitting Jack Willis ensured a hard-fought and well-earned 26–15 victory for Keble; a fitting end to a brilliantly successful season.

## Bumper Blades

Under the new sponsorship of Neptune Asset Management, Keble fielded four Men's and two Women's crews in Summer Eights. Good weather throughout the week ensured encouraging support from the boathouse.

The Men's 1st VIII put on a great performance over four days of racing, bumping every day and achieving blades. Wednesday's bump on New took just twenty-four strokes, and bumps on Teddy Hall, Exeter and St Catz, raised them from eleventh to seventh in Division 1. The Women's 1st VIII also started eleventh in Division 1, holding their position on Wednesday, but ending the competition at the top of Division 2.

Men's 2nd VIII maintained a strong position over the week



despite some bad luck and controversial bumps and an unusual turn of events saw Men's IV chasing Men's III on Thursday in Division 7, but the III's bumped Catz III's thus separating the two crews.

The enjoyable week ended with the Eight's Dinner in Hall, attended by Eights participants past and present. Speeches by Captains Ally Potter and Andy Baker praised the achievements and spirit of enthusiasm displayed in KCBC this year.

■ Daniel Wilson

Peter Bolton  
△ (Captain)

■ Max Cole

▽ Latin Team



## Ballroom Blitz

In the annual Dancesport Cuppers competition, Keble fielded four teams under captain Ed Stock and had a successful day. The A team was first of thirty-five teams, with the B, C and D teams highly placed.

For the first time, a cup was awarded to the best overall college, which Keble won convincingly with 157 points (nearest rivals, Magdalen, had 92). Individual success was achieved; Dave Cole and Zoe Wright, second in the waltz; Sarah Bond and Helen Pearce, third in the cha-cha; in the quickstep, Paul Dwyer and Sam Roberts won and Ben Lay and Emma Hayes, came fourth. Semi-finalists, Helen Knight, Danielle Sullivan, James Lillington and Suzannah Merchant also won medals.

■ Ben Lay

# OLD MEMBERS' NEWS

## Marathon Man

The College's ninth Warden, Sir Christopher Ball, ran 10 marathons on 10 consecutive days in May in Cumberland to set a new world record together with 6 other endurance runners. In fact, he ran 12 marathons, including London on 22 April and Edinburgh on 27 May (a personal best), in the space of just 36 days. He says he was inspired by the Keble ethos of seeking excellence in all dimensions of life. During his Wardenship (1980–8), the College awarded the Warden's Prize to all those who achieved a first and Blue. He wonders whether he now qualifies for the award himself?



Oxford Mail

## Roof Revisit

David Langley (1974) came to the 1973–7 Reunion Weekend in March and was very keen to join the Chapel Roof tour. He realised that the last time he had been up there was to position his bicycle on the roof ridge during his time as an undergraduate over 30 years ago, a feat about which today's Senior Dean would have something to say!



Lucy Thompson

## Hundred Not Out!

Many congratulations to John Lucas on his 100th birthday. John lives in Headington and is believed to be the only centenarian Old Member for many years. Oxford has been the constant thread running through his life—he came to Keble in 1926 to read English under Leonard Rice-Oxley before going to Cuddesdon. After spending time at Oxford House, Bethnal Green, he took Holy Orders and was ordained in 1933 as a Curate of St Thomas the Martyr in the High. His first living was St Mary's, Swanley but he returned as Vicar to St Thomas the Martyr in 1947 where he stayed for 31 years.

He enjoyed his time at Keble and remembers the Warden,

Beresford Knox, as tall and austere. Mrs Knox and her lady companion used to walk sedately to Chapel in the mornings. John and his fellow undergraduates in pyjamas and dressing gowns, were often on their way to the baths, then housed in the Clock Tower, when the ladies would sweep past, neither knowing whether to greet each other or not.



## Friends Reunited—1978–82 Reunion Weekend in June



# AND FINALLY...

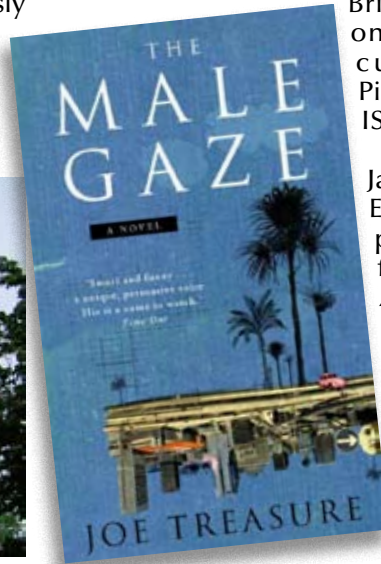
## Neptune Rules

We are pleased to announce the sponsorship of KCBC by Neptune Investment Management through the generosity of Robin Geffen (1976). It has fortuitously coincided with a revival in the fortunes of the Men's 1st crew who were awarded blades in 2007 Eights. Congratulations to our Men's 1st VIII!



## Debut Duo

Joe Treasure (English 1974) has published his first novel *The Male Gaze*. It is set in Los Angeles, during the Bush years and it offers a British perspective on the American culture wars. Picador, Apr 2007, ISBN 0330448307.



Jane Feaver (1983 English) has just published her first novel, *According to Ruth*: a portrait of an imploding marriage through the eyes of 15 year old Ruth. Harvill Secker, 2007 ISBN 13 9781846550423.



## Two Quads and a College

When the Grade I listed 1890s church of All Saints West Dulwich was ravaged by fire in 2000, the stained glass windows and statues depicting 51 Saints were completely destroyed. After reconstruction, no funds remained to replace the windows and statues and it was unthinkable to have an All Saints without saints.

The solution was to carve the Saints' names on the wooden chairs. The most 'modern' of the lost Saints was Catherine of Siena (1347–80) but the new list also includes uncanonised nineteenth or twentieth century people of faith. Of the 200 new chairs, John Keble is amongst them and the College's place in the Oxford Movement thoroughly noted since there are also chairs for Edward Pusey and John Newman.

The solution was to carve the Saints' names on the wooden

■ John Clark (1952)



John Clark

## Novel Novel



Heather McRobie (History & Politics 2002) won first place in the 2007 Hélène du Coudray prize. The award for the most promising first novel written by an undergraduate was presented at Lady Margaret Literary Festival in April. Heather's book, *Psalm 119*, will be published by Maia Press in Spring 2008.

## Ed-ucation

Congratulations to Ed Balls (1985 PPE), Labour MP for Normanton who has been appointed the first ever Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, a post in Gordon Brown's first Cabinet.

