

the brick

THE NEWSLETTER FOR KEBLE ALUMNI • ISSUE 55 • HILARY TERM 2013 • WWW.KEBLE.OX.AC.UK

Nataire Wallen

New Geography Professor



It is a pleasure to be joining Keble, not just in terms of the opportunity to become part of the College's fine tradition and vibrant community of geographers but also because of the close ties between the concerns of my own field of cultural geography and those of another of Keble's notable strengths in Archaeology and Anthropology.

Since my arrival in Oxford some eight years ago now my acquaintance with Keble has been as an intriguing architectural landmark that never fails to catch my attention as I scurry between my department in the Science Area and meetings in the Social Science Division or University Offices. I discovered just how good its conference facilities are when my turn came to organise the Clarendon Lectures in Geography at Keble in 2008 and again in 2011 when Chris Gosden and I ran one of our Mellon Foundation funded Sawyer seminars here. As a newly elected Fellow I am enjoying becoming better acquainted with the extraordinary heritage of buildings in which College life takes place, as well as with its inhabitants. For as long as I can remember, I have found the material fabric of social life a compelling and inextricable part of understanding how and why particular arrangements and relationships between people take and hold shape. Perhaps it is a disposition cultivated by my childhood experiences of learning to make a succession of different parts of the world 'home' in the slipstream of my father's postings. In any event, it is certainly an ingredient in what makes me a cultural geographer interested in the diverse, creative and, sometimes, conflicting ways in which people experience, understand and represent the environments that they inhabit. My research and teaching addresses many aspects of this broad set of concerns but with a particular interest in understanding the production and contestation of environmental expertise and its pivotal role in the politics and governance of environmental hazards and risks in democratic societies.

Professor Sarah Whatmore

Professor Sarah Whatmore obtained a BA in Geography at UCL in 1981 and an MPhil in Town Planning from the Bartlett School in 1983. After a period working in urban research/policy at the Greater London Council, she returned to UCL and was awarded a PhD in Geography in 1988. She was appointed to a lectureship in Human Geography at the University of Bristol in 1989, where she was promoted to a professorship in 1999 and awarded a DSc by published research in 2000. After a brief spell at the Open University, she was appointed Professor of Environment and Public Policy at the University of Oxford in 2004. She is currently Head of the School of Geography and the Environment at Oxford and a member of the UK Government's Social Science Expert Panel for the Department for Food, Environment and Rural Affairs (Defra) and the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC).

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in this issue:

college news • student life • news of old members • forthcoming events



Keble
College



James Palmer

New Geography Tutor

James Palmer joins the College as a fixed-term fellow in Geography following an MA, MPhil and PhD at Cambridge. His work examines the interplay of science, evidence, knowledge and power in European policy processes related to the governance of sustainable energy systems and the environment. Empirically, he is especially interested in debates surrounding biofuels and their land-use change impacts. Theoretically, his work integrates approaches drawn from environmental geography, interpretive policy analysis, and science and technology studies (STS).

New Senior Tutor

Alisdair (Ali) Rogers joined Keble in 1987 as a College Lecturer in Geography, before being appointed as a Fellow by Special Election in 2002. After over 25 years teaching Human Geography he has taken up the challenge of becoming Senior Tutor. Ali hopes to use his experience as a tutor to continue the good work undertaken by Marc Brodie in sustaining Keble as an outstanding environment for study and college life.



Alisdair Rogers

The Poetry Library of Ian Hamilton comes to Keble

The poetry library of Ian Hamilton (1958), one of the foremost literary critics, editors and poets of the 20th century, has been donated to the College by his widow, Ahdaf Soueif.

Ian Hamilton was Editor and/or Critic for many publications including *The Review*, *The New Review*, *The TLS*, several broadsheets, *The Spectator* and *The New York Review of Books*.

Commenting on the donation, Dr Erica McAlpine, Robin Geffen Career Development Fellow in English, and herself a published poet, said: "These poetry books – along with our Martin Esslin collection on modern theatre – enhance the Library's already strong reputation as a special resource for 20th Century literature. Acquiring the Hamilton collection, with its scores of first editions, is another step towards making Keble a centre for the study of poetry and poetics."



The Light of the World returned to College in January after several months at Tate Britain's exhibition, Pre-Raphaelites: Victorian Avant-Garde.

Restoring it to its rightful place in the side chapel are (from l to r) Nick French, and from the maintenance team Des Hunt, Luigi Bruno and Sam Knight.

Prize-winning New Fellow

In October 2012 Keble welcomed Dr Nicola Gardini as Fellow and Tutor in Italian. Dr Gardini previously taught in Italy and the United States, and his main academic interest is in Italian Renaissance literature.

His latest novel *Le Parole perdute di Amelia Lynd* won the Viareggio Prize and the Zerilli Marimò City of Rome Prize in 2012 and is about to be translated into English.



Dr Nicola Gardini



Nick French – New Domestic Bursar

In my thirty years experience of catering and hospitality management, I have worked in restaurants, private-members clubs, hotels and the Canadian High Commission in London.

Prior to my move to Keble I spent six happy years as Domestic Bursar at St Hugh's College. Since joining Keble I have fallen under the spell of its wonderful atmosphere and buildings. Early each morning I walk into Hall and automatically look up at the ceiling - a view I'll never tire of.

Starting a new job can be daunting, but the SCR, students and staff have made me very welcome and helped me feel very much at home.

Nick French

Poet and Artist in Residence



Geoffrey Hill, Robin Geffen, and Keith Grant at the seminar in front of one of Keith's paintings

Coinciding with the week of the Michaelmas Term Professor of Poetry Lecture, when Professor Sir Geoffrey Hill (1950) was in residence, Robin Geffen (1976) sponsored an artist-in-residence, Keith Grant whose work was on display in Café Keble. Keith and Geoffrey met up throughout the week, and Keith drew a pencil portrait of Geoffrey which now hangs in the SCR. The collaboration culminated in a seminar, chaired by Robin on *Creativity Revival – poets and painters in their later years - your later work is your best!* and a dinner in honour of Geoffrey.

Lavinia Talbot's Diary

One of the most interesting sources for the early history of the College is the series of diaries kept by Lavinia, wife of the first Warden, Edward Talbot. She was a daughter of the fourth Baron Lyttelton, and the diaries have up to now been preserved at Hagley Hall, seat of the family in north Worcestershire. However, they have recently been accepted, along with other family

papers, in lieu of tax and they are now held by the Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology

Service. With prior notice, the diaries can be consulted in The Hive at Worcester (www.worcestershire.gov.uk/waas).



Robin Whittaker (1969)



The Archive of Lady Margaret Hall

Hall Floor History

Over Christmas we completed Phase 3 of the Hall floor restoration. The work included the replacement of the 2 x 2 metre square in the very centre of the Hall, an area that has, since the spring of 1878, borne the footsteps of every junior member of the College. All 313 tiles have now been carefully labelled, crated and stored, and in time will be reassembled as a 200 kg wall panel, to be hung in the Sloane Robinson Building. The cost of preserving this beautiful piece of history is £30 per tile – all contributions would be most gratefully received.

Roger Boden



Conflict Resolution: Does one size fit all?

Are methods of conflict resolution universal? Panellists grappled with this pertinent question at Keble's first Alumni Panel Discussion in January.

Lord Wilson of Tillyorn (1958), Richard Makepeace CMG (1972), and Professor Richard English (1982) shared their respective career experiences in Hong Kong, the Middle East, and Northern Ireland with an audience of 100 students, faculty, and guests. Questions from the floor included the impact of social media on conflict resolution, the appropriate timing for resolving conflicts, and the role of third parties in peace-making. The discussion, chaired by the Warden, was hosted jointly by the MCR and JCR with the generous support of the Alumni & Development Office.

Daniel Claff



L to r: James Newton (JCR President), David Wilson, Richard English, Richard Makepeace, Daniel Claff (MCR President) and the Warden

Student Named National Best

Josephine French has been named the national 'Science, Engineering and Technology (SET) Student of the Year', as well as being awarded the title of 'Best Mathematics Student' at the SET awards in September.

She obtained a First in Mathematics in her Finals in June and commenced a DPhil at the College in October. The Warden said: 'Jo thoroughly deserves this recognition of her outstanding abilities, and this award brings a great deal of credit to both Jo and the College.'



Jo giving her acceptance speech at Kensington Town Hall.

The JCR Facelift

The JCR's glamorous refurbishment converted the decrepit-waiting-room-style JCR of old into a modern swanky parlour.



Successive Success

The Keble Ski Team retained Cuppers during the Varsity ski trip in December. The same team as last year cruised through the preliminary rounds of the dual slalom race and went on to win the Final against Christ Church.

The Oxbridge crown was gained in a battle against Trinity College (Cambridge). Keble won, keeping the title, never having being behind in a race at any point during the competition. Notable was Kirsty Dixon who won the Varsity slalom and giant slalom races. She was awarded the Beddington-Behrens cup for best performance in the Women's Blues Varsity races, and gained her Full Blue.



Michael Fedosiuk

L to r: Jennie Stevens, Michael Fedosiuk, Andrei Klein, Kirsty Dixon



Varsity Rugby players Sam Egerton (2011 Law) and Bill Habergham (1987 History) share their experiences of playing in the Varsity match. (Sam was influential in Oxford's comeback in the 2012 match in December and was nominated Man of the match).

Why is 'the Match' special?

SE: Preparation starts, the destination – certain, the outcome - not. As a group of men you make sacrifices, go through pain and commit to a common goal. During the journey friendships and memories are forged, like the brotherly spirit of the army. The occasion makes these intangibles perennial, and it is that which makes the match special.

BH: The historical continuity of a unique event. Pulling on the shirt you sense the guys who have been before and who will come. A few years ago I came across a picture of Francis Tarr, a Blue in 1907 wearing a 'Blues' sweater. I have one of those, as does Sam. I have stood before Frank's grave at Ypres. He died on the 18 July 1915, aged 27. I have not met him, obviously, nor have I met Sam, as yet. But I know them both.

What is your overriding memory?

SE: On the eve of team selection I had to console a close friend who knew he would not be starting the match. He had made more sacrifices than most and overcome more hurdles. At 19-11 down, with 58 minutes on the clock, he took to the field. The image of him scoring, as I lay on the ground having given the pass that lead to his match-winning try, will stay with me forever. We will always share that.

BH: Nothing of the games themselves. We lost. Forgive my ageing sentimentality; but I gave my proud northern father my sweaty, muddy shirt after the game. He was brought up in the Depression and lost 2 older brothers in the war. He died suddenly a few years later. At his funeral, my Mother told me he held the shirt on his lap, tracing the line of the crown, all the way back to Yorkshire. To those who play, it is just a game. To families, it is often something else.

What support did you get for preparing for the game?

SE: Although still entirely amateur, the nature of competition means that both sides do everything possible for success. This means that, within the financial limitations of the club, our approach is professional. The coaches are paid, we have a physio, masseurs, discounted supplements, a subsidised pre-season tour, and are given training and kit (sponsors Jack Wills).

BH: Virtually none. It was a completely amateur game in those days. The elected Captain picked the team, conducted the training and the Secretary arranged the fixtures. We bought our own socks, boots and shorts. A steak in Vincents when the team was announced and breakfast in St Catz before the match was about it.

Is the Varsity Match what it used to be?

SE: For the objective onlooker, the current standard is lower relative to the highest level of rugby. Once, those involved would go on to achieve great things in the sport. The VM was a fantastic showcase of raw athleticism and sporting talent, but in the professional era it does not compete. From an insider's perspective it is still what it was.

BH: The standard of play and fitness is much higher these days. Sam was brilliant last December. But it has to compete in the professional age. Impossible to conceive of today, but when all club games were 'friendlies'; the Varsity Match ranked only slightly behind the then '5 Nations' Internationals. Now a Premier League Rugby game can fill Wembley.

What players of note did you play with or against?

SE: Nobody of note for Cambridge, hence the successive victories. We have had a core of players with a number of Premiership appearances between them, including John-Henry Carter (Kellogg), a great friend. He will

be the first in 144 years to captain OURFC for three consecutive years. A testament to the ethos he has built at the club.

BH: Nick Mallet. Best I ever saw. If he had not been injured in 1980 we would have won. Stuart Barnes. Brilliant, but not sure about the punditry. For the 'Tabs', too many to mention after Rob Andrew. Most influential today. Professor Mark Bailey, The High Master of St Paul's School and my son's Headmaster at Leeds. Tony Abbott (Queens) the front row sub in 1982 who never got on the pitch. Australia's next Prime Minister in September?

Rugby after Oxford

SE: I would love to play professional rugby, but it is now extremely difficult, to do so means combining the demands of an Oxford degree with maintaining the fitness, speed, strength and skill to compete with full-time players. The transition from rugby Blue to household name is now virtually impossible. Natural ability alone is no longer enough.

BH: A couple of seasons with Northampton then moved to Asia. Tried vets Rugby on return. The least said. The older I get the better I used to be.



Sam Egerton



Bill Habergham



Bill (far right in dark shirt) during the 1983 Japan Tour

OBE for Polly Gibb



Congratulations to Polly Gibb (1984) who was awarded an OBE for services to Rural Enterprise in the New Year Honours. Polly is Director of Women in Rural Enterprise (WiRE). Based in Harper Adams University in Shropshire, WiRE helps women succeed in business ventures by offering support and training. There are now 6,000 entrepreneurs across the UK on their database.

Polly studied for an MSc in Land Resource Management at Cranfield after leaving Keble, and then spent several years abroad working in agricultural and rural development. Since returning to England she worked for environmental charities before joining WiRE in 2003.

Tony Hall – new Director General of the BBC

Congratulations to Honorary Fellow Tony Hall (1971) who took up the post of Director-General of the BBC in March after 11 years as Chief Executive of the Royal Opera House. He will be returning 'home' to the BBC where he previously spent 23 years, joining straight from Keble in 1974 and becoming Chief Executive of BBC News.

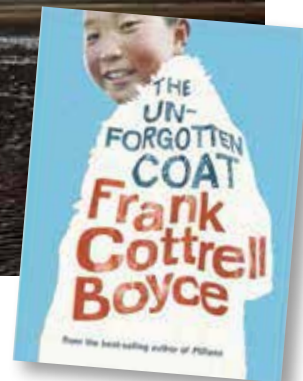


Frank Cottrell Boyce – after the opening ceremony of The London 2012 Olympics

Frank Cottrell Boyce (1979) has won the 2012 Guardian children's fiction prize with his book, *The Unforgotten Coat*. The book was commissioned by a Liverpool-based charity, the Reader Organisation and 50,000 copies were given away. Cressida Cowell (1985), fellow children's fiction author, was one of the judges.

Frank is now working on the mass-participation project to celebrate Derry being UK Capital of Culture. Scheduled over the weekend of 8 June, it involves a 90m long monster-like puppet which will float down Lough Foyle.

Frank was the subject of 'My Perfect Weekend' in the *Telegraph Weekend* on Saturday 9 February - link: <http://bit.ly/158GNib>



Explosive Entertainment

Tom Smith (1979), who read Chemistry, now owns a UK explosives consultancy and lectures around the world on the safety and legal aspects of explosive and pyrotechnic use. He published a book *Firework Displays: Explosive Entertainment* in 2012 on the planning for the use of fireworks at major events. He has acted as the pyrotechnic consultant to the London New Year's Eve celebrations since 1999 and to the Hong Kong ones in 2009/10, as well as the Manchester (2002) and Melbourne (2006) Commonwealth Games, and the Athens (2004), and London (2012) Olympics opening and closing ceremonies. In his spare time he is an active sailor.



Westminster Organist

Edward Symington (2008 Music) started as Organ Scholar at Westminster Cathedral in September 2012, where he plays for daily services, gives regular recitals, and accompanies the world-renowned Cathedral choir.



Entrepreneurs Evening

The 2nd Entrepreneurs Evening in early February, like the first, generated a great deal of enthusiasm, the only criticism being that once a year is not enough. With help from a couple of volunteers we are setting up a forum for Keble alumni which we hope will meet more frequently to exchange experience and discuss ideas. We'd also like to invite a group to speak to our current students in College. If you are interested in finding out more and getting involved please email Phil Clarke in the Alumni and Development Office philip.clarke@keble.ox.ac.uk



The Presenters were, Kevin Sefton (1990) Govan Shoes; Elnar Hajiyeu (2005) Real Eyes IT; and Faisal Rahmatallah (1974) Plastics Capital

Dinner in Hall for B&B Guests

During the vacation periods Old Members can now book in for dinner in Hall at the same time as booking B&B rooms online. Three-course dinner including a glass of wine will be served at 7pm. Special dietary requirements can be entered in the additional information box during the booking process. <http://www.keble.ox.ac.uk/bed-breakfast>

Please note that dinner in Hall may not always be available.

Mark Goldring (1976) has been appointed Chief Executive of Oxfam and will take up the post in April. It will follow five years as CE of Mencap and before that, decades of experience with international development, particularly VSO where he was also CE.



The 2013 Summer Dinner - Saturday 29 June

The Summer Dinner continues to be 'the' Dinner in the College calendar for Old Members of any year and their guests to dine in Hall, and indeed what better thing is there to do on a summer's evening? The Booking Form is on the adjacent flap and on the College website.

This year special invitations will be extended to:

Keble Family Dynasties

Do you have a parent, son, daughter, sibling, husband, wife, partner, aunt, uncle, cousin, who was also at Keble?

For the Summer Dinner this year we have invited back the extraordinary number of Keble Old Members who are related to each other in their immediate and wider families, and across generations. Most have never had the opportunity to dine together in Hall. Invitations have been emailed or posted, and non-Keble guests are very welcome.

The 1953s to celebrate their 60th Anniversary

Ten years on from the 50th Anniversary Lunch in 2003, and coinciding with their Diamond Anniversary, we are inviting back the 1953s to celebrate 60 years since they came up to College as Freshers. Invitations have been emailed or posted and guests are welcome.

The 2003s for their 10th Anniversary

Calling all who matriculated in 2003 - come to College to meet up with your year and dine in Hall! Guests welcome. Invitations have been emailed. If the College does not have your email address, please send it to philip.clarke@keble.ox.ac.uk.



Booking forms for dinner on Saturday 29 June are available on the College website. All those coming can book overnight accommodation in College and, if driving, can apply for a Science Area parking permit on the form provided.

Please note that the 1988 25th Anniversary celebration, originally planned for Saturday 29 June, has been changed to the previous weekend (Saturday 22 June) to take place during the 1987-92 Reunion.

Keble College Music Society

See www.keblemusic.co.uk for Trinity Term Events.

Old Members welcome

Sunday 21 April

Trinity Term begins

Saturday 27 April

Edinburgh Reception and Dinner

The New Club, Princes Street, Edinburgh

Invitations were sent to Old Members in Scotland and the north of England in February

Enquires to Ruth Cowen



Friday 3 May

Eric Symes Abbott Memorial Lecture

Constantine's vision and the church today: from the Battle of the Milvian Bridge (AD 312) to the twenty-first century

Professor Dame Averil Cameron

The Chapel 5.30pm
All Welcome



Saturday 4 May

Degree Day for 2012 Finalists

Invitation papers were sent to 2012 Finalists in January

Enquires to Philip Clarke



Thursday 9 May

Keble London Lecture

Should we be angry with Starbucks and Amazon?

Professor Tim Jenkinson,

Professorial Fellow and Reader in Business Economics Bloomberg, Finsbury Square, London. Refreshments from 6pm, Lecture 6.30pm.

Enquires to Philip Clarke

For ALL events and booking forms see

<http://www.keble.ox.ac.uk/>

Saturday 25 May

Keble Rowing Society AGM and Eights Week Dinner

Invitations were sent to all members of the KC Rowing Society in March

Enquires to Philip Clarke

Saturday 1 June

Garden Party

Old Members can apply for tickets. Invitations were extended to 2nd year Undergraduates and 1st year Graduates and their families in Hilary Term. Tickets cost £15 (£7.50 for students)

Enquires to Philip Clarke

Saturday 22 June

1987-92 Reunion Incorporating the 1988s 25th Anniversary

Invitations were emailed in March

Enquires to Philip Clarke

Saturday 29 June

Summer Dinner with special invitations to Keble family dynasties, the 2003s for their 10th Anniversary and the 1953s for their 60th Anniversary

See information at the bottom of page 7

Enquires to Philip Clarke

(Saturday 29 June)

KA Trustees meeting and AGM

Trustees meeting: 4.15 - 5.15pm
AGM: 5.15 - 6.15pm



Saturday 27 July

Retirement Dinner for Professor Tony Phelan

Invitations will be extended to former and current students of Professor Phelan in April

Enquires to Ruth Cowen

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Your email address: As postal costs become more expensive it would be very helpful to email some event invitations. If you have not already done so, please let the Alumni & Development Office know your email address or inform us of any change to your email address.

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