When I was asked to participate in the 2017 University Challenge Christmas Special, I have to admit, I hesitated. I am an avid watcher of the show, but my hit-rate for correct answers is shamefully low. In fact, even understanding the questions often presents problems... However, my rule of only appearing on ‘celeb’ reality and quiz TV shows that I actually watch and enjoy held fast, and so I swallowed my pride and said yes. Humiliation may well follow, I thought, but at least I will have met my teenage crush Jeremy Paxman (I know, I know) and got to hear ‘Keble; Brand’ called across the studio at least once, so long as I pressed my buzzer.

Well, I am very glad I did it now, of course. It was a thrilling ride, and my teammates Paul Johnson, Frank Cottrell-Boyce were absolutely brilliant – we all got on famously from the moment we met in the Manchester studio and the positive vibe continued as our winning streak began to take on legendary proportions. By the time we got to the final, I felt almost relaxed. This was mostly due to the fact that Frank seems to contain all the knowledge in the world (I recommend captaining any quiz team which includes him – it will take on a serene dreamlike quality where you just sit very still and quiet while he wins it for you), but also the team spirit we created, and the excellent support from the Keble Alumni team, which was much envied by other university alma teams. Thanks to all - and, as is often the case in life, I'm so glad I said ‘yes’.

Katy Brand
1997 Theology

Don't miss the Keble student team, who have made it to the 2018 televised series which will air in the autumn.
The Dinosaur Discussed

The launch of our Keble Dino merchandise has made many alumni question who was the creative mind behind the much-loved graffiti on Blackhall Road. For years we have known that the first dinosaur appeared overnight during the Draper’s conference in the Long Vacation in the early 1970s. Many assume that it was the work of the Drapers, although authorship has not been categorically established.

A recent discovery suggests that the first Dinosaur was actually painted in 1971 by the late Sue Highwood, a Somervillian, along with a group of friends. Sue’s sister was party to the information and has sent in an original photo of the graffiti in an album of Sue’s labelled ‘My Dinosaur’. As to why it was painted, Sue’s sister doesn’t know but tells us, “I suspect that some of its appeal is that it is enigmatic”. We agree.

As part of the ARCO building construction, the bricks on which the dinosaur’s nose was painted had to be removed. The College was contacted by an organisation called the Keble Play Group whose initials are at the dinosaur’s foot. They demanded that a current member of the College replace the snout immediately. This letter, originally addressed for the urgent attention of the Warden, was passed to then current student Leo Lewis who happily took up the challenge in the early hours one morning in November 1995. Leo remarks “I do not claim the intellectual property of the original, or the remotest shred of artistic skill. But I did paint its snout.”

Over time, the Keble Dinosaur has become an icon and something we are very fond of as a college. When, six years ago, some council workers began to remove the dinosaur, the Bursar raced round to confront them. He told them they must stop immediately, as this was historic artwork and part of a Grade 1 listed building, and, thankfully, they never came back.

If you have any more information about the history of the Dinosaur, we would love to hear from you.

Getting to the Top

A topping-out ceremony was held on Wednesday 4 October to mark construction reaching its highest point at the Keble H B Allen Centre. The lift shaft in the south-west corner of the quad was completed by H B Allen Charitable Trust trustee Peter Shone (Keble 1969), who was then presented with a ceremonial trowel by BAM Construction Director Anthony Nagle. A group of Keble members, donors, representatives from Rick Mather Architects, BAM Construction and contractors celebrated the occasion with drinks on a specially prepared area at the top of the south wing, which will eventually become a roof terrace space, affording marvellous views of the city.

Big Data

Following on from his 2013 international bestseller Big Data, and Learning with Big Data (2014), Keble Professorial Fellow Viktor Mayer–Schönberger publishes his latest volume, Reinventing Capitalism in the Age of Big Data with co-author Thomas Ramge of The Economist. The book looks at how data is reinventing markets, creating a future world where data replaces money as the driver of market behavior.

Poets at Keble

Now in its sixth year, Poets at Keble is thriving. A different speaker visits each term for a reading followed by a question-and-answer session. Events are free and open to all University members and to the public. Poets have come from the UK, Europe, and the US. In Hilary Term, John Burnside considered states of ecological and personal transformation; in other recent sessions, Denise Riley explored notions of identity and address, and Henri Cole examined the intersection of the domestic and the ecstatic. Past speakers have included Simon Armitage, Spencer Reece, Alice Oswald, Don Paterson, and Maureen McLane. Huge thanks go to the alumni whose generous donations make this series possible.
The Keble Debates

In November, we introduced the Keble Debates, a new programme of termly conversations about contemporary issues in the arts, and the way the arts engage with contemporary issues in wider society. Organised by Honorary Fellow Robin Geffen (1976) with the support of Playwright in Residence Barney Norris (2006), the inaugural session focused on the world of theatre and featured Nick Starr (Founder, London Theatre Company), Nadia Fall (Artistic Director, Theatre Royal Stratford East) and Ben Power (Deputy Artistic Director, National Theatre). In March, we welcomed renowned TV producer and agent Peter Bennett-Jones and literary agent Laura Williams. In May, the event will commemorate the life and work of Professor Sir Geoffrey Hill (1950).

New Choir CD

The Keble College Choir have released a new CD under the direction of Matthew Martin, entitled Ceremonial Oxford: Music by William Hayes. The project is a collaboration between the Choir and period ensemble Instruments of Time & Truth, and it is already garnering rave reviews, including a five-star rating in Early Music Review. It is available to purchase via the Porters’ Lodge or online on Amazon at http://amzn.eu/fFqOe0I

Organ Scholarships

The launch of our initiative to endow Choral Scholarships was celebrated with an event at the University of Hong Kong’s Chapel of St John’s College by kind arrangement of Edwin Mok. Nine of the twelve Scholarships already endowed have been funded by alumni and friends in Hong Kong, hence the choice of location.

Matthew Martin, Director of Music, attended on behalf of the College, and thanked the benefactors for their generosity in supporting the development of music education at Keble. Donors attending the event included Andrea Wong (2015) (The M.int Academy), Dora Wu (The CC Wu Cultural & Educational Foundation Fund Ltd), Edwin Mok and Desmond Chum (1991).

Other supporters in Hong Kong include Joy Chung, Trevor Keen (1976), Peggy Liu (1981), Roger Lui (1993), Rina Mok and Samantha Pong (1995). The College is very grateful for the generosity of these benefactors in their support of our outstanding student choir and further development of musical education at Keble.
Looking Beyond the City

On Wednesday 24 January, the Alumni Office in collaboration with the JCR brought together a panel of Keble Alumni for the first event of its kind: ‘Looking Beyond the City? - Keble Alumni Careers Panel.’ This was a special event aimed at providing advice for students interested in careers for which fewer formal events are offered around Oxford. With a panel specialised in journalism, marketing, scientific research and the civil service, valuable insight was gained by all students who attended. The undergraduates welcomed this opportunity to connect with Keble Alumni and ask their own questions about life after Oxford, and the subsequent dinner in Hall was enjoyed by all.

Fairtrade Keble

Keble was awarded Fairtrade College status in December 2017, in recognition of its commitment to supporting Fairtrade, and ensuring that as many Fairtrade products as possible are available in and around the College.

This achievement is one of a number of sustainability initiatives spearheaded by Keble students and supported by Accommodation Manager Janet Knight, the latest of which is the ‘Battle of the Bins’ against LMH to see who can achieve the biggest reduction in residual waste between Hilary and Trinity terms.

Truncated Torpids

The weather may have only allowed us to race on Wednesday and Saturday but Torpids 2018 was still successful for KCBC. W1 bumped before the gut on both days, St John's then Hertford, to finish 5th on the river (the crew also went on to win the next week’s qualifier for the Henley Boat Races and so will represent Oxford in the Intercollegiate Race for the second year in a row). M1 managed to bump Mansfield in style before rowing over on Saturday. M2 caught Christ Church M2 on Wednesday but unfortunately were prevented from any more racing by the snow, and M3 also only had one race but showed good spirit and determination.

Young European Council

Second year History and Politics student Verity Bligh was selected to attend the 2017 Young European Council, an award-winning conference taking place in Brussels over several days in October. There, delegates debated the most pressing issues the European Union currently faces and provided actionable input to EU policy making. This was then presented to and discussed with top policy makers.

Verity led the Working Group on Digital Security, which produced a proposal to establish an “emergency-response cyber-security task-force” at the EU level. The conference final communiqué has since been formally presented to the EU.

Student Awards

DPhil Klaudia Krawiecka (2017) was awarded a prize for the best information security thesis in Finland. Her winning thesis, produced for her master’s degree at Finland’s Aalto University, introduced SafeKeeper, a program addressing the challenge of protecting users’ passwords and other types of sensitive web server data. Klaudia is currently pursuing a DPhil in Cyber Security at Oxford. Further information about her award is available at http://cs.aalto.fi/en/current/news/2017-10-27-002

Engineering undergraduate Adam Bush (2015) has been awarded the Laidlaw Undergraduate Research and Leadership Scholarship. The award is given to exceptional undergraduates to help them pursue a self-designed research project at a world-leading research institution. Adam will be researching ultrasound-mediated anti-cancer drug transport in brain tumours at the Georgia Institute of Technology over the summer. More information about the award is available at http://laidlawscholars.com.
Alec Carr (Lead Project Manager, BAM Construction)

Alec Carr, who is project managing the building of The H B Allen Centre for BAM Construction, talks to us about what it takes to deliver a project of this scale and the challenges that lie ahead in the last few months before completion.

Tell us a bit about what your role involves.

How is it different, for example, from Derek Farrow’s as Keble’s Project Manager? My role is to deliver this project. I coordinate with the design team, Derek Farrow from Bidwells, the client [Keble], various end users, my own team and also the supply chain, which is an aspect that Derek does not get involved with directly. It’s like running a £58m business, in effect. I sit on top of the pile and make sure the project is on time and on budget, the workforce are safe, and everyone is doing what they are supposed to, when they are supposed to. Anthony Nagle [BAM Director] supports me in that - making sure I have the staff I need, applying pressure where we need to apply pressure with people if they are not performing, etc. I’m the day-to-day delivery.

How did you get into project managing in the construction industry? What are the skills necessary to do your job well? By profession I am a civil engineer. I started out working on roads, bridges, and that type of thing. The company I worked for was a major contractor on civil, so they also did construction, and I got seconded into a project that had a big element of civil engineering, and I stayed on. I then worked on the supply chain side of things for a while before coming back to main contracting and moving into site management and then very quickly into project management.

I come from a strong technical background, which is very important in my role. You need the overview and technical knowledge about how to build something. When all of the information comes through in the tender process, part of my job is to translate it into ‘this is how we are going to build it’. You almost build it in the mind’s eye and then deconstruct it and that is fed into how we plan the programme. You need quite a logical mind and you need to be planning ahead all the time. You also need to be calm and adaptable because everything changes – people don’t turn up, things don’t work, etc. And you need to challenge as well. Part of my role is to have those challenging conversations to say, ‘hang on a minute, how am I supposed to build that?’.

How does this project compare to other major projects you have been involved with? I’ve worked on quite complex projects over the years, so it’s never really held a great deal of fear for me, but what’s different with this project is that there are a lot of engineering challenges involved, like retaining Acland House and the site being a basement in very close proximity to existing structures. The logistics are also a huge challenge because of the nature of the site – nothing is level, it’s all very tight and compact, we only have one lane (Mickie Lane) to bring things in, and we are in a busy town.

From an outsider’s perspective, very little looks to be changing at the site at the moment, but I understand that this is actually one of the busiest periods for you. All the work is now largely inside the guts of the building behind scaffolding. Since Christmas, we have been going through a massive step change in terms of the type of work we are doing. Up to now, we have done the reinforced concrete frame and the main structure, and we have had a workforce of about 100 doing that, and four or five supply chain members. Now we’ve got the plumbers, the electricians, the data cablers, the painters, etc., all coming in, so the workforce on site has gone up to 170 and we will be doubling that in the next two months to about 300. Likewise with the supply chain – at the moment we have 19 different sub-contractors on site and that will be increasing to about 30. Although you are not seeing a massive amount of change from the outside, it’s huge. We are in the last few months of the project and we still have something like £35m of work to do, so that gives you an idea of the volume. Inside we’ve got 250 bedrooms to do. There is a lot of repetitive work and we need to make sure that we are getting a good quality product delivered throughout, so that when the students come in they’ve all got what they want.

The final challenge of the job is commissioning, - making sure that all the parts of the building function as they should – which can get very technical. We need to finish in good time before we actually deliver the project, so that everything can be checked. Then, it’s just the final de-snagging, and we can move in!
Alumni News

Lawyers’ Drinks

On 26 October, a group of enthusiastic current Keble law students took advantage of the excellent opportunity to join Keble Alumni Lawyers for a relaxed and informal evening in the Members’ Common Room at Lincoln’s Inn, hosted by Lisa Weston-Mangion (1997) and Robert MacVicar (1973).

The Keble Lawyers’ Drinks, which has been a regular fixture for the last seven years, welcomes all generations of Keble lawyers, including those who either read law or have been working in the legal profession, together with their friends and guests, for an enjoyable evening. It is a great occasion to build new relationships with like-minded professionals. You can join the Keble Lawyers’ Facebook page at www.facebook.com/groups/1486152458312223 so you don’t miss out on upcoming events. The next event is on Wednesday 9 May in the Members’ Common Room at Lincoln’s Inn, from 6.00pm onwards.

Alumni in Print

Turning for Home

This is the second novel from playwright and writer Barney Norris (2006), coming after the critically acclaimed Five Rivers Met on a Wooded Plain. Turning for Home follows the ageing Robert and granddaughter Kate, each confronting their own troubles. The novel explores themes of family, human frailty and reconciliation.

The Wizards of Once

The Wizards of Once is the first volume in a new series by Cressida Cowell (1985), author and illustrator of the hugely successful How to Train Your Dragon books. It is the story of a young boy Wizard and a young girl Warrior who have been taught since birth to hate each other, and the thrilling tale of what happens when their two worlds collide.

The Long Hangover


Parental Podcast

My son James loves history and is always asking me about it. We were heading to Italy one summer when I asked him if he had heard of any Italian artists ... and he remembered the names of four of them: Raphael, Donatello, Michelangelo and Leonardo! They’ve done more for Renaissance history than is reasonable to expect from a gang of teenage turtles, even if they are mutant ninja ones. Anyway, during that conversation James suggested that we make a podcast series together, and we came up with Dad and Me Love History. In each episode we answer one of the big questions in history. The show aims to get 5 to 12-year-olds, and their parents, away from screens for a pacy 15-minutes full of entertainment and insight.

The first season of podcasts includes: ‘The Most Important Question in History’, ‘Was the Great Wall of China built by an awesome leader or a crazy dude?’, ‘Why was the Roman army so awesome?’ ‘Who’s the best ever? Mr Lego v Mr Disney’.

We’re on iTunes, Spotify, Stitcher and just about everywhere you can get podcasts. Our website is dadandmelovehistory.com, and we’re on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. And check out my World War II novels at paulletters.com – The Slightest Chance, based in Hong Kong, China and London in 1941-42, will be published during Michaelmas term, 2018.

Paul Letters
1996 PGCE History
Eighty Alumni Ghosts returned to take on the current teams at the beginning of Michaelmas in a day celebrating Keble sport. Throughout the day we held Men’s and Women’s Football, Rugby, and Netball fixtures as the older Keble generations took on the new. Both Men’s Football Ghosts teams won their matches 3-2, and the Rugby Ghosts won 54-12 against the current men, while the students won the Women’s Netball by one goal 26-25. The Women’s Football match was a friendly mixed affair, with old and new Keblites playing together. Next year will be the 50th Anniversary of the Football Ghosts fixtures and so we will be inviting all Football Ghosts players to join the Summer Dinner on 6 July in celebration.

New Year Honours

Congratulations to the following Keble Alumni whose achievements have been recognised in the 2018 New Year Honours list.

Sir Tim Besley (1981)
Professor, London School of Economics and Political Science. Awarded Knighthood for services to Economics and Public Policy.

Richard English CBE (1992)
Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Professor of Politics, Queen’s University Belfast. Awarded CBE for services to the Understanding of Modern Day Terrorism and Political History.

Jack and Joel on X factor

Jack Remmington (2013) and Joel Fishel (2013) wowed the nation with their performances throughout X Factor 2017. The singing duo have been a favourite at the Keble Young Alumni BBQ and Keble Ball for years and so the Keble community watched with excitement as the two impressed the judges with their Ed Sheeran mashup audition and progressed through the show. Winning a wild card, the two gave fantastic performances in the live shows but they were unfortunately voted off in Week 3. Since they have been catapulted to fame, the boys have over 34,000 subscribers to their YouTube channel and are gigging internationally. On 9 March they released their very first original single — available to download on all streaming platforms.

Ghosts and 50th Anniversary in 2019

Eighty Alumni Ghosts returned to take on the current teams at the beginning of Michaelmas in a day celebrating Keble sport. Throughout the day we held Men’s and Women’s Football, Rugby, and Netball fixtures as the older Keble generations took on the new. Both Men’s Football Ghosts teams won their matches 3–2, and the Rugby Ghosts won 54–12 against the current men, while the students won the Women’s Netball by one goal 26–25. The Women’s Football match was a friendly mixed affair, with old and new Keblites playing together. Next year will be the 50th Anniversary of the Football Ghosts fixtures and so we will be inviting all Football Ghosts players to join the Summer Dinner on 6 July in celebration.

From the KA

The Keble Association (KA) works closely with the College to support undergraduate and graduate students through a variety of grants. The aim of these grants is to allow students to have the best possible experience during their time at College, and to reduce financial strain. KA grants help students to attend conferences, conduct fieldwork, travel for research, and other projects related to their studies by covering either all or part of the costs. In recent years we have also awarded grants to students wishing to take up internships.

Keble students have travelled worldwide with KA funding, with projects ranging from medical placements and work with refugees, to the production of stage performances and film-making.

Every year, exceptional projects are presented with awards. Award winners of the past year include: a graduate historian for archival research in Dublin to study the trend of demobbed Irish soldiers joining the IRA following their return from WWI; two graduate medical students for electives at an obstetrics & gynaecology hospital in Uganda and at a mobile obstetrics & gynaecology unit in Ethiopia; an undergraduate lawyer for an internship in the Constitutional Court of South Africa; an MSc geographer conducting dissertation fieldwork on alternative food networks in China; a graduate English student producing a stage play in London; and a neuroscience undergraduate for the production of a musical on the subject of mental health in London, Edinburgh and Oxford.

The KA is open to all Keble alumni to join as Members. We welcome volunteers to join as Trustees and to take an active role in working with the JCR and MCR to promote the opportunities available and to help in the grant–making process. Of course, the work we do relies on the financial contributions from Members; if you would like to join the KA and make a donation to support Keble students in this way, you can now do so via the Talbot Fund.

www.keble.ox.ac.uk/making-a-gift

For further information, please get in touch via the Alumni and Development Office.

Nela Scholma-Mason
MSt Archaeology 2011
Sunday 22 April
Leavers’ Day
St Mark’s Day Service
The Chapel 5.30pm
Saturday 5 May
Degree Day for 2017 Finalists
Details were emailed to Graduands in January.
College Ball
APOPHIS
www.kebleball.com

Thursday 10 May
London Lecture
Making Choices in Public Policy
By Paul Johnson (1985), Director at the Institute of Fiscal Studies. At UBS, 5 Brookegate, EC2M 2QS

Tuesday 15 May
Poets at Keble
Stephanie Bert and Hera Lindsay Bird
The Pusey Room 6.30pm
Friday 25 May
Eric Symes Abbott
Memorial Lecture
The Revd Richard Coles
The Chapel 5.30pm
23–26 May
Summer Eights
Saturday 26 May
Rowing Society AGM and Dinner
Invitations were sent in March. Dinner open to all. Book online.
Young Alumni BBQ
Alumni (matric year 1998 and later) are warmly invited to an informal BBQ in College. Book online.
Saturday 2 June
College Garden Party
First year Graduates and 2nd Year Undergraduates and their families have been invited. Alumni can apply for tickets from the Alumni and Development Office. Newman Quad 3.00pm

Saturday 30 June
2018 Summer Dinner
Sung Evensong, a reception, and Dinner in Hall. Open to all Alumni and their guests (regardless of year, course or subject).
Booking is now available online. Special invitations will be sent to:
• the 1950s to celebrate 60 years since Matriculation
• past JCR and MCR committee members
• Year Group representatives
Keble Association Trustees Meeting and AGM
The de Breyne Room of the SCR
4.00pm (AGM at 4.30pm)

2018 Reunion
Date
1985 – 94
Saturday 15 September

150th Anniversary Call for Nominations
As part of a series of projects marking the 150th Anniversary, we want to celebrate the College and people associated with Keble through an online collection of 150 items – stories, faces, interviews, voices, objects, pieces of text and music. We will also be commissioning photographic portraits for a temporary exhibition in Hall in celebration of the diverse Keble community, as we reach 40 years of coeducation in 2019. For both projects, we are looking for nominations of individuals, including alumni, current students, or staff members (academic and non-academic) who you see as inspirational and deserving of recognition for their achievements, be they personal or professional. Please submit your nominations by post or email to alumni@keble.ox.ac.uk by Friday 18 May, providing the full name of your nominee, details of their association with Keble, and up to 100 words to explain why you think they should be featured.

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The brick is written, designed and produced by the Alumni and Development Office with the assistance of current Keble students and staff.

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