

# the brick

THE NEWSLETTER FOR KEBLE ALUMNI • ISSUE 41 • MICHAELMAS TERM 2007 • [WWW.KEBLE.OX.AC.UK](http://WWW.KEBLE.OX.AC.UK)

## Reaching Out: Keble and Access

**One of the main objects of the College when it was founded in 1870 was 'University extension' – enabling students to come to Oxford who would not otherwise have been able to afford it. Keble's continuing commitment to inclusivity is reflected in the wide range of access and recruitment activities supported by Keble tutors, students and staff. Individual Fellows have for many years visited schools, colleges and sixth form centres across the UK with the aim of demystifying the Oxford admissions process and encouraging academically able students to apply, especially from those groups that are under-represented in the student body.**



Claudius Mollokwu, Michael Carter and Laura Gilhespy now 3rd year Law students attended a Sutton Trust summer school

Bringing students to Oxford and working with teachers from schools and colleges from the state maintained sector is another important element of the College's access strategy. Our annual Open Day is held in June and is attended by some 400 students. In addition Keble hosts many visits throughout the year from school and college students, and teachers and careers advisers are invited to attend a biennial one-day workshop on the Oxford admissions process. Current undergraduates are crucial to the success of these activities; busy students willingly give up time to show visitors around College, take them to lunch in Hall and explain what student life is

really like at Oxford. For the past two years Keble's JCR has also organised and run its own highly successful JCR Access Day in conjunction with the Birmingham Aim Higher partnership.

Nowadays Oxford colleges work closely together with the University's Admissions Office to offer an organised outreach programme of recruitment and access activities. Departments, central admissions and access teams are all involved in setting up the programme. Keble tutors regularly teach for and help organise the Sutton Trust summer schools (see Interview page 3) and participate in outreach activities for teachers and potential applicants. Keble was also a founding member of the consortium of Oxford colleges established in 1999 to encourage applications from students in further education and sixth form colleges. More recently, we have joined forces with four neighbouring colleges (St Anne's, St Hugh's, LMH and Somerville) to fund a coordinated programme of schools liaison and access activities across the 'North Oxford' colleges.

It is very encouraging that increasing numbers of our undergraduates have applied to Oxford and been accepted after attending access programmes – evidence that they really do make a difference.

*Dr Sonia Mazey (Senior Tutor)*

### Mighty Quinn!

Congratulations to Junior Dean, Simon Quinn (D.Phil. Economics 2005), who has been awarded a prestigious Prize Fellowship to All Souls. Usually awarded to two



candidates a year, Simon was the only recipient of the Fellowship in 2007. He came to Keble as a Rhodes Scholar from Australia. Former Prize Fellowships have been awarded to Sarah Wilkinson (1993 History) and Tim Besley (1980 PPE).

## January

- 13 Hilary Term Begins**
- 25 72nd London Dinner Brooks's  
60 St James's Street London**  
Booking Form was enclosed with *The Record 2007*, also available on the College website:  
[www.keble.ox.ac.uk/alumni/events](http://www.keble.ox.ac.uk/alumni/events)

## February

- 15 Richardson Lecture**  
5.30pm Pusey Room •  
*Orchestrating Brain Function:  
The Music of the Mind* •  
Dr Ole Paulsen, Fellow and Tutor  
in Neurophysiology



## March

- 12 London Drinks Party, The Arts Club,  
Dover Street, Piccadilly**  
Booking Form enclosed, also available on the  
College website: [www.keble.ox.ac.uk/alumni/events](http://www.keble.ox.ac.uk/alumni/events)

## April

- 20 Trinity Term Begins  
St Mark's Dinner**  
St Mark's Day Service in Chapel is followed by  
Dinner for present members of the College,  
including all classes of Fellows.

## May

- 3 Degree Day for 2007  
Finalists**  
Invitations will be sent out  
early in 2008.
- College Ball -  
Save the Day**  
Details in *the brick* in Hilary  
Term. All Old Members welcome.
- 9 Eric Symes Abbot Memorial Lecture**  
Chapel 5.30pm • Revd Canon Jane Shaw,  
Dean of Divinity, Chaplain of New College •  
*Mysticism and Modernity*
- 24 Garden Party**  
Old Members can apply for tickets from The  
Warden's PA. Invitations will be extended to second  
year undergraduates and first year graduates to  
invite their families.
- 24 Rowing Society AGM and Dinner**  
Invitations are extended to all members of the  
Rowing Society.



## Reunion dates 2008

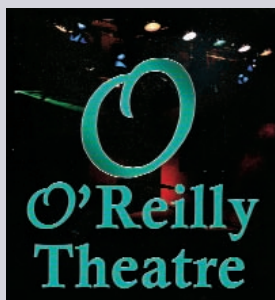
**1983-8: 20-22 June 2008**

**1989-93: 19-21 September 2008 (to coincide  
with 2008 OU Alumni Weekend)**

**Contacts** Development Office, Keble College, Oxford OX1 3PG • [www.keble.ox.ac.uk/alumni](http://www.keble.ox.ac.uk/alumni) • [dev.off@keble.ox.ac.uk](mailto:dev.off@keble.ox.ac.uk)  
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## HT 2008 at the O'

Old Members are very welcome at O'Reilly Theatre events, see [www.keble.ox.ac.uk](http://www.keble.ox.ac.uk) search: O'Reilly



The annual Martin Esslin production is *Fanshen* by David Hare and will be directed by Barney Norris and performed from 26 February to 1 March. It promises to be one of the most exciting theatre events of the year. Set in a small Chinese village in 1946, it examines the effect of communism on a small isolated community.

Other events will include a talk by Tony Hall, Chief Executive of the Royal Opera House, on Tuesday 26 February and a professional production of Schubert's *Winterreise* by Thomas Guthrie and David Owen Norris on Wednesday 27 February.

*the brick* is written, designed, and produced by current Keble undergraduates and graduates, with the assistance of the Keble Development Office • Editors: Ian Bhullar, Joshua Harris, Kamakshi Mubarak, Alex Pejacsevich, Zain Talyarkhan, Thea Warren. Contributors and photographers: Richard Brown, Raghuv Bhasin, John Bridcut, Colin Cunningham, Tom Etminan, Teddy Harrison, Cameron Holloway, Daniel Hudson, James Key, Janis Meek, Maurice Lubrano, Andy Mather, Sonia Mazey, Suna Mirza, Michael Nuth, Eleanor Pett and Andrew Tingle • Designed by The Seacourt Design Studio • Development Office: Isla Smith, Ruth Cowen, Camilla Matterson and DB Lenck • Published by Keble College, Oxford. Printed in the UK by Seacourt, Oxford. Distribution Services by Oxford Address • *the brick* is copyright © 2007 Keble College, Oxford, OX1 3PG. All rights of the individual contributors are reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or translated in any form, by any means mechanical, electronic, or otherwise, without prior consent of the publisher. The views expressed are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect those of the Governing Body of the College.



# Interview with Sir Peter Lampl

Suna Mirza (2006 Law) and Ian Bhullar (2006 PPE) interviewed Sir Peter Lampl, chair and founder of The Sutton Trust, with James Turner, Sutton Trust Policy Analyst.



## What are the aims of the Sutton Trust?

We promote social mobility through education because social mobility in the UK is very low by international standards – the lowest of any advanced country with available data. So we do a couple of things. First, we fund a range of projects to get children thinking about university, to raise their performance and to support teachers in helping pupils apply. Then, we fund research into access issues looking at the effects of class background on educational achievement and university entrance, and ways to equalise the opportunities provided to children at schools.

## How did you become committed to widening access to Higher Education?

I spent most of my adult life in The States, France and Germany. When I came back in the mid-90s, I felt that social mobility in Britain had gone backwards. My own grammar school, which I'd attended for free, had become a fee-paying school and the social mix in my old college, Corpus Christi, was less diverse. My own background has also made a difference. My father was a refugee from Austria and I had a relatively modest upbringing. I was lucky enough to attend good schools and Oxford, but many children starting where I did don't get those opportunities now.

## Do top universities do enough to widen access?

I think they're doing quite a lot. They were doing virtually nothing ten years ago, but now the onus is on them to make improvements. We fund a lot of projects just to get people to apply to university, and Oxford has been very good in supporting summer school schemes. But universities can always do more to become more accessible, both to underprivileged children and children from average backgrounds. Our research has shown around 200 schools account for half the entrance to Oxbridge, while 3500 schools and colleges count for the other half. More needs to be done to narrow this gap. Widening access to universities is just one part of the puzzle – the unequal access to good schools needs to be tackled too.

## The Trust is encouraging independent schools to admit children whose parents cannot afford the fees. Do you think they provide a better education?

Yes, British independent schools do well in international comparisons of eleven to sixteen year-olds. They provide better

resources, smaller staff-pupil ratios, and on the whole teachers are better qualified academically. You're seven times more likely to be taught by an Oxbridge graduate at an independent school and five times more likely to be taught by a PhD. A big portion of the best qualified teachers are educating 7% of the children – and that's a huge issue. We feel strongly that access to these schools should be based on merit, not money.

## You've tested a "needs-blind" system at the Belvedere School, Liverpool. How effective is it?

Fantastic. The principle is that anyone who gets in can be funded according to need. About 30% have free places; 40% pay partial fees and the rest pay full. There's an excellent social mix which reflects the Merseyside area and the school has also achieved its best ever GCSE results.

## How can we get past the preconception in schools that Oxford is only for wealthier people?

By doing the kind of things we do, particularly summer schools. Our studies show that when students attend our summer schools they're more likely to apply to a leading university because they're more confident. I know this is a contentious point, but I do think that the interviewing process at Oxbridge, the early applications and college selection, can be off-putting for many students, and this affects the applicant pool.

## What can tutors, students and Old Members do to contribute to widening access?

Students can volunteer at summer schools, or speak at state schools. Meeting students challenges children's perceptions of Oxford as the place of crusty old dons and gowns. We've found there are generally two reasons for not applying. The first is children aren't confident they'll get in, and the second is they don't think they'll fit in. Summer schools, and tutors' visits to schools, show that tutors are human. What alumni could do is help raise money for initiatives to widen access. They can also go back to their old schools and let students know they enjoyed their time at Oxford and encourage them to apply.

## Do you have a favourite success story?

We heard a little while back about a young man who'd lived on a council estate and came to one of our earliest summer schools at Cambridge. He said that his experience at the summer school boosted his confidence. He ended up going to LSE, and is now an investment banker. This is just one of many success stories – it demonstrates just how much the Trust has achieved since we started in 1997.

## Telethon Talking

**“Good evening, my name is ... I’m calling from Keble College. I am following up on a letter you should have received from the Warden, Dame Averil Cameron...”**



From l to r: Darren Collins, Andy Baker, Ian Bhullar, Sam Aldred, Josie McNally, Andrew White, Sarina Dhaliwal, Yaqoob Bangash, Joanna Hargreaves. Insets: Matthew Brown, Piotr Orłowski, Janis Meek. Not pictured: Suna Mirza and Tom Harvey.

This was typically the start of over 1,000 ‘phone calls during the fortnight before Michaelmas this year. Fourteen students took to the telephones in a temporary ‘telephone suite’ housed at 23 Banbury Road (part of the Acland complex).

Over three weeks, and particularly when the students got into their stride, they thoroughly

enjoyed talking to Old Members hearing stories about their time here. And who better than our current students to describe how Keble is today? Descriptions of many

past escapades would indicate that health and safety regulations were certainly not so stringent in earlier times!

Donations are still coming in, and the total raised is extremely encouraging – more than 40% of those talked to signed up. Calculated over 5 years, we anticipate a total of over £235,000 in new pledges for the Talbot Fund.

Many Old Members gave useful advice and insight into their careers, and students were impressed at how easy the conversations were. One student, when requested to call back on a mobile the following day at an appointed time, did so and casually asked “So where are you at the moment?” and received the reply “Oh, San Francisco”, as if that was the most normal thing in the world!

It is fitting to leave the last word for the Warden: ‘After signing hundreds of thank you letters, often with personal messages, and seeing the notes kept by the student callers, it is obvious that this was a highly successful exercise which made many new connections between the College and Old Members. A warm thank you to everyone who took part, and to all those who responded so generously - we really depend on your support.’

Zain Talyarkhan



Mr Jeff King

### Internship Opportunity

Keble’s governing body has approved the joint-internship programme between the College and the Office of the Prosecutor (OTP) of the International

Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia in The Hague (ICTY). Keble Alumnus, Sir Geoffrey Nice, was formerly the lead prosecutor on the *Milosevic* case. Keble finalist, Moshin Zaidi, spent this summer interning for the OTP (see his piece in *The Record 2007*). This internship is a unique opportunity for Keble students. Mr Jeff King, Keble Law Fellow and the programme’s College coordinator, expresses the hope that Keble may open similar internship opportunities if funding can be found – at present students must pay their way. Mr King is currently investigating other internship possibilities, including with the *ad hoc* Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL). Both the ICTY and SCSL operate under the auspices of United Nations Security Council resolutions.

Zain Talyarkhan



### Hellenic Honour

The Warden was presented with the 2006 John D Criticos Annual Prize by Marrietta Yiannakou, Honorary Minister for Education, at the London Hellenic Society in October for her book *The Byzantines*.

### MCR Grows Green

Ever wondered how green your College is or how a simple change in lifestyle can help make a green difference? The MCR has added a new web resource that does just that. From recycling in College to buying and eating organic products to ethical banking, the vastly expanded green pages of the MCR’s website communicate facts, quotes and suggestions on lowering environmental impact in Keble and Oxford.

All glass, paper and cans are now recycled by the MCR through the College collection. The MCR Environment Officer discovered a plastic bottle recycling pilot – collections in Jericho!



Kamakshi Mubarak uses the new recycling bins.

Kamakshi Mubarak

# Social Sciences Social

For its Michaelmas meeting, the Keble Social Sciences Group (founded in February 2007) was honoured to have as speaker, Professor Robin Dunbar, a Fellow of the British Academy, who is also Professor of Evolutionary Anthropology and Director of the Institute of Cognitive and Evolutionary Anthropology at Oxford University.

He led a lively discussion on the nature of sociality and argued that our big brains have evolved to cope with large group sizes and social networks. For three hours, with a break for dinner, he answered questions from thirty three graduate students and Fellows. Topics discussed included the sizes of

communities such as the Hutterites, military units, and Kibbutzim; the effects of modern technology (internet social networking sites, travel, and telephones) on the nature and distances of friendships; the cognitive demands of monogamy on penguins and wasps; as well as the cultural specificities of human relationships. As Christmas approaches, will our Christmas card lists be anywhere near 150, the theoretical maximum number of relationships we can keep track of on a personal level, as Professor Dunbar suggests?



Professor Robin Dunbar

See: [www.keble.ox.ac.uk](http://www.keble.ox.ac.uk) and search KSSG.

Joshua Harris

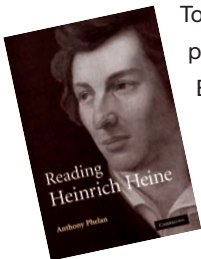


Professor Robin Wilson

## Private Passions

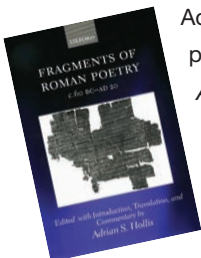
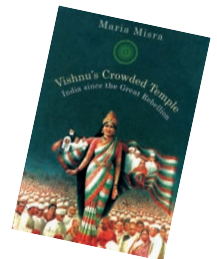
Keble mathematician Professor Robin Wilson was Michael Berkeley's guest on *Private Passions*, broadcast on Radio 3 in September. Robin's choices ranged from Bach's organ and choral works to Arthur Sullivan's *Golden Legend*. A constant theme was the interconnection between maths and music, as illustrated by a musical palindrome of Haydn, an ingenious canon by Purcell, and a haunting piece by the contemporary American composer Carlton Gamer written in the scale of 31 notes to the octave. He also chose light-hearted works by Telemann and Anna Russell and mentioned Britten's *Noye's Fludde*, a piece accessible to amateur musicians which he has performed with his wife and children.

Thea Warren



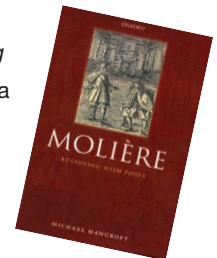
Tony Phelan, Fellow and Tutor in German, has published *Reading Heinrich Heine*, the first English work to be written on the 19th century poet for many years. Dr Phelan's focus ranges from the early poetry and *Pictures of Travel* to the last poems, including personal polemic and journalism, and he aims to reassess Heine's relation to, and articulation of, modernity. Cambridge University Press 2007. ISBN 052 1863996.

Maria Misra, Fellow and Tutor in Modern History, has published *Vishnu's Crowded Temple: India since the Great Rebellion* to coincide with the sixtieth anniversary of Independence. *Vishnu's Crowded Temple* is a new interpretation of India's hybrid history of ancient culture, colonialism and modernity. Allen Lane Penguin 2007. ISBN 978-0-713 99367-7.



Adrian Hollis, Fellow and Tutor in Classics, has published *Fragments of Roman Poetry c.60 BC-AD 20*, which aims to enhance our knowledge of the greatest period of Latin Literature. It includes fragments of up to 30 poets, each with an introduction and translation, together with a full and rich commentary containing many new ideas. OUP 2007. ISBN 978-0-19-814698-8.

Michael Hawcroft, Fellow and Tutor in French, has published *Molière: Reasoning with Fools*, the first book-length study of a group of characters in Molière's plays whom some critics take seriously and others think are ridiculous. The book reveals the complexity behind the question: Do Molière's plays aim to do more than make us laugh? OUP 2007. ISBN 978-0-19-922883.



## College Clue

Keble's renown received the final accolade by being mentioned in The Times crossword on Thursday 8 November. It was spotted and solved by Michael Nuth (1957): **Keble College's first to move in race for Finn. (11)**

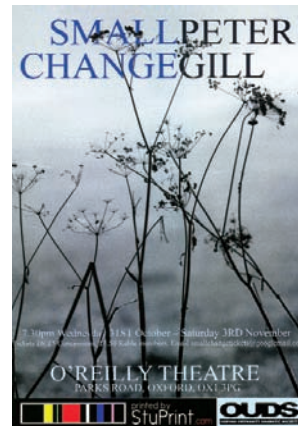
Answer at the bottom of page 6...





# Stage Effects

Keble was well represented on the Oxford dramatic scene this term. Amongst the best reviewed student plays were Alan Ayckbourn's *Living Together*, directed and produced by George Warren and John Maher (both 2006 Modern History and Politics), and Peter Gill's *Small Change*, performed in the O'Reilly Theatre. *Living Together*, according to the Oxford Daily Info, "achieved everything that the author could have hoped for". The strong cast included a witty lead by Joe O'Connor (2006 Law), and a "marvellously catty" Thea Warren (2006 German). *Small Change* was a powerful evocation of bygone family life in urban Wales. Described as "one of the highlights of Michaelmas" by Cherwell 24, and "a memorable and thought-provoking production" by the



*Oxford Student*, the play was a credit to Barney Norris' (2006 English) skills as a new director at Oxford.

Ian Bhullar



David Owen Norris workshop with l to r: Freddie Bacon (2007 Geography), Jewell Thomas (Washington visiting student, English), Simon Whalley, Marcus Schofield (2005 Maths) and David.

## Music Matters

Attendance at all Michaelmas Music Society events has been fantastic. Starting off with promising new talent at the Freshers' Recital, the events which followed included an open workshop with David Owen Norris (1972, Honorary Fellow), an innovative and beautiful performance of Radiohead's *Kid A* by the Stellar String Quartet, and a lunchtime solo recital in which Barney Norris performed a set of songs of his own composition. Other highlights included a performance of Haydn's *Missa Sancti Nicholai* by the Keble Choral Society and Orchestra, and an amusing rendition of Flanders and Swann's *Hippopotamus Song* by Freshers Graham Thornton and James Hawkes at the Warden's Recital.

Ian Bhullar



...and the next frame... pop!



There were two performances in 8th week by Oxford's all-male acappella group, *Out of the Blue*, held in the O'Reilly and Chapel. Calum Melville (2006 Modern Languages) is president of the group this year.

## Pantomania

In anticipation of the Christmas holidays, the O'Reilly Theatre hosted the College Pantomime, *A Keble College Christmas Carol*. Guided through time by a foreboding Dr Who cut-out, the audience witnessed a production which was self-fulfilling in its description of being 'a panto, albeit a very witty one'. High-slapping, cross-dressing, a Fairy Godmother, a non-sequential plot line, and even an appearance from Blackadder's Flashheart provided everything a good pantomime should have. Children in Need were the worthwhile beneficiaries of £579.61 raised from the production.



Bob the Student (Thea Warren) with Esmeralda (Verity Thomas) on her lap

Joe O'Connor

Alex Pejacevich

## Ghosts' Glory

Keble Ghosts football was once again a successful and enjoyable day. Two games were played in excellent spirits, with the Ghosts coming out on top; [3-1] for First XI and [6-3] for Second XI. Both matches were keenly contested but the old (!) heads proved too much for the enthusiastic and sporting College teams. The Ghosts had a mix of youth and experience with Old Members from the '70s appearing alongside OMs from as recently as 2006. Thanks to the College, Ade Roache, and Brian Johns (1969) for organising the day.

*Andrew Tingle (1999)*

## Novice Rowing

"With your legs! The LEGS! No, not the arms! Push!"

"It is only about rowing a boat, but learning is proving quite hard.

Thank God I still have a language barrier to blame when I can't carry out commands the first time.

After some initial outings, tank sessions and an erg-test, my preparations for joining the College Novice Team ended recently with a swimming test. Rowing must truly be for gentlemen – the proper way of getting on shore in the event of capsizing seems to be swimming backstroke. With any luck, those skills will not be needed during the Christ Church Regatta.

I sometimes fail to express my appreciation at the start of training at 6.15am. Yet, I am truly amazed by the commitment and effort required to be a rower."

*Henrik Bjornstad (2007 MJur)*

*Due to high river levels The Christ Church Regatta was cancelled.*

## Keble Knights

Undergraduates are taking nocturnal student life to new highs by playing ice-hockey at the Oxford Ice Rink from 12.30am to 2.00am every Wednesday. Although currently an informal group, the *Keble Knights* are planning to start a league, and are also commissioning a special Keble ice-cream flavour from G&Ds!

*Joshua Harris*



Henrik Bjornstad (in the foreground) in the rowing tank



Andy Mather



Tom Etminan

## Ghosts Go For It

The fourth Ghosts Rugby match saw the Ghosts defending their unbeaten record.

Early signs that it was business as usual were thwarted. A steely performance by the College pack, mauling superbly, coupled with the charitable passing of John 'odds-checker' Purcell saw the College rattle up four tries in short order after the Ghosts opening score. A try on the stroke of half-time allowed the Ghosts' skipper to put away his copy of Henry V.

The Ghosts' revival continued with Tom Stringer's lines, try-scorer Nick West's running causing mayhem and James Ashwell's champagne chip'n' chase rolled back the years. Two more tries (Maun and Mathieson) gave the Ghosts a two point lead.

With true spirit the College dug deep, turning down a penalty to score a last minute try. However, with only seconds left, James Down broke College hearts with his second score leaving the Ghosts tired 31-29 victors: an awesome finish to the best game in the series.

*Daniel Hudson (1996)*

## Keble Rise above the Competition

Keble's 1st XV have, once again, stamped their authority on 1st Division college rugby this term, completing the first season at the top of the table unbeaten.

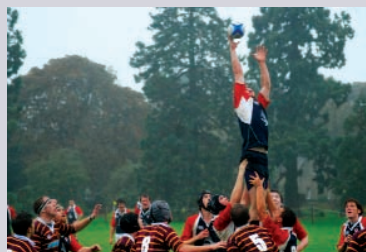
Building upon the momentum of last year's success, Keble continued to dominate the start of this season. Many members of the successful 2006-7 team remain, and a healthy influx of keen Freshers have

adapted well to the effective, pragmatic game plan which was so successful last year - Keble's third 1st Division triumph and first unbeaten season.

Such was Keble's success, that one paper reflected how

they 'cantered' to the title, clinically beating every side, bar one, by more than twenty points, running in eleven tries in one match. A watertight defence, too, is a feature of a resilient Keble, only conceding two tries the entire season. Thus, Keble have had a tremendous first season, and will look to the oft more competitive second, and the prestigious Cuppers, with confidence and promise.

*Richard Brown*



James Key





## Legators Who Lunch

At the end of September, the Douglas Price Society met, fittingly, in the Douglas Price Room, for a reception followed by lunch in Hall. Guests were welcomed by the Warden, and Andreas Whittam Smith (1957) presided. The speaker, David Wilson (1955), Lord Wilson of Tillyorn KT GCMG, Master of Peterhouse and Chancellor of the University of Aberdeen, spoke about the unique advantages of the collegiate system at Oxford and Cambridge, as well as the great advances being made by the very different styles of universities in East and South-East Asia. After lunch guests enjoyed an exhibition of

Keble treasures, and a display of the Acland plans.

The College is grateful to Society members for their goodwill and commitment in supporting the future well-being of Keble, and is pleased to report that membership has risen to 304 from the 87 founding members in Hilary 2006.

In 2008 the Douglas Price Society plans to hold a formal dinner in Hall on Saturday 12 July. All Old Members and Friends who have informed the College of their intention to remember Keble in their will shall be invited to attend.



## Victorious!

Colin Cunningham (1960) has been elected Chairman of the Victorian Society. He took up office in August for a three-year term and is delighted to be chairman during the Society's 50th Anniversary in 2008.

Part of the celebrations will include a conference co-hosted by OUDCE at Rewley College, Oxford. Dr Cunningham's love of Victorian Architecture was fostered while studying Classics at Keble.



## Good Samaritan Dies

**Chad Varah, CH, (1930 PPE, Honorary Fellow 12 November 1911 - 8 November 2007), founder of The Samaritans, has died after a long illness.**

## Master of St John's at The-Other-Place

Christopher Dobson (1967 Chemistry) has been elected Master of St John's College Cambridge and took up office at the beginning of Michaelmas Term. Professor Dobson, who has made ground-breaking advances in our understanding of disorders such as Alzheimer's and diabetes, was previously John Humphrey Plummer Professor of Chemical and Structural Biology at Cambridge. Before moving there in 2001 he was Professor of Chemistry and Director of the Centre for Molecular Sciences here in Oxford.



Left, Victor Shevchenko, Chairman of the National Committee for Public Awards, with Maurice Lubrano.

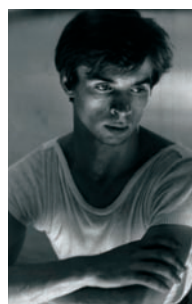
## Russian Recognition

Maurice Lubrano (1968), former Maltese Ambassador to Moscow, was awarded the Gorchakov Insignia by the National Committee for Public Awards of the Russian Federation on 26 July 2007, the 40th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between Malta and Russia. The award came fourteen years after Maurice had left Moscow as Maltese Ambassador.



**Many congratulations to Tim Dutton (1978 Law), who has been elected Chairman of the Bar Council of England and Wales for 2008.**

*Nureyev: from Russia with Love*, a feature length documentary, was broadcast on BBC Two in September. Written and produced by John Bridcut (1971), it explored Nureyev's rise to fame in Russia and showed previously unseen footage of him on the Kirov stage.



Eleven Old Members from 1971 to 1984 had their MAs conferred in an Extraordinary MA Degree Ceremony, one of the first events of the OU Alumni Weekend – *meeting minds* held in September. See enclosed flier for details of the 2008 Alumni Weekend.





## On a High

**As an important element of my D.Phil. studies, I travelled to Mount Everest as part of Xtreme Everest, a unique science research project investigating hypoxia (low oxygen) in various settings. The project involved over 200 volunteers and several research groups and was a world first - never before has such a large experiment been undertaken in mountainous conditions. I am indebted to the Keble Association for their financial help.**



Cameron Holloway at base camp medical lab with Mount Everest behind.

The volunteers were monitored on an exercise bike at sea level, and after trekking up the mountain, at seven mobile laboratories sited at differing altitudes. Extensive testing included blood tests and muscle biopsies, as well as breathing tests and various body scans with portable machines. We are indebted to the volunteers who were exercised to exhaustion, stuck with needles multiple times, probed in various orifices and tested time and again, all in the name of science.

We stayed at tea houses on the way up to Base Camp and experienced the unique culture and hospitality of the charming Nepalese people as well as coping with yaks, working with Sherpas, the humid conditions of the cities and extreme cold of the awe-inspiring mountains.

The aim of the project was to see the effects of low oxygen on healthy volunteers. The biological mechanisms of adaptation to low oxygen are not fully understood, yet ill patients in hospitals, including intensive care units, are constantly faced with this problem. The results show significant cardiovascular changes secondary to the effects of hypoxia. As a cardiologist, I hope that they will contribute to the understanding of the heart's utilization of energy in low oxygen environments. This has the potential to lead to novel medical developments for heart failure, and may help assist in the treatment of heart and lung disease. The science teams involved are already talking about future expeditions to space and the deep sea on the strength of the results gathered from this expedition.

*Cameron Holloway (2007 D.Phil. Physiology)*

## Tamil Nadu Medicine Project

**With the financial help of the KA, we were able to spend a month in a rural town in the state of Tamil Nadu in India, where we had the amazing opportunity to help and observe healthcare in this underprivileged area. It was fascinating to see how Tamil culture influenced healthcare, and how family-orientated their way of life is.**

Our time was split between three hospitals; a maternity hospital, a small general practice, and a leprosy clinic. At the maternity hospital, we saw surgery most days, including a caesarean. The hospital was run by one doctor and a dedicated team of nurses (pictured). We were also given the opportunity to visit a local school with the doctor from the general hospital during a health-awareness campaign.

At the general hospital, it was interesting to see how different the day-to-day complaints of the patients were compared to England. For example the most common complaint among young babies and children was dehydration as a result of gut infections due to poor hygiene and water supply. Many adults suffered from respiratory diseases because of inhalation of dust from the dry streets of the town.



Eleanor and Janis visiting a school during the health-awareness campaign.

We particularly learnt a lot from our stay at the leprosy clinic, especially as this disease is no longer seen in the western world. It was sad to see that, although the disease is very treatable, many patients suffer disfigurements because they cannot afford the

treatment, or have not been made aware of the risks of the condition. However, the atmosphere at this hospital was very peaceful, and the patients were treated with great dignity and respect.

During our time in India we had the unique opportunity to live with a family. This allowed us to integrate with the Tamil culture and try the local food, dress and even learn some of the Tamil language. We were made to feel very welcome and will definitely keep in touch with them.

Overall we had the experience of a lifetime. It was both culturally and academically enriching, and we would like to thank the KA for helping to make it possible.

*Janis Meek and Eleanor Pett  
(both 2005 Medical Sciences)*