

## Trio of British Academicians

**The College is very proud to have three British Academy Postdoctoral Fellows in post at the moment. This is unprecedented and very prestigious for the College. Dr Sophie Ratcliffe and Dr Eleni Kechagia were appointed in 2006, Dr Sarah Apetrei in 2007. British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowships are three-year appointments and highly competitive with an average of 30 awarded each year from about 600 applicants and it has been College policy to encourage such possibilities.**

**Eleni's** research field is Classics and the History of Ancient Philosophy and her current 'mission' during the British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowship is to help restore Plutarch's reputation as a historian of ancient philosophy. To this end, she is writing a book on Plutarch and Epicureanism and is preparing for an international conference on 'Plutarch and Philosophy' to be held in Oxford in July 2008.



Dr Eleni Kechagia, Dr Sophie Ratcliffe and Dr Sarah Apetrei

She comes from Petrusa, Northern Greece where she completed her schooling, before moving to Thessaloniki to pursue an undergraduate BA and then a graduate MPhil in Classical Studies at Aristotelian University. A generous scholarship from the Greek State allowed her to venture further afield, eventually to Oxford and Keble.

Eleni has a fairly long history with Keble: she has been a member of the College since 1999 and completed her doctorate in 2005 under the supervision of Keble's

Professorial Fellow, the late Michael Frede. Following a gap year, she returned to the College to take up the British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowship in 2006. By the time her postdoctoral work comes to an end, she will have been at Keble for almost a decade!

**Sophie** read English at Trinity College, Cambridge, before coming to Oxford as a graduate 1998. Funding from the Arts and Humanities Research Council enabled her to study for an MPhil, and then a Doctorate in English Literature at Hertford College. She is also fully trained at tapping beer barrels, having worked in a pub to fund her graduate years.

In 2005 she was appointed Research Fellow and Tutor at Keble, having previously been a lecturer at Jesus College. The following year, she was awarded a British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowship, and was delighted to be able to hold the Fellowship here, and continue to be part of Keble life.

Sophie's research focuses on ideas of literature and emotion. Her first book, *On Sympathy*, will be published in May with OUP. She is also editing the letters of P G Wodehouse, and regularly reviews books for the national press including *The Times Literary Supplement*. At the time of writing, she is reading a book about maps in the European novel and another about the idea of pleasure. She derives great enjoyment from teaching, both for its own sake and for the way it enlarges her own research. Next term, Sophie will see her first cohort of Keble English students through to finals - she can't wait to find out what they will do next.

**Sarah** is currently revising her DPhil thesis on a group of women writers, active between 1680 and 1710, who put forward theological arguments for the equality of the sexes. The book, *Women, Feminism and Religion in Early Enlightenment England*, will show how women in both Anglican and radical dissenting communities put together the tools of a new historical criticism and of ancient Christian mysticism to develop a feminist critique. She is also starting the next major project on mystical theology and radical religion in seventeenth-

century England, which will be concerned with the contribution of mystical currents to the formation of modernity and the continuities between radical Reformation and Enlightenment.

After having completed her BA in History at the University of York, Sarah came to Oxford to take a Postgraduate Diploma in Theology and then an MSt in Ecclesiastical History at Wycliffe Hall. In 2003 she came to Keble to begin her DPhil, completing it 2006, when she was appointed Liddon Fellow in Theology. Sarah is the subject of the Interview on page 3.

Keble College Music Society - see [www.keblemusic.co.uk](http://www.keblemusic.co.uk) for Trinity Term Events. Old Members Welcome



### Sunday 20 April

Trinity Term begins

### Saturday 3 May

BA Degree Day for 2007 Finalists

Organiser: Ruth Cowen

Forbidden City Ball

See [www.kebleball.com](http://www.kebleball.com)

for tickets and more information.

All Old Members welcome

Keble London Drinks  
**Old Bank Pub, Fleet Street,**  
**3rd Tuesday every month**  
[www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)

### Friday 9 May

Eric Symes Abbot Memorial Lecture

Keble Chapel 5.30pm

*Mysticism and Modernity*

Revd Canon Jane Shaw

Dean of Divinity, Chaplain of New College

### Saturday 24 May

Keble Rowing Society AGM and  
 Eights Week Dinner

Invitations to all members of the KCBC sent out in  
 March. Organiser: Camilla Matterson



### Saturday 24 May

Garden Party

Old Members can apply for tickets  
 (£10 each, payable to Keble College).

Invitations have been sent to  
 parents/guardians of 2nd year  
 undergraduates and to 1st year

graduates to invite members of their families.

Organiser: Trish Long, the Warden's PA

### Friday 20 June to Sunday 22 June

Reunion Weekend

For Old Members who matriculated between the years  
 1983-8. Invitations sent out in March, please contact  
 Ruth Cowen if you have not received them.

### Saturday 28 June

KA Trustees meeting and AGM

ARCO Terrace Rooms

Trustees meeting: 5 - 5.30pm

AGM: 5.30 - 6.30pm

Summer Dinner

7.15 for 8pm. The perfect opportunity to meet up with  
 your Keble friends! All Old Members welcome.

See page 11 for Booking Form. Organiser: DB Lenck

### Saturday 12 July

Douglas Price Society Dinner

with guest speaker David Etherington QC (1973).

Invitations were sent to members in March.

Organiser: Camilla Matterson

### Saturday 26 July

Retirement Dinner for Professor Wade Allison

Invitations will be sent out to Wade's former students  
 in April. Organiser: Isla Smith

### Friday 19 - Sunday 21 September

Reunion Weekend

For Old Members who matriculated between the  
 years 1989-93. Organiser: Ruth Cowen

### Friday 19 - Sunday 21 September

University of Oxford Alumni Weekend

*Meeting Minds - Global Oxford*

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

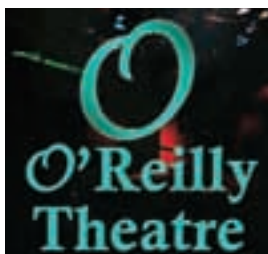
### Friday 3 October

50th Anniversary Lunch for 1958 matriculands.

Invitations will be sent out in July.

Organiser: Ruth Cowen

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)  
[isla.smith@keble.ox.ac.uk](mailto:isla.smith@keble.ox.ac.uk) (01865 272786) [ruth.cowen@keble.ox.ac.uk](mailto:ruth.cowen@keble.ox.ac.uk) (01865 282338) [camilla.matterson@keble.ox.ac.uk](mailto:camilla.matterson@keble.ox.ac.uk)  
 (01865 272794) [db.lenck@keble.ox.ac.uk](mailto:db.lenck@keble.ox.ac.uk) (01865 272799) [trish.long@keble.ox.ac.uk](mailto:trish.long@keble.ox.ac.uk) (01865 272700)



## TT 2008 at the O'

Old Members are welcome at O'Reilly Theatre events, for tickets: [www.oreillytheatre.co.uk](http://www.oreillytheatre.co.uk)

3 -7 June - An adaptation of a baroque eclogue by W H.Auden, *The Age of Anxiety*, which he  
 dedicated to John Betjeman. It will be interpreted dramatically for the first time and will use the  
 theatre in an innovative and experimental way.

# Interview with Dr Sarah Apetrei

Antonia Evans (2007 English) and Alex Pejacsevich (2006 Theology) interview Dr Sarah Apetrei, (2003 DPhil) Liddon Research Fellow and British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow.

## What led you to apply for the British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowship?

It is amongst the most sought after research opportunities in my field. When I had identified that I wished to further my study in mystical theology and radical religion in early Enlightenment England, the British Academy application was one of several I made. Given its prestige, I was not optimistic about receiving it, but was delighted when I did.

## What does this research opportunity mean to your academic career?

I am aware that the Fellowship is an enormous privilege. Junior academics often find themselves in limbo between the expiry of their research award and taking up their first teaching position. This can be a great financial strain and also very demoralising, so the Fellowship is a huge advantage in this respect. Moreover, the requirements of the Research Assessment Exercise mean that employers look for a list of publications along with teaching experience and the basic doctoral qualification. The Fellowship has offered me precious time in which to write and produce material for publication, and it has borne fruit; I now have a contract for publishing my thesis with Cambridge University Press in 2009.

## How did your 2006-7 Liddon Research Fellowship differ from the BA Postdoctoral Fellowship?

The Liddon Fellowship offered a small housing allowance, an office space and dining rights but no full maintenance grant. I was fortunate to hold the Liddon Fellowship in conjunction with a Fellowship at the Past and Present Society which provided me with a stipend. The British Academy fully covers my living expenses. In other respects the continuity between the fellowships was seamless; I enjoy the same Senior Common Room privileges and most importantly am still part of same community.

## Why do you think a woman's approach to research at this level is important?

I should stress that mine is a junior position, and I would venture that an imbalance between the genders is more conspicuous at the senior academic level, although there are excellent senior women role models at Keble. For instance, I think having a female Head of House affects how junior female academics view their role and the prospects for their professional development. In terms of my own academic subject, I wouldn't like to see women's research ghettoised in any way. I believe it is important that we absorb the insights of the previous generation of feminist scholars into the mainstream of historical research, so that gender history and women's history are not relegated to the status of an intellectual sideshow.

## Why are the Humanities less favoured by research funding than the Sciences?

There is no real mystery about this. Government and corporate funding goes to scientific projects with a concrete marketable application; we live in a market economy and it is inevitable that money goes where money is made. One also needs to bear in mind that scientific research involves expensive equipment and procedures, and can be more labour-intensive. In the Humanities, postdoctoral funding tends to advance the career of the individual academic and it's more difficult to see material outcomes. I think we have the balance about right at present

## Which of your various research interests most compel you and why?

At the moment I'm particularly galvanised by the governing idea of my thesis, which is that religion, and especially mystical religion, played a positive role in the emergence of feminism in early Enlightenment England. I've come to see this as part of a bigger argument about the contribution made by Christian theology to Enlightenment discourses on natural equality.

## Do you think mysticism plays a significant part in religious practice today?

Mysticism is one of the few characteristics that the main world religions have in common; the idea of the interior quest for an experience of the divine or a communion with God. Mysticism has the potential to provide fertile ground for interfaith and ecumenical discussion. I think it is significant that at the margins of orthodoxy, where there is dissent or critique, there also tends to be an outlet for mysticism. Rather than representing a withdrawal from the world, mysticism seems to drive people into finding a social application for their subjective experience.

## What problems have you encountered when using literary sources of the period 1630-1730?

There is sometimes extremely limited biographical information on early modern figures. In one case, I know only the writer's name – the enigmatic "M Marsin", an obscure visionary who saw herself as the apocalyptic counterpart of the Virgin Mary – which makes building a picture of her life extremely difficult.

## Finally, what are your interests aside from the academic?

I'm afraid to say that my pursuits outside of the library are shamefully lowbrow! I'm an almost fanatical devotee of Arsenal Football Club which can take up my weekends, since I sometimes go to see matches with my husband. I'm also involved in Keble College Chapel and with my own local Church.





Peter Moonlight

## The Visitor Preaches in Chapel

The Most Reverend Dr Rowan Williams, The Archbishop of Canterbury, visited Keble to preach at and preside over the College Eucharist and the Confirmation of a second year student in the Chapel this term. Dr Williams preached to a large congregation on the theme of personal durability and hope.

The Archbishop of Canterbury is Keble's Visitor *ex officio*. Oxford colleges typically have Visitors who may, in some cases, also be elected by the College. Their legal position is defined in the College Statutes but recent legal changes have reduced their role in educational establishments. The Visitor may still play a part in disputes between fellows or the Warden and the Governing Body.

*Joshua Harris*



**Congratulations to Hugh Welchman (1993) of BreakThru Films who was awarded the Oscar for the Best Short Animation for the production of his film Peter and the Wolf.**



## Behind the Scenes at the ROH

Tony Hall (1970), Chief Executive of the Royal Opera House, gave a highly entertaining

and enjoyable talk to a gathering of Keble fellows and students. He described the day-to-day workings of the ROH and his ambitions for its future and the challenges it faces. He was particularly proud of reaching out to new and younger audiences through a revised seat pricing structure as well as joint ventures with a new academy in the east of London.

*Barney Norris*



## Facelift for L4

A major programme to refurbish all the Butterfield rooms and corridors began in Michaelmas and is expected to take until 2015 to complete. The first 18 rooms in L4 are now ready. Students who

would have occupied these rooms have been given alternative accommodation for this academic year. The newly completed rooms will be available for B&B during Trinity and the vacation until students take up occupation in the new rooms in October. There will be a similar rolling programme each year until the refurbishment has been completed.

Old Members are welcome to reserve these rooms at a special rate and should contact the Development Office for the promotion code. Bookings only at: [www.oxfordrooms.co.uk](http://www.oxfordrooms.co.uk)



HRH The Duchess of Kent and MCR President, Yaqoob Bangash, making the address.

## Right Royal Evening!

The Keble MCR Newman Society Black Tie Dinner was held at Trinity College on 28 February with Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Kent (Katharine Kent) gracing the occasion as Guest of Honour. Dr Maria Misra, Keble Fellow and Tutor in History, was also present as the MCR Senior Member. A sherry reception was followed by a banquet in Trinity hall.

*Kamakshi Mubarak*



## Top Teaching Trio

Three Keble Fellows (pictured l to r): Dr Jamie Edelman, University Lecturer and Tutorial Fellow in Law; Dr Stephen Clark, University Lecturer and Tutorial Fellow in Computer Science; and Dr Alisdair Rogers, Tutorial Fellow in Geography; received awards for outstanding teaching and commitment to teaching, following nomination by their respective departments and students. The scheme utilises funds provided for the University by HEFCE (Higher Education Funding Council for England) to reward teaching excellence.



## On the Campaign Trail

Bethany Gardiner-Smith (3rd year PPE) has taken a year out to intern on Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign. She works for the

Delegate Selection Department, responsible for slating pledged delegates to the state primaries and gaining endorsements from those delegates whose seat at the Democratic National Convention is 'automatic'.

Beth believes there are real differences between the candidates: "Whilst Obama's 'movement' is all about mood change, Clinton fights for programmatic change; undoubtedly less glamorous but in my view ultimately more substantive."

*Mark Brough*

## Jon Hard Remembered

It is with sadness that we record the death of undergraduate, Jonathan Hard on 17 December 2007 from hypothermia while on the student ski trip to St Sorlin d'Arves. Jon, 21, had ambitions to take up further study in the US and was due to take PPE finals this summer. His memorial service in Chapel on 15 January was packed as friends, tutors and family came together to remember and celebrate his life.

Donations to Jon's chosen charity, Mary's Meals, are welcome.

<http://www.justgiving.com/jonhard?>



At the reception in the British Consulate-General (l to r): Anthony Lam (1992), Roger Boden, Professor Malik Peiris (1977) and Mrs Peiris

## Hong Kong Visit

The Bursar, Roger Boden, took advantage of a private visit to Hong Kong to make contact with Keble alumni there. On 17 January Peggy Liu (1981) and Edward Cheng (1977) very generously co-hosted a dinner for a small group of Keble alumni and their partners at the Chong Hing Bank, with Richard Orders (1973) providing wine for the meal. On the following evening the British Consul-General and his wife (an alumna of St Hugh's) held a joint reception for Keble and St Hugh's alumni at the Consulate-General. Keble is in touch with more than 145 Old Members in the region and 28 of current students are from Hong Kong or mainland China. Following this initial visit, the Bursar will be returning to Hong Kong and China with the Warden in the autumn.



Collage by Karis Eaglestone

## Arts Week

Another Keble Arts Week arrived with a fanfare and finished with a bang. Supported by the Keble Association, the week presented the best of Keble art, music, drama, dance and much more to College and public audiences.

Opening with the traditional Launch Night, the Jazz Band and Keble's own singer-songwriter Barney Norris entertained a full Keble Café which acted as the exhibition space for art work from the Art Club and other Keble artists. The week included Robin Wilson's popular dramatic presentation, *Alice in Keble-land*, about the life and works of Lewis Carroll, given by staff, tutors and students. The History and Hursley Societies organised a lecture by Fellow, Dr Ian Archer, on the soon-to-be-published history, *Keble Past and Present*. In addition there were performances from the Oxford Imps comedy troupe, *Out Of The Blue*, and student musicians. There was a varied programme of workshops in poetry (Will Arndt, Washington University visiting student), origami (Akiko Shidehara 2005), beat-boxing (Suzannah Merchant 2001), life-drawing (Sam Hampton 2005), and photography (Peter Moonlight 2006).

The Arts Week Committee would like to thank everyone involved and especially the Keble Association for their continued sponsorship.

Ian Bhullar



Out of the Blue – Oxford's all-male a cappella group singing in the bar.



## Night of the Iguana

Tennessee Williams' play *Night of the Iguana*, produced by George Warren, filled the O'Reilly Theatre in 6th week, garnering good reviews along the way. A box set on the stage showed off the ambition and proficiency of the all-Keble production company. There were strong performances from Sam Aldred in the lead role as Shannon as well as Sophie MacClancy and Daniel Rawnsley, and Thea Warren.

Barney Norris



Thomas Guthrie (l) and David Owen Norris

## Winterreise

A series of unobtrusive yet evocative animations displayed on the back wall of the O'Reilly provided the bleak backdrop to Schubert's *Winterreise*, performed by Thomas Guthrie and David Owen Norris (1972). Guthrie conveyed elegantly the poignancy and bitterness of Wilhelm Müller's cycle of 24 poems, and the accompaniment provided by Norris at the piano was superb in its graceful precision. The musicians were unlit and dressed in black, thus ensuring the visual focus was on a 3/4 size puppet operated by Guthrie. The tragedy was played in the round, making for an intensely beautiful and intimate performance.

Thea Warren



## Fanshen

David Hare's *Fanshen*, a Martin Esslin Society production directed by Barney Norris, was performed in the O'Reilly in 7th Week. The play explores the emergence of Communism in the post-war

political vacuum that was China. The cast of nine actors seamlessly shifted among various characters in an examination of the socio-political environment left by the Japanese withdrawal. Questions of inter-dependence and the extent to which they are viable in a new, communist China form the central theme of a great play.

Zain Talyarkkhan

## David Briggs Improvises

On a February evening the renowned concert organist David Briggs gave a memorable recital in Keble Chapel. He improvised on Keble's organ to a screening of the silent black and white film *The Passion of Joan of Arc*, which was projected onto a screen in the Chapel.



Crew: Mens 1st VIII

## Torpids Triumph

Congratulations to Keble's 2008 Torpids crews! The Women's 1st VIII, Men's 2nd VIII and Men's 3rd VIII performed exceptionally well in their divisions with Men's 2nd narrowly missing out on blades on the last day. Keble Men's 1st VIII experienced some bad luck but bounced back, holding up well in Division II. Roll on Eights Week!

For more detailed results and Torpids pictures see:

[www.ourcs.org.uk/index.php?content=racing/torpids/index.php](http://www.ourcs.org.uk/index.php?content=racing/torpids/index.php)

[www.jetphotographic.com/browsecat.php?id=4927](http://www.jetphotographic.com/browsecat.php?id=4927)

*James Pople, Captain of Boats*



(l to r) 1st Row: Karis Eaglestone, Lorna Benton, Maria Cecire, Janis Meek and Athena Goulimis. 2nd row: Sam Hampton (coach), Kelly McMullon, Sophie Palmer, Inga Deakin, Samantha Booth, Noor Shabib and at the back Abi Stone.

## Women's Football Triumph

After winning Cuppers last year, Keble Women were keen for success this season. With an enthusiastic squad and some talented new additions to the team, they made it to the quarter-finals of Cuppers and came top of the 1st Division.



(l to r) Simon Ackroyd, Christopher Mahony and Euan Sadden (not pictured: Brendan McKerchar and Winston Cowie).

## Blues' Blues

Keble rugby prowess was much in evidence at the annual Oxford-Cambridge Varsity Match at Twickenham last December with five Keble players in the Oxford team. Unfortunately, Oxford succumbed to a 16-22 defeat.



Peter Moonlight

## Keble Clinch Second League Title in a Row...

This Hilary, Keble rugby continued to accumulate numerous college league titles, winning the oft more competitive second season Division I title. They did so unbeaten, taking imperious form into the prestigious Cuppers tournament after impressive victories over college rugby titans Teddy Hall and LMH/Trinity in Michaelmas. Bad weather, however, robbed Keble of the chance to continue to stamp their dominance of college rugby this term, as a number of games were cancelled. None the less, their early season form ensured they clinched the title.

## ... But Lose at Cuppers

The end of term however was marked with disappointment with a loss to Teddy Hall in Cuppers, 36-46. Keble should, however, be proud of their performance, coming back doggedly several times, in an absorbing and electrifying contest. The game was played at a consistently astounding pace, 12 tries were scored. Keble never gave up and at the final whistle, it was clear they had given everything. They walked off the pitch with their heads held high. With two league titles to their name, and much of the team being retained next year, they look to come back and regain the title and continue their league dominance.

*Richard Brown*



Clive Barda

## Orchestra Europa

Former Keble organ scholar, 25-year-old Scott Ellaway (2002), is pioneering Europe's first full-time orchestral academy. Orchestra Europa is recruiting some of the most promising young musicians from the nation's top conservatoires to give them training and performance opportunities, with concerts covering as much of the core classical repertoire as possible. A number of world-class musicians will also provide specialist coaching. Before embarking on this latest challenge, Scott was enjoying a successful international conducting career, working with many of the world's top musicians and conductors. The orchestra's official launch will be at St David's Hall, Cardiff, in November.

Joshua Harris



Gillman and Soame

## Friends on Facebook

Keble alumni, students, staff and even fellows now feature in a number of Facebook groups. For the uninitiated, Facebook is an online social networking site which has become hugely popular amongst the 15-40 year old population. There's even a Facebook group of 'wannabe' Keble students – those who've, allegedly, received offers and now just need to get the grades to secure their place!

The number of Keble alumni groups on Facebook has grown over the past year. Groups include the Keble 1983-8 Reunion Group, Keble 1989-93 Reunion Group, Keble London Drinks Group, as well as several individual Year Groups. If you'd like to have a look or join any of these groups please go to [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and enter Keble in the 'search' field. If you'd like to set up a group for your year please do let us know in the Development Office. Tel: 01865 272794.



Nicholas Fox

Patrick Shovelton (1938), The Warden, KA President David Senior (1955), Colin Menzies (1963)



Mark Goldring (1979) was awarded a CBE in the New Year's Honours for services to disadvantaged people. It recognises a combination of successful leadership of VSO and a career in international development work. He

started as a VSO volunteer after graduating from Keble and has also been involved in OXFAM, the UN and the Department for International Development.



Tony Turner (1953) has published a book of poems, *Oxford 1953-7*, inspired by his time at Keble studying Chemistry. Poems entitled, *First Summer, Digs, Twickenham and The Parks and Iffley Road* (about witnessing the 4 minute mile) are

evocative of his time at Oxford in the mid 1950s. Available from Cherrycroft Press, Popes Lane, Cookham Dean, SL6 9NY for £5.

**The KA held their 72nd London Dinner at Brooks's, hosted by Patrick Shovelton (1938) on Friday 29 January 2008.**



Rob Petre, College Archivist, reports on recent finds.

## Where did you get that Hat?

Archivists like nothing more than doing a bit of research about the origin or provenance of the material in their care. It is often a case of looking through minutes of the Council, the Gifts and Benefactions Register or correspondence files to find a trace of when something was given, who gave it and how it is connected to the College.

A good case in point is trying to find out information regarding a pikeman's helmet, probably from the English Civil Wars, delivered to the Archives by the Housekeeping Team in early February. The only fact we can be certain of is that it was kept in the storage areas under the Warden's Lodgings. There were no notes, labels or hints to its provenance – just a number painted on its insides (29, if you really want to know).

The collecting policy of the College states that we are happy to take in records, artefacts and memorabilia that reflect the College history – but should we keep something from a conflict that ended over 200 years before the College was founded? The answer may be 'yes', but we need to find the connection first.

I wondered if it might have some connection to John Keble himself. There is a story that the ancestral Keble

home in Eastleach, Gloucestershire was a gift from a grateful Oliver Cromwell to one of the family for services rendered; was the helmet a relic of that Keble ancestor? Sadly not, as the story only arises out of confusion over Cromwells, the manor in Gloucestershire was purchased by the Keble family in the reign of good Queen Bess from quite a different Oliver Cromwell.

A more sensible story, if no more likely, is that the helmet was dug up when the foundations of the College buildings were laid. This is quite plausible, as some of the earthworks and trenches for the siege of Oxford were located in what is now Keble College. However, no early letters mention any such discovery, and folk memory would surely recall if the helmet had been discovered during the construction of Hayward, de Breyne, ARCO or Sloane Robinson.

So, if you have any idea of the origin of the helmet, please get in touch and put the Archivist out of his misery. [robert.petre@keble.ox.ac.uk](mailto:robert.petre@keble.ox.ac.uk)



Rob Petre in that hat

## The Hinge Factor



The premise of the book *The Hinge Factor* is that the history of the world would be very different if only X had happened. This idea seems appealing, when we can see from a recorded anecdote in the College Archives that the history of India in the 20th century could have been very different if a barrister's secretary had been late for work.

The barrister in question was M K Gandhi, and in the 1890s he was practising as a barrister in South Africa. In 1895 he hired as his private secretary Vincent Lawrence, partly because as a Tamil speaker he could help Gandhi in his work among the large local Tamil community. One day Lawrence arrived for work, and as he entered the office he saw his employer being attacked by Sheik Mehtab, Gandhi's personal servant. Lawrence wrestled the would-be assassin to the ground, who confessed that he had tried to kill his master. Lawrence saw this episode as proof of Gandhi's commitment to non-violence, as the servant was released without any form of punishment when he assured them it had been but a temporary form of madness.

In 1960 Lawrence told this story to his friend, the Rev A W Blaxall (1914), who wrote it all down. When Blaxall died in 1970 some of his papers were bequeathed to the College. Now that his own life is of interest to researchers, because of his role in establishing facilities for the visually-impaired and his imprisonment for anti-apartheid activities in South Africa, this anecdote has come to light.

## Keble Past and Present - From the Warden

I'm delighted to tell you that the exciting task of compiling this unique portrait of Keble will soon be entering its final stages. Along the way Ian Archer and I have discovered all kinds of hitherto forgotten stories and details about the College. Its history is inspiring, and the contrast between today and even the more recent past is enormous. At every stage we have discovered evidence of a community enlivened by extraordinary and memorable, even eccentric, individuals and we are confident that you will enjoy the journey through this book as much as we have in working on it.

It's not too late to order the book and have your name included as a subscriber before publication in November. For more details see the enclosed flyer or follow the links from the Keble website.

*Aveil Cameron*



## “First woman to be admitted to read History at Keble”

**These words resounded with me after I finished my telephone conversation with Dr Paul Hayes. He'd just rung to say that I was accepted to read History at Keble in 1979, and I would be amongst the first group of women to study there.**

My first job after Keble was at Jean Muir's Fashion House in London, where people like Lauren Bacall and Glenda Jackson were regular clients. I moved into fashion retail management with Hennes and Mauritz for a couple of years before finding my way back to Oxford. Loyalties were split temporarily when I appreciated the fourteenth century cottages across the quad from my eighteenth century office as Assistant Bursar at Worcester College where I spent five years from 1987.

My husband (Tim Beattie, Greats 1978) and I arrived in Sydney, Australia in 1994 on a temporary posting, and we are now living in Melbourne with our three children. Career-wise I have re-invented myself several times. I now have my own business as a Professional Writer, Researcher and Administrator. Recently I was appointed 'Secretary, the Oxford University Society in Victoria', which enables me to maintain close links with Keble and the University. See: [www.alumni.ox.ac.uk/australia\\_vic](http://www.alumni.ox.ac.uk/australia_vic)

Last year I made contact with another 'First Woman of Keble', and would love to do the same with any other Keble women, or men, who may be travelling Down Under!

*Elizabeth Beattie (née Wilkes 1979)*



## From Cherwell to The Observer

I always wanted to be a journalist, and the great highlight of my time at Oxford was editing *Cherwell*, so perhaps it's no surprise that since I left Keble in 1991 clutching my English degree, I've done nothing but newspapers, newspapers, newspapers. I trained as a reporter at *The Sunday Times*, and also worked as an editor there. Later, I went to work as an editor first at the *Daily Telegraph* and, eventually at the ill-fated second incarnation of *Nova* magazine.

Journalism can be a very tough business but, in 2002, my personal nirvana arrived in the form of a writer's job at *The Observer*, a paper I grew up with and have always loved. I've been there ever since, and I still think I have the best gig in the world. I do interviews - last week, it was Stephen Hawking - book reviews, columns, and I get to travel. Last year, I went to Iran; this year, I will be heading to Yemen to write about women's rights, followed by a quick stop-over in Beirut where I will interview the great war reporter, Robert Fisk. My other job is as the television critic of the *New Statesman*, which is a bit more, well, stationary. But everyone needs a little sofa time now and then, and I guess I'm no exception.

*Rachel Cooke (1988)*



## A Bee Line for Internet Traffic

**I came to Keble in 1998, after gaining industrial experience with IBM in the UK and USA, to read Computation. After surveying the Internet domain, I homed in on research on managing system complexity in web services infrastructure i.e. web-hosting centres. The unpredictability of internet traffic (eg, sudden surges of shoppers or stockmarket trading) gives firms which run servers quite a headache. My DPhil focussed on how to ensure there are always adequate servers, where and when they are needed, to handle unpredictability.**

A chance meeting with Professor Craig Tovey at the Georgia Institute of Technology led to a novel nature-inspired solution. Honeybees must make honey for their survival, whilst internet service providers must make money for survival in the business world. The analogy goes further; honeybees must manage large numbers of foragers in a colony just like web-hosting centres manage vast numbers of servers in a warehouse.

To handle unpredictability of internet traffic, web-hosting centres juggle their servers between different web services to maximise hosting fees. Similarly, as patches of flowers vary in quality, a colony of honeybees must juggle their worker bees between different areas to maximise nectar collection.

By comparing individual servers to foraging bees, arriving service traffic to nectar availability and bio-mimicking key forager behaviour, we developed a self-organising honeybee server allocation algorithm for internet hosting centres. As is often the case with human inventions, nature got there first; the proposed algorithm's ability to self-organise to achieve a sophisticated goal using very simple rules of insect behaviour attracted significant media interest from *The Economist*, MSNBC, book chapters etc.

My DPhil thesis was nominated by the Computing Laboratory for a Distinguished Dissertation award of the British Computer Society and was a finalist. The resulting intellectual property is currently being considered for a start-up between Oxford and Georgia Institute of Technology where I am currently a Postdoctoral Fellow.

*Sunil Nakrani (1998)*

## Talking Heads

During the 2007 Michaelmas Telethon a team of current students spoke to almost 1,000 Old Members and raised a staggering £225,000 for the Talbot Fund. The Development Office has already begun recruitment for the 2008 Michaelmas Telethon and hopes to set in place an equally impressive student team for this year. Here's what some of the students had to say about their personal impressions of the telethon and of the Old Members to whom they spoke:



"A moment which I thought really brought home the changing face of Keble was when I asked an Old Member where he had lived whilst at College and it turned out that it was in 23 Banbury Road, now Keble's new conference facility, from where I was making the call." **Andrew White**

"It is encouraging to realise firsthand that so many Old Members are keen to support College and are so generous; it is certainly making Keble a great place to be a student today." **Matthew Brown**



"The best thing was having fun with the telethon team (while being paid) and getting to know some great people that I might not have otherwise had the chance to meet." **Janis Meek**

"A rewarding experience both financially and in terms of career advice; plus the hours were short and the Kinder eggs plentiful." **Sam Aldred**

"It was so great to hear that Old Members go on to have such a wide variety of occupations and hobbies. Almost everyone's enthusiasm about their work made me consider so many jobs I'd never thought of before." **Ian Bhullar**



## Count me in!

More than 1 in 5 Old Members are helping Keble to provide for all our students and to enrich their experience of Oxford. Students have the ability to pursue a wide range of academic and non-academic interests - do look at the Diary of Events on the College website. The Talbot Fund is helping to increase the facilities we are able to provide, all the time. This is a real testament to the involvement and support of Old Members. A detailed report of the finances and achievements of the fund will be included in the Trinity *brick*. To make your contribution count too, please complete the attached form or contact

[camilla.matterson@keble.ox.ac.uk](mailto:camilla.matterson@keble.ox.ac.uk)



Keble College is proud to present the 1st ever

## Queen & Bubbly Event

hitherto known as the  
Summer Dinner

on Saturday 28 June 2008

Look beneath the flap now!

Of special interest to 1957 to 1972s!

This year's Summer Dinner falls on 28 June, the anniversary of both the invention of Champagne (1682) and the Coronation of Queen Victoria (1838). Since Keble was founded during the reign of this noble Queen, and famously introduces its events with the carbonated alcoholic beverage invented by Dom Perignon, we decided to honour both occasions by naming the 2008 Summer dinner after them. For details please read the small print below.

### 1957s to 1972s

are especially encouraged to attend, being half-way between Reunion weekends. Bring along a party of contemporaries.

Small Print/Disclaimer: We fervently hope that this print is so small that no one can decipher it! The fact is that our budget does not run to Dom Perignon of any vintage.



**CAF Unique Ref No: 7583-00**

By using Gift Aid, for every pound you give, Keble will get an extra 25p from the Inland Revenue.

A Gift Aid donation of £100 can be turned into £125. Imagine the difference that could make and it will not cost you a thing.

So if you want your donation to go further, Gift Aid it.

Just complete this form and instruction mandate and **send it back to Keble College Development Office.**

Surname \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

Forenames \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

I want all donations I've made for the six years prior to this year (but not earlier than 6 April 2000) and all donations in the future to be Gift Aid until I notify you otherwise. To qualify for Gift Aid, the amount you pay in UK income tax or capital gains tax must at least equal the amount we will claim in the tax year.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Please select the Talbot Fund project you would like to support:**

Academic  Community  Capital Projects  Undesignated

**My company has a policy of Matched Giving to charities**

**I would like to know more about leaving a legacy to Keble**

## 2008 Summer Dinner Booking Form

**Saturday 28 June**

**Drinks Reception at 7.00 pm followed by  
Dinner in Hall at 7.30 pm (black tie) £30.00 per person**

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ Summer Dinner tickets @ £30.00 each

Total for Dinner £ \_\_\_\_\_

Please reserve the following accommodation:

Single room @ £35.00  Couples rate @ £50.00

Twin room preference (allocated on first-come basis)

**Grand Total** (for Dinner and accommodation) £ \_\_\_\_\_

Name of guest/s \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Special Dietary or other Requirements \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form by **Thursday 12 June** to DB Lenck in

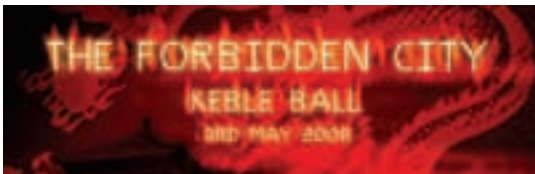
The Development Office, Keble College, Oxford OX1 3PG

Tel: 01865 272799 Fax: 01865 272735 Email: db.lenck@keble.ox.ac.uk



## Douglas Price Society

Over the years legacy giving to Keble has allowed us to meet the challenges of providing for current students – sometimes it's a little, sometimes it's a lot but every legacy gift is hugely appreciated. Membership of the Society, which now boasts 320, is open to all Old Members and their spouse/partner who remember College in their will. The President, Andreas Whittam Smith CBE (1957), and the Warden are delighted to have an opportunity at the annual event to say 'thank you' to members on behalf of the College and to keep them up to date with everything that is happening around Keble. For further information please contact Camilla Matterson on 01865 272794 or email [legacy@keble.ox.ac.uk](mailto:legacy@keble.ox.ac.uk)



On Saturday 3 May Keble is hosting its 'Forbidden City Ball', transforming the College into a palace for a night which promises to be out of this world. All food and drink is laid on, as well as live music, hairdressing from Mahogany and an inflatable twister!

**Tickets £60 at [www.kebleball.com](http://www.kebleball.com) or email: [tickets@kebleball.com](mailto:tickets@kebleball.com)**

## Symbol Commitment

In January the College was presented with the Disability Symbol, which shows that the College is committed to employing disabled people and pledges to meet five commitments regarding recruitment, training and involvement. No other Oxford college or the University has received this award yet. The symbol is intended to help inform staff and disabled people that we have a positive approach to employing disabled people.



## Solving Stonehenge

Tony Johnson (2002 DPhil Geophysics) was commissioned to write *Solving Stonehenge* before he commenced his DPhil. It is a reappraisal of 250 years of archaeological fieldwork at Stonehenge, including a carefully measured survey of 1740 (completed before several stones fell) newly computer-imaged, which reveals that locked within the symmetry of the stones are clues to the prehistoric designers' remarkable surveying skills and knowledge of geometry. Thomas Hudson, 2008 ISBN 978-0-500-05155-9



## Row, Row, Row your Boat...

A KCBC crew are planning to row 116 miles to London at the end of Trinity Term for Jacari, a charity which links Oxford University and Brookes students with local ethnic minority children who need help with reading, writing and speaking English. To support the row or for more information contact [toby.miller@keble.ox.ac.uk](mailto:toby.miller@keble.ox.ac.uk) or see [www.keblerowing.com](http://www.keblerowing.com)



Three of the crew are (l to r): Sam Egan, Toby Miller and Max Leeb



*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, Barney Norris, Alex Pejacevich, Zain Talyarkhan, Natasha Vashisht and Thea Warren. Contributors and photographers: Janet Betts, Liz Beattie, Roger Boden, Mark Brough, Richard Brown, Rachel Cooke, Scott Ellaway, Antonia Evans, Sarah Froud, Bethany Gardiner-Smith, Mark Goldring, Angela Fox, Nicholas Fox, Steve Kersley, Eleni Kechagia, Tony Johnson, Janis Meek, Toby Miller, Peter Moonlight, Sunil Nakrani, Rob Petre, James Popple, Sophie Ratcliffe, Maria Ruffle, Hugh Welchman. Development Office: Isla Smith, Ruth Cowen, Camilla Matterson and DB Lenck

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