

# the brick

THE NEWSLETTER FOR KEBLE ALUMNI • ISSUE 47 • MICHAELMAS TERM 2009 • [WWW.KEBLE.OX.AC.UK](http://WWW.KEBLE.OX.AC.UK)

## Sir Jonathan Phillips Elected New Warden of Keble



The College is very pleased to have appointed Sir Jonathan Phillips as the successor to Professor Dame Averil Cameron from Michaelmas Term 2010.

Sir Jonathan will come to Keble following a distinguished career of nearly thirty-three years in the civil service. He joined the Department of Trade in 1977 after completing a PhD on the campaign for government funding of Catholic higher education in Ireland in the late nineteenth century, which was one of the elements of the Irish home rule question. That doctoral

research was helpful background when he moved, in 2002, to the Northern Ireland Office as its political director. He has supported two Prime Ministers and four Secretaries of State in the Northern Ireland political process and was appointed Permanent Secretary in 2005. His earlier career was spent mainly in economic departments in Whitehall with

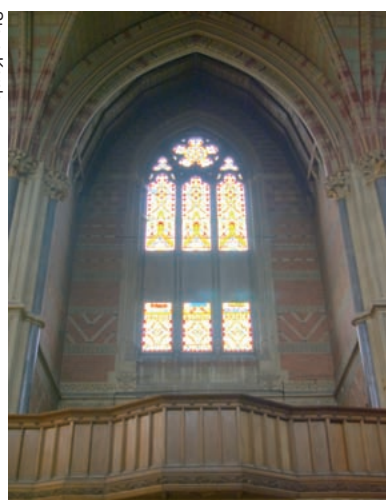
responsibility for, among other things, regional industrial policy, the transformation of a number of government agencies, Companies Act investigations and prosecutions, and the regulation of international telecommunications both at European level and globally. Before moving to the Northern Ireland Office he was Director General overseeing the internal services of the Department of Trade and Industry.

Originally from the West Midlands, he was educated at Queen Mary's Grammar School, Walsall, before reading history at St John's College, Cambridge (the first generation of his family to go to University), where he met his wife, Amanda. They have two adult sons, one of whom is a journalist in Brazil and the other a philosopher and fellow of All Souls.

Sir Jonathan says that he is 'absolutely delighted at the prospect of joining the College and engaging with all its members and staff' and 'very proud to have been chosen in succession to someone of Averil Cameron's distinction'.

## The South Transept Window Comes to Light: a Window of Opportunity

Steve Kersley



The south transept window of the Chapel has recently been completely revealed after 118 years. William Butterfield's original plans for the Chapel show light from the south window flooding the chancel, and it was never his intention that it should be obscured. The story of how this came about is an interesting one, and linked to the College's famous painting, *The Light of the World* by Holman Hunt.

In March 1873 the painting was presented to the College by Mrs Thomas Combe, whose husband

had been a major patron of the Pre-Raphaelites, on condition that the work should hang in the Chapel once the building was finished. Although the painting was accepted on these terms William Butterfield objected so strongly to this stipulation that the Warden and Fellows hung it in the Library, by which time its renown had spread and there was a constant

stream of visitors. Because of its position near the primitive library heating, however, the painting suffered some damage and the ageing artist asked for it back for repair. Hunt objected to the treatment of his painting (referring to the 'bigoted Goths' of Keble), and plans were discussed on St Mark's Day 1890, to have it moved into a specially constructed side-chapel, plans which Mrs Combe once again generously supported. Butterfield still objected strongly, so JT Micklethwaite was employed as architect to design a side-chapel under the south transept window and reposition the organ above it. The organ was duly raised, a tribune constructed for the organist, and the present side-chapel built. The painting has been housed there ever since, in what some contemporaries disdained as 'a cupboard'.

Now, with plans for a new pipe organ progressing, the old organ has been removed, and light once again streams into the nave from the exposed south transept window, though only for a short period of time. Once the new organ is installed in 2011 most of the window will be lost from view again.

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

### January

- 17** Hilary Term Begins
- 29** 74th London Dinner  
Brooks's, 60 St James's Street, London  
Booking Form was enclosed with The Record 2009, also available on the College website:  
[www.keble.ox.ac.uk/alumni/events](http://www.keble.ox.ac.uk/alumni/events)

### February



- 19** Richardson Lecture  
5.30pm Pusey Room. Dr Rhys Evans  
What does the heart like to eat? - feeding fat to the heart in health and disease

### February/March

- 25-6** The Warden's Farewell Visit  
Beijing and Hong Kong  
The Warden will be accompanied by Jenny Tudge, Director of Development - Old Members from East Asia will be notified of programme

### April

- 16-17** North American Reunion, New York and the Warden's Farewell Visit  
The Warden and Jenny Tudge, Director of Development will attend. North American Old Members will be notified of programme
- 25** Trinity Term Begins
- 25** St Mark's Dinner  
St Mark's Day Service in Chapel is followed by Dinner for present members of the College, including all Fellows

### May

- 8** Degree Day for 2009 Finalists  
Invitations will be sent out early in 2010



### May

- 8** College Ball - Save the Day  
Details in the Hilary Term *brick*  
All Old Members welcome
- 15** Eric Symes Abbot Memorial Lecture  
Chapel 5.30pm  
Rt Revd Lord Harries of Pentregrath  
*The Spirituality of Public Life*
- 20** Retirement Drinks Party for The Warden  
London - venue to be confirmed  
Booking form in the Hilary Term *brick* and on the College website in March
- 29** 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



- 29** Rowing Society AGM and Dinner  
Invitations will be extended to all members of the Rowing Society

## Reunion Weekend Dates 2010

- 25 - 26 June for Pre-1960
- 24 - 25 September for 1960-6 to coincide with 2010 OU Alumni Weekend

See [www.keble.ox.ac.uk/alumni/events](http://www.keble.ox.ac.uk/alumni/events) for more details of Alumni events

## Contacts

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**Lynn Edwards (2009 Classical Archaeology and Ancient History) interviewed Susannah Fleming (1998 Engineering St Catz) who is a current DPhil student in Biomedical Engineering at Keble. Aside from her academic work, Susannah spends time caring for her younger brother, Timothy, who is disabled.**

#### **What schools did you attend?**

I went to a tiny village school with only sixty pupils and then a state secondary. My sixth form was at Blackburn Sixth Form College in Lancashire which had no history of sending pupils to Oxbridge. In my year twenty of us were put into a group considering Oxbridge applications, but only three went to an Open Day, and I was the only one to risk consideration and win a place at Oxford.

#### **When did your interest in science begin?**

I wanted to be a scientist quite early on – by about seven or eight. But I don't think I'd really decided on engineering until GCSEs; I had a physics teacher who involved us in a 'Women into Engineering' initiative at Manchester University. She was very enthusiastic and really inspired me to think about going into practical rather than theoretical science. I suppose this was what really led me into the field.

#### **What did you do between your Masters and your DPhil?**

I came straight out of University and joined the BBC and their Research and Development department as a research engineer. I'd already spent the summer after my third year with them. I worked on all sorts of background-boffin-type things, such as short-wave radio interference, 3D virtual productions and special effects. It included the kind of technology behind Harry Potter's invisibility cloak although we were doing different things with it, obviously! I also worked to make digital television accessible to deaf people - we were looking at providing sign language interpretation in the same way that you can turn subtitles on and off. I left because I have always been interested in the medical side of things and there wasn't an outlet to do that. I had a great time there and made many good friends but I don't regret leaving.

#### **Can you tell me about your course?**

The DPhil course I'm on is unusual. It is actually a pilot scheme at Oxford called the Life Science Interface Doctoral Training Centre. I had to choose between two short research projects and then find out more about the subject before I could home in on what I wanted to pursue. It's the way in which Science DPhils are going I think, and it's quite a good way of doing it. The working title of my thesis is *Measurement and fusion of non-invasive vital signs for routine triage of acute paediatric illness*. My supervisor, Professor Lionel Tarassenko (1975) took a

BA in Engineering Science and then a DPhil at Keble.

#### **What is most rewarding about your DPhil work?**

What I do doesn't just get an academic qualification. I'm trying to help doctors improve care for children and facilitate the diagnoses of serious illnesses like meningitis and pneumonia. The equipment we build will I hope make a difference and save children's lives. We are actually exploring things which will feed back into the medical profession and improve patient care. This is the point of the whole thing. If we don't achieve this, then we won't have done what we set out to do.

#### **Does your care for your brother influence your work?**

Yes it does. I think a lot of what I've done has been influenced by my background and the fact that I have a disabled brother. I've had much involvement with the medical profession, which has helped me with medical terminology - I'm able to converse on the same level as my medical collaborators. We've had so much from the medical profession I want to give something back.

#### **What are your plans after your DPhil?**

I am writing up my thesis at the moment but I've just started a post-doctoral research position in Oxford, working on a different but related project. Rather than simply looking at children, we're looking at adult patients in an emergency situation and monitoring deterioration over a longer period of time.

#### **Any advice for students considering a doctorate?**

The biggest thing is to choose something that you're passionate about - because you'll be doing it for at least three years. A DPhil subject fills your life; the fact I get to spend all day every day doing mine is fantastic. If you can get funding, then even better, because you can be paid to do something you love.

#### **What do you do when you are not studying?**

I'm involved in College Chapel and the Parish Church, which takes up an inordinate amount of time. I am also a volunteer with St John's Ambulance, which is great socially, and at Helen and Douglas House (hospice care), where I help steward events.

#### **And so, what's the best thing about Keble?**

The people. It is such a friendly college. You can walk into the Porters' Lodge and everyone knows your name. I also think it's beautiful. But if you took the buildings away, the community left behind would still be what makes Keble what it is.



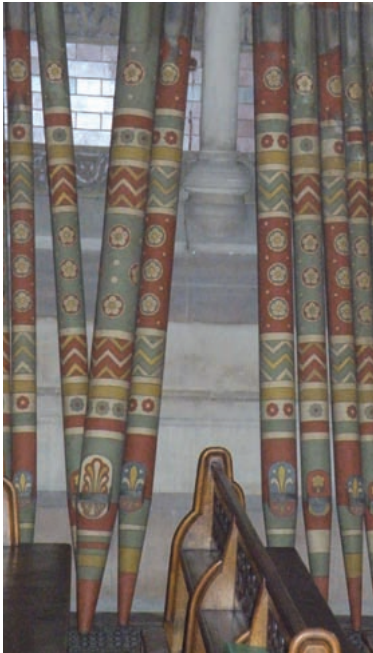
Jason Sengel



### Dismantling the Organ

The dismantling of the pipe organ (see brick 46) began in September and over several days a team from Kenneth Tickell and Company brought a large amount of metal and wood down from the organ loft. Many of the components will be reused in the building of the new organ.

The Sponsor a Pipe scheme has been well-supported so far and the Organ Fund now stands at £458,000 with just over £100,000 still to be raised which will be matched by the College. If you wish to sponsor a pipe and help to complete the project, please return the attached donation form or contact Camilla Matterson in the Development Office.



Dr Patricia Moberly and The Warden

### Keble Print

Dr Patricia Moberly has presented the College with an engraving of John Keble. Her husband's great grandfather, Bishop Moberly was a close friend of John Keble's when he was vicar at Hursley and George Moberly was headmaster of Winchester College. The engraving was a gift from John Keble.

### Administrative Assistant for the Development Office



Annéka Salvat has joined the Development Office team as Administrative Assistant. She cut her teeth on the hectic events programme of Trinity Term and now has her feet firmly under the desk. Keble is her first job after leaving University of Wales, Aberystwyth with a degree in International Politics and International History with German.



### Radiation and Reason

Professor Wade Allison has just published *Radiation and Reason: The Impact of Science on a Culture of Fear* which explains what nuclear power can do for the environment and why its effect on human life has been misjudged in the past. Sir Eric Ash FRS says of the book, 'I very much agree with the conclusions of this book, and am very pleased to see them presented in a style that makes them accessible to the general reader.' While Michael Frayn, author and playwright, has said 'If Professor Allison's well-documented arguments are right – and if people can be persuaded to examine them! – his book gives us a little more hope of confronting the problems posed by both dwindling fossil fuel reserves and the release of their waste products into the atmosphere.'

Copies are available at: [www.radiationandreason.com](http://www.radiationandreason.com) with a 20% off introductory offer for Old Members using special code: NIG, and at major booksellers ISBN 978-0-9562756-1-5.

# Keble Matters

## The First Oxford European Reunion 2009

The first OU European Alumni Reunion was held on 7-8 November, scheduled to coincide with the celebrations to mark twenty years since the fall of the Berlin Wall. The Reunion was attended by over 250 alumni and I was very pleased to represent Keble and take the opportunity to meet some of our Old Members.

The weekend activities began with an exclusive tour of the Reichstag building followed by an academic programme at the European School of Management and Technology (ESMT), formerly the home of Honecker's GDR government. This included a panel discussion on 'The Changing Face of Berlin', examining the political, economic and cultural changes since the fall of the Wall. It also featured a lecture on the causes of the end of the Cold War by Professor Sir Adam Roberts, President of the British Academy.

The evening reception began with an address by the British Ambassador to Germany before moving to the Berlin Hilton for dinner. There was a good turnout of Keble Old Members at the sessions during the day, and at a very lively table at the Reunion Dinner, with representatives from every decade from the '70s to the '00s.

It was a privilege to be in Berlin on this significant weekend and to experience the atmosphere and join in the celebrations. Paris is proposed as the venue for the next OU European Reunion in 2011, I look forward to seeing you there.

*Jenny Tudge (Director of Development)*



Simon Imscher

## Moustachioed MCR

Throughout November about 45 members of the MCR grew moustaches to raise money for prostate cancer research. Ten members of the team 'auctioned' the rights to sculpt their moustache, which naturally enough resulted in some truly hideous facial hair. Special mention goes to Melanie O'Sullivan who raised money by letting various people draw a moustache on her face throughout the month. Altogether the team raised over £2,000 – well done!

*James McLaurin and Neomal Silva*



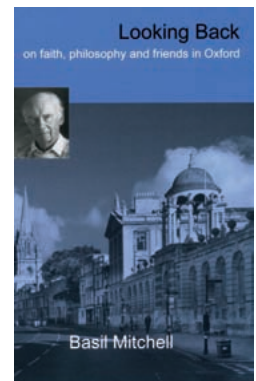
Bence Melykuti

Back row from l to r: Dan James, John Menzies, Dan Coleburn, Mandeep Gill, German and Vera Concha  
Next row: Brian Coulter, Bob Pittam, James MacLaurin, Neomal Silva, Ross McAdam, and Patrick Buehler  
Front row: Ron Basu Roy, Olamide Famuyiwa, Brandon Trew, Melanie O'Sullivan, Jorick Van Der Hoeven



## Looking Back on Faith, Philosophy and Friends in Oxford

Surrounded by family, friends and former students, Emeritus Professor, Basil Mitchell launched his memoir, *Looking Back on faith, philosophy and friends in Oxford* at Oriel College in November. It is a lively account of his Sufi upbringing in Southampton, undergraduate years at Queen's College, six years in the Royal Navy and twenty years as Tutorial Fellow at Keble. He writes affectionately of his students and colleagues and the many remarkable people who have enriched his life. Published by The Memoir Club ISBN 978-1-84104-203-9



## Madness at the Oxford Playhouse



From l to r: Jamie Coreth, James Hawkes, Becky Threlfall, Jack Renninson and Tatty Hennessy

Madness descended upon the Oxford Playhouse this term, when *The Madness of George III* was brought to the stage in a University production. Becky Threlfall (2007 Engineering) produced and designed the show with a simple set, which drew attention to the slow deterioration of the King into psychosis.

The supporting cast was also Keble-strong as James Hawkes (2007 Engineering) and Jamie Coreth (2007 Archaeology and Anthropology) formed part of the King's entourage, whilst Tatty Hennessy (2008 English) and Jack Renninson (2008 English) played worried members of King George's society.

Well attended, *The Madness of George III* showcased Keble's dramatic talents in one of the few University performances put on in the Playhouse every year.

Laura Wilson

## If Love Be The Food of Music

John Bridcut (1971), Independent Television & Radio Producer, returned to the College to deliver a talk to members of the Music Society this term. Bridcut skilfully combined a series of video clips with verbal comments in a presentation discussing the lives of British composers Elgar, Britten and Vaughan-Williams. He explored the influence of love and romance on their (at times controversial) lives and in particular the subsequent impact this had on their musical composition. Insightful and entertaining, it was both well attended and well received.

Lynn Edwards



John Bridcut and Richard Yates (President of KCMS)

## So, You Want to Be an Actor?



Hannah Martin (President of the Martin Esslin Society), Timothy West and Barney Norris (OU Drama Officer)

Once again the Martin Esslin Society has outdone itself. This term Timothy West, an acclaimed actor and president of LAMDA, came to Keble to give a talk about his experiences in the theatre. His address was entertaining and informative; containing anecdotes from his wide-ranging experience and gems of advice for those involved in student theatre. In this inspiring talk, Keble was shown to be one of the heavyweights in Oxford Drama, not only a home for productions, but also serving as a tool for the further edification of thespians in Oxford.

Jennifer Cutting

## Michaelmas Music



Prospero with Charlotte Woolley (2nd from right)

The Music Society has had another very successful term. As well as welcoming John Bridcut, the Society was treated to a marvellous recital by the Oxford-based woodwind group 'Prospero', featuring Keble clarinetist Charlotte Woolley (2001). A packed Pusey Room enjoyed a wonderful programme of Taffanel, Nielsen, Arnold and Dvorak. KCMS also welcomed soprano April Fredrick, a PhD student at the Royal Academy of Music. Accompanied by Amy de Sybel, April wowed the audience with some truly beautiful singing of Schubert, Debussy, Reger, Sibelius, and some unpublished songs of Ivor Gurney. We were very fortunate to hear someone who is clearly set to make a great name for herself. As ever, Keble showed off its own musical talent in the termly Warden's Recital. The highlight was the first performance of a Wind Quintet set up by the new Music Scholar, Kabir Bhalla (2009 History). With such enthusiasm, music at Keble looks set to continue flourishing for the foreseeable future.

Richard Yates



Chris Gamble



Chris Gamble

1st VIII

## Keble at Christ Church

Christ Church Regatta, the definitive event for all new Oxford rowers in Michaelmas term, is not best known for clear skies and warm weather. The sheer enthusiasm was, therefore, all the more palpable amongst oarsmen and supporters at Keble Boathouse. Keble submitted four novice crews to the competition and was represented by a strong Fresher contingent. While the cancelling of the event in the afternoon prevented Keble crews from following up the success of the Men's A Boat (a crushing victory against Lincoln) in the morning, the regatta nonetheless proved to be a promising start to this year's rowing calendar.

*Cordelia Hay*

## Ghosts' Football

The Keble College Sports Ground hosted the 40th annual Ghosts' football games in October. Both games were played in excellent spirit, with the younger, slightly quicker legs of the College Second XI just (!) edging past the Ghosts Second XI 6-1. There was a reversal of fortune in the First XI game when the Ghosts won 3-1, with a goal each from Fleetwood, Painter and Burgess. Thanks to the College, Ade Roache and Brian Johns for their help in making it another very enjoyable occasion

*Andrew Tingle (1999)*



Chetna Misry

Back Row l to r: Seb Singh, Kaya Burgess, Mark O'Donoghue, Richard White, Alberto Passaro, Mark Fleetwood, Chris Byrne, Andy Lea and Brian Johns  
Front Row l to r: Gus Docx, Andy Tingle, Ian Painter and Rob Linton

## Michaelmas Term Rugby

Last season Keble rugby finished with a spectacular league and Cuppers double. The team was determined to keep up the success, despite losing a number of key Finalists. The influx of Freshers, however, boosted the team's depth and versatility. A league title this term, taking maximum points from all matches, was made possible by a consistent level of performance and some outstanding play from Freshers Alex Arcourt-Rippingale, Charlie King and Tal Evans. The base of the team continued to drive the side forwards, with Bob Pittam and Tom Ouldrige currently topping the try-scoring table.

Abe Knight took the captaincy of the second team in his stride, helping them to 4th place in their league. This included superb wins over St Hilda's and Teddy Hall seconds. Keble are lucky in being one of only two colleges to have a second team involved in the league set-up, and it's great to see both postgrads and undergrads in the team.

*Oakley Cox*



Jason Sengel



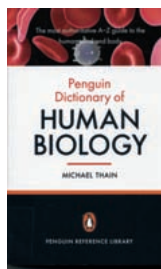
Forty 1959ers came back for their 50th Anniversary Lunch in October – a record number. It was a very enjoyable day with many friendships renewed and much reminiscing around the display of memorabilia from the late 1950s put on by the College Archivist.

## September Reunion

The dual 2000-4 Reunion Weekend and OU Alumni Weekend in late September was a huge success with Hall nearly full, for the Gaudy Dinner, of our youngest Old Members who behaved as if they had never left!

Our Lecturers for the joint OU and Keble Reunion Academic programme drew a lot of interest. Laurie Sartorio (1998) described her position as a Prosecutor for the UN International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in The Hague. Professor Sir Mike Brady spoke with infectious enthusiasm of the advancement of knowledge in Information and Biomedical Engineering. A group of erstwhile rowers got back in to a boat on Saturday afternoon while others played rounders in the Parks, croquet in the Quads and an intrepid bunch climbed up to the Chapel roof.

We have now completed another Reunion cycle and on 25-6 June next year we look forward to starting again with our most senior Old Members, the pre -1960s.

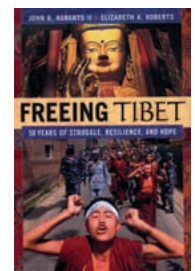


Michael Thain (1965), retired headmaster of Harrow School, has published the first Penguin Dictionary of Human Biology, which takes the expanding science of Human Biology out from under the umbrella of Biology and the Penguin Dictionary of Biology (which Micheal co-authored in 1985 in its 8th edition). With 7,000 entries it is an essential volume for the bookshelves of A-Level, medical and nursing students.

Published by Penguin Reference Library 2009 ISBN 978-0-140-51482-7

John Roberts II (1976), a former strategist for Ronald Reagan, has written *Freeing Tibet: 50 years of Struggle, Resilience and Hope* with his journalist wife Elizabeth. Timely and impeccably researched, it charts the 50-years from the time the Dalai Lama fled to exile in India in 1959 to the present, and gives a new understanding of Tibet's conflict and struggle for autonomy.

Published by AMACOM (2009) ISBN 978-0-8144-0983-1



Geoff Sheard (1985) has published *Leadership Teams: Developing and Sustaining High Performance* with co-authors A and N Kakabadse. Very timely in the light of the global financial crisis and the need for effective leadership, it explains how real people facing real problems can develop high-performing teams in six critical stages.

Published by Palgrave Macmillan 2009 ISBN 978-0-230-20190-2





# Keble Association Grants

## Counting Christmas Tree Worms

I had the opportunity during the summer to travel to Indonesia with the charity Operation Wallacea, to carry out scientific research for my Undergraduate Final Honours School Project thanks in part to a grant from the Keble Association. The research was based on the ecology of Christmas tree worms.

Christmas tree worms are tube dwelling polychaetes that live on coral (not worms that live in christmas trees!) It is thought the worms have a mutualistic relationship with their coral hosts. They protect the coral from predation and enhance water circulation while the coral gives them structural support, nutrition and protection from predators. The worms have a variety of colour forms and vary in size from 5mm in diameter to 100mm.

In my study I compared the distribution and abundance of the worms at three different sites, to see if a difference in the environment had an effect on their numbers or their preference for corals. During the seven weeks I counted 14,800 worms (they were everywhere!) and had the amazing opportunity to snorkel and dive in some of the most beautiful coral reefs in the world; something I will never forget.



Christmas tree worms

The skills I learnt during my seven week expedition will be invaluable for any future ecological research that I may do after my degree. I had a fantastic summer and am extremely grateful to the Keble Association for their help and financial support.

*Joanna Barker (2007 Biological Sciences)*

## Finding the Meaning

During my first year as an undergraduate, it became apparent that biblical scholarship, even at a basic level, is seriously undermined by a lack of appropriate linguistic knowledge. I studied Greek for Prelims and having enjoyed and benefited from that experience, I decided to pursue an intensive course in classical Hebrew to support my Old Testament study for Finals.

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem is, unsurprisingly, one of the finest institutions at which to study biblical Hebrew, and coupling this with my love of that city, it seemed like the obvious destination. I was lucky to gain a place on a five-week course for beginners with Dr Barak Dan.

The course was outstanding and has already proved a fine foundation for further study of Hebrew this term. However, the experience was far more valuable than to this end alone. The proximity of the University to the 'Old City' allowed me to explore, to a greater extent than on previous visits, sites of personal interest and academic relevance. I was also able to spend a considerable amount of time at two of the larger archaeological museums, holding collections central to the study of the Ancient Near East.

I was accommodated in the Student Village, in an apartment with two Israelis and a visiting student from the Netherlands – our cultural exchange was

fascinating, and they have become dear friends. Having visited Israel-Palestine with humanitarian organizations before, it was enormously engaging to speak at a personal, trusting level with people of my own generation who live in a place of permanent conflict, experience compulsory military service, and have a quite different perspective on the region to any which I had previously considered.

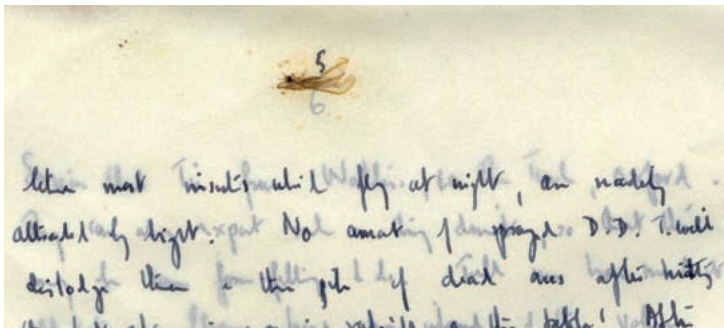


My flatmates, (left to right) Felix, Kathrine, Nastassia, and I, on an excursion to the medieval port of Jaffa.

My time in Jerusalem this summer has borne fruit already in many ways, and I hope to continue to build on my experiences. I am grateful to the Keble Association for their support.

*Gregory Tucker (2008 Theology)*

Rob Petre, College Archivist, writes:



John Bletchly, centre, at a Lisbon Conference in the 1960s

## Keble Brothers

One of the more interesting deposits that came into the College Archives in the last year are the records of three Keble men, George H Bletchly (1930), his brother John D Bletchly (1934) and Geoffrey H S Wood (1945). John Bletchly married Penelope Wood in 1950, so becoming Geoffrey's brother-in-law.

The papers contain testimonials from school and college, with some papers from Keble about examination passes. They include papers from George Bletchly's time as a schoolmaster in Bloxham and material on John Bletchly's life in the civil service.

The real gems are Geoffrey Wood's letters to his 'Sis', which cover his colonial service in Uganda and Borneo from 1949 to 1957. The letters include descriptions of 'dangerous fauna' (a grunting hippo and a cobra among others) encountered on safari, the problems of catching illegal loggers and even day-to-day matters such as obtaining decent furniture. My favourite letter from Uganda is one in which he describes the rains bringing out the winged termites, resulting in a thick swarm in his bedroom. To illustrate how many there were, he squashed one at the top of the page, and there it sits still (see above), now preserved in the College Archives.

From 1953, he was stationed at Sandakan in Borneo. He spent a lot of time collecting specimens of dipterocarps, a tree of the lowland rainforest, botanizing some previously unidentified species. The letters are not all about work. They include comments on the pirates operating in nearby areas, the lack of morale in the local police force (he describes a drunken shoot-out between groups of policemen) and the way that 'my rock & roll records were tolerated but not appreciated' at a party in early 1957.

Geoffrey's last letter home is dated 14 March 1957 from Brunei, announcing his safe arrival; he died in a forest fire there on 5 May of that year.

I must take this opportunity of thanking Mr and Mrs M Allaby for their great kindness in donating these papers to the College.

## Electronic Records

It is a facet of modern archives that we are now trying to deal with growing numbers of electronic records.

Electronic records come from three different sources. I recently received my first 'born-digital' deposit, as the JCR sent me copies of their agendas and minutes from 2006 to date. I saved them in what I hope will be a 'future-proof' format, transferring them away from the proprietorial software in which they were created to an open source alternative. If you are the custodian of any pre-2005 electronic JCR records, I am happy to give them a home in our digital archives; please e-mail me at [archives@keble.ox.ac.uk](mailto:archives@keble.ox.ac.uk).

The second source was a CD of an Open Mic event in Keble in February 2004, a record in two senses of what sounds like a good evening's entertainment. Again, worries about the long-term stability of compact disks as a preservation material prompted me to copy the digital files to a server. This has the added bonus that I can play the songs during demonstrations of the archives catalogue, just by calling up the catalogue description of each song. In time I may even be able to add this to the archives pages of the College website – once I have cleared all the performance permissions, of course!

Finally, I received an e-mail from a family historian offering rather than seeking information. She told me of this website: [www.cumberbatch.org/Richard%20Cumberbatch.htm](http://www.cumberbatch.org/Richard%20Cumberbatch.htm)

It gives biographical details of Richard Elkin Cumberbatch (1938), a Lance Bombadier in the Royal Artillery. He died during a bombing raid by the Allies on the Burma Railway, on which he had been working with another Keble Old Member, Charles Douglas. It shows how the preservation of material has changed with the growth of the internet. In former years I would have been sent some photocopied pages; now I get a link that I can add to my archives catalogue, an instant access to records that I never knew were out there.

The Development Office is proud to have worked with an exceptional team of students this year during the 2009 Telethon. The student callers came back from summer vacation to take part in the telethon, earn some vital spending money and get an early start on their academic work for the coming term.

The experience was a real eye-opener for the team who, over an intensive two days, learnt about the financial management of the College, its charitable status, why we fundraise and how exactly fundraising income is spent. There followed two weeks of calling, during the evenings and at weekends, where approximately 800 Old Members were contacted and the magnificent sum of £240,000 (over 5 years) was pledged towards the Talbot Fund. This is an outstanding achievement both in terms of the overwhelmingly positive response which greeted the callers and the actual funding received which will greatly benefit all Keble students.

For their part, the student callers learnt many skills (not least the art of conversation!) and became well versed in the socio-economic history of Keble from the 1930s right through to the present day. Along with fascinating insights into the life of the College, enduring friendships made and tales of derring-do from Old Members, came a passion for and interest in Keble and its future. The callers were also pleasantly surprised that former students should take such a lively interest in their lives, academic work, and future careers.

The College is very grateful for the resounding support offered during the Telethon and would like to thank everyone who took the time to talk with a student. It seems fitting to include here some student impressions of Old Members.

*'The telethon was more enjoyable than expected: really quite draining at times but this was far outweighed by the quality and variety of conversations. I was surprised by how interested I genuinely was to hear about some of the stories from Keble's history and how much Old Members*



(From l to r) Back Row: Simon Hind, Hannah Martin and Toni Evans. Middle Row: Joe Shapiro, Nick Westbrook, Sam Hall (just seen), Sam Aldred and Anastasya Molodykh. Front Row: Edward Hems, Melanie O'Sullivan, Vanessa Baldwin, Rhiannon Bail, Jo Barker and Rob Isaacs

*appreciated our phone calls. Keble has clearly been home to some great people over the years, including the group that I was able to work with over the three week period!*

**Fran Cunningham (2008 Law)**

*'After getting into the swing of tele-campaigning you can have some great conversations. The alumni are usually very generous with career advice too!*

**Joe Shapiro (2007 PPE)**

*'I spoke to some truly delightful Keble characters.'*

**Toni Evans (2007 English)**

*'Hard work at times but thoroughly enjoyable at others - it was certainly an educational experience.'*

**Samantha Hall (2008 English)**

*'A new experience made so much better with a great group of people and pizza on Saturdays!'*

**Jo Barker (2007 Biological Sciences)**

*'I was really struck by the warmth of everyone I spoke to. The telethon was an invaluable opportunity to learn from the experience of Old Members, build up a picture of what Keble Geographers had gone on to do and, not least, to hear Old Members' amusing anecdotes.'*

**Simon Hind (2008 Geography)**

*'The telethon was more than I expected it to be. The team really made it a fun place to be and to work in, so it never really felt like a job. Also, the chance to speak to lots of Old Members currently working in the fields you hope to be working in in the future was really useful.'*

**Rhiannon Bail (2008 Law)**

*'It was great to hear the fond, and often funny, memories Old Members had of Keble, even 60 years after their time here.'*

**Vanessa Baldwin**

**(2008 Classical Archaeology & Ancient History)**



From l to r: Jo Barker, Rhiannon Bail, Fran Cunningham, Nick Westbrook, Simon Hind, Samantha Hall, Joe Shapiro, Vanessa Baldwin and Hannah Martin



A portrait of Wade Allison by Bob Tulloch has been added to the collection of portraits of Emeritus Fellows in the Writing Room of the SCR. Professor Wade Allison, former Fellow and Tutor in Physics remains at the College as a Fellow by Special Election.

## Anyone for Golf?

The 2010 Oxford Alumni Intercollegiate Golf Tournament is on Friday 26 March at Frilford Heath Golf Club, Abingdon followed by dinner at Merton College. Nick Kane (1964) is looking for players to join the College team. For more information and a booking form please email Nick at: [nick@kanes.org](mailto:nick@kanes.org). It's not the handicap but the taking part that counts!



When John Mortimer died on 16 January 2009, Horace Rumpole died with him.

HORACE RUMPOLE (date of matriculation unknown) who has died at his London residence 25B Froxbury Mansions came up to Keble in the 1930s from Linklater (which he described as 'a minor public school on the Norfolk coast') to read Jurisprudence. Until recently little was known of his time at Keble except that he went down with what he himself described as a 'dubious third'.

However in a memoir written shortly before his death Rumpole described his days at Keble as 'peaceful and untroubled'. He was disparaging about the law faculty who he said were incapable of teaching him anything which would make him (as he perceived) one of the deadliest cross-examiners of his day. (The only member of the law faculty at Keble in the 1930s was Vere Davidge, appointed Fellow in 1933.)

Rumpole became engaged to be married to the daughter of Septimus Porter who taught Roman Law at Oxford (but not apparently at Keble). The marriage never took place because of Miss Porter's early death, the circumstances and occasion of which are not known.

Rumpole was called up in the Second World War and commissioned into the RAF - but not for flying duties. He served on the ground crew at RAF Dungeness for the duration of the war. On demobilisation he joined the Chambers of CH Wistan, whose daughter Hilda he was to marry, and upon whom he conferred the soubriquet She Who Must Be Obeyed.

Born in South London in 1910 the son of the Reverend Wilfred Rumpole, an Anglican priest with a living in Croydon, Rumpole nevertheless conceived, as a result of the number of theological students he met at Keble, an early mistrust of clergymen which persisted in his professional life.

In his recent memoir he recounts how he became addicted to the College sherry and 'as a ridiculous and useless gesture' boasted that he could drink a tankard of it. On recovering he found the theological student with whom he shared rooms beside him in silent prayer. Thereafter he avoided sherry but not, it seems, other forms of alcohol.

His practice at the Bar took him mainly to the Old Bailey but - apart from the Penge Bungalow Murder and the Great Brighton Benefit Club Forgery - his career was undistinguished. He never achieved silk and a judicial appointment eluded him. The lesser chateaux of Bordeaux were his only consuming interest.

He is survived by his wife and one son, Nicholas.

### the brick

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

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