

the brick

Jason Sengel

THE NEWSLETTER FOR KEBLE ALUMNI • ISSUE 48 • HILARY TERM 2010 • WWW.KEBLE.OX.AC.UK

Geoffrey Hill

At this year's Encaenia on 23 June, Oxford will honour Professor Geoffrey Hill (Keble 1950, and Honorary Fellow). One of the most distinguished living English poets, Geoffrey will receive the award of honorary Doctor of Letters and be among a group of very worthy recipients of honorary degrees including actress Dame Eileen Atkins, publisher and founder of the Europaem and the Weidenfeld scholarships Lord Weidenfeld, and Nobel-Prize winning chemist Roald Hoffman.

Since retiring from his Professorial chair at Boston University, Geoffrey Hill has lived in Cambridge. He has been prolific in recent years, publishing his 14th collection, *A Treatise of Civil Power* in 2007 and his *Collected Critical Writings* in 2008. His work is the subject of immense critical acclaim and he has won many awards, including the Hawthornden Prize and the Duff Cooper Memorial Prize.

In July 2008 the conference, *Geoffrey Hill and his Contexts*, was held at Keble, memorably beginning with a session in which The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams and Geoffrey Hill were heard in conversation about Geoffrey's work.

We are delighted and privileged that Professor Hill has agreed to speak to Old Members at the Pre-1960 Reunion Weekend on 26 June, the same week he will receive the honour at Encaenia.



Geoffrey Hill (left) at the Geoffrey Hill Conference in Keble in 2008 with The Archbishop of Canterbury and The Warden

Visiting Singapore, Beijing & Hong Kong



At the China Club, Beijing l to r: Chung Min Pang (1973), Chongying Wang (2003), Daniel Nivern (1999), The Warden, Peter Batey (1977) and Jenny Tudge



At the Races in Hong Kong l to r: Anthony Lam (1992), Richard Orders (1973), The Warden, Edward Cheng (1977), Louisa Cheng, Professor Jim Griffin and Jenny Tudge

As part of our increasing drive to involve Old Members around the world, the Warden and Director of Development recently visited Asia taking in Singapore, Beijing & Hong Kong. Jenny Tudge was joined by a small enthusiastic group at the Long Bar, Raffles Hotel for the first Keble gathering in Singapore. After that she met the Warden in Beijing, where Averil gave a seminar at the Institute for the Study of World History and took the opportunity to meet Old Members and representatives of various educational establishments, to build connections for the future. One evening Peter Batey (1977) generously hosted a delightful dinner for Old Members at the China Club.

In Hong Kong, Averil and Jenny were joined by over 40 Old Members and friends for a celebration dinner, followed by an enjoyable night at the races. The visit was an excellent opportunity to gather alumni of all ages, to celebrate the achievements under the Warden's leadership and to discuss Keble's plans for the future. The Warden and Jenny were touched by the warmth of the reception they were given wherever they went and are extremely grateful to those Old Members who gave so much of their time and energy to make the visits so successful.



Keble College Music Society - see www.keblemusic.co.uk for Hilary Term Events. Old Members most welcome

Friday 16 and Saturday 17 April
North American Reunion
See: www.oxfordna.org for details

Saturday 17 April
Keble Dinner New York
Old Members and guests welcome
Enquiries: Annéka Salvat

Sunday 25 April Trinity Term begins

Friday 7 May
Eric Symes Abbot Memorial Lecture
Rt Revd Lord Harries of Pentregrath
The Spirituality of Public Life
Chapel 5.30pm



Saturday 8 May
BA Degree Day for 2009 Finalists
Some places still available for recent finalists
(undergraduate or graduate).
Enquiries: Annéka Salvat



The Alchemist's Ball
Tickets and more information available at
www.kebleball.com
All Old Members welcome

Thursday 20 May
The Warden's Retirement
Drinks Party
The Athenaeum, Pall Mall,
London 6.30-8.30pm
Old Members welcome
See page 11 for booking form



Saturday 29 May
Rowing Society Dinner & AGM
and Eights Week Dinner
Invitations to all members of the KC Rowing Society
distributed in March
Enquiries: Camilla Matterson



Garden Party
Old Members can apply for tickets
(£12 each for adults, £5 for students)
Invitations are extended to family members of 2nd
year undergraduates and 1st year graduates.
Enquires: Trish Long

Friday 25 - Saturday 26 June
Reunion Weekend
For Old Members who matriculated Pre-1960
Invitations distributed in March
Enquiries: Annéka Salvat

Saturday 3 July
KA AGM
AGM: 5.30 - 6.30pm - All members welcome
(Trustees meeting: 5 - 5.30pm)

Summer Dinner



Come and mark Isla Smith's retirement
Old Members and guests welcome
See page 11 for booking form
Enquiries: Annéka Salvat

Saturday 31 July
Douglas Price Society Dinner
Invitations distributed to Society members in April
Enquiries: Camilla Matterson

Friday 24 September
The Warden's Retirement Dinner
Old Members and guests welcome
Booking form will be in the Trinity Term *brick*

Friday 24 - Saturday 25 September
Reunion Weekend
For Old Members who matriculated 1960-66
Invitations distributed in April
Enquiries: Annéka Salvat

University of Oxford Alumni Weekend
Meeting Minds - Shared Treasures
www.alumniweekend.ox.ac.uk
Old Members and guests welcome

Sunday 26 September
50th Anniversary Lunch for 1960s
Invitations distributed in June
Enquiries: Ruth Cowen

Events

For more details of events and booking forms see:
www.keble.ox.ac.uk/alumni/events

Contacts

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Trish Long (Warden's PA) trish.long@keble.ox.ac.uk (01865 272700)

Interview

Giles Coren (1988 English) writer, journalist, restaurant critic and co-presenter of the Supersizers series on BBC television was interviewed by Tatty Hennessy and Laura Wilson (both 2008 English)

T: Why did you choose Keble?

G: I didn't, I chose Wadham (laughs). I chose Wadham because it was the place to do English at the time. But I had no better excuse than 'my Dad went there', so I got into my second choice instead - Keble. I was one of the first cohort of students Nigel Smith had when he took over, and the English was brilliant. I'm sure I was happier for being at Keble. I particularly remember tutorials in the summer term in the Fellows' Garden.

L: What did you think of the Keble food?

G: Um, a bit ... terrible. There was a tyranny in college, you had to have a certain number of dinners in Hall and they gave you a booklet of tickets. It was £1.31 per meal and I don't know what they were spending the other £1.30 on!

L: Where would you recommend eating in Oxford?

G: I used to eat at Gees, which I know is still there, up Banbury Road. Also Sojo, down near the station, which I reviewed recently, serves really proper good Chinese food. Then there's the Magdalen Arms, up Iffley Road; it's just been taken over and will be very good. It used to be a very scary, local hooligan pub, now it's a posh gastro.

L: What did your tutor say about your writing?

G: I got by on writing well rather than on knowing much. I'm sure that's always the way with English students. I thought about doing postgraduate research and my tutor (Nigel Smith) discouraged me, saying 'you'll have to sit in a library for fourteen hours a day' - which actually I wouldn't mind now. Not at the time. I've found it helps enormously to write or speak well and it can cover a multitude of sins.

L: Did you have to do Old English?

G: Yes, it was compulsory, and rightly so. An English Degree without it wouldn't mean much, I don't think. Old English is now one of those things few know and can talk about, unlike for example Jane Austen, who everyone has an opinion about. The tutor was a guy called Malcolm Parkes ... he was very old school. We'd sit there with a big roaring fire smoking tabs, drinking sherry and reading Beowulf. It was exactly what I thought Oxford ought to be.

T: Is it true that an Oxbridge degree 'opens doors' or is it in any way a hindrance?

G: Oh no, it's not a hindrance! It's a massive help. For better or worse, Oxford and Cambridge take some of the cleverest people. I was determined to do well and got a first, and would have been depressed, frankly if I hadn't. It has been a real confidence booster.

L: What advice would you give to students who want to get into journalism?

G: My advice would be, glibly, try everything else first. There are so few jobs worth having in journalism. Writing a couple of features for Isis or Cherwell is probably worth it to put on a CV.



L: Do you think blog culture is a threat to professional journalism?

G: It is a threat to journalism and for editorial staff. Blog culture though baffles me; I don't blog because I'd rather be paid for my writing. The other terrible thing is that it's not edited - people write such long stuff and its read! It won't kill newspapers altogether but I think it will change them hugely. Fortunately I won't really be affected because I also do TV and my readers come from outside *The Times*.

L: What do you think of when you think of Keble now?

G: I'm fond of Keble now. I used to be a bit embarrassed. People would ask where I studied and I'd say Oxford and they'd say 'Oh marvellous, what college?', and following up with 'Keble' was just not like saying 'Balliol'. Now I'm very proud. I got a good degree and my tutor was great. And when people are rude about it I feel sort of defensive.

T: Tells us about your involvement with the Supersizers Series.

G: It is a long story but there was an idea to do a programme on food history and then in America Morgan Spurlock did a film on obesity call Super Size Me and the idea for a TV series stemmed from that. I had worked with Sue Perkins before and wanted to do so again. The Edwardians was the first one which got great ratings. Food from the Edwardian period and from the '20s was some of best but it was the World War II food which was the healthiest because of all the home-grown veg and the restricted diet.

L: What is your next project?

G: I am bringing out a book in May called Anger Management for Beginners which is a collection of rants and will be published by Hodder & Stoughton. In the autumn there'll be a programme called I think, Giles and Sue Live the Good Life on BBC2 celebrating The Good Life's 35th Anniversary. We'll be stepping back to 1975 and living the good life for real - healthy home-grown food again.



Scholars' Dinner



A new style Scholars' Dinner to celebrate the academic and cultural achievements of Keble students was held on Wednesday 3 March in Hall. Scholars and their tutors were treated to an after dinner speech by Frank Cottrell-Boyce (English 1979), the screenwriter and children's novelist, who combined fond recollections of Malcolm Parkes' teaching at Keble with inspirational advice to today's young people. Frank was accompanied by his wife Denise (Theology 1979); they are the first recorded 'Keble couple'.

Back row from l to r: Isla Smith, Richard Yates (History & Politics), Frank Cottrell-Boyce, Dr Ian Archer and Joshua Harris (History) Front row: Denise Cottrell-Boyce (left) and Hannah Martin (English)

Whittle Medal for Professor Sir Mike Brady

Mike Brady, Professorial Fellow of Information Engineering, received the Whittle Medal for 'outstanding and sustained achievement which has contributed to the well-being of the nation' from the Royal Academy of Engineering at the end of January. At the same event he delivered the New Year Lecture, *The development of breakthroughs in medical imaging*, describing the importance of bringing a range of fields together in the development, and importantly to gain funding for the application, of new technology. As Mike says, 'medical image analysis demands a fruitful relationship between engineers, clinicians, and industry so that developments can progress from the white board to the clinic and to economic success. For my work this means formulating and exploiting fundamental physics, engineering, and biology models to ensure software systems that work 99.9% of the time 24/7.'



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BBC Radio 4 - The History of the World in 100 Objects

The Warden will be talking about a mosaic showing one of the earliest images of Christ found at Hinton St Mary, Dorset as part of the BBC Radio 4's History of the World in 100 Objects. Object 44 will be broadcast in Series 2 from 17 May. See: www.bbc.co.uk/ahistoryoftheworld/explorertflash/

Dining at High Table during Term Time

Old Members are welcome to dine at High Table on any Monday, Wednesday or Thursday during Full Term, without a guest, 5 years or more after receiving their most recent degree.

Bookings should be made by telephone to the Development Office (01865 282303) no later than 10 am on the day. Dinner costs £20 for three courses including wine or £13 without. Payment to be made at the time of booking with a credit/debit card.

Oxford Professor of Poetry Election

This year the rules have changed and all Old Members who have been admitted for a degree are now entitled to vote for the new Oxford Professor of Poetry. The announcement will be made on Friday 18 June.

Assuming the election is contested, anyone wishing to vote must first register, between 12 April and 4 June, online at www.admin.ox.ac.uk/councilsec/poetry/ or by telephoning +44 (0)1865 270236.

Voting will take place either online or in person at the University Offices in Wellington Square, from Friday 21 May until noon on Wednesday 16 June.

Keble's own eminent poet, Geoffrey Hill (1950) has agreed to stand and we encourage Old Members to vote.



Jemimah Kuhfield: www.jemimahkuhfield.co.uk

Southern England's Best Historical Object

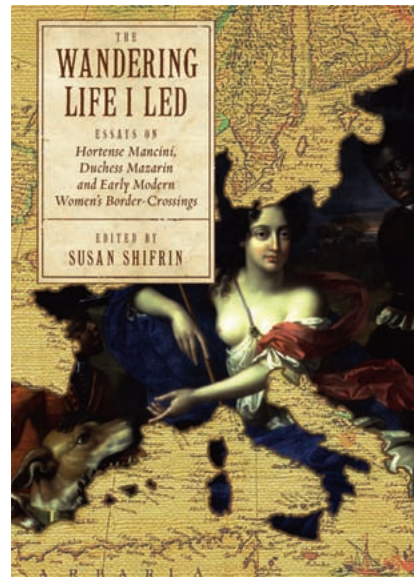


Dr Tom Higham, Research Associate in Archaeology, appeared on the BBC in January in a programme linked to the Radio 4 series 'A History of the World in 100 Objects', to identify the 'best historical object' in southern England. Tom discussed various objects in the Pitt Rivers and Ashmolean Museums, before choosing a Roman coin from the Ashmolean. The coin was unearthed in Finstock, Oxfordshire over 150 years ago and is a unique gold 'aureus' of c.AD 70 of Emperor Vespasian. Unusually for Roman gold, and surprisingly for a coin found in Britain, it probably came from Judaea or Syria about the time of the Roman sacking of Jerusalem when the Temple was destroyed in AD 70. Tom suggests that the gold of the coin may have been taken from the Temple itself.

Wandering Life I Led:

Essays on Hortense Mancini, Duchess Mazarin and Early Modern Women's Border-Crossings

Emeritus Fellow Denys Potts has published the concluding chapter of a collection of essays by scholars on the Duchesse Mazarin (1646-1699). She was one of the four nieces of Cardinal Jules Mazarin, and fled an impossible marriage to end up as an exile in England. Her various wanderings in Europe have been used as a metaphor for the modern liberated woman. His chapter covers her final years when, having established a brilliant salon in London, she finally succumbed to debt, gambling and alcohol. During this time she was faithfully watched over and supported by the exiled philosopher Saint-Evremond and it is their relationship which Denys explores. Cambridge Scholars Publishing (2009) pages 157-1892



The Warden's Retirement Year

The Warden is half way through her last year at Keble after 15 years as Head of the College. She will be attending the usual round of College events (such as the BA Degree Day, Reunion Weekends and the Summer Dinner) and in addition, a series of farewell events which began with Beijing & Hong Kong in early March (see page 1). Further opportunities to catch her before she leaves Keble on 30 September are:

Saturday 17 April - Retirement Dinner at Harry Cipriani, New York

Thursday 20 May - Drinks Party at the Athenaeum, London (see booking form on page 11)

Friday 24 September - Retirement Dinner in Hall (booking form will be in the Trinity Term *brick*)

Further details and booking forms for all these events can also be found on the College website:

www.keble.ox.ac.uk/alumni/events

Arts Week



Keble Arts Week seems to increase in scale each year, and 2010 was no exception. Generously sponsored by the KA and Ernst and Young, and organised by Jennifer Cutting (JCR Arts and Publication Officer) there was an ambitious programme of events open to College as well as University students. Workshops, talks, competitions, an art installation and even an exhibition of Keble's manuscripts enveloped the College community in the arts with live music, poetry readings and film shows in the evenings. Arts Week has become a wonderful tradition at Keble and adds a great deal to College life.

Drumming up Attention



During Arts' Week, many eager students had a lesson in basic drumming, taught by Gary Marshal. They learnt the history of these ancient instruments, a variety of different drumming styles, and how to tell their tom-toms from their hi-hats. Gary's sense of humour kept the class entertained and curious about an instrument most had not tried before. It was a hands-on experience and several students found they had a natural flair, leaving them keen to learn more.

Jenni Hunt

One Hundred Pounds for One Hundred Words

A writing competition where entrants had to provide a piece of writing of exactly a hundred words, related to Keble and student life, was held during Arts Week with the kind support of Roger Boden (the Bursar). Twenty entries were whittled down to a final shortlist which were performed and judged by an audience of Keble students. *Oneday* by Aimee Cliff (2009 English) was widely admired and won the majority vote.

Jennifer Cutting

Oneday.

Breathein. Sheets (you threw them in the throes) become pavements (throbbing in the throng) in the sunsnowsleet (you are all feet) and you hum that radiosong – the city builds itself around you (it won't wait) you are late and the bikes are kettlewhistling at you (you think in parentheses) we'll find you between shelves and ticktocking through corridors – we'll find you sweating the pulse of dancefloors – we'll find you wondering what you came in here for – stop. Catch four winking hours. Remember that this will be worth it oneday, hold on to the mantra of your perfect oneday. Breatheout.

Aimee Cliff



Art in the Chapel

Award winning spatial artist Ken Wilder installed his work *Plenum #4* in the majestic space of Keble Chapel during Arts Week. *Plenum* consists of a projected light creating the image of a breathing man who slowly fades away and returns. It was a truly mesmerising piece. Ken Wilder, a senior lecturer at the Chelsea College of Art and Design, also gave a talk on how religious art and the development of perspective had inspired the work.

Jennifer Cutting

Jason Sengel

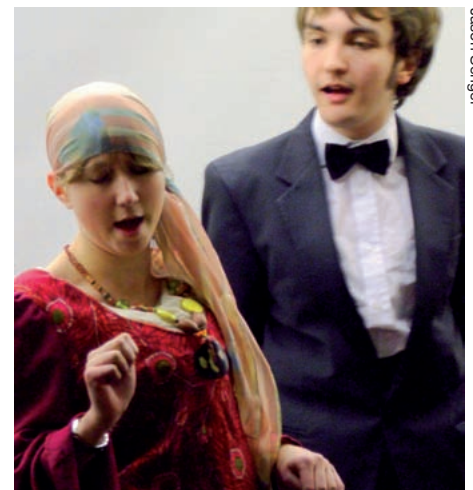


From l to r: The Chaplain, Jennifer Cutting and Ken Wilder

High Spirits

The O'Reilly theatre was the setting for a week of performances of Noel Coward's *Blithe Spirit* during Arts Week. The dry humour and comedy was accompanied by line-perfect and skilled acting, making the most of a limited set and space. Several of the cast were Keblites: Ruth being played by Louisa-Claire Dunnigan (2009), Elvira by Julia McLaren (2009) and Madame Arcarti by Tatty Hennessy (2008), with many more helping behind the scenes. The shows were well attended and enjoyed by all, in particular Saturday's Black Tie Gala Night which raised money for Streetwise Opera.

Jenni Hunt



Tatty Hennessy as Madame Arcarti

Jason Sengel

Torpid Tension to First Division

This year's Torpids brought great success for the Women's 1st VIII. After a swift bump on the first day, Hertford were never a challenge as Keble fought for a place in the first division. A run of bad luck sent Pembroke down from the division above and although beating them stroke for stroke, Keble were unable to close the distance and had to race on the final day. Although St Hilda's fell by the wayside, the race to the first division was never going to be easy and the crowd were on tenterhooks as 1st VIII passed the boathouse a length behind Exeter. With a spurt of acceleration, they finally bumped Exeter five strokes from the line to take their rightful place in the first division. We thank Neptune Asset Management for their support and applaud the hard work and dedication of the crew and all involved.

Anna Fox



The Women's 1st VIII

On the Football Field...

Keble football experienced another successful season. The 1st XI suffered from too many draws in the first half of the season, but found form later on to give a healthy chance of surviving in the JCR 1st Division. The 2nd XI experienced a devastating loss to Worcester in the reserve Cuppers final - Keble scored early, but Worcester equalised in the second half. A second goal in extra time snatched the title from the Keble team for the second year running.

However, a mid-table finish in the JCR reserve 1st Division capped-off a strong season. In addition, following promotion last season, the 3rd XI is now at the mid-point of the JCR 3rd Division.



Jason Sengel

Varsity

At the recent Varsity Games, hosted by Oxford, a number of Keble athletes represented the University.

Oxford University Netball President Laura Bell (2007) and Hannah McKay (2009) helped steer the Dark Blues to an eventual 44-35 victory.

In Badminton, Adam Pimperton (2007) was part of an Oxford team that won their encounter 13-2, helping Oxford to the first overall win over the Light Blues for four years.

Amy Greenberg (2009) took to the field as part of the Blues Lacrosse team, regrettably missing out on a victory over Cambridge after a hard-fought game.

In the Hockey matches, Nicholas Pointer (2008) and Katie Whicher (2008) represented Oxford, in the Men's 3rd and Women's 3rd teams respectively and emerged victorious.

Finally, Rowan Hamill-McMahon (2008), taking some time out from captaining the 2nd Volleyball Team to represent the 1st team, was successful in defending Dark Blue honour.

Adam Pimperton



Jason Sengel

Blues, Half Blues and those who represent the University at Sport

Back Row l to r: Aodhnait Fahy, Beth O'Brian (Half Blue), Ashley Massey (Blue) (all 3 Rugby Union), Bianca Reisdorf and Hannah Kaye (both Lightweight Rowing), Ross MacAdam (Colleges Rugby Varsity), Babak Somekh (American Football), Jonathan Hirst (Sailing). Middle Row l to r: Nicholas Pointer (Hockey), Adam Pimperton (Badminton), Jacqueline Kwan (Gymnastics), Ben Horsley (Athletics), Phil Robinson and Martin Rendell (both Ultimate Frisbee) Front Row l to r: James Cholerton (Pool), Hannah McKay and Laura Bell (Blue) (both Netball), Rowan Hamill-McMahon (Half Blue, Volleyball), Anjoli Maheswaran-Foster (Tennis), Vivien Senior and Samuel Cherkas (both Skiing)

Tony Hall Appointed to the House of Lords

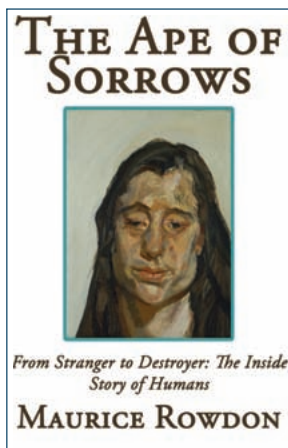
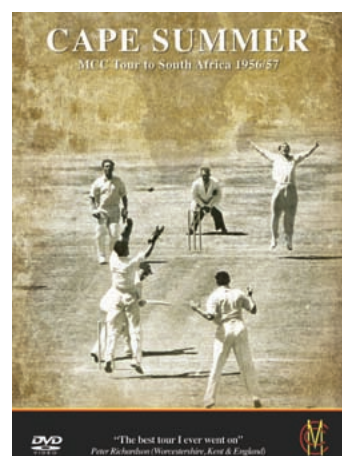


Tony Hall (1970), Chief Executive of the Royal Opera House and chair of the Cultural Olympiad Board, has been awarded a peerage. He was introduced as a non-party political peer in March and will take the title, Lord Hall of Birkenhead as that is where he was born as well as being the birthplace of his father and grandfather.

He commented: 'I am hugely honoured to be offered this new role. It's a real privilege and I'm delighted not only for myself but for the extraordinary team of colleagues I have at the Royal Opera House who work so hard day in, day out, to produce the very best opera and ballet in the world. I remain fully committed to them and to ensuring that our work continues to be seen by as many people, of all ages and backgrounds, as possible.'

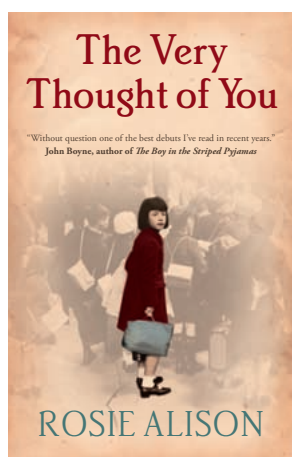
Cape Summer

Michael Burns (1976) has recently written and directed a film, *Cape Summer*, the third in a series of cricket-history documentaries he was commissioned to produce for the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC). Using rare archive film and interviews with players and journalists, *Cape Summer* tells the story of the MCC team's six-month tour to South Africa in 1956-7. In a hard fought series England were led by Cambridge University amateur Peter May while their opponents were captained by Oxford rugby and cricket Blue Clive van Ryneveld. The film provides a intriguing picture of South Africa at a time when apartheid was just taking hold in the country - in the words of former Times journalist John Woodcock: 'It was so much another game, another world.'



The Ape of Sorrows

The Ape of Sorrows - From Stranger to Destroyer: The Inside Story of Humans by Maurice Rowdon (1941) philosopher, historian, writer, has been published posthumously (see The Record 2009 for his obituary). The book examines human behaviour through the simple but powerful rubric of animal intelligence, presenting a new view of humans as a magnificent, if misguided species which lost its way as it evolved beyond its niche to be niche-less, and separate, from non-linguistic animal life. Maurice was a friend of Lucien Freud who donated Small Portrait 2001 for use as the cover illustration. The book is published by iUniverse (2010).



The Very Thought of You

Rosie Alison (1983) has published her debut novel *The Very Thought of You* which has been shortlisted for Amazon's 2009 Rising Stars award, and longlisted for both the 2010 Romantic Novel of the Year Award, and Le Prince Maurice Prize 'for literary love stories.' Set in England in 1939 with the world on the brink of war, it tells the story of an eight-year-old girl evacuated to a large estate in Yorkshire. There, she is drawn into the unravelling relationship and finds herself part-witness and part-accomplice to a love affair. It is described by the publishers (Alma Books) as 'a haunting coming-of-age novel with a love story at its heart.' ISBN: 9781846880865. Rosie is currently Head of Development at Heyday Films, where she has recently co-produced two feature films: the Holocaust drama *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*, and the Michael Caine film *Is There Anybody There?*



News of Old Members

The KA London Dinner

The 74th London Dinner, held at Brooks's in St James at the end of January, was an enjoyable occasion and this year it was JCR President, Ben Case, who gave a lively speech on news of the College from the student perspective. Hosted by Patrick Shovelton (1934), it marked the last KA Dinner for David Senior (1954), KA President, as his three-year tenures comes to an end in July.



The Warden and David Senior with Patrick Shovelton (right)

Two CBEs in the New Year Honours



Jürgen Schlaeger (1965) has been awarded a CBE for his contributions to British-German relations. When he came to Keele to study English in 1965, he was the first Michael-Wills Scholar of the University. After his degree he was Professor of English and Comparative Literature at the University of Konstanz before becoming the founding director of the new interdisciplinary Centre for British Studies at the Humboldt-University in 1995. He said at the time that there were a great many people in Germany who were interested in aspects of Britain and it was the task of the Centre to respond to that. Since 2008 he has been semi-retired.



Christopher 'Kit' Harling (1969) was appointed CBE in the List for services to occupational health. Currently Director of NHS Plus, a national occupational health service, he spent more than 25 years as a consultant physician in the NHS. He has spent time as an advisor to a number of Government Departments, President of the Faculty of Occupational Medicine and Vice Chairman and Secretary of the Specialist Training Authority. Now living in South Devon with his wife, he is Vice Chair of the Salcombe Harbour Board.

Nick Foskett appointed VC



Congratulations to Nick Foskett (Geography 1974) on being appointed Vice-Chancellor of Keele University. He will take up the post in August from his current

positions as Professor of Education and Dean of the Faculty of Law, Arts and Social Sciences at the University of Southampton. Nick says of his appointment 'I am delighted to be taking on the role of Vice-Chancellor at Keele in succession to Professor Dame Janet Finch. The next few years will be challenging for all universities but Keele is well placed to have a strong profile in the higher education world and in its local community. I also look forward to returning to my roots in North Staffordshire.'

Documentary Award

A BBC film about how Gypsy Children across Europe are forced to beg and steal won Best Documentary at the Foreign Press Association Awards in late November. *This World – Gypsy Child Thieves* edited by Andrew Evans (1980) and produced and directed by Sam Bagnall and Liviu Tipurita was aired on BBC2 last September.

Pictured at the FPA award ceremony from l to r: Sandi Toksvig, the Producer, the Director, Andrew Evans and Kate Adie



Still Rowing ...

Rex Delicate (1958) writes that he does not feature often in the Worcester Rowing Club's Hall of Fame but did so early in the year. The Club had recently purchased two new boats, a four and a quad, with the help of a local firm. The donors suggested a race and elected to row in the four against a crew of similar weight and age hence Rex, and three other senior club rowers were in the quad. On the day it was pouring down with rain and Rex's crew won with photographic evidence to prove it, 'we would have been drier if we had simply jumped in the river!' he said.



Rob Petre, College Archivist writes:

Touching manuscripts



As part of Arts Week Ralph Hanna gave a lively talk on the College's collection of illuminated manuscripts. There were several volumes on display and the title of the event, 'Hug a manuscript', was a cause of some concern to me, as the slightest straying from very careful handling of these treasures makes me very nervous.

Professor Hanna told us how the interests of Victorian bibliophiles and the founders of the College coincided and created the marvellous collection of manuscripts and early printed books that we now hold. Indeed, our collections are the envy of many of the older Oxford colleges. Then he described each of the displayed manuscripts, giving us details of the backgrounds of each volume and highlighting elements for us to look for. A particular gem was the Hebrew Bible 'vandalised' by the (Christian) addition of illustrations. Another highlight was the earliest manuscript in the College – not the 11th century glosses of St Paul, as I had thought previously, but the 8th century fragments of a religious text preserved in the bindings of a 15th century Venetian publication, the *De evangelica preparatione* of Eusebius. Professor Hanna also told us that the papers of Bishop Wilson, collected by John Keble himself but lost to the College in the 1960s, were returned after being spotted in an auction house catalogue by a librarian at Lambeth Palace Library.

Professor Hanna finished his talk by apologising for the inadvertent mis-selling of the talk, but encouraging us, at the very most, to take a close look at the volumes, a timely reminder to me that these items are not merely artefacts for showing off but literary and theological works that deserve to be studied closely.

Missing Links

Ruth Cowen in the Development Office received a letter in the New Year from Reg Price (1947), in which he mentioned some poems he wrote for the *Clock Tower* while a student and how he would be thrilled if they could be read again. Ruth asked me to dig out the *Clock Tower* from 1947-50 and while searching, I was brought face-to-face with a problem – the editions from Trinity Term 1949 to Hilary Term 1951 are missing, and *Knowledge* (copied below) was the only poem I could find by Reg Price. It made me wonder what other printed 'ephemera' of the College literati has gone missing over the years, and whether Old Members might fill the voids. In particular there are gaps in the literary and satirical histories of the College. For the former, we have a *Reble* of June 1933, *Aurions* from 1972-1975 and *Forwards* for 1983 and 1984, but nothing else. Did Keble literature really stop 25 years ago, or have you such works in your loft or garage which you could lend me so that I may take 'preservation copies'?

The preservation of satire is perhaps less patchy, as the Archives contain copies of many such periodicals covering roughly 1977 to 1999. Again, if you have copies of older (or more recent) vintages please get in touch. If you do not want to send your copies but can scan them, e-mail them to me at archives@keble.ox.ac.uk.

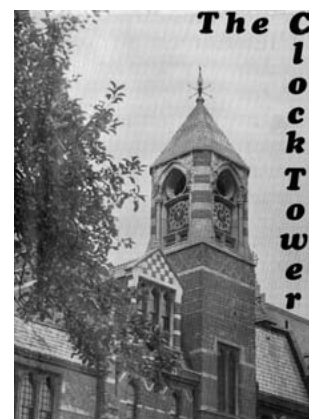
From the *Clock Tower* Issue December 1948 page 9

Knowledge

Knowledge is more than knowing
because it diminishes as we know.
It is more than a tape measure
stretching from pole to pole.

It is a slip knot on the soul, a spark
from the heart, an impress on the mind;
Where we find
an answer behind the light, escaping attention
like darkness in the night.

R Price (1947)



Higher Education Funding

The financial support of Old Members and Friends is a bright ray of sunshine which breaks through the current gloomy backdrop of ever-increasing cuts to higher education. This support remains critical to the College's success in meeting its aims of providing the very best academic provision in a stimulating environment for students who are themselves the very best of their generation.

As a whole, the higher education sector is facing financial cuts totalling nearly £450m next year alone. Oxford's share is as yet undetermined though it is anticipated to be larger than this year's £11m+ cuts.

The University has recently made its submission to the Independent Review of Higher Education Funding and Student Finance, chaired by Lord Browne. The Review has to date focussed on what has happened since the introduction of tuition fees. The next phase of the Review, on what the future should look like, won't be revealed until after the general election. The media focus is predictably with the fee level. But as the Vice Chancellor, Andrew Hamilton has stated 'focussing on the level of fees in isolation would be a serious mistake. The remit of the review is rather broader, and it is to be hoped that it takes a long hard look at the wider context and the overall funding model. We have encouraged it to do so and we will, I am sure, be emphasising that point in a subsequent submission.'

The Talbot Fund is one of the best performing annual funds across Oxford, with one in three Old Members contributing to date, and is greatly helping Keble to plug the funding gap. Membership of the Douglas Price Legacy Society also continues to grow and is an especially valued way of supporting Keble. The College has received legacies of more than £500,000 in the last two years to date. We truly appreciate the immense goodwill and support of Old Members and Friends, past and present.



Jason Sengel

Please give today, and help the College thrive tomorrow.

Donate online at: www.keble.ox.ac.uk/alumni/development or email: talbot.fund@keble.ox.ac.uk

The Warden's Retirement Drinks Party

Thursday 20 May

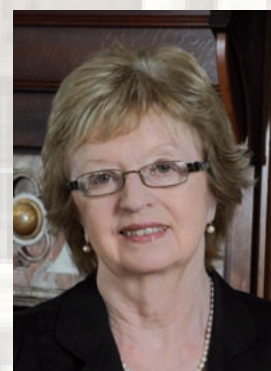
The Athenaeum, Pall Mall, London

6.30-8.30 pm

Dress code: Jacket and tie

Tickets £20 to Old Members

Please complete booking form and payment details (on flap above right) and return to the Development Office.



Kevin Edwards

Summer Dinner to mark the retirement of Isla Smith

Saturday 3 July

Isla Smith, former Development Director retired at the end of 2009 after 12 years at the College - come and join us to mark her years at Keble

Drinks Reception at 7.00 pm followed by Dinner in Hall at 7.30 pm (Black Tie or Lounge Suit)

Tickets £30 per person

Guests Welcome

Overnight accommodation available £35 for a single, £50 for a couple (including breakfast)

Please complete booking form and payment details (on flap to right) and return to the Development Office.



Keble Mother's Day Cards

For the first time the JCR have produced and sold Mothering Sunday cards to raise money for charity. They chose to support Operation Smile which helps children with cleft palates. Two images, taken by Jason Sengel (2008), were sold to students and staff. It was a great success and it is hoped, will become a tradition.

Abraham Knight



Tile Delivery

The College took delivery of 7,500 tiles from specialist period tile manufacturers, Craven Dunhill Jackfield, in December. With 1,200 still to come, there will be sufficient to replace the entire Hall floor over time.

Made from pressed clay-dust, the new tiles are perfectly colour-matched to the originals and have continuous colour throughout the 20mm thickness. The original grey tiles were encaustic, having the colour only on the surface, which wore away over time.

The first phase of the Hall floor repair to the worst affected areas, in the serving area and the middle part of an aisle, was completed over the Christmas break in 2008. The remaining floor will be replaced in phases as it wears out and begins to fail, which could take 50-60 years.

Mystery return



A Keble Association sign (black lettering on varnished oak) was mysteriously returned to the College in mid-March. It had evidently been displayed in the College at one time. Posted from the USA in an envelope with

the words 'St John's Class of 1988' in the top left hand corner, there is no clue as to who might have sent it. The name 'Barry Mackenzie' is pencilled on the back but with a bit of sleuthing we found no such person at St John's or indeed at Keble dispelling our first thoughts that a guilt-ridden St John's Old Member was returning ill-gotten spoils! Any ideas?



In January a 'Snow Warden' appeared by the Halls steps but didn't hang around long...

the brick

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

Producer/Designer: Seacourt Printing

Development Office: Jenny Tudge, Ruth Cowen, Camilla Matterson and DB Lenck

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