

the brick



THE NEWSLETTER FOR KEBLE ALUMNI • ISSUE 51 • HILARY TERM 2011 • WWW.KEBLE.OX.AC.UK

The Future of University Education

What does the Warden think about the impact of the Government's plans for the funding of higher education? First, given its creativity over the centuries, this University will make them work. The language of "educational disaster" used by some in recent debates is hyperbole. We will, however, continue to be denied the major investment which the Vice-Chancellor has made clear Oxford needs in order to maintain the University's global position. Second, there are major risks, not least of unintended consequences, in the substance of some of the measures Ministers have announced and the way in which they are implemented.

The most immediate risk is in relation to debt averse students from poorer backgrounds. Will they still choose to come to so-called elite universities charging at or around the £9,000 fee ceiling set by Parliament? There is no reason why they should not do so. Oxford will offer generous fee waivers to those from the lowest income backgrounds. Moreover, while a "debt" of £27,000 for the tuition costs of a three year course may sound alarming, the Government's framework for repayment will operate more like a graduate tax above an income

threshold of £21,000 than many have yet acknowledged. People may not like having to pay a lot more for the product, but there is a plausible argument that some of its benefits, though not all, accrue to the individual rather than to society at large and that individuals rather than the general body of taxpayers should, therefore, fund some of the costs.

That said, the scale and pace of this major shift from state to individual funding may create a very high hurdle in the minds of some potential students such that they don't apply to university at all or that their choice of course reflects too crude and early a calculation as to the career path which will enable them to pay the new "tax" with greatest ease. And, reinforcing that risk is the Government's apparent judgement, in the comprehensive spending review, that the humanities, broadly defined, no longer merit any state funding for undergraduate tuition. On that, I take great issue with the direction of public policy; a liberal state should continue to offer some support for the acquisition of knowledge generally even if some narrow test of relevance cannot be satisfied.

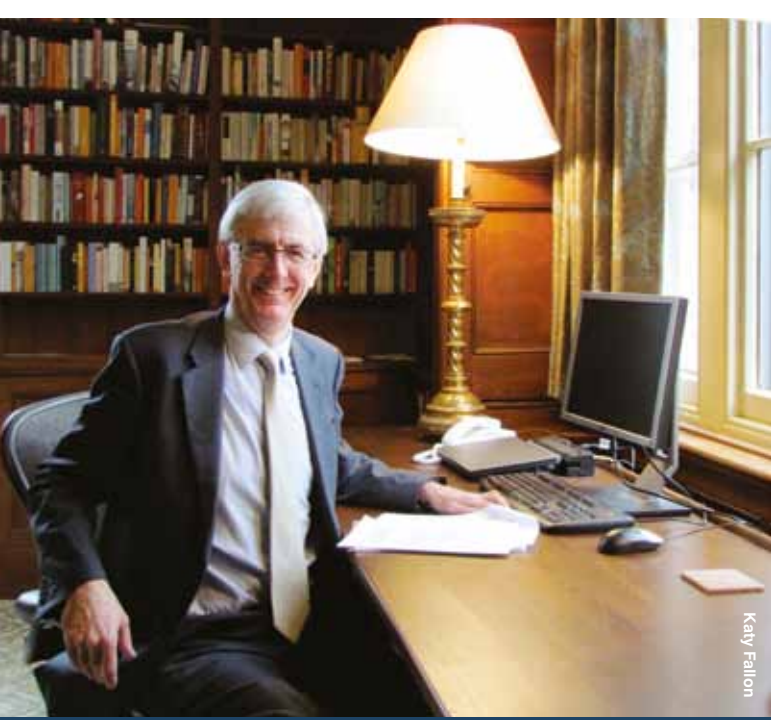
What about the graduate population? Only time will tell whether UK based students emerging from their undergraduate courses will continue to apply for graduate programmes in their present numbers. Overseas demand might fill the gap, provided that a solution can be found to current concerns about the impact of new visa requirements, but the fact is that at Keble it is already the case that some 57% of our graduates are from the EU and overseas, compared with 16% of the undergraduate population. We do need to maintain a balance between home and away.

Finally, there is the risk that the Government's reasonable concern to ensure fair access for all potential students from whatever background is translated into a framework of regulation which creates ever more unrealistic expectations about what universities can do to redress inadequacies in earlier stages of the educational system. I'm glad to say that there is at present no question of our making differentiated offers on the basis of school or social background, but public policy has not yet reached its equilibrium in this area.

Readers of *the brick* have a role to play in mitigating some of these risks and, in this context, there is no cost attached. We all need to assert the value of the outstanding things that Oxford offers in teaching and research (which is not to say that it is perfect in either respect), to emphasise the importance to the UK of having our top universities in the world's premier league, and to proclaim our excellence, in which there is a profound, but insufficiently recognised, public interest.

The Warden

For details of the University Council's decision see: www.ox.ac.uk/media/news_stories/2011/111503.html



Katy Fallon

in this issue:

college news • student life • om news • diary • summer dinner booking form

Choir Tour to the Eastern Seaboard



Aidan Brierley

Choir practice in The Christine and Andrew Hall Music Room

In July, the Chapel Choir will tour the US East Coast with Mr Simon Whalley, Director of Music and the Chaplain, Revd Jenn Strawbridge. It will be the Choir's first tour in more than five years and includes stops in Boston, Manhattan, and Washington DC.

The tour coincides with the Warden's visit to the East Coast, and the choir will join him for events with Old Members at each stop and also sing Evensong and lunchtime concerts at various locations such as Washington National Cathedral. It has been partially funded by several Old Members and the Keble Association. For further details see:

www.keble.co.uk/alumni/events
www.keble.ox.ac.uk/life/chapel



Aidan Brierley

Simon Whalley

Keble London Lectures

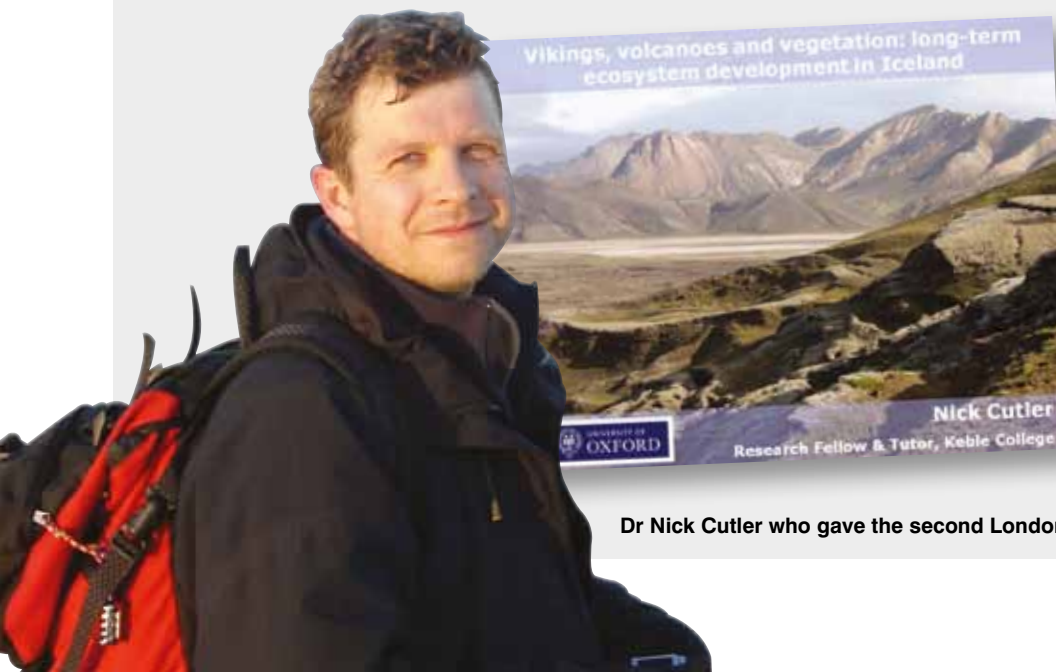
Last November the College launched a series of London Lectures sponsored by Jonathan Mills (1987), CEO of Metropolis International.

The third in the series is on Thursday 19 May at the Royal Society from 6pm. Dating the Past: from Neanderthals, to ancient Egypt, to forensic science will be given by Dr Tom Higham, Interim Director of the Advanced Studies Centre. They are open to all Old Members - at £10 a head - who are encouraged to bring a guest free of charge. www.keble.ox.ac.uk/alumni/events/

Old Members in the London area are notified by email. If you would like to be added to the mailing list, please contact: alumni.events@keble.ox.ac.uk. The Alumni and Development Office would be very grateful to hear from Old Members who could offer a venue (lecture theatre and reception space for c100 people) for future lectures in Central London.



Jonathan Mills



Dr Nick Cutler who gave the second London Lecture in March

Keble Advanced Studies Centre
– Ideas without boundaries

Research clusters

The Keble Advanced Studies Centre is the academic core of the College's Vision for 2020 Campaign. The new facilities at the Acland site, once developed, will provide an exciting, interdisciplinary environment designed to promote the exchange of ideas between different academic specialisms.

Thanks to some initial philanthropic gifts in support of our academic vision several research clusters are already developing under the umbrella of the Advanced Studies Centre. The clusters enable the stimulation of collaborative relationships between researchers with different backgrounds and expertise. Utilising the unique structure of an Oxford College to draw upon techniques, insights or models from one area of academic study and apply them to others, our research clusters will bring down disciplinary boundaries generating new ideas and innovative solutions.



Dr Lambros Malafouris

There are three clusters at present; Imaging, Networks and Creativity.

The Creativity Cluster brings together archaeologists, neuroscientists, anthropologists, geographers and writers to develop a more detailed understanding of the crucial process of creativity. Dr Lambros Malafouris, appointed in Michaelmas Term as the Career Development Fellow in Creativity

has organised a series of Lectures in Trinity Term. All four are at 5pm in the O'Reilly Theatre. Cluster Research seminars, lectures and events are open to alumni, students and staff, and will be publicised on the College website; you are warmly invited to attend.

See: www.keble.ox.ac.uk/events

KEBLE COLLEGE
ADVANCED STUDIES CENTRE
CREATIVITY LECTURE SERIES
2011
"THE PROCESS OF CREATIVITY"

Lectures will commence at 5.00 pm, in the Keble College O'Reilly Lecture Theatre followed by a wine reception in the Newman Quad

Friday 29 April
Prof. Nicholas Humphrey (LSE)
"Soul Dust: the Science and Art of Consciousness"

Friday 6 May
Prof. Richard Harper (Microsoft Research, Cambridge)
"Creative Selves, Creative Expression"

Friday 3 June
Prof. Tim Ingold (University of Aberdeen)
"Creativity, Abduction or Improvisation?"

Friday 24 June
Prof. Steve Rayner (University of Oxford)
"Two Sides of the Creativity Coin: Innovation and Lock-in".

Convenor of the series
Dr Lambros Malafouris



Dr Brodie with Mr Gong Peixing, Chairman of Wuxi Municipal People's Congress, at the opening of the new centre

China Links

At the invitation of the regional government of Wuxi, near Shanghai, Senior Tutor Dr Marc Brodie, attended the 100th anniversary celebrations of the Wuxi No.1 High School in February.

Regarded as the leading secondary school in the surrounding Jiangsu province, which has a population of 80 million people, it runs a British A-level programme for its senior students. Two students from the school have gained entry to Oxford courses this year. Dr Brodie addressed students interested in studying in Britain and opened the school's new Education Centre for International Exchange, which is designed to develop closer links with British, and other international, schools and universities.

Mahan Esfahani - harpsichordist

Mahan Esfahani, a BBC New Generation Artist and accomplished harpsichordist, is teaching Music in College and has been elected an honorary member of the SCR.



Marco Borggreve

Mahan Esfahani

Mahan will be playing at James Bowman's last London concert at the Wigmore Hall on 21 May. James Bowman, counter tenor and an old friend of the College, who gave a concert in the Chapel in May 2008, is retiring.

www.mahanesfahani.com

Arts Week

Origami at Sunday dinner, and face painting in the bar started Arts Week with a burst of colour. During the week activities ranged from narrative and Aristotle, plot and image at the Screenwriting

Workshop by the London Film School's head of scriptwriting, Brian Dunnigan, to Jon Boden and the Remnant Kings who shook the O'Reilly with their post-apocalyptic vision of folk.

Two Old Members were involved; John Saul (1967) who read from his short fiction, and Colin Lawson (1968), who treated his audience to tunes on renaissance clarinets.

Colin Lawson also attended the Warden's recital to hear students perform on a range of instruments. A very different vibe

of live jazz accompanied the launch of the College's newest student magazine, 'fig.' and an exhibition of a University-wide arts project, The 21



Jason Sengel

Kieran Stiles (second from l)

Sketchbooks. Julian Armitstead kept his audience hooked as he spoke about teaching empathy through creative writing in prisons, giving us an electrifying retelling of the Oedipus story. Kieran Stiles showed students how to use inks to create vibrant transfer prints in the style of Paul Klee. Later events in the week included a hugely enjoyable comedy night in the bar, a culture-themed pub quiz hosted by Dr Ian Archer, and finally a Charities Gala Event to raise money for ROSY (Respite nursing for Oxfordshire's Sick Youngsters).

The committee would like to thank all those who participated, as well as those who made it possible, particularly the Keble Association, who sponsored every event.

www.kebleassociation.org.uk

The Increase in Tuition Fees Debate

JCR President, Christopher Smith (2009 Philosophy & Theology) exchanged emails about the expected fee increases with David Furness (2000 History) JCR President in 2001 when top-up fees were first mooted. David currently lives in Australia and works for BUPA. Before that he worked for an independent Westminster think tank, where one of his publications was *Axing and taxing: how to cut the deficit*.

Chris: Is Oxford worth £9,000 a year?

David: My answer should probably be 'yes, of course but the honest answer is I don't know'. I hope it'll be a worthwhile investment, but I also worry the decision for prospective students will be based on what they hope to earn when they graduate. This seems a daunting choice to make at 18.

Chris: The NUS signed up PPCs* to a re-election pledge not to raise tuition fees in 2010; what responses did the NUS/ OUSU make in 2000?

David: From 2001 to 2002 the biggest political issue I recall at OUSU was a motion censuring the American government for bombing Afghanistan – it wasn't long after 9/11. Next to that, the top-up fees issue seemed second order. The scale of a proposed rise in fees was much smaller – in 2000 fees were no more than £1,075 a

year. So the prospect of top-ups didn't promise to make such a big difference to decisions about whether and where to attend university and the bill didn't become law until 2004. I think the NUS has not given good leadership on tuition fees, and it's significant that the current President is not standing for re-election after being accused of being insufficiently hard line. Students may be in danger of letting the best be the enemy of the good in opposing fees rather than looking to mitigate the impact of any potential rise on access to university irrespective of background.

Chris: Is HE funding a sensible issue for a JCR or should it concern itself with washing machines and TV packages?

David: Why not both? Students should make their voices heard. However I think there's little value in the JCR as a body earnestly discussing tuition fees. Better to influence OUSU and through them the NUS.

Chris: The Oxford Opportunity Bursary is currently £3,300 a year, what was bursary provision in 2000?

David: It was relatively underdeveloped ten years ago but the College



David Furness

Music Mastery



Jason Sengel

Colin Lawson

Keble College Music Society continues to flourish.

During Arts Week Professor Colin Lawson (1968), Director of the Royal College of Music, delivered a fascinating talk on the history of the clarinet and the Royal College. This was followed by the Warden's Recital held in his honour for the first time, in the Douglas Price Room. The Tom Millar Jazz Trio played to an audience of over eighty and pianist Neil Balfour marked the beginning of concerts in the O'Reilly Theatre. We were also honoured to welcome back Robert Lloyd CBE (1959) – one of Britain's most famous opera singers – who spoke on his long career and the importance and attraction of modern opera.

Kabir Bhalla
President KCMS



Les Campbell

Robert Lloyd



The Semi-Final

Top Rugby College

After taking the League Shield in 3rd week with victory over Teddy Hall, the Keble 1st XV reached the final of Cuppers for the fifth year in a row, beating Oriel 27-0 in the Quarter-Final and Univ 22-12 in the Semi-Final.

The Final against Brasenose was played under floodlights at Iffley Road in the last week of term. Keble dominated the first half and were very much in control with a half-time score of 22-0. However, a mix of Keble's complacency and increased intensity from Brasenose gave the latter a strong ten minutes at the beginning of the second half resulting in a penalty. After settling back into the match Keble re-asserted their dominance and applied pressure in all parts of the game to win with an outstanding final score of 40-3. After the match Keble's captain Charlie King not only received the Cuppers trophy, but also the League Shield and the Man of the Match award for an exceptional performance at scrum half.

hardship fund was a source of finance for students in need. The challenge for Keble now is to publicise what's on offer to students from poorer backgrounds. The rise in fees is yet another reason for potential students to rule themselves out of applying. I hope the current JCR will throw itself into access with the same energy they spend opposing government policy.

David: Did many Keble students actively support the fee protests?

Chris: About 40 to 50 Keble students attended a peaceful demonstration in Oxford and another 25 or so went to London on the 10 November. None were involved in anything illegal or that wasn't peaceful.

David: Will increased fees be a hindrance to improving access to Keble?

Chris: Studies show that the poorest students are the most debt averse; student 'debt' is not credit card debt - under the coalition's proposals taking out £50,000 of student loans is not a huge risk, but the problem is getting that message out to potential applicants. My worry is that sixth formers who were already unlikely to consider university because it is 'not for people like me' will give it even less thought when fees are high and the repayment mechanism so poorly understood.

David: Which is more significant - a market in higher education or increased fees? How will the increased fees affect relations between students and the College?

Chris: Longer term, the market principle will be more significant. Students are more than ever consumers of higher education. They will, quite rightly, demand more for their money. The relationship between teacher and student is now almost an economic transaction. Students

will want more contact time and will, potentially, start expecting a certain degree outcome. Who wants to pay £27,000 for a third?

David: Is there a realistic alternative to increasing fees?

Chris: The IFS has produced a report on the new scheme, saying it essentially amounts to a stealth graduate tax where income tax bands above £21,000 are increased by nine percentage points. Given that a graduate tax presents itself to applicants as a lower risk than £9,000 fees, I would prefer a progressive graduate tax. It wouldn't lose any more money long term than the coalition's scheme and would be less of a deterrent.

David: What is the most important message to send current and future students regarding fees?

Chris: Keble is a fantastic place to do a degree and because of the way a student loan works, if you can't afford to pay it back, you won't have to. Oxford has the most generous bursary scheme in the country to support students from low-income homes. Coming to university is a wonderful, life-enriching experience and no one is forced out by the new fee mechanism.

The above are the views of the individuals concerned which do not necessarily reflect the views of the College.

*Prospective Parliamentary Candidate

Christopher Smith



North American Gateway

In 1959 The Reverend Hiram Kennedy Douglass (1919) gave the College the wrought-iron gates between Liddon and the Fellows' Garden, now Newman Quad. Both John Keble and Hiram are represented as heraldic shields on the gates which are dedicated to the memory of his parents and the Warden of his day, Dr Beresford Kidd.

Revd Douglass died in 1975 leaving a generous benefaction to his home city Florence, Alabama. His trust has given a donation to the College each year since his death. Predating the Douglas Price Society by some years, it demonstrates our North American Old Members' contribution to the future of Keble.



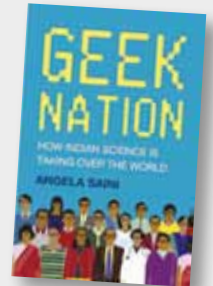
DPS members are Keble Old Members and Friends who have informed us of their intention to remember the College in their will. Each year DPS members, their partners and friends are invited to an event to keep them abreast of College news and future plans. This year's event, on Saturday 21 May, includes the first DPS/student debate in the SCR, lunch in Hall and entertainment from the Music Society.

www.keble.co.uk/alumni/events

Old Members in print

India a Geek Nation?

Angela Saini (1999 Engineering Science) has published *Geek Nation: How Indian Science is Taking Over the World*, published by Hodder & Stoughton in March. It is about her journey to discover if India is becoming a scientific superpower. Along the way, she watches a space rocket launch, sees the country's leading nuclear research facility, visits hospitals, colleges and government ministries, and stays in the world's first electronically-governed city. It is an adventure full of fascinating characters, as well as a chance to understand an important global power. Angela gave a talk to current students and recent alumni about scientific writing at the International Careers Fair held at OU Careers Services in February.



Invisible

Frank Egerton (1994) has published a new edition of his novel *Invisible* by StreetBooks. Reviewed as 'a lovely and beguiling book... full of brambles and sunlight' by Frank Cottrell Boyce (1979), it came about by the author's wish to write about adult anorexia and obsession. Keeping the condition secret is just one of the many distressing nightmares that a person with anorexia goes through. The book tries to explore what it is like for the sufferer and the problems that others have in understanding the condition. In 2009 Frank became a supervisor on the University of Oxford MSt in Creative Writing and was made Librarian and Subject Consultant at the Bodleian Latin American Centre Library.



Courtesy of Agnews

St Kilda Pier by Sidney Nolan showing a sample of the artist's style

Picture this...

We are attempting to trace paintings known to have been in the JCR Picture Collection in the 1960s and '70s.

One in particular, an oil on canvas by Sidney Nolan (1917-1992) was a large 'muddy green and brown' landscape with a figure (possibly on a bicycle). Little is known about the painting's acquisition. Some time between 1963 and 1967 the artist contacted the JCR to request permission to include it in a retrospective exhibition, possibly at the Leeds School of Art. The JCR agreed to the loan but whether or not the picture was returned is a mystery.

Please contact the Alumni and Development Office if you can shed light on this or the fate of any of the other JCR Collection pieces. Telephone: 01865 272794 or email: camilla.matterson@keble.ox.ac.uk



Painting of Keble College by Brian Lewis

Norfolk painter, Brian Lewis was commissioned by two Old Members to paint a picture of the College.

Now completed, the vibrant, cheerful painting has exceptional detail of the brickwork and shows the view from Pusey Quad towards the Chapel. It was presented to the College in

late January, in celebration of the life of Tom Riseborough (1965 Modern Languages), who died in 2005. The painting now hangs in the Warden's study.

Prints are obtainable from Brian's website www.art-e-mail.com. 25% of each sale will be donated to the College. As the purchase is finalised please write: 'Keble Old Member' in the Customer's comment field.



New Year Honour

Many congratulations to Colin Menzies (1963) on the OBE awarded in the New Year Honours for services to the Church of England.

Colin ran Church House, the administrative headquarters of the Church of England (situated close to Westminster Abbey), for 20 years prior to his retirement last autumn and was also the Chairman of the Clergy Charities until the end of 2010.

The Artful Dancer

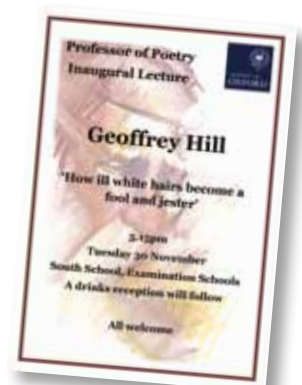
Chris Hollins (1993) has been presenting BBC 1 programmes, *Sports on BBC Breakfast*, *Watchdog* and *Cash in the Attic* for some years and has now added a new BBC 2 arts programme, *Show me the Monet* to the list. *Strictly Come Dancing* fans will recognise him as the celebrity winner of the 2009 series.

Chris Hollins

Zodiac UK

Listen to...

Geoffrey Hill's Professor of Poetry Inaugural Lecture, 'How ill white hairs become a fool and jester' given on 30 November at the Examinations School is available as a podcast on the College website: www.keble.ox.ac.uk/alumni/past-events/



For ALL events see www.keble.ox.ac.uk/alumni/events

Sunday 1 May Trinity Term begins

Friday 6 May

Keble and University of Oxford European Reunion – Paris (www.alumni.ox.ac.uk)

Dinner for Old Members at Le Vin Qui Danse, Paris with Dr Ian Archer, Jenny Tudge and Ruth Cowen. Invitations were sent to Old Members in France and nearby. All Old Members welcome

Enquiries to Annéka Salvat

Saturday 7 May

Inauguration of the Keble Irish Alumni Group

Lunch at Hillsborough Castle with the Warden and Amanda Phillips. Invitations were sent to Old Members in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland in March

Enquiries to Annéka Salvat

Saturday 14 May

BA Degree Day for 2010 Finalists

Invitation papers were sent to 2010 Finalists in January

Enquiries to Annéka Salvat

Saturday 19 May

London Lecture III

Dating the Past: from Neanderthals, to ancient Egypt, to forensic science. By Dr Tom

Higham, Interim Director of the Advanced Studies Centre, Royal Society, London

Enquiries to Annéka Salvat

Saturday 21 May

Douglas Price Society, Lunch and Debate

Invitations were sent to DPS members in March

Enquires to Duncan Macintyre

Friday 27 May

Eric Symes Abbott Memorial Lecture

Chapel 5.30pm. *The Word in Print: The Authorised Version 1611-2011*

Dr Richard Chartres, Bishop of London

Saturday 4 June

Keble Rowing Society AGM and Eights Week Dinner

Invitations have been sent to all members of the KC Rowing Society

Enquiries to Camilla Matterson

Saturday 11 June

Garden Party

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

Enquires to Trish Long



Saturday 9 July

1986 year 25th Anniversary Dinner

Invitations were sent to all 1986s in March

Friday 1 July to Saturday 2 July

1967-71 Reunion Weekend

Invitations were sent in March

Enquiries to Annéka Salvat

Saturday 9 July

Summer Dinner and 25th Anniversary Dinner

Open to all Old Members and guests. A booking form is on the extension to this page

Enquiries to Annéka Salvat

Saturday 9 July

KA Trustees meeting and AGM

Trustees meeting: 5 - 5.30pm

AGM: 5.30 - 6.30pm

From 10 – 22 July

The Warden's visit to the US East Coast to coincide with the Choir Tour

to Boston, New York and Washington DC. Notification of the programme will be sent by email to Old Members on the Eastern Seaboard

Data Protection Statement

Your data will be used by Keble College and members of the Old Members' network solely for organising events, producing and distributing publications, careers advice and fundraising. The data will not be passed without your permission to external organisations or individuals other than those acting as agents of the College or contracting to provide services to the College that entail access to the data. The College does not sell any data to third parties. For a copy of the College's full Alumni and Development Office Data Protection Statement go to: www.keble.ox.ac.uk/alumni/data_protection

Keble College Music Society

See www.keblemusic.co.uk for Trinity Term Events. Old Members welcome

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the brick

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