



Johnian News

Issue 1

Lent Term 1997

From the Master

Welcome to the first edition of *Johnian News*. This is a new initiative reflecting the College's wish to keep Johnians more closely in touch with what is happening in College and with one another.

When the freshmen come in groups to lunch in the Lodge in the Michaelmas and Lent Terms each year, I see again how quickly the College acquires the commitment and affection of its new members. And, through the year, Johnians of earlier generations returning to College, for one of the dinners given by the College or to exercise their privilege of dining at the Fellows' Table, make it clear that this common pride in what we share lasts throughout life.

Those who return, whether they matriculated many years ago or recently, are eager to know how the College is faring and what new challenges are on the horizon. This newsletter will provide topical and informal articles about Johnians and St John's. *The Eagle* will, of course, continue to be the College's journal of record and will contain the same mix of articles, reports from College societies and Members' news.

We hope you will enjoy reading *Johnian News* but do not forget that the best way to keep in touch is to come back to visit the College again soon. ☸

Peter Goodson

John's leaps up results table

On Friday 28 June last year, over 180 Johnians paraded through the streets of Cambridge to the Senate House to receive their degrees. In spite of the rain, Graduation Day was a great success, with relatives joining the new graduates for a buffet lunch in Second Court after the ceremony. After lunch, many parents and new graduates took the opportunity to admire the College silver, which was on display in the Combination Room, and visit the new library.

The 1996 graduands had something in particular to be proud of on Graduation Day. Their results were so good that St John's jumped to second place in this year's Tompkins Table based on Final Examination Results. The table is published in the national papers every year and compares the results of the Cambridge Colleges.

Many students think that the College's success in the 1996 results table was in large part due to the new library. The library is open 24 hours a day and during the exam period students were using it day and night. We would like to thank again all Johnians who helped during the appeal and enabled the new library to be built. It is a marvellous addition to the College and we hope that many of you will be able to have a look around when you are next in College.

Although the active appeal is now over, contributions towards the cost of the building and donations to help with the running of the library will continue to be gratefully received. ☸



Students gathering in First Court on Graduation Day 1996



College news

The College has awarded the annual **Larmor Awards** for 'undergraduate members who are most worthy either for intellectual qualifications or alternatively in moral conduct and practical activities'.

The Awards were set up by Sir Joseph Larmor by his Will, dated 23 May 1938. The award winners for 1996 were Toby Beaumont, Sally Holt, Lucy Crooks, Jamie Griffith, Nika Raphaely and Julius Stobbs. The prizes were presented by the Master on Graduation Day. ❀

Professor Robert Hinde, former Master, has received one of three Royal Medals awarded by the Royal Society this year. The prestigious award recognises his seminal contributions to the field of animal behaviour and the dominant influence these have had on the emerging field of ethology. ❀

Dr Ian Hutchings, Teaching Fellow in Materials Science, has won a prestigious Cambridge Foundation Teaching Prize. He was nominated by his faculty board in recognition of his teaching across all three undergraduate years and his work within the Cambridge Programme for Industry. He was one of only five winners of the Prize. ❀

Dr Ron Snaith, Teaching Fellow in Chemistry, has won the Royal Society of Chemistry's 1995 Main Group Element Award and Medal. The award is made every few years and recognises a marked contribution to Main Group Chemistry. Dr Snaith won his award 'in recognition of his seminal contributions to the development of the molecular chemistry of the early main group elements'. He was presented with a scroll, a silver medal and a cheque. ❀

Mr Nigel Bruce, Deputy Catering Manager, cycled from Lands End to John O'Groats to raise money for Leukaemia Research last summer. He set off on Sunday 23 June and finished 11 days later, cycling on his own. He collected sponsorship from College staff, Fellows, his friends and relatives, and raised around £650. Nigel said 'I enjoyed it, but I wouldn't do it again. I'm now trying to decide what my next challenge will be'. He has already run the London Marathon and carried out a Parachute Jump for charity. ❀

During the summer vacation, the College's **Maintenance Department** was busy throughout the College. One of the main projects was the refurbishment of the JCR in Second Court to make it a more welcoming place for Junior Members.

The new-look JCR has two main areas: a television and video room and a larger general area with coffee tables and seating. Newspapers and magazines are available and there is a drinks machine. Since the start of term, Junior Members have been able to take advantage of the new layout and facilities and have been delighted at the refurbishment carried out. ❀

The **Master** has been travelling down to Camberwell in South London to sit for a portrait to add to the collection of pictures hanging on the stairs up to the Combination Room in Second Court. The College cautiously gets its Masters painted early in their tenures.

The artist chosen for the task was Tom Phillips, one of the great artists of our time. He was born in 1937 and is an author and composer, as well as being an artist. He became a Royal Academician in 1990 and his noted portrait of Iris Murdoch is exhibited in the National Portrait Gallery in London.

The portrait, which has been placed next to that of Robert Hinde, contains some enigmatic iconography which is yet to be fully explained. ❀

Steven Lo, a second year undergraduate, has come second in the British Junior Power-lifting Championship. He is hoping to compete at international level next year. ❀

Johnian News aims to keep Johnians in touch with the College and with each other. It is published twice a year by St John's College, Cambridge.

Articles, letters and photographs to be considered for inclusion in *Johnian News* should be sent to The Johnian Office, St John's College, Cambridge, CB2 1TP.

Fax: 01223 338727



College news

The **College Choir** was busy last summer on tour in Australia and sang in a number of prestigious venues, including the Sydney Opera House. During the tour, the Choir sang at the closing ceremony of the World Choral Symposium in Sydney Town Hall. It was an extremely successful trip and the members of the Choir thoroughly enjoyed themselves. It is hoped that the Choir will tour South Africa again later this year. ❀

Thomas Clarkson (BA 1783), the anti-slavery campaigner, has been commemorated 150 years after his death by the placing of a memorial plaque in Westminster Abbey. The plaque, unveiled by the Master in September, bears the simple inscription: 'A friend to slaves, Thomas Clarkson'.

Thomas Clarkson devoted his life to the abolition of slavery and worked tirelessly to bring the atrocities of the slave trade to public notice. He was helped in his efforts to abolish slavery by William Wilberforce, also a Johnian.

The College held a day of events on 6 November 1996 to commemorate this former member of St John's. The newly appointed Bishop of Stepney preached in the College Chapel and the College Choir sang Elgar's *The Spirit of The Lord is Upon Me* and Tippett's *Steal Away to Jesus*. In the afternoon, Professor Hugh Brogan gave a lecture on 'Thomas Clarkson's Life and Character', while Dr Keith Hart lectured on 'Clarkson, Cambridge and the International Movement for Human Rights'.

The day was attended by Fellows and students, as well as a large number of guests from outside the College, including some of Thomas Clarkson's descendants. Everyone very much enjoyed the day. There was also an exhibition about Clarkson and the abolition of slavery during the Michaelmas Term in the new Library Exhibition Area. ❀

The year 1846 also saw the discovery of the planet Neptune, whose existence had been predicted by **John Couch Adams** (BA 1843). In 1841, while still an undergraduate, Adams had 'formed a design...of investigating, as soon as possible, after taking my degree, the irregularities in the motion of Uranus, which are yet unaccounted for, in order to find whether

they may be attributed to the action of an undiscovered planet beyond it.' In this way he was indeed able to predict the exact location of the planet later named Neptune. The College contributed many of the exhibits for an exhibition to mark the occasion at the University Library.

The lecture by the Astronomer Royal on the first day of the Michaelmas Term 1946 to mark the centenary of the discovery was attended by **Dr Tony Ruth** (BA 1949), who has been interested in astronomy since then. Dr Ruth has written an article on the discovery of Neptune which will be published in this year's *Eagle*. ❀

The **Johnian Society Lecture** took place on Tuesday 25 February 1997 in the Fisher Building at St John's. **Professor Peter Hennessy** (BA 1969) of Queen Mary & Westfield College was the speaker and his lecture was entitled 'Her Majesty's Puzzle - Politics, the Monarchy and the Constitution'. Professor Hennessy is well known as one of the country's leading and most entertaining contemporary historians and his lecture provided a fascinating commentary on the current political situation. ❀

The College will be holding an **Open Day** this year on 29 June. The matriculation years to be invited are: up to and including 1951, 1969, 1970, 1983 and 1984. We hope that many Johnians will come back to College with their families. The day will include a number of lectures, visits to parts of the College which are normally closed, tea in the Master's Lodge and exhibitions on College life and the College itself. ❀

St John's is set to launch a **credit card** this year which will be available only to Johnians. The card will help keep Johnians in touch with College, as well as providing a small stream of income. Further details will be available soon. ❀

The **Choir Association** was formed in 1995 to bring together all former members of the College Choir, both from the school and the College. There will be a reunion weekend on 28 and 29 June and all those connected with the Choir are invited to attend. Please contact the Development Officer on 01223 338700 in the first instance. ❀



New Research Fellows

The College elects a number of Research (Title A) Fellows every year whose duty it is to devote themselves to the advancement of learning and research. These Fellows are at the beginning of their academic career and St John's is able to give them the chance to further their research and contribute to the College's reputation as a centre of excellence.

The College has recently elected its new Research Fellows, who were admitted to their Fellowships by the Master on 1 October. They are Mr Michael Frogley, Dr Simon Harrison, Ms Catherine Keen, Ms Mary Laven and Dr Catherine McClay.

Mr Michael Frogley has been working in the University Museum of Zoology on the reconstruction of geologically recent climate change in northern Greece. His work is concerned with examining the biological, sedimentological and physical variations which appear in a long core taken from the lake-bed at Ioannina in the Pindus Mountains. Through his research, Michael has been able to reconstruct the temperature and lake-level history over the last few Ice Ages in great detail.

In the course of his Research Fellowship at St John's, Michael intends to study the nature of rapid climatic shifts. Previous inter-glacials appear to include high frequency oscillations that reduce average temperatures to mid-glacial levels in less than a single lifetime. So far these have only been seen in high resolution ice core records but Michael has discovered that Ioannina is one of the first continental records to clearly display these shifts.

Ms Catherine Keen matriculated at St John's in 1988 and has been at the College as an undergraduate, a graduate and now as a Fellow. Her PhD thesis is entitled 'Dante and the language of the City' and examines Dante's use of images in his presentation of the city in his writing.

In the course of her Fellowship at the College, Catherine intends to pursue her interest in the language and imagery of medieval Italian political writing. She will be looking in particular at the literature of exile in Italy in the late medieval and early Renaissance periods.

Dr Simon Harrison has recently completed his PhD thesis in which he studied the *De Libero Arbitrio* of Augustine of Hippo. While at St John's, Simon will be pursuing the suggestions that his thesis makes for our

understanding of Augustine as a thinker, and as a thinker about 'will'. He intends to investigate the accounts of Augustine's development and place in the intellectual world of Late Antiquity, his reception in the Middle Ages and the seventeenth century, as well as the history of 'will' before Augustine himself.

Ms Mary Laven took her BA from Jesus College and went on to study for the PhD at Leicester. Her PhD thesis is entitled 'Venetian Nunneries in the Counter-Reformation, 1550-1630' and looks at the social history of life in convents during a period of intensive reform. Ms Laven shows how the social customs embedded in the civilisation of Venice broke through the attempts of both Church and State to impose strict enclosure on the convents.

While at St John's, Ms Laven intends to develop her thesis with a view to publishing a book on the subject. She also has plans for further research into the social lives of women and childhood in early-modern Venice.

Dr Catherine McClay carried out her PhD research at the Department of Engineering as a member of St John's. Her research has focused on increasing the efficiency of induction motors through improved design, without substantially increasing material or manufacturing costs.

During her tenure of a Fellowship at the College, Catherine will be investigating improving the efficiency of variable-speed drives. Her studies will produce motors designed specifically for drive applications. Use of these higher-efficiency drive systems will lead to increased savings on electricity costs and reduced emissions of carbon dioxide. ♻️



A great sporting achievement

Matthew Juniper is a member of College who really epitomises the spirit and determination of Johnians. He came up to St John's in 1992 to read engineering and quickly became involved with College sport. In December 1994, however, disaster struck and Matthew lost a leg as a result of an injury playing rugby for the College. Some people would have given up in despair, but Matthew has fought through it all.

In February 1995, he was fitted with his first artificial leg and went skiing the following month. During the trip he skied the 1992 Winter Olympic run - just to see if he could do it! During the summer of 1995, Matthew started jogging and he attended a training weekend with the British Amputee Athletics team in late September. Matthew said: 'I found the training weekend pretty tough and was sick after only 20 minutes! However, it spurred me on to carry out weight training and inspired me to try running. I finally got a running leg aligned for jogging in March last year.'

Since then, he hasn't looked back. On his first 100m run, he finished in a time of 13.5 seconds, compared with the then British record of 13.3 seconds. By May, his time was down to 12.4 seconds and a new British record and Matthew was selected for the Great Britain

Paralympic team.

In May, the College granted funding for a sprinting leg to enable him to compete more effectively. Due to his selection for the GB team, however, he gained commercial sponsorship for a carbon fibre leg which allows him to run without a limp.

In the run-up to the Paralympics, Matthew had to contend with both the Tripos and an injury. Even so he left for Florida on August 8 for acclimatisation and training. In the Paralympics, which took place from 17 to 27 August, he represented Great Britain in the 100m, 200m and the relay. His best result was in the 200m where he came fourth and beat his own personal best time.

Matthew commented, 'it was very, very hard work, both physically and emotionally, but with a correspondingly great reward. The spirit of the athletes was fantastic.'

Not only has Matthew Juniper achieved great success in running, he also gained a First in his third year exams as well as being a member of the May Ball Committee. His determination to succeed is an example to us all. ♻️



Matthew Juniper (right) in action at the Paralympics



Travels to Uganda

Jumping spiders greeted us on our arrival at Entebbe airport. After months of fund raising and a generous helping hand from College, I was about to take part in Raleigh International's inaugural expedition to Uganda, and wondering why I had ever decided to go any where near the place.

Wanale Ridge, Mount Elgon National Park was my home for the first four weeks. Living and working at 2900m, I and twelve others enjoyed spectacular views of the surrounding valleys and the immense plains of East Africa. We were stationed on the ridge to build two huts for the park rangers who had been living in tents there, whilst they endeavoured to protect the virgin forest land on the mountain slopes. We ran into trouble on the third day of work as the rainy season arrived.

The rain was sufficiently hard that we washed in it, much to the locals' amusement. It filled up our foundations; porters were carrying the timber needed for the huts piece by piece up the mountain side, and when it rained the footpaths turned into rivers, sending



Rachel Harker on the summit of Mount Elgon

them sliding back down the slopes, and we only had four-inch nails! Despite all the set-backs and a complete lack of carpentry skills on our part the park rangers managed to motivate us, completed their houses and then invited us to take a five-day trek to the summit of the mountain, throughout which, needless to say, it poured with rain.

Situated on the shores of Lake Victoria, Nkokonjeru is home to a lively Leonard Cheshire Home run by three nuns. A team of us were based there during August to build a fish pond to provide occupational therapy for the residents. Enjoying the company of the residents, who included orphans as well as elderly and disabled members of the community, we also received an enormous amount of hospitality from the nuns whilst we were there. We all wanted to stay on, but a large bush fire almost wiped out us and our camp and persuaded us to leave immediately we had completed the work.

My final project was mosquito hunting in Semuliki National Park. Our mission was to assist in carrying out a population study of a particular species of malarial mosquito endemic to the hot springs. Rising at 5.30am we would don long clothes, head torches and pooters (insect collecting devices) and invade people's houses to suck the blood-fed females from the walls.

Having completed our hunt and frightened the children, who had often never seen white people before, we would trek home to deliver our specimens to our scientist and head off for a much needed wallow in the local waterfall. The very spectacular scenery, wildlife (including baboons and snakes visiting base camp) as well as luxuries like the 40ft waterfall/shower cancelled out the misery of the mosquito bites!

Uganda is a beautiful and diverse country and I learnt a great deal from my experiences there. Nonetheless it was wonderful to come back to England and proper sanitation! ☺

Rachel Harker was awarded a Johnian Society Travel Exhibition for her trip to Uganda during the summer vacation. She is a third year engineering student at St John's, specialising in Fluid Mechanics.



The Cargill Prize

On Graduation Day last year, the Master presented a new prize to an undergraduate engineer. The first recipient of the Alex Cargill Prize for Engineering was Russell Cake, a fourth year, who was chosen for his outstanding performance in the final exams in the new four-year Engineering Tripos.

Alex Cargill was an undergraduate at St John's in the 1970s. He had an academic career of great distinction and achieved a starred First Class result in Part II of the Engineering Tripos in 1974. He studied for the PhD degree at the University of Leeds, under another Johnian, Professor David Crighton (BA 1964 and now a Fellow of the College), and worked for Rolls Royce Ltd on jet and turbomachinery noise problems.

Alex was a man of extraordinary creativity and perceptiveness in his analysis of a great range of aeroengine problems. He was able, in hundreds of situations, to design, analyse and interpret a model of any process or problem in a simple and transparent fashion.

Alex Cargill died, suddenly and unexpectedly, on 17 July 1993 and his father, Mr Ian Cargill, subsequently



Russell Cake, winner of the first Cargill Prize, on Graduation Day

wrote to the College saying that Alex had been very happy at St John's and that he would like to repay in some small way some of the pleasure the College had given his son. He asked whether the financing of a prize or scholarship fund would be acceptable. Following discussions with St John's, the Alex Cargill Fund was set up.

The establishment of the Fund and its associated Prize was particularly timely since 1996 was the first year of the final examination of the new four-year Engineering course. The Alex Cargill Fund is 'for the award annually of a prize to the best student in the final examination in the Engineering Tripos, and for the support and aid, by way of scholarships, studentships or grants, of students in the fields of Engineering Science and Applied Mathematics'.

On the morning of 28 June 1996, the Tutors and College Officers gathered in the Master's Lodge for the awarding of the first Alex Cargill Prize. They were joined by Russell Cake along with winners of other College prizes, and their parents. Amongst the guests was Mr Ian Cargill himself who had travelled from his home in Sussex to award the prize. It was an occasion that everyone will remember for a long time.

Russell Cake is no stranger to success both academically and on the sports field. He achieved First Class results in each of his four years at St John's, reflecting his outstanding academic ability. His sporting achievements include a number of blues in hockey and cricket and a century against the Australians in his first year at the College. In his final year, he was elected Captain of the University Cricket Team and he was Captain of the British Universities Cricket team for the 1996 season.

Russell was delighted to be the first recipient of the prize and was particularly pleased that Mr Ian Cargill was present at the award ceremony. On receiving the prize, Russell said 'it is a great honour to have been chosen to receive the first Alex Cargill prize. Alex Cargill's creativity in engineering is an inspiration. I thoroughly enjoyed the intellectual stimulus, the friendships and the variety of pursuits in my four years at St John's.' ☺



John's goes on-line

The technologically minded among you will be pleased to know that the College is on-line. We have a number of pages on the World Wide Web, including information for prospective students, a picture guide to the College, information on arranging conferences at the College and a list of Fellows and staff. There are also pages about the Choir, including a complete list of Chapel Services and the chance to hear extracts from one of their CDs, and the Johnian Office pages which are aimed at non-resident Johnians.

The Johnian Office pages are your pages, and we hope you will use them. They include information on how to exercise your dining privileges and a list of the Choir's touring destinations so that you can hear our world-famous Choir, even if you don't live in Cambridge. They also keep you up-to-date with events in College, such as Johnian Dinners and Commemorative Events.

We maintain an email directory to make it easier for non-resident Johnians to keep in touch with each other. Johnians are invited to add their address to the directory, which can be accessed directly at <http://www.joh.cam.ac.uk/Johnian/MailDir.html> or through the College's Home Page. ☼

The St John's College World Wide Web pages can be accessed at:
<http://www.joh.cam.ac.uk/>

Keeping in touch

Can you help in setting up a regional group of Johnians? Not everyone can make it back to College and we want to start up groups around the country and abroad. Professor Hinde began this process during the Library appeal when he travelled around the UK and overseas to meet Johnians outside Cambridge, and the College wishes to continue his good work in fostering the Johnian spirit.

We have had offers of help from a number of Johnians but are looking for others who would be willing to organise events in their region to help Johnians keep in touch with each other and with the College. ☼

The Johnian Society

The Johnian Society was set up to maintain a link with the College and with each other. The Society holds an annual dinner, to which all members are invited. It also organises a lecture by a Johnian who is distinguished in public life and an annual golf competition. The Society aims to assist the College in other ways, such as through the financing of travel exhibitions for resident members of College.

The 1997 dinner will be held on Saturday 13 December in the College Hall and further details will be provided with this year's *Eagle*.

The cost of joining the Society is only £10 for life and there are currently more than 3,500 members of the Society. For further details on events or to join the Society please contact The Johnian Office, St John's College, Cambridge, CB2 1TP. ☼

Can you help?

Mr Giles Kavanagh (BA1981) is happy to help with careers advice for lawyers and potential lawyers. He works for a London Chambers and may also be able to offer work experience to Johnians considering the Bar. He can be contacted at: 5 Bell Yard, London, WC2A 2JR.

Mr David Dobson (BA1974) is available to give careers advice to Johnians. He has a BPhil in Educational Management and has been Headteacher of Sir Christopher Hatton School since 1994. He can be contacted at: Sir Christopher Hatton School, The Pyghtle, Wellingborough, NN8 4RP.

If you are able to offer advice or assistance of any kind to other Johnians, both resident and non-resident, please contact the Development Officer at St John's. ☼

Contact Numbers

To exercise your dining privileges please contact the Steward's secretary on 01223 338686.

The Johnian Office is able to help non-resident Johnians with arrangements for dinners and other visits to College. Please telephone 01223 338700.