

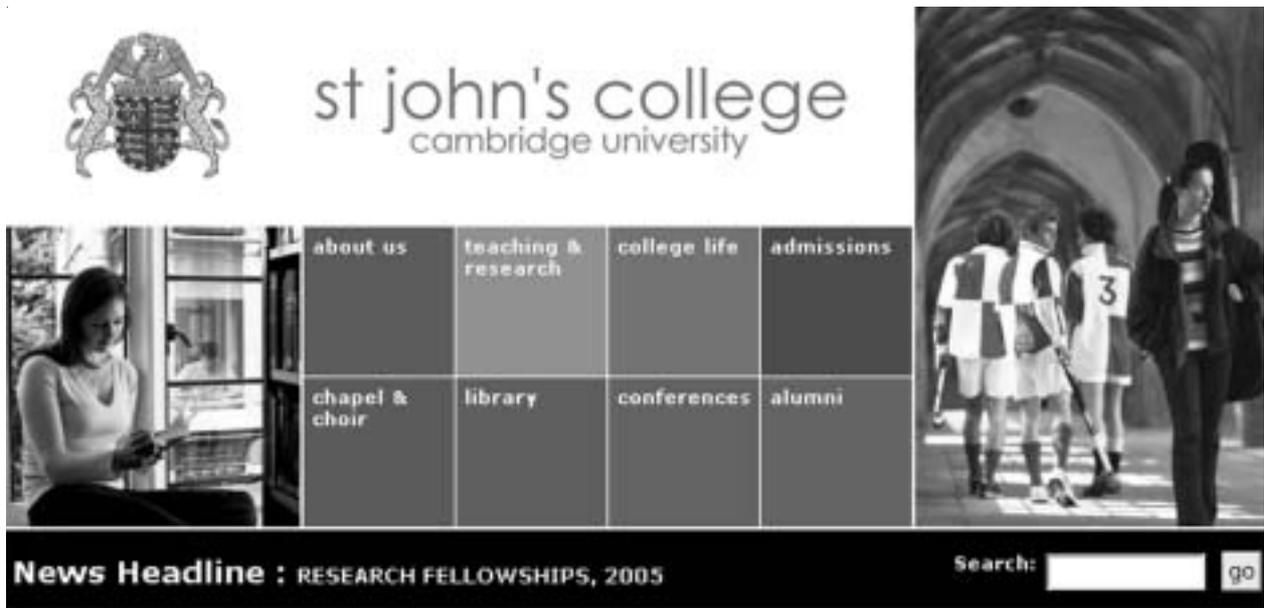


Johnian News

Issue 16

Michaelmas Term 2004

New website goes live!



WWW.joh.cam.ac.uk

In September this year, the College launched its new website. It has taken a year to design and implement and we hope that the eight sections (detailed above) will provide visitors with a useful insight into life at St John's. The site caters for current students, as well as former and prospective students and visitors to the College. Guests to the site may now read all about the history of the College, while taking part in an interactive tour (in the 'about us' section), which shows photos of the College's courts and explains their historical context.

On the alumni pages, Johnians will find useful information about dining and staying in College, forthcoming events, College merchandise and information about donating to the College. You can also update your address details and submit entries for the members' news section of the *Eagle* using the on-line forms.

Johnians may also wish to be aware of the comprehensive Library pages, which now include, amongst other things, an interactive subject index of all the illustrations appearing in the Library's medieval manuscripts. In the chapel and choir section, you will find an up-to-date service list and information about any special forthcoming events in the Chapel (such as the Advent Carol Service and the George Guest memorial fund concert).

If anyone has any suggestions for the alumni pages or would like to see anything else included, please contact Clare Laight (c.l.laight@joh.cam.ac.uk).





College news

The **EAGLE Project** has just completed its sixth year of working with Lambeth schools to 'Encourage Ambitions and Generate Learning Expertise'. Following a review, a second phase of the Project is now in place. Dr Helen Watson, the Admissions Tutor, reports:

'Since the EAGLE project was launched, it has been adopted as a model by other Cambridge colleges and other universities, allowing outreach and Access initiatives to aim for both breadth and depth of contact. One of the main reasons for the project's new focus relates directly to the success of the original project: the fact that more governmental and private projects are currently providing secondary school pupils with the kind of aspiration-raising activities EAGLE supported in the past.

In 2004-2005 we will be working directly with those pupils considered the most able as part of wider Aim Higher programmes. A specific admissions element has been developed for those seriously considering applying to more competitive universities, with workshops and seminars offering information and guidance about application procedures. Follow-up visits by the Admissions Tutor and undergraduates will explore aspects of student life, from choosing a university degree course to popular graduate career options. Extension Classes, considered one of the major contributions of the project, will continue to be funded to allow teachers to develop students' understanding of their subjects outside of the curriculum. Schools will also host programmes of talks and lectures, which will further extend students' awareness of Higher Education options and the diversity of subjects studied in universities.

All schools have already expressed much interest in the new plans and we look forward to seeing EAGLE take flight in this new direction.' ✪

Mr John Loosley (BA 1962) reports: 'On the last Friday of July, 37 members of the Johnian Society competed for the **Marshall Hall Cup** at the Gog Magog Golf Club. The weather was beautifully sunny and the courses in excellent condition. The winner was John Jenkins 36 points (22 handicap) and the runner-up Bill Darling 35 points (18 handicap). The competition was an individual stableford played on the Old Course. John Jenkins has now won the Cup for a record 7 times; the next most

successful player was Peter Morris who won the Cup on 5 occasions. Bill Darling won the veterans' salver for the best score of age plus stableford points.

In the afternoon a foursome competition was played over 9 holes on the Wandlebury Course and the winners with 20 points, on a card play-off, were John Jenkins and David Livermore with Bill Blyth and Michael Hetherington the runners-up. In the evening the golfers enjoyed dinner in the Combination Room as guests of the Master and Fellows where they were joined by Colin Greenhalgh, Chairman of the Johnian Society.'

The next meeting will be at the Gog Magog Golf Club on Friday 29 July 2005 and any Johnians, not already on the mailing list, who wish to receive details should contact John Loosley, Stonehatch, Oakridge Lynch, Stroud GL6 7NR, tel 01285 760460, email john@loosleyj.freemove.co.uk ✪

Following the **Choir's** extremely successful recording agreement with Naxos, which has led to a series of ten recordings of music by 20th Century composers, a new recording relationship has been developed with Hyperion. Founded in 1980, Hyperion is an independent British classical label 'devoted to presenting high-quality recordings of music of all styles and from all periods from the twelfth century to the twentieth'. The first recording will take place next year and will be a CD of works by Mendelssohn. ✪

Four Fellows of the College are **Foreign Associates of the National Academy of Sciences**: Professor Sir Maurice Wilkes, Professor Robert Hinde, Professor Sir Partha Dasgupta and Professor Jack Goody. This is a joint record for any Oxbridge College, with Trinity which also has four Foreign Associates. The National

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.

News, 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

Academy of Sciences is an American organisation which is 'a private, non-profit, self-perpetuating society of distinguished scholars engaged in scientific and engineering research, dedicated to the furtherance of science and technology and to their use for the general welfare'. The Academy has a mandate that requires it to advise the federal government on scientific and technical matters and is considered, with the Royal Society, the most prestigious academy in the world. ❁

Ian Gilroy Baillie (BA 1955), has sent us this wonderful photograph of the Cam covered in snow and ice in the early part of 1953. The picture was taken by John Harrison (also BA 1955, now deceased) and Ian writes: 'I cannot remember why, or excuse the fact, my tongue seems to be out, but suspect it relates to my less than skilful performance on skates As I recall Trinity bridge was negotiable, but I think that the ice under Queens bridge was only for the brave. Not I!' ❁



Dr George Reid has announced his resignation as Senior Bursar from the end of March 2005, an office to which he was first appointed nearly fourteen years earlier. Speaking from the Bursary he said, 'It has been a job that I have loved - varied and intense, full of challenge and stimulus. I shall miss that, and I shall miss my staff, who are an exceptional team to whom I owe very much. What shall I remember? Relationships mostly: the relationship that grows up between a Senior Bursar and the College's agricultural tenants and their families; the striking contribution made to the College by some Old Johnians, and especially those who serve or have served on the Investments Committee; the friendship of former Tutorial pupils; and being part of the circle of College Bursars, who are a wonderfully constructive and supportive group working for a common good.'

Johnians will be pleased to hear that Dr Reid will remain a Fellow and will be taking up a new post with the Bursars' Committee, developing his work on inter-Collegiate legal and policy matters that loom ever larger in College affairs. ❁

Library Exhibitions

Anyone in Cambridge and with a few minutes to spare might wish to visit the Library's Exhibition Area. Our exhibitions consider many aspects of College life, ancient and modern, drawing upon the fascinating and extensive collections held in the Library and the Archives. The Exhibition Area is normally open between 9am and 5pm, Mondays to Fridays, and is accessed via the main Library door in Chapel Court. Details of forthcoming exhibitions are also available on the College website at www.joh.cam.ac.uk/library/library_exhibitions.

Please note that advertised opening and closing dates of exhibitions are subject to minor adjustment. There will, however, always be something interesting to see.

1 November to 23 December 2004;

4 to 31 January 2005

'Gone to the Wars': St John's College and the World Conflicts, 1914-45

This exhibition features the College's contribution to the war efforts in the First and Second World Wars, telling the stories behind some of the names on the College's War Memorial. There will also be a linked display near the Memorial in the Ante Chapel.

1 February to 16 April 2005

Crimes and Punishments

A History of College malefactors

St John's is not necessarily proud of *every* old member! This exhibition tells the stories of traitors, murderers, cheats and swindlers who passed through our doors, long ago. In particular, it marks the 300th anniversary of the death of Titus Oates, whose false testimony helped ignite the Popish Plot of 1678-9.



Alumni Events

A dinner was held in **York** on Monday 24 May 2004 at York St John College, thanks to the good offices of Professor David Maughan Brown (BA 1969), Director of Strategy and Corporate Planning.

Forty-six Johnians and their guests attended the dinner, taking the opportunity to meet the guest of honour, Professor Richard Perham, Master of St John's. The crowd was diverse, the oldest having matriculated in 1929 and the youngest in 1992, and much fun was had by all; no doubt assisted by the plentiful supply of wine and port!

Time was taken to reflect on the funding problems currently facing the College and University, in light of changes to higher education funding in the UK, and to reminisce fondly of days gone by. The evening was deemed a success and we hope to return to York in two or three years time, to build on the positive response Johnians in the Yorkshire area have showed to events of this kind. ✿

The **University Alumni Weekend** took place on 25 and 26 September, with a range of lectures, concerts and tours. Johnians and their guests who were attending the weekend were invited to join the Master and Development Officer, Catherine Twilley, at a dinner in the Wordsworth Room on the Saturday night. It was a chance to catch up with old friends and to make new ones. There was another opportunity for conversation at a drinks reception in the Master's Lodge on the Sunday. The Alumni Weekend takes place every year and is organised by the University Development Office for all members of the University. ✿



The dinner in the Wordsworth Room during the Alumni Weekend

Just under forty Johnians and guests met at **Loretto School** outside Edinburgh on Monday 27 September for an evening of good wine, food and conversation. The dinner was hosted by Mr Michael Mavor (BA 1968), Headmaster of Loretto, and his wife, Elizabeth. The Master, his wife, and the Development Officer represented the College.



Dr Nancy Lane Perham, Miss Jane Cornwell and Miss Jessica Bertram at Loretto School

The group met in the Old Library and was piped into dinner by one of the pupils of the school, and later two pipers entertained the gathering with a selection of music. It was a wonderful evening and was the first event in Scotland as part of the College's new regional events programme. ✿

Johnians will be aware that the College is increasingly active in the USA, through the **Johnian Society of the USA**. This year has been no exception. Events in the spring were reported on in the last edition of *Johnian News*. The Associate Development Officer, Clare Laight, spent a period of three months on secondment in the USA earlier this year and was able to meet a number of Johnians. Office space was kindly donated by Mr Marc Feigen (MPhil 1986), the Chairman of the JSUSA. We hope that Clare will be able to meet with more members of the College when she returns to the USA next spring.

For the first time, Johnians in Seattle got together for an informal dinner with the Master in August. Plans are being put in place for future events and details can be found on page 8 and on the College's website.

With all the activity in the UK and the USA, Johnians living elsewhere might be feeling slightly left out! We are currently organising get-togethers in Paris and Japan, and we are looking at the possibility of putting on an event in India, and in Australia. ✿



Swimming to France

Lennard Lee is reading for a BA in Medical Sciences. In his spare time he is a member of the University Swimming Team (he has a Blue in the sport) and he rows for the LMBC and is a proud Eagle. In July this year he achieved one of his ambitions when he became the second Cambridge University Student to swim the English Channel. Lennard raised £16,000 for the planned University sports complex, Christie hospital and a chemotherapy charity in Malaysia. He wrote this report a couple of days after finishing



At exactly 6.19pm on Tuesday 13 July, I finally reached Cap Gris Nez in France, half delirious and half ecstatic to finally touch land. In doing so, I broke all my expectations and finally fulfilled my dream. For three years the channel swim has been in the back of my mind, for the last year I have been doing two-hour sessions in the swimming pool, for the last three months I have visited Dover each weekend to get acclimatised to the cold, and for the last month I have lived down in Dover, upping my training for the final few days.

The weather was perfect to begin with: clear skies, low wind and very calm seas. After the first three hours, I was well into the Channel shipping lane, with numerous tankers and ferries passing right in front of me, stirring up cold water and stomach-churning waves. About half-way through, my arms

and legs began to ache. Your arms are spinning non-stop, 70 strokes a minute, your legs are kicking relentlessly for the entire duration and there is nothing to think about, except how much it hurts.

I hit the physical barrier just as the weather began to get rougher. The winds reached 16km per hour and the waves began to roar around me. Every other stroke, I took in a mouthful of water, and every few strokes the waves were so large that I simply couldn't clear my arms from the water. It was a new experience for me, and it was then when I realised this wasn't going to be an easy crossing. The worst bit was when clouds began to crowd the sun and, without its warmth, the cold started to invade my chest. My pacers had to be coaxed and bribed to get in the water to keep me going, but with a swimmer by my side, it seemed much easier.

The final third was pretty much the worse part for me. The tides were ripping me away from the side of the boat, and at one point I had lost sight of it, as I had been pulled nearly a hundred metres away from the ship and the waves blocked my vision. A little later, it became apparent to my crew that since the boat was rocking in the water, I wasn't getting enough feeds to keep me going as the liquid food suspended in a cup was getting mostly spilt into the sea. My pilot then decided to suspend himself off the side of the boat to hand the cup to me from his hand. Soon, I was finally out of the shipping lanes and well into French waters, and I could at last see the Cape Gris Nez, with its lighthouse sitting lonely on the cliff. My mind suddenly sprung into new life, and all my energy was focused into hitting that point, no matter how far away it looked.

Into the last few minutes of my swim I aimed straight at the nearest point, but I couldn't have picked a worse spot. The two lines of white horses on the sea should have told me that there were submerged barnacle-covered rocks. At 9 hours 45 minutes, I touched something below. It certainly wasn't the ideal 'sand on your fingers finish' that many a channel swimmer dreams about, but it was the sharp pain of barnacles on my shin. It left a deep cut on my leg and I still had to swim another 10 metres to get to shore. Finally at the beach, I tried getting to my feet. I fell. On the next attempt, I managed to hurl my body out of the water and I did a final jog onto the French continent. Above on the cliff there were French people shouting and cheering. From the boat, everyone had erupted into loud cheers and there were horns and whistles. There is simply no better feeling on earth than that moment I had on that beach, just sitting there. There is no tag I could place on that mixture of emotions, simply no way of putting it into words. It is hard to believe that it is finally over. ❀



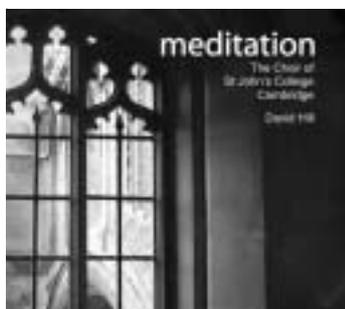
Christmas Merchandise



The **College sweatshirts** with which you will all be familiar (pictured left, as worn by Kim Townsend, BA 2004, current Johnian Office Intern) are to be discontinued once we have sold out of the current stock. We have about forty left in total, in all sizes (Small, Medium, Large, XLarge and Kids), which we expect to sell this Christmas, so hurry and

place your order while stocks last.

Do feel free to let us know what you would like to see these replaced with (fleeces, hooded tops?), and in what colour (navy blue, red?) once stocks have gone (please email any ideas to Amanda George on a.l.george@joh.cam.ac.uk). We will continue to stock the College rugby shirts (red with College crest and white collar). ☼



The latest CD by St John's College Choir, **meditation**, (pictured left), was launched on Tuesday 9 November at St Luke's Church, London. The CD is a diverse sequence of pieces that

demonstrate the emotional and musical range of the Choir. The well-loved masterpieces Allegri *Miserere* and Lotti's *Crucifixus* feature, and there are works by composers ranging from Arvo Pärt and Jonathan Harvey (Honorary Fellow of the College) to Pablo Casals and John IV, King of Portugal.

Meditation marks the end of the Choir's first year under David Hill, its new Music Director, and has been produced by John Rutter. The CD is available from the Johnian Office at the special price of £11.00, including UK postage & packing (overseas postage to be determined upon despatch). It is being distributed nationally by Priory Records under the reference SJCR 103-2 and is available in music shops.



We are also pleased to be able to offer **two new Christmas card designs** for this season, following the very successful promotion of the three religious designs in the last edition of the newsletter. We have now sold out completely of "The Adoration", "The Nativity" and "The Shepherd and King Herod" cards.



This sepia photograph of the Bridge of Sighs was taken by Derek Langley (Darkness and Light) and is left blank for your own message. It measures 7 by 5 inches and

comes in packs of five costing £3.50 per pack, including UK postage & packing (overseas postage to be determined).



The Master's Lodge

The other card that we are launching this Christmas is one taken by the Master, Professor Richard Perham, of the Master's Lodge in winter. It is in full colour and also comes in packs of five, left blank for your own message. The packs cost £3.50, including UK postage (overseas as above). We are also still offering the two Dona Haycraft designs from last year, "New Court" and "The Bridge of Sighs". ☼

To order any of the items mentioned please use the order form enclosed with this newsletter and return to: The Johnian Office, St John's College, Cambridge, CB2 1TP. Copies of the form can also be found on the website.



New Research Fellows

Each year the College elects a small number of Research Fellows (Title A Fellows) who have the opportunity to spend three years at St John's. Here the new batch of Title A Fellows for October 2004 introduce themselves.

Sarah Houghton

Having completed my BA, MPhil and PhD at St John's, I am delighted to be back as a Fellow. Following my recent research into John Clare, I'm going to be working in the field of eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century literature (casting the odd glance at our very own Wordsworth along the way). It's somewhat strange to be on the other side of the Green Room door, so to speak, though I suspect those who knew me as a student are even more surprised about it than I am ...



Martin O'Neill

I come to St John's from Harvard University, where I was a PhD student in the Department of Philosophy. My PhD research spanned issues in the philosophy of action and in normative political philosophy, on the topic of 'Freedom, Fairness and Responsibility: from Agency to Egalitarianism'. My research is in an area of philosophy that borders on a number of other disciplines (especially politics, economics and law), and I have been involved in a number of interdisciplinary initiatives at Harvard, first as a Fellow at the Center for Ethics at the John F Kennedy School of Government, and later as a Fellow in the Harvard Program on Justice, Welfare and Economics.

Before Harvard, I was an undergraduate (reading PPE) and then a graduate student (reading for the BPhil in Philosophy) at St John's sister college: Balliol College, Oxford. At Balliol, I met my partner, Mary Leng, who is also (since 2002) a Title A Fellow of St John's (and also in Philosophy!). After many years of putting up with the rigours of a long-distance relationship, I'm delighted that the welcome intervention of St John's has allowed us to get back to a more congenial way of life!



Akhilesh Basi Reddy

Joining St John's gives me the opportunity to continue my research into body clocks. These pervasive entities control many aspects of our physiology including the sleep-wake cycle, hormone levels and cardio-respiratory function.



Dysfunction of normal timing (as occurs in jet-lag, shift work and dementia) is responsible for a diverse range of disorders and has recently been implicated in cancer propagation. Having moved down the road from Downing, I anticipate that my experiences at St John's will be just as rewarding. Beware though, if there's a cricket match between Downing and St John's, don't ask me who I would support... (especially if I'm playing!)

Greg Jefferis

Cambridge and St John's are familiar ground since I was a Natural Scientist here (1995-1998). I then moved to Stanford, California, switching from Biochemistry to Neuroscience. My PhD used the olfactory system of the fruitfly to address the problem



of wiring specificity: during development how do neurons form the networks of extremely precise connections that allow brains to process information? My next goal is to understand how the brain processes, recognises and responds to individual odours. This will involve challenging new experiments including recording the activity of single neurons in flies as I puff odours onto their antennae. One prediction that I will test is that there are genetically identified neurons deep in the brain that respond to the same odours in every animal. In the long term I hope to understand the mechanisms that allow some genes to regulate behaviour.

After six years away from John's I have been thoroughly enjoying the process of reacquaintance with people and places — reacclimatisation may take a little longer!



Dates for your Diary

Mr Richard Thompson (BA 1957) is generously hosting a **Holiday Drinks Party** at his home for Johnians and their guests living in the New York area. The party will take place on 8 December and invitations have been sent out. If you expect to be in the area at the time and would like to attend, please contact the Johnian Office. ❁

A reminder is given that the annual **Johnian Society Dinner** takes place on Saturday 11 December 2004. Application forms were sent out with this year's **Eagle** but if you have not yet applied to come please contact Catherine Twilley, Secretary of the Society, in the Johnian Office. ❁

A concert by the Choir is being held in the College Chapel on 14 December 2004 to raise funds for the **George Guest Memorial Fund**. Tickets are priced at £10.00, including a glass of wine after the concert. To apply for tickets, please contact the Johnian Office. ❁

Johnians in **Paris** will wish to be aware that the College Choir will be performing at a concert of *English Music under the Tudors* at the Cité de la Musique, 221, avenue Jean Jaures, 75019, on Sunday 16 January 2005. We will be arranging an event for Johnians to coincide with this concert, details of which will be sent out in due course. In the meantime, tickets for the concert may be purchased from the Cité, either on-line at www.cite-musique.fr or by calling +33 (0)1 44 84 44 84. ❁

In February, there will be a dinner for Johnians living in the Bay Area in the USA. It is likely to take place on 24 February, but this will be confirmed in due

course and invitations will be sent out. ❁

The former Master, Dr Peter Goddard, Director of the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, has kindly agreed to host a BBQ for 'local' Johnians on **Sunday 1 May 2005**. Details will be sent out in the new year. ❁

The **Johnian Dinners** for 2005 will take place in April and September. The first Dinner will take place on 2 April 2005 for matriculation years 1994, 1995 and 1996, and invitations have been sent out.

The second Dinner will be held on 17 September 2005 and matriculation years up to and including 1945, and 1971, 1972, 1973 will be invited. Invitations will be sent out in March 2005. ❁

The College is holding an **Open Weekend** for Johnians and their guests on Saturday 2 and Sunday 3 July 2005. Those who matriculated in the years up to and including 1951, in 1956-1958, 1969-1970 or 1991-1993 will be invited to attend. Johnians from other matriculation years who are usually resident overseas are also welcome to join us and should contact the Johnian Office to be added to the invitation list.

The Weekend provides a wonderful opportunity to return to College with family and friends. Activities on offer include tea in the Master's Garden, punting, croquet, wine-tasting, a chance to hear the Choir sing in the Chapel, and the possibility of taking part in tours of the College and viewing exhibitions on areas of the College's activity. There is also a dinner in Hall on the evenings of Friday 1 and Saturday 2 July, at which guests are most welcome. ❁

Reviews of past events can be found on page 4. ❁

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Further details about all these events can be obtained from the Johnian Office or on the web at www.joh.cam.ac.uk/johnian/events. Future events will also be advertised on the website as details become available.