



Johnian News

Issue 8

Michaelmas Term 2000

Linking up with Schools

St John's College and The Gatsby Charitable Foundation are collaborating in a new initiative to help improve the teaching of mathematics, science and technology in schools in the Eastern Region (Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, Suffolk, Hertfordshire, Northamptonshire and South Lincolnshire). The project is being set up for three years in the first instance and aims to mobilise the wealth of scientific and mathematical resources in the University to develop a support system for schools and teachers, covering primary and secondary schools and sixth-form and further education colleges.

As well as creating links between schools, colleges, teachers and University staff and Departments, the aim is to develop ICT (information communication technology) methods for delivering teaching in subjects with a shortage of teachers and to develop new equipment and teaching materials. The scheme will also provide an opportunity for teachers to spend time at the University to develop new equipment and teaching materials and will provide funds to support and extend initiatives to improve the teaching of the subjects.

The Director of the new initiative is Professor Harry Marsh (BA 1958, PhD 1963, Fellow 1963-71), former Professor of Engineering Science at Durham University, 1971-1997. While at Durham, he launched the INPUT technology scheme for schools in the North of England which, in 1994, received a Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education. The Gatsby Charitable Foundation is supporting an extension programme to develop INPUT into a national scheme and Professor Marsh continues to act as Chairman. With regional centres established in Durham, Southampton, Bath, Oxford, Stevenage, Greenwich, Cambridge and Warwick, INPUT now provides challenging engineering project work for over 25,000 school students each year.

For the new project by St John's and Gatsby, Professor Marsh has already started to carry out preparatory work to build up the necessary links with University Departments, Local Education Authorities (LEAs), schools, colleges and existing initiatives. He commented 'It is very encouraging that the project has been so well received by University Departments, LEAs, schools and teachers. There is a great deal of flexibility in how the project may achieve its objectives and we hope that schools and teachers will come forward with innovative schemes for improving the teaching in mathematics, science and technology. Through teacher associateships, the project should be able to encourage new approaches to the teaching of these subjects and the development of new equipment. These improvements will then be made available to all schools across the region'.

Professor Peter Goddard, the Master, said 'this new scheme complements the work of The EAGLE Project and is another way in which St John's is promoting innovative initiatives which encourage the direct involvement of the College and the University in secondary education'. 🌸



Professor Harry Marsh, Director of the new project



College news

Graham Walker (BA 1999) has been awarded a Choir Association Bursary of £350 to assist with his postgraduate studies at the Royal Academy of Music in London. Graham, a gifted musician who was both a Chorister and Choral Student in the College Choir, took up his place at the Academy in October to study Cello. He is also the recipient of a Royal Academy Scholarship. The award was presented by Mrs Joanna Gumpert at the Choir Association's Annual Reunion Dinner held in College on 8 July. Graham is the third member of the College Choir to receive an Association Bursary, these being awarded annually to members and former members of the Choir to support projects and study in any field of music. The closing date for applications is 31st March. Further information and application forms may be obtained from the Johnian Office. ❀

Steve Acklam (BA 1968) writes with the following news: 'I graduated from St John's in the summer of 1968. The following April I was married in St John's College Chapel by special licence from the Archbishop of Canterbury. Andrew Macintosh conducted all the preliminary conversations with my wife and me, and George Guest played the organ on the day. The best man and ushers (and many of the congregation) were also from St John's.'



As happens (marriage / ambition / children), and despite the regular exchange of Christmas greetings and the occasional two or three person reunion, the wedding party never reconvened in full until the night the photograph was taken, last October, in the Parsons Room. The justification that prompted the get-together (also including both bridesmaids and their husbands) was the 30th year of marriage of me and my wife Veronica.

The photograph shows (left to right): Pete Davies, John Foyle, Dave Moss, Steve Acklam and Neil Houghton. Our regards and best wishes to anyone who recognises us and was not invited! ❀

John Loosley (BA 1962) writes: 'On a warm and thundery Friday in July, 49 members of the Johnian Society competed for the Marshall Hall Cup at the John O'Gaunt Golf Club, Sandy. The competition was an individual stableford and the winner was Dr Nigel Snaith of an 8 handicap who had travelled from Holland to be present. The runner-up was C I M Jones (15 handicap). Bill Darling won the veteran's salver, presented in 1999 by Sir Richard Posnett, using the rather complicated scoring system of age plus stableford points. His total was 103!

After an excellent buffet lunch the more energetic golfers competed in an afternoon greensome over 9 holes on the Carthage course and the tankard winners were John Salter and Mike Frisby.

In the evening the golfers enjoyed dinner in the Combination Room as guests of the Master and Fellows.'

The next meeting will be at John O'Gaunt Golf Club on Friday 27th July 2001 and any Johnian wishing to receive details should contact John Loosley, Stonehatch, Oakridge Lynch, Stroud, Glos GL6 7NR Tel: 01285 760460. ❀

Three teams from the College took part in the **Chariots of Fire** relay race on Sunday 24 September. The race was organised in support of the MacMillan Cancer Relief Fund and the British Olympic Appeal. It is run

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College news

in teams of six, starting at the Backs by Queens' College and following a 1.8 mile course through the streets of Cambridge.

The Graduate / Fellows team finished 14th overall and was the second fastest college team, finishing in 1 hour, 5 minutes and 7 seconds. Team members were Oliver Choroba, Alex Weber, Paul Gandy, Tobias Wabnitz, Dr Griffin and Mr Yu. The other two teams finished 21st and 113th overall. The St John's entries were organised by Adam Footman from the College Office.

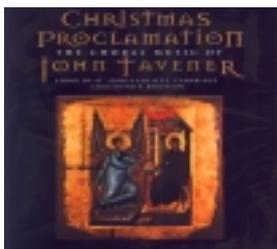


Materials scientists from St John's achieved record examination results in the third and fourth years of their course last summer. Pictured here with the three teaching Fellows in the subject, Dr Ian Hutchings, Dr Serena Best and Dr John Leake (with beard), are (from left to right) Chris Brown, Katherine Hayward, Clifford McAleese, Colin McAleese, Dave Curran and Andrew King.

Photograph by B R Barber



Dr Best is one of the newest Fellows, having joined the College in October 2000. Dr Jim Charles, now retired, was the first teaching Fellow in Metallurgy (as it was then called) to be appointed, in 1963.



A new CD by the Choir was released on 6 November on the Naxos label. The recording features the works of John Tavener, best known for his *Song for Athene*, and is being marketed under the title *Christmas Proclamation*.

For the recording the Choir was joined by Timothy

Hugh (BA 1979), principal cellist at the London Symphony Orchestra.

The CD is available from the Johnian Office at a cost of £4.75 plus 50p postage and packing per CD for the UK and £1.50 postage and packing for overseas.

A recording of Finzi's music will be made in March next year as part of the Naxos series and a CD of Rubbra's music, which was recorded earlier this year, will be released in the spring.

The second **Hinsley Memorial Lecture** was given by Professor Adam Roberts of the University of Oxford and Balliol College, Oxford, on Thursday 26 October. Professor Roberts spoke about 'the so-called right of humanitarian intervention' to a packed audience in the Palmerston Room. Details of the third lecture in the series are given on page 8.

The College hosted the Annual General Meeting of the **Herbert Howells Society** on Saturday 14 October. Members of the Society attended Evensong after the meeting where the Choir sang Howells' St John's Service and Howells' *Sequence for St Michael*.

Children from **Margaret Beaufort Middle School** in Bedfordshire visited St John's again this year. This was the third annual visit by Year 5 and was greatly appreciated by the schoolchildren.

Malcolm Underwood, the College Archivist, dressed up as the Clerk to the Works. Later, the children were able to see Lady Margaret's prayer book in the Upper Library and they visited the Chapel and the Master's Lodge.



A celebration of the **Eagle Project** took place on the Thames in October. Representatives of the schools, Johnians who have given careers-related talks, and student helpers joined members of the Management Group on the *Golden Salamander*. The evening was an opportunity to thank those who have been involved in the Project so far. Anyone who is willing to give a talk to a group of school students about a particular career should contact Catherine Twilley at the College.





A Window of Hope

Richard Sykes (BA 1955) was elected a Fellow Commoner for the Lent Term 2000 to research a report on the illness chronic fatigue syndrome. Richard is Director of Westcare UK, a charity which he set up and which provides Rehabilitation Courses and Advisory Services for people with the illness. Here he writes about his work.

My work is with Westcare UK, a charity based in Bristol which helps people with chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS) or ME (myalgic encephalomyelitis) as it is more generally called. Twelve years ago, when the charity was set up, many people were being told by their doctors there was nothing wrong with them and they should just pull themselves together and get on with their work. Since then great strides have been made in the recognition of the illness, but its cause remains mysterious.

I am working on a collaborative report which aims to tackle the controversial issue of how much of the illness is physical and how much is mental. This report has the backing of the Wellcome Trust and help is being given by a number of report consultants, including many eminent medical people. My own background includes academic philosophy, social work, practical experience as director of a charity for people with CFS/ME and work as co-ordinator of the National Task Force on CFS/ME. This issue is currently a large bone of contention as many doctors regard the illness as primarily a psychological condition and many patients view it as being primarily physical.

The term at St John's gave me the opportunity to work on this report and proved to be everything that I had hoped for and more. The academic environment was most stimulating, the library facilities were superb, and many people at the College were very helpful, particularly Professor Jane Heal and Professor Ann-Louise Kinmonth. It was also a great pleasure to talk to my old Classics teachers, John Crook and Guy Lee, who were still contributing their wit and wisdom to High Table. My only regret is that my stay was not longer.

Back in Bristol there are now three major tasks. The first is to see the report through to completion. An 80 page discussion draft has now been produced, with the provisional conclusion that CFS/ME is best regarded as a multi-dimensional physical illness - a *physical illness* because in many cases there are strong suggestions of some as yet undetected underlying physical disease process, and *multi-dimensional* because, like other illnesses the development and course of CFS/ME may be profoundly influenced by social, emotional, cognitive, behavioural and spiritual factors. To what extent this provisional conclusion will be generally acceptable remains to be seen.

The second task is to raise substantial funds so that Westcare UK is placed on a more secure footing and the third task is to pass on the directorship of the charity to a capable and enthusiastic younger person (I am now 68). The work is challenging, fascinating and, as feedback from our clients confirms, immensely worthwhile. Perhaps there are some Johnians reading this who know something of the devastation that CFS/ME can cause and who may be interested in supporting the charity's work? Perhaps there is even a Johnian who is motivated to respond to the challenge of the directorship? If so, I will have even more cause to be thankful for my stay at St John's. ☺



Dr Richard Sykes



To South Africa in the *Silver Queen*

Matt Bresler came from South Africa to do a PhD at St John's in Biotechnology in 1994. He was a Benefactors' Scholar and a Cambridge Livingstone Scholar and finished his PhD in 1998. Last year he took part in a re-enactment of the first flight from the UK to South Africa in a replica of a World War I open cockpit biplane, the Silver Queen. This replica has been built to the original specifications but has modern communication and navigation equipment.

In June last year, the crew of four Americans and I lifted off from Brooklands airfield in Surrey, from where the original *Silver Queen* pilots, two South Africans returning home from the Great War, departed in 1920 to be the first to make it from England to South Africa by air. On crossing into France, we experienced our first delay with a 36-hour impounding of our craft and a hefty fine from French Customs in Nancy for unforeseen tax complications. Then, after a night on the French Riviera at Cannes, we flew to Taranto on Italy's boot. Here an oil leak from one of the engines left the Vimy's silver-painted fabric wings and tail splattered with oil, and grounded for another couple of days. A short flight to Corfu created an ideal staging-post for the epic crossing of the Mediterranean, and a gruelling nine-hour leg saw our *Silver Queen* at last in Africa some eighty years after her predecessor. We captured on film our flight over the Pyramids and up the Nile to Luxor, before we crossed the Red Sea for Jeddah in Saudi Arabia.

Another (fortuitous this time) oil problem delayed the return crossing to Africa and thus prevented the plane being over an Eritrean port at the time of its bombing by Ethiopia. This blessing aside, the conflict between these two countries caused us more severe delays and frustration than we could have anticipated. The combination of warring countries, strong headwinds, the need for high altitude flying (which limited range) and red-tape, resulted in a delay in Djibouti of almost two weeks.

As tutors on the project's educational component as well as crew-members, American school-teacher Mick Follari and I had to leave the plane during this delay and push on ahead to Kenya, where our five students (from England, South Africa, USA, Kenya and Germany) flew in to meet us to begin the project's educational component. We busied ourselves with a number of unique educational projects on the wildlife, politics, history and culture of the countries we visited.

The flying seemed easier once we had penetrated East Africa. Flying over Kenya's Masai Mara, in the shadow of Kilimanjaro, and over Victoria Falls was awe-

inspiring, as was the hero's reception we received in Bulawayo, which included two old ladies, who had witnessed the original crash here in 1920, brought to tears at the sight of our replica droning in the sunset.

But for me, it was our educational programme that was the shining light of our trip. Something I will not forget is the delight on the face of our 19-year old South African student Anton van Ginkel, who is an avid aviation enthusiast and already has his private pilot's licence. Having closely followed the re-enactment of the first England to Australia flight that a similar crew completed in this very plane in 1994, imagine the feeling for him of now being airborne in the nose (gunner's) seat of the Vimy as part of the re-enactment flight that would eventually take him home. Then there is the clear admiration of 200 schoolgirls from Moi girls' school in Nairobi for their recently matriculated schoolmate Miriam Alube, our Kenyan student, as she stands with the rest of us before them and tells them in humble tones of how she became involved with this interesting project and what she then plans to do with her life.

These are some of the memories of what was for me, and for all of those involved, a trip of a lifetime. I am extremely privileged to have ever been a part of it and hope that we have done some justice to pioneers like van Ryneveld and Brand whose efforts contributed to the world being the way it is today. 🌍



Photograph by Bridget Bennett

The photograph shows the crew standing in front of the plane. (Back L to R: John LaNove [co-pilot], Mark Rebholz [chief pilot], Front L to R: Matt Bresler, Pete McBride, Mick Follari)



Sailing the World

Meg Clothier and Kath Joy graduated from St John's in 1999. They volunteered to sail Meg's father's boat Brown Bear to Alaska by Midsummer's Day 2000. Here they write about their trip.

Hiding from revision in the Maypole, we'd fantasise about tropical islands and storm-tossed seas and talk endlessly about what a perfect year it was going to be. Reality hit rather hard when we found ourselves sitting on the boat in Lymington marina, with the infamously bad-tempered Bay of Biscay standing between us and Spain.

Somehow, after five punishing days at sea, a baptism of fire for a rather inexperienced crew, we limped into La Coruna. Then began a couple of months of unadulterated pleasure-seeking as we drifted gently to Tenerife, taking in Portugal, Madeira, Lanzarote and Fuerteventura.

At the beginning of November the fun was over as Meg's father and uncle came out to join us for the Atlantic crossing. We spent five days desperately trying to turn the boat back from a floating camper van into an ocean going vessel. Food was spilling out of every available locker and we'd got the dented pulpit (where Meg had ploughed into a harbour wall) fixed.

Apart from a few days of wind, thunder storms and torrential rain the 21-day crossing to Antigua was blissful: following winds, baking sunshine, lots of lazy reading, cooking and talking, with plenty of time left over to gaze at sea and sky.

After a brief spell home during February we were very keen to escape the grey skies and greyer faces of England and rejoin the boat in Curacao. We enjoyed a very fast sail to Panama, where we joined the queue of boats waiting to get through the canal. Even with an agent we still had a week to wait, which we whiled in true sailor fashion by drinking too much in the shabby harbour bar. Finally making it through, watching the final lock gate swing open as the sun set over the Pacific - that was one of the most exhilarating moments of our lives.

Our next port of call was the Galapagos islands, which we reached early one morning after another 10 days at sea. We had an action-packed 5 days of hunting for giant tortoises on horseback, swimming with sealions and diving with hammerhead sharks.

But we had a 4,500 mile passage to Hawaii waiting for us. That was a five week haul across one of the emptiest parts of the world. At one point our nearest piece of land was an uninhabited rock, and that was 1000 miles away. At times spirits sank low as it seemed that Hawaii was never going to get closer, but that only made jumping off the boat in Honolulu more exciting.

After only 8 days' respite, we were faced with the toughest leg of the journey, due north to Alaska. After a couple of days we'd left the tropics behind and the weather deteriorated alarmingly fast. We got caught in a series of depressions, which brought with them perpetual rain, gale-force winds and biting cold. We battled our way up the chart, flying the tiniest scraps of sail, being picked up and flung down the faces of bigger and bigger waves. After two seemingly interminable weeks, the skies cleared and the mountains of Alaska rose up before us.

Meg's parents were waiting in Seward, and looked very relieved to see us (and the boat) in one piece. We then had three weeks cruising in Prince William Sound, one of the most beautiful areas left in the world, a subarctic paradise of glaciers and pine forests, icebergs and bears. We caught salmon, saw killer whales, flirted with the local fisherman and tried to pretend that it wasn't almost all over. Plans are already afoot for an all-girl adventure next September, delivering the Bear to San Francisco from Vancouver. We'll keep you posted! 🌸



Kath Joy and Meg Clothier



175 Years Young

The Lady Margaret Boat Club was founded in 1825 and continues to flourish. On 30 September nearly 300 members of the Club gathered in Cambridge to celebrate its 175th anniversary.

Members of the LMBC gathered at the Pike & Eel Public House in Chesterton in the afternoon for a reunion regatta. The response was so good that 13 crews raced in the regatta. The event was filmed by Anglia News, including an interview with Roger Silk, the Boatman, and Catherine Twilley, the Senior Treasurer.

Work to extend and modernise the Boathouse began in July and members of the LMBC were given the chance to look at the plans and see the work in progress. The work has been generously funded by the College, and the Master, who is also President of the Club, carried out the 'Topping Out' ceremony.



After the race

In the evening, a reception was held in the Master's Lodge where members of the Club had a chance to view some of the



Preparing to race

LMBC's memorabilia, including the original

Minute Book. This was followed by a dinner in the College Hall at which James Crowden, Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire, Pembroke man, and honorary member of the LMBC, proposed the toast to the Boat Club and gave an entertaining speech about the history of the LMBC. The Captain, Karen Hartshorn, and the Senior Treasurer, Catherine Twilley, gave the replies. ☘



The Master climbing up to the roof of the Boathouse for the Topping Out Ceremony

Information about a similar event for members of the General Athletic Club is given on page 8.



Racing taking place

The LMBC's website can be found at <http://www.joh.cam.ac.uk/societies/lmbc> and information about the College's Appeal for Sport can be found at: http://www.joh.cam.ac.uk/Johnian/sports_appeal/

Two weeks after the anniversary celebrations, the LMBC were invited to participate in filming for a promotional video for the new Eurojet. As part of the filming, the first VIII rowed under the Bridge of Sighs. The photograph was taken by T L P Deguzman.





Notices

Work is underway to set up a **Johnian Society of the US**. Mr MA Feigen (MPhil 1986) is spearheading efforts to encourage Johnians living in the USA to keep in touch with each other and with the College.

In the summer, events were held in Washington, Boston and New York to give members of College the chance to meet the Master and Mrs Goddard. It is hoped that an event will be held in San Francisco in December and those living in the area will be sent invitations.

Over the next year, the Society will aim to organise a number of social and other events, produce a newsletter, and strengthen support for the College from US-based Johnians. Further details will be given in future editions of *Johnian News*. The College is extremely grateful to Mr Feigen and his company, Katzenbach Partners, LLC, for their enormous input into this project.

If you are currently living in the USA, but use a UK address as your mailing address, please let us know so that you can be included in mailings for this new Society. ☸

Dates for your diary

The **Choir** will be singing at the Wigmore Hall in London on Wednesday 6 December at 7.30pm. The programme includes Byrd's *Mass for four voices*, Brahms' *Geistliches Lied*, Mendelssohn's *Ave Maria*, and a selection of carols. Tickets can be obtained by contacting the Wigmore Hall Box office on 020 7935 241.

Further afield, the Choir will be touring Japan in December, following the successful tour in 1998. The tour website can be found at <http://www.ukchoir.co.jp> ☸

The **Johnian Society Annual Dinner** takes place on Saturday 16 December in the College Hall. The President of the Society, Michael Mavor (BA 1968), will be in the Chair. All members of the Society are welcome to attend. Application forms were sent out with *The Eagle* earlier this year. If you have not received your form, please contact Catherine Twilley, Secretary of the Society on (01223) 338700. ☸

The **Johnian Society Lecture** will be given on 28 February 2001 by Professor Mervyn King, Deputy Governor of the Bank of England and Honorary Fellow of the College. The lecture will be held in the Fisher Building at 6.00pm and all are welcome. ☸

Advance notice is given that the third **Hinsley Memorial Lecture** will take place at 6.00pm on 6 March 2001 in the Fisher Building. The Rt Hon The Lord Healey will be giving the lecture and members of College and their guests are welcome to attend. ☸

A dinner to celebrate the **General Athletic Club** will take place on Saturday 21 April 2001 in the College. Although the dinner is aimed primarily at former members of the Field Clubs, members of the LMBC are also welcome. Old Boys and Old Girls matches might be organised. Further details can be obtained from Catherine Twilley in the Johnian Office. ☸

Advance notice is given that the **Linacre Lecture** will take place on 9 May 2001. The lecture will be given by Professor Kay Davies of the Department of Human Anatomy and Genetics, University of Oxford. Further information will be available nearer the time. ☸

An **Open Weekend** will be held on Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 July 2001. Those who matriculated in 1954, 1955, 1959, 1960, 1971-73, 1980-82 and 1985-87 will be invited to attend. Family and friends are welcome and the programme of events includes lectures, displays, exhibitions and dinners. Invitations will be sent out in the spring. College Members who are resident abroad and who will be visiting the UK at the time are welcome to attend. Further details can be obtained from the Johnian Office. ☸

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