



A QUIET PLACE?

Benjamin Jowett (1817-1893), the English classicist and Master of Balliol once wrote ‘the benefits of a University education cannot be thought to consist merely in the acquirement of knowledge, but in the opportunities of society and of forming friends; in short in the experience of life gained by it and the consequent improvement in character’. More recently, in a case study of academic life in the United States - *The Collegiate Way: Residential Colleges and Higher Education Reform* - Robert O’Hara, formerly of Harvard, has concluded that the crisis in Higher Education in the US today has much to do with the impoverishment of student life as a result of the way in which many faculties have given up all responsibility for, and interest



in, the lives of their students outside the classroom. He goes on to advocate a solution: a return to the oldest models of university structure; which is to say, that of the ‘residential colleges of Oxford and Cambridge’. Within – and only within – these small collegiate communities, ‘which include the young and old, rich and poor, student and professor, artist and scientist’ can ‘a stable, challenging and diverse social and intellectual environment be restored’.

Leaving aside the parochial satisfaction which members of Magdalene, in particular, might derive from this modest encomium (the system to which O’Hara refers was, after all, introduced into Harvard (and thereby the United States) by our own Henry Dunster on the basis of his undergraduate experience at Magdalene in the 1620s), O’Hara’s words are a timely reminder of the need to cherish and robustly to defend that which

others are striving either to recover or to establish de novo. Collegiate Cambridge – with its traditions of excellence and independence; of freedom of thought and of action, of the pursuit of knowledge for its own as well as commerce’s sake – is under threat as never before. Yet, its survival is ever more essential, not only to Cambridge and the students it educates, but to the nation – indeed to the world as a whole. If a geographer might be permitted an environmental analogy: Colleges and Universities are the rain-forests of our educational and cultural landscape – apparently invulnerable yet fundamentally fragile; easily exploited for short-term gain yet vital to long-term wellbeing; quickly destroyed yet almost impossible to restore. As places of reflection and learning – “quiet” places – Colleges and the communities they sustain are critical to the intellectual health of society at large; so that the fight for Collegiate Cambridge is a fight driven both by enlightened self-interest and by the certain knowledge of its significance to the wider world.

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And yet Colleges are also – in another sense – the unquietest places of all: maelstroms of energy and epicentres of creative activity; places where ordinary people achieve quite extraordinary things. If we take the example only of the recent Lent Term, in addition to their manifest application to academic study, members of the College have taken to the field in every major sport, put as many boats as ever on the river, organised poetry readings, photographic competitions and all manner of discussion groups as well as mounting a production of *Anything Goes* which involved more than 50 junior members. Magdalene is no effete academy, and certainly no pampered finishing school. It is what it has always been: a community of interests and a force for good in a world which needs the “oxygen” Magdalene and similar institutions routinely dispense. Such things are worth fighting for.

MARK BILLINGE



DEVELOPMENT NEWS

“An almost certain passport to heaven...”

Bamber Gascoigne (1955) is one of a growing number of members who have chosen to give to the College on a regular basis through a Standing Order. Recently, he explained why:

“I continue to support Magdalene in this way because I am immensely grateful to the College for providing such a happy and stimulating home during some of the most important years of my life — as I imagine they are for almost all undergraduates.

One of the great advantages of Gift Aid over the old system of covenants is that covenants had to have a fixed term. By contrast a Gift Aid standing order can run on until cancellation. Charities can thus benefit from the widespread virtue of inertia. Generosity is a long-established cause of merit. But generosity combined

with inertia, through the medium of a standing order, is said to be an almost certain passport to heaven.”

The College is grateful for every gift it receives whether one-off or regular, large or small. All bring us closer to achieving our goal of financial independence. However, the knowledge that a gift will be forthcoming on a regular basis helps immeasurably in planning for the College’s future.

Further information on Regular Giving through Standing Order, CAF or GAYE can be obtained from the Development Office: +44 (0)1223 332104 or by email: development@magd.cam.ac.uk



BAMBER GASCOIGNE

PHONE A FRIEND...



Between 9 and 24 April, approximately 1,500 College members will be telephoned as part of the College’s 3rd Telephone Fund Raising Campaign. Undertaken, for the second time, in conjunction with professional advisors Rux-Burton Associates, the Telethon will be “staffed” by seventeen highly enthusiastic undergraduate and postgraduate members of the College. Though the prime aim of the Telephone Campaign is – of course – to raise money for Magdalene, it is our hope that these calls will also serve the wider purpose of updating members on recent developments within the College as well as seeking their views on various aspects of the overall Campaign. We are confident - on the basis

of previous experience - that calls will prove an enjoyable and informative experience for caller and receiver alike. All those to be called will receive, in advance, a letter from the Master explaining the purpose of our call (not the same in every case) and will have the opportunity to “opt out” if they so wish. Magdalene’s first two “Telethons” were highly successful – in every respect – and we trust that our efforts this Spring will prove no exception.



ROOSEVELT SCHOLARSHIP FOR MAGDALENE

Magdalene’s developing relationship with the *Atlantic Studies Programme* sponsored by the Donner Foundation has received a welcome boost with the announcement of a major capital gift of \$300,000 to help establish in the College, in perpetuity, a ROOSEVELT SCHOLARSHIP for graduate students. Named for the late Bill Roosevelt one of the Foundation’s most influential moving spirits, the gift was the inspired idea of Bill’s nephew Curtin Winsor (1986). Informing the College of this gift, Curtin who came to Magdalene as a graduate student to read for the MPhil in Latin American Studies, expressed his delight “*at the establishment of this personal memorial Scholarship at Magdalene for Bill Roosevelt*”.

Over the last five years, Magdalene has been one of the co-hosts of the *Atlantic Studies Programme* (run in association with

the University’s Centre for International Studies) and home, in that period, to a number of Donner Foundation sponsored graduate students. We are also fortunate to have in our midst, as Donner Research Fellow and Programme Director, the distinguished academic and former White House political advisor Stefan Halper, co-author of the critically acclaimed and hugely influential *America Alone* (CUP 2004). Magdalene knows good fortune when it sees it and is delighted to recognize the enormous declaration of faith which this latest benefaction signals.

CAMPAIGN NEWS

£8,489,605
has been given or pledged to
the Magdalene Campaign
by 1 March 2005

Contributions totalling
£4,550,516 have been received
from 1,444 members
of the College,
i.e. 25% of the membership

CAMPAIGN TARGET

£20,000,000

COLLEGE NEWS

ACB

Two significant Benson anniversaries fall during 2005. ACB – described by the College History as “one of the most charismatic, intelligent, friendly, amusing and inspirational masters Cambridge has ever seen” – came to the College in 1904 and was appointed Master, on the death of Stuart Donaldson, ninety years ago this summer. He died eighty years ago (on 17 June). Amongst his many achievements – regarded by some as truly revolutionary – was his rebuilding of the College, both literally – he poured much of his own money into renovating the fabric – and metaphorically through his innovative and controversial approach to the curriculum and its teaching. Many of the College’s buildings still bear the stamp of this remarkable man

who “by his presence, his generosity and his encouragement ... helped to build the new [Magdalene] of the 1920s and 1930s”. Though at heart a shy and private person, ACB was not the most self-effacing of men: his initials appear in no less than eighteen places around the College.

To mark these anniversaries, the College has established the A C Benson Fund, the income of which will be applied to maintaining and improving the College’s buildings and grounds. Any member wishing to contribute to the Fund or requiring further information, should contact the Development Director on +44 (0)1223 32104 or via email: director.development@cam.ac.uk



ARTHUR CHRISTOPHER
BENSON (1862-1925)

O tempora, O mores, O Block



A LOVE-HATE RELATIONSHIP...

Love it or hate it, O Block – one of David Roberts’ most uncompromisingly modern College buildings – reaches the venerable age of 50 this year. Rather as the late John Arlott remarked of the Post Office Tower in London – that the view from it was the best in London precisely because the Post Office Tower could not be seen in it – so has O Block afforded over 600 undergraduates, graduates and Fellows a singular perspective on College life. Amongst the more characterful residents of its “penthouse suite”, countless Magdalene men and women will remember particularly Roger (“Doc”) Morris, whose all-seeing

gaze – woe betide any student, friend or acquaintance who failed to wave to him from the court below – was so insistent that it was immortalised in a cantata written in 1992 to mark the College’s 450th Anniversary.

The building was extensively renovated in 2002 (all sixteen sets now incorporate state of the art *en suite* facilities) and it is now one of the most popular in the student room ballot. Appearances can be deceptive: 50 years on, O Block has found a firm place in the affections as well as the history of the College.

TOPPED-OUT AND TAILED

On a cold and rather damp day in December, a milestone was reached in the construction of the new Cripps Court. Fellows and students, together with an invited group of the College’s friends and neighbours joined the architects, the Haymills Team and their sub-contractors for the time-honoured – and highly symbolic – ceremony of “topping out” the building. This ancient custom, which marks the point when the roof has been completed and the envelope of the building, to all intents and purposes, sealed against the elements, was performed by the Master who, hammer in hand, ascended a makeshift platform to drive home one of the wooden pegs which secures the magnificent oak trusses of the building’s Gallery. For many this was the first opportunity to see the building in its

– approaching – final form and to take in the beauty of its interior dimensions and details.

Cripps Court, which comprises both new construction and the renovated houses of numbers 1 and 3 Chesterton Road is due for completion in July and is, thus far, on time and on budget. It is due to be opened by H R H Prince Richard of Gloucester (1960) in late November 2005 at a ceremony to be attended by Edward and Robert Cripps, whose unparalleled generosity has made the building of the Court possible.

Denis Murphy (1957), Emeritus Fellow, who has overseen the project throughout said: “*Progress has been excellent: we will deliver the new Court on schedule in June 2005.*”



GLOWING COLOURS: THE MASTER (RIGHT)
PREPARES TO “TOP-OUT” THE BUILDING



ASSEMBLY IN THE GALLERY

COLLEGE NEWS

(WO)MENS SANA IN CORPORE SANUM

The Magdalene Boat Club received welcome encouragement earlier this year with a major gift from Club Member Graham Eves (1964). Applied to the purchase of a ladies' eight – to be named *The Lady Calcutt* – this generous benefaction adds significantly to the College's river-going assault fleet which was deployed with great success in the recent Lent Bumps. This year, the Rugby Club has also been the recipient of a substantial gift from old member and England International Marcus Rose (1979) which has enabled the First XV to purchase shirts and to meet a number of pressing expenses. These gifts and

others like them are particularly welcome at a time when it is proving increasingly difficult to fund sport, music, drama and other extra-curricula activities for junior members.

The Amalgamation Fund, from which grants to the College's clubs and societies have traditionally been made, is, like all of the College's funds, under significant pressure as a direct result of the relentless decline in the real value of State funding. In anticipation of this decline the College founded, six years ago, **THE WYVERN TRUST** as a means of highlighting the need for, and focusing giving towards, s

upport for non-curricular student activities. Magdalene students continue to demonstrate the highest levels of talent and aspiration. It is our hope that we can nurture and reward such talent by providing it with the wherewithal to flourish. In doing so, we will be making an enormous contribution not only to the enrichment of our current students' lives, but also to the College's long-term wellbeing. Any member wishing to know more about the **WYVERN TRUST** or wanting to make a contribution towards it, is encouraged to contact the Development Director on +44 (0)1223 332160.

ANYTHING GOES



In what has become an annual tradition, the College Hall was once again converted into a makeshift theatre (actually a luxury liner) for the Magdalene Musical Productions Society's Lent Term extravaganza. This year it was the turn of Cole Porter's *Anything Goes* to undergo that special Magdalene makeover as, for three nights in March, an enthusiastic cast delighted capacity audiences with their stylish rendition of one of Porter's most memorable shows.

The production – perhaps the last to take place in the College Hall – was sponsored by Mr & Mrs Philip Carne. We eagerly await next year's show in the new Cripps Court Theatre. With its larger seating capacity, more members and

friends than ever will be able to see the cream of the College's thespian and vocal talent in characteristically full cry.



VA PENSIERO SULL 'ALI DORATE

Readers of *Magdalene Matters* will know that the College places a very high priority on improving its contact with all its members and on enabling members themselves to keep in touch with their friends and contemporaries. The provisions of the Data Protection Act mean that it is not possible for the College to share contact details between members without the formal consent of the parties concerned: a cumbersome and time-consuming process which has led to a good deal of frustration for all concerned.

In an attempt to improve the accuracy and quality of our communications, and also meet our current legal obligations, the College has invested in both *webALUMNUS* (a state of the art web-based news and contact facility) and in a

revised Development website (www.magdalenecambridge.com). Many members have now registered with *webALUMNUS* though, if it is to be truly effective, we need many more to do so. Details of how to register – and gain instant access to other registered members as well as enjoy the benefits of advanced notice and on-line booking for a variety of events – was included in the last edition of *Magdalene Matters*.

However, any member having difficulty in logging-on to *webALUMNUS* (which requires access only to a computer with a web browser) should contact the Development Office at:

alumni@magd.cam.ac.uk; or telephone Femke Molekamp: +44 (0)1223 764410.

MEMBERS' DINING PRIVILEGES

College members who have taken their MAs are warmly invited to dine at High Table on week days once each Term. If you would like to take up your dining privilege please contact the Development Office by email:

alumni@magd.cam.ac.uk

or by telephone on

+44 (0)1223 764410.

It would be appreciated if members intending to dine could give a minimum of one week's notice.

MEMBERS' UPDATES

MAGDALENE WINE CLUB

The College is pleased to announce the establishment of the *Magdalene Wine Club*. Founded to provide a comprehensive service to members with a social interest in wine, its Secretary is Luke Webster (1999), former Cellarer of the Cambridge University Wine and Food Society, Wine Merchant and Wine Educator. The Club offers members a quarterly newsletter, exclusive tastings and wine dinners in Cambridge and London, opportunities to buy *en primeur*, guided wine tours and more. Membership of the Club is free to College members. Those wishing to join and to receive notification of events should email the Secretary (wineclub@magd.cam.ac.uk) or write to the Development Office in the

first instance. The first *Newsletter* will contain a review of the eagerly expected 2003 declaration of Vintage Port and the Club's first event will be a Tutored Champagne Tasting & Dinner in College.



LUKE WEBSTER

THE MAGDALENE COLLECTION

The following wines and whiskies have been specially *selected and labelled* for the College and are offered to ALL MEMBERS at an exceptionally keen prices.

WHISKY

Magdalene College Fine Old Scotch Whisky £9.99 [RRP £12.99] A delightful, well-balanced and honeyed, blend.

Aultmore 1989 Single Speyside Malt £25.00 Matured in a Sherry cask, an exceptional, broad, powerful malt.

Linkwood 1994 Single Speyside Malt £24.00 A classic sherry-matured Spey with characteristic fruit and Cognac-like warmth.

COLLEGE CRESTED GLASSWARE

The first three designs in a specially commissioned range of elegant Magdalene Collection Glassware is now available. Each glass bears the College Crest to a design shown below left.

Bordeaux Glasses £20.00 for 6

These generous yet elegant glasses are ideal for releasing and concentrating the aromas of serious and mature wines, and are carefully designed to enrich the drinking experience, whatever the wine. For

Caol Ila 1998 Single Islay Malt £16.99

Plenty of smoke and peat balanced by subtle fruit and a clean, salty tang.

Rosebank 1991 Single Lowland Malt £28.00

A rare chance to buy this splendid paragon of the Lowland style from a now sadly silent distillery- complex and aromatic.

WINES

Magdalene Collection Shiraz Cabernet Sauvignon £4.99

Magdalene Collection Columbard Chardonnay £4.99

A pair of well-made, unpretentious, fruity and balanced Australians...

convenience, they are dishwasher safe.

Champagne Flutes £20.00 for 6

Long stems and an elegant tulipped bowl ensure that all of the fizz and aromas of the wine are captured and sustained.

Professional Decanter £22.00 each

A flawless piece of design ensures perfect aeration during pouring and maximum exposure of the wine's surface area for proper breathing. A beautiful object that will improve any wine and look at home on any table.

ORDERING

All of the featured wines and glassware can be ordered from:

*Cambridge Wine Merchants Ltd,
2 King's Parade Cambridge, CB2 1SJ*

Orders can be made by post, email (magdalene@cambridgewine.com) or telephone (01223 309309). Postage and packing is £10 per case (12 bottles) for Wine and Whisky and the minimum order

SPECIAL OFFERS

The following wines have been chosen by our Wine Club's Secretary and are offered, exceptionally, to ALL COLLEGE MEMBERS by Cambridge Wine Merchants at a very substantial discount.

All bottles bear the cipher shown below.



Maranges 1er Cru 1998 Déleger £7.65

A delightful, leafy, mature red Burgundy. Endlessly versatile as a food wine and quite exceptional value

Clos de la Vieille Eglise 1999 £6.99

First rate claret from Cotes de Castillon, close to St Emilion. Concentrated and beautifully balanced.

Moreson Merlot 1998 £6.70

A splendid mature South African. Warm vanilla and leather/cedar notes accompany the wine's rich fruit.

Champagne "Le Mesnil" Grand Cru £18

Shortly to be added to the Magdalene Collection under our own livery, this is a beautifully made Blanc des Blancs. Rich and intense with great vinosity.

Chardonnay 'Il Barricato' 1996 £5.99

Simply stunning mature oaked Chardonnay from the Italian *Marche*. Astounding structure and great complexity. Very much like old white Burgundy.

Petit Bourgeois 2004 Henri Bourgeois £6.99

Classic and ever popular Loire Sauvignon Blanc. Much in the style of Sancerre- the winemaker has entered it as such in competitions (and won!).

is 6 bottles, which, in the case of whisky orders, can be mixed. P&P for Glassware is £10 per 6 glasses or per decanter.

All the products are also available in our retail branches should you wish to shop in person in Cambridge.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO MENTION THAT YOU ARE A MEMBER OF THE COLLEGE TO QUALIFY FOR THESE PRICES.



Further details of these offers, together with photographs of the Magdalene crested glassware and wine labels can be found on web ALUMNUS and at www.magdalenecambridge.com. Orders may also be place on-line.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

In the Land of MOz

The Magdalene family – always, but also increasingly, an international one – is about to undergo a transformation in the southern hemisphere.

Dr David Dickerson (1996) together with Peter Dann (2002) has taken the initiative to form *Magdalene in Australasia* (MOz) along the lines pioneered so successfully by *Magdalene in America* (MAm). Honorary Member Robert Cripps (1992) has graciously agreed to be MOz's first President. MOz's prime purpose is to bring into more frequent contact with each other, and with the College, the 83 Magdalene men and women resident in Australia and New Zealand with a view to promoting the College's interests there. David and Peter hope to put together a small

Committee to administer MOz and to plan its future events programme. They would be pleased to hear from anyone resident in Australia and New Zealand who would like to help them do so via *email* if possible: db_dickerson@yahoo.com or by telephone on +61.7.5506.9318 or fax: +61.7.5506.9301

Magdalene's ties to Australasia are many and complex: a surprising number of the Fellows are either Australian or married to Australians. No surprise then that Australia Day has usually been marked in College by a highly idiosyncratic and hugely successful annual dinner. We, in the old country, eagerly anticipate MOz's success "back home".



DAVID DICKERSON



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Please note: booking for all these events is available on line via web.ALUMNUS

Friday 17th June: *Association Golf Day* St George's Hill Golf Club, Weybridge for members of the College and their guests. Breakfast 7.30am; lunch 1pm. Tickets £130. **Contact:** Miles Broadbent.

Wednesday 29th June: *Association Garden Party for Graduands* in the Fellows Garden at 4pm.

Tuesday 7th July: *Chairman's Summer Lunch* in College (preceded by organ recital & exhibition); open to all members of the College and their guests from 11am-4pm. £40 per person. **Contact:** Chris Babbs.

Wednesday 9th November: *Reception at St Paul's Cathedral* for members and their guests, 6pm-9.30pm. A musical and historical presentation by The Wren Consort followed by a light buffet. £30 per ticket. **Contact:** Richard Hamersley.

Friday 11th November: *New York Dinner* in the Union Club, New York. **Contact:** Robert Chartener.

Wednesday 16th November: *National Gallery Visit:* Breakfast 8.30am followed by a private tour of the *Rubens Exhibition*. Tickets £28 each: limited to 2 places per member. **Contact:** James Roundell.

REUNIONS:

May 7th: *Lunch in College* for all those matriculated up to 1947. 11am – 4pm. Exhibition of silverware and the Pepsy Library will be open. Free.

Contact: Jo Hornsby on 01223 332144
September 23rd: *Dinner* in College for those who matriculated between 1973-75

September 24th: *Dinner* in College for those who matriculated between 1976-78

October 29th: *Lunch* in College for Alumni who read English (part of Magdalene's *Year in Literature Festival*).

FELLOW'S NEWS

THE MASTER has been appointed Deputy Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire.

PROFESSOR DAVID CLARY (Fellow 1983-1996) and Fellow Commoner (1996-) has been elected President (i.e. Master) of Magdalene College, Oxford.

PROFESSOR NICHOLAS BOYLE has been awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Letters by the University of Georgetown
PROFESSOR BILL CORNISH has been awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Laws by the University of Edinburgh.

DR BOB SKELTON has been elected Vice-President of the Institute of Nuclear Engineers.

We offer our sincere congratulations to them all.

THE REV DR JAMES RIGNEY has been appointed Chaplain and elected to a Fellowship. James, who is 44 and a

graduate of St Andrew's College, Sydney, Pembroke College, Oxford and Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, adds to the growing ranks of Australian Fellows of Magdalene: a conspiracy with which we are happy to collude (see *In the Land of MOz* above). We welcome James, his wife Anna and their daughter Cressida to the Magdalene family and hope they will be very happy in our midst.



"Welcome to my motivational seminar. If you are here tonight instead of at home on your sofa, then you're already a motivated person and don't need me! Goodnight and thank you for coming"

MAGDALENE MAY BALL 2005

The biennial Magdalene May Ball will be held in the College on Wednesday 22 June 2005.

Please visit www.magdalenemayball.com for details.

Kindly contact the secretary, Sue Kerr for tickets (tel and fax: 01223 569 873 or email: secretary@magdalenemayball.com).