



## THE PARTING OF THE WAVES?

It is scarcely possible to open a newspaper or turn on the radio these days without hearing someone on the subject of Universities: their rationale, their funding and, increasingly, "their" admissions policy. The great and the good - as well as a number of government ministers - seem increasingly keen to speak their minds on subjects which, only half a decade ago, were virtually taboo. Open debate is, of course, a good thing: not least because fracture lines, hitherto concealed, become starkly clear.

On one side stands a government determined to homogenize University provision; to expand student numbers to record proportions (the notorious 50+%) and, in the process, to engineer University entry to match the statistical profile of the (English) school leaving population (perhaps even by postcode).

On the other side stand the universities which, with increasing concern, emphasise the importance of maintaining their vital freedom to

come. The College has been working hard (and often in the face of criticism) to increase access from those sectors which do not traditionally look to Cambridge as a realistic destination. Such efforts have enjoyed very considerable success and our commitment to them remains absolute. What the College cannot and will not do is to so distort its decisions as to inflict unfairness in the other direction: to deny places, on spurious social grounds, to those who deserve them. Readers will be aware that such a stance is not risk-free and that penalties may ensue if the College does not do as it is bidden by the Access Regulator. Whether we desire it or not, independence from Government may in the end be Collegiate Cambridge's only course if it is to continue to pursue its traditional commitment to excellence in recruitment, teaching and research.

That, despite these risks, the Colleges and the University are increasingly prepared to stand for what they believe in is evidenced by the notably more robust (even defiant) voices now



*"If the government does indeed seek to impose its will through blunt financial instruments, we must be ready to respond with the same. The tide appears to be turning, but if the current is to carry us to where we need to get, it will need material momentum of its own."*

choose those candidates they consider best suited to the requirements of the courses they offer. They argue too that it is not reasonable to expect Universities to try to put right deficiencies in the country's secondary education system and stress that, if University standards are to be maintained, if the better British Universities are to compete in an increasingly internationalised educational world (where competition for both students and teachers is strong) and if going to University is to remain an attractive and cost-effective choice for the brightest school leavers, then the Government's road is not one down which they can responsibly travel.

Let us be clear. Magdalene (along with the other Cambridge Colleges and the University itself) has no quarrel with the view that it should - indeed must - select the brightest students with the greatest potential regardless of the educational sector or the social background from which they

emerging. In Cambridge, the Director of Admissions has spoken of the unwillingness of Colleges to meet the Government's unrealistic targets at all or any cost; the Vice-Chancellor has spoken out against a radical increase in undergraduate admissions as well as about the maintenance of standards and has highlighted in the process the critical significance of an autonomous but united College system.

Such voices - speaking Oxbridge's collective mind - are significant. Such words matter. But words - or at best ambitions - they will remain unless we have the wherewithal to put them into effect. If the Government does indeed impose its will through blunt financial instruments, we must be ready to respond with the same. The tide appears to be turning, but if the current is to carry us to where we need to get, we will need the material - as well as the moral - support of our members.

MARK BILLINGE

THE MAGDALENE CAMPAIGN 

## DEVELOPMENT NEWS

### Non omnis moriar

Members aged over 50 will shortly be receiving through the post a copy of the College's new *Legacy Brochure*.

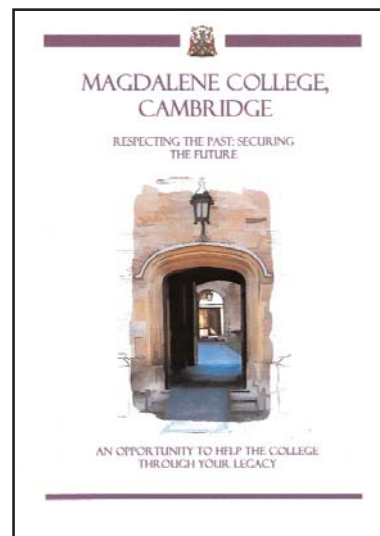
Historically the College has depended upon legacies - small as well as large - to secure its future and it is remarkable how often it has been rescued by such means at times of dire financial need.

Many alumni have made it clear that they would like to make a gift to the College, but that they feel unable to do so during their lifetime because of continuing commitments to family and friends. Including a legacy in a Will offers an opportunity to resolve this dilemma and, at the same time, to make a significant

contribution to the College's long-term welfare.

The Master writes: "I strongly believe that the best way to ensure the College's future is to persuade all of our members to follow in the footsteps of their illustrious predecessors by supporting the College to the best of their abilities. I am asking all members, irrespective of whether they have contributed in the past or not to consider making a legacy."

We hope that members will receive and read the Brochure with interest. Any member under the age of 50 who would like a copy is invited to contact the Development Office.



### HAIL AND FAREWELL



Rachelle



Femke

On 30th September Emily Foreman, College Development Officer, resigned her post following her decision to relocate to another city. Emily will be known to many members: either in person or as a (usually!) welcome telephone voice. The College is very grateful to Emily for her sterling efforts on our behalf and we wish her well in her new life.

Emily is succeeded by Rachelle Stretch. Rachelle is a graduate of Keble College, Oxford and was, until recently, a Ph D student at St Catherine's College here in Cambridge. In her spare time (!) Rachelle is working to complete her doctoral thesis which lies in the

field of volcanology.

Joining the Development Office in the new role of Development Assistant is Ms Femke Molekamp. Femke read English Literature at University College, London and has recently completed an MPhil in Renaissance Literature at St John's College.

We are delighted to have the very considerable talents of both Rachelle and Femke at our disposal and hope that they will enjoy the many challenges (and diverse pleasures) which doubtless lie ahead!

### webALUMNUS

The College is pleased to announce the imminent launch of *webALUMNUS* its new web service to members. *webALUMNUS* is available to any member of the College who has access to a web-browser and to the Internet. It requires no additional software beyond *Internet Explorer* or its equivalent and will allow those interested to access its many features from anywhere in the world.

*webALUMNUS* allows members to communicate (to secure industry standards) both with each other and with the College and functions additionally as a state-of-the-art website. We hope that all members will respond positively to, and derive a great deal of benefit from, this initiative: however, its effectiveness will depend, to a very considerable extent, on the willingness of members to register their details.

*webALUMNUS* which signals a very substantial investment by the College in its service to alumni is free to all members. Please note, however, that many areas of the site are accessible only to those who register. Registration details will be posted to you in the near future.



*Lost friends are often closer than one imagines...*

### Members' News

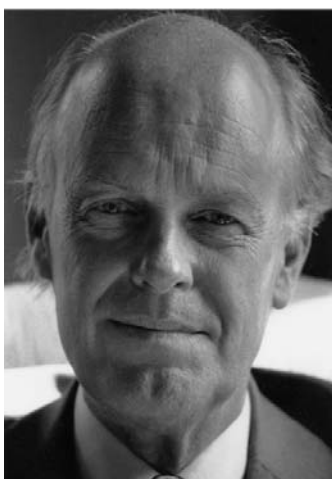
Professor Roger Blanford (1967) has been appointed the inaugural Director of the Kavli Institute for Particle Astrophysics and Cosmology at Stanford University.

Mary Abraham (1997) who has "discovered a new way for cells to die" has been awarded the 2004 David Rockefeller Fellowship by the Rockefeller University, New York.

Martin Cardinal (1971) has been appointed a Circuit Court Judge in Birmingham. He is only the second member of the Birmingham Law Society to have been so appointed.

### Sir David Calcutt

Members will have been saddened by news of the death on the August 11th, suddenly at his home on Exmoor, of Sir David Charles Calcutt, thirty-second Master of Magdalene (1986-94). David, one of the most distinguished barristers of his generation, presided as Master at a time of significant change in the College. In doing so he managed to combine a crisp but uncoercive decisiveness as chairman of the Governing Body with a remarkable personal affability: his (and Barbara's) deep and evident commitment to the junior members of the College in particular was repaid with great affection and loyalty.



Sir David Calcutt QC

His funeral service was held on August 19th in the remote and very beautiful setting of St Bueno's church, Culbone, reputedly the smallest parish church in England. The President and five other Fellows attended the simple service on behalf of the College.

Our heartfelt sympathy goes to Lady Calcutt in her great loss.

The College Memorial Service for David will be held in Great St Mary's Church at 2.30 pm on Saturday November 20th. It will be followed by refreshments in Benson Hall. All members of the College are most welcome to attend.

### MICHAEL RAMSAY

2004 year marks the centenary of the birth of Arthur Michael Ramsey, Archbishop of Canterbury from 1961 to 1974.



Michael Ramsey officiating at the Coronation in 1953

Michael, one of the most distinguished and colourful Archbishops of modern times, was a Magdalene man born and bred - his father was President of the College - and the Archbishop himself was successively an undergraduate, a Professorial Fellow, and eventually an Honorary Fellow here. After his ordination in 1928 he held various teaching posts until, in 1940 he was appointed canon of Durham Cathedral and Professor of Divinity at the University. However, he returned to Cambridge and to Magdalene in 1950 when he became Regius Professor of Divinity.

He was consecrated Bishop of Durham in 1952 and Archbishop of York in 1956. In June, 1961, he succeeded Geoffrey Francis Fisher as Archbishop of Canterbury; an office he held with great distinction until 1974.

The College jointly sponsored (with Lambeth Palace) a memorial lecture by the Rt Revd. Geoffrey Rowell, Bishop of Gibraltar in Europe given in Benson Hall on 27 October and further celebrated Michael's centenary on 31 October when the present Archbishop, Dr Rowan Williams, preached to a capacity congregation in Chapel.

### Anyone for Tennyson?

During the Academic Year 2005-2006, the College will host a Festival of Literature. Its Patrons will be Professor Seamus Heaney (Honorary Fellow), Professor Geoffrey Hill and Professor Helen Vendler (Honorary Fellow) A broad programme of events is planned - readings, talks, plays, and academic conferences - as well as the development of a web-based schools project to encourage writing and reading among school pupils aged 13-14. A number of Writers in Residence will join the College to support the work of the Festival and they will run workshops for Cambridge students and for local schools. John Mole (Magdalene, 1961) is the Honorary Director of the Festival and Jane Hughes the Festival Organiser.

Details of Festival events will be placed on the College web site from March 2005

and members of the College will receive a copy of the printed programme with their edition of *Magdalene Matters* in May 2005.



Anyone interested in helping in any way - particularly in sponsoring particular events - is urged to contact either Dr Hughes or the Development Director.

### CAMPAIGN NEWS

**£8,394,555**

**has been given or pledged to the Magdalene Campaign by 30 September 2004**

**Contributions totalling £4,458,229 have been received from 1,436 members of the College, i.e. 25% of the membership.**

### CAMPAIGN TARGET

**£20 million**

## ASSOCIATION NEWS

# Knives and Fawkes: the 13th New York Dinner



Mark Malloch Brown

Since the New York Dinner's traditional Friday in October was usurped by Halloween, this year's event was moved to the equally auspicious date of 5 November. Happily, little else was altered in the hugely successful format and we met, as usual, in the genteel splendour of the Union Club. Once again Robert Chartener was our benevolent guiding spirit and once again the Master, Senior Bursar and Development Director crossed the pond to meet with a record 53 alumni, many of whom have become recidivist attendees. However, we were delighted to welcome several new faces and none more so than Mark Malloch Brown

(1976) Administrator of the UN's Development Programme who, together with his wife, managed to find time in his impossibly busy schedule to attend and to speak to delighted diners. We are grateful to him as well as to Robert for making the evening the memorable success that it was.

Prior to the dinner the Board of MAM met formally for the first time, and following it the Senior Bursar and Development Director made their way to Boston where they met with a number of alumni advancing, in the process, a variety of fundraising initiatives.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2004-5

### Saturday, 9 April

The Magdalene Association Dinner and AGM will be held in College. In the afternoon a talk will be given by Professor Brian Thrupiece

### \*Friday, 17 June

The Magdalene Association will hold a Golf Day with lunch at St George's Hill Golf Club, Weybridge, Surrey for members of the College and their guests. Tee-off will follow breakfast which will be served at 7.30am.

### Wednesday, 29 June

The Association will host a Garden Party for Graduands in the Fellows Garden in the afternoon.

### Thursday, 7 July

The "Chairman's" Summer Lunch, which is open to all members and their guests will be held in College.

### \*Wednesday, 9 November (tbc)

A reception for members and their guests will be held in St Paul's Cathedral. The Wren Consort will give a musical and historical presentation.

### ASSOCIATION ESSAY PRIZE

The Association intends to offer a prize of £500 for an essay not exceeding 5,000 words on any aspect of Magdalene's history or people. The competition is open to any member of the College, resident or non-resident, with entries from undergraduates being particularly welcome.

Full details will be published with the College Magazine in January and the closing date for entries will be 31 December 2005.

The winner will be announced at the Association AGM in Spring 2006. It is hoped that the winning entry will be published to the membership.

\*\* Breakfast and privilege visit to the National Gallery.

\*\* Breakfast and privilege visit to another gallery.

\*\*Dates to be confirmed

(Further details of all of these events and how to secure tickets/places will be announced in invitations issued with the *College Magazine* in January)

\*Please contact Miles Broadbent, Chairman, or Chris Babbs, Secretary (chrisbabbsuk@waitrose.com, for further details of the asterisked events listed above.)

The object of the The Magdalene Association is to organise event which help put members in touch with each other and with the College.

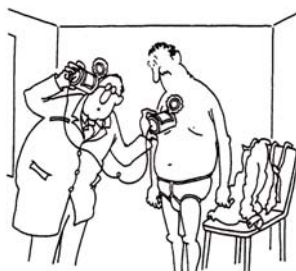
## Fellows' News

We were delighted (but also very sorry) to hear that **Hueston Finlay** our Dean of Chapel had been appointed a Residuary Canon at St George's Chapel, Windsor. Hueston served the College superbly in many capacities and he will be sorely missed by us all.

No such mixed feelings in welcoming three new Fellows: **Professor Helen Cooper** who has returned to Cambridge from Oxford to take up the Chair of Medieval and Renaissance Literature (C S Lewis's Chair); **Carl Watkins** who is happily restored to us after a spell at Queens' College and who takes up an official Fellowship in History and **Antje Luise Pedain** who joins us from Lucy Cavendish as a Fellow in Law.

We also welcome **Peter Daybell** who joins us from University College London as Assistant Bursar and Fellow-Commoner.

**Denis Murphy** and **Bill Cornish** both retired from the Governing Body in October. Happily both are still much in evidence about the College.



"Don't blame me, blame lack of funding..."

## Further Information:

For further information on the Magdalene Campaign, contact:

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