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NEW COLLEGE NEWS



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WELCOME...

THE WARDEN'S REPORT

APPEARANCES CAN BE DECEIVING. OLD MEMBERS WHO HAVE VISITED THE COLLEGE RECENTLY WILL HAVE ENTERED A BUILDING SITE. AFTER SOME 630 YEARS, THE KITCHENS WERE IN NEED OF ATTENTION, AND MAJOR WORKS ARE UNDERWAY TO BRING THESE UP TO DATE AND, AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE, MAKE THEM FIT FOR THE FUTURE.



The entire kitchen block, including the buttery, bar and out-buildings, has been stripped of several centuries of accretions back to the city wall, revealing the original medieval structure in all its glory. The

Senior Common Room

has been temporarily relocated, and Hall and the Founder's Library have been closed for repairs and redecoration. As I write, the archaeologists are in and it looks like a scene from *Timewatch*.

But life goes on; in fact the college is vibrant and thriving. A huge temporary hall and kitchens have been erected, filling almost the entire Holywell quad from the main gate to the library, the whole being camouflaged with giant photographs of various college exteriors. These facilities have proved very popular with students, fellows and staff alike, and our ingenious Home Bursar has designed a whimsical facsimile of hall – complete with copies of portraits, faux-arched windows, chandeliers and oak-effect lino floorboards – that never fails to bring a smile to the lips of first-time diners.

Yet there is no denying how much we miss Hall and, as I warned in my previous report, the main casualties of its temporary closure are *gaudes*, graduation lunches and other college feasts, not to mention hordes of disappointed tourists. I very much hope that when the refurbishment is complete and the kitchens are back in action in about a year's time, we can resume the schedule of two *gaudes* a year. Please be patient.

In my last report, I promised never to mention the Norrington Table again unless we improved our 2011-12 position. Well, I am afraid we have done, topping the table for the first time. The graduates and their tutors deserve our warmest congratulations on this achievement. This result was not that surprising, because New College has been high in the table for several years; in fact, one of my mathematical colleagues calculates that on aggregate we have been at the top for the past three years, as our competitors bounced up and down around us. Two things, however, are surprising about this result: New College came first by a wider margin than usually separates the leader from the pack; and this happened in the same year as the Commemoration Ball, admittedly one of the best run and most convivial

in several generations, but traditionally fatal to finalists' academic prospects. I should also point out that many of the brilliant 2013 graduates had contributed to winning the overall Cuppers championship last year. The college seems to be striking the right balance between the academic and the extracurricular, and all this reinforces my belief that it is possible to be a scholar and at the same time lead a full social, sporting, and cultural life; in fact, one may depend on the other. It is unlikely that these three things – leading the Norrington, winning Cuppers, and the Commem. Ball – will ever coincide again, and the class of 2013 may long be remembered as the 'special ones'.

Earlier this year, New College lost one of its most distinguished and beloved Honorary Fellows, Penry Williams. A brilliant Tudor scholar, whose books include a co-authored history of New College, Penry was a tutorial fellow for nearly 30 years, holding various college offices and benignly guiding its direction all the while. Long before such a thing was generally known in Oxford, he was Development Fellow, and his fund-raising efforts continue to bear fruit to the present day. Penry was a thoroughly good person, with a loyal following of former students around the world. He was the ideal moral tutor. In my travels on behalf of the college, many Old Members, and not just historians, enquired about Penry and asked me to convey their best wishes, which I endeavoured to do. He was always pleased to hear from you. After his death in early May, we had several inquiries about how he would be commemorated. At his memorial service in October, we announced an appeal to establish a Fellowship in History in his name. All contributions will be gratefully received and publicly acknowledged.

Along with the University in general, we continue to make good progress in raising money to improve support for students from families with low incomes. These bursaries are on a sliding scale, tapering off as residual wealth increases, the aim being to reduce the squeeze on middle-income families, especially those with more than one child to send to university. In addition to the large donation we received last year for humanities students, I am delighted to announce that Derek Benham (1972, Physics) has endowed two D.J. & R.R. Benham Bursaries for students studying Physics and Chemistry. Further contributions will be welcomed and can be directed to support other subjects as the donor wishes.



Last year I reported on a magnificent bequest from the estate of Stewart Millman (1967, Chemistry). I am pleased this year to announce a major gift from Christopher Gradel (1990, Engineering, Economics and Management), the still-young founder of Pacific Alliance Group based in Hong Kong. His donation will endow a tutorial fellowship in Engineering at New College. I suspect, however, that Chris, a keen oarsman when up, would happily trade all this for New College being Head of the River.

Finally, I am pleased to announce that plans are afoot to erect a new music rehearsal building in Mansfield Road. The Clore-Duffield Foundation has generously pledged £1,000,000 to the project, and we are very grateful to Dame Vivien Duffield and Sir David Davis (1959, Modern Languages) for recognizing that so musical a college as ours needs better facilities for the many wonderful musicians who come to study here. The building will be relatively expensive for its size: sound-proofing is not cheap, and the main rehearsal room will be linked to Savile House, whilst other rooms will have to be designed to bestride the longest surviving section of Oxford's Civil War defences. It is the college's mixed fortune to be responsible for preserving most of the remains of two of the city's historic walls, and we will be seeking further donors to help us complete this exciting project.

I am though also reminded, by the constant flow of correspondence into the Development Office, of the many Old Members who give so generously throughout the year. For some, they are newly joining the ranks of the College's donors, whilst others have been generous contributors to students, academic posts, our buildings and facilities and much more over many years. The generosity of so many is an essential source of income for so much of what we do.

CURTIS PRICE

KEEPING IN TOUCH

MARK CURTIS, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

Earlier in the year I was approached by an Old Member who told me that he had just been called by one of our current students as part of our annual telephone campaign. I immediately switched into defensive mode, waiting for complaints of invasion of privacy, dislike of “cold calling” and vulgar practices. Instead, I was told what a pleasure the conversation had been, how the Old Member had greatly enjoyed hearing about the College today from a current resident and how maturely and enthusiastically the student had handled the call. I accept that this form of approach is not to everyone’s taste and we make every effort to ensure that Old Members who prefer not to receive such calls are excluded from the programme. However, I do know that for many it is a welcome means of keeping in touch with the College and that the students greatly appreciate the opportunity to learn from Old Members about New College past. They, and I, are also very touched by the large numbers that pledge their support for the College over the phone through gifts large and small.

Our main challenge with the telephone programme tends to be getting hold of Old Members. To state the obvious, we rely on having up to date contact details, but we also know that very few of you make a point of staying in waiting for the phone to ring. So for those of

you that we have not spoken to in recent times, I am sorry that we haven’t been able to reach you but I hope that we can keep trying.

On the subject of contact details, you may have read that over the summer we changed over to a new database system, funded in great part by the University, to make it easier for you to update your information and preferences for all parts of the University with which you wish to have contact, and to improve how we store and handle your data. To take full advantage of the new system, allowing you to update your contact details and search for other Old Members, do please register and login to set your preferences (including how you would like to hear from us and what information you would like to be visible to other Old Members). You can do this from the “Old Members & Friends” section of the College website www.new.ox.ac.uk and will just need your Alumni Card number which is printed on the cover sheet that came with New College News.

The new system will shortly also provide a more seamless way of booking online for Old Member events and allow you to see who else is attending. Whilst we may have had our wings clipped by the current kitchen refurbishment in what we can organise in College, the Warden and I have still had the pleasure of seeing many



Old Members at events over the last year in Oxford and elsewhere, and I hope that many of you will be able to join us at the forthcoming events which are listed on the back page. Equally though, if you are ever passing through Oxford do please come and see us in the Development Office at the top of Staircase 4 Old Buildings.

THE COLLEGE GHOST

I am pleased to announce the discovery of the possible identity of the College ghost. Even sceptics like myself have long regretted that, whilst lesser Colleges claimed visitations by such celebrity revenants as the headless Archbishop Laud (St John’s), John Crocker (Exeter), Charles I (Christchurch), and even the Devil himself (perhaps inevitably, Brasenose), our own ‘black scholar’ languished in ignominious anonymity, despite regular sightings around Chapel and the Bell Tower over many years. In my day the night porters, who

had themselves encountered this shadowy figure, used to associate his appearances with failure to perform the custom of running three times backwards around the Cloisters on Halloween. However, as far as I know no-one has yet linked these traditions to the story of John Quinby, which I discovered whilst researching for my own historical novel set in College. Quinby was a fellow during the reformation who fell foul of the fearsome then Warden, Dr London (1526-42). London, described by a contemporary as ‘a stout and filthy prebendary’, accused Quinby of heresy and locked him in the Bell Tower where, ‘starved with cold and lack of food, at length he died’, cursing London and

vowing supernatural vengeance. His dying words were that his ‘stomach was gone from all meat, except it were a Warden pie’. London did indeed have his comeuppance. After being discovered committing adultery with a mother and her daughter, and accused of other misdemeanours, he ‘ended his naughty life in prison’. We can all be grateful that the Wardens in modern times have been men of better character.

Alasdair Donaldson (2000)

(A N Donaldson’s literary ghost story, *Prospero’s Mirror*, set in New College in the 1660’s and 1930’s, was recently published by Endeavour Press)

OLD BOYS GO FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

Now into their sixth season, New College Old Boys FC continues to thrive. The club, which now plays the majority of its games in Northwick Park, London, was originally set up in 2008 by two former 1st XI college captains **Mike Heal** and **Dave Nickless**.

Under the subsequent stewardship of **Daniel Bamford**, the Old Boys won the League of Gentlemen Premier Division in 2009/10 and the associated League Cup in the 2011/2012 season. New College's success catalysed the formation of several other college old boys' sides in recent years, and for the 2012/13 season an Oxbridge Colleges Old Boys League was created. Old rivalries have thus been renewed, with Worcester and Queens matches being particular fiercely contested affairs. The Old Boys continue to make their annual trip back to college to face the JCR 1st XI each October. Despite the JCR generally outplaying the Old Boys in recent fixtures, the Old Boys have scraped wins in each of the last three seasons. No doubt the JCR will seek to put this right in 2013! Old Boys players range from those who matriculated in the mid-90s to recent graduates. The squad expands by both number and quality every year. Its latest recruits include former JCR captain **Charlie Court**, and former Blues **Eji Onuchukwu** and **Sam Donald**. Any New College alumni based in London who are interested in playing should contact recently-appointed captain **Yath Gangakumaran** (yath.gangakumaran@gmail.com).

Pictured is the team after recently dumping Old Paulines out of the Amateur FA Cup. New College won the game 4-1 and face a team from Crouch End in the next round.



Back row left to right are: Dave Jones (2001); Ade Gray (2005); Tom Howell (2006); Seb Gemes; Mike Heal (1999); Dave Nickless (2000); and James Sutton (2005). Front row left to right are: Joe Twomey (2005); Dan Bamford (2004); Mike Holmes (2004); Yath Gangakumaran (2006); Rhydian McCandless (2007); and Eji Onuchukwu (2009). Other New College alumni who have been regular players over the past five seasons but absent from the photograph include: Charlie Taylor (1997); Charles Leeming (2004); Dave Stuckey (2002); Matt Renshaw (2000); and Rob Nield (2004).

MIKE HEAL (1999)

KITCHEN PROJECT



As many of you are aware, the college has been transformed in recent months by the appearance of a large, white temporary structure in Holywell Quad. Its existence can be explained by another transformation: that of the medieval kitchens. The kitchens still retain original features from 1386, but have been given little attention since the 1960s. Recently, it became clear that renovation was a priority: there was insufficient storage space, no ventilation and lifts which regularly failed, while an inadequate electricity supply and variable gas pressure often led to equipment shutting down.

Following an arduous planning application process, work finally began in April 2013 and is now scheduled for completion in January 2015. The kitchen, bar and beer cellar are undergoing renovations, while restorations are also taking place in Hall. So far, work has been

complicated by both asbestos and archaeology – the one rather more exciting than the other. Saxon ramparts were discovered in the old 'pot wash' area, as well as wooden beams in the buttery which date from the 1380s, and the original range.

For as long as the project continues, the college's residents will dine in temporary hall. This has been surprisingly popular with students and staff, largely owing to the care taken to create a dining space which is in keeping with a medieval college. Some have questioned the necessity of mock wood-panelling and gothic style windows in a temporary building, but students who will have little opportunity to eat in Hall during their time at Oxford seem to appreciate the effort. Guests have so far been impressed, and if you are passing through College, do drop in and have a look.

OUR STARTER FOR TEN...



I can't remember how or when it started. The leaves were turning on the trees, certainly – golds and coppers and crimson. Low-lying mist in the fields, cold at my computer writing in the early Autumn mornings. A letter, an email? Somehow, though, the invitation to take part in 'University Challenge Celebrity Christmas Challenge' on behalf of New College was issued and received. Without pause for thought, accepted.

At New College in the early 1980s, I wasn't the sort of student who'd have taken part – too female, hopeless at quizzes, more interested in OUDS and far from intellectually rigorous. But I was a fan, really a fan. Teenage Sunday lunchtimes had been spent in the company of Bamber Gascoigne and, more recently - in sedate middle age – on the sofa with Jeremy Paxman on a Monday night.

In the way of these things, a team was put together: the journalist and novelist Rachel Johnson, the novelist Patrick Gale and the scientist, Dr Yan Wong. Between us we appeared to cover, well, not very many bases at all, but we were keen. The television company nominated me captain and, by way of preparation (or perhaps initiation), sent me a copy of the University Challenge Quiz Book.

By now it's December and, in the way of things (novelists in particular), we met in the bar ahead of our first recording. Rachel and I were friends, Patrick and I were friends. They hit it off straight away and Yan was utterly delightful and was the perfect fourth. Younger than the rest of us, he proved himself to be Renaissance Man – not only answering all the

maths, chemistry, biology, geology, astronomy and physics questions that left us novelists breathless, but also by knowing about Avebury Stone and The Nutcracker too. Getting on with your teammates matters a great deal, oddly enough. You can't be self-conscious and nervous, otherwise you won't take any risks. Without taking a risk, you'll never win the starter questions and that way lies success. The trick is both to care (viz want to win) and not to care in the slightest. That way, it's fun and exciting, rather than terrifying...

The studio was, as are all studios, smaller and shabbier and colder than it looked on screen. Cold, too and in Manchester, where it was raining and raining. Make up, lights, a rather dodgy Christmas Tree on the set, we posed for a photograph and made the obligatory joke about the teams not sitting on top of one another, à la 'The Young Ones' circa 1984... The brilliant floor manager and production assistants all smiled in the way of indulgent parents.

Reader, we won our first match: Rachel triumphant on classics, Patrick on literature, Yan successfully challenging a wrong answer – and the question consequently having to be re-recorded – and me, derelict as captain, repeatedly forgetting there was no conferring rule until Jeremy P shouted at me.

Somewhere between that first match and returning the following week, we became intensely competitive – emails about tactics, about having a good night's sleep, about how we had to beat our 200 plus score next time around – until the following Saturday found us back in Manchester. Raining still, yes, the atmosphere backstage

both jovial and sharp, bonhomie and subtle sizing up of the opposition. Green Room sandwiches and chocolate. We were on second, so had the exquisitely painful pleasure of watching the first two teams slug it out. Of course, we thought we could answer all of everyone else's questions – as everyday armchair participant knows – so became certain we'd stumble on our own. When the music began to play and it was our turn, we identified Christmas Carols from their Latin text and in a rare moment of inspiration, I got a Theodore Roosevelt question right by virtue of having read a really dreadful thriller on the train. This is not a matter of intelligence or even memory, but good luck and a fair wind. Reader, again we won. A quick change of clothes – mine were unsuitable, so I had to be kitted out from Wardrobe – a touch of make up, then back on set to face UEA in the form of John Boyne, Razia Iqbal, David Grossman and Charlie Higson.

The final belonged to Patrick. He might not have answered every single starter for ten, but he was a demon on the buzzer and got everything right. And on that wet Manchester evening in December, time staggered and slipped, and the half hour was gone and then JP was announcing New College, Oxford, was the winner of the 2012 University Challenge Christmas Special. As Patrick said of our triumph: 'It was proof that one should never underestimate the killer instincts of a bunch of fluffy novelists, albeit one backed up by a hard-nosed scientist.' As if

There was no trophy, just a warm glass of white wine in the Green Room

before the London train, but the truth is, we were thrilled to win. The most glamorous part of the whole business was being invited to dine at High Table a few months later, a wonderful Easter reunion of the NC Oldies team, and the quite extraordinary numbers of emails...The whole country, it seems, is addicted to University Challenge.

Lessons learnt? None, probably. At least, none that really matter. But a couple of thoughts: first, being prepared to look daft on television doesn't matter, so long as you enjoy yourself; second, when all's said and done – as the shabby old phrase goes – we found we were proud to be representing New College; third, how interesting that of the eight people in the final, five of us were novelists; fourth, extraordinary how quickly the competitive instinct kicks in; and fifth – most important – that none of it matters anyway. But it was fun, really very good fun.

And a final word from Rachel: 'I would like to point out for the record that I was RIGHT when I identified the Middle Eastern Roman province as "Judaea and Samaria," and the quizmaster Paxo, and the question masters of University Challenge were WRONG ... but it was a very satisfying experience. The New College Seniors were determined to win, and we did. Well done us!'

So, it's good night from New College, Oxford. It's goodnight from the University of East Anglia. And it's goodnight from me – Mosse, New – goodnight.

KATE MOSSE (1981)

EVENTS

10 NOVEMBER 2012

New College Society Careers Day

Some 50 Old Members returned to college for the first annual Careers Day to help students explore a wide variety of career options and to share their varied experiences and lessons learnt since leaving college.

Right: Melanie Brogan (née Dawes) (1984), Director General at the Cabinet Office, engaging a student

Below left: Giles Pilbrow (1986), TV Producer, TV Writer and Cartoonist, as he describes himself.

Below centre: Sara Weller (1979), giving the benefit of her experience in a variety of executive and non-executive roles.



18 NOVEMBER 2012

The Wykeham Society and 1379 Society Lunch is held each year for those who have left a legacy to the college in their Will and/or have donated £1,379 or more to the Development Fund during the previous financial year. Members of the Warden's Club, those who have donated £500 or more during the year, join the occasion for the Warden's Club Concert and Tea.

Below: David Gooda (1993), his wife Dilani and their three daughters (Ischia, Agnes and Constance) enjoying the familiar surroundings of Hall.



24 MARCH 2013

The Warden and Director of Development, Mark Curtis, travelled to the West Coast of America to attend a reception generously hosted by **Florian** (1993) and **Christiane Henckel von Donnersmarck** at their magnificent house in the Pacific Palisades, Los Angeles.

Right: Florian pictured with **Lucy Walker** (1988) and **Kate Beckinsale** (1991)

Far Right: The Warden enjoying the rare chance to handle Florian's Oscar, awarded for his film 'The Lives of Others'.



27 MARCH 2013

Dinner at Grace Cathedral, San Francisco

Grace Cathedral was the setting for a number of performances by the New College Choir and an Old Members' dinner over the Easter period, thanks to the invitation by former New College Chaplain, **Jane Shaw**, now Dean of the Cathedral. On hand to assist was **Lawrence Thain** (2008), former Organ Scholar and currently Grace Cathedral's Assistant Director of Music.

Right: The Choir, led by **Edward Higginbottom**, preparing for a concert in Grace Cathedral.



Lafayette Photography

22 JUNE 2013

The New College Commem Ball

Nearly 1,000 current and old members enjoyed music, comedy, food, drink, a helter-skelter and much more.



JULY 2013

New Chamber Opera in the Warden's Garden

Handel's 'Tamerlano', the cast. For the first time in many years, all performances were sung in the garden with no need to take shelter from inclement weather.

18 SEPTEMBER 2013

Rhodes 110th Anniversary Celebrations

Sixty New College Rhodes Scholars past and present, and their guests, attended a New College dinner as part of the 110th Rhodes Anniversary celebrations. **Below: Bob McNeill** (1963) and, on his right, **Bill Kerr** (1963) travelled from the US for the Rhodes Anniversary



29 SEPTEMBER 2013

Wykeham Society & 1379 Society Lunch

Due to the major kitchen refurbishment project, the 2013 Warden's Club Concert and tea had to be postponed. Sadly, the temporary hall is not big enough to accommodate the large audience attracted to college for this lovely event. However, the Wykeham and 1379 Society lunch did go ahead, preceded by a talk from the Warden entitled *Old News from New College*.

Right: **Sir Roger Elliott** (Honorary Fellow) with **Thomas Fairhead** (1977)

Far Right: **Robin Lane Fox** (Emeritus and Garden Fellow) with **Jane French** (1981) and **Richard Bridges** (1981)



FORTHCOMING EVENTS 2013/14

OLD MEMBERS' CAROL SERVICE

Saturday, 7 December 2013

Old Members matriculating up to and including 1969 are invited to apply for up to four tickets. Please contact

Jonathan.Rubery@new.ox.ac.uk

NEW COLLEGE LAW SOCIETY DINNER

**Thursday, 13 February 2014,
Middle Temple**

For more information and to book your place please contact the New College Law Society President: **Verity.Bell@new.ox.ac.uk**

ANNUAL INTER-COLLEGE GOLF TOURNAMENT

Friday, 21 March 2014

Frilford Heath Golf Club, Oxford. Please email the New College Golf Team Captain, Jim Reeve (1979), to register your interest. **jetreeve@uk2.net**

OXFORD ASIA WEEKEND

21-23 March 2014

Hong Kong

NORTH AMERICAN REUNION

12-13 April 2014

New York

Please save the date, the College will be in touch nearer the time with further information.

OPERA IN THE WARDEN'S GARDEN

(The opera is still to be decided)

Saturday, 12 July 2014

Friday, 18 July 2014

A booking form is enclosed.

UNIVERSITY ALUMNI WEEKEND

19-21 September 2014

Please visit the Alumni area of the College website (<https://www.alumniweb.ox.ac.uk/new/events>) for more information. This is regularly updated as and when event details are confirmed. The major kitchen refurbishment

is making good progress but not due for completion until September 2014. This may affect our Gaude plans for 2014.

If you have any queries, please contact the Development Office on:

(0)1865 279317

Email: develop@new.ox.ac.uk

SOCIAL MEDIA

You can also receive news from the College by joining our social media sites. Go to your internet browser, eg. Google, search for the Social Media site, and then follow the instructions below:



To 'Like' us on Facebook, search for: 'New College Old Members'.



To follow us on Twitter, search for: 'NewCollegeOMs'



To connect to New College LinkedIn, search for: 'New College, Oxford – Alumni and Old Members'



To watch the New College Channel visit: <http://www.youtube.com/user/NewCollegeOxford>



To browse pictures of recent New College Events visit: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/new-college-development/>

We encourage you to visit these sites to keep up to date with news from the College.

If you are not currently receiving our ENews and would like to, please email **develop@new.ox.ac.uk**

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CHRISTMAS CARDS 2013

This year you can order the New College Christmas card online, at £6 per pack of 10, by visiting the Oxford University Shop at:

<http://www.oushop.com/Oxford-Colleges/New-College>



If you do not have access to the internet, please contact the Development Office **(01865 279337)** to place your order.

NEW COLLEGE CHOIR



This year, the College releases its tenth recording on NOVUM – our in-house record label. The project has received a great welcome in the critical press, words such as 'amazing', 'stunning' and 'flawless' appearing with regularity. Old members can join in the fun: support us in our endeavour by ordering your NOVUM CD online.

<http://www.newcollegechoir.com/novum.html>