

St Peter's College

N E W S L E T T E R

Message from the Master

The College has had a good winter, and now we are looking forward to the excitement of the Schools season. Recent news is that the Rugby team has enjoyed its third very successful season, holding its own in second place in both league and coppers, the latter in an exciting final with Teddy Hall; and we have had our share of Blues and Half-Blues in various University sports. The College Choir, with professional soloists and orchestra and augmented by many choral scholars of the past decade, gave a truly memorable performance of Handel's 'Messiah' (the first of seven events planned to celebrate my forthcoming retirement!); they will again be heard in next term's Arts Festival, an annual event that is much envied by other Colleges.



The winter has seen a fruitful gestation period for new buildings. Thanks to a most generous donation from Lloyd Dorfman, son-in-law of our senior Honorary Fellow, Pat Matthews, work is about to start on an elegant and much needed new seminar room in the very north-west corner of the city walls, behind the Morris Building (Staircase IV). Beyond the Castle, in Paradise Street, 'Dragongate', a development of roughly sixty rooms overlooking the Mill Stream on the other side of the Saxon Tower from St George's Gate, has reached the planning stage and work should start this summer. The Wolfson Foundation and an anonymous donor have promised substantial support for this. The acquisition of local sites is extremely difficult; but the provision of residential accommodation must continue to be our highest priority, until everyone is housed, graduates and undergraduates alike.

Master-Elect

The Governing Body of St Peter's College, Oxford, is pleased to announce the election as Master, from 1st October 2003, of Professor Bernard Walter Silverman, FRS, currently the Henry Overton Wills Professor of Mathematics and Provost of the Institute for Advanced Studies in the University of Bristol.

Professor Silverman graduated from the University of Cambridge, where he obtained First Class Honours in the Mathematical Tripos and subsequently received the degrees of Doctor of Philosophy and Doctor of Science. He has been awarded many prestigious awards and prizes, including medals of the Royal Statistical Society and the International Statistical Institute and the American Statistical Societies'

Presidents' Award. He has been Head of the School of Mathematical Sciences in the University of Bath, President of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics and has held numerous visiting Professorships and appointments in Australia, Europe and the United States. He is currently 50 years of age. Professor Silverman will succeed Professor John Barron, who retires at the end of this academic year.

Professor Silverman's main research is in mathematical statistics; he has written over a hundred articles and a number of books on modern methods of data analysis, including density estimation, non-parametric regression and functional data analysis. He has collaborated in statistical applications in many



areas of science, medicine, engineering and social science, as well as providing a wide range of statistical advice to industrial and commercial companies, to government departments and inquiries, and in legal cases. His distinction was marked by his election as a Fellow of the Royal Society at the age of 45.

Further details of Professor Silverman's work may be found at his website <http://www.stats.bris.ac.uk/~mabws/>



Before (above) and after (below)

Tree Felling

Hilary term saw the removal of a long-standing feature of St Peter's College – the Horse Chestnut tree in front of Linton House. The tree was approximately 130 years old and had become infected with sporophores of the fungus *Gandoderma*. Following a detailed examination by an arboricultural expert, it was reluctantly decided to fell the tree as "it is far beyond the point where the tree can be considered reasonably safe, particularly with the high public use of the immediately adjacent areas."

The felling of the tree took nearly a week and involved closing New Inn Hall Street for much of this time. The College intends to replant an appropriate replacement in the near future.

Student News



Ben Bridge, MCR president

MCR

The graduate community is alive and well in the St Peter's MCR. 2002 came to an end with the

traditional MCR Christmas dinner. In the term that preceded it, MCR members were treated to MCR lectures on subjects as diverse as naval law and knitting, travelled far in the search of the perfect Oxford pub and enjoyed a lively and well attended guest night. The MCR also benefited from a boost to its facilities with the completion of the kitchen refurbishment - generously supported by the College and the St Peter's Society. You can find further news and updates from the MCR on their website <http://www.spc.ox.ac.uk/mcr/mcr.html>

JCR

The JCR, although never a political hothouse, has had a fair amount of action since the new committee

took over in September. There has been a re-launch of the JCR website (www.spcjcr.com), the purchase of Sky for the Common Room and a plethora of events – ranging from the usual Cross-Dress Bop, to charity events such as GimpWars, and the ever-popular Ladies' Night in the Bar!!

There have been several campaigns which the JCR have been active in. Students bought tickets, subsidised by the JCR, for the anti-top-up fee protest in London last term, and have been campaigning hard, both before and after the Higher Education Review announcement. The JCR remains firm in its stance that differential fees, allowing Oxford to charge more than many other universities,



Laura McInerney, JCR president

will have a negative impact on access – an issue which is actively worked at by students and staff alike.

There have also been motions outlining the JCR's negative stance towards Stint Reform – and the possibility of a dramatic cut in the number of tutorials which would result from this. And students have given their support to changes in the Bodleian Library hours, enabling weekend hours to be more useful to students.

Beyond this, the JCR are also working towards several more projects in the next two terms with discussions on changes to the Tutorial Feedback System; pilots of food options to be served as part of the Fixed Meal Charge; the creation of a yearbook for finalists and the purchasing of a sound system, to enable the JCR to save the money it currently spends on hiring such systems for bops – and using the money for other positive projects.

Green & Gold Society

Last term saw the first "Green and Gold" event of the year. This was a fantastic success, with over eighty freshers attending a lunch at St Peter's. These events are instrumental in our fundraising efforts. The money raised has helped us to provide new and exciting facilities and opportunities for St Peter's students. We have purchased a scanner and a heater for the JCR computer room; a bench for the front quad; a number of pieces of art to beautify the Matthews accommodation block; and a radio for the JCR. Additionally, we are providing £200 towards the cost of the St Peter's Arts Festival; we have organised the John Barron Music Composition Competition, in commemoration of the Master's retirement; we have contributed monies to the Willis Organ Fund and the Handel "Messiah" concert this term; and we have helped pay for a St Peter's student to attend a conference in Genoa.



Honorary Fellows

St Peter's has recently elected Mr Lloyd Dorfman and Professor David Eastwood as Honorary Fellows of the College.

Lloyd Dorfman, Chairman and CEO of the Travellex Group, is a 48-year-old Londoner. Having briefly sampled the Bar and investment banking, he started his own foreign currency exchange business in 1976 in a small shop in central London. He came to recognise the great potential at airports and seaports for the independent specialist operator to compete with major financial institutions. Since his first foothold in London's Heathrow in 1986, Mr. Dorfman has built Travellex into the world's largest airport travel money operator. Mr Dorfman was recently ranked No.8 in The Enterprise Top 100 UK Entrepreneurs.

Professor David Eastwood (1977) was appointed as Vice-Chancellor of The University of East Anglia in 2002. An Old Member of St Peter's, Professor Eastwood, aged 43, was previously Chief Executive of the Arts and Humanities Research Board (AHRB) which supports research excellence in the humanities and creative and performing arts. Before joining the AHRB, Professor Eastwood held a Chair in Modern History at the University of Wales, Swansea, where he was also a Pro-Vice-Chancellor. Whilst at the University he co-founded the National Centre for Public Policy - a self-financing unit undertaking commissioned research and offering advice on public sector policy. He was formerly a lecturer at Oxford University, as well as Fellow and Senior Tutor of Pembroke College. He has been a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society since 1991. As Vice-Chancellor of UEA, Professor Eastwood is responsible for a university with over 2000 staff, over 13,000 students and income approaching GBP 100m.

Development News

Telethon

In September 2002 the Development Office relaunched its Telethon Appeal after an absence of five years. In the last two weeks of September, 697 Old Members were telephoned by twelve student callers, with the aim of updating Old Members on recent College developments and raising money for the Annual Fund. The programme was an immense success with 64% of Old Members contacted making a gift, raising a total of £138,229! This money will go directly to fund a number of student-led projects and to help bolster the College's Student Hardship Fund.

The twelve students that took part in the Telethon were:

Jonathan Clayton (Earth Sciences), Cecilia Da Forno (Philosophy & German), Penny Grant (Music), Nicola Gust (Modern History & English), Christopher Hallebro (English Literature & Modern History), Binita Haria (Mathematics), Pamela McGill (Physics), Fabio Quadrini (Chemistry), Jeanne Salje (Biochemistry), Rianedd Smith (Archaeology & Anthropology), Hayley Wilson (Biological Sciences), and Jessica Wrigley (PPE).

The students greatly enjoyed speaking to the College's Old Members and were able to get an idea of what life at St Peter's was like over previous decades. The College would like to thank everyone who took time to speak to our callers and we would also like to thank those of you who made donations to the Annual Fund and helped make Telethon 2002 such a success. We would, however, like to take this opportunity to gently remind Old Members who have not yet fulfilled pledges, to consider doing so.



75th Anniversary Campaign Chairman

During 2004, St Peter's College celebrates its 75th Anniversary and this will coincide with the launch of a major fundraising initiative. The College would like to express its gratitude to Lord Hodgson of Astley Abbots, CBE (1961), who has agreed to act as Campaign Chairman. In addition to being an Old Member, Honorary Fellow and Trustee of St Peter's College, Lord Hodgson is former Deputy Chairman of the Conservative Party and former Chairman of Granville Baird Group. Lord Hodgson is currently a Shadow Trade & Industry Minister in the House of Lords and sits on the board of several companies.

Development Office Profiles

The Development Office is the primary point of contact for Old Members who wish to make a donation to the College or who simply wish to stay in touch. Please feel free to contact us if you think we can assist you in any way, and if you are visiting St Peter's or are in the vicinity please make a point of coming to see us.

Sean Rainey, Deputy Development Director

sean.rainey@spc.ox.ac.uk Tel. 01865 278910. Sean currently oversees the running of the Development Office and is responsible for all aspects of fundraising and relations with Old Members.

Charlotte Jahan, Development Officer

charlotte.jahan@spc.ox.ac.uk Tel. 01865 278877. Charlotte maintains Old Members' records and processes donations to the College. If you move house, change job or have any news for the College Record let Charlotte know.

Anne-marie Mulcahy, Assistant Development Manager

anne-marie.mulcahy@spc.ox.ac.uk Tel. 01865 278877. Anne-marie looks after all our events (Gaudies etc.) and is responsible for dealing with enquiries relating to the St Peter's Society.



Telethon 2003

Following the success of last year's Telethon we have decided to make the appeal an annual event. We will be writing to another 1,000 Old Members over the summer to inform them that student volunteers will be calling in September 2003 to ask for their help with the college's projects. We know that a very small percentage of you dislike being telephoned in this fashion if you would prefer not to be called then please let Charlotte Jahan in

the Development Office know (charlotte.jahan@spc.ox.ac.uk), if you haven't already done so, and she will remove your name from the list. Just as important, whether or not you can help us financially, do take advantage of the chance to talk to the students – they can tell you more about the College than this Newsletter or the College Record, and they are an interesting and talented group of young people who would very much enjoy hearing from you!

Willis Organ Appeal

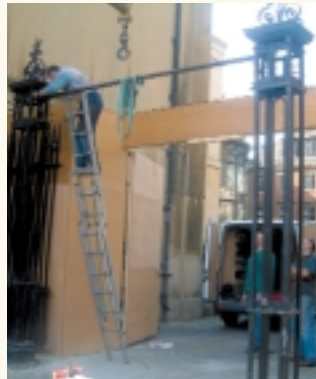
The initial appeal target of £70,000 has been surpassed with the total currently standing at £81,342. The excess will be used to cover any unforeseen costs and to provide for the continuing maintenance of the organ. We will have more news from the Willis Organ Appeal Committee in the forthcoming College Record and please do not forget the concert in College on Saturday 27th September 2003 when the newly restored organ will be unveiled.

Building Projects

The College has a number of building projects, all being overseen by the Bursar, at various stages of development

College Gates

The gates situated at the front of the College between the Chapel and Hannington Hall were removed last autumn to be restored. It is anticipated that the newly refurbished gates will be reinstated in the coming weeks, helping to make an improvement to the College's appearance from New Inn Hall Street.



Paradise Street

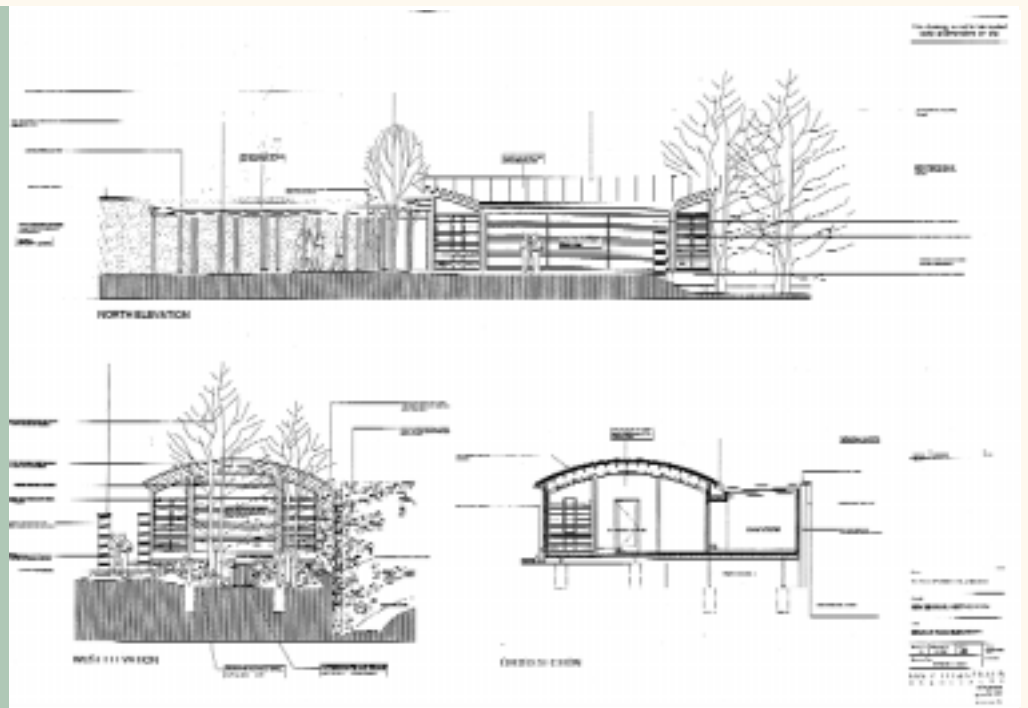
Following the purchase of land last year on Paradise Street in the centre of Oxford, the College is undertaking a large building project to provide new accommodation for 50-60 undergraduates. The site is adjacent to existing St Peter's student accommodation (Lau Building) and nestles alongside St George's Tower. The new building will go a long way to achieving the College's aim of being able to house all its undergraduates, and completion is expected late next year. An anonymous donation of £500,000 has already been pledged towards this project, but additional funding will be required from the forthcoming 75th Anniversary Campaign to help meet the total costs.

Kitchen Refurbishment

The long-overdue refurbishment of the College's kitchen has been approved by Governing Body and work is expected to start in October 2003, with completion by the start of Trinity Term 2004. Providing 120,000 meals each year for Fellows, staff, students and visitors has taken its toll on the kitchen, and its refurbishment and modernisation will come as a welcome relief to the Catering Manager and his staff.

New Seminar Room

Work has recently commenced on the construction of a new seminar room at the back of Staircase IV. This new building, which has been generously funded by our Honorary Fellow Lloyd Dorfman, will provide much needed teaching space and also enhance the College's conference facilities. It is expected that work will be completed by October 2003, ready in time for the new academic year.



In the Spotlight

St Peter's Old Members in the popular media

Sean Hignett, 1953
Gardening columnist, *The Scotsman* and *Evening Standard*

Ken Loach, 1957
Film Director, 'The Navigators', 'Sweet Sixteen', 'Bread and Roses', 'Carla's Son'

Edward Pearce, 1959
Columnist, *Sunday Express* and *The Independent*

Christopher Matthew, 1960
Author and Journalist, *The Daily Mail* and *Evening Standard*, 'Now we are Sixty'

Derek Beaven, 1965. Novelist, 'Newton's Niece', 'If the Invader Comes'

Richard Heffer, 1965
Actor, 'Possession', 'The Black Tower', 'Waterloo', 'Women in Love'

Peter Lee-Wright, 1968.
Documentary Film Producer, 'Child Slaves', 'The Murder of Stephen Lawrence'

Martin Ivens, 1977
Deputy Editor, *The Sunday Times*

Nigel Le Vaillant, 1977
Actor, 'Dangerfield' (starred as Paul Dangerfield), 'Casualty', 'Tom's Midnight Garden'

Dougal Lee, 1977
Stage Actor

Geordie Greig, 1979
Editor, *Tatler*

Peter Miller, 1979
Film Producer/ Editor, 'Jazz', 'Invisible Mom'

Guy Andrews, 1980
Screenwriter, 'Prime Suspect'

Penny Bunton, 1980
Actress, 'Inspector Allyn Mysteries', 'The Dark Room', 'The Politician's Wife'

Joanna Duckworth, 1981
Travel writer, *The Sunday Times*

Georgia Masters, 1982
Film Producer, 'Lock Stock and Two Smoking Barrels', 'Mean Machine'

Matt Frei, 1982
BBC's Senior TV Correspondent in Washington



Hugh Dancy (1994)

Hugh Dancy's name and photograph will undoubtedly be familiar to many of you. His starring role in BBC's *Daniel Deronda* has propelled this St Peter's Old Member into the limelight and many in the film industry believe that a glittering Hollywood career beckons. After reading English literature at St Peter's, Hugh started working in television with appearances in *Kavanagh QC*, *Dangerfield* and *Trial and Retribution*, before landing the role of Helen Baxendale's toy boy in *Cold Feet*. Then came a part in Ridley Scott's Hollywood blockbuster *Black Hawk Down*.

Aside from his role in *Daniel Deronda*, Hugh recently played Melanie Griffith's love interest in a crime thriller, *Tempo*, and has recently completed filming *Ella Enchanted* alongside Anne Hathaway, Minnie Driver, Steve Coogan and Patrick Bergin. While Hugh apparently cringes at the thought of being a 'sex symbol', he has acquired a legion of female fans and a number of websites dedicated to him have appeared in recent months. He prompted arch-feminist Germaine Greer to rave on *Newsnight Review*: "I think he's gorgeous: I just wish that he had fewer clothes on and did more rowing."



Orlando Seale (1991)

Another star in the making from St Peter's is Orlando Seale, who is currently appearing on our television screens as a new doctor, Merlin, in BBC's *Casualty*. Orlando is another of Dr Francis Warner's former students and recently appeared in the US drama series *The West Wing* starring Martin Sheen. Orlando has performed in a number of RSC productions and has set up his own experimental theatre company, 'Kepow'.

Below is a list of St Peter's Old Members working in the popular media, whose names you are likely to come across when you next open a newspaper, magazine, or turn on your television or radio.

Phil Rees, 1982
Reporter, BBC's 'Correspondent' programme

Richard Galpin, 1982
BBC News Correspondent

Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall, 1984
Television presenter and writer, 'The River Cottage'

Martin Webber, 1984
Business News Editor, BBC World Service

Lucy Tregear, 1985
Stage Actress

Simon Beaufoy, 1986
Screenwriter, 'The Full Monty', 'Among Giants'

Susannah Jowitt, 1986
Travel writer with the *Evening Standard* and *The Times*

Helen Wallace, 1986
Editor, *BBC Music Magazine*

Richard Lloyd Parry, 1987
Foreign Correspondent, *The Times*

Sophie Paul, 1989
Film Maker, 'Love Sophie'

Henry Fitzherbert, 1991
Film critic / Gossip Columnist, *Sunday Express*

Gordon Corera, 1992
Foreign Affairs Reporter, 'Today' Programme BBC Radio 4

Elliot Levey, 1992
Actor, Theatre Director and Producer, 'Monkey: A Tale from China'

Will Fiennes, 1993
Author, *The Snow Geese*

Meara Cavanagh, 1994
CNN News Correspondent

Elizabeth Judge, 1995
Business & Features Writer, *The Times*

James Chapman, 1996
Science & Environment Correspondent, *Daily Mail*

Ben Wright, 1996
Producer 'World At One', BBC Radio 4

Anna Thomas, 1996
Presenter/Reporter, Granada TV

Apologies to anyone we have inadvertently overlooked! If you have any updates on your work, studies or life in general that you would like included in this year's College Record, please send your information to the Development Office.

Forthcoming Events

Martin Powell Memorial Service

This will take place in the College Chapel at 3pm on Saturday 10th May 2003. All are most welcome to attend and there will be refreshments in Hall following the service.

SPC Ball - 17th May 2003

A ball based on the 7 deadly sins, there is a zone dedicated to each sin: lust, pride, anger, sloth, avarice, greed, and gluttony. Dining tickets are priced at £75 which includes a Roman-style banquet – a large feast with food continuously being brought to the table. Non-dining tickets are priced at £55 (includes food, but not a sit-down dinner). Music acts: Decoder & Substance (Kosheen DJ Set), DJ 279 (Mobo nominee best DJ), Laura Stone (C4's Faking It). For further information check out www.spcball.com

Student Arts Festival

The annual Student Arts Festival takes place from 19th-24th May 2003 and all Old Members are more than welcome to come along. If you are interested in attending please contact Anne-marie in the Development Office and she will send you a programme when it has been finalised.

Rhodes Scholars Reunion

The Rhodes Trust Centenary celebrations are taking place in London and Oxford from 2nd-5th July 2003. St Peter's is hosting dinner in Canal House for its former Rhodes Scholars on Thursday 3rd July 2003 and we hope to welcome back a number of Old Members for this occasion.

Cricket Varsity Match – Lords

This takes place on Wednesday 2nd July 2003 and we expect Oxford to be captained once again

by St Peter's rising star, Jamie Dalrymple. Last year Jamie also captained the British Universities against the Sri Lankans and secured a contract with Middlesex. We hope to have a large turnout of St Peter's Old Members at this game, shouting on both Jamie and Oxford, and we hope that a good lunch with a few drinks and an Oxford victory (!) will make for a very pleasant day out. Contact Anne-marie in the Development Office to register your interest for this event.

Henley Royal Regatta

Old Members of the College attending the Regatta are invited to drinks at the St Peter's Society Henley Royal Regatta Party, to be held on Saturday 5th July from 6.30 pm to 8.30 pm, in Butlers Field at car park position BB270, near to the entrance to the Boat Park. The Party will be followed by the Firework Display at sunset. Further information on the location and plan for Butlers Field is available at www.twrc.rowing.org.uk/hrr/hrrcarpark.htm Car parking is not available in Butlers Field except by prior arrangement with the Stewards of the Regatta.

St Peter's College Boat Club Reunion and Regatta 2003

SPCBC are holding a boat club reunion on Sunday 14th September 2003, incorporating a mini regatta on the Isis and a barbecue in College. All Old Members of the Boat Club are invited to take part in the regatta (no training necessary!) or simply come along to support and meet up with friends. Family members are also welcome to attend the barbecue and watch the racing. If you would like more information about the event please contact Anne-marie in the Development Office.

Master's Farewell / 90's Reunion

This will be the biggest event of the year and should be a fitting send-off to the current Master who retires at the end of September 2003. On 20th September we will be hosting an event from 3pm-midnight to which all students who were at St Peter's during John Barron's term as Master will be invited. The day will involve food, drink and, of course, a bop in the JCR! This is a perfect opportunity to catch up with old friends from St Peter's on what should be a very special day. Please contact the Development Office if you are interested in attending.

Gaudy Postponement

Due to the Master's Farewell we have had to postpone the Gaudy on 20th September. This was being held for the years 1962, 1970, 1971, 1978, 1981, 1992 and 1993 and we hope to hold this Gaudy in January or February 2004 – we will send out invitations for this in the autumn.

Gaudy 1928-1949

On Sunday 21st September 2003 we are holding a lunchtime Gaudy for those Old Members who matriculated between 1928-1949. Invitations will be posted in the summer and we look forward to a large turnout.

St Peter's Society Reunion 2003

The Annual Reunion takes place in College on 26th-28th September 2003. For further information please contact the President of the St Peter's Society, Frank Parker on 01629 814518 or Anne-marie in the Development Office.

Willis Organ Recital

On 27th September at 2.30pm, the Opening Recital following the restoration of the 'Father' Willis organ (1874) will be given by Ian Tracey, Organist of Liverpool Cathedral with Lewis Brito-Babapulle, Organ Scholar of St Peter's College. Lunch will be provided and all donors to the Organ Appeal are invited to attend. Please apply to the Development Office for tickets for this event.



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