Bigger and better

The picture, taken by Ken Hook, Domus Bursar, during early March, captures not just the size of the crane (the largest mobile crane in the UK) but also the scale of the current King’s building project: a collaborative development providing 24 new study bedrooms for King’s and 21 rooms for St Catharine’s by extending existing flat-roofed residential buildings upwards. For a week almost everyone who had better things to do spent some time watching the prefabricated modules being swung spectacularly into place on top of the Keynes building.

The development is the answer to two problems facing both colleges: the urgent need for more accommodation, and how to minimise disruption. The use of prefabricated units ensured that noisy construction took place off-site and the contractors used new techniques, including a large crane.
spiral pile, to excavate and strengthen foundations with a minimum of noise. The costs of construction are competitive with conventional building methods. By carrying out the craning phase at the start of the Easter vacation, the new rooms will be ready for occupation for the beginning of the next academic year. The en-suite rooms, which will also provide more accommodation for academic conferences and summer schools, have been designed with sleeping galleries to make full use of the available space. The architects are James Cubitt and Partners, the original designers of the buildings in 1968. The main contractor is Amos Danby and Sons.

New acquisition

The college has acquired a pen and ink drawing of the Chapel by Dr William Stukeley, FSA, dated 1705. Stukeley (1687–1765), the eminent antiquarian, was credited with the first archaeological fieldwork at Stonehenge. He was admitted to Benet (Corpus Christi) College on 7th November 1703 and took the degree of BM on 21st January 1707–8. In his folio of notes at the Bodleian Library, Stukeley records “I soon made a map of Cambridge, a drawing of our college and a drawing of the section of King’s College Chapel.”

The drawing can be seen in the Archive Centre during office hours.
The Society of King’s Economists’ Dinner, held on April 20, was attended by 80 members and their guests, from years 1943–2002, and was addressed by Charles Clarke, MP, 1969. The dinners are held every two years and have been organised by James Trevithick, 1977, a Fellow in Economics, with help from the Development Office. Previous speakers have been Mervyn King, 1966, Deputy Governor of the Bank of England, and Anatole Kaletsky, 1970, Principal Economic Commentator and Associate Editor of The Times.

Michael Kaser, 1943, enjoyed the mix of past and present economists. “There were enough present to make a congenial crowd, both of seniors and of juniors, and it was enjoyable to have such seniors as Robin Marris, Richard Layard, Geoff Harcourt, Ken Berrill, Adrian Wood and Bob Rowthorn around. Congratulations as for earlier dinners to James Trevithick. Having had last time so challenging a technical address as Mervyn King’s, it was the right choice to have a leading politician.” Alexandru Chirmiciu, 1999, a third year Romanian PhD student writing a thesis on the Economics of Transition in Eastern Europe, greatly enjoyed the evening. “It was an excellent opportunity to build an intergenerational bridge. I noticed three distinct generations at the dinner: those who had met Keynes in college, the currently active generation and the young generation at the beginning of their careers.” Rowan Churm, 1998, an analyst at the Bank of England, said that the best part was the opportunity for a reunion it provided. “Conversation in the bar afterwards was very interesting and I enjoyed talking to all my old tutors.”

A generous donation this year enabled twenty-one current students to attend. Emmi Poteliakhoff, 1999, found herself on the high table next to Charles Clarke. “It was a bit daunting to start with but a fantastic opportunity to meet and talk to a high profile public figure – and to share a dinner with what I might call ‘economic household names’. I don’t think any of the students would have been able to go without the sponsorship. So thank you very much.”

Copies of the photograph are available from Eaden Lilley. www.eadenlilleyphotography.co.uk
Inhabitants of the industrialised world have become materially rich, but at the expense of alienation from each other and from nature. Our prosperity has been achieved at the expense of billions of people living in poor countries. Moreover, this prosperity is now under threat. We are poisoning the earth and using up scarce resources at an alarming rate, and things can only get worse as the world’s population increases and countries such as India and China begin to adopt a western life-style. The world is on the brink of catastrophe. If we do not act now, future generations will inherit a wasteland.

This is the vision of the contemporary world that all environmentalists to some degree share. Bjorn Lomborg, the sceptical Danish statistician, has dubbed it the environmentalist “litany”. The term is apt, since this vision has a distinctly religious flavour. However, the fact that some environmentalist pronouncements have a religious flavour does not in itself discredit them. After all, many religions raise important issues that we might prefer to ignore.

Environmental issues can be considered under three headings: sustainability, desirability and distribution. A style of life is sustainable if it can be maintained indefinitely, so that future generations can enjoy what is now available to the present generation. This is not the same as desirability. For example, diesel engines emit micro-particles that can seriously damage people’s health. Although undesirable, this is clearly sustainable. Such emissions do not make the situation worse for future generations than it is at present. The third issue is distribution. The benefits of change may accrue to one group of people, but its costs may be borne by others. For example, some predictions suggest that global warming will be roughly neutral in its effect on total world food production. It will harm production in the relatively poor equatorial regions and aid production in the richer temperate regions such as Northern Europe and America.

A major difficulty in formulating a rational environmental policy is the lack of firm scientific knowledge on many issues. Many of the processes involved are complex or not well understood, and past experience may be a poor guide to the future. For example, despite the gloom-laden claims of twenty years ago, the rate of species extinction has so far been remarkably low considering the loss of habitat. However, this rate may accelerate dramatically if more habitat is lost in the future. No one really knows. One response, exemplified by Bjorn Lomborg, is to belittle the dangers and carry on much as usual. This is certainly the cheapest and most convenient approach. However, if some of the dire warnings of environmentalists turn out to be right, our failure to act will have been a dreadful mistake. In environmental affairs, better safe than sorry is a wise motto.

What principles should guide environmental policy? For a start, we must recognise that the industrial countries cannot maintain their present privileges indefinitely. Sooner or later the whole world will enjoy the same consumption possibilities that we do. A life-style is only truly sustainable if it can be generalised to the whole world and then maintained indefinitely. On this criterion the CO2 emissions of the industrial countries are unsustainable, and so too is their consumption of such items as fish and meat.

The second principle is that many different methods are required to achieve a sustainable lifestyle. Some advocate a culture of stewardship towards the natural environment and reduced emphasis on material consumption. Others advocate far tougher government regulation or higher environmental taxes, such as an escalating carbon tax, to encourage people to consume and produce differently. As an economist, I incline towards market-based solutions, but in reality they can never fully replace government regulation or cultural norms as a means of control.

The third principle is that sustainability is not just a global issue. It has a local dimension. The present developmental path of many poorer countries, especially in Africa and the Middle East, is not sustainable. But even where there has been an improvement, this has often been purchased at great environmental expense in terms of soil erosion and the export of scarce mineral and other natural resources.

In 1992, at the UN Conference on Environment and Development, the international community recognized that global patterns of consumption were not sustainable. There was unsustainable over-consumption in the affluent North, and underconsumption in the South which was environmentally unsustainable. In 1995, the UN Commission for Sustainable Development declared that changing consumption patterns should be prioritised. In 2001, ‘Consumption Opportunities’ published by UNEP, identified two principles, dematerialisation, and optimisation, which together can define a strategic framework for improving sustainability. In August this year, the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg will focus the debate.

### Sustainable Consumption: The Provost’s Seminar

**Bob Rowthorn, 1965, Fellow and Professor of Economics, offers his view.**

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Reactions & responses
At the well-attended meeting in February, Sir Brian Heap, 1961, Vice-President of the Royal Society, set out some definitions and strategies for achieving sustainable consumption; Bob Rowthorn, 1965, questioned environmentalists’ assumptions, and Anne McLaren, Honorary Fellow and a member of the UK Government’s Panel on Sustainable Development, was in the chair. Here two participants offer their views.

Financial planning
What an enjoyable and thought-provoking evening at the Provost’s Seminar! However, on my way home I began to reflect on how my own professional activities might be contributing to the problem. As a financial planner, my work involves building and monitoring financial plans for private clients, typically retired or approaching retirement. After we determine what their objectives are, we build them a lifetime cash flow, usually involving the use of their capital to provide funds for spending. We assume returns around the level of inflation for short-term cash and gifts held to maturity. However, for equity investments we assume what returns will be made up of an inflationary element plus an amount based on the average rates of dividends together with an amount for economic growth. This last amount is based on a consensus of current growth expectations.

What about this growth element? In our group at the seminar, we thought that economic growth was probably incompatible with sustainable consumption but here I am every day advising my clients that it is an essential part of their standard of living! What am I to do – tell them to save the planet and reduce their spending by 25%?! But then it gets worse. Having accepted the assumption about growth, we then go out and look for investments that are going to deliver it. We tell investment managers: bring us those returns – with growth included! They in turn tell the boards of the companies: don’t just bring us dividends – bring us growth! The more successful we are for our clients, the more we frustrate sustainable consumption!

Time for a cold towel round the head….or do I feel a client newsletter coming on?

Howard Gannaway, 1966.

A farmer’s perspective
Lincoln to Cambridge and back for the Provost’s Seminar augmented the greenhouse effect by 28 thousand litres of CO2. Per period, a jumbo in regular service adds seventy thousand times more than my car.* Being a farmer and a naturalist, I have an acute awareness of the reality of climate change, reinforced by an appreciation of the science, but, worryingly, unshared by an urban-based public.

Universal dependence on fossil fuels means there is no economic activity, except agriculture and forestry, that does not now contribute to the annual net increase in atmospheric CO2 levels. In pre-industrial times there was no increase; the energy source was solar. Today, the transport and the processing of the gigantic mass of materials needed to satisfy final demand in the first-world economy rely critically for their implementation on a supply of fossil-origin energy, of which a huge part of the cost, namely rising CO2, is not internalised. It is in the magnitude of this mass of materials that is conjured up by cheap energy, where the rest of unsustainable resource-use lies.

If energy companies had to start expensively sequestering the CO2 they introduce, fossil fuel prices would rise sharply and production would contract in the face of competing renewables. Shifting taxation further on to fossil fuels (carbon tax) is a more immediate prospect, puts pressure on CO2-intensive activities, and is simultaneously the enemy of unsustainable resource-use. It offers a single instrument for both stabilising the climate and moving towards general sustainability in a market environment. Sustainable consumption, incompatible with cheap energy, reappears in that happy world where global CO2 output is equal to the capacity of the carbon sinks to absorb it; the trick is minimising the pain of getting there. The longer we delay making a start, the worse it will be.

*The conventional wisdom is that a jumbo’s emissions per mile are 250 times a small hatchback’s. But on average a small hatchback does only about 10,000 miles a year; a jumbo will cover this mileage within 24 hours (17 hours total flying time). If it does this trip daily, therefore, its annual emissions are 250 x 365 = 91,000 times the hatchback’s annual emissions!

My figure of 70,000 times has been adjusted to reflect BA’s reported actual flying times.

Biosphere Expeditions

The UN has designated 2002 International Year of Ecotourism, "responsible travel that promotes the conservation of nature and sustains the well-being of local people". Biosphere Expeditions is the not-for-profit research and conservation organisation set up by Matthias Hammer, 1995, and his partner Katherine Wilden, to match conservation volunteers with under-resourced researchers in validated conservation programmes. From a base in the Broads National Park in Suffolk, they run expeditions – “not tours, photographic safaris or excursions” – to enable people of all ages, with or without specialist scientific skills, to enjoy active conservation research as part of a team with local scientists in Namibia, Ukraine, Poland and Peru.

Nature tourism is one of the fastest growing travel sectors and Matthias feels strongly about the need to get the framework of sustainability right, and it is this which he feels distinguishes Biosphere from its competitors. “The term “expedition” is much used – and abused, but in an area where legislation is confused and standards have yet to be defined, we have worked very hard to get our policy right, to set standards.” So if you want to study the population ecology of the cheetah in Namibia, or monitor the steppe wolf in the Crimea, you can be sure that you will be working only with reputable scientists, research institutions and educational establishments, and that someone at Biosphere has thought about how you will dispose of your rubbish, how you will eat local produce and benefit the local economy. You might stay in fixed camps, jungle lodges or tents, but where possible these will be owned locally. Food is sourced from locally supplied produce and ideally from organic sources....and Biosphere will also encourage you to pay your carbon debt.

For more information the website is www.biosphere-expeditions.org

Subtle torture

As the Guardian’s crossword setter, Araucaria, John Graham, 1939, has tortured, teased and delighted readers of that paper for 40 years. “There’s sado-masochism involved, obviously,” he confesses, raising a tortured laugh from his audience of willing U3A victims in Cambridge earlier in the year. “My father was a teaser, and, as we all know, teasing can be very cruel. Making crosswords is a way of sublimating cruelty into a form which doesn’t harm anyone!” Cryptic crosswords, a curiously English invention from the1920s, are a mixture of mystery and word-trickery and as a retired vicar himself, he is alert to the religious and mystical connotations. The Inquisition has provided soubriquets – Torquemada, Ximenes – for several setters, though Araucaria himself is merely the irreproachable, or unapproachable, monkey puzzle tree.

He’s a believer in coincidence as well as lateral thinking: “We don’t work by deduction.” When setting a Signs of the Zodiac puzzle, strange things fell into place and it all worked out “uncannily well”; when this happens, he says he has a definite sense of “things going right” for reasons he is at a loss to explain. And then there are the subliminal political statements which sometimes creep in, like his anagram: “Chaste Lord Archer vegetating” (The Old Vicarage Grantchester), or one of his favourites “Another Blair babe on the way, (3,6) (New Labour). A pioneer of themed puzzles, one on the novels of Dickens for example, and the inventor of the alphabetical puzzle, he works on about six at a time for the Guardian, as well as some for the Financial Times, whose editor once asked him not to make them too difficult for his readers.

King’s Parade is honoured to have an Araucaria puzzle on page 16.

Ghosts in Extremadura

Adam Hopkins, 1958, has started sharing his passion for the history and countryside of Extremadura with a few lucky walkers. Tony Doggart, 1958, came home delighted.

Adam and I last travelled together through Turkey in 1961 as impoverished King’s undergraduates. Since then his taste for travel has led to a career as a travel writer and to authorship of a book on Spain. His most recent venture,
Wellington acts as the puppet-master whose brief is to hold down a French army and eventually to lure it on to the secretly prepared lines of Torres Vedras. As a finale for our week, we stayed in the newly restored 14th century castle of Ciudad Rodrigo, now a Parador. Set on the ramparts, it has a commanding view over the area where Spanish, French, British and Portuguese armies marched and counter-marched during the Peninsular War. On one side, impregnable walls dominate the river. On the other, a low hill rises about 400 yards away from the deep ditch which protects the outer rampart. Here we stood with bated breath while Adam told day-by-day and hour-by-hour how Wellington took the city in January 1812…and how the fatal breach made by his guns, dug into their parallel trenches in the nearby hill, was exactly where we stood.

Hadrian still guards the border between Spain and Portugal from his temple beside the Roman bridge of Alcantara. Moors defend the citadel of Caceres. Wellington’s cannon can still be heard bombarding the ramparts of Cuidad Rodrigo. Ghosts flourish in Extremadura and Adam knows how to conjure them.

Addison Hopkins (left) and Tony Doggart (right) at Caceres

In addition to Adam and seven tourists, the party also included an 83 year old former smuggler, Jose Maria, two donkeys and a donkey driver. Jose Maria had worked with Adam to devise our route, using knowledge of cross-border paths acquired in the good old days before the European Union tore down the tariff barriers between Spain and Portugal. Under his watchful eye, we started our walk along an ancient track which wound downhill between dry stone walls and past beehive shaped pig-sties inhabited by the black-legged pigs for which the region is famous. Holm oaks on each side of the track were heavy with bright green acorns. The romantic clifftop castle of Penafiel was silhouetted on our left, guarded by circling griffon vultures. At the bottom of the hill we met the Erges River which marks the Spanish border.

As we walked Adam began to unfold, year by year, the story of the Peninsular War. Before our eyes, we saw Marshal Junot leading his troops along the same river. Hovering in the background, Wellington acts as the puppet-river. Hovering in the background, Wellington acts as the puppet-river. Hovering in the background, Wellington acts as the puppet-river.
In his autobiography, Frank Kermode vividly sets the scene for his poor Marx childhood and awkward youth. He describes his “early training in politeness and motiveless civility”; in trying to please his insistent mother he acquired a “troublesome habit of deference.” His father, manly and good at games, conveyed the impression that the young Frank “wasn’t the kind of son he would have preferred to have fathered.” His early school career was dominated by bullying, undiagnosed short-sightedness, underachievement. Things improved at Liverpool University, where he went on a schoolteacher scholarship; the war intervened to relieve him of “the necessity either to teach in a school or to repay that enormous sum.” What followed were picaresque exploits in the Navy, “a complete waste of everybody’s time, particularly the Navy’s,” and then writing. But, “…my fiction, my theatre, were marked by a failure to persuade the characters to do anything, but also to say anything of much interest. It was also emerging that my poetry wasn’t up to much, so there was nothing left for me except to become a critic, preferably with a paying job in a university.”


He was knighted in 1991 and is heaped with honours; so why Not Entitled? “It’s a perfectly genuine reflection of the way I feel about myself.” But back to the herrings. In his autobiography, Frank enjoys describing himself as “falling at tasks for which success is the norm”, amongst which he includes childhood shoe-lacing, keeping an ordered study, general house maintenance and the completion of tax forms. Meeting him for the first time at home one might expect in no particular order broken locks, strewn papers, dangling light-bulbs. Not so. The light and airy microclimate of his ordered apartment, and indeed Frank himself, a quietly charming and friendly man in suspiciously clean tennis shoes, give the lie to the autobiographical truth. “…But I can show you a room that’s full of dead despairing paper,” he protests.

In a roundabout way, we talk about the apparent mismatch and his latest book Shakespeare’s Language, which Melvyn Bragg in the Independent called “the best book on Shakespeare I have ever read.” Frank is not so sure. “It’s a book I don’t on reflection like very much… it would have been much better if I’d written it twenty years ago,” he sort of laughs. “Or even if I’d taken another year to work on it. It’s very scrappy. But anyway we don’t want to talk about that. But it does illustrate what I think is needed and that is close attention to words and texts.”

He is alluding in part to the controversy which has shaped the study of Literature over the last thirty years, and in which he played a major part when he was Professor of English Literature in Cambridge. “As you know, there’s been a great divide in the history of literary criticism in my lifetime. I was very much taken with the new kind of thing being done mainly by French people like Barthes, Derrida, Lacan. So
I began to think the history of what I was doing had altered completely and I altered myself completely. Derrida burst on the scene: he changed all the assumptions about language and meaning. He's a philosopher not a literary critic, but he'd been taken up as a model by a great many critics. A new kind of rhetoric developed.”

Frank had been warned by his predecessor Lionel Knights not to take the Cambridge job. “He said, you'll be miserable. Noel Annan said, for God's sake don't do it, they'll kill you.” It was not a happy time and he resigned in 1982. He had kept a flat in London, but also spent time in New York, before returning to live in Cambridge. “My staying here and staying on has been made so much more agreeable by King's. When I resigned it should have been the end of my fellowship, but they extended it to retiring age and then gave me an Honorary Fellowship. So they have kindly made sure the connection with King's is permanent.” But he doesn’t haunt the place, “Tony Tanner’s death meant the end of a strong connection and I don’t know many fellows now.”

He has moved on, and has found himself reverting to the old way of writing criticism. “What has completely gone out in part is close reading. The text itself has been left behind. The new historicism is one school which has its own way of ignoring texts, and so do the deconstructionists. They are talking about something else, moving it out of the way. I've become older and lazier, but clearer. I don't have to please Jacques Derrida anymore.” And then he adds, as a wry afterthought, “...I wouldn't want to displease him either.”

Shakespeare’s Language assumes a stance against discourse and theory, acknowledges the "presiding personality" of Shakespeare and re-affirms the importance of close reading. “When we talk about Shakespeare we are talking about the plays and the poems, not directly about a man, though a man certainly wrote the verse….and it cannot be wicked or stupid to make occasional allusion to his presence,” he writes in the Introduction. I found I had been reading what he has written on Shakespeare with more than an eye to which bits of himself Frank might be letting out through his commentaries. Does he regard this as a legitimate approach to discovering the person beneath the writing? “To ask it is legitimate,” he quips rather triumphantly. “... whether you'll get the result you want is another matter!” But would he resist that? “I think autobiographies are very dishonest works on the whole. Even Rousseau’s dishonest. He pretends to be more evil than he actually is. That's his stunt. But no one really tells the truth…how can you? You don’t know the truth about yourself so it's impossible to tell it. But even if it were possible people wouldn’t do it.” So what would he be most aware of having left out? “Oh well, that’s easy. I left out vast tracts of my life...marriage, children, all the rest of it. I had no desire to talk about my emotional life so I just left it out. You can do what you like....”

Pleasing Frank is an arcane matter. But there are exasperated chuckles as he rummages to find a suitable photo. We seem to disagree about likenesses. “It’s a particularly gloomy looking photograph isn’t it?” he maintains. No, not at all, rather twinkling. “That’s a mad one...Most of the best photos are taken by my son, who’s an excellent photographer. But all some time ago. Here’s one where I look like Dennis Healey! This is a matter of absolutely no importance...That’s a stupid one...There are so many of them,” and he laughs again, suddenly relaxed, and I catch him adding almost with an exclamation mark, “...but none of them really reflects the brilliance and spirit of the sitter.”
“Staying alive is as much about bonding with your neighbours as it is about competing with them. The evidence is all around us but it is easily overlooked,” says Tom Wakeford, 1990, in a book New Scientist called “One of the ten must-reads of 2001”. Subtitled “How the unassuming microbe has driven evolution,” Wakeford explains how this evidence lies hidden in the evolutionary alliances that every plant and animal forges with one sort of microbe or another. This “crisp, highly readable book” traces the history of the scientific idea of symbiosis, and also charts the precarious fortunes of the pioneers of the theory, including – perhaps surprisingly – Beatrix Potter. Tom Wakeford, who was named Young Science Writer in 1996, is a biologist and writer based at the University of Sussex. “Tom Wakeford has a good eye for striking facts... highly readable...The examples of symbiosis are all excellent pieces of research.” – The New York Times.

Liaisons of Life by Tom Wakeford. John Wiley and Sons. £11.50 paperback.

Hell in the Pacific
Sixty years after Pearl Harbor this book tells the story of the Pacific War by breaking down the traditional view of it as a conflict between merciless Japanese and heroic Allies. On remote islands and in dense jungles, both sides threw away the rule book in a descent into pitiless horror. In Hell In The Pacific, the authors trace the deep-set roots of atrocity in the war and the endemic racism that blinkered military and civilian perception on both sides. Nearly a hundred eye-witnesses reveal the extraordinary part they played in a conflict unparalleled in ferocity. Ben Steele, 1992, was one of the three students whose cycling trip across the Gobi desert was featured in the Spring 1998 issue of King’s Parade. Since leaving King’s he has pursued a career in television, working on the Bafta-nominated Cold War and recently Hell in the Pacific for Channel 4. Hell in the Pacific, by Jonathan Lewis and Ben Steele. Channel 4 books. £16.99.

The Russian Mafia
What is the Russian Mafia? This unique book explores this question by examining the emergence of the Russian mafia in the context of the transition to the market, the privatisation of property, and pervasive corruption. The author draws on reports of undercover police operations, in-depth interviews conducted over several years with the victims of the mafia, criminals and officials, and documents from the Gulag archives. ‘Enlightening, perceptive and superbly researched. Essential reading for anybody seriously interested in the mind and heart of contemporary Russian criminal society,’ John le Carré writes on the jacket. Reviewers have so far called the book ‘enlightening’ (Sole 24 Ore), ‘scholarly’ (Foreign Affairs), and ‘sober [and...] fascinating’ (TLS). Federico Varese, 1991, is currently Visiting Professor, Department of Political Science at Yale University, and first started to think about the topic of this book while he was a graduate student at King’s.


Reconciling Science and Religion
Although much has been written about the debates over science and religion in the Victorian era, little attention has been paid to their continuing importance in early twentieth-century Britain. Reconciling Science and Religion provides a comprehensive survey of the interplay between British science and religion from the late nineteenth century to World War II. Peter J. Bowler, 1963, Professor of the History of Science at the Queen’s University Belfast, argues that unlike the United States, where a strong fundamentalist opposition to
evolutionism developed in the 1920s, in Britain there was a concerted effort to reconcile science and religion. “My intention is...to uncover the various strategies that have been used by those seeking to create a discourse between science and religion,” says Bowler. James Moore of the OU praises his treatment for being “disarmingly even-handed.” Thomas Dixon in Science calls it an “encyclopedic review.”


Art Matters

Through chapters attending to three works of art – Barnett Newman’s painting Vir Heroicus Sublimis, pianist Glenn Gould’s second recording of Bach’s Goldberg Variations, and William Wordsworth’s poem “We Are Seven” – Peter de Bolla. 1976, plots a personal history of aesthetic experience that opens up the general forms of art appreciation. Frank Kermode says, “He writes with originality and his prose is notable for its clarity...the subtlety and honesty of his book is extremely impressive.” Countering current assumptions that art is valued only according to taste or ideology, Peter de Bolla gives a voice – and vocabulary – to the wonder art can inspire. “What he does,” writes Michael Wood, Professor of English at Princeton, “is prove by example that speculative criticism can be personal and passionate, and by implication that only close encounters with particular works of any art will give us anything to talk about.”

Art Matters, by Peter de Bolla, Fellow of King’s. Harvard University Press. £23.95.

Plato’s Progeny

Socrates wrote nothing; Plato’s accounts of Socrates helped to establish western politics, ethics, and metaphysics. Both have played crucial and dramatically changing roles in western culture. In the last two centuries, the triumph of democracy has led many to side with the Athenians against a Socrates whom they were right to kill. Meanwhile the Cold War gave us polar images of Plato as both a dangerous totalitarian and an escapist intellectual. At its centre are two chapters exploring the idea of Platonic ‘origins’ in philosophy, and of Platonic ‘foundations’ for philosophical politics. The TLS calls it a “short, very readable book” and concludes, “Her ‘reception history’ of Plato’s thought is an intellectual tour that takes in everything from Cambridge Platonists to Nazi Platonists, from nineteenth-century ‘Culture and Anarchy’ Platonists to 1960s Vietnam-protester Platonists; and the tour is well worth the ticket.” Melissa Lane discussed the book on In Our Time with Melvyn Bragg in October 2001, as part of a History of Democracy programme. Melissa Lane, 1989, is a Fellow of King’s and University Lecturer in History.


Landscapes at Risk?

Gerald Smart, 1947, Emeritus Professor, University College London, is the co-author of a beautifully illustrated book on Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which, together with National Parks, are the highest quality landscapes in England and Wales. Landscape Design calls the book “An outstanding contribution to the current debate about protected landscapes.” AONBs have always been regarded as ‘second’ to national parks in terms of the legislation and resources provided by the nation to look after them, and the book focuses on the evolution of policies towards them, the arrangements for their administration, conservation and management, and the adequacy of the proposals that have been put forward for their long-term well-being. “I warmly recommend this book to anyone who wants to know more about how Britain’s best landscapes are protected, and the issues which they face,” International Union for the Conservation of Nature – World Commission on Protected Areas.

Landscapes at Risk? by Edward Holdaway and Gerald Smart, Spon Press, £42.00.
**Women**

Having been one of the first women to study at King’s in 1972, I was pleased to be invited by a friend who is currently an undergraduate to attend the annual Women’s Dinner.

I was delighted to see that women undergraduates at King’s have gone from strength to strength, but disturbed to discover that of ten recently elected Fellows pictured in the Annual Report, only one was a woman. In this thirtieth anniversary year of women’s arrival at King’s, I would be interested to know what measures are being taken to address this serious discrepancy.

Charmian Kenner, 1972

**Tess Adkins replies:** We are all concerned about how to tackle what seems to be an intractable problem, but you will be glad to hear that the latest two Fellows appointed are both women. Lucy Delap has been appointed Junior Research Fellow in Arts and Social Sciences and Maeve Caldwell is the non stipendiary Trapnell Fellow. Recommendations are being made to the Council that the College should once again have an Equal Opportunities Officer, and it is possible that the Development Office will be involved in raising funds for programmes such as the equivalent of the Royal Society’s Dorothy Hodgkin scheme or the Government’s new programme for Rosalind Franklin Fellowships for returners.

Tess Adkins will report more fully in the next issue.

King’s Parade would welcome contributions from women (and men) on the issues affecting the visibility of women in academic life. News from and about King’s women is a bit thin on the ground: are we looking for it in the wrong places? Tell us!

**Bletchley reminiscences**

I was an undergraduate at King’s doing modern languages and was recruited by Frank Birch into his naval section. He put me in charge of decoding the C38m, the machine code used by the Italian navy, which we were able to read currently for most of the time, making fairly regular contributions to “Ultra”. The machine was changed at the beginning of every month, and Admiralty ordered that reconnaissance flights in the Mediterranean should continue as usual in the few days it took us every month to break the new settings, for fear the Italians might detect that we were relying on information provided by our reading the C38m for the rest of the time.

As you say, Turing chained his coffee mug to the radiator when he left the office. When he returned the next day, he reached through the window and transferred the padlock to his bicycle wheel.

**Colin Thompson, 1938.**

Your list of Fellows of King’s who were at Bletchley during the war made interesting reading but was, arguably, not quite complete. Fred Clayton, for whom a very sensitive obituary was published in last year’s Annual Report, may not have been at Bletchley (I just don’t know) but he was very active in Delhi, at Bletchley’s Far Eastern arm, known as the Wireless Experimental Centre (WEC) or, to the RAF, 164(s) Wing. I knew him well there and we also served together for some months with one of WEC’s forward units.

Towards the end of the war we were chosen to form the SIGINT nucleus for Operation Zipper (the invasion of Malaya), though a more unlikely pair of spearhead warriors would be difficult to imagine! He finished the war, if I remember rightly, as a Squadron Leader and returned to King’s briefly in 1946. A number of other Kingsmen served with WEC, the best known, in later years, being Wilfred Noyce, the mountaineer.

**Eric Copson, 1942.**

At King’s I read modern languages, French, German and Spanish and while doing service on a minesweeper in the North Sea I taught myself some Italian. In due course I was sent off to be made into an officer, then told to go to the Citadel in Whitehall where I was taken into the bowels of the earth and received by a very relaxed RN Commander who pulled out a document, and said “I see you have passed exams in German and claim to know Italian.” He said he had better test me so he picked up the phone and there was a young lady talking to me in Italian, after which she came and gave me a dictation. After a few days I had a letter telling me to catch a certain train from Euston to Bletchley. This was November 1941.

On arrival at Bletchley station I was met by an unassuming chap who took me to a beaten-up mini and drove me to the Park. He
turned out to be an RN Commander who was organising a small team of naval officers to handle messages from the Hagelin machine used by the Italian Navy. Our job was to select messages we thought important and dress them up to look like reports from agents on the ground, ready for transmission to C in C Mediterranean in Malta. In the background we had, as advisers, Patrick Wilkinson and his charming wife.

Hardy Frost, 1937.

I was, I believe, recruited by Frank Adcock, and worked as a cryptanalyst (not codebreaker) in the Fish section at Bletchley from D-day until the end of the war. In that section was also JGT Thompson, 1942, and Roy Jenkins, now a lord. Recently I have given several talks on the ‘Fish’ system and my memoirs have given several talks on the运行 both to chess and to Fish can be found in my “Colossus and the Breaking of the Wartime ‘Fish’ Codes”, Cryptologia, January 2002, Volume XXVI, Number 1, pages 17–58.

Turing was the only player at that establishment, replete as it was with chess masters, whose standard of play was sufficiently poor to allow me a level game. We accordingly met for weekly chess evenings at a pub in Wolverton. In discussions of the possibility of mechanizing games like chess, Turing also inspired in me a lifelong interest in “Thinking Machines” (as we called them then).

It may seem strange that with Turing’s intellectual gifts he should be an indifferent performer at chess. A curious trait immediately impressed itself on all who knew him which undoubtedly has some relevance. Alan Turing insisted on tackling every problem bare-fisted and from scratch. Sometimes this furious know-nothing onslaught scored spectacular success. His starkly novel approach to the “Entscheidungsproblem” is the most celebrated case in point.

Church, Goedel and others had obtained more conventional solutions. But his was immeasurably the most consequential. Turing’s bare-fisted construction of an abstract Universal Machine serves as the foundational launchpad of today’s stored-program digital computer.

On other occasions, though, ground rules may be already fully codified, territory intensively farmed by others, and the diligent practice of skill and memorization a necessity. Often enough Turing would then stubbornly, and always cheerfully, misfire.

When Homer nods, the occurrence ordinarily goes either unrecorded or (as with Turing’s chess prowess) misrecorded.

Yet in his closing sentence Christopher Andrew takes us to the very edge of an instance which is so illustrative of the trait that I cannot refrain from completing his record. That sentence reads “Sadly, though, he failed to find the ingots when the war was over.”

Having succeeded single-handed in burying two silver ingots in spots not far from Bletchley, for the attempt at recovery Alan felt the need for a second pair of hands. Accordingly he propositioned me with the following alternatives – EITHER one third of the cash value of the silver if recovered, – OR five pounds fee per expedition plus expenses.

Without hesitation I plumped for the second. I did not regret my choice. After the first abortive expedition, Alan decided on an electromagnetic contrivance to detect buried metal. Did he scan catalogues and make purchases, perhaps, of army surplus equipment – at that time a glut on the market? Certainly not. He would design and build one himself! So our second expedition was accompanied by a strange trifid-like construction whose range, alas, proved inadequate to the task.

But what the hell! Lose a little. Win a little. Nothing that ever happened in Alan Turing’s company could, by the remotest stretch, ever be called dull.

Donald Michie
Emeritus Professor of Machine Intelligence
University of Edinburgh, UK.
The Reavley Bursary

Martin Reavley, 1973, has recently made a generous donation to establish a new Bursary to help students who could not, without some financial assistance, consider applying to the College. To be called the Reavley Bursary, it will have a preference for helping students from the state school sector and is created in the memory of Martin’s father, Norman.

Prevented from staying on at school himself by the Depression of the 1930s, Norman insisted that his own children would not be similarly held back. He strongly believed in equality of opportunity in all walks of life and he especially believed that further education should be available for everyone with the potential to benefit from it. As Martin describes it: “By scrimping and saving on himself, Dad made it possible for me to come to King’s. This changed my life. A grammar-school kid from a working class background, I had the opportunity of living in King’s special atmosphere, of studying French and Spanish from tutors like Robert Bolgar and enjoying novel activities, notably coxing for KCBC First Boat and chairing the Punt Committee......and, of course, I met people who are still my closest friends, not forgetting the lady who is now my wife.”

After a career that has taken him to the US and to France, Martin is now London-based as Director of Corporate Development for the retail group Kingfisher. “I am lucky enough to be able to give back a little of what my father gave me. I hope that this Bursary will enable others to benefit from access to King’s and to the kind of education and opportunities I have enjoyed and that in helping the College in this way it will support the principles of equality and diversity which I, my father and the College all share.”

Third time lucky

This Easter, eleven King’s students spent time calling 1400 Non Resident Members, some as far afield as Australia, to talk and raise money. Most of the students were first time callers, and the Development Office has been delighted with the response, not just in terms of money raised, but also because members have written in to say how much they enjoyed talking to current students.

Making direct contact like this enables the office to keep in touch with members’ concerns about the College, to hear what they think about events which are held for their benefit, as well as to keep up to date with their careers, travels, children and grandchildren.

This year’s annual campaign (the third) was designed to raise money for what is often considered rather unsexy, ‘general purposes’, and has succeeded to the tune of £40,000 so far. Individual gifts have ranged from £10 to £5000. Although it isn’t easy to raise money for ‘general purposes’, it can actually be the most valuable because it allows greater flexibility of spending on those things which are more pressing. Gifts are particularly valuable if they are part of regular giving, as this enables the College to plan ahead. Money is still coming in from last year, and estimates suggest that the cumulative total raised by the whole campaign will be in the region of £500,000. So thank you everyone.

Year representatives

Win some...lose some. Keeping in touch with members is very much an ongoing process, and every year, as members move house, job, country, we lose contact with some....and find some. But informal networks, email and so on, usually mean that friends remain in contact and often encourage each other to come to events such as the Garden Party or reunion dinners.

Tess Adkins is looking for a few more year representatives to help the Development Office keep in touch with members, to make sure more people hear about events, and also help with fund-raising from time to time. Twenty or so existing year representatives came to a reception in the Middle Temple in March, but we are still looking for people in the following years: 1945,46,47,52,53,58,64,67,68, 69,71,81,85. If you’d like to join this group then please contact Tess Adkins.

Sarah Drayton is the year representative for 1994 and emailed recently.

I’m currently in the final year of a PhD project at Cancer Research UK in what was the main labs of the Imperial Cancer Research...
Fund until the merger with CRC in March. Although most of my time is spent in the lab, the fun bits are conferences in nice places, giving talks to fundraisers who come to visit us and generally talking about science and my work to others. I recently came second in the UCL graduate school poster competition for the medical sciences which won me £100 – which I shall be spending on a posh dinner. London is full of lovely places to eat, but you don’t get to go to them on PhD money!

I sing a lot in my spare time: I sing with UCL chamber choir who perform around London regularly. I’ve sung in the chorus of the UCL opera twice and I sing with the UCL big band and have recorded a song on CD with them. I’m going on tour with the big band in the summer. I sing jazz with piano or a small band which I have done since I was at King’s, although these days I’m more commonly asked to sing at friends’ wedding receptions!

I see quite a bit of friends from King’s in the pubs and curry houses of London and word tends to get around about what people are doing on the grapevine. The current trend seems to be leaving London. People from my year have gone to the States, Australia and New Zealand to work on a semi-permanent basis within the last year or so. If it wasn’t for e-mail, I’m sure they would seem a lot further away.

Lost and found

Sue Turnbull, who manages the College Database, is pleased that the number of lost King’s souls is diminishing, partly thanks to the internet. Whenever functions take place (Alumni weekend, garden party etc) a list of ‘lost’ members in the relevant years is sent out with the invitations, and returned Annual Report forms with updated details are often sent in January or February. If you have a look on the Non-Resident Members’ section of the College website, www.kings.cam.ac.uk, you will find a complete list of Members whose details are missing. If there are people you know on the list, Sue would be grateful for any contact details you can send her. Sue.Turnbull@kings.cam.ac.uk

A new staff member

Deborah Loveluck has joined the Development Office as the Development Fundraiser. She was previously in charge of fundraising for a local Cambridge charity, but before that owned her own hotel and restaurant. “I started the hotel from scratch – which was a wonderful experience. It also taught me a lot about wine and I ended up teaching wine appreciation courses in France – where we lived for four years – and in the UK.”

New Honorary Fellows

Sir Nicholas Goodison, 1955, and Lord Alexander of Weeldon, 1956, were elected into Honorary Fellowships in November 2001.

1998 Data Protection Act

The College holds records for all King’s staff, Fellows, Resident and Non-Resident Members. Non-Resident Member personal data are securely held in the Development Office and will be treated confidentially and with sensitivity for the benefit of King’s College and its Members.

Data are used by the College for a full range of Non-Resident activities, including the sending of College publications, promotion of benefits and services available to Non-Resident Members (including those being made available by external organisations) notification of events and of programmes involving administrative departments. Data will also be used for fundraising programmes (which might include an element of direct marketing). It is intended that Non-Resident Members’ contact details will be made available to other current and Non-Resident Members of King’s College, recognised College societies (eg. KCA) in the UK and overseas, to sports and other clubs associated with the College and to agents contracted by the College for particular Non-Resident Member-related activities.

Under the terms of the Data Protection Act 1998, you have the right to object to the use of your data for any of the above purposes.

The wine column

This Summer we are offering a larger number of wines than ever before, some are perfect for outdoor entertaining others are rather more serious. In the first category is the 1998 Cotes du Rhone, St Cosme (£8.50). This is made by one of the brilliant young winemakers in Gigondas, Louis Barruol, from the outstanding 1998 southern Rhone vintage. Although labelled ‘Cotes du Rhone’ it withstands comparison with much grander appellations. Another wine for Summer occasions is the 1998 Domaine Clavel, Les Garrigues, Coteaux du Languedoc (£5.95), also from one of the best vintages ever for this region. The wine has weight and real class – a bargain which is sure to sell out fast.

More serious wines include 1998 Cabernet/Merlot, Obsidian, New Zealand (£15.99). This wine is made on Waiheke Island and is one of the best claret substitutes I have ever tasted. It will age for another five or six years without a problem and is fantastic value – if it had been made in Bordeaux the price would be at least double. A star from Italy is the 1997 Chianti Classico, Giorgio Primo, La Massa (£24.95). At a recent wine committee tasting it turned heads. Do not think of it as a ‘quaffing chianti’; it is one of the greatest wines produced in a region that today competes with the very best sites anywhere in the world. One of my wines of the year.

Peter de Bolla
Araucaria Prize Crossword

Twenty-one King's men and women may be found, usually concealed, in the clues and the solutions. They could be eminent, alive or long-dead; they could possibly have been mentioned in a previous issue of King's Parade. A suitably delicious bottle from the cellar will be given to the member supplying the first complete list of King's men and women to be opened on 1st October 2002. Please do not send the crossword itself. Lists to the Editor, King's Parade, King's College, CB2 1ST. Solution and list will be supplied in the next issue, and posted on the website.

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1. A night of play for a glorious day (7)
2. Letters taking Hayward’s part in the 1950s? (4-3)
3. Fry Bacon? I've got the message (5)
4. Openings for Youth Leaders in newspapers are blooming short-lived (3-6)
5. It could be shady after June 16th (7,3)
6. Explosive commercial Californian politician in front of car (8)
7. A number are without heavenly food, North of Alloa district (11)
8. A drop drunk in season and I give vivid descriptions (4-7)
9. First part of first part of operatic duo in an endless valley in Mausoleum country (10)
10. Part of one verse repeated by Lear (5)
11. Bird without a name would shut up (7)
12. Darcy had kinsfolk here, taking outsize in wedding symbols (7)
13. “Magic casements opening on the foam of perilous seas in – forlorn” (Keats) (5,5)
14. Professor abandoning profanity around African country: it’s the nature of the beast (9)
15. When colours fade, treat with gilt (8)
16. One who takes the pledge, an expert skinflint (8)
17. Desire national leader that’s yellow (6)
18. City of crazy artists (6)
19. Fortune for Lucas who’s lost a shilling and gained a sovereign (4)

Down
1. Weird fit, far from duty (6)
2. Crews on the river diverting the GIs (6)
3. Outside staircase from which to pierce safe? (4-6)
4. Place of departed spirits (with their head chopped off) (5)
5. Dad still keeps hounds on his wages (3,6)
6. Agitate for sterling (E in sterling should be I) (4)
7. Dweller in mound; he eats it when in want (5,3)
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Celebrating retirement of Charlie Loke

29 June
£17.00

28 September
Non-Residents’ Weekend 1966 – 1970
£17.00

17 October
Bristol Reception

14 November
9th Provost’s Seminar
Crime and Punishment
Contact Angela Reeves for details. 01223 331313

e-mail: development.office@kings.cam.ac.uk

Choir concerts

29 September
Uppingham School Chapel

16 October
King’s College School Appeal
King’s College Chapel

28 October
St John’s, Smith Square
0207 222 1061

2 December
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0207 222 1061

7 December
Founder’s Day Concert
01223 331212

19 December
Royal Albert Hall
0207 589 8212

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