History online
Climate change
King’s English
Editor’s Letter

With the growing consensus about the facts of climate change, there seems to be greater optimism about how individuals, governments, institutions and businesses can mitigate its effects. Sustainability challenges creativity in all spheres, and in this issue we have news from members of King’s whose energies are loosely directed towards saving the planet. There’s a profile of John Young, a King’s Fellow whose work on power generation spans all the key technologies, a picture of how climate change will affect East Anglia and news from members working in China, the US and South America.

As a taster for the Celebration of English to be held in March 2006, King’s Parade carries a piece by Simon Hoggart, who read English in 1965, as well as reviews by current English graduate students of new novels by writers King’s has produced in recent years.

A letter from Jonathan Treasure about the late sixties and early seventies published in the last issue has provoked correspondence from members of King’s who were students at that time of radicalism and unrest. We carry a piece on the Garden House Demonstration of 1970 from Brian Pollitt.

Do you have strong feelings about how King’s addresses you? Do you prefer to be called Non-Resident Members (NRMs), Members, members or alumni? Are you Kingsmen, Kingswomen, or Kingspeople? I welcome your views on this, as well as your news, feedback and suggestions for future issues. I would also like to thank the parents and friends of younger King’s members who have supplied some of the images for this issue.

The Archaeology and Anthropology Dinner on Saturday 6 May 2006 also marks the retirement of Steve Hugh-Jones. King’s Parade welcomes news and fieldwork stories from former students in whatever fields they now find themselves.

While true carbon neutrality may be a pipe dream, King’s Parade has started to engage. This issue is printed on uncoated paper from a sustainable source, and the bio inks used are “about as environmentally friendly as can reasonably be expected”. We are still searching for a carbon neutral printer, and found the cost of biodegradable polythene envelopes prohibitive. I now keep a supply of saplings in the boot, so all I need is an economist to tell me how often I should stop the car and plant one. Answers, by email, not on postcards, please.

Alison Carter
kings.parade@kings.cam.ac.uk

Please see the website www.kings.cam.ac.uk for details of all forthcoming events and concerts, or contact the Development Office. development.office@kings.cam.ac.uk

Development Office
King’s College
Cambridge CB2 1ST
01223 331443

Cover shows a map detail from a very early manuscript of Lessingham Manor in Norfolk, with the names of local tenants in Latin. Dated 1587, this manuscript forms part of the King’s Estates Records [Ref: LES/35].

College news

Provost to step down

On July 15, Dame Judith Mayhew Jonas DBE announced that she was taking up her entitlement to sabbatical leave under the College Statutes and will be stepping down as Provost on 31 August 2006. Dr Tess Adkins, as Vice-Provost, has assumed Dame Judith’s administrative responsibilities whilst she is on sabbatical leave. A full statement appears on the website.

Leo Sharpston is new British Advocate General

Congratulations to Leo Sharpston QC (1973) who has been appointed as the new British Advocate General to the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg. “I’m elated and apprehensive in about equal measure, which is probably about right ...” she said. She was nominated by the UK Government following an open competition and confirmed by the common accord of the 25 Member States. Since 1992 she has combined practice at the Bar with an academic career in Cambridge. As a Fellow, she has taught EU law to King’s undergraduates, directed studies and more recently looked after King’s postgraduate lawyers. Over the years she has also been deeply involved in College life, from KCMS and KCBC to Chapel and College Council.

King’s History Online

Thanks to a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund the estates records of King’s are now widely accessible. Jude Brimmer, project archivist, has produced an on-line catalogue and a website for local historians, genealogists and anyone interested in the history of the College.

The estates records are the section of the College Archive of most relevance and interest to the community at large; they are the records of estates given to the College by Henry VI at the Foundation, or acquired afterwards. King’s lands once covered 187 estates in 30 counties from Cornwall to Norfolk, Suffolk to Yorkshire. These lands brought their written memory with them in the form of charters and court records, in some cases going back to the 11th century. Many of these documents give details of local tenants, some document the inheritance of land, and all are of interest to those studying the local history of those lands once owned by the College.

For more information please visit the project website – www.kings.cam.ac.uk/library/archives/college/hlfproject/

From here interested readers can find out about the project, view images of documents from the Archive and explore the estates catalogues online.

Archive Centre, King’s College, Cambridge, CB2 1ST
+44-1223-331444
archivist@kings.cam.ac.uk
Annan House

The President of Ireland, Mary McAleese, gave her first official address to the Cambridge University Ireland Society, of which she is Patron, in King’s on Friday 10 June. The President and Dr. McAleese were welcomed by Rós Ní Dhubháin, President, and Conor McDonough (2004) President-Elect of the Cambridge University Ireland Society, representing the 450 or so Irish faculty and students at Cambridge.

Alex Orlov: New Fellow

Passionate about the environment, Alex specialises in environmental chemistry and nanotechnology. He has been working with Prof. Richard Lambert (1972) for the last five years, and with support from BP and the EPSRC they have produced novel nano-materials to fight environmental pollution. Alex contributed to the design of a reactor in Canada, which uses both light and a catalyst to clean up contaminated water. Nanotechnology is being used increasingly in land and natural water remediation. In this case, a gasoline additive, MTBE, makes fuel more efficient – resulting in cleaner air – but leaches into the soil near fuel depots thus polluting ground water.

Alex is no stranger to environmental issues: he was only 14, and living a hundred miles from Chernobyl, when nuclear disaster struck in 1986. He recalls his father taking a Geiger counter to the market when shopping for vegetables.

A pleasing terror

“... If any of my stories succeed in causing their readers to feel pleasantly uncomfortable when walking along a solitary road at nightfall, or sitting over a dying fire in the small hours, my purpose in writing them will have been attained...”

Provost Montague Rhodes James (1862 - 1936) was a medieval scholar, pioneering bicyclist, and weaver of some of the best supernatural tales ever told. Robert Lloyd Parry brings two of his eeriest and drollest Christmas ghost stories to life – hard by the very places where they were originally conceived and performed.

Be afraid on December 3,4,10,11 at 3.30 at the Fitzwilliam Museum Founder’s Library; 7 –10 December at 7.30 in The Corpus Playroom, St Edward’s Passage. Tickets from Arts Theatre Box Office 01223 335555

Or have Robert entertain you at home....

roblloydparry@hotmail.com 01223 263069

MR James’s Eton and King’s: Recollections, Mostly Trivial (1926) is being republished and Penguin have just reissued Count Magnus and Other Ghost Stories.

These Fragments

Nicholas Goodison (1955) Honorary Fellow, has produced an unusual book of photographs of Ardthornish on the west coast of Scotland. As an art historian, he finds beauty and proportion in unlikely objects, and his photographs are semi-abstract pictures of man-made ephemera. The result is a novel interpretation of an ancient landscape.

He was first invited to visit Ardthornish by John Raven (Senior Tutor 1956-63) and his wife Faith, whose family had bought the estate in 1929. “I was invited again by Faith’s first cousin Judith Abel Smith in 1958. We married in 1960 and have been every year since. Many Kingsmen have visited over the years. I have dedicated the book to Faith Raven because I would never have known the place, or married Judith, if it hadn’t been for her. She also persuaded me to publish.”

Copies are available from Elliott and Thompson, 27 St John Street, London WC1N 2BX. 0207 831 5013 www.elliottthompson.com Special price for Kingsmen: £25.00 plus £2.50 postage.

This is the first environmental history of China during the three thousand years for which there are written records. Mark Elvin chronicles the spread of the Chinese style of farming that eliminated the habitat of the elephants that populated the country alongside much of its original wildlife; the destruction of most of the forests; the impact of war on the environmental transformation of the landscape; and the re-engineering of the countryside through water-control systems, some of gigantic size. He documents the histories of three contrasting localities within China to show how ecological dynamics defined the lives of the inhabitants. And he shows that China in the eighteenth century, on the eve of the modern era, was probably more environmentally degraded than north western Europe around this time.

“Although Chinese culture is different from ours, Elvin believes that those differences—which he so brilliantly lays out for us—do not, in themselves, explain what happened to China’s environment.” Jonathan Mirsky (1954) Literary Review.

Mark Elvin (1956) is professor of Chinese history at the Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies, Australian National University, Canberra. The book won the Stanislas Julien prize sponsored by the Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres in Paris.
Warm Atlantic – hot European summers

Rowan Sutton (1987) explains that the Atlantic Ocean plays a much larger role in controlling summer climate in Europe and North America than previously thought. “By comparing observations with our results from state-of-the-art climate models, we have shown that when the North Atlantic Ocean is warm, summers in the United States are warm and dry, and droughts more frequent. Conversely, when the ocean is cool, US summers are cool and wet. The effects on European summers are more subtle but still important. The swings in Atlantic Ocean temperature are related to variations in a huge overturning circulation known as the thermohaline circulation, or Atlantic conveyor belt. Modest changes in this circulation have important effects on summers, not just winters as previously assumed.” Even without taking man-made global warming into account their computer models suggest both the US and Europe could be in for more hot summers. “But global warming is now a big additional factor,” he cautioned, “and US and Europe could be in for more hot summers. But global warming is now a big additional factor,” he cautioned, “and exactly how the effects will add up we don’t yet know.”

Dr. Rowan Sutton is a Royal Society University Research Fellow based at the NCAS Centre for Global Atmospheric Modelling (CGAM), at the University of Reading, and lead author of ‘Atlantic Ocean Forcing of North American and Western European Summer Climate’, published in the journal ‘Science’ in July 2005.
www.met.rdg.ac.uk

Green lobbying

Rebecca Willis (1991) was Director of Green Alliance until last year. She read SPS, followed by an MA at Sussex and then did a spell in Brussels, working at the European Parliament. “Some people manage to move on from their student days. But my work, as a vice-chair of the Sustainable Development Commission and an Associate of the environmental think-tank Green Alliance, often seems to me to be nothing but a continual refinement of a thought process that started with my SPS degree, and my initiation into the determined, questioning world of King’s thinking. My job involves helping government to find workable solutions to some pretty intractable problems – at the moment, I’m trying to find ways to engage individuals to take action on climate change, and demonstrating that nuclear power might not be the panacea that some believe it to be. I’ve been talking to the Home Office about community involvement in environmental regeneration, and to DEFRA to find ways to make schools beacons of environmental excellence. It’s lobbying, of course, but, I hope, not the shrill threats that daily fill the newspapers – we aim to build a clear case for change, based on sound analysis and reasoning. The kinds of skills that King’s taught me – and why I feel that I’ve never quite let go of my undergraduate experiences. My working life, it seems, is one long degree in Social and Political Sciences.”
www.sd-commission.org.uk

Solar water heating

Stuart Elmes (1990) might not describe himself as an environmentalist – but he is Chief Executive of a new company, Viridian, which designs solar powered water heaters. “There are opportunities created by the need for resource efficiency, and we can help meet those needs.” From 2006, CO2 emissions in new homes will have to be reduced by 25%, and Local Authorities are starting to use planning powers to demand that 10% of onsite energy use in new developments should be from renewable sources. So it’s time to look again at the solar technology first developed in the 1970s – and deemed too costly. “We have consulted widely and listened to the needs of developers and builders. They want something they can install easily as part of the roof, and which helps them fulfil their side of the environmental contract. Our products will be desirable in their own right without government distortion of the marketplace.” Hot water accounts for between $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{9}$ of the energy used in a standard house, so using a solar alternative for half of that (which flat panel solar collectors can deliver over the course of a year) will reduce CO2 emissions accordingly. Stuart, who read engineering, relishes the challenge of growing the business, currently based in a small unit overlooking fields outside Cambridge. Viridian received initial funding from the DTI and subsequently from the Carbon Trust and they plan to start manufacturing panels shortly. Stuart and Chairman Martin Davies (1981) founded the company after the success of a previous venture, BioRobotics (see Spring 2005 issue). In July Viridian announced that it had filed a second patent to protect its roof-integrated solar collector design. They are happy to hear from any Kingspeople in the housebuilding sector interested in partnerships. www.viridianconcepts.com

Educating industry for sustainability

Stuart Reid (1973) reckons he was the first person to introduce glass and paper recycling in King’s, and if the claims of his office (he’s now a Director at Cambridge Programme for Industry) are anything to go by, he has another first to be proud of. Uniquely within the University, CPI’s operation and programmes are carbon neutral. “We run 11 recycling schemes in the office, including glass, bottles, batteries and light bulbs,” he explains. The CPI’s strapline is “catalysing change for a sustainable future”, and their flagship programme – HRH the Prince of Wales’s Business and the Environment Programme – has educated over 1000 public and private sector leaders over the last ten years. “A growing number of senior executives now recognise that sustainability could also represent the key to growth, competitiveness and profitability,” says Stuart. www.cpi.cam.ac.uk

Aled Jones (1991) – also at the CPI – has been working with the Welsh government to set up a sustainable development seminar for leaders and decision makers. “I have also been working with academics from six departments to develop the Institute for Aviation and the Environment. Its aim is to provide a detailed and balanced understanding of aviation’s contribution to climate change, pollution, society and the economy.”
Windfarms to racing cars

Renu Malhotra graduated and moved to California where she became a windfarm technician with FloWind Corporation, the only company operating the vertical axis (“egg-beater”) style of wind turbine. “Initially I drove a big truck around the Altamont hills, shooing away cows gathered around the control cabinets for shade, and looking out for black widow spiders hidden among the controls for warmth.”

“In response to the energy crisis of the late 70s, California had spearheaded the development of large windfarms with its tax incentive legislation in the early 80s. They paid generously for the energy produced based on the price of oil as it was projected during the crisis years, but the 10-year old machines had limited life remaining and a new generation vertical axis turbine was developed. This was a three-bladed turbine made with single-piece, constant cross-section fibreglass blades, sprung into place during installation.” Renu was test engineer for the prototype turbine, located in beautiful high mountain desert at Tehachapi – about 100 miles north of Los Angeles, an area of huge Joshua Tree cacti. But ultimately time ran out.

“My experience collecting and analyzing data on the wind turbines led to an opportunity to do the same on a Formula Atlantic (similar to UK Formula 3000) race car. After three seasons on a race team travelling to events around North America, Canada and Mexico, I was tapped on the shoulder by the engine builder, Hasselgren Racing Engines, who needed help mapping the engines at the track for a growing number of customers.” renu@hasselgren.com

Sustainability in Amazonia

Dilwyn Jenkins (1976) author of the Rough Guides to Peru and Brazil explains why he set up www.ecotribal.com. “As a King’s-trained anthropologist, my true passion has always been the cause of a Peruvian Amazon community, the Ashaninka, with whom I did my undergraduate research. Since those heady days of the late 1970s, I have been looking for ways to support Amazon tribal communities – to find ways for them to maintain their cultural identity and pride, protect their territory from land invasion and deforestation, and at the same time make a sustainable way of living in the world in a way that doesn’t marginalise them economically, politically or in terms of access to useful technology and goods. I have seen the frontier of Western civilisation sweep over Amazon communities in a variety of forms: missionaries, anthropologists, drug smugglers, terrorists, river traders, tourists and illegal loggers. Ecotribal is a response to the urgency of the situation and has the potential to resolve at least some of the issues by helping tribal communities access the world’s growing market for fairly- traded organic and other ethical produce.” The website also has information about trips Dilwyn organises into the remoter parts of Peru. “Ecotourism is providing the Ashaninka with a direct alternative income to the illegal logging of their mahogany trees.” www.ecotribal.com

Institutional hot air

Joe Tatton-Brown (1961) has identified a major source of wasted energy – communal heating systems. He is a Corgi-registered plumber, and has been monitoring local authority blocks where gas central heating is controlled centrally, left running night and day and flats tend to be hot. “These communal systems use 2 to 2.5 times more energy per unit than an individual controlled system does.” Of the 90,000 dwellings in his own borough of Kensington and Chelsea, 4600 (5% of dwellings) are flats with communal heating systems. “These flats alone probably use 10% of the borough’s domestic gas, and significant savings could be made. While no energy company really wants to sell less gas, they could provide a chart to compare an individual property’s energy use with national ‘slim, medium or fat’ averages. The second step, of course, is to install a condensing boiler and thermostatic radiator valves!” joe.t.brown@btconnect.com

The cycling campaigner

Martin Lucas-Smith (1997) is much involved with Cambridge Cycling Campaign. “Although 25% of people cycle to work in Cambridge, this is low by some continental standards. Providing for cycling is of benefit to all, including motorists, for whom every cyclist is potentially one less car in the traffic queue in front of them. This year, we successfully campaigned to have the city centre cycling ban rescinded experimentally – cycling through pedestrianised areas was previously only permitted before 10 am and after 4 pm.” But problems remain. “Law-breaking by some cyclists reduces the degree to which the public support improvements to cycling.” While at King’s Martin was KCSU Green Officer. “King’s was willing to consider change, but was at times constrained by the most surprising of problems. We had a Yellow Bin scheme (paper was collected by bedders on alternate days) which the College was happy to extend beyond Webbs’ Court, but ironically so much paper was being collected that the City Council wouldn’t take any more!”

Martin is currently Webmaster at the Geography Department, and also stood as Green Party Parliamentary Prospective Candidate for Cambridge.
Climate Change in East Anglia

Climate change and rising sea levels threaten the East Anglian coast, but Tim O’Riordan is optimistic. He sees it as the test case coastline for a new approach to living with nature’s limits.

The East Anglian coast has been extensively studied by Cambridge geographers, most notably J. Alfred Steers in the 1950s. This is a soft, beautiful littoral, the locale for dozens of species of migratory waterfowl, and justifiably designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Coastal processes shape the shoreline and the immediate hinterland sediment moves down from the Humber and in from the North Sea. The coastal currents sort the sand and shingle into offshore sandbars, on shore spits and mud flats, and beaches of varying width and depth.

But the North Sea is dangerous, the coastline is naturally sinking because of a post-glacial tilt to the southeast, and sea levels are rising. Geographers have also noted a world-wide phenomenon of deepening littorals and narrowing beaches. For the most part, there is nowhere for the coast to migrate to. This impediment is known as “coastal squeeze”. The construction of sea walls, sediment traps (groynes), defensive structures (revetments) as well as coastal development mean that natural realignment inwards is all but impossible.

Climate change outcomes are genuinely unpredictable. But if the Arctic ice sheets thin out, if coastal storms intensify, and if temperatures rise, then there will be more and more coastal erosion and less and less beach replenishment. Trying to deal with this by constructing more sea walls will worsen the position. Sea walls get extensively undermined, and the reduction of coastal sediment release and associated movement means that the beaches no longer protect vulnerable shorelines as a “free” service.

The government is recognising this, as are many distinguished coastal geographers. Essentially, it will not be possible to defend all the current East Anglian coast without huge costs of replenishment by moving sediment from the North Sea by barge and pumping it onto the stripped shoreline. But this is not a “sustainable” solution. It costs as much as a million pounds a time and may all be removed in one violent night of storms.

Yet important settlements and historical artefacts lie endangered. Happisburgh on the North Norfolk coast, a village of some 200 souls, is already experiencing severe property blight. No house within kilometres of the existing cliff edge is valued at more than half what it was a year ago. Aldeburgh is limbering up for a huge fight to save its historic old town and musical links. Many expensive marinas on the Suffolk river valleys are sitting up and there is no money for fresh dredging. The pips are certainly beginning to squeak.

My work is to try to find a genuinely sustainable solution to all of this. We have time to respond. Most of the serious erosion is at least a quarter of a century away. So it is timely to look creatively at the repositioning of coastal settlements into genuinely sustainable communities. This means designing – with the residents – ways of managing the coasts so they fit more naturally into rising tides as well as meeting the new planning requirements of living with the limits of nature. A fresh planning framework, just being put into place, provides a basis for participatory relocation, involving all of the residents, planners and a host of users and landowners. I have begun this process for Happisburgh and plan to move it down the coast into Suffolk.

The major blockage is the unwillingness of the government to provide any compensation for any of this activity. Flood defence and erosion protection are discretionary arrangements. There is no legal requirement to defend an endangered coastline, or to pay any compensation either for loss of future economic prospects or for blight of property value.

Social justice considerations and the dynamics of the coast offer scope for a fresh look at this. Where coastal redesign actually enables further coastal safeguard to be more reliable and natural, then it is cost effective to put into place new coastal wetlands and thoughtful settlement relocation, so that the abandoned cliffs are allowed to let their sediment clothe the shoreline down current. Hence, one location’s loss is another’s beach gain.

We are still working with the government on this. It is possible that a successful compromise can be forged, beach by beach. East Anglia offers the test case coastline. Canute did not try to stop the sea; he wanted to show his people that it was futile to do so. We can follow his motive but better his example.

Tim O’Riordan (1965) is a retired Professor of Environmental Sciences at the University of East Anglia and a Member of the UK Sustainable Development Commission. He is a Fellow of the British Academy and received his PhD from the University of Cambridge in 1967. He was a member of King’s College during his postgraduate years and played much music in the College.
John Young (1977) Fellow and Hopkinson and ICI Professor of Applied Thermodynamics talks to Alison Carter.

In the foyer of the Engineering Department, John Young points out a painting by Cuneo commemorating the opening of the Baker Building in 1952. A youthful Duke of Edinburgh, the eponymous Professor Baker and many be-gowned and be-spectacled academics are shown leaning forward excitedly over the railings to admire the steam turbines exhausting into the condenser pit below. In a world threatened by global warming, increasing the efficiency of power generation is at the heart of many engineers’ work, and John Young has spent much of his career helping to improve the efficiency of steam and gas turbines, aero-engines and solid oxide fuel cells. His research projects have been funded by Rolls-Royce, PowerGen, Alstom, and ABB, with industry acquiring several of his computer modelling codes. “If you’re working in academia and then industry actually wants something, and will pay you money for it, it does indicate that you might be doing something useful.”

Take, for example, the problem of the microscopic water droplets which condense in a steam turbine. Around 70% of the world’s electrical power is generated by steam turbines, which nowadays have efficiencies approaching 90%. But half of that 10% loss is due to the presence of the water droplets. “Every extra percentage point of efficiency represents a huge amount of money,” John explains. “If your turbine is 2% more efficient than your competitors’, they simply don’t sell theirs.” Engineers started tackling the wetness problem in the 1920s, but the key was to concentrate on how the droplets formed in the first place. “It’s a nucleating, two-phase, transonic flow, and the theory is quite complicated!” To try and sort it out, John stood back from the turbines themselves and analysed the effects one by one. “The maths was tricky because the equations were all jumbled up and it was difficult to focus on the underlying physics … But that work was not about designing turbines, it was about fundamental thermofluid mechanics. Part of me prefers the fundamentals and then the engineering voice says you’ve got to put this together to make something useful.”

“I’m supposed to say I loved Meccano, and indeed I did!” he laughs. Any early interest in engineering and science came mainly from his father, a motor body stylist who had worked with Alec Issigonis on the Mini. But his mother too had been a draughtswoman, and was proud of her work during the war. The family moved from London to Birmingham when John was five and his father’s job took him to Longbridge. An only child, he went to King Edward’s, a direct grant school. He tells me that his two daughters, Caroline and Susanna, are convinced he was a geek. “I did maths, physics and chemistry because I would have been hopeless at anything else, but I was also quite sporty!” he protests. He enjoys describing the “accidental” start to his career. “My form master announced that we were doing the

“Engineers got us into this mess with the industrial revolution, and engineers will get us out – and it’s about time politicians realised this and started promoting large-scale carbon sequestration schemes rather than sanctioning a few more 2 megawatt windmills which do nothing except spoil the countryside.”
Oxford applications that day and asked what I was going to read.” John wasn’t even thinking of applying. “He thought I’d be better at engineering than physics, so that’s what we wrote down. At that stage I took no decisions about my life at all...in fact I’m not sure I ever have done. All my promotions have just happened.” Nevertheless, he thinks, looking back, it was the right decision. Everything, it seems, was decided that fateful day. “The same master had been to Christ Church, Oxford, and right decision. Everything, it seems, was decided that fateful day. “The same master had been to Christ Church, Oxford, and said I’d probably like it there. So that’s where I went, in 1966.

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But I didn’t feel very comfortable – there were slightly too many Lords and Maharajahs.”

“I didn’t actually go to any lectures,” he grins. “I lose concentration and fall asleep very easily. I have to sit down and read books at my own pace. In my first two years I did very little work and then I got scared.” Somehow, though, he managed to get a First. “Now, exam questions relate much more to lectures, but in those days I think my non-standard approach must have given me the edge over students who had slavishly followed the lectures.” It was at PhD stage that he really started to understand the background maths and physics. By this time he was back in Birmingham with a very good supervisor, Freddie Bakhtiar. “If anyone’s inspired me it’s him – I had a serious lecture.” It was at PhD stage that he really started to understand the background maths and physics. By this time he was back in Birmingham with a very good supervisor, Freddie Bakhtiar. “If anyone’s inspired me it’s him – I had a serious lecture.”

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“Promotion has not been my ambition and all I have ever wanted is the promise of something very good at the 1-5 megawatt level were the same everywhere there would be no net transport of particles!”

And that’s exactly how particles deposit on turbine blades. “I got out the particle equations, and started manipulating them like the fluid turbulence equations. Suddenly, after a couple of days, this mathematical term representing the transport of particles down a turbulence gradient just fell out. So there it was in the maths! I took it to my research student, he wrote a computer program to do the calculations, and eventually showed me that the theory could predict the experimental data virtually spot-on.”

John considers his work on turbulent particle deposition to be some of the most challenging, satisfying and successful of his career.

On his appointment as Hopkinson and ICI Professor in 1999, it fell to John to make improvements to the 1924 laboratory building. A sizeable sum of money had accrued from the original endowment (given by Professor John Hopkinson’s widow after her husband and three of their children were killed in a mountaineering accident in 1898). John persuaded the University to match the funds and, with his wife Michele’s design help, and a very good architect, he got a new mezzanine built. There is a feeling of intimacy, light and warmth, and the research students, toiling within easy communicating distance, look happy. “I owe a great deal to all my research students”, says John. His office has a view over Paradise, as the nature reserve is called, and there’s a photo of a man standing triumphantly on the summit of the Monte Rosa. But it’s not John – he hasn’t climbed for years – or even Hopkinson, whose austere bust has been provided, kindly, with a woolly hat.

His most recent work on solid oxide fuel cells looks set to have an impact on the future of power generation. “You may have heard that ultra-efficient fuel cells hold great promise for the future... Well, the fuel cell was actually invented by a Swansea lawyer called William Grove in 1840. Evidently,” he asserts, “there are some useful lawyers in the world!” Rolls-Royce is the only company in the UK close to market with a fuel cell system for power generation. In the Hopkinson Lab we’ve done some very good work modelling solid oxide fuel cells. My last student wrote a computer program to predict, in all its three-dimensional awfulness, the fluid-flow, heat transfer, chemical reactions and electric current flow for the Rolls-Royce design. It’s the most advanced code in the world for this type of fuel cell system. Fuel cells won’t displace the big 500 megawatt power stations for a long time to come but there is the promise of something very good at the 1-5 megawatt level. That’s just about the size we need to power King’s.”

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And that’s exactly how particles deposit on turbine blades. “I got out the particle equations, and started manipulating them like the fluid turbulence equations. Suddenly, after a couple of days, this mathematical term representing the transport of particles down a turbulence gradient just fell out. So there it was in the maths! I took it to my research student, he wrote a computer program to do the calculations, and eventually showed me that the theory could predict the experimental data virtually spot-on.” John considers his work on turbulent particle deposition to be some of the most challenging, satisfying and successful of his career.

John has faith in technology and ridicules “the Government’s pathetically ill-informed knee-jerk reaction to global warming”. He prefers the carbon capture and storage solution, saying it will provide a fifty-year breathing space. “It’ll be engineering technology on a global scale that will do the job, not individuals turning off the kitchen lights when they go into the dining room. Engineers got us into this mess with the industrial revolution, and engineers will get us out – and it’s about time politicians realised this and started promoting large-scale carbon sequestration schemes rather than sanctioning a few more 2 megawatt windmills which do nothing except spoil the countryside.”

His most recent work on solid oxide fuel cells looks set to have an impact on the future of power generation. “You may have heard that ultra-efficient fuel cells hold great promise for the future... Well, the fuel cell was actually invented by a Swansea lawyer called William Grove in 1840. Evidently,” he asserts, “there are some useful lawyers in the world!” Rolls-Royce is the only company in the UK close to market with a fuel cell system for power generation. In the Hopkinson Lab we’ve done some very good work modelling solid oxide fuel cells. My last student wrote a computer program to predict, in all its three-dimensional awfulness, the fluid-flow, heat transfer, chemical reactions and electric current flow for the Rolls-Royce design. It’s the most advanced code in the world for this type of fuel cell system. Fuel cells won’t displace the big 500 megawatt power stations for a long time to come but there is the promise of something very good at the 1-5 megawatt level. That’s just about the size we need to power King’s.”
2005 events

Philip Radcliffe Dinner 28 April

Before dinner, 130 members and guests enjoyed a concert of music by Philip Radcliffe, given by The Fitzwilliam String Quartet, James Gilchrist (Choral Scholar, 1985) and Tom Winpenny (Organ Scholar, 2003), and Margaret Pinder (1978) and Ian Anderson. The event was organised by Nicholas Marston (2001), Fellow, with help from the Development Office.

“He hated meetings and administration. He made attendance at the Governing Body bearable by casting an imaginary production of Wagner’s Ring from among the Fellows of the College. Adcock, obviously, as Mime. Brünnhilde not so easy, in those days. Now, of course, no problem…” David Isitt (1946) on Philip Radcliffe.

Nicholas Marston (2001, left) Margaret Pinder (1978) and Ian Anderson

The Fitzwilliam String Quartet
From left: Andrew Skidmore, Jonathan Sparey, Alan George (1968), Lucy Russell.

Founded in 1968, they first became well known through their close personal association with Dmitri Shostakovich, who befriended them following a visit to York to hear them play.

www.fitzwilliamquartet.org

Glynde Place Reception 14 May

Over 80 Members and their guests joined the Provost and John Barber at a reception for those based in the South East, at Glynde Place, East Sussex, in May.

KCA Keynes and Lydia Day 18 June

150 King’s members and guests, many of whom knew Keynes or Lydia, enjoyed a day full of talks – and a Russian lunch – arranged by KCA Director Caroline Davidson (1972) with help from the Development Office.

1: Nick Hutton (1974) is the new KCA Secretary.
2: Tom Rivers (1959, left) gave a moving talk about how his father, Erwin Rotbarth, an émigré statistician, had been helped by Keynes in the 30s.
4: Sir Ian Lloyd (1945) and Geoff Harcourt (1955). Geoff gave a lively talk on Keynes the Economist.
5: Laurence Bard (1968), Professor Sir Hans Singer (1934) and David Svenson (1963). Sir Hans (Emeritus Professor of International Relations, University of Sussex) had also been helped by Keynes at the start of his career.
6: Nick Purnell QC (1963 left), President of KCA and outgoing KCA secretary Nigel Bulmer (1965) stepping down after 27 years.
7: Henrietta Garnett, who knew Lydia well.

Sports

Legendary cricket


Men’s second boat

Legendary rowing

We bumped Emma II, Darwin, Queens’ and St Catz to get into the First May Bumps Division for the first time in King’s Women’s Rowing history — as far as anyone can remember! Chiara Ferrara (2004, Vice-Captain),


May Week Concert  20 June

Graduation  30 June

Non Resident Members’ Dinner  24 September

Bank of England Reception  19 October

I thought I ought to look back to when Henry VI founded the place, see what he intended and think about how we measure up, ... Lectures were to be regularly attended between 6am and 8am – that rule I think we all failed. Both Fellows and Scholars were forbidden from indulging “in a profusion of hair” – well, some of us have certainly kept that rule. Scholars were forbidden to possess money – a rule which Government policy now upholds on King Henry’s behalf. They were forbidden to adopt modern dress or to indulge in sport – I at least have kept faithful to that rule. But they were also forbidden to frequent taverns – a rule which I certainly broke – and it was also provided in the College’s statutes that they must all sleep in separate beds – a rule which many of us kept trying to break although I was never very successful – as some here can testify. ... We may not remember much of what we learned here in the Tripos but I think we do all remember much of what we learned that was perhaps more important: the value of learning; the vital importance of liberalism and tolerance in an increasingly illiberal and intolerant world, and, above all, the value of lasting friendships.

From the speech by Wilf White (1982) proposing the College.


Nicola Barker  Clear  Harper Perennial 2005

“I’m totally superficial, see? I’m inherently trivial,” insists Adair Graham MacKenny, the metrosexual narrator of Nicola Barker’s Booker nominated novel. Since the subjects of his ruminations range from Jesus Christ to Dizzee Rascal, via Kafka, maintaining his emphatically italicised triviality proves to be no mean feat. Like her mouthpiece, Barker seeks to revive ideas grown stale and “mothballed” by locating them, not in the university or salon, but underneath the perspex box in which David Blaine was suspended over the Thames for 44 days in 2003.

One dark night on the Embankment, Adair begins a thoroughly modern courtship of Aphra, an unlikely (and married) shoe fetishist with “eyes the shade of a city pigeon”. Against the backdrop of their almost-affair, and catalysed by the spectacle of Blaine, Adair fulfils his own small potential for heroism. The theme of self-achievement and metamorphosis finds its expression in figures as diverse as Jack Schaefer’s ‘Shane’ and Harry Houdini, but given Adair’s limitations, his story remains a kind of self-conscious portrait of the artist as a young narcissist.

Sharing a desire to comprehend the intense projections of animosity and love that Blaine’s public declaration of transparency inspires, Clear’s protagonists find themselves hotly debating global capitalism, the holocaust, the Arab-Israeli conflict and Black Civil rights, over expensive vino and soda bread. Barker’s zeitgeisty characters are satirically drawn, but in general the book comes out in sympathy with their questing idealism. Whether the reader feels that the crane dangling Blaine’s box over the water can also bear the weight of such political and metaphysical speculation – whether, as Adair wonders, the glue is strong enough – may be a matter to settle over another bottle of red. Published the year after Barker was named a Granta ‘Best of British’ novelist, Clear has been widely received as her best work to date.

Rachel Malkin (2003)

Tristan Hughes  The Tower  Parthian 2003

Tristan Hughes is a relatively new voice in Welsh letters. Following a Rhys Davies Short Story Award for A Sort of Homecoming in 2001, this year sees the publication of his most recent novel The Strange Journeying of Johnny Ifo Jones. Hughes is unlikely to resent the national(ist) designation, since his first book, The Tower, engages explicitly with the power of place on the imagination. “The limpet never moves an inch,” explains Reverend Morris, one of the seven Anglesey islanders whose overlapping stories comprise the plot, “but, over time, whole oceans will wash over it.” Whether to make sense of life physically or emotionally, that is, according to geography or to some internal topography, is a moot point of Hughes’s debut, which manages to strike a tone both elegiac and contemporary. Intersecting symbolic axes provide the means of orientation for his intergenerational characters, all of whom appear in some way lost, and for whom he displays a nuanced sympathy. Skinner, the English New Age hippy, follows horizontal ley lines to get home, whereas for Reverend Morris, the path is “vertical, slanting downwards into time”. All seven stories revolve around the Tower itself, a human point of fixity around which the landscape is composed.

If harmony is sought in a correlation between inside and outside (Gruffydd Felin conceives his role as to evidence “God’s breath” by turning the sails of his windmill) the discrepancy between them is a constant source of pathos. When Jack Cucu’s father returns from the war in Burma with more than a touch of malaria, and a still-pressed uniform, it is “this outward fastidiousness that had made his inward unravelling seem so terrible.” Despite Hughes’ many comic juxtapositions, the pervasive mood of The Tower is one of melancholy, where the barmaid of The George is “beautiful at night beneath the barlights, but the daytime was cruel and it was always afterwards and they were always gone.”

Rachel Malkin (2003)

Tristan Hughes (1996) came to King’s as a graduate student. Born in Atikokan, Canada, he was brought up around Llangoed, Ynys Môn, where he currently lives.

Rachel Malkin (2003) has studied at UCL and at Edinburgh, and is now in the third year of a PhD at King’s. She works on the idea of the ‘ordinary’ as a third term between romanticism and scepticism in contemporary American thought and writing.

Nicola Barker (1985) read English, and lives in London. “I’m not sure that I still qualify for the ‘young King’s novelists’ paddock – hard at work on my eighth book as I am.”
Will Eaves  Nothing To Be Afraid Of
Picador 2005

There’s an epicentre at the heart of Will Eaves’s acclaimed second novel, Nothing To Be Afraid Of. As the cast and audience for the Young Vic’s 1999 production of The Tempest take their places, an earthquake strikes London. Eaves’s tremor, like Shakespeare’s storm, spares the characters from physical injury, but the psychological aftershocks of this evening will reverberate through the lives of the double-acts lined up on either side of these footlights: Martha Hutchings, who stars as the beautiful Miranda; and Martha’s self-doubting sister Alice, a frustrated actress whose body-shape confines her to reviewing the performance from the stalls; Robert Ladd, the maestro in Prospero’s magic cloak; and Leslie, an old drag artiste stuck in Caliban’s shoes.

While the show goes on, a manmade catastrophe follows the natural disaster; Leslie, drowning his anger at Robert’s vanity, gets drunk in the interval, and Alice salvages her own theatrical ambitions and the production by taking on Caliban’s part. Thrown, with Alice, into this incestuous company, the reader sees cracks opening up within and between these lives, and peers, like Miranda, into “the dark and backward abyss of time”, to find the faces behind their masks. Gradually, the cast discover themselves and each other; so Alice’s new lover, Nick Glass (Trinculo), uncovers the traumatic memory that she and Martha share. Nick’s Svengali father – Tony Glass is both a hypnotist and a theatrical agent – is key to memory that she and Martha share. Nick’s Svengali father – Tony Glass is both a hypnotist and a theatrical agent – is key to understanding the plot of Nothing To Be Afraid Of. Alice’s new lover, Nick Glass (Trinculo), uncovers the traumatic memory that she and Martha share. Nick’s Svengali father – Tony Glass is both a hypnotist and a theatrical agent – is key to understanding the plot of Nothing To Be Afraid Of.

Eaves — whose plotting emulates Shakespeare’s miraculous coincidences and enigmatic loose ends — has the story-telling preening with Leslie’s pain.

The reviewer George Yeats (1998) whose undergraduate and postgraduate studies have been at King’s, is currently in the third year of a PhD on Hamlet’s afterlife in Victorian literature.

George Yeats (1998)

Will Eaves (1986) was born in Bath in 1967 and lives in London. The Oversight (2001) was shortlisted for the Whitbread Best First Novel Award. He is the Arts Editor of the Times Literary Supplement.

News

Philip Purser (1943) has written Lights in the Sky, published in January by Severn House. Set in World War II, it features a British pilot whose task is to fly into enemy territory and retrieve escapees fleeing from the Nazis. “The hero is, or has been, at King’s, floundering around in the featured discipline of your current issue, Engineering. At a reunion lunch around 1950 I had the great good luck to be seated next to Tony Tanner.”

Eugene Stelzig (1966) worked with Tony Tanner in his second year. “I still fondly recall him as the most brilliant English professor and critic. In the summer of 1957 I managed to make contact with him, and he took me to lunch in the Senior Combination Room — a place I’d never previously set foot in.” Professor of English at SUNY College at Genese, NY, his most recent publication is “Patriarchal Pressures: Portraits of Fathers in Darwin’s and Nabokov’s Autobiographies,” Life Writing, Vol. 2. No. 1 (2005).

Patrick Parrinder (1967) was a Fellow & College Lecturer in English 1967-74. Currently Professor of English at the University of Reading, he is textual editor for 9 volumes of the Penguin series of H. G. Wells titles. The most recent is The Sleeper Awakes, for which he wrote the Introduction. His new book Nation and Novel: The English Novel from its Origins to the Present Day will be published by Oxford in March 2006.


Wendy Lesser (1973) has just published her first novel, The Pagoda in the Garden, set partly in Cambridge. The Editor of the Three Penny Review, her latest publication is Nothing Remains the Same: Rereading and Remembering (Houghton Mifflin, 2002).

Lisa Hopkins (1980) is Professor of English, Sheffield Hallam University. “I was very pleased to see that there is to be a celebration of King’s English and Tony’s remarkable contribution to the study of English and American literature. I often remember the scrawled note he sent me the day before finals began: he knew how terrified I was, and the note said, simply, “Courage!””

Sarah Florence Wood (1992) writes: “I was so pleased to read about next year’s celebration of King’s English and Tony’s remarkable contribution to the study of English and American literature. I often remember the scrawled note he sent me the day before finals began: he knew how terrified I was, and the note said, simply, “Courage!”” Her book Quixotic Fictions of the USA, 1792 –1815, is published by Oxford and New York: OUP 2005. Sarah has been a Lecturer in American Literature at Sussex University and is now working on a novel.

Jay Basu (1994) wrote the script for the new film Song of Songs with director Josh Appignanesi, (1994). The film won the Special Commendation at the Edinburgh Film Festival. “It’s a prize they created for us because we split the jury! It’s got Natalie Press (My Summer of Love) in it and is about a brother and sister from an orthodox Jewish background who get involved in an intense relationship.” Jay’s first novel The Stars Can Wait was published in 2002.

Places where they recycle…
King’s has changed hugely in 40 years, with the admission of women obviously the greatest difference. In 1965 John Saltmarsh showed us, as part of the matriculation tour, how to climb in past the locked back gate. It would have seemed inconceivable that now every undergraduate would have their own key, handed over by a porter who is warm and helpful, rather than grand and magisterial. The whole ethos of the college is more relaxed and friendly.

I took in three lectures, and enjoyed them all. In fact I envied the students, able to dip at will into this great pool of learning – not a view they necessarily take themselves. Lecturers may have to be more listener-friendly and distribute questionnaires rather like those you find in hotel rooms, (Was room service good, moderate, or bad? Was the lecture clearly audible, just audible, or quite inaudible?) but the very word ‘lectures’ is still followed by an automatic groan from many students. One lecturer, I won’t say who, is famous for speaking in a low, monotonous drone, from many students. One lecturer, I won’t say who, is famous for speaking in a low, monotonous drone, looking up occasionally, my informant tells me, just to see if any students are still there.

But Phil Connell was fascinating on 18th century poetry, told me about the faked Ossian poems, and the notion of the solitary bard, which I hadn’t absorbed 40 years ago; Stefan Collini funny and intriguing on the poetry of Geoffrey Hill and the greatest row ever in the poetry of Geoffrey Hill and the greatest row ever in the pages of the London Review of Books, and Jan-Melissa Schramm on religion in the Victorian novel, a lecture densely packed with nuggets of fact and insight like a fruit cake – all held my interest very firmly. Maybe it was simply because I was under no pressure to perform, with no essay to write and no exams clouding the future. It’s a truism that youth is wasted on the young; I suspect that undergraduate life may be wasted on at least some undergraduates.
Change of direction
Elizabeth Akehurst (Blow 1972) came to King’s for Part III of the Maths Tripos but has been painting since the 1980s. She has a show at New Hall in January 2006. She took her first degree at the University of Kent, Canterbury, and they now have a number of her paintings in their collection. Her work has been shown in galleries across the South East, in Norfolk and Edinburgh, and represented at art fairs in Dublin, Glasgow and London.

Student of the Year
Russ MacMillan (2001), who graduated this summer, won a SET Student of the Year award in September. The SET awards recognise outstanding achievement in science, engineering and technology by undergraduates at UK universities. Russ won the GKN Award for the Best Mechanical Engineering Student, judged by the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, for his project ‘Analysis and Automation of a DEFRA Blood Test Programme’. The winning student in each category received a trophy and £500. Russ, who has recently joined the MoD’s Science and Engineering Fast Stream said: “A huge part of my success was down to the general support and hard work of my colleagues at King’s.” Russ is currently seeking backing to commercialise the prototype robot in partnership with DEFRA. russ.macmillan@cantab.net

Fuel cell award
Paul Stonehart (1959) was awarded the Francis Bacon Medal and Prize for Fuel Cell Science and Technology by the Royal Society of Chemistry of London in August 2005.

Understanding Islam
Arzu Merali (1989) read English and co-founded the Islamic Human Rights Commission in 1997. “I was always a human rights campaigner, and became increasingly frustrated by the ignorance and prejudices against Muslims — particularly after the Rushdie fatwa.” She is a journalist and co-author of a series of IHRC reports, based on interviews with British Muslims and supported by the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, entitled “British Muslims’ Expectations of the Government”. Reports are already available on citizenship, discrimination and schools. Further reports on university life, hijab, the media and Muslim contribution to British society are forthcoming. www.ihrc.org

Society for Theatre Research
Ian Herbert (1958) has been elected the new Chairman of the Society for Theatre Research. He edited the last three editions of Who’s Who in the Theatre and is Founder and now consultant editor of Theatre Record. A meeting point for all interested in the history and technique of the British theatre, the Society offers its members annual publications, the journal Theatre Notebook and a series of public lectures. The Society’s president is Timothy West. www.str.org.uk

Labour of love
Peter Strafford (1956) writes: “My own affection for the Romanesque style began with the Round Church in Cambridge in the1950s. Many years later … the idea of a book about Romanesque churches in France was born. It was a labour of love – and quite different from the work I used to do as a journalist. My wife, Jackie, and I went to churches all over France, almost always in attractive old towns and villages; and then went back again to many of them to take better photographs.”


Song Prize
Andrew Kennedy (1995) won the 2005 Rosenblatt Recital Song Prize, awarded as part of the Cardiff Singer of the World competition. Andrew is also a Radio 3 New Generation Artist.
Radical recall

The Daily Telegraph of 27 May 1969, reported that several Cambridge students had torn up their Tripos papers. This is what we said by way of explanation. “Exams turn what should be a cooperative teaching and learning experience into an individualised, highly competitive process that produces over-specialised, emotionally-crippled people unfit to breathe life into a society badly in need of radical change.” In that all too brief radical social moment of the late sixties, the writings of the English poets I was studying leaped off the page and into my own everyday life. “Bliss was it in that dawn to be alive, but to be young was very heaven,” wrote Wordsworth of the French Revolution. “But also quite confusing at times,” he might have added.

Stephen Vahrman (1966)

Stephen writes more about his time at King’s in the next issue.

Vinyl affliction

I wonder how many other Kingspersons had their musical tastes formed, redeveloped or called into question in the 1970s by the anonymous selectors of music for the King’s record library? You went up a set of stairs in the college library, as I remember, avoiding the snares of books on English and Modern Languages, and found Fairport Convention, Pete Atkin, The Grateful Dead, and all sorts of other late ‘60s stuff that was far more alluring than Bebop Deluxe and Thin Lizzy and whatever else was at the forefront of mid-1970s rock orthodoxy. Who chose all those records? Do they know what effect they achieved? Do they know how many 12” vinyl records are lurking, undusted, in my living room? And who else suffers from this affliction?

Geoffrey Plow (1975)

Last trace

I read your note about the centenary of the Charleston Trust a few days after attending a sad event that really is the last trace of Bloomsbury. On the 10th December 2004 Catherine Carrington was cremated at Worthing. She died aged 99, ten days short of her own centenary, uncannily matching the Charleston Trust. She was the wife of Noel Carrington and so the sister-in-law of Dora Carrington. This event seems to have gone unnoticed by anyone and so I hope you can find room in your pages to record it.

Bev Rowe (1954)

Clashes

One small comment: if it were not for another unavoidable engagement I would have loved to attend the KCA lunch and the delightful programme of Keynes Day events before and after it. But I see that it clashed with the Boat Club’s marquee on the last day of the Bumps, which I would dearly liked to have attended. Next year’s KCA lunch is scheduled for 17th June. If this is also to have a ‘theme’ will it again clash with the last day of the Bumps? But congratulations and thanks to all concerned with King’s Parade.

Bryan Porteous (1950)

(Ed.) Yes, a clash looks likely as Bumps are 14 – 17 June ... and King’s Parade has been shortlisted for an award...

Idle recollections

Your article about Philip Mayne sparked my connections in that I was educated at Christ’s Hospital, came to King’s and then had a career in ICI. Before the Philip Mayne article I had never really noted the names on the first page of the College Register 1919-1990. Now I see John Crowder, who was the leading light of the Birmingham Singers with whom I sang in the late 1950s - as did another choral scholar Chris Zealley. Thank you for the stimulation you provide in King’s Parade. And I would like to add that I appreciate the obituaries in the Annual Report, which I hope will continue.

John Marvin (1951)

(Ed.) The Wall Street Journal published an article by Michael M Phillips on 31 October entitled: Merely Departed: Obits at This School Aren’t to Die For. It begins: “For 45 years now, Cambridge University’s King’s College has been dryly breaking the unwritten rule that universities do not speak ill of dead alumni…”

Horse’s mouth

Do you want to know what it’s like to be a student at King’s now? Links to the current prospectus, alternative prospectus, KCSU, student newspapers and societies can be found at the following web addresses:

The prospectus
www.kings.cam.ac.uk

KCSU
www.kcsu.org.uk

Citizen King, the new King’s student newspaper is available online
The Alternative Prospectus
www.kcsu.org.uk

Varsity
www.varsity.cam.ac.uk

King’s College Boat Club
www.srcf.ucam.org/~kcbc

Old news: Red Dragon Pie
rdp.kcsu.org.uk
Conflicting interpretations of the late sixties and early seventies abound. Brian Pollitt (1959) left Cambridge for Cuba in 1963 and worked for five years on rural surveys, returning to Cambridge in 1967 (shortly after the death of Che Guevara) to write up his fieldwork. For him, a defining moment occurred in early 1970.

Back in comfortable Cambridge in late 1967, I found it difficult to assimilate the nature and aspirations of a student body much changed from the one I had left in 1963. The 'New Left' had emerged, unified by opposition to US foreign policy in general and to the war in Vietnam in particular. Less clear ideological positions could be perceived among other students who were also labelled ‘radical’ but who eschewed – indeed opposed – any formal organization. But student agitation in Cambridge concerning ‘oppressive’ gate hours or lack of ‘participation’ in determining the exam system left me cold. I spent my days considering the preoccupations of Cuban peasants and of peasant roles in the making of revolutions more generally. The concerns of privileged Cambridge students, by contrast, seemed trivial.

My attitude changed, however, with the response of national and University authorities to the demonstration at the Garden House Hotel on 13 February 1970. The military coup in Greece in 1967 had damaged that country’s image as a tourist destination and Cambridge was chosen to promote a ‘Greek Week’ culminating in a gourmet dinner at the Garden House Hotel. The prominent advertising provoked some 500 protesters to take part in a rowdy demonstration that did much more than spoil the occasion for the diners.

Nationally the authorities had become increasingly concerned about student unrest, particularly after anti-Vietnam War demonstrations at the US Embassy in London. With hindsight, it became clear that demonstrators arrested or identified at the Garden House Hotel had been chosen for exemplary punishment to end such reprehensible student activism. Two aspects of the judicial procedures were particularly controversial. The first was the deployment of the arcane common law offence of ‘unlawful assembly’ to charge 17 individuals (including both students and a Fellow of King’s) arrested or identified at the demonstration.

In medieval times ‘unlawful assembly’ had been a useful device to keep unruly peasants in their place, being defined as one in which a gathering of three or more persons could give an individual of ‘reasonable firmness’ reason to believe that a ‘breach of the peace might occur’. It was not necessary for a breach of the peace actually to occur and still less that an individual charged with this offence actually to have committed one. Simple presence at an assembly so defined was sufficient grounds for prosecution.

The second element of controversy concerned the way in which individuals not arrested at the time were subsequently identified. Eight had been arrested on the spot but the rest were charged when identified by the University proctors. This caused unease not least because the demonstration had been held outside University premises. More damaging was the lack of credibility of the proctors’ claims that these were the only individuals they had been able to identify: they included all four past and present chairmen of the university Socialist Society as well as other prominent figures on the Left.

The committal proceedings were held in Cambridge with the graver charge of ‘riotous assembly’ added for all defendants. There was broad opposition – predictably notable in liberal King’s. I found the issues sufficiently serious to drop my academic scribbles and to immerse myself in the organization of a ‘Free Greek Week’ in May 1970 to coincide with the committal proceedings. The charges against two defendants were dropped since they were agreed to have been simple bystanders, and the others duly appeared at the District Assizes in Hertford at the end of June.

The judge was Mr Justice Melford Stevenson, notorious for his right-wing views and harsh sentencing record. But the jury disappointed the prosecution by refusing to convict the seven individuals charged with unlawful or riotous assembly who had not been arrested at the time. Eight were given prison or borstal sentences from nine to 18 months (with deportation orders – one was later quashed – for a Brazilian and a South African student). He famously stressed that the sentences would have been more severe had he not been satisfied that those appearing before him had been “under the evil influence of senior members of the University”, some of whom had appeared as witnesses for the defence.

While the Crown prosecution missed one of its primary targets – prominent figures in the Cambridge student Left – the severity of the sentences deterred any significant student involvement in rowdy street demonstrations for years. In Cambridge itself there was an arguably more constructive outcome. At a series of University-wide meetings, King’s research student Martin Jacques (1968) and others successfully argued that Cambridge students lacked any representative body able to confront the University authorities; these meetings concluded with the creation of the Cambridge University Student Union and with the election of its first office-bearers.

Brian Pollitt (1959) read economics. He was Chairman of CU Communist Party 1960-62 and 1968-69, and President of the Cambridge Union Society in 1962. Until 1996 he was Senior Lecturer in Latin American Studies at Glasgow University, where he is now Honorary Senior Research Fellow.

Picture background: Two thousand people took part in the ‘Free Greek Week’ demonstration in May 1970, the largest Cambridge had seen since the 1930s.
development news

Non-Resident Members’ Weekend

I found the Student Union handbooks that would have been nesting in your pigeon-holes if you came up as an undergraduate in 1980 or 1981, but, best of all, I found the Alternative Prospectuses. They are edgy, subversive samizdat. ‘A lecturer is someone who talks in someone else’s sleep.’ The cartoons show hairy students slumped in front of bottle-laden tables, the air thick with cigarette smoke, saying to each other, ‘Yeah one of these days, we’d better get along to one of these “lectures”’. Let me read you what the Alternative Prospectus says about King’s. … ‘There are College parties almost every weekend and discipline is non-existent! …Organised sport is not King’s strong point – but ample opportunities exist for pool and snooker … Rooms are of a high standard and cost…£10 a

The Cambridge 800th Anniversary Campaign

Cambridge is seeking to raise £1 billion by 2012. John Barber, Director of Development, sets out King’s own £50 million fundraising goals and explains how they fit with those of the University.

Cambridge goals can be achieved …

As all Cambridge alumni have been informed, 2009 marks the University’s 800th anniversary. It provides the focus for the campaign launched this September to raise £1 billion by 2012. This is an ambitious goal, but one driven by awareness that to remain one of the world’s great universities – second only to Harvard in the latest ratings – Cambridge must achieve a substantial increase in its endowment.

…when colleges work together.

What goes for the University goes for the colleges too. The 800th Campaign is a campaign for Collegiate Cambridge, so anything given to a college will count towards the total. The colleges’ share of the target is £300 million. In other words, this is the amount colleges predict, on the basis of past performance, they will raise during the seven-year campaign.

King’s members have been giving an average of £1 million a year…

Thank you to all King’s members who contribute to our fundraising at all levels. You respond generously to the telephone fundraising by our current students, make regular donations through our annual giving programme and leave the College substantial legacies. Your donations have funded twelve student bursaries, enabled the SEF to give grants to a third of King’s students and refurbished three King’s Parade rooms. A choristership has also been funded through the Chapel Foundation.

…but King’s educational needs and ambitions are greater.

King’s would like to secure its future by raising £25 million to endow all the following educational needs and library provision:

- Student Bursaries & Supplementary Exhibition Fund (£5m);
- Postgraduate Research Studentships (£4m endows 10);
- College Teaching Officer Fellowships (£3m endows 3);
- University Teaching Officer/Professorial Fellowships (£3m endows 10);
- Research Fellowships (£4.5m endows 5);
- Supervision Fund (£2m);
- Library and Archives (£3.5m for conservation, purchases and to endow a Librarian Fellowship).

King’s Chapel, Choir and architectural heritage are all expensive to maintain...

Many of Cambridge’s grade 1 listed buildings are college property, so the government contributes virtually nothing towards maintenance. With King’s Chapel we have quite simply the biggest, most beautiful and most expensive of these buildings. £25 million will endow the following:

- Gibbs Building (£3m for preservation and enhancement);
- Chapel (£10m endows capital repairs and maintenance); Choir (£12m endows Directorship of Music, choristerships and choral scholarships).

…and King’s is worth every pound.

£50 million is indeed a very large sum, reflecting the enormous cost as well as value of our historical legacy, together with the ambitiousness of our vision for the future. Raising it will be a great challenge – like others the College has faced and succeeded in meeting ever since its foundation. With the support of our members and friends, the publicity King’s will gain from Cambridge’s 800th campaign, and the momentum we generate ourselves, I am confident we shall achieve this goal.
week.’ Finally, the Alternative Prospectus ends; ‘At King’s, the atmosphere is very relaxed…. Every peculiarity and perversion is fully catered for!’ Non-resident Members, let me welcome you back to King’s. Let me assure you that nothing has changed.

From the speech by Wyn Evans (1980)
Fellow, replying for the College.

The 1441 Foundation


Established to create a formal bond between the College and its major benefactors, encourage support for King’s, and promote contact between academia and business, industry, the professions and the arts, the 1441 Foundation held its inaugural dinner on Saturday 2nd July. At a ceremony in the Provost’s Drawing Room, the Provost expressed the College’s thanks to John Bury, Tony Doggart, Michael Mathews, David Sainsbury, Nicholas Stanley and Jeffrey Wilkinson and admitted them to membership of the Foundation. The 1441 Foundation will meet twice each year, the dinners being funded by its members; the next will be on 13 May 2006.

John Barber, Director of Development.
2006 Events

Saturday 11 March
Celebration of English
(for members who read English)

Tuesday 28 March
Foundation Lunch Years 1957 – 1960

Thursday 9 March
Womens’ Dinner.
After dinner speaker: Susie Orbach

Saturday 29 April
Society of King’s Economists Dinner

Saturday 6 May
Archaeology and Anthropology Dinner

Tuesday 16 May
King’s Golf Day
Gog Magog Golf Club, Cambridge
Enquiries to robertlo@nabarro-wells.co.uk

Wednesday 14 – Saturday 17 June
Bumps

Saturday 17 June KCA Reunion Day
The theme will be Henry VI

Saturday 1 July
Buffet Lunch
Years 1990 – 1993

Saturday 8 July
Non-Resident Members’ Dinner
Years 1983 – 1986

For further details on any of the
above events please contact
devlopment.office@kings.cam.ac.uk
or call 01223 331443

In accordance with the 16 across,
many answers have had 4 down
removed.

Across
1 Appreciates a loco squint (9)
2 Spatula distorted King’s elocution (7,7)
3 Dictator, however you view him (3)
4 New casino talks restricted by 16 across (10,5)
5 Underground pipe (4)
6 Records score (5)
7 Small picture of trendy group (5)
8 Bother a short story writer at bomb site (8)
9 Company worker may be obliging (11)
10 South-western city to host sauna (9)
11 A chatting up leads to hooking up (9)
12 Rambling hike or something with more corn? (6)
13 Singer often seen with child (7)
14 Visit Tyneside with two Spanish cuts of beef (9)
15 Gets back modern miracles (8)
16 Tokyo earthquake receives dignified
response and global agreement (5,8)
17 Gets back modern miracles (8)
18 Visit Tyneside with two Spanish cuts of beef (9)
19 A kind of weapon against HR? (4)
20 Source of milk care of company head (7)
21 Worship sin returned in boat (8)
22 Excuse a party on island (5)
23 Go off treat (5)
24 Writer who pens advisory article:
leave New York relation (5,4)
25 Oddly assail a land mass? (4)
26 Fiona wobbled around hotel, bearing
sharp curves (9)
27 Some dire, cosy, confused genre! (5-6)
28 Chaotic, timeless cartoon mammal (6)

Down
1 Bother a short story writer at bomb site (8)
2 Bop to a symphony (11)
3 New casino talks restricted by 16 across (10,5)
4 A kind of weapon against HR? (4)
5 Underground pipe (4)
6 Records score (5)
7 Small picture of trendy group (5)
8 Bother a short story writer at bomb site (8)
9 Company worker may be obliging (11)
10 South-western city to host sauna (9)
11 A chatting up leads to hooking up (9)
12 Rambling hike or something with more corn? (6)
13 Singer often seen with child (7)
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sharp curves (9)
27 Some dire, cosy, confused genre! (5-6)
28 Chaotic, timeless cartoon mammal (6)

2006 Choir and concerts

Saturday 18 March 5.30 pm
The Foundation Concert
King’s College Choir
Cambridge University Chamber Orchestra
Brahms German Requiem
Friday 24 March 7.30 pm
St. John’s Smith Square
Box Office: +44 (0) 207 222 1061
www.sjs.org.uk

King’s Easter Festival 2006
Wednesday 12 April 6.30 pm
Bach St Matthew Passion
King’s College Choir
William Kendall Evangelist,
Mark Rowlinson Christos
James Bowman, Roderick Williams
Academy of Ancient Music

Thursday 13 April 8.15 pm
Annabelle Lawson piano
Anna Smith violin
Alexander Holland cello
Timothy Orpen clarinet
Messiaen Quatuor pour la fin du temps

Friday 14 April 7.40 pm
Francis Grier Passion
BBC Singers
King’s College choristers
Endymion Ensemble

Saturday 15 April 7.30 pm
Mozart Davide penitente
King’s College Choral Scholars
Academy of Ancient Music

Sunday 16 April 5.15 pm
Messiaen Les corps glorieux
Thomas Trotter organ

Full details and box office
information available in January.
www.kings.cam.ac.uk/chapel/
choir/concerts

For further information contact
Gillian Perkins 01223 350544
or Gillian.perkins@dsl.pipex.com

Devoto Spring 2005 solution

CONGRATULATIONS and the bottle of
King’s claret to Mandy Abel (1980) who
also wrote: “This crossword kept me
awake!”

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