Forty years of women at King’s

Simon Goldhill on why collaborative research is the future

A new era for law at King’s
As Director of the Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities (CRASSH), Professor Simon Goldhill (KC 1975) is an incredibly busy man, even by Cambridge academics’ standards. But Simon was kind enough to set aside one lunchtime to talk to King’s Parade about CRASSH and some of the projects it is making possible.

From the changing nature of conspiracy theories to the intoxication of the senses, CRASSH is enabling scholars to consider topics from new angles and is fast becoming an intellectual powerhouse in the King’s tradition. Simon’s enthusiasm for the kind of collaborative research CRASSH specialises in is well founded.

On the subject of collaboration, King’s is joining forces with Clare, Churchill and Lucy Cavendish Colleges to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the first admission of female undergraduates to previously male colleges.

Tamasin Day-Lewis was among the early King’s women, so it’s fitting that she collaborated with the College’s Head Chef on a dinner to celebrate the anniversary. Find out on pages 8-9 how Tamasin’s approach to both food and writing was shaped by her experience of King’s in the seventies.

You may be surprised to discover that women were actually allowed to study at King’s before their official admission in 1972 – albeit for a brief interlude during the Second World War. On page 7, Thelma Butland (née Coyte) recalls with great fondness her experiences as a Physics student evacuated to King’s from London’s Queen Mary College.

Also in this issue, you’ll learn about the work of some other King’s Members, including two new Law Fellows, a specialist in “accountability” journalism, and a doctor who has helped to change the way cancer patients are treated in Uganda.

I hope you enjoy learning more about their work.

If the US and India can agree a nuclear trade deal that contravenes the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, what status has international law? That’s the sort of question that interests new King’s Junior Research Fellow Surabhi Ranganathan. The Fellowship was created with the Lauterpacht Centre, which was established in Cambridge about 20 years ago to focus on the teaching and practice of international law.

Surabhi became interested in the links between international law and politics as an undergraduate at the National Law School of India University, Bangalore. She did graduate work at New York University before coming to St John’s College, Cambridge for her PhD, which she submitted in March.

“My PhD asks: ‘what happens when international treaties come into conflict?’ It suggests that even if international law doesn’t exercise a direct restraint on states, the legal discourse created by trying to conclude new agreements has an effect on how such conflicts are resolved.”

Surabhi will continue to examine the challenges posed to international law by realist and critical legal approaches to the subject – and she says there’s no better place to do that than King’s.

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“Having been in Cambridge for three years, I’d always looked to King’s as the college I’d like to be in,” she says. “It’s a really exciting college, with a great social science tradition.”
King’s has a fine tradition in Law. A whole sheaf of top lawyers in this country were undergraduates here. This seems much more likely to be because and not despite that undergraduates were not allowed to read Law at King’s in their first year. Forcing undergraduates to experience another discipline first, before changing into Law, ensured that King’s lawyers had experience of the ways of thought of some other humane or scientific subject before they were faced with the particular conventions of legal argument.

That tradition was killed off when the number of compulsory subjects increased, and it became impossible to study enough in fewer than three years. King’s had to decide either to opt into Law as a three-year course, or opt out of Law altogether. There was only one way to go, and King’s opted in. For the past ten years the College has been attempting to build up the number of Law Fellows. This is hard work: new University appointments like to go to colleges where there are already several Fellows. However, we have been delighted not only to appoint Eva Nanopoulos to the Bob Alexander Fellowship, in succession to Brian Sloan, who has moved to a permanent position at his own old undergraduate college, Robinson, but to appoint a Junior Research Fellow in International Law in conjunction with the Lauterpacht Centre for International Law. We hope that this will be the start of a new era in which Law becomes fully embedded in the King’s Fellowship.

Eva Nanopoulos

Bob Alexander
Law Fellow

As part of her undergraduate degree in Law at Strasbourg, Eva Nanopoulos was required to spend a year abroad. She chose the LSE and went on to do her LLM in Cambridge. After a PhD at Wolfson College and a two-year Fellowship at Sidney Sussex, she joined King’s in September as College Lecturer and Director of Studies for Law.

She was attracted by the opportunities that King’s offers a legal academic.

“In the past, King’s had a different approach to Law to other colleges,” she says. “And because of that, there’s always been the ability to implement ideas at King’s.”

Eva’s PhD was on judicial review of anti-terrorism legislation in the European Union. It considered how an entity whose primary objective has traditionally been economic and social prosperity might deal with preventative measures against suspected terrorists. She examined in particular questions of accountability, due process and human rights protection, and how these are aggravated in the EU because legislation is the product of a mixed decision-making process.

Among Eva’s next areas of research will be the consequences for democracy of further EU integration.

She says: “If we don’t want it to be a state with a proper executive and a proper parliament and a proper court, then how do we guarantee democracy and legal accountability?”
Professor Simon Goldhill (KC 1975) talks to Clare Lynch about the importance of interdisciplinary research – and his vision for a new intellectual hothouse at Cambridge.

Simon Goldhill seems to be having the most fun he’s ever had in his 37 years at King’s. He’s just spent the morning reading the diaries of AC Benson, Master of Magdalene College, Cambridge and author of what Simon describes as “rather soft, reflective, bourgeois essays about life and personal disengagement”. He’s in the early stages of research for A Very Queer Family Indeed, a history of Benson and his eccentric and, seemingly, entirely homosexual family.

But it’s not just his own research that has Simon bubbling with job satisfaction – it’s facilitating the research of others. In October 2011, Simon was appointed Director of the Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities (CRASSH), the University of Cambridge centre for interdisciplinary and collaborative research.

“We’re interested in thinking about the space between departments, looking at questions that can’t be asked directly by one department,” says Simon. “Take something like climate change. If you ignore the social and historical context of the problem, it would be a disaster. In the same way, you can’t consider it on a purely historical and sociological basis and hope to avoid the science.

“If you don’t do interdisciplinarity in these sorts of areas, you actually damage the field. You’re not only not answering the whole question, you’re actually making a destructive intervention in the world.”

An example of the sort of project CRASSH is making possible is a five-year study of the Bible and antiquity in the nineteenth century, funded by the European Research Council (ERC). Led by Simon, a classicist with an interest in Victorian studies, it involves six post docs working across art, literature, politics and other fields.

In another similarly sized project, funded by the Leverhulme Trust, historians, political scientists and sociologists will explore why conspiracy theories have shifted from outside institutions (think of the bomb-carrying anarchists of the nineteenth century) to inside them today (“It’s the bankers! It’s the conglomerates!”). It’s a project which goes to the heart of trust – or the lack of it – in modern politics.

Simon sees such projects as vital in the ever more compartmentalised world of academia, in which scholars feel they have to specialise to get on.

“We have people who know more and more about less and less,” he says. “That’s the definition of a PhD, isn’t it?”

The long-term nature of CRASSH’s projects also, he says, provides an antidote to the increasing commercialisation of universities, in which academics must compete for short-term funding and are expected to churn out easily quantifiable research.
“I am totally opposed to ‘impact’ and ‘output,’” says Simon. “I’m interested in you having ideas and working through your ideas, and if your ideas bear fruit in ten years’ time, I will regard your time at CRASSH as a success. For good research you need patience, calm, respect and a recognition that you’re going to make mistakes along the way that will hold you up.”

Of course, King’s itself has a long tradition of supporting multi-disciplinary research projects, notably through the independent King’s Research Centre, which was founded in 1964 for just such a purpose.

Today, however, outside funding from bodies such as the ERC is available on a far greater scale than King’s has ever been able to provide. Already, Simon has raised £4 million for long-term, multi-person projects (by comparison, the King’s research budget is around £400,000 a year).

Still, many of CRASSH’s projects begin life as a conversation with Simon: pitch him a good idea and he’ll see it as his job to “really make it sing”. To do that, he says, he spends much of his time being “a sort of academic marriage broker”. It’s a role he clearly relishes.

“I sometimes describe my job as like trying to get pandas to mate,” he says. “I have all these egos, who are individual academics, and I try and put them together. So my job is to listen. To say ‘Hang on, you over here are quite smart and you over here are quite smart. Have you thought of doing something together?’”

For example, a couple of graduate students recently approached him about doing a study of material culture called “Things”. Simon happened to know of a group in California doing similar work and brokered a deal. Graduates and professors from both teams have been looking at why roomfuls of new “things” suddenly begin to appear in the 18th century. Each side has raised funds, trans-Atlantic conferences have been arranged, and two special issues of a journal will ensue. Another project was born when Simon connected the dots between a couple of young King’s Fellows working on drugs and sensuality, and two fellows from other colleges (and different departments) who are interested in touch and smell.

“I said to them, ‘Come on, you have a project!’ And so we’ve given them money for a year to work on ‘the intoxication of the senses’. Who wouldn’t want to work on that?

“It’s a fantastic problem. Laudanum was absolutely standard consumption in the 19th century for people across the classes, and East Anglia was the biggest producer of opium in Europe. Yet today, while it’s apparently acceptable to come to work and say, ‘I was plastered last night,’ you’d never be able to say, ‘I was totally high on opium last night.’ It’s a big topic, but what department would you put it in?”

As well as making research projects like these possible, CRASSH hosts around 300 events a year, many open to the public. Alfred Brendel, Helena Kennedy QC and Helen Clark, head of UN Development and former Prime Minister of New Zealand, are just some of the Visiting Professors to have lectured at CRASSH in the past year.

CRASSH’s full programme means that on top of his own research (he’s had three books published in the last year) Simon has to find time to go up for Visiting Fellows’ seminars. Topics can range from the politics of biofuels in Senegal to Islamic sermons in Swahili.

“I can’t just pop up with a question on Islamic sermons,” he says. “My Swahili ain’t great.”

So it’s a lot of work. But Simon says he’s inspired by the King’s of Edmund Leach and Bernard Williams – a place where students and Fellows feel excited to be part of an intellectual hothouse.

“That’s what I’ve been trying to create,” he says. “My slightly idealised, nostalgic idea of what research can be, in a way that it rarely is in the modern university. It’s a vision I’m quite proud to stand by.”

Many of CRASSH’s events are open to all. To see what’s on visit www.crassh.cam.ac.uk

Simon Goldhill has published three books in the past year: *Victorian Culture and Classical Antiquity: Art, Opera, Fiction and the Proclamation of Modernity*, *Sophocles and the Language of Tragedy* and *Freud’s Couch, Scott’s Buttocks, Bronte’s Grave*, a book about going on pilgrimage to Victorian writers’ houses.

Remember, if you buy any of these books through the King’s College Amazon page at www.kings.cam.ac.uk/library/amazon-store.html the College Library will get a referral fee.
King’s PhD candidate Andrew Gruen (KC 2008) is exploring the role of digital journalism in sustaining democracy.

Most cookbooks don’t contain recipes for dishes like “revenue promiscuity.” Neither do most PhD theses. But Andrew Gruen, a King’s PhD candidate, calls his thesis a cookbook anyway.

Andrew works on the future of quality news media. He’s seeking out the recipes for building online-only news outlets that are both viable and produce the kind of journalism that sustains democracy.

To do so, Andrew headed to two news enterprises that were “born digital” – that is, they haven’t grown out of print versions of newspapers. He visited a not-for-profit news site called The Texas Tribune, based in Austin, Texas, and OhmyNews, in Seoul, South Korea, the world’s largest citizen journalism organisation, which has run for the past 12 years.

“A critical difference between traditional news enterprises and born-digital like The Tribune and OhmyNews is ‘revenue promiscuity,’” Andrew says, borrowing a phrase used by The Tribune’s CEO.

“It’s not just that digital publications require less capital because they don’t need expensive print production and distribution systems. It’s also that they’re getting their money from a wider array of sources.”

While a traditional paper would be sustained by advertising and subscriptions, The Tribune boasts eight different sources of funding, including sponsorship, grants, in-kind donations and events. OhmyNews has 10 separate revenue sources, including a marathon and an online education arm.

These multiple sources bring in less total cash than a big, metropolitan paper might have, but born-digitals only need to pay for servers, bandwidth and electricity to get their product to users.

Andrew is excited by the impact organisations like these are already having on governments.

In 2002, says Andrew, OhmyNews activated young voters and was widely credited with helping elect South Korea’s President, a self-taught lawyer from a poor region outside Seoul. Tribune journalists told Andrew that during floor debates Texas state legislators used printouts from an app the site had developed to help constituents assess proposals for funding education.

Andrew gained his undergraduate degree in Politics and Journalism at Northwestern University in Chicago. He is on a Gates Cambridge Scholarship, which is awarded for research that has the capacity to improve the lives of others, and was attracted to King’s because of its music.

“Before I applied I didn’t really get the college system,” he says. “But I’ve been in a choir since I was a soprano and I suddenly realised this was where the King’s Singers were from. I love being able to go to Evensong whenever I want.”
How Wartime King’s Opened its Gates to Women

Officially, King’s first accepted female students in 1972 (see the next page). But because of the war, some women did get a chance to study at King’s long before then. In 1944, Physics undergraduate Thelma Butland (née Coyte) was evacuated to King’s from Queen Mary College, London. Here, she shares her story.

“I cannot vouch for the truth of this, but we were told Queen Mary College had arranged to send us to King’s chiefly because King’s specialised in Classics. In wartime, Engineering and some Science students were exempt from the armed services, but not Classics students. That left many empty rooms in King’s, which were occupied by male students of QMC. Of course, no female students were allowed rooms in King’s, so we were accommodated in various houses in the city. I and my school friend Helen shared a room in a hostel on Hills Road.

“On my first day in Cambridge, Helen and I explored King’s. It is difficult to describe one’s first impression of the Chapel: awe is the word that comes to mind. Of course there was no Rubens at the High Altar then, and the stained glass windows had been removed for underground storage during the war. The large lawn behind the Gibbs Building leading to the river and bridge was also attractive. In the following spring, armed with a cushion and books, I would spend many hours revising in that corner. It was very quiet there then!

“On my second day, I was interviewed by the Professor and head of department. He kept suggesting I read Botany instead of Physics, pointing out I had a distinction in my A level Botany. I also had a distinction in Physics but was too nervous and surprised to argue with him. The deputy head of the department later explained to me that the other Professor did not want any women in his department because he thought we could not cope with Physics – it was nothing personal! (Had he never heard of Marie Curie? I asked.) This second Professor advised me to stick to Physics and keep a low profile. I followed his advice and met with no further comment.

“Our Physics lecturers were a mix of Cambridge and QMC. The Cambridge lectures were highly entertaining, with spectacular demonstrations and a lack of supporting theory (we assumed the Cambridge students got the theory in their tutorials, which QMC students did not have). The QMC lecturers were more thorough over theory, but far less fun.

“As I began the course, I felt enormously privileged to be working (especially experimentally) in the Cavendish labs where so many world-renowned physicists had made their name, Rutherford being one of the most recent.

“May 1945 saw VE day. It was a beautiful day and everybody decided to go on the river. Every punt that had ever existed came into action, including some strange appliances, and the river was a sea of people and poles. I had a brief go but decided it was more fun watching from the safety of the Backs. I was very sad to leave Cambridge and return to a derelict London to continue my course, but have so many happy memories to treasure.”

To read more of Thelma’s story, visit www.kingsmembers.org

Were you at King’s during the war? Send your memories to kings.parade@kings.cam.ac.uk

“The Professor did not want women in his department because he thought we could not cope with Physics. Had he never heard of Marie Curie? I asked.”
King’s and Three Other Colleges Celebrate the Arrival of Women

This year marks 40 years since King’s first started admitting female undergraduates. In 1972, King’s, Churchill and Clare were the first all-male Colleges to accept female students. In the same year, Lucy Cavendish, a graduate college at that time, accepted its first intake of female undergraduates over the age of 21.

To celebrate, all four colleges have joined forces to put on two special events. The first was the 1972 gala that was held at King’s and Clare Colleges on 17 November. The day began with afternoon tea at Clare at 3pm followed by Evensong and a collaborative college concert in the King’s College Chapel. The concert featured the Lucy Cavendish Singers and Ladies’ Voices from the Choirs of Clare and Churchill Colleges, and King’s Voices. There were also performances by Penny Driver on cello and Cordelia Williams on piano. Violinist Krysia Osostowicz (KC 1977), Founder of the Dante Quartet and principal violinist with the Endymion Ensemble, also gave a performance. The menu for the gala dinner that evening was created by Tamasin Day-Lewis (KC 1973). Tamasin (whom we interview on page 10) says she picked dishes that were all typical of the time without being self-consciously retro: “The Carbonnade of Beef and Guinness is the first main course I learned to cook and one which was a constant in the gyp room on U staircase.”

The second event will be a series of panel discussions held on 20 April 2013 and taking place at Churchill and Lucy Cavendish Colleges. For details of what’s planned, visit www.1972cambridge.co.uk.

King’s Provost, Ross Harrison, said in his opening message for the gala event that one hundred and fifty years ago King’s undergraduates were not only restricted to a single gender, a single religion, and in effect a single nationality. They were also restricted to a single school. He said: “It therefore now takes a considerable effort of historical imagination to understand how it could have seemed as natural to our predecessors as our current multi-gendered conditions seems to us.”

If you were one of the first women to study at Cambridge, share your memories with us by emailing kings.parade@kings.cam.ac.uk

King’s College Freshmen 1972
One guest at the 40th anniversary celebrations was Jim Turner (KC 1954). Jim was admissions tutor at King’s between 1966 and 1972 and was heavily involved in the preparations to admit women to King’s. He spoke to us about his memories of 1972.

“Fellows of the College had for some time thought it was strange there were all these men’s colleges and only three women’s. The decision to admit women to King’s, Clare, Churchill and Lucy Cavendish went through quite smoothly. It was based on two things: the understanding that there was unlikely to be a new women’s college founded at Cambridge, and that the ratio of men to women didn’t reflect that of the general population. By this time it was generally thought that it was anachronistic to have only men in an education institution.

“The women’s colleges at both Cambridge and Oxford were happy with the decision for the simple reason it would increase the number of women coming to Cambridge. I was involved in the early stages of the interviewing and it was very interesting. The kind of young women who wanted to come to an all-male college were a bit more adventurous than other young women one might have expected. I also remember a television programme at the time that interviewed male undergraduates at the time that interviewed male undergraduates as they entered King’s asking them what they thought of the decision. The uniform response was that this was a good idea – but of course one might have expected that!

“There was virtually no opposition. The mood in all quarters was very much in favour, wherever one went.”
Is it true you learned to cook at King's because the food back then was so awful?

I ate in Hall on my first night and vowed never to eat there again. I’d already had five years of bad boarding school food at Bedales and decided that now I was grown up I didn’t have to have another three years of it. I don’t know what eating at King’s is like now, but there’s no reason good food and institutional food should be mutually exclusive.

What did cooking for yourself as a student teach you about food?

When I arrived, my father had died and I had no money. So I would cook simple things like pig’s liver and root veg. I made friends with a market holder who would give me free bags of plums at the end of the day. I learned you don’t need expensive ingredients: just take a cheap cut, make sure it’s good quality and do the minimum to it. I don’t believe in being chi-chi. Eating is about conviviality, not about showing off.

Is that something else you learned about at King’s – the social side of eating?

Yes, I ended up cooking for the whole staircase. Cooking is a good way of making friends at university. Firstly, people bring the wine. Secondly, they do the washing up. Thirdly, they’re always quite impressed.

What else did you learn at King’s?

How to think. How to write. Or more accurately, how not to write. Spending three years reading everyone else destabilises your idea of your own writing – I still don’t even dare to think I can write a paragraph. But it helps you find your own voice. I want to write for people interested in reading the prose.

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What made you decide to move away from traditional publishing?

I wanted to do things my way, not the accountant’s way. I suppose King’s makes you a maverick rather than someone clubbable.

To see Tamasin Day-Lewis’s Smart Tart published, make a pledge at http://unbound.co.uk/books/smart-tart
A Life-Changing Experience in Uganda

We tend to see cancer as a first-world problem – an expensive disease caused by affluent western lifestyles. Consequently, the priority for the developing world has long been tackling infectious diseases like HIV and malaria. But, as King’s graduate Grace Collord discovered on her clinical elective year in Uganda, directing funds toward communicable diseases can leave cancer patients at the mercy of an underfunded system. (As it happens, some of these patients’ cancers are actually associated with HIV – such as Kaposi’s sarcoma.)

Grace’s original plan had been to work on immunology in a large, well-funded research facility in Kampala. But soon after she arrived at what she describes as “this oasis of western medicine” her plan changed.

“I was rapidly distracted by the Uganda Cancer Institute at Mulago Hospital,” she says. “It was about 300 yards from this impressive western facility but it may as well have been on the moon in terms of medicine.”

There, she discovered a single, overworked house officer coping with a huge number of inpatients. The chemotherapy day unit was also overwhelmed, even though its outpatients represented just a tiny minority of people with the money and ability to travel there. The hospital was devoid of much of the basic medical equipment we take for granted in the west. It lacked a single tympanic thermometer – the non-invasive and hygienic infra-red devices that provide nurses in modern hospitals with an instant digital reading. Blood pressure cuffs were practically unheard of.

Moved to help, Grace ended up spending the rest of her elective at the hospital – and went on to persuade several Cambridge medics to spend their electives there too.

One simple change they contributed to was the introduction of more systematic observation of patients at the hospital. In the NHS, for example, a Paediatric Early Warning Score, recording factors such as pulse, respiratory rate and blood pressure, allows doctors to spot problems quickly. Giving nurses a simple way of communicating how ill someone is can have an even bigger impact in an overstretched hospital like Mulago, where there are very few doctors on site.

And as well as providing medical expertise, Grace and her colleagues launched a Facebook campaign that raised several thousand pounds for essential equipment. Some of the funds also helped subsidise drugs and investigation work for the hospital’s poorest patients.

After graduating, Grace worked as a senior house officer in the Oncology Unit at St James’s in Leeds. But her ability to make a difference in Uganda has led her to return and she will be there until early next year.

Grace says: “Working in Uganda is rewarding because it’s busy and challenging, but you can do a lot for people with relatively little.”

In February, Grace will return to Cambridge to work in a haematology lab at the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute. There, she will collaborate with Ugandan colleagues and Professor Ashley Moffett (KC 1997) of King’s on the immunology and genetics of endemic Burkitt lymphoma. Burkitt lymphoma is the commonest childhood cancer in central Africa, but very rare in Europe and hence relatively under-researched.
King’s Buys Rare Music with Generous Donation

The College’s Rowe Music Library has recently acquired a tract volume of eleven antiquarian music publications of three-part Italian secular songs printed in late sixteenth-century Venice. Of these eleven, three are the only known copies in the world.

The Rowe – which is the College’s music library – includes an important antiquarian music collection (printed and manuscript) as well as books about music and a collection of scores and sets of parts. It was given to King’s in the early twentieth century by an anonymous benefactor who had bought the collection from bibliophile Louis Thompson Rowe.

The Honorary Rowe Music Librarian, Professor Iain Fenlon (KC 1975), spotted the volume in a shop in Montreal. He was able to purchase it for the Library thanks to King’s Professor James Whitby (KC 1944), who generously donated £10,000 to the Rowe a few years ago. Iain said: “The antiquarian collection within the Rowe has always been a static collection, because we don’t have dedicated funds and the kind of material we specialise in is very expensive. So it was an unexpected boon to be able to buy such an important item.”

The Library plans to use the rest of Dr Whitby’s donation to buy more items at auction this autumn.

The College hopes to add to its collection of autograph manuscripts of important works by composers educated at King’s. It recently received a signed copy of a composition for King’s Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols by Kingsman George Benjamin (KC 1978).

Scholars from all over the world consult material in the Rowe, much of which is unique.

Library Staff Here to Help

This year has seen significant changes in the staffing of the Library. Wai Kirkpatrick, Assistant Librarian, retired after 21 years of service over a period of radical innovation. Her replacement is James Clements, who joins King’s after 11 years at the British Library, where he specialised in music before moving into digital curation. With a PhD on rhetoric in 17th-century violin music, he is excited to join a college with such a strong musical heritage.

“My first impression of the Library is that it’s extremely well run by a small team,” says James. “My priority is to make sure users see no change in the service we provide.”

The Library welcomes all Members of the College, including Non-Resident Members who may come and use it for reference purposes.

“We’re keen to encourage Members to visit us,” says James. “Come and talk to us about any aspect of using the Library.”

Led by Peter Jones (KC 1973), Fellow and Librarian, the Library team also includes Senior Library Assistant Anna Cook and Library Assistant Gareth Burgess, both qualified librarians. Professor Iain Fenlon (KC 1975) is Honorary Librarian of the College’s Rowe Music Library. The College and Modern Archives are in the care of Dr Patricia McGuire, and in June another appointment was made: Assistant Archivist Peter Monteith, who joined after completing a contract at the Norfolk Record Office to catalogue the family and estate papers of the Harbords of Gunton (Lords Suffield).

Rachel Stewart has recently taken on the task of cleaning the books as well as the Library. Student helpers provide vital support in the running of the Library, especially during term time.
This year also saw the 150th anniversary of the birth of another famous Kingsman: MR James (KC 1882, Provost 1905-1918). The medievalist and author of ghost stories was Provost of King’s from 1905 before becoming Provost of Eton College in 1918.

When he was at King’s, James would regularly invite groups of acquaintances to his rooms, where he would read his stories aloud. Often in the middle of winter and usually in a dim light, James would inspire terror in his guests with tales of bookish bachelors encountering the supernatural.

It was fitting, then, that on a cold February evening earlier this year, King’s medievalist Nicky Zeeman told “a ghost story of old King’s” to guests gathered at the Provost Sheppard dinner. The story recounted how a recently uncovered diary solved the mystery of why a nameless former don made the surprising decision to leave the Provostship of King’s for an altogether lesser post in the vicinity of Slough. The chilling denouement? Degrees for women were coming.

It was not the first time in recent years that the spirit of MR James has been summoned in a cold, dark building in Cambridge. Actor Robert Lloyd Parry regularly reads James’s ghost stories by candlelight in the Leper Chapel, a small twelfth-century church on the outskirts of the city, and at Hemingford Grey Manor in Huntingdon.

DVDs of Parry’s stage show, featuring James’s stories A Pleasing Terror and A Warning To The Curious, and an audio CD of Curious Creatures are available from the Shop at King’s: http://shop.kings.cam.ac.uk

Bletchley Park has launched Alan Turing Monopoly, developed from a board hand-drawn by the son of Turing’s mentor Max Newman over sixty years ago. The board tells the story of Turing’s life, and his face is on all the banknotes.

Peter Griffin (KC 2003) of Winning Moves, the company that created the game with Bletchley, said: “As an ex-King’s College student, where Turing himself studied, this was an honour to help develop.”

Turing Monopoly – Special Edition can be ordered from The Shop at King’s: shop.kings.cam.ac.uk
Boating Boost for King’s Kayakers

King’s Mountaineering and Kayaking Association is paddling down the Cam in brand new boats, thanks to a donation by Howarth Penny, a Canadian with a love of sea kayaking.

The club gives King’s Members a sociable and non-competitive way of enjoying outdoor pursuits. It was founded in 2007 by student James Taylor (KC 2007) and others when they discovered some old, unused kayaks in the College.

James, who is now doing an Engineering PhD, says the club has introduced hundreds of members to kayaking.

“It’s a good way to see the sights of Cambridge,” he says. “And within five minutes we can be out of the centre heading toward Granchester.”

For more information on the club, visit www.kmka.co.uk

Landmark in History of King’s College Choir

By Stephen Cleobury (KC 1982)

A remarkable initiative on the part of the King’s College is under way, with the launch of its own record label.

The first disc in this new venture, released in October, reflects the Choir’s international pre-eminence at Christmas, thanks to 94 years of A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, 83 of which have been broadcast simultaneously by the BBC, and the more recent televised Carols from King’s service.

The new disc offers the 2010 Christmas Eve service, together with recordings of all the commissioned carols composed since On Christmas Night, the hugely acclaimed recording of carols written for King’s between 1983 and 2005. A bonus track brings a new carol written specially for the new disc by John Rutter (Clare College).

The second disc under the new label is eagerly awaited: Mozart’s Requiem – but not just Mozart’s Requiem! This new CD includes a commentary on the composition and reception of the Requiem as well as extracts of music with which the composer was familiar and which influenced his work.

With these discs, King’s Choir branches out in a way that enables it to have complete control over the artistic direction it wishes to take, and will have ownership of this.

The label is called, very simply, The Choir of King’s College, Cambridge.
The Fellows of King’s College, Cambridge have appointed Professor Michael Proctor FRS as Provost-elect of the College. He will take office in October 2013. Provost Ross Harrison (KC 1975) will retire on 31 July 2013.

Michael came to Trinity College in 1968 to read Mathematics. He spent a year at MIT as a Kennedy Scholar, returning to Cambridge to complete his PhD. He served as an Assistant Professor at MIT for two years, and in 1977 became a lecturer in the Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics, and a teaching Fellow at Trinity College.

Michael presently holds the Chair of Astrophysical Fluid Dynamics, and researches and lectures in the Mathematics Faculty. He directs studies and supervises at Trinity College. Most recently, he served as Vice-Master of Trinity (2006–2012).

Michael said: “It is an enormous honour to be asked to be the head of such an outstanding institution as King’s. Cambridge University, and higher education generally in the UK, faces many challenges in the next few years. I look forward with enthusiasm to helping to formulate King’s response, and to doing my part with members past and present to ensure the means are there to carry it through.”

Surprisingly, King’s has not consistently had its own drama Society. That’s about to change, says Rebecca Odman-Stonehouse (KC 2010), President of the new King’s College Drama Society.

The Society formed last Christmas and is now financially supported by the new Waldmann Fund for Drama at King’s, meaning it can become permanently established in College life.

The group’s debut production last March – a version of Sartre’s No Exit – was sold out. A selection of monologues written by King’s students followed and will become a regular part of the programme. This term will see a production of Blithe Spirit.

Rebecca says the Society aims to encourage new acting and directing talent.

“It can be a bit daunting if you’re just coming to university and you want to get involved in drama for the first time,” she says. “We offer something on a smaller scale where people can build up their confidence before going on to the ADC or Footlights.”

For more information about the King’s College Drama Society, visit www.kingsdrama.co.uk
Fairy Gold was painted in 1913 by Phyllis Gardner (1890-1939) as a self-portrait. It symbolises Gardner’s feelings about her love affair with the poet Rupert Brooke, which began in 1912 when Brooke was a student at King’s. To read more about the portrait, acquired jointly by King’s and the Rupert Brooke Society, please visit the Members and Friends website at www.kingsmembers.org.

The Development Office is happy to help you with questions about events, giving to King’s or planning a visit to the College.

You can reach us on events@kings.cam.ac.uk or +44 (0)1223 331 313.

We look forward to hearing from you!

The College has bought the top three floors of 15 Benet Street, and plans to open it as a new student hostel next year. King’s took the opportunity to buy the building when the previous occupier, Barclays Bank, decided to move out. The purchase was made possible thanks to gifts and loans from King’s supporters.

The purchase will allow the College to give up its current lease – from the University – of a hostel on Tennis Court Road. Benet Street is closer to King’s, making it easier for Residents to participate in College life. What’s more, because the building is owned rather than leased, the College has more reason to invest in its maintenance.

The new hostel will accommodate 30 to 35 undergraduates and may include rooms for a Fellow and postgraduates. Rooms are expected to have en suite bathrooms, making them attractive to guests outside of Term, including tourists and conference-goers. Such visitors provide a valuable income stream that makes subsidising student rents more financially viable.

The Shop at King’s is now online – just in time for your Christmas shopping. Visit http://shop.kings.cam.ac.uk to buy CDs and DVDs of the Choir, a variety of gifts, and King’s branded clothing and stationery. It also has a box office where you can buy tickets for concerts in King’s Chapel and Hall.

All profits from sales in the Shop at King’s support the College as a place of education, religion, learning and research.

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