LUNCH and LEARN

HOW A SERENDIPITOUS MEETING IN HALL GAVE TWO FELLOWS FOOD FOR THOUGHT

RUPERT BROOKE: THE LIBRARY’S NEW ARCHIVE REVEALS THE MAN BEHIND THE MYTH

SPRING CLEAN: PRESERVATION OF THE GIBBS’ BUILDING BEGINS
Welcome to the Summer 2015 Edition

Dr Tim Flack, Financial Tutor, on the effect of rising costs on the current generation of students.

Did you donate in response to this year’s annual Telephone Fundraising Campaign (TFC)? If so, thank you so much. Our members gave £350,000 in total – a quite staggering amount. As the College’s Financial Tutor, I see student hardship at first hand so I know what a big difference your generosity will make, now and in the future.

The funds raised by the TFC will go toward our hardship fund, the Supplementary Exhibition Fund (SEF). Established in 1886, the SEF awards money to students with a financial need to improve their welfare in the broadest sense. Funds are dispersed as both grants and loans, depending on the individual circumstances. In a typical year, the TFC raises two to three times the annual income we receive from the investment units that underpin the SEF, so the campaign allows us to smooth out fluctuations in that income. This provides much-needed stability to our ability to help students in need.

But things have certainly got tougher for students since the introduction of tuition fees – and that makes the circle of giving all the more important. Our students are experiencing the kind of hardship those of us who were lucky enough to have benefited from a free education could not imagine.

For example, I’m sure many of you will have fond memories of eating in College. That chance to mingle with people from vastly different disciplines is, for many of us, an essential part of the King’s experience. However, in a recent survey of its members, the King’s College Student Union uncovered anecdotal evidence that many of our current students find eating in College simply unaffordable. To me, that fact alone suggests a good number of our undergraduates are in a very precarious financial situation. In a lot of cases, student maintenance is clearly falling short of need.

“\nIn a recent survey of their members, the King’s College Student Union uncovered anecdotal evidence that many of our current students find eating in College simply unaffordable.\n”

Part of the problem is the one-size-fits-all nature of the student finance system. Our Senior Tutors Committee estimates that £8,300 is a comfortable amount of annual maintenance. Students whose parents’ income is lower than £25,000 a year are eligible for grants and loans totalling over £10,000, making them relatively well off. These grants taper away rapidly, which means that students whose parents are in the middle income bracket of £35,000-£45,000 a year can end up falling through the gap.

So this year, we have begun pre-empting problems by sending out a form to those to whom we’ve offered a place, asking them to tell us how they plan to fund their time here. It won’t make the problem go away, but it does allow us to help applicants put serious thought into their finances before they arrive and, if necessary, to use our hardship funds when the circumstances suggest that we should.

I and all the Fellows are all very proud of the long tradition King’s has had of means-blind access to education. It is a tradition we desperately want to continue and one that relies on us maintaining a viable hardship fund. As far as I’m aware, no undergraduate has ever left King’s because of financial considerations. But as a College, we don’t have the financial muscle to tackle the funding challenge single-handedly. So if you can help at all, please do. Any contribution to the SEF – whether a lump sum or a monthly donation of £10 – will make a difference to our students.

Thank you again for your generosity.

Tim Flack

For information on contributing to the SEF, please visit www.kingsmembers.org Alternatively, to donate by card, call the Development office on +44 (0)1223 331 313
A cult was created by Winston Churchill and other admirers who turned Rupert Brooke into a paragon of youthful hero-soldier-poet. However, a much more complicated and rounded picture of Brooke emerges when you can look at the manuscripts already at King’s alongside the Schroder Collection. Brought together, the two collections will tell a rather different story than we have so far.

Some of Rupert Brooke’s family and closest friends, the ones who knew him the best, resented the fact that he was turned into a kind of national icon. They thought the picture of Brooke that emerged from this heroic story was not true to the man. In one of the letters that form part of the Schroder Collection, written on 8 August 1915, Brooke’s mother says it is her “final wish” for Eddie Marsh, Churchill’s Secretary, not to publish a memoir about Brooke, saying: “I don’t think that you knew more than a small part of Rupert”. She later relented and the memoir subsequently sold more than 100,000 copies.

King’s has acquired a major collection of materials relating to Kingsman and poet Rupert Brooke.

King’s already held an extensive collection of Brooke’s papers. The new collection, the John Schroder Collection, will join the existing archive, creating the world’s leading resource about Brooke. The John Schroder Collection contains writings by Brooke, the records of his publication history, hundreds of letters between Brooke and others, and reports from eyewitnesses of his death and burial on the Greek island of Skyros.

The purchase was made possible by awards of £430,000 from the National Heritage Memorial Fund, £10,000 from the Friends of the National Libraries, and gifts from individuals.

The acquisition nicely complements the Library’s new website ‘Introduction to Archives: Rupert Brooke’, aimed at teaching A-level and GCSE students how to use archives. An exhibition is planned in the Chapel for later this year.

King’s is seeking the remaining funds needed to complete the purchase. To donate, please visit: www.kings.cam.ac.uk/library/munby-fund/how-donate.html For more information contact Patricia McGuire +44 (0)1223 331 444, archivist@kings.cam.ac.uk


Peter Jones, King’s Librarian, writes…

“A much more complicated and rounded picture of Rupert Brooke emerges when you can look at the manuscripts already at King’s alongside the Schroder Collection.”
It started with a chat over lunch. Sharath Srinivasan, the Director of Cambridge’s Centre of Governance and Human Rights, had hit a snag in his research and was telling a fellow Kingsman about it.

Sharath is interested in how technology is changing the way people participate in public life. The particular piece of research that was troubling him that day centred on some of the many African radio shows that invite listeners to call in and text about the issues of the day. His problem? How to make sense of all those conversations.

“If you let the audience speak up in their own language, you end up with this enormous, complex, messy data set of messages,” says Sharath. “It becomes quite difficult and challenging to understand what’s going on.”

Call it serendipity (a word, incidentally, coined by Kingsman Horace Walpole), but his lunch companion was physicist Sebastian Ahnert of the Cavendish Laboratory. The Cavendish is not somewhere you’d automatically think of turning to for help with a political science project. However, Sebastian’s expertise is in network analysis, a field that develops statistical methods for looking at large data sets and figuring out how the information is connected. Network analysis has burgeoned in the last 15 years, perhaps because it can be applied to a wide range of topics. It is ripe for the kind of interdisciplinary research that began to take shape in the Hall that day.

“All of knowledge can really be understood as relationships,” says Sebastian. “You can almost always find a network angle on almost every complex data set. That’s why I saw an opportunity talking to Sharath.”

Sebastian, it turned out, was no stranger to interdisciplinary research. Previously, he’d applied network analysis to subjects ranging from evolutionary phenomena to the flavours in our food.
And his network analysis of letters between the underground Protestant community of the 16th century had exposed the influence of the lesser-known but well-connected individuals who had provided money, support, and shelter rather than overt leadership.

Sebastian stresses that with any network analysis, context is key. For example, in the letters project it was necessary to go back to the original documents to understand the meaning of the quantitative result.

“Data is only ever a representation of reality,” says Sebastian. “You can do things with data but if you don’t return to the context, and understand that context, you can really make mistakes about what it means.”

So not long after his conversation with Sharath, Sebastian built a user interface that allows a researcher to find patterns in the messages sent by the radio shows’ listeners. For instance, it might show sets of words shared by individuals or words that commonly appear together. Clicking on a particular word takes the user back to the original message it appeared in, giving the researcher detailed context and a sense of the authentic voices of the audience.

Returning to the context gives the researcher a more accurate sense of the nuances of public opinion than you get from traditional approaches to data. For example, the aggregated answers to a multiple choice survey will be skewed by the researcher’s own bias in shaping the questions. The flaws of such an approach were dramatically exposed by the dismal failure of the polls to predict the outcome of the 2015 UK general election.

“Network analysis gives us really interesting opportunities to explore core methodological and theoretical questions,” says Sharath. “Specifically, it allows us to ask: can we think about public opinion in radically different ways?”

Questions of theory aside, being able to tune into authentic conversations has had a real-world impact. Take, for instance, Well Told Story, an Emmy Award-winning social-change organisation that reaches Kenyan youth by distributing nearly a million free comics each month, backed up by radio shows and social media activity. Well Told Story had collected half a million text messages from its audience, as well as posts on social media. These messages were all from young Kenyans expressing their opinions to DJ Boyle, the star of the radio show.

However, the organisation had a hunch that its own messages about the importance of contraception might be alienating its young audience. Specifically, it felt it had been talking too directly – and in language that was far too formal – about pills, condoms, implants and the like.

Suspecting that different conversations were taking place in slang, Well Told Story had begun to alter its language. However, this strategy had been founded purely on intuition, so Well Told Story approached the Cambridge team for help. Network analysis of the language used in all those text messages sent by the audience confirmed their hunch.

“Network analysis gave us a way to come at the issue of contraception indirectly,” says Sharath. “It showed us what else Kenyan youth were talking about, and the kinds of words they were using that aren’t in the dictionary.

“We discovered that the slang language they were using was, indeed, where the real conversation was going on. For example, Kenyan youth use the term ‘hustle’ to describe ‘making your own way’. So the organisation’s comics started talking about entrepreneurship and the importance of careful family planning for ‘not messing with your hustle’.”

 Armed with the findings from the network analysis, the team at Well Told Story succeeded in persuading its funder, the Gates Foundation, to measure success not by formal conversations, but by looking at what people are actually saying. Both Sebastian and Sharath cite persuading the Foundation to rethink its approach to measurement as one of the greatest achievements of the project. The project has since led to the creation of a charity, Africa’s Voices Foundation, headed by Sharath, which will continue the work with Well Told Story. The charity is also working with Oxfam and the BBC in Kenya, and with UNICEF in Somalia to understand attitudes to vaccination, particularly among hard-to-reach communities. Another King’s Fellow, David Good, is a Trustee of Africa’s Voices Foundation.

Meanwhile, Sebastian and Sharath will shortly be working on a project with yet another King’s Fellow, Ashley Moffett, and one of her former PhD students, a Ugandan obstetrician at one of Africa’s biggest and busiest hospitals. They plan to use a network analysis of conversations about pre-eclampsia to uncover the socio-cultural factors that shape attitudes to complications in pregnancy. Despite being very treatable, pre-eclampsia has a high mortality rate in Africa, so insights from the research could ultimately save lives.

It all leaves one wondering what a network analysis of lunchtime chats at King’s might look like. Could it be that, as with African radio audiences, the real conversations take place outside of more structured environments? The Hall does seem to be the perfect setting for interdisciplinary projects to germinate.

As Sharath says: “In a formal meeting or seminar where people are presenting papers, I think there’s that tendency to switch off when it’s another discipline you can’t understand. The commonality came from that casualness.”

To learn more about the Africa’s Voices Foundation, visit www.africasvoices.org
Look at a live ant under an electron microscope and you’re reminded not so much of an insect as of a domestic cat. It’s not the many tiny hairs on the ant’s body that evoke the comparison, although ants are remarkably furry creatures at high magnification. Rather, it’s the constant back-and-to rhythm of a creature locked in the act of cleaning itself.

“An ant, like most insects, spends 30 per cent of its lifetime grooming,” explains King’s zoologist Alex Hackmann. “If their antennae get contaminated by particles, they lose the ability to smell pheromones and follow trails, so they have to keep clean to survive.”

Where kitty uses her tongue to clean her fur, the ant uses a particular area on its front legs to keep its antennae free of contaminants. Alex, who is in the final year of his PhD, has spent the past three years examining this zone close up.

The area comprises, he says, a series of distinct “combs” and “brushes” through which the ant pulls its antennae during grooming. Each cleaning zone features different types of hair, which can therefore trap particles of varying sizes. Ridges on the hairs increase their surface area – and, along with it, the efficiency of the filtering mechanism.

Alex used a hand-built force measurement set-up to artificially clean the ants’ antennae with their own cleaning structures. Doing so allowed him to measure how efficiently the structures could clean off fluorescent particles. He also exposed the ants to different types of contaminants to see how their cleaning mechanisms coped with particles of various sizes, shapes and surface properties. At one point in his second year, a particular particle kept killing the ants.

“At first, I was really frustrated, because the particles were non-toxic,” says Alex. “But then I thought to myself, ‘Hang on, there’s a practical application here.’ It turned out the particles made scratches on the exoskeleton, which caused the ants to dry out. But because the substance is non-toxic, it has the potential to be used as an insecticide, especially in schools and hospitals.”

Alex’s research could have other practical applications, too. Before his PhD, Alex studied biomimetics – the adaptation of models and systems found in nature to solve human problems. The micro cleaning devices on ants’ legs are, he says, ripe for adaptation in engineering. In particular, they could allow for improved maintenance of semi-conductors, where dust is a large problem.

In the search for practical applications, Alex looked at soldier ants. These ants share the same DNA as their more common worker ant sisters, but because they were fed differently during the larval stage, they are much bigger.

Alex explains: “Imagine the hand of a child compared with the hand of a grown-up. You expect it to be bigger but not with more fingers. But what increases in a soldier ant? The hair size, the number of cleaning hairs, or both? It turned out it was both, which means the cleaning mechanism scales easily, and scaleability is important for practical use.”

One reason ants make good subjects for those interested in biomimetics is they are incredibly successful evolutionarily, with around a billion insects for every person on earth. Alex says: “Ants’ survival depends on easy but effective mechanisms, which nature took billions of years to develop. Applying the same principles to engineering is about not reinventing the wheel.”

Kingsman Alex Hackmann has spent his PhD exploring how ants keep their antennae clean – and his research could have many applications beyond the zoology lab.
The perception of deception

King’s Research Associate Dr Sophie Van Der Zee and her colleagues at the Computer Laboratory are revolutionising the science of lie detection.

King’s Research Associate Sophie Van Der Zee is a master of deception. Sophie is a member of the Security Group at the Cambridge Computer Laboratory, a research team that has developed a lie detector that looks set to revolutionise interrogation techniques.

Where the traditional polygraph has an accuracy rating of 63 to 83 per cent, the new lie detector offers a more consistent accuracy of 82 per cent. It works by measuring the tiny tell-tale body movements people tend to make when lying.

The new lie detector takes the form of a full-body suit just like the ones Hollywood animators use in films such as The Lord of the Rings. In that instance, the suit captured the movements of an actor, allowing him to be digitally recreated as the character Gollum.

The suit used by Sophie and her colleagues has 17 sensors, which register movements all over the body. It detects those movements up to 120 times per second and in three dimensions.

“A lot of lie detection leaves out a lot of information,” says Sophie. “For example, they tend to give you straight ‘yes or no’ answers when it comes to body movements, and say nothing about the magnitude of those movements. Our lie detector is more accurate because it measures behavioural characteristics, like magnitude, that have never been measured before.”

The new suit addresses another known flaw of lie detectors: their reliance on physiological responses caused by stress, which can make innocent people look like liars. In contrast, the movements detected by the new suit are not associated with anxiety, and 89 per cent of truths were correctly identified.

The Cambridge team collaborated with colleagues in the Netherlands and at the University of Lancaster, where Sophie completed her PhD, on the links between non-verbal mimicry and lying. The next stage of the project involves more testing to further increase the accuracy and reliability of the suit’s results.

Sophie’s hope is that other labs will also pick up on the research. “Our research has been done by three labs that all know each other, and it’s only been tested by one. So we’re hoping that other labs will also put the suits to the test. Lie detection is an expensive business, so we need to be absolutely certain of its accuracy.”

Sophie is now also developing software to detect movements in real time and is exploring ways to measure movements with cameras and radars. Both strands of research could increase the effectiveness of lie detection in practical situations. Potential real-world applications of her research include police interviewing, border control and even job interviews.

Sophie is organising Decepticon 2015, the first interdisciplinary conference on deception, in Cambridge on 24–26 August.

For more information, visit http://2015.decepticon.academy
Richard Lloyd Morgan was appointed Chaplain of King’s in September 2003, having spent the previous 25 years as a concert and opera singer. Here, Richard, who will be retiring later this summer, reflects on his 12 years at King’s.

When I arrived at King’s 12 years ago, I had no idea what to expect. I’d had little contact with Cambridge since leaving Trinity in 1970 and it was my first paid job after ordination. It was rather nice to get a salary after being a freelance opera singer for years, but I’d initially only planned to be here for two terms.

That first term was a baptism by fire. It was partly because there is so much to cope with at the start of the academic year – Advent, All Saints, TV recordings and so on. I remember going to see the then-Dean, Christopher Ryan, every morning with my little notebook and asking him, “What do I do?”.

Christopher eventually persuaded me to stay on. However, not long after I arrived, he died of cancer just three-and-a-half weeks after being diagnosed and I became acting Dean with absolutely no experience. It was a very difficult, extremely painful and frightening time.

But the longer I stayed, the more I felt I got an idea of the job. The big services and functions are the same each liturgical year – it’s just the students who change. That conveyor belt of students is part of both the wonder and frustration of the place. I suppose all teachers experience the same feeling – that just as you’re getting to know them, they move on. But I’ve always enjoyed that daily interaction with students, and I’m going to miss the constant challenge and surprise of working with them. One thing I won’t miss, however, is the use of the word “like” five times in every sentence!

During my time here, I’ve worked with three different provosts and four different deans. But, in general, things move at a glacial pace in Cambridge. The main change I’ve noticed since I arrived here 12 years ago is that, rather like policemen, the Fellows seem to get younger every year.

What I love most about King’s is the way we’re able to offer people from all over the world something of the highest quality in music and liturgy. And I don’t think I’ll ever work in a place as beautiful, especially in late spring when the trees are exploding into colour.

I haven’t decided what’s next for me - prison work, human rights or animal conservation, perhaps. Whatever it is, I’m going to miss the companionship of all my friends at King’s. I’m quite good on my own, but I think it might come as shock to be out there in the wider world, simply because the in-built community here is immeasurably nourishing. Thank you to all the students, staff and academics who, for the past 12 years, have enriched my life more than I had ever imagined possible.
I tried to put myself off applying to King’s. I kept going back to the advert and a job description that listed all my skills. It took me by surprise, but after retiring from the police I was missing the challenge and the people.

My wife’s had to put up with a lot. Me working over Christmas, phone calls in the middle of the night. But she’s always supported me, and I’m grateful for that.

I missed my children growing up. When I left the police I knew I couldn’t change the past, but I could change the future. King’s gives me the challenge I need in a job, but I don’t miss the travelling or the 14-hour days.

I’ve seen things nobody should ever be exposed to. Like riots and being first on the scene of murders. I was shot at as a very young officer, which gave me recurring nightmares for years. But in some ways, these experiences have made my life richer. They allow me to step back and be rational in stressful situations.

Owning up to stress used to be a sign of weakness. John Wayne syndrome, we called it in the police force. But over the years, the culture has changed and now people are encouraged to talk about things. It’s a big advance.

The Olympics were a highlight of my career. As soon as they were announced, my wife and I knew we’d have to write off the summer of 2012. I was a member of the five-person command team for the Olympic park. The atmosphere there was amazing, but the only time I saw my family in two months was the day they came to the park!

I’ve always enjoyed working with young people. I introduced the Safer Schools Partnership, which assigned a police officer to every senior school in Hackney. The biggest challenge was convincing head teachers a police officer made it a safe school, not a dodgy school.

The students here are great. I love seeing bright young people creating a community. And I like being able to support them in ways they don’t expect.

Adjusting to a new pace has been my biggest challenge. I came from a world where if there was a problem, you identified the routes to tackle it and then just went from A to B. Here, decisions are made by committee so things move more slowly.

The Chapel is very special. I’m not a religious man, but you can’t help being moved sitting there listening to the Choir. And I’ve got a degree in history, so I enjoy the past.

I love the serenity of King’s. You can have a real hubbub out on King’s Parade, but the moment you come through the gate, you’re in a different world. After a year here, I still pinch myself.
How did you come to be at King’s?
I studied music and history of art as an undergraduate at St Catharine’s. In my final year I became a choral volunteer in the King’s Choir, which meant I finally fulfilled my burning ambition to sing in the King’s Chapel. Nearly two years since joining as Assistant Musical Director and my passion for the Chapel hasn’t waned. I’m looking at it right now and it’s beautiful.

What does your job involve?
Assistant Director of Music sounds like a terribly grand title, but my duties are relatively light. As Director of King’s Voices, I only have one hour’s rehearsal a week, so we have to cram a lot into that hour. The rest of the time, I keep an eye on the organ scholars when Stephen Cleobury’s away, and also to some degree mentor the choral scholars. I’ve coached them on close harmony, drawing on my experience directing the Swingle Singers.

Tell us more about King’s Voices
It was set up in 1997 by John Butt, then a professor of music at King’s. At that time, the Chapel Choir was a long-standing bastion of male dominance, but the need for gender equality was recognised. There was space for a choir to sing at Monday Evensong and King’s Voices was born.

What’s the biggest challenge of working with King’s Voices?
With just one hour a week to rehearse and only eight services a term, you have to be quite strict if you’re going to maintain a high standard. The skill is to use that hour to engender a sense of discernment, commitment and engagement in every singer.

Highlights so far?
The Founders’ Day service at the beginning of December. When the main choir’s not available, we are able to sing Evensong by candlelight for a congregation of 600. Also, we went on tour to Italy last year and have just come back from Salzburg. Touring is a real bonding experience for the choir. The more they sing together, the better they get.

And what are you looking forward to next?
We’re about to sing Mozart’s Requiem with the main choir. And in October, we’ll be doing an interesting concert of contemporary music from King’s as part of the celebrations of the 500th anniversary of the Chapel.

Finally, the best part of the job?
It’s such a privilege to sing weekly Evensong in that iconic building. We all revel in the acoustics. It really is a most extraordinary building.
A BRIGHTER SOUND FOR THE ORGAN

The Harrison & Harrison organ in King’s Chapel is, like the College Choir, famous the world over. The organ case, which surmounts the 16th-century screen, is a striking feature of the interior of the Chapel, while the sound of the instrument is instantly recognisable.

Today’s instrument remains fundamentally as it was designed to be at the time of its restoration in the mid-1930s, but after many years of frequent use it is becoming unreliable; major work is now needed to ensure that it continues to function optimally for the next generation. Advantage will be taken of new materials and technology as the inner workings of the organ are repaired and restored. There will be no significant tonal alteration, except that, with cleaning, the sound will return to a former brightness.

Most of the instrument’s pipework will be removed in January next year and returned to the Harrison & Harrison workshop for cleaning and repair; from April the pipes will be reinstated and, following voicing and tonal regulation, the organ will be ready for use from September 2016.

Many of today’s leading musicians have held the position of Organ Scholar at King’s. The organ fulfils an important role in the religious and musical life of the College while also serving as an educational resource. As such, it supports all of the College’s statutory aspirations: ‘education, religion, learning and research’.

The College is looking to raise 1.45 million, of which 1.2 million will pay for the overall project. Thanks to the support of several generous donors, fundraising has had an excellent start. However, it is vital to reach the identified goal in order to support this magnificent instrument in the 21st century.

If you would like to contribute toward the restoration of the organ, please contact the Development Office on +44 (0)1223 331 313.

STAMPS OF APPROVAL

A special stamp sheet has been designed to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the King’s College Chapel. The stamp sheet, which has been approved by the Royal Mail, is available as a limited edition of 500 numbered copies.

Each sheet incorporates 10 special first-class union flag postage stamps, which are not available from Post Offices.

You can order the stamp sheets online from www.bfdc.co.uk/kc or by cheque from BFDC Ltd, 3 Link Road, Leicester LE2 3RA. Please make cheques payable to BFDC Ltd.

NEW CHOIR ALBUMS OUT NOW

A new King’s album, Evensong Live, gives a snapshot of the Choir’s performances in the Chapel as part of Evensong services throughout the year. The album brings together performances that were originally recorded for broadcasting on the internet free of charge to people around the world.

A second album, Hymn Anthems is a recording of anthems based on hymns from the Anglican choral tradition. It is the first album to explore anthems from this tradition.

Highlights include Hubert Parry’s epic Hear My Words, Ye People, John Ireland’s Vexilla Regis, and organ preludes on traditional hymns. It also includes Alison Balsom playing the trumpet on Lord, Thou Hast Been Our Refuge by Vaughan Williams.

The releases follow the critically acclaimed recording of Fauré’s Requiem, which was awarded BBC Music Magazine’s Album of the Month and was in the Specialist Classical Charts for half a year.

Both the new albums are available from The Shop at Kings (shop.kings.cam.ac.uk) and for download from iTunes.

“Angelic purity ... this is King’s playing to its considerable strengths at all levels.”
– Gramophone on Hymn Anthems
One of the oldest buildings in College, the Gibbs’ Building is about to undergo a much-needed programme of conservation, starting with a clean that uses innovative, eco-friendly technology.

What does the Gibbs’ Building at King’s have in common with the Ritz, the Bank of England and Top Shop’s flagship store on Oxford Street?

Well, the exteriors of all three London landmarks have been treated with an innovative cleaner that uses ultra-fine particles instead of water or chemicals. In recent months, the same eco-friendly talc-like cleaner has been trialled on parts of the Gibbs’, in preparation for a much-needed programme of conservation.

English Heritage is currently reviewing the results of the cleaning trial and it is hoped they’ll give the College the go-ahead to proceed with a full clean over the winter. The clean is a necessary first step before the College can carry out essential repairs to cracks in the building, restoration of parts that have disintegrated and conservation of the exterior.

Built in 1724, the Gibbs’ Building is the second oldest building at King’s after the Chapel, and is in serious need of attention. The College had initially planned a three-to-four-year conservation programme for the Gibbs’, using traditional water treatment. Indeed, an initial clean of its upper parts has dramatically brightened a section of the exterior (see pictures).

However, cleaning the whole building with hand and hose would require large parts of the Gibbs’ to be covered in scaffolding at any one time.

The new cleaning process requires no scaffolding, instead using a cherry picker and a boom with an enclosed box that sits neatly against the building.

Philip Isaac, King’s Domus Bursar, said: “Traditional cleaning risks causing considerable disruption to the life of the College for several years. This alternative will be much less obtrusive.”

It will make the job of Matthew Beasley, the conservationist responsible for restoring the Gibbs’, much easier as his work will not be dictated by the placement of scaffolding.

And in contrast to traditional methods, this new way of cleaning is not restricted to the summer months. It is also a much cheaper option for the College, in part because it will allow the entire conservation process to be completed within a year. The College has received some funding to help with the cleaning and for a full survey in preparation for major works.
KING’S UNDERGRADUATES

TAKE A BOW

Kingswoman Fanny Belais was in the bow seat of the Cambridge crew at this year’s historic women's boat race.

What’s it like to make history? “Hugely amazing,” says Fanny Belais. “I’ve never done anything so big.”

A first-year undergraduate at King’s, Fanny rowed for Cambridge in this year’s Boat Race on 11 April. It was the first time the women’s race was staged on the same day and over the same four miles and 374 yards as the men’s race.

“I feel very privileged,” Fanny says of the experience. “In the build-up to the race, we were getting two to three cards a day from alumni. We definitely felt we were making history.”

To prepare for the race, Fanny, who was in the bow seat, put in 12 training sessions a week along with her crewmates. She had to balance that training regime with the demands of her schedule as a first-year medical student. How did she cope?

“Rowing brings a whole new discipline to your life,” says Fanny. “If one person doesn’t turn up, it’s ruined. That’s why rowing has a team spirit like no other sport.”

That Oxford won this year’s women’s race has not diminished the thrill of taking part. “Yes, the result’s disappointing, but we rowed a pretty good race,” says Fanny. “Besides, it’s a strong motivation to beat them next year.”

A PACKED HOUSE FOR KING’S POLITICS’ HUSTINGS

King’s has always had a reputation as a place where political debate thrives. So it was fitting that a week before the recent general election, five hundred members of the University crammed into the Hall to hear what candidates from the five main parties had to say.

The hustings – the largest to be held in Cambridge in the lead-up to the election – was organised by King’s Politics, a student society founded in 2014. Those attending the event challenged the candidates on a range of policy issues, but particularly those relating to social justice. The bedroom tax, the living wage and the NHS were also among the issues that students brought to the fore. After the formal hustings, the candidates joined guests in the bar, allowing the debate and questions to continue into the evening.

“It was a really lively and engaged debate,” said Eleni Courea, one of the founder members of King’s Politics and a current co-chair. “We started organising the hustings a year in advance but I think it made a difference that we held the event so close to the actual election.”

King’s Politics was created as a way to encourage political debate among students, academics and outside experts. Since it was founded, it has hosted a variety of panel debates on topics ranging from military interventionism to student welfare. It has consistently attracted hundreds of students to events, as well as high-profile speakers, from journalists such Peter Hitchens and Rachel Shabi, to major political figures like Lindsey German and Paul Charney.

In November, King’s Politics will host a debate in the Chapel, to mark the building’s 500th anniversary. The debate will be inspired by Kingsman J. M. Keynes.

Visit kingspolitics.com for more details or follow @Kings_Politics on Twitter.
A CONCERT IN A CAR PARK

July saw the world premiere of I Am, I Say, a new composition for children’s choir and orchestra by Kingswoman Kate Whitley (right) and poet Sabrina Mahfouz. But unlike most world premieres, the performance did not take place in a traditional concert hall. Instead, the venue was a disused multi-storey car park in Peckham, South London.

“There was no seating or lighting, but with five or six hundred people, it felt very intimate,” says Kate. “And the acoustics were surprisingly good!”

Kate, who graduated in 2011, is the co-founder and artistic director of Multi-Story, an organisation dedicated to taking classical music into new spaces and to new audiences. Kate’s new piece was sung by 200 children from nearby schools, many of whom had no previous experience of singing.

“The great thing about writing for children is you can’t be boring or pretentious,” says Kate. “Making the music really exciting and engaging is a challenge, but a positive one.”

Kate began to experiment with new ways of performing while still at King’s, where she showed a similar desire to share classical music with more people by taking it out of the concert hall and into local bars, pubs and schools.

“I was so lucky to be at King’s rather than music college,” she says. “While there, I was surrounded by amazing and surprising people who shared a belief in that ability to run things your own way.”

For more information visit www.multi-story.org.uk

SO FAR, SO GOOD

Thank you so much for your vigorous response to this year’s telephone fundraising campaign. Mission completed? Not quite. The pre-campaign letter was well-received, the callers were excellent and professional, the phones worked, and many of you responded to the call to action. But we couldn’t reach everyone, and are now asking those of you we missed to help us complete this year’s campaign by early August. If you didn’t receive a call this year, please contact the Development Office or visit www.kingsmembers.org/makeagift

In the lead-up to the campaign, each TFC student caller is asked to describe their personal experience and views on the importance of student support. These are Emily Johnstone’s (KC2012, Law) words:

“King’s has been fantastic at supporting me in times of need, when other colleges or universities may not have stepped up. The textbooks and materials required for studying law are very expensive, costing hundreds of pounds each year. King’s library, however, has an allowance for students to order books, which are essential to their studies but they cannot afford. This has proved invaluable to me during my time here.

The flexibility of the King’s College Supplementary Exhibition Fund is, in my view, one of its great strengths. I am certain that without such assistance, my time at university would have been considerably more stressful, perhaps resulting in me having to take on more part-time work and negatively impacting on my academic performance. However, I am very aware of how privileged I am compared to some students. The greatest use of the Supplementary Exhibition Fund is undoubtedly to provide emergency funds to those who are otherwise faced with the serious prospect of leaving higher education altogether – as I saw first-hand when a friend’s parent was suddenly made unemployed. It is ever-important in these difficult times for higher education, that King’s is able to continue its commitment to offering outstanding education, on the basis of merit and not means.”

YE JUNJIAN: KINGSMAN AND MEMBER OF THE BLOOMSBURY GROUP

A photographic exhibition about the Chinese writer, translator and Bloomsbury Group member Ye Junjian is to be held in the King’s Chapel.

Ye became a friend of Virginia Woolf’s nephew, Julian Bell, when the two met at Wuhan University after Bell had arrived there to teach English in 1936. Ye’s contacts with Britain’s literary set grew when he later met Auden and Isherwood on their Chinese tour in 1937. It is no surprise that, with contacts like these, Ye would eventually arrive in the UK on a lecture tour and, thanks to Bell having earlier sent examples of Ye’s work to John Lehmann, have his work published in Lehmann’s New Writing.

Ye was then awarded a scholarship to King’s where, according to The Times: “He was taken up by members of the Bloomsbury elite – Maynard Keynes, Duncan Grant, Leonard Woolf, the Garnets. He would spend weekends with the Bells at Charleston Farm, take tea with E. M. Forster in his rooms and discuss Chinese literature with Basil Willey.”

The exhibition will feature more than 60 images, some of which have never been seen by the public before. An accompanying catalogue and an online digital archive with a set of wider materials will be available for Chinese and English audiences.

Ye Junjian exhibition, 20 July to 30 August. Access to the exhibition is included in the price of a Chapel entry ticket.
The term neo-liberalism is a staple of contemporary political discourse. But what does it actually mean? In a two-part article for King’s Review, Junior Research Fellow Paul Sagar draws on recent work in political economy to suggest that we are astonishingly unclear about what this key term signifies. It is in fact extremely hard to pin down where neo-liberalism stands between the market and politics.

The central contention he makes is that whatever neo-liberalism is, it is not the shift towards a world in which political actors give greater rein to free markets as compared to the recent past. This will likely come as a surprise. Most people, if asked to try and specify what neo-liberalism is, would likely put ‘more free-market economics’ high up a list of factors. And this is quite understandable, given the rhetoric and policy-presentation that have come to dominate political discourse, in America and the UK especially, since the 1980s. Nonetheless, it is deeply misleading. What has changed, Sagar contends, is the way that politics interferes with economic exchanges under ‘neo-liberalism’, not the fact of interference itself.

Neo-liberalism must ultimately be understood in relation to how the horizons of economic possibility have been dramatically narrowed in the minds of decision-makers over the past three decades. To understand this, we need to explore the intellectual history of recent economic thinking, and challenge the myths that have sprung up to support not just economic policies, but entire political and economic worldviews. The rise of neo-liberalism is not a product of the march of economics as a science, but rather the march of a particular ideology of economics, married to a particular vision of politics, which are together deeply hostile to the social-democratic inheritance of the post-war world.

Find the rest of the comprehensive two-part article by Paul Sagar as well as others in the neo-liberalism ‘strand’ online at kingsreview.co.uk

**What do we mean by “Neo-Liberalism”?**

The term neo-liberalism is a staple of contemporary political discourse. But what does it actually mean? In a two-part article for King’s Review, Junior Research Fellow Paul Sagar draws on recent work in political economy to suggest that we are astonishingly unclear about what this key term signifies. It is in fact extremely hard to pin down where neo-liberalism stands between the market and politics. The central contention he makes is that whatever neo-liberalism is, it is not the shift towards a world in which political actors give greater rein to free markets as compared to the recent past. This will likely come as a surprise. Most people, if asked to try and specify what
**Save the Date** Member and Friend Events

- **5 September** Legacy Lunch
- **25–27 September** University of Cambridge Alumni Festival
- **25 September** 60th Anniversary Reunion Lunch (1955)
- **25 September** 50th Anniversary Reunion Dinner (1965)
- **26 September** Members’ Lunch
- **26 September** 35th, 40th and 45th Anniversary Reunion Dinner (1980, 1975 and 1970)
- **27 & 28 October** King’s Review – ‘Building the Future’
- **29 October** Drinks on the R.S. Hispaniola, London
- **7 November** Graduate Alumni Dinner (Members who studied post-graduate courses)
- **16 November** Debates from King’s: “What are the economic opportunities for our grandchildren?”
- **29 November** Procession for Advent
- **5 December 2015** 1441 Foundation Dinner (by invitation)
- **10 December** Varsity Rugby Match, Twickenham
- **11 December** Easter from King’s, BBC Recording
- **16 December** Choir of King’s College Christmas Concert, Royal Albert Hall

More events are expected to be added throughout the year. Please visit [www.kingsmembers.org](http://www.kingsmembers.org).

**Concerts at King’s**

- [www.kings.cam.ac.uk/events/concerts-at-kings/index.html](http://www.kings.cam.ac.uk/events/concerts-at-kings/index.html)

- **9–11 October** ’15 Concert Series. Epiphany Through Music
- World-class performances from artists including The Philharmonia Orchestra and a range of educational events. Complete list of events on the College website.
- Curated by Richard Causton, John Wallace and Mark Gotham.
- **16 October** Monteverdi Vespers concert
- **7 November 7.30pm** Inspired by Beckett

Curated by Christopher Prendergast, Fellow.
- **11 November 7.30pm** Organ Gala with Thomas Trotter (KC 1976)
- Curated by Flora Willson, Fellow.
- **14 November 7.30pm** ’15 Concert Series
- An die Musik, celebrating 1815.
- Curated by Nick Marston, Fellow.
- **4 December 6.30pm** Christmas Presence with the King’s Singers

**Choir Tours and Performances**

- [www.kings.cam.ac.uk/events/choir-concerts.html](http://www.kings.cam.ac.uk/events/choir-concerts.html)

- **27 September** Choir at Hatfield House Chamber Festival
- **23 October** Choir at King’s Place, London
- **15 December** Choir, Concertgebouw, Amsterdam
- **16 December** Choir, Royal Albert Hall

**King’s Divines and Special Services**

A series of sermons celebrating the 500th anniversary of the completion of the stonework of the Chapel.

The text for the sermons which have taken place in the King’s Divines series and the Education, Religion, Learning and Research series can be found on the Chapel 500th website at: [www.kings.cam.ac.uk/events/chapel-services/sermons/index.html](http://www.kings.cam.ac.uk/events/chapel-services/sermons/index.html)

- **18 January** Brooke Foss Westcott, Fellow. The Dean, The Revd Dr Stephen Cherry
- **10 May** Benjamin Whichcote, Provost. Dr Douglas Hedley, Reader in Hermeneutics and Metaphysics, Fellow of Clare College
- **7 June** Orlando Gibbons, chorister. The Chaplain, The Revd Richard Lloyd Morgan
- **14 June** Eric Milner White, Chaplain, Dean and Fellow. The Dean, The Revd Dr Stephen Cherry
- **9 September** BBC broadcast of the 3 March Vespers
- **11 October** A. H. Mann, Organist. Dr Nicholas Marston, Fellow
- **15 November** Charles Simeon, Vice Provost and Fellow. Professor Ross Harrison, former Provost

Coming from overseas and interested in attending an event that is not specific to your year or subject? You are always welcome, but please give us plenty of notice. More details about King’s College events at [www.kingsmembers.org](http://www.kingsmembers.org). Contact the King’s Development Office at: events@kings.cam.ac.uk or +44 (0)1223 331 313

**Samuel Beckett in Dialogue with King’s College Chapel**

A multimedia event accompanied by recorded readings of Samuel Beckett’s plays will take place from 2–6 November at 7.30pm. Central to the event will be the photographs of John Haynes, who was photographer at The Royal Court Theatre in the 1970s, where many of the classic Beckett productions were staged.

Conceived of as an unfolding experience to be seen from beginning to end, the event will culminate in a newly commissioned light work by David Ward and Susie Olczak being projected onto the outside of the Chapel. The event will last approximately one hour.

For enquiries contact Professor Christopher Prendergast at cap1000@cam.ac.uk

**The Fyssen International Prize for 2014**

Congratulations to Professor Sir Geoffrey Lloyd for winning the International Fyssen Foundation Prize for 2014. The prize was awarded this year for distinguished research in the subject of cross-cultural cognition.

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