



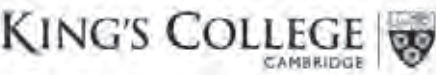
RESEARCHING RURAL RAJASTHAN

JUNIOR RESEARCH FELLOWS TELL US ABOUT THEIR WORK

WELCOME TO THE
SPRING EDITION

Since our last issue, the outlook for higher education in the UK has changed dramatically. In this edition you'll find a range of views on how the University, the College, and King's Members can respond to the Government's proposal to shift the cost of a degree from the state to individuals. Senior Tutor, Robin Osborne, believes the move reflects a worrying change in perceptions about the very purpose of a university education. Read his take on the current educational scene on page 9. On page 7 we also hear from King's First Bursar Keith Carne on the options the College and the University are exploring for coping with the upheaval. Much is still uncertain, but one thing Keith is sure about: the College must be prepared for radical change. How to move with the times while retaining the heritage of which King's is so proud is a challenge for the Chapel, too. In this issue, you can read about a remarkable project that – with your generosity – could see the lighting in the Chapel transformed with the latest technology. Turn to page 6 to discover how two King's Fellows have enlisted the help of student scientists to solve an age old problem: how to make reading music in the Chapel less of a strain on the eyes, without impairing the building's atmosphere. One person who knows the current lighting in the Chapel all too well is King's graduate composer Toby Young. His chamber opera *Diary of a Thief* has already caught the attention of critics – find out what inspired him to write it on page 12.

Clare Lynch, Editor



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Here, we introduce some of the Junior Research Fellows who have joined King's this year. Over the page, two JRFs who have just recently moved on from King's tell Stephen Maynard what they got out of the experience.



DR ANASTASIA PILIAVSKY
ZUKERMAN RESEARCH FELLOW

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY

As an undergraduate in Boston, USA, Anastasia Piliavsky switched her studies from philosophy to anthropology when she found in the subject "an intellectual excitement: ideas that made me change my mind in a way that Kant did not." This passion for new worlds eventually led the social anthropologist, via an Oxford DPhil, to the current focus of her work: a community of professional thieves, called Kanjars, in rural Rajasthan, India. Anastasia has lived among this community for almost two years, and every year of her fellowship will spend around three months in Rajasthan (see the picture on the front cover). She says: "As well as being the first ethnographic study of the Kanjar community, the research works out the significance of the patron-client, or rather donor-

servant, relationships that underpin the community's structure, helping us understand not only the activities of this community, but also the broader political and social structures of local society." Funding permitting, Anastasia is also set to lead a collaborative study of political criminalisation in South Asia, with its growing proportion of "gangster politicians". She says she is inspired by the College's anthropological legends – "the ghost of Edmund Leach (KC 1960) is still very much within the walls of the College: he walks softly and carries a big stick". She is "writing furiously", but she is also enjoying the social side of King's. "It has been welcoming in so many ways," she enthuses, "that I've yet to see more of Cambridge."

DR CAMILLE BONVIN
JUNIOR RESEARCH FELLOW

DEPARTMENT OF APPLIED MATHEMATICS
AND THEORETICAL PHYSICS/INSTITUTE OF
ASTRONOMY

In the 1930s, astrophysicists realised that, rather than being static, the universe is continually growing in size. They also assumed that, over time, gravity would gradually slow down its rate of expansion. In 1998, however, observations of exploding stars, or supernovas, and their ever-decreasing brightness showed that the universe's expansion is actually speeding up. The fundamental question ever since has been: why? Camille Bonvin has been working on the theory that the root cause is a previously undiscovered "dark energy". She says: "I've been looking at what exactly this dark energy might be and the kind of observation techniques we need to analyse and understand it. Around 95 per cent of the universe is made up

of this and other dark matter that we've not previously been able to observe. Ultimately we want to improve our understanding of the universe and how it will evolve in the future." None of this is possible without teamwork. So, funded jointly by King's and a Herchel Smith fellowship, Camille carries out her research in conjunction with other cosmologists in Cambridge, Geneva and Paris. She says: "King's is the perfect place to study cosmology, giving me a fantastic opportunity to work with leading cosmologists like Professor George Efstathiou and Professor Anne Davis. I also love the college system here; it helps you get to know people working in so many different areas of study."



"I love the college system here; it helps you get to know people working in so many different areas of study."

DR SUCHITRA SEBASTIAN
JUNIOR RESEARCH FELLOW

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS

In 1911 it was found that, when cooled to a very low temperature, mercury's resistance to electricity suddenly vanished. This 'superconductivity' was soon attributed to the way mercury's electrons pair up, due to an interaction with its lattice structure. It took over 70 years to discover another class of superconductors. These ceramic copper-oxide compounds lose electrical resistance at higher temperatures – but physicists still don't know what interaction makes this happen. New Non-Stipendary Junior Research Fellow Suchitra Sebastian explains: "The best way to approach this kind of problem is to look for patterns: more materials with similar properties for a common explanation. I'm currently exploring the role of magnetism in the superconductive phase of matter. The findings are always

unexpected – and that's how I like it." The "holy grail" is to find a new superconductor that works at room temperature, as well as more unconventional forms of superconductivity – and even totally new phases of matter. Crucially for Suchitra, who has an MBA and corporate experience as well as a physics PhD, such discoveries could have a major impact in the real world and be used to create energy-efficient power cables or more effective MRI scanners. Funded by the Royal Society for eight years, Suchitra intends to enjoy King's life to the full. She says: "The unfettered freedom I get to direct my own research is very precious, and so is the sense of community and social support structure that living in College provides."



"The freedom I get to direct my own research is very precious, and so is the sense of community and social support structure that living in college provides."



"I enjoy the college community, especially the rich musical life. I'll be sad to leave."

DR OLIVER RINNE
FORMER JUNIOR RESEARCH FELLOW
DEPARTMENT OF APPLIED MATHEMATICS AND THEORETICAL PHYSICS

According to Oliver Rinne (KC 2007), general relativity is not only “our best theory of gravity”, but also “very beautiful”. Representing its mathematical elegance is another matter. Einstein’s equations are notoriously complex, and pen-and-paper methods have proved restrictive.

So Oliver’s four years of research at King’s were dedicated to finding solutions using numerical methods and computer technology.

Another challenge is infinity. While many interesting systems are infinite in size, for example a star surrounded by empty space, computers only have finite memory. The problem, when simulating the laws of general relativity, is knowing how and where to impose artificial boundaries.

Undeterred, Oliver has been looking

for mathematical ways to put “the whole of spacetime” on to a computer – and has made progress with understanding gravitational collapse as well as gravitational radiation. All of which coincides with what he calls “a new age of astronomy”, thanks to gravitational wave detectors that will offer “a new window on the universe and distant events, long ago.”

Of King’s he says: “I’ve had the freedom to work on what I want to, and enjoy the College community, especially the rich musical life. I’ll be sad to leave.”

Oliver now does Geometric Analysis and Gravitation at the Max Planck Institute for Gravitational Physics (Albert Einstein Institute), Germany.

DR ROTRAUD HANSBERGER
FORMER JUNIOR RESEARCH FELLOW
FACULTY OF CLASSICS

Rotraud Hansberger’s (KC 2007) special field of study is the Greek-Arabic tradition: the translation and adaptation by the Arab world, between the 8th and 10th centuries, of ancient Greek philosophy and science.

She has been working on Arabic texts, including a previously unknown adaptation of Aristotle’s *Parva Naturalia*. Having travelled to India to view the unique original manuscript, she made an “exciting discovery” within it: fragments of another translation, this time of the work of the philosopher Plotinus.

Rotraud’s four-year Research Fellowship has helped reveal the substantial new additions that the Arabic adaptations made to the original Greek works. The Arabic texts were not simply a “middle link” in the chain of philosophical thought between ancient Greece and the Latin West. It was an exciting time in history that saw great shifts in power and the mixing of different cultures and religions. In the fertile intellectual climate of a young and fast-evolving society, Arabic grammar and Islamic theology were both developing alongside exciting contributions in philosophy, medicine and the other sciences.

Since October 2011, Rotraud has continued her research at another King’s College, in London, funded by the Leverhulme Trust. But she misses its Cambridge namesake, saying: “I loved the diversity at King’s. When you’re working mostly alone it’s great to have so many supportive people of different intellectual backgrounds to talk to.”



"When you're working mostly alone it's great to have so many supportive people of different intellectual backgrounds to talk to."

Our Research Fellows play an essential role in the intellectual life of the University. If you’re interested in helping us fund Research Fellows or research at King’s, please contact Bill Burgwinkle at web25@cam.ac.uk or Mike Bate at cmb16@hermes.cam.ac.uk

BACK TO BLETCHLEY . . .

The feature in our last issue on Bletchley Park prompted readers to write in with stories about Alan Turing (KC 1931) and the other Kingsmen who spied for England.

Denis Williams (KC 1933) on A M Turing
Hilary Williams Papworth got in touch on behalf of her father, Denis Williams, who was at King’s from 1933 to 1938. Denis, who sadly died in December, was a friend of Turing. The family still owns a rowing tankard inscribed KCBC Trial Eights 1933, engraved with the signatures of members of the crew, including D G M Williams and A M Turing.

“He was a person with a social conscience,” Denis used to say of Turing. “For example, if he went to Ireland, he went to find out about the Troubles. Also, it was a time when there were refugees entering the country. He was concerned about refugees”.

Denis had said Turing was straightforward and averse to what he thought of as any kind of dissembling or hypocrisy. This could make him vulnerable – to police questioning, for example. His intellectual rigour and insistence meant that he always wanted to verify things for himself, occasionally embarrassing senior people. Denis believed this was why Turing was not given a job at Cambridge after World War II.

Denis said “It was clear from the beginning that Alan was a person of exceptional intelligence and ability. During the war he worked initially in military intelligence. But of course they realised they had something special and he was transferred to more sophisticated intelligence work”. At the beginning of Turing’s career, “it was not clear in which field this would develop, as he wrote papers on a wide range of topics.” Apparently, he was intellectually unusually persistent and questioning and would not routinely accept other people’s work on trust. He was criticised for this, particularly by his Professor in Manchester.

Turing would visit Denis and his wife, Ruth, at their flat in Manchester. Ruth says, “I remember him as a very gentle and sensitive person and a delightful guest. Most of the time on those visits he and Denis would discuss philosophical problems, which they both obviously greatly enjoyed.”

Denis had fond memories of other King’s luminaries, too. He once remembered climbing out of his Gibbs’ Building window one day and landing on T S Eliot, who was walking with John Maynard Keynes

(KC 1902). He also recalled attending small group meetings with Wittgenstein in his rooms, and M R James (KC 1882) reading his ghost stories.

Dilly Knox (KC 1903), Bletchley’s code breaker
Robert D Mott would have liked us to have given more credit to another Kingsman, Dilly Knox, who was head of research at Bletchley. An account of Knox’s contribution to shortening both world wars can be found in *Dilly: The Man Who Broke Enigma*, a recent biography by Mavis Batey, a code breaker who worked with him.

Born in 1884, Knox was the world’s leading expert in Greek verse and scripts. But he was also responsible for America entering World War I after deciphering a coded telegram from the German High Command offering to help Mexico if it were to declare war on America.

The contents of the telegram were transmitted to the US President and disclosed to Congress a day later. Congress declared war on Germany and the war was over 18 months later.

Knox continued to work for the security services, conducting research into codes and ciphers, and stepping up the work when it was obvious there was going to be another war with Germany. Until his death from cancer at the age of 58 in 1943, he played a vital role in code breaking.

Another Bletchley Park alumnus remembered
For Paul Herrup (KC 1980), our account of Kingsman Frank Adcock (KC 1905), a senior recruiter for Bletchley, brought back memories of the late Christopher Morris (KC 1924), History Fellow and Bletchley Park alumnus.

“When possible, Christopher would take a short respite from Bletchley Park by returning to King’s,” writes Herrup. “At breakfast, he invariably would find Frank Adcock emphatically expounding to those who could not escape ‘what Hitler was going to do next’.

Christopher’s only remark was, ‘Well, I knew what Hitler was going to do next – and the worst thing about it was that I could not tell Frank Adcock he was wrong.’”

Finally, another reader, John Graham (KC 1939), pointed out that Adcock’s pronunciation of Powell to rhyme with “Noel” was correct – it is how Enoch Powell himself pronounced it.

“He remembers climbing out of his Gibbs’ Building window one day and landing on T S Eliot, who was walking with John Maynard Keynes.”

LET THERE BE LIGHT

Two King’s scientists are leading a project to transform the lighting in the Chapel for the benefit of the musicians who perform there. The project is drawing on the intellectual resources of Cambridge students, who have made it the focus of undergraduate and post-graduate research, but funds are needed to realise their ideas.

For decades, the lighting in the Chapel has been less than ideal if you’re a musician. Light falls on the pages of music at an adverse angle and is extremely uneven, its intensity too low for the comfortable reading of music. Furthermore, the unsightly lighting rig detracts from the beauty of the Chapel interior, and the expense of dismantling means it tends to be left in place for long periods.

A study by King’s Physics Fellow Tom White (KC 1976) has shown it is possible to direct light down optics tubes from intense sources of illumination above the vault, so that it pools in the performance area. A constellation of xenon arc lamps at such a height would cast shadows strongly downward, and at the same time fill them in. The small tube-ends will be completely invisible from the Chapel floor, and the installation will involve no modification to the stonework.

With the support of the Chapel, John Young (KC 1977), King’s Fellow and Professor of Applied Thermodynamics, organised three undergraduate projects to look at different approaches and select the technically and aesthetically best optical design. Three fourth-year Engineering undergraduates volunteered: Fraser Reid and Alexander Groot from St John’s College, and David Adamczyk from Sidney Sussex. They were supervised by John Young and Tom White, by Dr Roderick Willstrop at the Institute of Astronomy, and by Professor Koen Steemers in the Department of Architecture.

The students proposed an ingenious scheme for efficient light transmission, which was later embodied in a professional design by Roderick. With help from others, Roderick and Tom built and tested a prototype in the basement of G staircase. It was then installed in the Chapel where it has been demonstrated thirteen times for up to three hours. Visually, the illumination resembles sunlight but there is no significant risk to skin and eyes. Six units could provide



For decades, the lighting in the Ante-chapel has been less than ideal for musicians.

light for reading music and for better illumination of orchestra, choir and soloists in the Ante-chapel. Two additional units could extend the performance area for a full orchestra.

We have identified a local firm, AstraNet Systems, which can design, build, install and maintain the lamp units, integrating them with controls supplied by Cambridge Logic. They could be built and installed within a year, and will cost about £260,000 plus VAT.

The Council has given approval for the scheme providing funds can now be

found. Meanwhile, work is proceeding on technical details, and Villian Wing-Lam Lo of the Department of Architecture has undertaken a PhD project supervised by Professor Steemers on the lighting of the Ante-chapel for concerts.

To donate to or sponsor the project, contact Julie Bressor in the Development Office at julie.bressor@kings.cam.ac.uk. To learn more about the technical details of the project, get in touch with Geoff Moggridge at gdm14@cam.ac.uk or Tom White at tow1@cam.ac.uk.

MONEY TALKS

King’s First Bursar, Keith Carne, tells Clare Lynch how the College might respond to the upheaval in higher-education funding.

Holding the purse strings at any UK college is an unenviable task in today’s funding climate. All the more so when, like the King’s First Bursar, Dr Keith Carne, you’ve got nearly 600 years of history bearing down on you.

But, says Keith, the College has adapted to dramatic shifts in the past – and it will do so again. “We’ve got to be prepared to be radical if we want to continue being important educationally,” he says. “And if we want to avoid being a museum that happens to contribute to education.”

The College is already negotiating with the University about how to respond to the UK government’s proposal to cut most direct public funding for university tuition from 2012.

It is still not certain how potential applicants will react to the increase in tuition fees nor how the government plans will affect the University and the colleges. What is clear, is that King’s will need to work closely with other colleges and the University to ensure it still attracts – and supports – very able students. What that will mean in terms of bursaries and financial support once they are in Cambridge is much less clear.

The increase in tuition fees to £9,000 requires the University to get better at attracting students from a wide range of backgrounds, but it is not yet clear how it’s to do so. How much of that £9,000 is to be spent on attracting students from poorer backgrounds or ethnic minorities? What targets will the College have to hit? How can it go about hitting them? And how does one measure success? All these questions remain unanswered.

And what about students from abroad? King’s will want to make sure that it maintains the highest standards and the most effective support for these students as well. Furthermore, the changes will affect students’ decisions to do graduate courses. The College will need to ensure the University’s ability to attract the best research students is not impaired.

On thing is certain: the obligation to attract a greater variety of students will force the University to examine how it assesses candidates, particularly as A-levels alone are a poor guide to a student’s potential.

Take Keith’s own field, Mathematics. “The A-Level course trains students to do straightforward problems in an accurate but routine way,” he says.

“It doesn’t tell you how they will cope when asked to think hard and originally about what they’re doing and produce ideas for themselves – and that is what the Cambridge Mathematics course is going to ask them to do.”

The College and the University are also examining the various ways they can provide financial support to students from poorer backgrounds. The options include waiving part of the fees, giving bursaries and improving access by making it clear that support is available.

Keith acknowledges that Cambridge could do more to be more inviting to those from less privileged backgrounds who might find it an intimidating place.

“When I came up as an undergraduate, I think I spent most of the first year convinced I was the only person that didn’t understand what was going on and I suspect that that was pretty common,” he says.

But Keith believes all three approaches are likely to be adopted, and says by far the most effective is to give money directly to students.

He says: “King’s and others have been arguing that if the Government permits the University to charge £9,000 in fees, then we should be spending a higher proportion of that on supporting students through bursaries and less on reducing fees.”

One thing is sure: if King’s is to attract talent regardless of background, it will need to extract a lot more money from external donors. Right now, the College is running a prudent budget, but simply doesn’t have funds that can be easily diverted from maintaining buildings, and supporting research and education.

“We would prefer a situation where we really could ignore a student’s financial situation entirely because they were being funded by the country because the country appreciated the value of the education we’re offering,” he says.

“But in many ways, we’re seeing a move away from the European model of funding universities, where it is seen as a public good that should be paid for by the tax payer, to an American model where the financial benefit of a university education is something a student and their family should pay for.”

Keith says the College can learn a lot from American universities like Harvard, which can afford to be genuinely “needs blind” despite being privately funded – partly because of their strong relationships with alumni.

“King’s alumni have been very generous in offering support,” he says. “But the College will have to ask much more plaintively for help than it has in the past. I think it involves us being clearer on what the issues are and what the consequences of not having those funds available are.”

“For example, helping people see that the next generation of students should get the support that they did.”

“We’ve got to be prepared to be radical if we want to avoid being a museum that happens to contribute to education.”



Photography by Dr Rory O'Bryen (KC 2007)

A King's undergraduate recalls the eleven-day occupation in November 2010 that launched the resistance to the changes in student funding.

Walking into the Old Schools Combination Room you might expect to see a handful of people drinking tea or tapping away at laptops. Conversations are kept to a respectful volume and there is little to disturb the sleepy atmosphere. Not so on 26 November 2010, when a small group of students entered the Combination Room and declared to a bemused audience that the space was now occupied in protest at the University's public silence about the rise in tuition fees and the cuts to higher education.

Over the next eleven days numbers swelled. We were joined by academics, porters, librarians and IT staff. Visitors from the town included local teachers, school students and sixth formers. Notes of solidarity appeared on the walls from students at the twenty or so other occupied universities around the country, and from the workers at Caffè Nero and the "homeless of Cambridge."

Academics delivered free lectures on economics, history and philosophy. During the day we held workshops on everything from institutional sexism

to direct action to trade unionism. In the evening, student musicians and poets performed. Even the Gents of John's came to sing carols. At midnight, we played football on Senate House lawn.

For eleven days we reclaimed a space in the heart of the Old Schools, the University's decision-making centre, and allowed students, academics and staff to meet, exchange ideas and organise. We had been isolated in our opposition to the changes taking place to the higher education system around us, but in the occupation we realised we were far from alone.

And those eleven days were only the first. Inspired by the occupation, Cambridge academics have founded CACHE, their own organisation to defend education.

The fight for a free and fair education system is far from over. But, for me, it will always have had its beginnings in what William Morris might have called that "great room" where, "one talked to one's friends in one corner, and ate in another, and slept in another, and worked in another."

FACING UP TO THE REVOLUTION

King's Senior Tutor, Robin Osborne (KC 1976), says a university education is something that should be given not sold.

What is a university education? We all grew up assuming that it was the hope for a better world. If we needed armed forces to cope with current crises, we needed higher education to mitigate future ones. The principle, we understood, was that one funded as small a number of soldiers as was sensible, and as large a body of students as one could afford.

But the coalition government has taken another view of the world. It is a vista that was opened up by the Labour Government already, which – unthinkable for "the radical left" – supported intrusive military intervention abroad, while stressing the benefits of a higher education in terms of the individual student, and not the country. Now, funding universities and funding the armed forces are conceived of differently. A university education is to be like a private house: you mortgage yourself to pay for it. The three-storey educational council house is a thing of the past; now, if you want to go past secondary education, you pay for the additional storey yourself.

Those of us who teach in universities thought that we were serving the public good. We did not go into university teaching for money or fame. We went into university education because we knew from our own experience that university education changes people, releases their potential, liberates them from narrow ways of thinking, and equips them to do practically anything that demands analysis, insight and forethought. All those King's obituaries of men and women who have spent their lives hopping from one unlikely job to another, and carrying them all off with panache, provided us with the evidence. But now we find that we do not serve the public good. What we do, apparently, is enable individuals to earn higher salaries. We educate people so that they can pay off their mortgages (including the additional one required to be educated). Students are no longer lives to be touched and changed, but products to which value is to be added.

This is not simply a rewriting of our job descriptions, it is a rewriting of public priorities. And one carried through without any public discussion. It displays a vision of what society is and might become that is so impoverished it can hardly be called "vision" at all. Worse, it is a dereliction of duty: we elected a government to best secure the future of the country, and they hand the most crucial ingredient in a secure future to the yet-to-be-educated individual.

What are we going to do about it? We are certainly going to carry on protesting. We must make it clear that no government will get our future electoral support that does not take back responsibility for delivering higher education. But there are other ways of demonstrating, too, and one demonstration certain to be effective is to put our money where our mouths are.

Since we consider that university education, like basic policing and defence, should be available to individuals without them having individually to gamble their future salaries on it, we must contribute the money that the Government is failing to gather, collectively, through taxes, to ensure that education, if not free, is at a comparatively trivial price. At upwards of £45,000 (three years of fees at £9,000, and maintenance at a minimum at £6,000), the up-coming price-tag on university education is anything but trivial. The 400 undergraduates a year at King's will together be mortgaging themselves to pay £6,000,000 a year. That is effectively the sum that was paid for our education too, but by government and by past benefactors to the College. There has never been a time when benefactors have been more needed. It is by our generosity that we can, and must, proclaim that university education is something that, for the sake of the future, we must give, not sell.

A gift-aided donation of £100 a month will yield £1,538 a year to the College. If 4,000 Non-Resident Members pledged this much for student support we would raise £6,153,840 a year – enough to provide for every King's student.

"Students are no longer lives to be touched and changed, but products to which value is to be added"

PARENTAL INCOME IS A POOR GUIDE TO NEED

Recent Computer Science student Fred Brewin (KC 2008) says more should be done to support students from middle-income backgrounds.

“Suggesting parents with two children at university contribute £16,000 out of a £60,000 salary seems wishful thinking”

While a lot of attention has been paid to tuition fees, there is another important element to student funding that is often overlooked. Students need to pay for rent, food and other living costs while studying.

The level of support offered is dependent on the household income of the student’s parents. For those with a household income of under £25,000, in 2011, total support of £11,256 was available at Cambridge, £4,950 of which is eventually repayable as a loan.

However, this accounts for only 10% of students at King’s and as household income increases, the support quickly decreases. Once household income reaches £60,000 the only guaranteed support has been a £3,564 loan. This creates a difference in funding of almost £8,000 that parents have presumably been supposed to fill.

This isn’t a problem for those at the top end of the income scale, but suggesting parents with two children at university contribute £16,000 out of a £60,000 salary seems wishful thinking. Yet some level of contribution is almost always necessary. After all, the

maintenance loan on its own barely covers rent costs.

In the past, many universities agreed on set living costs. Grants were awarded to those in need and parents were told how much they should contribute to make up the gap. At the moment this information is not made nearly so explicit, leading to a wide range of contributions, which increases inequality among students.

Finding a solution to this problem is not easy. If you base support on the contributions that parents give then it’s reasonable to assume these will decrease as parents realise that the university will pick up the difference. Perhaps we should take a closer look at individual students’ sources of income, rather than using household income as the only measure of need.

I’m pleased that Cambridge is able to provide unrivalled support to students on the lowest of incomes, but I believe more should be done to support the majority of students that are somewhere in the middle.

FUNDING FOR KING’S STUDENTS

The College’s strategic review, completed in June 2011, identified among the core values that “students are admitted solely on the basis of their academic potential and we must seek to attract a diversity of students who have such potential”. In order to continue attracting such diversity, the College must be prepared to support those less able to pay as tuition and other costs increase.

King’s provides a range of financial support for students, including welfare funds for students in need, bursaries and fee waivers, and graduate studentships. All of these funds have been established by individual donations, or by gifts to specific areas of the College endowment. The funds that are most broadly applied are the Supplementary Exhibition Fund (SEF) and a variety of funds for scholarships, studentships and bursaries.

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 student’s individual circumstances.

Scholarships and bursaries give students money to pay for fees and maintenance before they matriculate. It is

“Clearly the amount needed for this work will only increase in the face of the changes to come, whatever they may be”

critical to maintaining our “needs blind” admissions policy as it encourages the very best students to apply to King’s and helps them to fund, up front, much of their education.

David Munday, the College’s Financial Tutor, says: “At present, 40% of King’s undergraduates are helped by bursaries as their parental income is below £40,000.”

Support can range from a few pounds to £10,000 depending on the student’s need, with the largest grants directed to tuition.

“Clearly the amount needed for this work will only increase in the face of the changes to come, whatever they may be”.

King’s is committed to developing a robust fundraising programme for student support in the next few years through the Telephone Fundraising Campaign, direct mail and other voluntary contributions. Gifts of all types will make a difference, from one-off contributions to regular gifts and legacy pledges.

For more information about funding students at King’s, please contact the Development Office (+44 01223 331 313). Or visit the website www.kingsmembers.org.

THE SURPRISED BUREAUCRAT

Chad Allen (KC 2008) finds time away from rebuilding the King’s College Student Union and battling with life-size cardboard wizards to talk to David Pollack.

It was during his spell as the KCSU welfare officer that Chad Allen discovered something surprising about himself.

“I’m really good at the bureaucracy part. It was unsettling because I hadn’t realised I was that kind of person.”

Running for president of KCSU was the obvious next step – and he’s just come to the end of his presidential term.

Chad self-depreciatingly lists arrogance and self-importance among his reasons for standing for the presidency, but he is far from autocratic.

“The job was very much a balancing act. The Union is a voice for students but it mustn’t force its position on members.”

Chad’s first job was to rebuild an institution that he believes was considered a joke in some quarters.

“We were always overspending. Last year’s treasurer Rikesh Rajani (KC 2008) has done a great job getting the accounts in order and negotiating with the College.”

The Union is also taking more responsibility for the bar and has reclaimed the KCSU office.

“It had become really just a store room. Amid the junk we found a life-size cardboard wizard and a card from some years back saying ‘well done on your rent strike’. We cleared it all out and it’s now used for its intended purpose again.”

The Government’s changes to university funding presented Chad’s galvanised KCSU with a timely challenge.

“The biggest concern is that an up-front fee of £9,000 a year will put off some who might otherwise have come to King’s.”

It’s this threat to the social mobility King’s offers that Chad most regrets, since it was one reason he applied to the College.

“I grew up around white middle-class public school boys. I wanted to get away from that. King’s was a good choice – it’s full of normal people doing extraordinary things.”

So what is the Union’s response to the Government’s changes?

“We failed in fighting the introduction of the fee changes. But we have persuaded the University to backtrack on its proposal to cut the maintenance bursary by half to fund a scheme to waive fees. That was the biggest thing that happened last year.”

Does he think a more politicised student body is a good thing?

“It’s good that people who want to be more political think KCSU can do it for them. And I think it’s fine that the Union takes points of view but it doesn’t also follow that everyone in KCSU necessarily agrees with it.”

Finally, having juggled the responsibilities of Union president with his course work, what advice would he give to anyone considering standing for the presidency?

“Learn to delegate!”

“Amid the junk we found a card from some years back saying ‘well done on your rent strike’”





MUSICAL VARIATIONS

Clare Lynch discovers the Chapel isn't the only source of musical ideas for King's composer Toby Young (KC 2008).

Toby Young arrives at the King's Head Theatre in Islington, London with only minutes to spare.

Diary of a Thief, Toby's new chamber piece for five musicians and two singers, is about to start - and for the third time this week, he's had to dash up to London straight from evensong. Such is the life of a King's music student and Choral Scholar who is very in demand.

"It's been a hectic week," says Toby. "But at least the train journey gives me some breathing space - it's just long enough to write a fugue."

A psychological drama, *Diary of a Thief* depicts the maddening effect of modern society on its fictional protagonist, who extracts a peculiarly small but unexpected revenge.

And Toby has some good news to report. Talent scouts from King's Place, a much larger arts venue not far from the theatre, stopped by for a performance earlier in the week. Impressed, they've signed *Diary of a Thief* up for a second run.

In keeping with its subject matter, the opera is inspired as much by popular contemporary styles as it is by the more rarefied soundscapes Toby is used to creating in Chapel.

"It's quite dark, urban and gritty," he says. "As the opera progresses it gets more and more psychologically wrought."

Dark, urban and gritty could hardly describe

King's. Yet Toby insists the College has been a huge influence on his development as a composer - and not just because of its strong musical culture. He also appreciates that the collegiate system has exposed him to a wide variety of ideas, which have found their way into his work.

"A lot of people think you should only study music at a conservatoire," he says. "But I think it's good to be in an academic environment where you're surrounded by people doing different things - all the best in their field."

"My friends include lawyers, psychologists, scientists and people doing English. It's what I love about King's most of all."

Toby's musical output is, then, catholic. As well as *Diary of a Thief*, he's written the score for a recent production of *Much Ado About Nothing*, which he describes as "a much lighter piece, a real contrast". And he's just finished a stint as composer-in-residence at the University of Perugia, where he wrote music inspired by the landscapes of Umbria.

As someone who graduated before the changes in higher education funding kicked in, he feels fortunate that his financial situation won't automatically preclude further study.

"I've been very lucky to have the College supporting me with my finances during my studies," he says. "It's been a real godsend actually, and I doubt I'd have been able to study at King's without the College's help."

"I think it's good to be surrounded by people doing different subjects - it's what I love about King's most of all"

KING'S FELLOW WINS COSMOLOGY PRIZE

Professor George Efstathiou, King's Fellow, and the subject of our interview in the last issue of *King's Parade*, has won the 2011 Gruber Foundation Cosmology Prize.

George shares the prize with Marc Davis of the University of California at Berkeley; Carlos Frenk (KC 1976), at the University of Durham; and Simon White of the Max Planck Institute for Astrophysics.

They won the prize for pioneering computational modeling to test theories and interpret the universe's composition. Their papers, published over 20 years ago, introduced dark matter into the popular consciousness and ushered in a new era where numerical simulations became a standard tool for cosmological study.

The work also led to George and his team making the exciting discovery of dark energy - for more on this, read the interview in the last issue of *King's Parade*, available on the King's website.

They will each receive a share of the \$500,000 award and receive gold medals at a ceremony this autumn.



50TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION



On 23 September King's welcomed back Members from 1961 to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of their matriculation.

Over 75 Members and their guests attended the event, which began with afternoon tea in the Provost's garden. That was followed by a behind-the-scenes peek at the rehearsal for 'Come and Sing', which was to be performed later that evening as part of the University's Alumni Weekend activities.

After drinks in the Senior Combination Room, Members went into dinner in Hall. The

entertainment was musical. The beautiful sung grace from Collegium Regale was followed later in the evening by a programme of short pieces performed by Music students Matthew Sandy accompanied by Alex Stobbs on the piano (both KC 2008).

Law graduate Gabriel Galindo (KC 1961) proposed a toast to the College. He remembered paying £5 for a taxi ride from London to Cambridge in 1961, having missed the last train from Liverpool Street. He lived at 1 Cranmer Road, the

Ultima Thule of College digs, but the compensation was in-house musical entertainment by John Drewery (KC 1961), Mike Scott-Joynt and David Stone (both KC 1961). The great event of that year was the arrival of a Rubens in the Chapel. His toast was well received, and encouraged further remembrances from the guests.

The 50th Anniversary dinner for 1962 is on 21 September 2012. please contact the Development Office (+44 01223 331 313) for more information.

A KINGSMAN'S THANK YOU

Kingsman Sunny Pal has expressed his deep affection for the College by donating a triptych of the *Adoration of the Magi* that has brought the Founder's Chapel back to its former glory.

The parents of P K (Sunny) Pal (KC 1955) were determined their third son should follow in the footsteps of his two brothers and study at King's. Financially, it was a real stretch for his father, an Oxford-educated Indian civil servant who nurtured the dream of an Oxbridge education for all his sons.

In recognition of the financial sacrifices they made for his education, Sunny has helped to fund the restoration of the Founder's Chapel, which is now open to the public after spending many years as a store cupboard. The work has realised the dream of late Dean Ian Thompson to see the Founder's Chapel restored to its former glory.

Sunny and his family have donated a triptych of the *Adoration of the Magi*, which is now placed on the altar of the chapel.

Jean Michel Massing (KC 1980), Professor of History of Art and Fellow of King's College, Cambridge described the painting as "a most splendid example of a travelling altarpiece produced in Antwerp in the first quarter of the sixteenth century by an anonymous painter, the Master of the Groote Adoration."

The triptych shows a continuous narrative, from the Nativity to the Adoration of the Magi and then the Flight to Egypt.

In addition to this bequest, Sunny also funded the conservation of the *Deposition of Christ* by Girolamo Sicilante da Sermonetta, painted circa 1568-73 and given to the College by Frederick, 5th Earl of Carlisle (KC 1764) in 1780. The University's Hamilton Kerr Institute did the restoration work, which included cleaning it of bat urine. *King's Parade* reported on the restoration in its January 2009 issue.

The donation reflects Sunny's deep affection for King's, which became like

a second family to him when he was studying Law in the fifties. The Chapel became a particular source of comfort during the three years Sunny spent at King's, because he could not afford to return home for a single visit.

"I'd seen many pictures of it before because my cousins and brothers had come to King's," he says. "But there's nothing like walking through the porter's lodge and seeing the Chapel there."

Sunny says King's introduced him to a group of rowing friends and the music of Mozart, both of which have stayed with him for life. He is also grateful to King's for providing him with financial support at a time when he was "desperately poor".

An accident had left him in need of surgery and regular follow-up appointments at St Thomas' in London, each of which required an exit permit. One day the Senior Tutor, Patrick Wilkinson (KC 1926), called him and said the College would pay for his travel from a College medical charity that had not been drawn upon since the introduction of the National Health Service.

"I didn't apply for it," he says. "They figured it out for themselves."

On another occasion, Sunny was planning to take a trip to Italy with a friend who was studying Classics. Again, unsolicited, he received a letter from King's (this time from Hal Dixon (KC 1946), the Financial Tutor) saying, "we are very impressed that you are interested in Classics – here's a cheque towards your expenses."

"King's opened up a career in Law and gave me an interest in rowing, music and history," says Sunny. "The College really became part of who I am."



INTERPRETING THE TRIPTYCH

Peter Jones (KC 1973) points out how the painting focuses on the power of images and jewels to protect the viewer. "One of the astonishing things about the triptych is the artist's attention to the texture of things, especially the jewels and clothes worn by the Three Kings, Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar, by the Virgin and child, and by the angels on the left. Brocades are threaded with gold, ermines tagged with pearls, the Kings are festooned with jewels on chains, and their armour and weapons encrusted with stones. Baby Jesus in the central panel

not only wears a choker made of coral, but plays with another longer necklace of coral beads. Coral was supposed to act as an amulet to protect the wearer against evil spirits and the Evil Eye. But it was the worshipper at the altar who needed that protection, not the Christ child. The Three Kings themselves were sources of healing power too. Their great shrine at Cologne was the most popular European pilgrimage destination. The Kings' gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh were all reckoned great medicines, as were any rings and amulets made with the names of the Kings inscribed. This is emphasised by the artist who seems mesmerised by these tiny objects adorning the foregrounded figures. Jewels were not so much symbols of

wealth or status as of magical power and protection. The altarpiece itself must have been commissioned by somebody who hoped that he or she could invoke that protection and power as they worshipped before it."

These signs of healing and protection in turn reinforce the painting's sacramentalism, says Nicky Zeeman (KC 1995), "Christ's red jewel and the rosary-like red coral beads, pointedly draped all over his body, also symbolise the sacrifice of his blood at the crucifixion, anticipated at the circumcision. The Three Kings, with their red and white clothing and their rich vessels, worship before him, almost as if they are at an altar (can we, in the third King's raising of his hat, even see an echo of medieval images of the elevation of the

host?). In the left-hand panel, of course, Christ is being worshipped, lying not in a manger, but on a white cloth and on an altar-like plinth. This is in turn directly contrasted with the broken statue of the naked 'false god' in the right-hand panel, now just torso-less legs strutting on a parody globe (is it an occult symbol?), shadowed by ominous smoke. This is one of the many pagan gods who were supposed to have fallen down as the holy family passed by, travelling into Egypt. The strange image offers a rather different perspective on the non-Christian 'other' that has been so richly and exotically incorporated into the Christian scene in the central panel."

Fellow Peter Jones is the College Librarian and Summer Schools Co-ordinator. Nicky Zeeman is a Fellow in English.

SAVE THE DATE MEMBER AND FRIEND EVENTS

17 March Foundation Lunch (1962 and earlier)	28 June General Admission
21 April Economists' Dinner	7 July Legacy Lunch (by invitation)
9 June 10th and 15th Anniversary Events (2002 and 1997)	7 July Members' and Friends' Garden Party
13-16 June May Bumps	21 Sept 50th Anniversary Event (1962)
14 June King's College Golf Outing, Gog Magog (by reservation)	22 Sept Members' Lunch
23 June Maths and Computer Science Dinner	22 Sept 25th Anniversary Event (1987)
	24 Nov 1441 Foundation Dinner (by invitation)

CONCERTS AT KING'S 2012

17 March Foundation Concert	13 May Eternal Flame (The Dante Quartet in Residence)
3-9 April Easter at King's	24 June Singing on the River
27 April Gala Charity Concert	6 July Summer Choral Concert
5 May Debussy Anniversary	

CHOIR PERFORMANCES

17 March Foundation Concert	3-9 April Easter at King's
24 March Thomaskirche, Leipzig	6 July Summer Choral Concert

More information about Member and Friend events is available online at www.kings.cam.ac.uk/events

KINGSMAN DAVID SAINSBURY ELECTED CHANCELLOR

Lord Sainsbury of Turville (KC 1959) was elected the new Chancellor of the University of Cambridge in October. Lord Sainsbury will take over from the Duke of Edinburgh, who stepped down last June after 34 years in the post. Lord Sainsbury read History and Psychology at King's before joining Sainsbury plc in 1963. He was Minister of Science and Innovation from 1998 until 2006 and in 2003 he received the Andrew Carnegie Medal for Philanthropy. He takes up the position of Chancellor with immediate effect.

KING'S REGISTER

We wrote to Non-Resident Members some time ago, letting you know we are updating the King's Register, a directory of all living Members of King's.

We apologise that the publication of the new Register has been delayed. It became clear that much of the data we hold on NRMs is inconsistent or is not in electronic form at all.

As it is now some time since you had the opportunity to review the information to be printed in the new Register, we felt you should have an opportunity to check the data again before it is published. You will be contacted in the near future with details of your ID and password.

All data will be held and processed under the terms of the Data Protection Act. If you would prefer specific information not to be published in the Register, please tick the appropriate box.

The Development Office is happy to help you with questions about events or to help plan 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 2012 TELEPHONE FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN



Last year's telephone fundraising team

The 2012 Telephone Fundraising Campaign (TFC) will take place 18 March to 1 April. Our team of student callers will be phoning around 1,000 Members and Friends to update them on College news, share their experiences of King's and inform them of the current Annual Fund effort.

Due to the recent changes in the funding of higher education discussed in this issue, the campaign will focus on the Supplementary Exhibition Fund, studentships and bursaries, and the supervision system. Last year was our most successful TFC ever, with 69% of those called choosing to support the campaign – and we're hoping for an equally positive response this year.

If you would like to receive a call from a current King's student, contact Development Officer Tim Bell on +44 (0)1223 767 497 or members@kings.cam.ac.uk.



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