

# KING'S

P A R A D E

A NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS OF KING'S


## King's Porters

Spring  
2000



Robert Le Rougetel, 1964

Three porters by the South Door of the Chapel during the election of the new Provost, Edmund Leach, in 1966. Taken by Robert Le Rougetel, this is one of the rare photographs of college porters in the Archive.

 'Let there be also a keeper of the gate of our royal college, taking permanent charge of the opening and closing of it at the proper times, who also, either himself or by the help of a capable and respectable boy whom he shall always have under him in the same royal college to assist

him in his duties, shall be in permanent charge of the making of torches and other lights for the chapel, whenever they are needed; and besides this shall perform the duties of barber, and shall duly and diligently shave the Provost, Fellows, Scholars, Choristers and other persons of the said

royal college; and shall humbly wait upon the same Fellows and Scholars in the hall at meal times with the other servants, as is seemly.'

The Founder's Statute LVII, 1453

Job titles and descriptions are apt to change over the years. Before 1861 what is now the job of Head Porter was discharged by the College Barber. And *his* job, involving him intimately in the personal service of members of the College, may even have extended (in good medieval tradition) to blood-letting. No longer, or not in a literal sense anyway. The porters are often the first point of contact for members returning to College, new visitors, students and the general public. In many ways they set the tone for the whole place. How has the job changed? Who are the men and women who do the job now? What are the qualities needed?

Head Porter Richard Nash has overseen many changes in his ten years, dragging the College, as he put it, into the twentieth century. Security is obviously a major part of the job. CCTV cameras have just been installed, enabling effective monitoring of theft from bicycle sheds for example, but also raising important and controversial issues of privacy. Alan Belgrove, Deputy Head Porter, explained that now swipe cards have replaced keys his job involves computers. Although this makes monitoring of comings and goings much

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Alison Carter

Left to right: Noel Parris, Chris Clarke, Reg Arnold, Brian Whybrow, Alan Belgrove.

easier, theft is still mostly a matter of students leaving their doors unlocked.

Technology hasn't replaced tact and assertiveness though – still daily requirements. Alan Belgrove again: "Sometimes we get hostility from people who *think* they have a right to come into the College, but don't. They say 'you've no right to stop me.' But we have every right, it's private property." There are sometimes people (and no names were mentioned) who come in to the lodge with what Reg Arnold described as an inflated sense of their own importance, and even rudeness. "I just have to tell them that there are such things as rules and regulations. I'll be straight with them." Those who know Reg will realise that this might well be something of an understatement.

Reg's trademark jocular greeting 'Hello, young man', or 'Hello, my flower', sits just the right side of irony. "I love it ... the students make the job. It's important to get involved, to let them know you care. These are three very important years for them and they don't want miserable old buggers in the lodge. It's like a big family." Many members remember porters for their character or kindness. For Alan Belgrove, as for many others, the main reward of the job lies in the contact with students, and in the informal ways in which porters can provide help, support and advice. Last year they had to talk some students down from the dining hall roof just before exams. "We should have reported them," he grinned, "but we just gave them a good ticking off." Asked about the qualities needed for the job, Chris Clarke and Mike Kirk said it's important to be a good listener, firm, assertive and friendly. Terry (Teresa Hall), the College

telephonist, said her approach is to treat everyone how she'd expect to be treated herself. She defines the lodge as an information hub: mention a name, and the chances are someone will know a story about them. Call it an oral history centre.

Talking to most of the current porters a pattern of employment history emerged. Many of them have had previous careers interrupted by redundancy or illness, and have had to make substantial adjustments. Noel Parris ran his own import/export company, but finds compensation in the variety and sociability of the King's job. Reg Simms used to be an accountant and appreciates the lack of stress in the job he has now. Alan Attlesey had a twenty-seven year career as a History teacher, and Chris Clarke was formerly a civil engineer with British Rail, until privatisation. Mike Kirk had a long career with the Parks Department and College postman Brian Whybrow was an architectural technician for thirty-seven years. He now walks ten miles a day doing his five rounds and climbs a thousand steps. Brian says the exercise is excellent for high blood pressure. Reg Arnold was a pro/am snooker player and snooker club owner, and Alan Belgrove an engineering draughtsman. Bill Burton has been at King's for nine years after a twenty-nine year career managing a dairy business. His point of view was slightly different. "Everyone here's very conscientious and King's Porters have a good name in the town. But I have to say I'm here under protest really. I never thought I'd see the milk industry destroyed ... if it wasn't for Margaret Thatcher's curtain call a lot of us here wouldn't be doing this job."

Hidden talents and diversity of interests seem to be prerequisites for the job. Leonard Pye, who spent twenty-two years as an irrigation engineer in France, paints and has a sideline in resin models of the chapel. Alan Attlesey also paints in watercolour and oil, and is having an exhibition in the Art Centre this spring. Working at night enables John Picton to pursue his interest in antiques by day. He deals in Wedgwood, rare stamps and signatures. John definitely thinks the night men get the 'rough end' of King's, and defines himself more as a policeman, doctor and fireman.

It's a woman's job too. Maureen Young was the first woman porter to be employed at any Oxbridge College. "The Bursar said, 'You have beaten forty-seven applicants; don't let me down.' I've been here for twelve years now; that must prove a woman can do the same job as a man." She's had her share of dramas ... rounding up escaping cows from the meadow, rescuing an elderly Fellow stuck in the bath – students heard cries for help – and a real moment of anxiety in the Chapel. "The alarm went off but no one had told me the Rubens was closed up in the screen. In the darkness it looked as though it had been stolen!"

**Former Head Porters include FW Nightingale 1905 – 36, AH Powell 1936 – 54, FR Iredale 1954 - 69, JTColeman 1969 – 80, A Deebank-Nicholson 1980 – 88, J Boulter 1988 – 90, G Brennan 1990. The editor welcomes members' recollections of porters over the years. Do any of these names jog memories?**



Chris Tiné

Maureen Young, Mike Kirk and Teresa Hall

## college news

## Death of Noël Annan

Noël Annan, 1935, Fellow 1944-56 and Provost 1956-66, died after a short illness on 21 February, aged 83. Brought back to the College by Keynes after his wartime Intelligence work Noël was appointed Assistant Tutor almost immediately on his return from service with the British Control Commission in Germany. He taught Politics as a University Lecturer. At 39 he became the youngest Provost elected at King's, and promised

at the time of his election that he would not remain as Provost to retiring age. He took a leading role in opening up the College to grammar school pupils, encouraging teaching and research in science, and in creating the Research Centre. As good as his word, Noël resigned the Provostship in 1966 to become Provost of University College, London, and then Vice-Chancellor of London University. He was a regular visitor at King's, and a

frequent voice at Governing Body meetings, sometimes cajoling the College not to become too attached to what had once been his own innovations. In recent years he took on major responsibilities in connection with the work of the Development Office. Noël's infectious vitality and warmth brought him a legion of friends inside the College and out. He was a remarkable man who will be greatly missed. (A full obituary will follow.)

## Roger Salmon – new First Bursar

Roger Salmon was appointed First Bursar in October, and is an enthusiast and champion of excellence. "It seems to me that King's is about excellence; it is about community and sharing of ideas across disciplines and backgrounds; and it is about a particular set of values which include liberalism, freedom of opportunity and access for potential students, and real caring for the current and indeed past members who are such an important part of the community. We value excellence in teaching as well as in research. We also value intellectual integrity and independence....and to a degree that can conflict with developing consistent policies for the community and the handling of our business affairs."

It is usually the duty of a Bursar to encourage or compel institutions to swallow the unpalatable, and the job of the Bursar of King's is no exception. Ian Barter retired in October, after 10 years as First Bursar, and Roger Salmon is quick to express his gratitude to Ian. "He has made it easy for me to take

over by successfully preparing the College for some hard home truths, and for the sound state of the College's accounting, investment policies and records."

After reading Maths at Jesus College, Roger went to Unilever as a trainee, selling the inevitable soap, followed by a spell at the Stanford Business School. He went into banking "because the bankers offered me more money... and I thought that was because they valued me more...which was not true!" His nineteen-year career in merchant banking, mostly with NM Rothschild, involved him in oil and mining projects, the channel tunnel and water privatisation – many were one-off projects where they were doing things for the first time. He left in 1990 by choice to pursue independent activities and in 1992 was approached by headhunters to ask if he'd be interested in being the first railway franchising director. "My intuitive answer was yes. It sounded exciting and challenging. Something that mattered. It was an opportunity to set

up and run my own organisation, which was something I really wanted to do." So, do we have Roger to thank for not being able to sleep all the way to Scotland? "...It was costing £450 per passenger per single journey in subsidy...on top of the fare. It just did not make sense to have this service used by a relatively small number of relatively rich people."

In the first few months, he has made his presence felt in the College, engaging early and often with students, staff and Fellows. He enjoyed chairing a Provost's Seminar discussion group and hopes to do some Maths supervision. His priorities are clear. "King's intellectual heritage must be maintained, a clearer sense of direction is needed to ensure we are an ongoing centre of excellence, and we are overspending perhaps by 10% and have to develop ways of turning that round and living within our means. So development and fundraising will continue to be an ongoing and key part of what the College does in the future."



Director of Music Stephen Cleobury, centre, and his two predecessors mark the 80th birthday of Sir David Willcocks, right, 1939, and the knighthood of Sir Philip Ledger, 1956.



Roger Salmon

## letters

### Subversives' corner

The high point of *my* life occurred between the age of twelve-and-a-half and twelve-and-three-quarters (it was rather short!) when I was both Head Boy and Captain of Soccer at a fairly small prep school. Although I managed to enter King's as a scholar, my experiences there were nearly all negative. (I would like to say that I hold King's in great affection and owe the College a great deal for their extremely long suffering treatment of me.)

Once arrived at King's, like Tigger looking for breakfast, I gradually realised that I wasn't a scholar. I wasn't a mathematician. I wasn't a historian. Finally after five long years, punctuated by long stays away, I ended up with a third class degree in Mechanical Sciences.

It wasn't until I was twenty-nine that I began to discover what I liked doing and found interesting. I liked installing gas boilers. I liked using my hands and constructing things. I have built two bungalows and qualified as a plumber. I like running my own business and I like making decisions.

Could we have more in *King's Parade* about present and past discontented?

Joe Tatton-Brown, 1961.

**The Senior Tutor will talk about how King's helps support its students in the next issue.**

## members' news



Vanessa Blake

Geoff Moggridge, left, and David Aldridge.

### World is his oyster

Geoff Moggridge, 1985, Fellow and Lecturer in Chemical Engineering, and colleague David Aldridge, have just won the top prize of £20,000 in the first national Bioscience Business Plan Competition, with Silver Bullets, an idea for controlling molluscs that block up pipework. They plan to develop an environmentally safe and effective way of controlling the spread of the Zebra Mussel, which was accidentally introduced via bilge water from transoceanic ships to the waters of the Great Lakes in the USA and has been causing blockages to pipes in power-station cooling systems, resulting in £3 billion damage per year. The existing treatment involves dumping toxins into the water supply. The new method will involve encapsulating a toxin in microscopic particles of edible material, which the mussel's natural filtering system concentrates into their bodies, making the process much safer for the environment, and more economical.

Geoff envisages applications for the technology in enhancing oyster farming, and in controlling home grown pests like the Asian clam (another introduced species) which is currently spreading rapidly through British waterways. Geoff first heard about the Zebra

Mussel problem from an American colleague, Ed Cussler, while they were teaching a chemical product design course together, and the idea has progressed rapidly. To be in production within a year Silver Bullets needs £1½ million. Given the microscopic size of these 'silver bullets', this may well be a dot.com worthy of the name.

### Spitalfields Festival

Judith Weir, 1973, has been the Artistic Director of the Spitalfields Festival for six years, but this year's festival is her last. Judith, a leading composer, specialises in new music, and this year's Festival commission is Alison Bauld's *Pluto*. Based in and around Christ Church, the parish church of Spitalfields, E1, designed by Nicholas Hawksmoor, the festival combines adventure with the sheen of the City, bringing an eclectic mix of music to the heart of East London. The Festival was founded by Jonathan Balkind, 1964. Jonathan was involved with urban rehabilitation of the Spitalfields area from 1974 as part of his work as a Historic Buildings Inspector for the GLC, and to help get the church restored, he and Richard Hickox put on the first concert *Israel and Egypt*. The rest, as they say.... Festival dates: 5–23 June.

### 110 Golf Matches

John Gillum, 1951, has produced a comprehensive account of the golf matches between Oxford and Cambridge from 1878 to 1999, in a book called *110 Golf Matches*. Cambridge won 60 and Oxford 45, with 5 halved. A very keen golfer himself, John played for Cambridge

in 1952 and 1953. He was astonished and dismayed (though perhaps not surprised) in researching the book, to find that what followed the 1953 match, played at Rye over two days in March, (Cambridge won by 9 matches to 6) were four and a half decades of 'golflessness' at King's. At last there is evidence of a renaissance. Robert Sherwin, 1997, played in 1998, and Graham Charlton, 1996, was Cambridge captain in 1999.

Copies, price £18.00 are available from Hon. Secretary, Oxford and Cambridge Golfing Society, 33, Heol-y-Coed, Rhiwbina, Cardiff CF4 6HQ

**The editor would like to hear more about the sporting lives of Kingspeople, either then or now.**

### Concert success

Madeleine Lovell, 1996, recently launched the 1819 Chamber Orchestra, conducting their inaugural concert in King's on 6 February in aid of The Medical Foundation for the Victims of Torture. The concert raised more than £1000. Since first conducting *The Magic Flute* at 16, she



Madeleine Lovell, 1996



has known that conducting would be her main musical passion. "It is still unusual to see female conductors, but things are changing slowly. There doesn't seem to be any one explanation for the predominance of men in this field; it is obviously a complex issue. I have at times personally encountered resistance to the idea of a woman conducting, but not from the players themselves. The difficulties are, rather, in persuading people to give you a chance in the first place."

Madeleine gained a starred first in Music, and is currently completing an MPhil in Musicology.

#### Radio Drama Prize

Tony Neville, 1958, was joint winner of the London Radio Drama Award for 1999, for his first radio play *A College Near You*. By means of a lively cocktail of caricature, irony and farce, the play takes a refreshingly comic view of the current problems of Further Education. The main character, Principal of a quiet college in Kent, is determined to cash in on the new business culture whatever it takes. By mastering the funding system, cramming in as many students as possible and turning his college into a teaching sweatshop, he dreams of becoming the first corporate millionaire in the sector. Tony is himself a retired Head of Science, Languages and Humanities at a London college. The award was made at the London Radio Playwrights Festival, organised by Independent Radio Drama Productions. The play will be broadcast by LBC and on the internet. For more information visit [www.irdp.co.uk](http://www.irdp.co.uk) or contact Tony at [tonyneville@yahoo.com](mailto:tonyneville@yahoo.com)

#### Scriptnet 2000

Catherine Stedman, 1993, wrote to tell King's Parade that she was involved in a screenwriting project linking the UK and Ghana. Scriptnet 2000 aims to contribute to the sustained development of Ghana's emerging TV and film industry, to promote cultural diversity in the UK and challenge preconceptions about African culture. The Ghanaian Broadcasting Corporation were particularly interested in developing soap operas, which are an ideal medium in which to tackle problematic issues of health, gender and welfare. "We were in Ghana for 5 months. During that time we ran 150 hours of workshops with 5 different British screenwriters (writers for Brookside, Eastenders, *Where the Heart Is*, etc) coming over to tutor. We also made a documentary for Channel 4 about the project - *Brookie on the Gold Coast* - which was transmitted in December. Now we're back and hoping to put the final five short scripts into production in the Autumn. First they are currently being looked at by our internet advisory board led by writer/director William Boyd. It's all very exciting."

Scriptnet are looking for team members for the next project and anyone working in tv/film, particularly experienced producers and directors, interested in voluntary work in Africa should contact them.

Full details at <http://www.scriptnet2000.org.uk>

(The website is designed and maintained by another Kingswoman - Jenni Burt, 1994.)

#### Aldeburgh Festival

Tom Adès, 1989, is the Artistic Director of the Aldeburgh Festival of Music and the Arts again this

year. John Eliot Gardiner, 1961, will be conducting the Monteverdi Choir and English Baroque Soloists in three concerts to mark the 250th anniversary of Bach's death. The Bach Cantata Pilgrimage is a major project by John Eliot Gardiner, his orchestra and choir, to mark the anniversary year by performing all of the composer's surviving sacred cantatas on the correct liturgical day for which they were written. Pianist Susan Tomes, 1972, will also be playing with the Florestan Trio. Dennis Stevenson, 1963, is the Chairman of Aldeburgh Productions.

Festival dates: 9 – 25 June.

#### Soviet Canteen

"Authentic Russian food is about fatty meat, greasy soup and overcooked cabbage," runs the press release. "That's why you won't find any at the Soviet Canteen." Down the King's Road...where Chelsea meets Fulham, is the Soviet Canteen, a new venture for Alan Cotterell, 1989, who obviously graduated from the SPS school of catering at King's. "Most people's idea of food from the former Soviet Union is clouded by propaganda," said Alan. So with ex-Nico chef Michael Soutar, he has set about imagining what the food would have been like "if Communism had made the Soviet Union a land of plenty." The menu is a mix of obscure delicacies and traditional favourites, all interpreted in a modern British style. The website at [www.sovietcanteen.com](http://www.sovietcanteen.com) is a delight. Try the Gastronomy for the People section and test your knowledge of Russian cuisine. So what would *you* do with a bowl of Kvas? Eat it? Drink it? Or give it to your dog?



Tom Adès

Mykel Nicolaou



# Parade Profile: Robin Milner

Robin Milner, 1954, Fellow and Professor of Computer Science, FRS 1988, ACM Turing Award 1991, Head of Cambridge Computer Laboratory 1996–99.

“We must recognise that computer science is a science of the artificial: our concepts and models follow pioneering technology, not the reverse.”

Alison Carter  
talks to  
Robin Milner

As Head of the prestigious Cambridge Computer Laboratory, Robin Milner had a suitably grand office. Now, after four years as Head of Department, he's gone back to the research which matters most to him. Ushering me past a display of yellowing photographs of the early pioneering computing machines, and into his 'new' slightly bleak office in the basement of the soon-to-be-evacuated building, (a spanking new one will emerge on the West Cambridge site by 2001), he grinned apologetically and said that there would be an armchair as soon as he'd got one from the Salvation Army charity shop. His remark struck an odd note because these days the promise of a different kind of salvation hovers over anything with the magic ingredients of computers and Cambridge, and Microsoft's laboratory is round the corner.

Robin is happy to acknowledge the importance of money, but he remains true to a more austere creed. “Personally I don't get particularly excited about the money. I'm a theoretical researcher. I'd far rather understand the thing. You have to stand back and be clearly *useless* if you're going to understand it.” He chuckles wryly. Useless? “I meant in the short term. You want to be looking at things because of their intrinsic interest.”

He oversaw Microsoft's arrival in Cambridge and established the agreement for collaboration.

“There are things we would not wish to have in such an agreement...and they're not there. There is no monolithic principle dictating how results should be used and no constraint on how we relate.” He is keen to separate his own scientific interests from the arrangements he was setting up while Head of Department. “I study the way to build informatic systems; if you are working out a science of the artificial, you want system builders around you to study. Microsoft are an ace example of producers of systems... which sometimes work and sometimes don't. Having their lab here turns out to be very good. We share ideas and work together.”

Computer science is still a relatively new and evolving discipline, built on the twin foundations of logic and engineering. Computers in their physical manifestation (among the first being the EDSAC machine made under Maurice Wilkes in the Cambridge Mathematical Laboratory in 1949) came into being more than ten years after Alan Turing's 1937 paper on the *Entscheidungsproblem* had set out the theoretical proposition. Yet now, practical developments seem to race ahead. Robin's interest has always been in making sure that the theoretical side keeps pace with, and is in a position to inform and underpin the practical developments.

Before coming to Cambridge as Professor of Computer Science in 1995, he spent twenty-two years

at Edinburgh, eventually as Director of the Laboratory for the Foundations of Computer Science. His main achievements are in semantics and in the methodology of computer-assisted reasoning. He devised LCF (Logic for Computable Functions), an interactive proof system, which involved developing a programming meta-language, called ML, now in use worldwide. In 1991 he was given computer science's highest recognition, the ACM Turing Award, in part for his work on interactive proofs.

He explains how the mechanical proof work he initiated in Edinburgh (and others worked on elsewhere) is now bearing fruit. “Supposing I send you a piece of software over the internet. Why should you dare to use it? It might do all sorts of things. It might be viral. So you take a lot on trust. What is possible now is that it's not just the piece of software that's sent, but also the mathematical proof that it has certain properties. Let's say you want to prove that it is secure. Now you can take this proof and plug it into your own proof-checker, which is capable of taking a very long mathematical proof and saying yes, it is a proof.”

Robin's interest in theory came out of what was an initially unpromising contact with computing. “I went on the course on EDSAC2 in 1956 and I thought computing was terribly boring. I didn't want to go near the subject. I felt slightly depressed by the

notion of the grey formalisation of everything.” In fact his passion (undimmed) was for music, and after studying Maths and Moral Sciences at King’s, he was in a dilemma about which path to follow. “I wasn’t sure what I wanted to do...I didn’t want to be a mathematician. I spent some time teaching Maths to a composer and having composition lessons in return. I wondered whether I would be a musician. I said, ‘All I want to do is play the ‘cello,’ and King’s said, ‘Well why don’t you stay on and do that?’ But I sensed a slight sort of paternalism, or too comfortable a thing...so I fled.” His mention of comfort leads back to the armchair, which I fear may well remain a virtual one.

At heart here was a man with a taste for rigour and structural harmony. Indeed, it may have been this which led him into the initially uninviting grey waters of post-war British computing. Come on in, the water’s lovely! “Retro-thinking some sense to all this, the reason

I didn’t like it was that I didn’t see any structure in it. I just saw the endless exploitation of technology. The breakneck engineering trajectory was unreflecting, and there wasn’t anything about it that one could fasten onto and say ‘That’s beautiful.’” So is that what was missing? “Very much...it still is. But only because people haven’t had time to think.”

Over the years though, Robin has been doing some of the thinking for them. And has been refining a satisfyingly beautiful new theory, a calculus of mobile processes called the Pi-Calculus. First invented by Robin and his colleagues in 1987, the Pi-Calculus is a theory of modelling interactive computing which takes communication as its premise rather than as an add-on at one remove from the core activity. His 1999 book *Communicating and Mobile Systems: the Pi-Calculus* sets out the scope of the calculus so far, while stressing that it is work in progress. He writes “We must

recognise that computer science is a *science of the artificial*: our concepts and models follow pioneering technology, not the reverse.”

The logical foundation of computing has changed since Turing’s time, and Robin would argue that computing has grown into informatics, the science of interactive systems, and that Turing’s logical computing machines are matched by a logic of interaction. But why is this logic of interaction important? “We must develop this logical theory; partly because otherwise the interactive systems which we build, or which just happen, will escape our understanding and the consequences— such as loss of security – may be serious, and partly because it is a new scientific challenge. Besides,” he adds, “it has all the charm of inventing the science of navigation while already on board ship!”

Charm? Or panic? “Consider the internet,” he says. “It is a linkage of autonomous agents, more of an informatic rabble than an army with platoons and generals. My calculus of mobile processes was predictive because the internet would be taking this notion of mobility up to the  $n$ th degree. Bits of software are being sent from a to b, possibly half way through what they’re doing. So it almost doesn’t make sense to say it’s in New York or it’s in Cambridge. What makes sense is asking who it’s talking to. What’s exciting is trying to find structure in these new ideas of virtual locality and virtual mobility. But the idea that there is a sort of informational dynamics which is a parallel to physical dynamics, that’s the beauty for me. It’s mathematical beauty fitting something which is happening.”



## development



Andrej Savin

### First Polack Student

Ken Polack, 1954, came to King's from South Africa as an Affiliated Student, and gained a First in the LLB examinations. During Keynes' time, Law was effectively a proscribed subject within the College: in his view lawyers only served 'to prevent sensible people from doing sensible things.' But Ken's outstanding ability as a student forced King's to suppress its longstanding misgivings and in 1960 he was appointed King's first ever Fellow in Law.

Ken's influence at King's was wide and deep and he was much loved. When he died in 1995 the College and a number of his friends joined together to set up a Studentship in his name to support post-graduate students in Law, the Humanities and Social Sciences. The Studentship is particularly intended for those students coming from countries where funding is not readily available to support study at Cambridge. With a target of £350,000, the fund now stands at £170,000. In the meantime it has

been possible this year to support the first Polack Student, Andrej Savin.

Andrej Savin comes from Serbia, and studied previously at the University of Central Europe in Budapest, a George Soros foundation. He is completing his PhD this year. The title is *The Transformation of Conflict of Laws in the European Union: The Impact of Community Freedom of Movement of Services*. Andrej explains:

'Private international law, as a branch of law, determines which courts have jurisdiction, what law is applicable and how to enforce foreign judicial and arbitral awards in a situation involving a foreign element. Example: an English factory exports widgets to France. A dispute arises over the quality of the widgets. Where to sue: England or France? Which law applies? Can a French judicial award be recognised and enforced in the UK?

My research concerns certain trends in this discipline, which came about as a result of developments in European Union law. The European Union has in the past 20 years developed a system that provides that goods and services that are *legally* produced in Member State A can be exported into Member State B, without State B being able to apply its law to these. For example, French alcoholic drinks exported into Germany are subject to French law controlling contents of alcohol. Germans cannot successfully defend the application of their law to these

beverages. Or, another example: a British insurer wishes to provide services in Italy. Its business must be controlled according to British law.

This has important consequences for conflict of laws, because it possibly requires the application of the *law of the state of origin* to such commercial transactions. The problem is that private international law does not *automatically* select the law of the country of origin (in our examples France and Britain) as applicable. If the aims of the European Community are to be respected, we somehow have to protect both European and national interests. This is possible through EC legal instruments and activity at the European Court of Justice and through action in Member States, but no satisfactory recipe has been found so far. The thesis examines the nature of this problem and its possible explanation.'

Andrej needs to find a job (or get married) before October, or he will have to do his military service in Serbia.

### The King's Telephone Campaign

King's has taken the plunge with a telephone campaign. During March and April, many of you (those, that is, who did not tell us *not* to ring) will have been telephoned by a current student for a chat about life at and after King's, your views about the College and what it offers members, how it communicates, its plans for the future, and...well almost anything else that comes



## development

up. They will also have asked whether you can make a commitment to helping the College fund its Development Programme with a regular donation. Other universities and Oxbridge Colleges have found out just how useful the telephone is in achieving their twofold development aims: to make contact with as many members as possible, and to raise money effectively.

Firstly, the contact with members. Feedback from the conversations students have is alerting the Development Office (and *King's Parade*) to a wide range of things members particularly like or dislike about King's, and this is information we very much want to hear. Students have picked up some strong feelings about the change in admissions policy in the 60s, and about the loss of oak panelling in the Chapel, for example. Some of you feel there is too much coverage of 'the great and good' in *King's Parade*; some feel there's not enough about sport, others not enough about women.

Development for the future starts with students now. So taking part in the telephone campaign raises awareness of the College's needs among the current generation. Putting them into direct contact with their predecessors, often those who will have studied something similar, has some very positive effects. George Whitesides, an American student working on an MPhil in Geographical Information Systems and Remote Sensing, is familiar with the telephone approach from the States,

and is a natural on the phone. "If I have the marbles of some of these old guys when I'm their age, I'll be delighted," he told me after a particularly intense and interesting conversation. Marita Manley, 1998, a second year Economics student, feels the experience is good for building her own confidence and said, "It's nice to hear from people that the ethos of the place is still the same as it was thirty years ago." For Lynette Mason, 1997, studying Medicine, it's been "an amazing privilege and very interesting to have a chance to talk to very senior people in my field." Katie Fleming, 1996, says she's learned a lot. "There seem to be three types of people: I can tell almost straight away which will end up making a donation. Others say no immediately and then there are those who just want to talk, and that's good too."

What about the money? Telephone campaigns for other colleges of a similar size have raised sums approaching £150,000 in a six week period, and we will report our achievements in the next issue. The evening I sat in with the King's team, under the supportive and encouraging eye of expert Jeannie MacGregor, they raised over £5000.

**The Development Programme is seeking funding in three main areas: The Millennium Building, Bursaries and Studentships and Improvement of College Facilities. For further information or to make a donation please contact Matthew Mellor or Tess Adkins in the Development Office.**

KC2000: imagining the creativity of the coming century.

Come to one (or all) of the KC2000 forums on Saturday June 24.

- **Beyond Keynes – New Possibilities of Public and Private Co-operation in a Globalised World Economy** (Speaker, James Wolfensohn, President of the World Bank. Chaired by Baroness Blackstone. Arts Theatre 10.00)
- **Beyond Turing – New Possibilities of Physical and Biological Computing** (Sir Roger Penrose and Professor Donald Michie, Arts Theatre 11.30)
- **Musical Invention** Chapel 5.30)
- **History 2000:** There will be exhibitions of Tudor and Digital Archives, Bloomsbury Material, paintings from the Student Picture Loan Collection and the King's College Portfolio prints.

The events have been organised by a committee which includes King's Fellows Robin Milner, 1954, Martin Rees, 1969, and Emma Rothschild, 1988, who is the President of the King's College Association this year.

Events are FREE, but tickets must be booked in advance. Booking forms are available from David Grumett, the KC2000 Administrator, at the Development Office. His email is [djg30@cam.ac.uk](mailto:djg30@cam.ac.uk)

Full details are available on the web at [www.kings.cam.ac.uk/KC2000/](http://www.kings.cam.ac.uk/KC2000/)



**Ninety members attended the Provost's Seminar in February.**

Jane Teather, 1972, enthused. "I love the Provost's Seminars. The format is excellent, and it's great for the likes of me, daily grappling with the 'realities' of the commercial world, to engage in debate with people from a range of backgrounds, including academics..." Jane runs JET a documentation services company which specialises in communicating science and added, "I was just a bit frustrated that the discussion didn't go beyond the philosophical (and, to my mind, a touch omphaloscopic) issue of 'what is truth anyway?'" The mixing of undergraduate and older members works well, she thinks. "Age-barriers don't mean cultural barriers."

Karl Sabbagh, 1961, a television producer with credits for Channel 4's "What is Truth?", talked about how important it is to get the feel right when re-engaging intellectually. "I think the Provost's Seminar exposes participants to high quality discussions without making them feel talked down to or patronised. That is a very fine line to tread and in the two I have attended so far 'Does Science Tell the Truth?' and 'Intractable Violence' it has been trodden very successfully." Was the discussion what he had been expecting? "It was more philosophical than I had expected but I was interested to hear about the idea of scientific knowledge as consensus rather than real (even though I don't agree that it is.)"

## Does Science Tell the Truth?

**Ian Lloyd, 1945, former MP and founder of the Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology, takes issue with the question.**

I had originally imagined that the thrust of the question and the discussion would be related to the contemporary debate on the authority of science, but the debate did not immediately address this issue, for in their opening remarks the two distinguished academics, Dr Kusch and Professor Lipton, challenged the very idea that "science" could ever be "true". Dr Martin Kusch challenged our preconceptions with an analysis which concluded that "truths are local and passing products of negotiations amongst people which are directed both at their non-social surroundings and at their peers." There was, therefore, "no truth out there waiting to be told" and we should "stop using the words 'true and truth' for purposes for which they are ill-equipped – defending science for example."

I propose to make the case for a different question altogether, which is whether *scientists*, (not *science*) tell the truth. The distinction is fundamental. If our present scientific knowledge, and the technology which is based on it, is so seriously flawed that it cannot in practical terms be described as "true", then a number of conclusions must follow. The Newtonian physics on which so much structural engineering is based *must* be sufficiently "true" to sustain most of the civil structures – bridges, buildings, tunnels

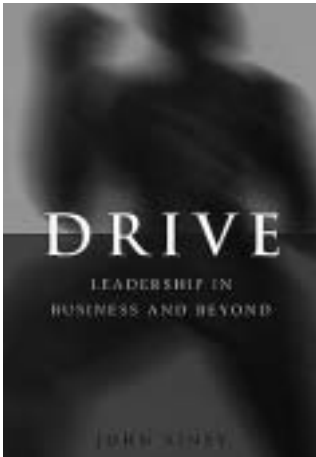
etc. – on which the modern state depends. The biology on which most modern medicine depends *must* be sufficiently accurate to ensure that most people have enough confidence in most areas of medical practice.

Even if it is clearly understood that science is constantly advancing our understanding it seems to me unrealistic to take the argument forward on the basis that because science on the frontiers of knowledge is fluid and "provisional", nothing can be described as "true." Even if, as was argued in the body of the seminar, all models, even those constructed on the most powerful computers, are unlikely to answer all the questions about phenomena, such as global warming or meteorological forecasting, it is dangerous to argue that provisional insights should be neglected because they are incomplete or "untrue." The modern aeroplane is the subject of intense computer modelling and analysis and the result is a degree of safety which was unthinkable half way through the last century. The current controversies over GM foods, nuclear power and gene therapies focus attention on one of today's most serious popular misconceptions – the belief that absolute safety is attainable in any human activity and that if this cannot be guaranteed the activity concerned should be suspended or forbidden.

Which brings us back to the original question. I do not believe that it is constructive to cast doubt on the fundamentals of

modern science as a whole by implying that because nothing is 100% certain or "true" science should hang its head in shame. It is, however, quite fair to pose the question whether and in what circumstances scientists, as a group, have nailed their colours to the mast of rationality. They have, as it were, taken a Hippocratic oath to serve humanity by pursuing scientific knowledge in such a manner that such factors as dishonesty, self-interest, the deliberate distortion of evidence and bias are eliminated from their work. The politician proclaims his bias and is entitled to advocate his objectives. The scientist abjures his bias and is obliged to reveal and eliminate it wherever possible. Being human, some will err and some will fail. Most will not fail most of the time and the rigorous standards and traditional methods of science, such as peer review, have so far ensured that where there is a clear and obvious clash between scientific judgements and vested interests, this quickly becomes apparent. All human systems are flawed, but in a world in which ever more significant policy decisions have to be based on the interpretation of scientific evidence and judgements it does not help to undermine their authority by arguing that none are ever in the strictest sense "true." The public expects science to solve tomorrow's problems. I would merely add that the public has a right to expect that most of the science which it calls in aid is "true" on most of the issues most of the time.

## books by members



### Drive: Leadership in Business and Beyond

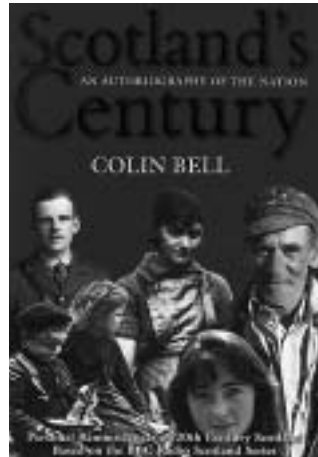
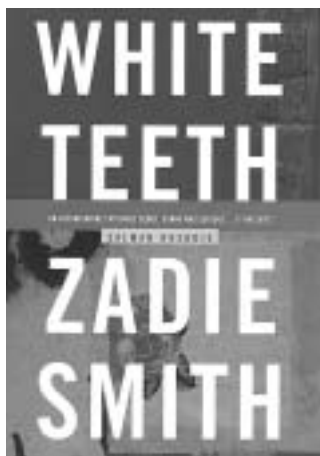
John Viney, 1974, should know about leaders; it's his job to pick them. In *Drive* he draws on 20 years' experience in corporate headhunting, currently as Chairman – Europe of Heidrick & Struggles (who successfully found Lou Gerstner for IBM) to explore leadership success and failure via examples from the business world, history, politics and literature. Statistics may show that leaders are more likely to be tall, first-born introverts, and will often have experienced the early loss of a parent, but the key to successful headhunting is to identify the exceptions. Brendan O'Neill wrote: "Anyone who is well-balanced enough to take on a corporate leadership role may be too well-balanced to want to do so." Gritty problem. What was John's own most difficult leadership challenge? "Trying to get our rock band to work together."

*Drive: Leadership in Business and Beyond* by John Viney is published by Bloomsbury at £16.99.

### White Teeth

Zadie Smith, 1994, has peopled her first novel with vividly drawn (and heard) members of the Jones, Iqbal and Chalfen families. Their interlinked histories and conflicting beliefs zig-zag through time, class and continents, colliding in Willesden. "From the rolling Jamaican patois to the stilted mumbles of adolescence, each voice is perfectly captured," wrote Christian House in the *Independent on Sunday*. The novel is multi-layered and deeply plotted, with a cast of Jehovah's Witnesses, halal butchers, animal rights activists and a group of Muslim militants known as KEVIN – Keepers of the Eternal and Victorious Islamic Nation (they know they have an acronym problem). It's very funny, in an *East is East* kind of way. "No-one gasses himself on my premises. We are not licensed," says the halal butcher whose entrance Archie Jones' car is blocking at the start of the novel. Shortlisted for the Orange Prize.

*White Teeth*, by Zadie Smith is published by Hamish Hamilton at £12.99.



### Scotland's Century: an autobiography of the nation.

"Of course I'm delighted you're giving *Scotland's Century* a plug in the College's glossy begging letter to alumni," said Colin Bell, 1956, well-known broadcaster, former Vice-Chairman of the Scottish National Party and "unreconstructed socialist" (his own words.) The book, after all, is about people's *own words*. He and Radio Scotland colleagues conducted hundreds of interviews with 'ordinary' Scottish people of all ages, and the result is an eminently browsable and fascinating book. "It is quite stunning the numbers of people, from all walks of life, whose earliest recollections are the communal privy," said Colin. History is much, much more than the biographies of great men. The mass of material from this and similar BBC projects throughout Britain has been stored in the National Sound Archive in the British Library.

*Scotland's Century: an autobiography of the nation* by Colin Bell is published by HarperCollins at £19.99.



## events and information

### Events

#### Saturday 24 June

KCA Luncheon and  
KC 2000 events  
See [www.kings.cam.ac.uk/  
KC2000/](http://www.kings.cam.ac.uk/KC2000/)

#### Saturday 1 July

Garden Party  
3.00 to 6.00  
Members 1980 – 1995  
01223 331313

#### Saturday 23 September

Non-Resident Members'  
Weekend  
Members 1954 – 59  
01223 331443  
[development.office@kings.cam.  
ac.uk](mailto:development.office@kings.cam.ac.uk)

#### Thursday 16 November

The Provost's Seminar  
Are the Arts worth it?  
01223 331443  
[development.office@kings.cam.  
ac.uk](mailto:development.office@kings.cam.ac.uk)

### Choir concerts 2000

#### Thursday 8 June

Bridgewater Hall, Manchester,  
7.30 pm  
Box Office 0161 907 9012

#### Friday 7 July

Worcester Cathedral, 7.00 pm  
Box Office 01905 28854

#### Saturday 15 July

Concert in aid of the Chapel  
Foundation  
King's College Chapel  
Box Office 01223 331212

#### Monday 17 July

BBC Proms Concert  
Royal Albert Hall 10.00 pm  
Box Office 0207 589 8212

#### Sunday 24 September

Ely Cathedral

#### Friday 27 October

St John's, Smith Square,  
7.30 pm  
Box Office 0207 222 1061

#### Thursday 23 November

King's College Chapel

#### Saturday 2 December

Founder's Day Concert  
Box Office 01223 331212

#### Sunday 17 December

St John's, Smith Square,  
7.30pm  
Box Office 0207 222 1061

### What are your first or most memorable impressions of King's?

"The "Drain" into which scholars were decanted in their first year. So-called because you went through a lavatory-tiled tunnel from Chetwynd Court into what is now some redevelopment of Cat's Bull Hostel, (very probably now traditionalised and sanctified as the Keynes Building) where bathrooms, loos, and indeed heating were intermittent and widely-spaced optional extras. Plus, very early on, Dadie Rylands, my name being Bell, asked me if I was related: I hadn't the faintest idea to whom he meant, so I can't imagine I impressed him. And of course, I called the Head Porter 'Sir'. Doesn't everyone unless home had servants?"

Colin Bell 1956

### Young Black and Asian Achievers Challenge



Nigel Lockhurst

Zadie Smith, 1994, author of best-seller *White Teeth* (started while she was at King's) presented awards to the successful schools participating in the Young Black and Asian Achievers Challenge, held in King's on 12 March. Twenty-four groups of mainly year 10 school students aged 13–15, all from ethnic minority backgrounds, competed in four challenges to test their skills in journalism, graphic design, science and general knowledge.

Presenting the awards Zadie told people a bit about herself. "I went to a state school in Cricklewood where I did my GCSE and A Levels. From there I went to King's, where I got a First and then sometime after that I wrote a book called *White Teeth*. But what that doesn't tell you is all the vital bits in between. It doesn't tell you that at your age I was a pathological truant, never in school, always in trouble. It doesn't tell you that in my mock A levels I got a 15% Theatre Studies grade. It doesn't tell you that half way through my second year here I failed my Part I's so badly that my mother wept for a week. All I mean to say is, there's no one way to achieve anything. You'll take your route as I took mine. But what we might have in common if you like – not if you're *lucky*, I want to make that very clear, but if you *like* - if you like we might have this place in common, Cambridge. So what's it like? Not always easy. I was the only black girl in King's when I arrived. I was taught by no black people. The first thing I had to do was stop thinking about role models. I got on with things – so many things. I'm not embarrassed to say I had the time of my life here – more fun, more work, more love, more everything than I'd ever had in my life. It made me think I could do anything – you can't ask for more than that."

*King's Parade* aims to keep Members of King's informed about their College and about each other.

Contributions for the next edition are gratefully received.

They should be forwarded to:

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