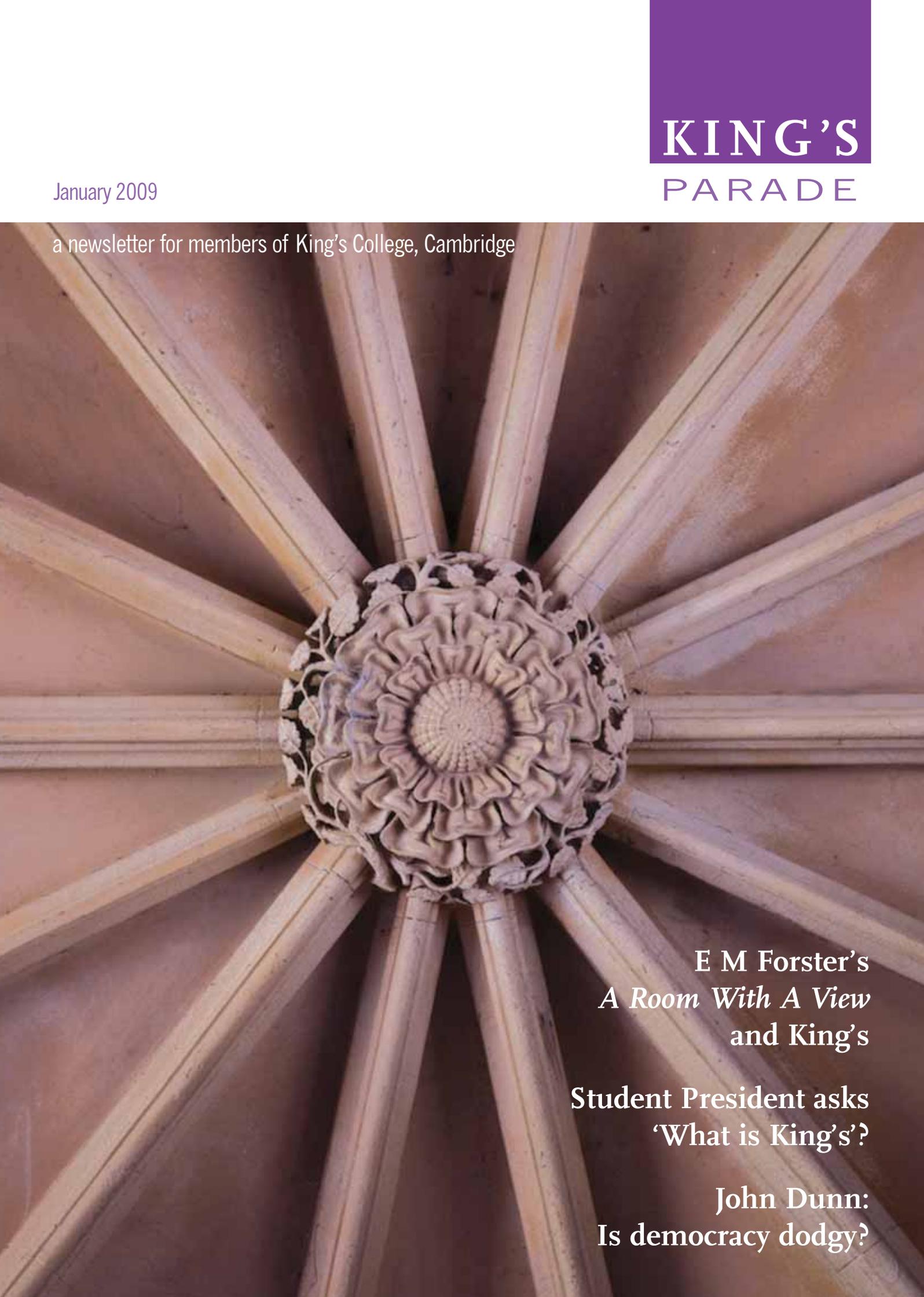


January 2009

a newsletter for members of King's College, Cambridge



E M Forster's
A Room With A View
and King's

Student President asks
'What is King's'?

John Dunn:
Is democracy dodgy?

Welcome to the winter edition

In true King's style we have in this issue divergent views on a subject that has always been close to the College's heart: political power.

While political scientist Fellow John Dunn believes that governments can have too much power and are not accountable enough to the people who elect them, outgoing KCSU President Lucy McMahon feels frustrated that a political body at the other end of the scale – the King's Students' Union – does not have enough influence over things that really matter, being mocked for being a “condom-distributing, cooker-campaigning administrative body”. Yet she deeply appreciates the fact that King's has “a unique environment of not just tolerance, but respect”.

Respect is certainly due to all the King's students who continue to go out into the world and do great things: from final year student Stephen Gerrard who is trying to protect babies from AIDS (p16), to poet Bridget Collins who has just published her first novel (p14); to Kamalesh Sharma who is the first Indian to be appointed Commonwealth Secretary General after a career addressing problems in the developing world (p9); and to Naomi Loomes who has been named News Reporter of the Year (p9).

Diverse, transforming, tolerant and spirited: this is King's in 2009.

A very Happy New Year to you all.

Charlotte Sankey
Editor

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Cover image: rose in the ceiling of the Gate House. Mark Box.

King's in pictures

Outrunning Oxford

Three King's women were among five King's runners in teams representing the University at a Varsity Match in November. The women ran in the third team (6.6km distance) and the men ran in the fourth team (10km) at Wandlebury. We are happy to report that both teams beat their Oxford counterparts. From left are Anne M Hyland, Michelle Collins and Wis Wang-Koh.



Red Poll

Cows are grazing on Grantchester Meadows again since a local vet took on the tenancy with her herd of Red Poll cattle. This continues the age-old tradition of grazing on the Meadows, owned by King's since 1452. Finding tenants for the publicly-accessible land has been hard recently due to vandalism. Beef from the cattle can be bought at local Cambridge butchers and farmers' markets.



Repair and renew

A major ten-year programme of repair work to the external fabric of the Chapel is underway. A survey showed that urgent conservation work is needed to the windows, carved stonework and walls. The first phase of repairs has been generously supported by Robin Boyle (KC 1955), see page 17, and supervised by architects Freeland Rees Roberts.



Mellow

After the graduate formal in the Michaelmas term students mingle and dance to live music in the bar. Graduate formals occur once a term and are as popular as ever.



FARAZ DIANAT

16th century altarpiece is returned to its former glory



CHRIS TITMUS, HAMILTON KERR INSTITUTE@ FITZWILLIAM MUSEUM

Not many King's College members have ever seen the 16th-century *Deposition of Christ* by Girolamo Siciolante da Sermoneta which has just been restored and hung above the altar in the Founder's Chapel, one of the side chapels in the Chapel.

The painting was bought in Rome in the 18th century and given to the College by Frederick, 5th Earl of Carlisle in 1780. It used to hang, for some time, above the main altar of the Chapel. However it was removed over 100 years ago, probably because of the darkening of repaints and of the varnish.

It has just been restored by conservators at the Hamilton Kerr Institute, the painting conservation centre of the Fitzwilliam Museum, and postgraduate teaching institute of the University. "A real masterpiece of Roman 16th Century art has been recovered. Only the sky has lost its original blue colour, because it was painted with smalt, an unstable pigment", said Fellow in History of Art Jean Michel Massing.

The restoration has been generously supported by the family of Sunny Pal (KC 1955) who is supporting the total refurbishment of the Founder's Chapel.

New King's CDs

A new CD of Christmas carols was released by EMI on 1 December. The two-CD set includes 50 of the best-loved carols, sung by the King's Choir. It also features a wealth of newly recorded material. The photoshoot for the cover took place in September – it is amazing the snow that can be produced in Photoshop!

A CD by Collegium Regale, directed by Stephen Cleobury, has also been released. *Vox In Rama* features motets by the Flemish-born composer Giaches de Wert. De Wert was one of many foreigners to dominate the Italian music scene in the mid to late 16th century, and these motets were composed when de Wert's gifts were at their height. As part of the Kings College Choir, the Choral Scholars of Collegium Regale perform independently, singing a repertoire that encompasses 15th Century sacred music, jazz, folksongs and pop.



Cycle recycle

Unused and unregistered bikes found at King's are being recycled by a charity which works with people with learning difficulties.

The College porters identify unregistered bikes, label them and a month later the Maintenance and Housekeeping Departments remove them. They are stored for a further month in case they are reclaimed and then delivered by Head Gardener Duncan Baxter to Opportunities Without Limits (OWL), a charity creating work, learning, leisure and living opportunities for people with learning difficulties and other disadvantages.

OWL runs a 'Bicycle Project' where they teach students how to repair refurbish and recycle old bicycles and use the income from these to fund this and other projects.

News in brief

◆ You may have heard that many UK charities could lose assets held in failed **Icelandic banks**. Fortunately King's has no funds in any Icelandic banks, although naturally this does not mean that the College's holdings are wholly exempt from risk in today's turbulent financial markets.



◆ **Gates** marking off the private areas of the College have been painted an agreeable light bronze green colour. It is an English Heritage colour used predominantly in the Victorian period, chosen by the Surveyor of the Fabric for its discreet appearance and the way it blends in with the buildings when viewed from a distance.

◆ This year's **Woman's dinner** on 8 March will include an inspiring afternoon session with a panel of King's women of note telling their personal histories. Join present Fellows and students to celebrate the achievements of King's women over the years.



◆ You can widen your network to include King's members and their contacts the world over by joining the new group for King's Members on **LinkedIn**, the popular professional and social networking site. You can be sure that everyone in the group is a bona fide King's member as we approve all who request to join. To join, go to www.linkedin.com/groupsDirectory and search for King's College Cambridge.

Remember that if you are a member of other social networks (eg Facebook), let other members know by adding these links to your King's Member online profile. Click on 'My Networks' once you have signed into www.kingsmembers.org (If you need your sign-in details contact sue.turnbull@kings.cam.ac.uk).

People coming



◆ **Dr Keith Carne** has been elected First Bursar by King's Governing Body, to start 1 January 2009. Keith is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Pure Mathematics and Mathematical Statistics. He has been a Fellow of King's since 1983, and has previously served as Acting First Bursar.



◆ **Martin Cook** started in August as the new Webmaster. He comes from the Institute of Historical Research at the University of London. He is currently working on revamping the King's website. If you have any requests for the future direction of the site, or if you would like to see how the redesign is going, email martin.cook@kings.cam.ac.uk.

◆ **Tanya Dempsey**, the Vice-Provost's new PA, worked in horse-racing in Newmarket before doing postgraduate research in Applied Linguistics. Despite the commitments of research and looking after her daughters, she has just started rowing with the Champion of the Thames Club. "Although I'm still very much a beginner," Tanya says, "I hope that our crew will be good enough to row in the Town Bumps."



◆ **Peter Crofts** has started as the new King's Health and Safety Officer. He is working with the Porters' Department which has safety as one of its top priorities. His job is to advise staff, students and Fellows on any health and safety concerns.

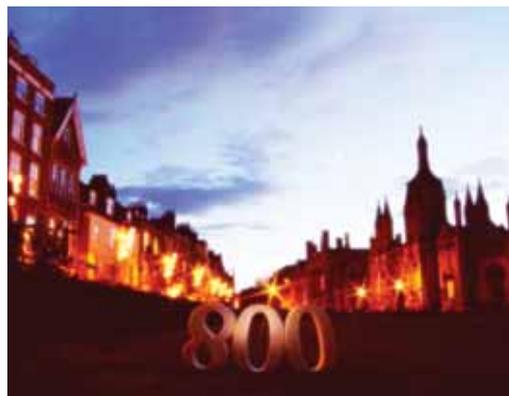
Join in 800 years of Cambridge

2009 is a major landmark for Cambridge: it is the year when the University celebrates 800 years of existence – the people, ideas and achievements of the University that continue to transform and benefit the world. Bells will be rung, music played and letters written to the future; hundreds of academic projects have also been funded.

Co-ordinated by the Office of External Affairs and Communications, the celebrations will strike a balance between celebrating the past and present and leaving a legacy for the future. A key aim is to thank staff, students (past and present), their families and local residents for their part in making the University what is today.

The main activities are:

- ◆ Ringing in the Year; churches will ring their bells on 17 January, 7.15pm, followed by light shows on 17–19 January around the Senate House and Old Schools. The King's Choir recording of *Spem in Alium* will be played.
- ◆ A summer garden party for University and College staff at the Botanic Garden, July.
- ◆ Cambridge Ideas: a series of films of the best research being done in Cambridge today, featuring academics. Support staff will also be featured.
- ◆ Projects funded by the 2009 Fund: from a student group building a green car to newly commissioned music.
- ◆ The main alumni-focused event will be the London concert at a major venue in July 2009 with Cambridge music and musicians.



- ◆ At Easter the King's Choir will perform Handel's *Messiah* to be broadcast live to cinemas around the world. Details at www.artsalliancemediacom/opera.
- ◆ The première of a newly commissioned piece by Sir Peter Maxwell Davies for orchestra and chorus in King's Chapel on 13 June.
- ◆ 'Octo' is the unofficial mascot for the 800th Anniversary Year (see picture). Alumni and everyone in the University are invited to suggest places for Octo to be photographed. Contact the 800th Anniversary Team at 800@admin.cam.ac.uk, tel (7)61672 ; your ideas may be posted on the University website.
- ◆ Alumni, staff and students are invited to write a letter to the future. Join the Vice-Chancellor and members of the local community in writing to your counterpart in 2109. 800 letters will be stored for 100 years at the University Library.

King's Fellow teaches Royal Princes about climate change and equality



Melissa Lane, Fellow in History at King's (third from right) recently spent two days with Their Royal Highnesses Prince William and Prince Harry discussing global issues. They had come to Cambridge to learn about the social and ecological challenges facing society at a specially-arranged two-day seminar.

The sessions were hosted by the University's Programme for Industry (CPI), set up in 1988 to help industry leaders deepen their understanding of the social, environmental and economic context in which they operate. Dr Aled Jones (KC 1991), who now works at CPI (second from right), also took part.

The Princes, who had rarely visited Cambridge before – their father's University of which their grandfather is Chancellor – also had a chance to get a flavour of the city: they strolled along the Backs on a clear blue autumn day, cycled to the Scott Polar Research Institute, visited King's Chapel and enjoyed warm Chelsea buns delivered specially from Fitzbillies cake shop.

Melissa Lane, whose research includes ethics and values, and who presented the session on poverty and equity, was a core member of the founding CPI team. She reported that William and Harry "were keen to learn and raised lots of questions. I think they were shocked, however, by the scale of the climate change challenge".

Martin Parr photographs King's

One of today's most highly-regarded contemporary documentary photographers, Martin Parr, came to King's and photographed King's students, staff and Fellows in the summer, as part of a photo essay about Cambridge. The essay was commissioned by *The Guardian* newspaper and published as a supplement on 25 October, featuring four images related to King's.

Parr is known for his chronicling of British life using a realistic style that sees the extraordinary in the ordinary. His approach is intimate, anthropological and often oblique. He made his name from the 1980s onwards when he broke away from the predominant black-and-white of



art photography of the era. He is a member of the world-famous Magnum photography agency.

King's members debate with Fellows online

King's recently ran its first online discussion forum, giving members the opportunity to ask Fellows questions and debate with them. The forum tackled the pressing issue of climate change.

The five panelists who took part all work on climate change. They were Herbert Huppert (KC 1970, a geophysist working on carbon sequestration), Michael Grubb (KC 1979, leading international researcher on the economics of climate change), Alexander Orlov (KC 2005, materials scientist researching nanotechnology to improve energy efficiency), Lord

Rees (KC 1969, President of the Royal Society; he has just called for an annual international fund of £6.7 billion to develop carbon capture); and John Young (KC 1977, an engineer researching low carbon fuel cells).

The forum was open for four weeks. Questions ranged from the validity of our moral concern for our unborn children, to the authenticity of carbon-13 isotope atmospheric measurements. It was set up on the King's new members' website in response to a swell of interest from guests at the London Event on climate change.



◆ View the discussion on the King's members site www.kingsmembers.org (the forum is now closed).

◆ Hear the recording of the London Event, the College's first venture in new media, at www.kings.cam.ac.uk/news

◆ Don't miss the next London Event, October 7 at the Royal Society where King's members will discuss *The Global Credit Crisis*, one year on.

University Challenge: King's wins and loses

King's entered University Challenge this year, thought to have been the first time in 20 years. The team comprised two undergraduates and two graduate students who got through to the third round where they lost to St John's, Cambridge.

In earlier rounds they beat Edinburgh and Surrey. Team members were James Archer, Matt Wallen, Katrina Gold and Tom Hooper. Captain Katrina Gold outlines the highlights:

Best King's stereotype: answering a question on who wrote *What Is To Be Done?* with a cry of "Lenin!"

Hardest question: failure to identify any of the species of British butterflies, "particularly galling" considering Gold's zoology background.

Most back-handed compliment: Jeremy Paxman described King's as having a disaffected manner. "No one seemed more surprised than them when they were right, which they usually were," he said. Unfortunately this statement preceded their downfall at the hands of St John's.



The media took interest in James Archer's mohican haircut, comparing him to the character Vyvan from *The Young Ones*, in the famous sketch about University Challenge. Some viewers also contacted the College unsettled by his wearing military uniform complete with medals and stripes. They argued this showed a lack of respect for members of the armed forces. Unfortunately all three episodes of University Challenge were filmed on one day so James had no chance to rectify his mistake.

People coming

◆ **Chiara Ferrara** started on 8 September as a Development Officer. Chiara graduated from King's this year, and was the first King's woman to row in the Cambridge Blue Boat since 2001. Chiara's main role is to look after alumni relations via the new members' website (www.kingsmembers.org).

New Chapel staff



◆ **Charles Webb** is the Assistant Chapel Administrator, a new post that combines the duties of the old Tourist Liaison Officer with aspects of the management of the Chapel staff team. Charles worked for BA for 23 years in cabin services. He also lectured in travel and tourism at Cambridge Regional College.



◆ **Marcos Gutierrez** is a new Chapel Clerk. Marcos is from Brazil and has been in the UK for three years, recently working at The British Library Conference Centre. His duties here will include preparing for services, helping with security and managing visitors.



◆ **Chris King** is a new Chapel Clerk. Chris worked for HM Customs and Revenue for 34 years and took early retirement from his managerial post. Chris plays ice hockey and holds a season ticket for Norwich City.

◆ NVQ successes: six housekeeping staff have just passed their NVQ Level 2 in Housekeeping. Congratulations go to Crescencia Charena, John Kuchena, Adriana Wasyk, Aldona Malisiewski-Tomlin, Alice Sullivan and Mandy McLean.



◆ Freda Marks has won an award for outstanding achievement on her NVQ

course in housekeeping. Freda has been at King's for one year and worked her way up from a part-time position to supervise 15 housekeeping staff. She is now taking a second NVQ in management.

People going

◆ Derek Buxton, Tourist Liaison Officer, retired on 14 October after 16 years at the College. He was initially called in to introduce admission fees for tourists. "It was sensitive at the time", Derek says, "but I think we've now allayed people's fears. We've managed to control tourism, and generated considerable income for the College". Derek plans to spend more time at his second home in Cyprus.

◆ Joey's Cainzos-Sola worked for five years as the Admin and Events Assistant in the Catering and Conference Department. Joey's was a keen rower and, says his manager Jason Waterfield, "a popular and well-liked member of staff". Joey's has left to make a fresh start in London.



◆ Len Pye, Night Porter, has retired after 13 years. "Whilst we were all sound asleep," said Head Porter Carl Hodson, "Len was looking after the safety and security of the College. Now he's off to trip the light fantastic". Len is a keen ballroom dancer, and is to work on cruise ships as a dance instructor.

How to cut your CO2 emissions by 80%

Buying baby sweetcorn, travelling in a 4x4 vehicle or aeroplane and overfilling the kettle were black-listed activities at a recent debate on climate change. *Five things we should all do to mitigate climate change* was a lively evening of discussion in a packed Keynes Hall, focussing on prioritising our individual efforts.

If we are to save the planet we are all required to reduce our CO2 emissions by an enormous 80% in the next 30 years, we were told.

The event was part of the University's first ever Festival of Ideas – a counterpart to the Cambridge Science Festival – which takes the intellectual capital of the University in the arts, humanities and social sciences out to the local community and beyond.

The evening hinged around the Library's new specialist collection of books on global warming, sponsored by Caroline Davidson (KC 1974) and the Cookson Trust. It is now one of the largest book collections dedicated to climate change in the UK with around 700 books. (See the online bibliography at www.kings.cam.ac.uk/library/globalwarming/index.html). Members of the University and, of course, King's may borrow from the collection.

Myriad suggestions for action emerged during the evening: using smart meters to measure the CO2 emissions from our home appliances; waging war on standby; lobbying our MP to support climate friendly legislation (MPs need a mandate from their constituents); taking local holidays



("Visit Norfolk while it is still there!") and supporting pressure groups such as Greenpeace and Friends of the Earth. There was also discussion around the notion of 'local citizens': supporting wind farms in your own back yard.

King's catering gets top marks



A recent survey has rated the King's catering and conferences services as 'excellent'. It was conducted among clients booking the College for events (from small dinner parties in the Saltmarsh Room to corporate and academic dinners in Hall). No less than 82% said the service was 'excellent', 12% rated it as 'good', and only 2% as 'fair'.

"This stands as testament to the great commitment of the catering staff", said Catering Manager Jason Waterfield. "The team are amazing and I am proud to work with such a dedicated bunch of individuals".

New Year catering promotions. Brighten up January and February by taking advantage of the New Year special offers:

- ◆ Free room hire in the Saltmarsh Rooms.
- ◆ Reduced price on gourmet business lunch package in the Beves Room.

See: www.kings.cam.ac.uk/conferences/promotions.html, tel: 01223 331215

Death announcements

It is with great sadness that the College reports the following deaths. Full obituaries will appear in the Annual Report 2009.

David Chipp (KC 1948) died on 9 September, aged 81. He was a revered journalist, rising to be an inspiring editor-in-chief of the Press Association, Britain's national news agency. Earlier in his career he was the first western correspondent to report from China after the Communist takeover of 1949. He was a great supporter of the King's Boat Club.



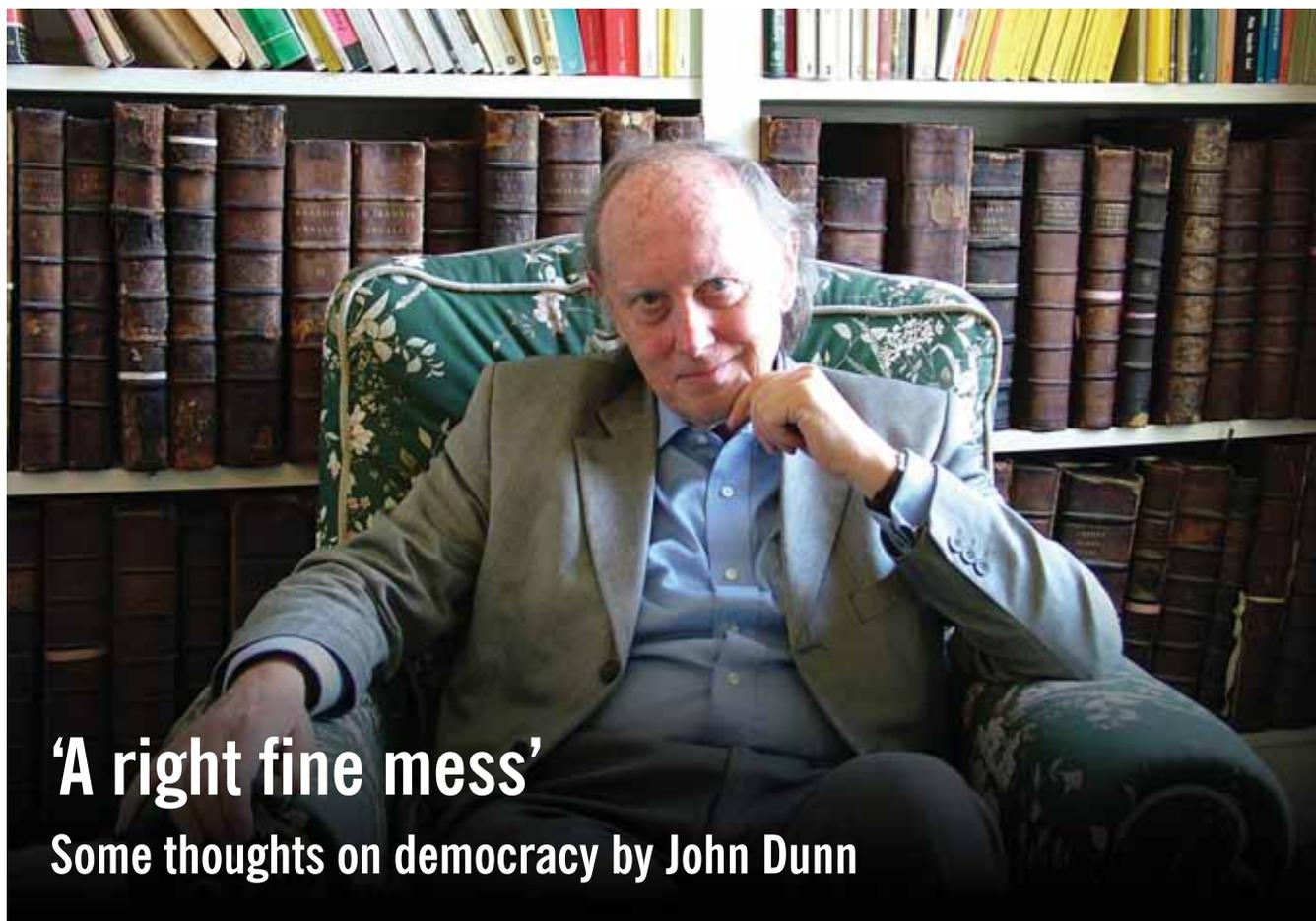
Arthur Owen (KC 1945), former King's archivist, died over the August bank holiday. Owen came up to King's from Eton in 1945. Most of his working life was spent at the University Library. He also acted as the King's College Archivist for many years, even in retirement, continuing his support through financial gifts.



Peter Avery (KC 1958) King's Fellow and Persian scholar Peter Avery OBE died on 6 October, aged 85. He was one of the world's foremost experts on the history and literature of Iran. He came to Cambridge in 1958 as a Lecturer in Persian Language, Literature and History, becoming a Fellow of King's in 1964 and a Life Fellow in 1990. In 2001 he was made an OBE 'for the promotion of oriental studies'.



◆ A memorial Service for Peter Avery will be held in the Chapel on 7 March, 2.30pm.



'A right fine mess'

Some thoughts on democracy by John Dunn

Democracy is not all it is cracked up to be, and we would all be better off if we realised this, says distinguished political theorist and King's Fellow, John Dunn. He spoke to Charlotte Sankey.

What is the current main focus of your work?

I am fascinated and unnerved by our odd and massively indiscreet liaison with democracy. Since the collapse of communism and the huge increase in relative power of the USA, we now take for granted that democracy is the best political system there is.

What is its greatest weakness in your eyes?

It is the fact that today's democracies are in no sense run by the ideas of the governed. Only in very unusual circumstances (and pretty briefly) do their governments act as the people wish. One of the intrinsic weaknesses of democracy is the huge gap

"President Bush is not a random mishap. He is a spectacular symptom of the weaknesses of the sort of regime we live under"

between the permissions we give elected politicians and their performance in office.

So once in power, politicians can do as they like?

When elected they have at least a prima facie title to govern. But that's it! Prime Ministers and Presidents claim this right to act because they were elected. In a democratic system, leaders do not need to justify

what they do to those who have elected them, especially when it is abroad. President Bush is not a random mishap. He is a spectacular symptom of the weaknesses of the sort of regime we live under. People don't generally trust politicians, and the evidence seems to be that in our present system they trust them less and less over time.

What concerns me most is democracy's overwhelming impulse to overcall its hand. I also worry about its comprehensive failure to fix political responsibility for the future, or respond to it coherently on the basis of the past.

I find it strange even now that it has ever held sway as an idea, since its success in serving its clientele is so

John Dunn is Emeritus Professor of Political Theory and has been a Fellow of King's since 1966. He was the first person to hold a teaching post in politics at Cambridge, in the new Faculty of Social and Political Sciences in 1972. He is one of the founders of what has come to be called the 'Cambridge school' of intellectual history. Throughout a long and distinguished career, he has published key works in political theory, including *The Political Thought of John Locke* (Cambridge, 1969), *The History of Political Theory and Other Essays* (Cambridge, 1995) and, most recently, *Setting the People Free: The Story of Democracy* (London, 2005).

precarious. Like socialism, democracy is vastly more appealing as an idea than it can ever hope to prove as a practical experience.

Isn't democracy the best political system humans have come up with so far?

I don't believe that there is yet a contrasting idea which would mark a clear improvement. Perhaps there never will be. So I remain reasonably democratic in spirit, but also pretty despondent. Before democracy, we had chaos, or autocracy, or effortlessly condescending aristocracy.

So, yes, democracy is still the least bad of these. But what worries me is that we're no closer to understanding either the idea of democracy, or the regimes which now claim to embody it. It is not clear that anyone really understands what is happening in the world today and why.

The primary appeal of democracy – the chance to choose freely together the terms of our collective life – must therefore be deceptive. We can only choose freely what we can clearly understand.

Do you mean that people do not understand enough to vote?

The old case against democracy is that the people (like politicians) are selfish and foolish, so they cannot safely be left to choose how they are governed. Plato thought it was silly just to ask people what they want.

Political leaders today cannot afford to see the world steadily for themselves. A hundred years ago some at least had didactic aspirations, to educate both themselves and those they ruled. This has gone for good, although figures like Barack Obama or David Milliband flirt nervously with the idea from time to time. More importantly, they cannot really say what they think to those they wish to elect them. Obama was punished heavily for disclosing what he thought of his fellow citizens – that their country is full of overarmed, frightened, and superstitious people.

This was certainly impolite, and it felt disagreeably snobbish. It is also pretty evidently true.

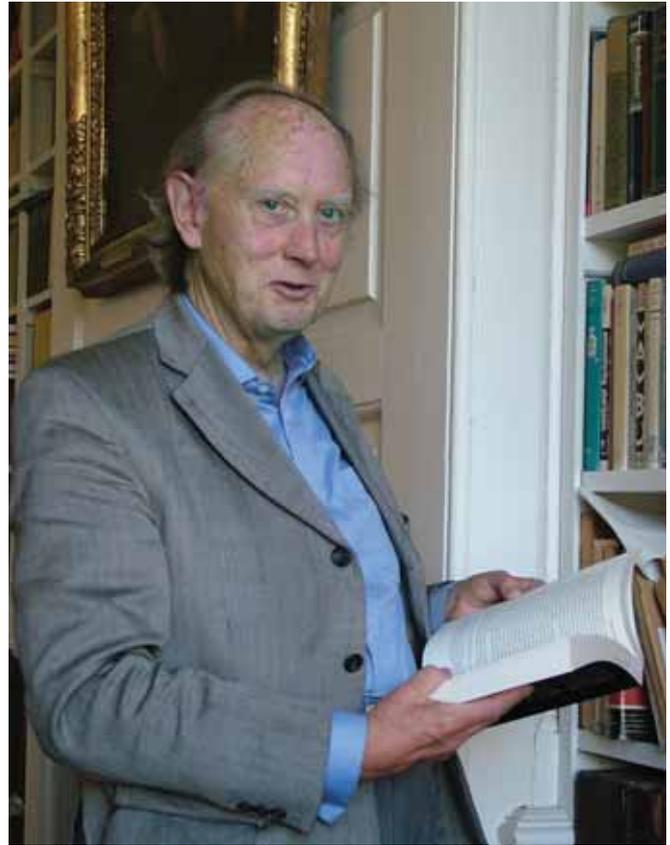
So is the populus stupid?

In some ways, yes. The trouble is that democracy assumes that we do not need to be any wiser than we are. Plato, more plausibly, thought that virtually all of us emphatically do.

You can see he was onto something if you consider the most important issue in the world today: how are we to organize ourselves to avoid making our planet uninhabitable? Most people are fairly myopic and don't care to bother their heads much beyond their short-term convenience. We can't sensibly presume that they will vote in time to preserve the habitat in which they need to live.

Where has democracy done particularly badly?

Take Iraq. The choice to invade it was a stupid decision made by a small number of people – I am far from sure that Blair could have stopped Bush, however hard he tried. But if he had any real chance of doing so, he is a far worse person and a dramatically worse national leader for failing to. The US has



“It was the ravaged faces of the refugees outside our home that made me feel that politics was something of huge importance”

very little interest in what is happening there: its real preoccupations lie elsewhere; it has turned Iraq (perturbing enough in the first place) into a frightful mess.

Take Africa. Importing democracy into postcolonial Africa has not proved at all a reliable way to improve the living conditions of Africans or protect them from their rulers. I went to Ghana almost 40 years ago to try to find out why the initial experience of decolonization had come out so badly for Ghana's people. I saw there how vulnerable the life chances of a whole people can be to the handling of its trade flows in the world economy. It is much easier to take in and comprehend a simpler and more exposed economy like Ghana's than in a country like this.

Why do you think democracy failed in Ghana?

One reason is that, to be successful, democracy needs reasonably active and optimistic citizens. If you have been crushed, you give up on strategic preferences. As in Auschwitz, you just try to hang on as best you can.

One lesson I learnt from the intense and exciting time I spent in Africa – a great surprise to a child of Mr Attlee's England, and one that changed permanently and quite deeply the way in which I saw politics – was the overwhelming damage politics can inflict.

I found it profoundly disconcerting to be forced to realise how comprehensively the lives of almost everyone in a country can be at the mercy of the competence and scruple of their

somewhat adventitious rulers. And if you think that wealthier and more sophisticated countries acquire their rulers less adventitiously, remind yourselves of how George W. Bush came to be President of the United States, and how Sarah Palin might have in his wake.

How does your work differ from that of other political scientists?

What is new about my present work is my attempt to look at the world's politics as a whole through the vicissitudes of democracy. Thousands of political scientists and state officials study democracy in narrower and neater settings. Many learn something valuable and reliable about it in those settings. You need to be pretty reckless to stand far enough back, as I have done, to see what is happening politically to the human world.

Lots of academics really hate my work, because it disrupts their intellectual habits and makes them feel nervous. Much political science is an empirical study of democracy on the assumption that it is a clearly appropriate system. What I say delegitimises that presumption, and shows that there is something circular about the way its holders think.

Can that be socially embarrassing?

Yes, I've kept away from Political Science Association meetings, at least in Britain, for several decades now!

Where does your interest in politics stem from?

Politics has fascinated me since I was quite young. My interest began in a childhood landscape of bombed out buildings scattered at intervals along a Georgian crescent in Bath, an environment which gave me a good training in chauvinism. My grandparents' home was a virtual museum of Britain's imperial past, an ostrich's leg with a brass handle for a doorstopper, and the huge head of an Indian bison lowering through the dust and debris of the blitz. My father and grandfather were army officers; when we moved to Germany my nanny was an unreconstructed member of the Hitler Jugend.

Later we lived for a time in India, when the empire which had dominated their lives was vanishing. What marked me there imaginatively was not the squalid humiliations of a declining imperialism, but seeing people camping out in the streets just outside our flat, and knowing that some of them might well have starved to death by the next morning. It was the matchstick legs of the peasants hacking away at the brick-hard earth, and the ravaged faces of the refugees outside our home that made me feel that politics was something of huge importance. It was a devastating experience, a radical challenge to my ex-Christian and post-Christian sense that the conditions of human life should make some kind of sense.

What affected you the most about living in the developing world?

I have never been able to forget the immediate presence of so much arbitrary misery. It taught me, in endless adolescent wrangles with my parents' nostalgias, that power can persist for generations on a basis of rapt fantasy, and groups of human

beings learn to misperceive and misvalue ways of life which offer them many privileges. Imperial rule can be a burden to those who find themselves implementing it. It is far more of a burden to those subjected to it.

Did you ever consider becoming a politician?

Yes I did, and I might well have become one if I could have been free to speak as I think, and carried hope of affecting the world as I wished. But I don't have the right temperament, neither enough personal ambition nor enough diplomatic ease. So I opted for education instead.

It is a pretty peculiar choice to devote much of an adult life to thinking about politics. Why choose such an unenticing subject? Why choose an occupation where the prospects for material reward fall so distressingly short of so many other domains? Why not do it instead of studying it? Why not do art, or science, or business, or religion instead?

Must the point be the hope, however furtive, to see and insert into the world something which does not die with you but lingers on for others as a source of insight or inspiration well after you are gone, or at least alters the way in which others around you see, experience and respond to politics themselves?

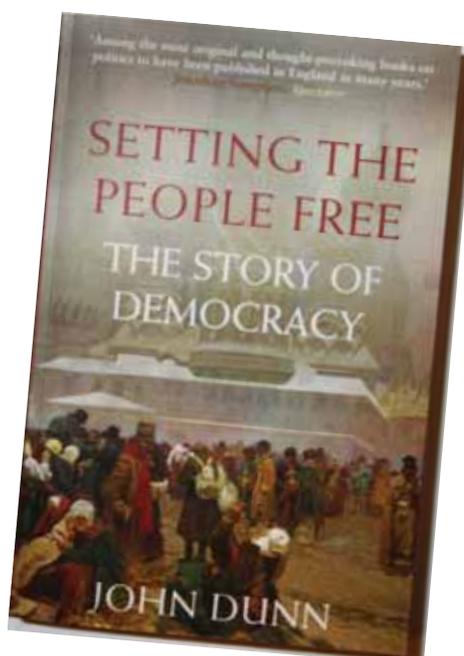
What is hardest about your work?

For me is the vanishingly small prospects for clear and decisive progress with it, and the sometimes ambivalent contribution it makes to my relations with other people.

How does your work help make the world a better place?

I hope it helps people to limit the damage of politics, by recognizing the harm it can do and prompting them to tread with greater care. I also hope it will goad others to see it more clearly than I can.

More romantically (or perhaps absurdly), I still hope we can learn to do much better. If we are to do so, we will have to try very much harder.



Dunn's latest book was described as "A masterly performance" by The Economist and "among the most original books on politics to have been published in England for many years" by The Spectator.

A 'slight, uninteresting' novel?

King's and *A Room with a View*, 100 years on

A Room with a View by Kingsman E M Forster was published 100 years ago – a novel he described as 'slight and uninteresting'. The connections between the novel and King's are many: it was Forster's Classics supervisor at King's who encouraged him to become a writer, and there are traces of Forster's fellow students in the book. There is no doubt that, despite Forster's modesty, the novel still has enduring appeal.

By King's Archivist Patricia McGuire



A Room with a View is a romance about a young woman at the Edwardian edge of repressed Victorian culture. She discovers freedom when travelling in Italy, and she falls in love with a budding iconoclast. The story follows their time in Italy and England and their attempts to define the boundaries of the new English culture.

Edward Morgan Forster was a student at King's 1897 to 1901 and began the novel shortly after he graduated, during his first travels in Italy at a time when he was expanding his own boundaries.



In some ways the novel is autobiographical. Readers familiar with the book will recognise elements of the opening scene in letters Forster wrote to a King's student a few years his senior, musicologist Edward Dent: "We have been here three days, and are very comfortable, but my mother hankers after an Arno view and a South aspect, so we are not stopping." A few days later he wrote that he and his mother had moved on to another pensione where: "Everything ... seems nice except the lady who keeps it, who scatters her H's like morsels."



King's clearly played a significant part in Forster's life. He was born in 1879 and his early life was overshadowed by the death of his architect father when Forster was only a year old. This meant his early childhood was spent teetering between poverty and respectability. He inherited a small fortune from an aunt but he



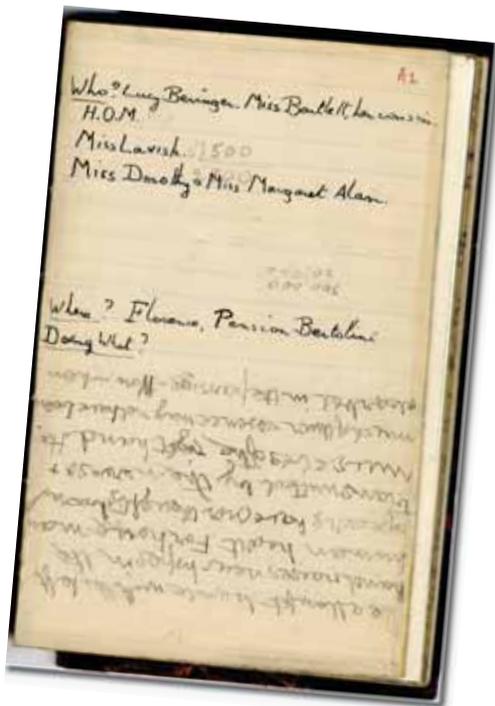
opted eventually to do a variety of jobs, including acting as private tutor, and as a searcher for the Red Cross during the First World War.

Academically, Forster did not achieve the highest summits. His schooling was at Tonbridge School, which he detested. He earned a place at King's studying Classics, and an exhibition in his second year. He achieved a Second in the Classics tripos and when he stayed on for a fourth year to read History with King's Fellow Oscar Browning, he again earned a Second.

The young Forster absolutely blossomed in the humanistic philosophical environment of King's. His Classics supervisor Nathaniel Wedd (KC 1883, Fellow 1888) was a key figure who taught him an appreciation of modern writers by teaching the classical authors, and who encouraged Forster to think of himself as a writer. Forster wrote to Wedd in June 1908 about *A Room with a View* that it was: "slight, unambitious, and uninteresting, but – in rather an external way – the characters seem more alive to me than any others I have put together".

Other Kingsmen who were strong influences on the undergraduate Forster were the classicist Goldsworthy Lowes Dickinson (KC 1881, Fellow 1887), the art critic Roger Fry (KC 1885, lecturer in Art for the University during Forster's time at King's), Edward Dent (KC 1895, Fellow 1902) and his classmate – and lover – Hugh Owen Meredith who inspired the young iconoclastic

Top to bottom: **Goldsworthy Lowes Dickinson**, a King's Fellow who strongly influenced Forster's Humanist views. **Hugh Owen Meredith** (KC 1897), one of Forster's first loves, with Forster's mother in the garden at the Forster's Surrey home. **Edward Dent** (KC 1895) who advised Forster on travels in Italy. Forster's supervisor **Nathaniel Wedd**, photographed in the Fellows' Garden a few years before Forster came up to King's.



Left: The novel is conceived: a page from a notebook, c. 1901, in which Forster drafted the characters for a novel that was to eventually be *A Room With a View*. 'H.O.M.' is Hugh Meredith who appears as the novel's hero George Emerson. At the bottom of the page, upside down, are unrelated notes in which Forster investigates writing left-handed!



EDWARD LEIGH

Right: A portrait of Edward Morgan Forster in 1915 at the age of 36. At that time he had already achieved success as a novelist, he was writing *A Passage to India*, and later that year went to Alexandria to work with the Red Cross.

character in the novel. Indeed Forster dedicated the novel to Meredith.

Forster was also influenced by his membership of the Apostles, a University-wide secret debating society, where he met Cambridge intellectuals such as R C Trevelyan who travelled with him in India (inspiring Forster's novel *A Passage to India*) and whose Surrey home appeared as the house 'Summer Street' in *A Room with a View*.

During his first year at Cambridge Forster lived in digs in the Market Square. He then lived for two years in Bodley's Building (W7), and the final year at 12 King's Parade. He returned to King's later in life, offered an Honorary Fellowship at the age of 67. Forster lived the last years of his life (1953 – 1970) in rooms in A staircase. Though he was never required

to teach or serve on committees he influenced a great many Kingsmen in his final years by his gracious and gentle manner and by making his rooms a place of lively intellectual discussion. His influence survives him – Kingswoman Zadie Smith credits his novels as inspiring her own, and is one of his best-known readers.

The College inherited Forster's personal papers and his copyrights. The papers include the manuscripts of his published and unpublished writings, lectures and broadcasts, and a large number of photographs.

Today King's College continues to administer his literary legacy: the scholarly Abinger edition of the works of Forster was conceived and overseen by King's, and several of the editions were edited by Kingsmen.

Forster in his rooms in King's in 1968 where he lived the last 17 years of his life. These rooms are now part of the Graduate Suite on A staircase.



EDWARD LEIGH

Anyone interested in the Forster collection, or any of the College's archival holdings, is warmly invited to enquire at archivist@kings.cam.ac.uk.

150 years on the river: The King's Boat Club in pictures

1870



The King's VIII in 1870 (T F C Huddleston is top left).

1884



The 1884 King's VIII (our records suggest that this crew did not win blades despite the presence of the flag in the photograph).

1936



The 2nd VIII taking the boat out from the old boathouse in 1936.

1958



The 1st VIII in 1958 outside Jesus Boathouse.

1972



EDWARD LEIGH

The *Ingenious Burglar* and its accomplices make their way across the Back Lawn.

1994



© EADEN LILLY

The King's 1st VIII in 1994 just before leaving a wooden racing shell behind for good.

Highlights of 150 years

Highest position for the Mens 1st VIII in the Bumps: 4th (Lent 1897).

Lowest position for a 1st VIII: 36th (4th in the Men's 3rd Mays division, in 1987).

Most successful Bumps: 1952 when the six King's VIIIs went up four, one, four, nine, four and zero places.

Highest position in the May Bumps: 5th (1923).

Only Fairbairns Cup victory for a King's VIII: Women's 1st VIII in 2005.

Biggest rise in one set of Bumps: nine places by the 4th VIII in the 1952 Mays.

Biggest drop in one set of Bumps races: 11 places when Queen Margaret of Anjou Boat Club (the original name of the King's Women's club) couldn't get a crew out for the 1979 Lents.

First year for women rowers: 1972–3.

First women's Blue: Rachel Scarth, 1977.

First mention of a King's boat: 1838 in the captains' book of St John's Boat Club (LMBC).

Fewest rowers in a crew for a Bumps race: six, in 1862 (and they still managed to bump Clare's 2nd VIII).

First Blue: F.E. Cunningham, 1867.

First Half-Blue for rowing with Cambridge University Lightweight Rowing Club: Alexander Bird, 1990.

Longest stretch in the 1st VIII: T.F.C. Huddleston, 1865 to 1874.

First 2nd VIII: formed in 1875.

Most exhausting stretch: rowing twice a night as sandwich boat for eight consecutive days in the Mays 1909–10.

Biggest headline maker: Lents 1936 when the 1st and 2nd VIIIs both achieved overbumps (going up three places in one race) on the first night.

First winner of the Michell Cup for best performing college in University races: King's (in 1923).

Most tragic moment: M.G. Falk died just two days

There have been rows about rowing style, glorious years when a crew went up nine Bumps places, or when the women's crew won the Fairbairns Cup, There have also been humiliations. But throughout there has been sweat, camaraderie and a great deal of fun. Here is a whirlwind tour of 150 years of the KCBC.

1896



The 1896 1st Lent VIII having won their oars for the second successive year. In 1897 they reached fourth – the highest ever position for King's.

1913



Happier times before being sent to the Great War. Of this crew two were killed in action, and three won military honours.

1951



GEORGE BUSHELL

The 1951 King's VIII on its way to defeating University College, Dublin, at Henley Royal Regatta.

1973



SALLY MILLERSHIP

The Men's 1st VIII in 1973 with its first female member (Sally Millership, the cox).

1996



Sir Adrian Cadbury pours champagne over the newly christened *Lady Johanna* in 1996.

1996



King's novices in the Fairbairn Cup, including Ceri Jones at 7 who was to go on to get a Half-Blue (for lightweight rowing).

after rowing at 7 in the 2nd Lent VIII of 1936 (which had gone up 7).

Most cursed job: temporary boatman whilst Claude Lester was fighting in WW2. Both Claude's father and then Charlie Hodgkinson took on the job and died

before Claude's return.

Most controversial moment: 1930 – a disagreement over which coaching methods to adopt results in all of the club's Etonian members resigning.

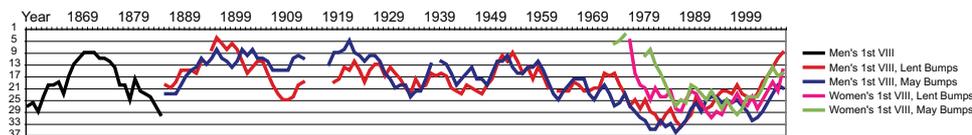
Best performance at Henley Royal Regatta: a King's IV

lost the final of the Visitors Cup 1960 by just 3/4 length.

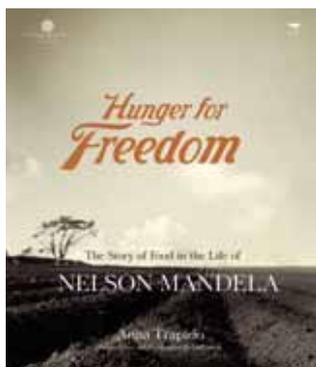
Worst attitude to studying: when L.M. Ingle said about an exam in 1912: 'I drew some sketches, explained what I proposed to do (had I the time), then told the invigilator I was due on the river.'

With many thanks to Matthew Tancock (KC 2005 and secretary of KCBC) for helping compile this article. If you have photographs, anecdotes or other information about rowing at King's, particularly in the 1980s please email the Editor (see p2).

King's Bumps position down the years



Books by, and about, King's members



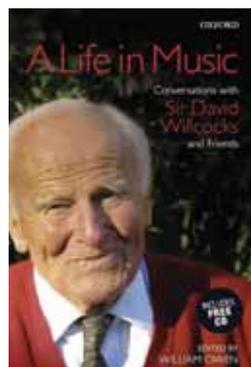
Hunger for Freedom: The Story of Food in the Life of Nelson Mandela

by Anna Trapido

Anna Trapido (KC 1990) studied medical anthropology after her family, white political activists from South Africa, went into political exile in Oxford in the 1960s.

Hunger for Freedom has been described as a “gastro-political” book. It examines Nelson Mandela’s life through the food he ate in captivity right up to his first meal on release. Trapido writes about how he survived on meagre rations of maize meal in the early days in prison and was later allowed to trap animals such as rabbits and partridges. Mandela became a keen gardener and he and fellow prisoners managed to grow vegetables on an island with no fresh water and little soil. Food also became a political weapon as inmates went on hunger strike or used cooking pots to smuggle messages to each other.

Jacana Media Ltd, £22

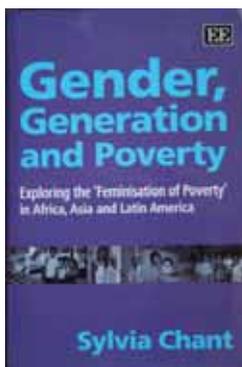


A Life in Music: Conversations with Sir David Willcocks and Friends

Edited by William Owen.

The book tells the life story of the celebrated former Director of Music at King’s College, from his childhood and time as an organ scholar at King’s to his directorship of the Royal College of Music and The Bach Choir. Willcocks (KC 1939) returned to Cambridge in 1945 and in 1947 was made a Fellow and Conductor of the Cambridge Philharmonic Society. He then went to Salisbury and Worcester Cathedrals before returning to his best-known role as King’s Director of Music in 1957. Willcocks also conducted the Cambridge University Music Society. His recordings are included in the CD which accompanies the book. Highlights include CUMS performances of Benjamin Britten’s works with Britten conducting.

Oxford University Press, £19.99



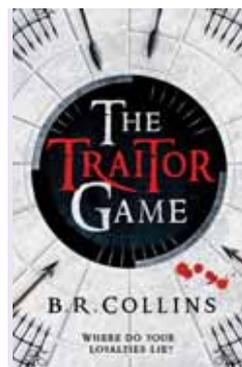
Gender, Generation and Poverty: Exploring the ‘Feminisation of Poverty’ in Africa, Asia and Latin America

by Sylvia Chant

Sylvia Chant (KC 1978) is Professor of Development Geography at the London School of Economics. She is a specialist in gender and development and has published many books on the subject.

Chant’s book is based on fieldwork in The Gambia, Philippines and Costa Rica and on interviews with over 220 women and men at grassroots level. Its main finding is the growing responsibility being placed on women to ensure their family’s survival and the simultaneous exploitation they face from male-headed family units. It proposes a more complex idea of female poverty which encompasses both income and gender relations within the home. It is a useful tool both for those studying female poverty, as well as for those practitioners working on the ground.

Edward Elgar Publishing £29.95



The Traitor Game

by Bridget Collins

Bridget Collins studied English at King’s (KC 1999). She then attended the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art. She has written two plays, won the Young National Poetry Competition two years running, and made an independent film.

The Traitor Game is Collins’ first novel. It deals with issues of bullying, homosexuality and peer pressure, but uses the format of a fantasy novel to show how the imagination can help construct alternative realities to cope. It starts with Michael, who has been bullied at his previous school, arriving at the Catholic St Anselm’s where he becomes best friends with Francis. Francis introduces him to his alternative world, Evgard, which is a kind of Anglo-Saxon/Norman world that the two construct in minute detail. The issue of betrayal, as the title suggests, is central. Writing in *The Guardian*, author Mal Peet describes it as “an intelligent, innovative and absorbing book by a bold new writer”.

Bloomsbury, £10.99

Green Gold: The Empire of Tea

by Alan and Iris Macfarlane

Alan Macfarlane (KC 1971), Fellow of King’s, is Professor of Social Anthropology and has written or edited 20 anthropology and history books.

This book tells the story of “arguably the most important plant on this planet” and its effects on the history of mankind. It traces our love of tea back to 2,000 years ago when it was first used by remote tribesmen in the Easter Himalayas, the plant’s colonisation

of China and Japan and then its growing popularity around the world. It asks how such a small plant came to represent one of the most powerful social and economic forces in the world. Described as “my cup of tea” by the *Financial Times*, and “full of interesting facts and figures as well as being a great story” by *The Scotsman*, it is full of illustrations which highlight the role of tea in history.

Ebury Press, £8.99

Other books by King’s members

A British Affair by David Campbell

David Campbell (KC 1953) studied History then joined the diplomatic service in 1960, serving in South East Asia, Africa and Europe, before moving to the Scottish Office. *A British Affair* is a historical novel set in the dying days of the Malayan emergency. The Pine Marten Press, £7.99

Judging by Disappearances, Unholy Empires, Jean Rhys Afterwords by Alexis Lykiard

Alexis Lykiard (KC 1958) is a poet, translator and novelist. These two books of poetry and a memoir have sparked controversy, with some writers praising his style, while *The Sun* says some of his poetry is “so filthy you wouldn’t want to wrap your chips in it”. Bluechrome publishing (£7.99), Anarchios Press (£7.99) and Shoestring Press (£8.95)

G B: Master, Monster or Myth? by Nicholas Aldridge

Nicholas Aldridge (KC 1959) was a teacher at Summer Fields School in Oxford after graduating from King’s. *G B: Master, Monster or Myth?* is the biography of Geoffrey Bolton, classics teacher at the school for 41 years, a gaunt figure who both frightened and inspired his pupils. Arthur H. Stockwell Ltd, £12.99

Where are they now?

We catch up with former students who have gone on to careers in all walks of life



Danielle Allen (KC 1993 Classics)

Danielle Allen remembers her time at King's for the academic work and the challenging conversations she had with the international students she lived with. A Marshall Scholar studying Classics, she won a Greek prize and a poetry prize. She left to go to Harvard to do her second doctorate, but went on to teach at the University of Chicago where she rose to be Dean of the Humanities Division and worked on a slew of projects such as Poem Present, a poetry-reading series. She also founded the Civic Knowledge Project, to promote better town/gown relations in Chicago. She has recently been appointed UPS Foundation Professor in the School of Social Sciences at Princeton's Institute for Advanced Study, the first Afro American woman to join the permanent faculty.



Simon Halsey (KC 1976 Music)

Simon Halsey remembers his time at King's as a musical odyssey. He says he was very privileged to be at Cambridge with a highly creative bunch of musicians, including Paul Daniel, national director of the English National Opera. "It was a very, very active group," he says. "In that sense Cambridge is unique with a tradition in music and theatre which dates back to the '60s. The level of plays, operas and concerts by students was incredible." Almost immediately after leaving King's where he was a Choral Scholar, he came into contact with Sir Simon Rattle, now director of the Berlin Philharmonic, and has been working with him ever since. Earlier this year, they both won a Grammy for a recording of *Ein Deutsches Requiem* by Brahms. Halsey only found out when friends texted him – he was too focused on his next performance to pay attention to the awards. Halsey, now director of the City of Birmingham Symphony Chorus and of the Berlin Rundfunkchor, lives in Warwickshire.



Naomi Loomes (KC 2002 History)

Naomi Loomes thinks she will probably be best remembered for the stack of empty wine bottles outside her door and the lack of grammar in her essays. After graduating in 2005, she worked for *Grazia* magazine, "extending my writing skills no further than reviewing moisturisers," she says. She went on to do weekend shifts on the Home Affairs desk of *The Observer*, eventually joining the *Daily Mail* and becoming a Press Association trainee in June 2007. She is now a news reporter for *The Argus* in Brighton. In November this year she won the prestigious News Reporter of the Year award from the Society of Editors for her coverage of the murder of BBC make-up artist Diane Chenery-Wickens.



Kamallesh Sharma (KC 1962 English)

Kamallesh Sharma has just been appointed to the prestigious post of Commonwealth Secretary General, becoming the fifth occupier of the post since the Commonwealth Secretariat was formed in 1965 and the only Indian. Specialising in multilateral affairs, he served a lengthy term in the Indian Foreign Service (IFS) from 1965 to 2001 and has held high level positions on several committees and groups addressing issues in developing countries. His most vivid recollection of his time at King's was his discovery of 'inswing' in what he dubs his sparse bowling repertoire. He also recalls encounters with vastly knowledgeable and insightful minds, which produced a quiet sense of bracing excitement, which has never left him. After graduating, his appreciation for English bitter grew, so much so that, he says, "even today when I lift a pint to my lips I return to that magical time around the Cam and the 'hallowed' walls of its colleges".

What is King's?

Are King's students idealistic or apathetic? Radical or after any job that pays? Outgoing KCSU President Lucy McMahon defines the mood among today's students

"A glass of your cheapest Revolution, please," is a common order at King's bar. The aptly-named wine stands proudly opposite the hammer and sickle, next to Fair Trade crisps and locally-sourced sandwiches. Known as the most political College in Cambridge, the site for Amnesty protests, arms divestment committees and charity meetings, is King's revolutionary beyond its cheap red wine? Or is the activist image simply a façade masking just another version of student apathy?

"King's pushes boundaries, twists the rules and normalises the outrageous," reads the front of the 2008 Freshers' guide. If I am cynical, I think dully of the limply attended demonstrations and growing disillusionment that has been a part of my so-called "political" involvement in college. The most "outrageous" events of the past few years are unremarkable drunken gossip stories set in the cellar, or the individual who decides to dye his hair red and refuses to attend graduation. Debt and the imperative to find a paid job somewhere, combined with a growing conviction that most ideals have a mouldy or bloody lining have led many Cambridge students into the "safe" bargain of the moment: any job that pays.

Yet I still hold that King's students and fellows do care, and they do act. Many mock the fact that KCSU is just a condom distributing, cooker-campaigning admin body; about menial bureaucracy, not ideals. But behind the menial is conviction: conviction that basic needs should be provided, that equality of facilities matters, that authority has a duty to adhere to its promises, and that everyday needs can be cared for communally. Political principles underlie everything KCSU does: the laborious moderation of emails is based on the principles of human contact and community, the sometimes

"At King's there is a unique – and, I am starting to appreciate, very rare – environment of respect"



long open meetings are based on free speech, the exec duties are carried out without personal gain and often with failure.

The very best, and perhaps only really valuable quality in political activism in King's, is the freedom to try. When the catering manager is approached by a mad hat scheme for a Fair Trade formal, the Chaplain by students wanting break-dancing in the chapel, the Dean or Fellows by newly-inspired society leaders seeking funding advice – we are listened to.

Internal communication, muddled and sporadic, is nevertheless ever improving.

And when views are expressed at King's, there is a unique – and, I am starting to appreciate, very rare – environment of not just tolerance, but respect. Since coming here, I no longer see sexuality, gender or background as absolutes, I no longer seek to classify before I understand, I no longer see my own convictions as invulnerable to those of others. The question is not so much "What is King's?" but "What isn't King's?" I hope that future generations of students will see this place, not as set in a chapel-sized stone identity, but as a blank page.

(In case you are wondering, the best way to manage a Revolution is to dilute it with Fair Trade orange juice, and rename it Sangria.)

Other student news

Student creates anti-HIV device

A King's student in his final year has helped to devise a nipple shield for HIV positive women which could cut rates of transmission of the virus to their babies. Stephen Gerrard, a chemical engineering student, was at a Design Development Summit in the US where his team was asked to create a design for heating breast milk to deactivate HIV. The team instead found that a detergent which also deactivates HIV could be applied to a pad inside a nipple shield to be worn by HIV positive mothers. The shield could also be used for general medicines, so as not to stigmatise mothers with HIV. The team is looking to work with commercial partners to develop the product.

Students enjoy original King's art

After a ten-year gap, the Student Picture Loan Collection has been resurrected. Students can now borrow a work for a small fee to hang in their rooms. The move comes from second year History of Art student Julien Domercq. The Collection was created by J M Keynes and Duncan Grant – an eclectic selection of original 20th century works, ranging from Roger Fry prints to more recent work.

A lofty proposal

King's student Arun Advani chose the roof of the Chapel on a bright November day to propose to his girlfriend, Rebecca Koenigsberg-Miles from Robinson. "I had decided the Sunday before I was

going to propose to her, so spent a week nervously checking the weather forecast and thinking of little else. Fortunately she said "yes" straight away, "I was the happiest I've ever been. I was slightly less impressed that she had to go rowing immediately afterwards!"



Making King's radical

Robin Osborne takes over as Senior Tutor this January, the role responsible for the educational function of the College. Here he explains why scary is good, and outlines his vision for making King's radical in a new way

"King's prides itself on being radical. But if you ask what King's has done that is radical, the list does not look very radical at all. It looks much more a mark of King's conservatism to have gone all the way through the 1960s without admitting women to the student body or to the Fellowship than a mark of radicalism to have done so in the 1970s.

"Only the practices of other Cambridge and Oxford colleges make King's matching the proportion of undergraduates from the

maintained sector to the proportion of those achieving good A level results from the maintained sector look radical.

"Like the rest of the university sector, King's has pretty well gone with the flow. Not, you might think, that it has had much choice. The University depends on government, on research councils and on charitable trusts for its income. Those who pay the money dictate the conditions. If the government says it will only pay for

"If I can make supervisions scarier in my five years as Senior Tutor, King's really will be a radical place"

research results, not for quality of teaching, research results become the university priority.

"But if we have to accept the conclusions, we do not have to

accept the implicit assumptions. Research grants that buy lecturers out of teaching imply an incompatibility between teaching and research.

But look about for the most inspiring teachers and the most innovative research, and you find they are being done by the same people. It is the most basic teaching that leads one to realise the fragility of the most fundamental assumptions. The best undergraduate supervisions bring up the questions we have been most conditioned not to ask. And not just in the arts.

"Classicists invest a lot in etymology. Radical means getting to the roots. The most radical aspect of what we do at King's is first year supervisions. That's where we can really re-think the basis of our research. Those first supervisions are scary for the student – I can still remember mine. They need to be scary for the supervisor too. If I can make them scarier in my five years as Senior Tutor, King's really will be a radical place."

New Fellow Commoners

Three generous King's benefactors have been elected as Fellow Commoners this year

When individuals make a significant contribution to King's – whether financial or otherwise – they may be elected as members of the Fellowship. We do this not only as a mark of gratitude, but also to recognise that they are helping shape the future of the College. King's is delighted to announce that the following were admitted to the Fellowship in the last year:



Robin Boyle

Robin came up to King's in 1955 as a Choral Scholar to read History. A full account of Robin's later career can be found in the feature in the January 2008 edition of *King's Parade*. He was Chairman and Chief Executive of Faber Music and developed the company into a very creative and financially successful music publisher.

His attachment to the College runs deep. In the past eight years, he has contributed no less than 20 gifts to the College. One gift is being used for the maintenance and restoration of the Chapel and to support the Choir. He has also given to the Boat Club's 150th Anniversary Appeal.



Prabir ("Sunny") Pal

Sunny came to King's from Calcutta in 1955 to read Law and then went on to enjoy a successful international legal career, based in Canada. He is generously supporting the refurbishment of the Founder's Chapel (one of the side-chapels). This includes the restoration of Girolamo Siccilante's *Deposition* (see news p3). The major portion of Sunny's gift will be a piece of Renaissance art, also for the Founder's Chapel. Sunny has also sponsored the restoration of the mural painted onto the wall of his old room (R 2). The curious story of its creation, which all started when the previous occupant gave a lift to an artist hitchhiker, can be found in a feature in the July 2008 issue of *King's Parade*.



Nicholas Stanley

Nicholas's connection with Cambridge stretches back to the early 1920s when his grandfather C O Stanley took control of Harold Pye's Cambridge-based scientific instrument company, and turned the company into a world-leading radio pioneer. Stanley's blunt refusal to re-house Pye Radio in Swansea during the war deserves some credit for the more recent legacy of electronics activity in Cambridge.

C O's son John – Nicholas's father – came up to King's in 1943, at a time when father and son forged progressively closer links between industry and academia. The company collaborated with Alan Turing and Bletchley Park. Post-war years saw the launch of Stanley's pioneering mobile radio (Cambridge taxi company Camtax had the first ever licensed radio in a commercial vehicle); the supply of radio for Edmund Hillary's ascent of Everest; and countless, usually discreet, gestures of help to a range of institutions in Cambridge. John Stanley gave the first TV set to be installed in a College JCR to King's after the war.

After John Stanley's premature death, his son Nicholas re-kindled the family's connection with King's, organising a studentship and funding the restoration of medieval manuscripts. He is an example of the numerous friends who have supported the College without having studied here themselves.

Letters to the Editor



The mural in R2, pictured with Daniela Leonard who restored it.

Mural mystery

I was amazed to read in the summer *King's Parade* that *The End of the World in a Spanish Village* was still in existence after over 50 years. I was the resident in R2A immediately after Ronald Harrison. He showed me the mural and asked if I would be willing to take it on. I liked it, and applied to the authorities for it to remain. They were reluctant – I also heard the story that E M Forster had spoken up for it – but eventually granted me a year, provided that I was prepared to redecorate the room afterwards.

Fortunately, my successor was willing to do the same, and the story seems to have gone on from there. I did meet Irina in my year, when she called in to see if the mural was still there. For some reason, she had taken a dislike to her painting and I had to stop her kicking it. But I have a confession to make: there was a small patch of incomplete painting over the door. As I realised it would never be completed, I painted over it to tidy up the picture.

Brian Coleman (KC 1954)

Thank you Woolworth's

Your report in the last issue about the restoration of the mural in R2A prompts me to provide this missing link in its story.

I was one of the next occupants of R2 in 1957, after Ronald Harrison (KC 1953) whose friend Irina Hale created that stunning splash of colour on the wall – the mural titled *A Spanish village half an hour before the end of the world*. (In the 1950s, “seniors” in their third year enjoyed a set of two rooms – a living room and bedroom. R2A was the living room of the set.) King's had required Harrison to pay for the mural to be painted over at end of his year, unless it found someone else the next year who was willing to take the room on the same condition. When Philip Gaskell, the Lay Dean in charge of allocating rooms,

asked me if I would be interested in taking R2 on that condition, my first sight of the mural left me somewhat stunned (as it still stuns anyone viewing it for the first time!) But, sensing that the mural might provide an interesting talking point for friends and visitors, I said “yes”.

By the end of my year, I had grown to like the mural very much and, since the College did not seem to have found anyone willing to accept that condition, I thought of lifting off the wall-paper and taking the mural home (and paying for the wall to be painted over, of course). I visited Woolworth's searching for suitable wall-paper-removing liquids. Nothing was available (fortunately!). I was bemoaning this to Philip Gaskell, when he told me the College had decided that the mural was worth keeping. I have no idea of E M Forster's interest in the mural and or in that decision.

I have stayed in R2 several times since. Russell Hand (KC 1981), who lived in the room in the mid-1980s, traced me in Geneva, asking about the history of the mural; I directed him to Ronald Harrison. On another visit in 2006, it struck me that, if the mural had survived neglect for 50 years, it must be worth saving! Joelle du Lac, David Munday and the Provost joined me in that sentiment. I am glad that the mural has been restored and that R2A is now a Fellow's study – the Chaplain's.

Sunny Pal (KC 1955)

[Editor's note: As already reported, Sunny Pal generously funded the restoration of the mural.]

Flower power

I love the purple theme of your last issue and the cover image of a geranium. Keep up the good work.

As I understand it *Geranium maculatum* is a North American native sold as an ornamental in UK. If this is growing wild, rather than an escapee, then I'd suggest it's more likely to be Meadow Cranesbill, *G. pratense*.

Phil Goodliffe (KC 1968)

Natural Sciences, tutored by Max Walters



Events

Save the date: concerts and services at King's

January 23 Concerts at King's: American choral music by Vocalessence Ensemble Singers, 7.30pm

January 24 Recital of Handel on harpsichord and chamber organ by Gerald Gifford, 6.30pm

January 31 Recital of Richard Strauss, Mussorgsky arr. Howarth by Prime Brass 6.30pm

February 7 Divine Comedy: pieces with musical wit. Dante Quartet, 8.30pm

February 7 Recital of Britten canticles, by KCMS, 6.30pm

February 14 Recital of Handel organ concertos by Peter Stevens with chamber organ and strings, 6.30pm

February 21 Recital of Messiaen piano pieces, by Kate Whitley and Tom Kimber, KCMS, 6.30pm

February 22 KCMS Concert *German Requiem*, Brahms; *Siegfried Idyll*, Wagner; *Chaconne for Eight Winds and Percussion*, Long with King's Voices, KCMS Orchestra

February 28 Finzi and Gurney recital by Joel Robinson, 6.30pm

March 5 Concerts at King's: Composer's concert, Robin Holloway. Anthems by Purcell, Bach, Byrd, Gibbons and Holloway, 8pm

March 7 Recital of organ music by Daniel Hyde. Bach, Mendelssohn, J Alain, 6.30pm

March 14 Foundation Concert: Mendelssohn Anniversary Celebration. King's Choral Scholars past and present, King's Voices with CUMS Chorus, CUCO

April 4 Easter at King's: Handel's *Messiah*, 7.20pm

April 5 Easter at King's: Handel's *Messiah*, 7.20pm. Filmed for screening live at 7.30pm in cinemas across Europe

Tuesday 7 April Easter at King's: amarcord sings music for Holy Week, 8pm

April 8 Easter at King's: Bach *St John Passion*, 7.30pm

Maundy Thursday, April 9 Easter at King's: Sung Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar. 5.30pm

Maundy Thursday, April 9 Easter at King's: Maggini Quartet plays Peter Maxwell Davies, 8.15pm

Good Friday April 10 Easter at King's: Ante-Communion and Veneration of the Cross, 10.30am

Good Friday April 10 Easter at King's: Choral Evensong, 5.30pm

Good Friday April 10 Easter at King's: BBC Singers, 7pm, broadcast on Radio 3

Holy Saturday April 11 Easter at King's: Haydn Celebration, 7.30pm

Easter Day Sunday April 12 Easter at King's: Sung Eucharist, 10.30am

Easter Day Sunday April 12 Easter at King's: Festal Evensong, 3.30pm

Easter Monday April 13 Easter at King's: Simon Preston plays Messiaen and Bach, 4pm

May 3 Schubert's 'Rosamunde' Quartet, Dante Quartet, 8.30pm

July 11 Concerts at King's: Dark Pastoral. English song and poetry; Butterworth, Brooke and Housman, 8pm. In partnership with conference on music and literature of WW1. For details contact kma23@cam.ac.uk

More details at www.kings.cam.ac.uk/chapel

Save the date: members' events Lent, Easter and Long Vacation Terms 2009

January 24 Mathematics Subject Dinner

An event for King's mathematicians

March 7 King's Women's Event

An event to celebrate the achievements of King's women

March 14 Foundation Lunch

An event for members from matriculation years before 1960

March 21 Medical Sciences Subject Dinner

An event for King's medics

April 18 Philosophy Subject Dinner

An event for King's philosophers

May 2 60th Anniversary Dinner

An event for matriculation years 1949–1951

May 9 Summer Reunion Lunch

An event for matriculation years 1994–1996

June 6 25th Anniversary Dinner

A reunion event for matriculation year 1984

June 27 KCA Day 'Theatre at King's'

Open to all King's members

July 4 KCA Family Day

A garden party for King's members and their families

October 7 London Event: The Global Credit Crisis, One Year On

More members' events details and online booking at www.kingsmembers.org, or contact Amy Ingle in the Development Office, events@kings.cam.ac.uk, tel: +44 (0)1223 331443

NRM reunions in 2008



The class of 1971



The class of 1972



The class of 1973



The class of 1974

