



# St Peter's College

N E W S L E T T E R

## Ken Loach

Ken Loach (1957) is one of 10 leading figures from the arts, as well as politics, science and business, who are set to receive honorary degrees from the University this year, subject to approval by Congregation. Mr Loach, who read Law at St Peter's, is to be awarded a Degree of Doctor of Letters, *honoris causa*.

After leaving St Peter's Ken pursued a career as a director – working first with a repertory theatre company and then directing for television, where his projects included the pioneering drama *Cathy Come Home*. He made his feature debut *Poor Cow* in 1967, followed soon after by *Kes*, which is now acclaimed as one of the finest films ever made in Britain. He has been feted for his work, including the Cannes Special Jury Prize in 1993 for *Raining Stones*.

## Message from the Master



Our 75th Anniversary Year has seen many exciting developments, both in the College and in the University more widely. A vital part of our strategy is to provide the very best facilities to our undergraduates, both to attract outstanding students, and to enhance their experience when they are here. Just before Christmas, we exchanged contracts on our brand new student residence in St Thomas's Street, across the road from the old Lion Brewery. This will give us 46 new en-suite rooms for students, and will go a long way towards the aim of offering three years' accommodation to all our undergraduates. The building is under construction as I write, and will be ready for occupation in October. Initially we have funded this project by a bank loan, to be paid off over 20 years from rental and conference income, and, we hope, other funds we might raise!

The provision of good accommodation, at reasonable prices, is also part of our mission that nobody of excellent academic potential should lose out on the chance of an Oxford education for financial reasons. The new Oxford Bursary scheme has now been unveiled. I am delighted that all students from less well-off backgrounds will have full or part remission of their university fees. In the Vice-Chancellor's words "With these bursaries one of the world's finest universities will in fact be the most affordable place to study for talented British students from families with the least financial resources."

The introduction of tuition fees, the progressive reduction in public funding for Higher Education, and all the financial pressures on our talented young people, give us all a challenge to meet. We are determined to provide full support for the Oxford Bursaries, additional hardship funds where required, and an enhanced working and living environment for everyone at the College. However much the College may develop, the warmth and coherence of its community remain fundamental. Whenever I meet friends and Old Members of St Peter's I have been humbled by your enthusiasm for the College's continuing growth and health, and I would like to thank everyone for their generosity to the College in so many ways.

*Bernard Silverman*

**Professor Bernard Silverman FRS**  
Master

## Telethon 2005

Our eight student callers this year are:



Lia Brugha (2002)  
*Medicine*



Anna Gallagher (2003)  
*English*



Claire Green (2003)  
*Geography*



Sarah Luxton (2003)  
*English*



Saskia Warren (2003)  
*English*



Alice Wilby (2003)  
*PPE*



Tara Wilkinson (2002)  
*English*



Natalie Wright (2002)  
*Mathematics and Philosophy*

In the first two weeks of April we will be calling nearly 1000 St Peter's Old Members in our Annual Telethon.

This year we will be raising money for all aspects of student life – from hardship grants and bursaries to sport, music, drama and the library. Please do support us as generously as you can. Our Telethons are as much about updating you with the latest College news and events as raising money, so regardless of whether you are able to make a donation, please do take the time to speak with our student callers. They are the best source of information about goings-on within College and they very much enjoy the time they spend talking with our Old Members!

*If you are one of the small number of Old Members who do not like to be contacted by telephone, please let the Development Office know and we will remove you from the list.*

# Rugby Success!

**Simon Davies**, St Peter's Rugby Team

This season the St Peter's Rugby team have achieved what no other St Peter's Rugby team have done before them. Under the captaincy of Tom Rayner we have not only won both first division leagues, but have done it undefeated.

On returning for the beginning of the season we had lost a number of our solid players to the real world and several of our best players were away playing for University teams. As compensation we had Somerset Pheasant and Geraint Williams back from their year abroad, both of whom proved essential in bolstering the team on (and off) the field.

The opening match, with an untested line up and a number of new players, proved to be a great success, with a convincing win over Queens. It seemed at first that we

would have no problem defeating the weaker teams in our league but, in fact, our undefeated record for this season is slightly misleading. Some of our victories were less than overwhelming and on more than one occasion we came close to defeat but managed to pull it back. This especially seems to have been the case against New College, from whom we snatched victory on the first occasion with a last-play try, and on the second occasion with a penalty in the last minutes of the match.

In spite of these close-run matches against some of the lesser teams in the league we managed to show our true strength in defeating a strong St Edmund Hall team on two occasions. In true SPC rugby style we blitzed them in the forwards and defended our half in an equally formidable



fashion. Rising to the test seemed to characterise St Peter's rugby this season and we certainly put in the work when we needed to!

There was also some work off the pitch though: our constant stream of victories seems to have been especially beneficial for the turnover of the college drinking establishment and, but for our brief ban for misbehaviour, we have dominated all the SPC college sports teams on the playing field that is the bar!

To sum up, everyone in the squad has trained and played hard this season and through excellent defence and flexibility, and a marginal amount of luck, we achieved what few expected at the beginning of the year. We may have had some close games, but overall, St Peter's has dominated Oxford College Rugby. With the return of our Blues players, if we continue along the same lines, we have every chance of continuing our success this term in Cuppers.

# St Peter's College Ball



On Saturday 7th May College will be transformed into a vision of paradise for the St Peter's Ball, which this year has a 'Heavenly' theme.

roast in the Viking Heaven of Valhalla, where fire performers and a Bavarian band will keep you entertained. Chill out with the shishas and tattoo artiste in the hazy mist of Nirvana, or take a diversion to 'Paradise Lost', where a live serpent will lead to the wicked temptations of forbidden fruits, candyfloss, popcorn and a chocolate fountain!

Gods and Goddesses, angels and saints will be at your service from the champagne reception right through to the champagne breakfast, providing free and unlimited bars and the opportunity of formal Garden of Eden dining.

singers, harpist, close-up magic, DJs, live rockabilly and funk bands...

Can you resist the temptation?

Order now at [www.spcball.com](http://www.spcball.com)

Four bars, four dance areas, heavenly snacks throughout the night and many more entertainers: gospel

*There are opportunities available to sponsor the St Peter's 2005 Ball – for more information please contact the Development Office.*



Sample some of the finest ales and feast on hog-



# Student News

## MCR

The MCR continues to thrive with an ever-increasing membership.

The diversity of nationalities and subjects studied makes my job particularly interesting when talking to people in the common room. This year has also seen a greater involvement in MCR affairs by fourth year undergraduates, with two of them taking positions on the committee.

The refurbishment of the MCR has met with approval from both our current membership and visitors from other colleges. People can be found working or relaxing on the comfortable leather sofas throughout the day. The audio system provides truly stunning sound for our film nights and the DVD and video players have seen many hours of service.

During Michaelmas Term we arranged some very popular exchange dinners with Green and Mansfield Colleges. At Green College we were treated to a tour of the Radcliffe Observatory, which afforded some fine views across Oxford on a night fortuitously clear of cloud. November saw us provide all night coverage of the US Presidential elections with Dan Endlar (social secretary) keeping everyone going with coffee and doughnuts! We also forged closer ties with our younger colleagues in the JCR by challenging them to an evening at Laser Quest, in what turned out to be a fiercely contested match. I have to report that the MCR only just lost by the narrowest of margins but it was such an enjoyable evening that we agreed to have a re-match in Hilary term.



*Kenneth Amor, President*

Hilary Term started well, with an exchange dinner at Brasenose and an evening of live jazz music in the MCR. Contrary to popular myth (although all myths are based upon an element of truth!) our cultural activities do not revolve around episodes of 'The Simpsons', and later this term we are looking forward to theatre trips to Stratford-upon-Avon and London.

This year many members of the MCR have been keen to participate in sporting activities for either the College or University, and several of us regularly turn out for St Peter's football team and rowing squad. I would like to give special mention to several MCR members who spend much of their spare time devoted to their sport; Sarah Cornick training with the Women's Light Weight Rowing Club for Henley, Ioannis Hodges hoping to represent Greece in archery at the 2008 Olympics and Mike Blomquist who has been training with the squad for the Blue Boat. We all hope that Mike makes the final crew selection! \*

## JCR

I took over as JCR President in the summer following a race with the previous incumbent on a rowing machine while wearing the JCR Squirrel Mascot costume. Since then I would like to say I have assumed the decorum with which the position is accustomed. However, this is not always entirely accurate: Shrove Tuesday saw me don the aforementioned squirrel costume to take part in the inaugural charity pancake race around Gloucester Green where the SPC team finished an excellent 3rd equal. Over the course of the



*William Pearce, President*

year my committee has worked extremely well to ensure the smooth running of many JCR events ranging from the Charity Chase in which Second and Third Years pursued Freshers between the pubs of Oxford dressed as policemen, to appeasement of the College authorities following excessive exuberance at Bops!

I have been delighted to see so many members of the JCR keen to make a difference. Following a generous donation we now possess the James Partington Memorial Clock in the JCR and members have responded to national (and occasionally international) events to bring varied motions to the General Meetings. Last term we debated a smoking ban and held a referendum to decide our policy. A gratifyingly large turnout saw the JCR opt for a ban in the Bar during Bop nights. The start of 2005 saw us, prompted by the Tsunami disaster, vote through a levy of £5 per term on all members of the JCR to be given directly to charity.

Peter's pride remains as strong as ever – whether on the touchline for the crucial rugby matches or singing the college songs at every opportunity. Its highpoint came in Michaelmas when we mustered over three thousand individual votes to win 'Cherwell's Fit College of the Term' by a resounding margin!

It is always tremendous to see old Peterites return to the JCR – we've had eminent lawyers advising undergraduates on a legal career and former rowers returning to celebrate our success in Summer Eights over the past six months. So please come back for a Bop if that's your thing or drop by to catch up – you'll be most welcome!

## St Peter's Ties

St Peter's Cross Keys ties are now available to buy from the Development Office. The ties are dark blue and are available in polyester for £14 or silk for £23. Prices include postage and packing. To purchase a tie, please contact Charlotte Jahan in the Development Office.



## College Archives

Do you have old copies of Cross Keys, old University Calendars or other St Peter's items that you no longer wish to hold on to? If so, the College will be very glad to receive such contributions for its archive collection – please forward to the Development Office or the College Library.



## College Record

If you have any news that you would like to feature in the 2005 edition of the College Record, please contact Charlotte Jahan in the Development Office.

**STOP PRESS!** Mike Blomquist has been selected for the Oxford crew in this year's Boat Race on Sunday 27th March 2005.

# 75th Anniversary Celebrations



This academic year St Peter's is celebrating the 75th Anniversary of its foundation. Last summer the College put on several special events to mark the occasion and several hundred of our Old Members, friends, supporters and current students came to help celebrate.

Anniversary festivities began on the first weekend in September with our very successful two day Garden Party. Saturday evening was a party night, with a barbeque, live music and a traditional 'bop' in the JCR. Sunday was more of a relaxed family occasion, with guests enjoying lunch and afternoon tea in the beautiful sunshine, while kids were kept entertained by bouncy castles, face painters and balloon modellers!

Later in the month the new Dorfman Centre played host to a Medical, Life Sciences and Chemistry Symposium, and the years 1962, 1970, 1978, 1981, 1992 and 1993 came back to St Peter's for their Gaudy. Our 1954 matriculands also enjoyed a very successful 50th Anniversary Dinner (which we will be repeating this year for 1955) and a special lunch and presentation was held for members of the Howard Society (for those who have left gifts to St Peter's in their wills) to thank them for their much-appreciated support.

*More photographs of all these and other St Peter's events can be found online on our website - [www.spc.ox.ac.uk](http://www.spc.ox.ac.uk)*

## Buildings Update

St Peter's is currently working on two buildings that will further the college's aim of being able to house all undergraduates in College accommodation throughout all three years of their course.

### St Thomas' Street

The College recently joined forces with a developer to acquire 46 en-suite study/bedrooms and a large common room in St Thomas Street. The new site is a short distance from the College, close to our annexe at St George's Gate and the site at Paradise Street on which we hope to start building soon. This £3.5m development will be available for occupation by undergraduate students beginning Michaelmas Term 2005. The Master, Professor Bernard Silverman, said that 'this is a prime acquisition for the College funded initially by bank loans which are

being offset by the generosity of alumni'. William Pearce, President of the JCR, on a recent 'hard hat' tour of the building applauded the College's decision to give priority to meeting the housing and study needs of its students.

The new study/bedrooms will be single en suite rooms and are set in a quiet area within easy walking distance of the College.



### Paradise Street

In March 2002 the College acquired a prime site in Paradise Street a short walk from the College and in the lee of the Oxford Castle. Following a successful planning application and negotiations with contractors, the College is to begin building this new annexe of student accommodation at the end of February 2005. The 50 en-suite study/bedrooms and common room

should be ready, after a sixteen month programme, by the start of the 2006/07 academic year. The project is costing £3m and is being funded through a bank loan, though we hope the College's alumni may be able to sponsor part or all of the project. Those interested in contributing towards the building are asked to contact the Development Director for further information.



# Who's Who

Last Spring, to mark the College's 75th Anniversary year, St Peter's launched a project to compile a complete 'Who's Who' of all our members, past and present. We sent out over 4,000 Questionnaires and have had a staggering response, with the occasional questionnaire still returning to the Development Office even today!

There is obviously still a great deal of work and archival research to be done to make the 75th Anniversary Who's Who as complete a record of St Peter's and its members as possible. In the meantime, we thought it might be interesting to show a selection of the many Old Members that have made their way into other reference works.

**Rev Wilbert Awdry, OBE** (1929)  
1911–1997 Author, 'Thomas the Tank Engine'



**Hon Carl Albert** (1931) 1908–2000  
US Congressman, Speaker of the House of Representatives, 1971-76

**Mr Justice Edward Akufo-Addo** (1933) 1906–1979 Chief Justice and President, Republic of Ghana, 1969-72

**Sir Rex Hunt, CMG** (1944)  
Governor and Commander in Chief, Falkland Islands, 1980-82



**Sir Anthony Hollis** (1945)  
1927–2003 Judge of High Court Justice, Family Division, 1982-97

**Sir Harold Platt** (1947) Judge of Supreme Court, Uganda, 1989-95; Chairman, Uganda Law Reform Commission, 1995-2000

**Sir Kenneth Bloomfield, KCB** (1949) Head of Northern Ireland Civil Service, 1984-91

**Mr Noel Hooper** (1951) Judge of the High Court, Hong Kong, 1981-93



**Lord (Robert) Gavron** (1951)  
Chairman, Guardian Media Grp (1997-2000), Folio Society  
© uppa.co.uk

**Mr Wally Olins, CBE** (1951) Joint founder and Chairman of Wolff Olins, 1965-97

**Sir Gerald Warner** (1951)  
Intelligence Co-ordinator, Cabinet Office, 1991-6



**Lord (Jack) Dormand of Easington** (1954)  
1919 – 2003  
MP (Lab) for Easington, 1970-87; cr Life Peer, 1987

**Mr Hans Jurgen Freymuth, OBE** (1954) Presiding Judge, Berlin District Court (retired 1998)

**Mr Jeffrey Knight, FCA** (1957)  
Chief Executive, The Stock Exchange, 1982-89

**Mr Ken Loach** (1957) Television and Film Director

**Mr James Vallance White, CB** (1958) Fourth Clerk at the Table and Clerk of the Judicial Office, House of Lords, 1983-2002

**Mr Robin Herd, CBE** (1958)  
Owner, March Racing (1969-81), Chairman Oxford Utd (1996-97)

**Mr Masamichi Hanabusa** (1958)  
Japanese Ambassador to Rome, 1997-99

**Mr Richard Wells, QPM** (1959)  
Chief Constable, South Yorkshire Police, 1990-98

**Rt Rev Sir Paul Reeves, GCVO, GCMG** (1959) Archbishop and Governor General of New Zealand, 1985-90

**Lord (Robin) Hodgson** (1961)  
Former Chairman of Granville Plc, former Deputy Chairman of Conservative Party

**Sir Roger Bone, KCMG** (1962)  
British Ambassador to Sweden (1995-99) and Brazil (1999-2004)

**Mr Rory Steele** (1962) Australian Ambassador to Iraq (1986-8) and Italy (1996-2000)

**Professor Roy Sharp** (1964)  
Vice-Chancellor, University of Canterbury, New Zealand

**Mr Lauro Baja** (1964) Philippine Ambassador to Brazil (1986-93) and Italy (1997-8)

**Mr Abraham Benjamin** (1964)  
Israeli Ambassador to Latvia

**Mr Timothy Smith** (1966) MP for Beaconsfield (1982-97), Under-Sec of State, Northern Ireland Office, 1994

**Mr David Gordon MacLeod** (1967) British High Commissioner to Papua New Guinea

**Rev Canon Philip Buckler** (1967) Canon Residentiary and Treasurer, St Paul's Cathedral



**Mr David Davies** (1969)  
Chief Executive, Football Association

**Mr William Chapman** (1970)  
Secretary for Appointments to the Prime Minister, and Ecclesiastical Secretary to the Lord Chancellor

**Hon Sir Anthony Mann** (1970)  
Judge of the High Court of Justice, Chancery Division

**His Honour Judge Stephen Stewart, QC** (1971) Senior Circuit Judge and Designated Civil Judge

**Lord (Paul) Condon, QPM** (1972)  
Commissioner, Metropolitan Police, 1993-2000

**Admiral Sir Mark Stanhope** (1972) Deputy Commander-in-Chief Fleet, Royal Navy

**Mr Teniola Olusegun** (1976)  
Nigerian Ambassador to the UN

**Major General Nicholas Houghton, CBE** (1977) Chief of Staff, Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps

**Professor David Eastwood, FRHistS** (1977) Vice-Chancellor, University of East Anglia

**Mr Geordie Greig** (1979) Editor, *Tatler*

**Mr Matt Frei** (1982) BBC's Senior Washington Correspondent



**Mr Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall** (1984) Writer, Broadcaster and Chef.



## New Development Director

Sean Rainey has recently been appointed Fellow and Director of Development & Alumni Relations. Sean has been Deputy Development Director at St Peter's for the past 3 years and began his career with the European Commission before working in Business Development in Central and Eastern Europe for 4 years.

## Conference Facilities at St Peter's

St Peter's has excellent conference and meeting rooms available for a wide range of occasions, as well as bespoke catering services and residential facilities. Jean Wright, our Conference Manager, and Eric Henderson, our Catering Manager, will be delighted to put together a package to meet your specific requirements. Please contact either Eric on (01865) 278879 or Jean on (01865) 278872.



## Friends of St Peter's Boat Club

St Peter's College Boat Club held a meeting in London in February, which attracted a number of former St Peter's rowers. The President of the Boat Club, Adam Weidner, delivered a presentation outlining plans for the establishment of a 'Friends of St Peter's Boat Club'. Similar 'Friends' organisations have been set up in several other Oxford Colleges with great success and the hope is that as many former St Peter's rowers as possible will get involved. For further information please contact the Development Office or Adam Weidner – adam.weidner@spc.ox.ac.uk



# Forthcoming Events

### Intercollegiate Golf Competition

For the very first time, St Peter's will be fielding a team of ten at the annual Old Member's Intercollegiate Golf Competition held at Frilford Heath, near Oxford, on **Friday 15th April**. We wish them all the best of luck!

### St Peter's Ball 2005 'Heavenly'

The 'Heavenly' St Peter's Ball will be held on **Saturday 7th May**. Basic tickets are priced at £65 with options for dining available and discounts for group bookings. For more information visit [www.spcball.com](http://www.spcball.com)

### Donors' Reception

In **June** we will be holding a special reception in central London for our donors to thank them for their support and update them with the latest developments in College. Further details to be announced.

### St Peter's Society Reunion Weekend

On **24th-26th June** the St Peter's Society are holding their annual Re-union weekend and AGM in College. For more information please contact the Alumni Officer or the President, Frank Parker, on 01629 814518.

### Henley Royal Regatta

Old Members attending the Regatta are invited to drinks at the St Peter's Boat Club Henley Royal Regatta Party, to be held on **Saturday 2nd July** at 6.30p.m. in Butler's Field car park position BB270. Further information on the location and plan for Butler's Field is available at <http://www.twrc.rowing.org.uk/hrr/hrrcarpark.htm>

### 50th Anniversary Re-union Dinner – 1955 matriculands

On **Saturday 10th September** we will be holding a special anniversary dinner for all those who came up to Oxford 50 years ago in 1955. Invitations will be sent out in the summer.

### Howard Society Lunch

Our annual lunch for members of the Howard Society will be held in College on **Thursday 15th September**. The guest speaker has been confirmed as Dr Lawrence Goldman, Fellow in History, who will be talking about his role as Editor of the Dictionary of National Biography.

### Gaudy 1985-89

We are holding a Gaudy for our 1985 to 1989 matriculands on **Saturday 24th September**.

### Cairncross Lecture

The fourteenth Cairncross lecture will be held in **November** this year – date and speaker to be confirmed.

### Gaudy 1955-59

On **Friday 6th January 2006** we are holding a Gaudy for all those who matriculated between 1955 and 1959. Invitations will be sent out later in the year (there will be an option to stay in College on the evening of Saturday 7th January for those that wish to make a weekend of the occasion!)

*For further information on our events please see our website [www.spc.ox.ac.uk](http://www.spc.ox.ac.uk) or contact the Development Office.*

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