

# St Peter's College

N E W S L E T T E R

## Message from the Master

My first six months at St Peter's have been enormously exciting and rewarding, and I have realised how privileged and honoured I have been to be welcomed into the St Peter's community. Those who have been associated with the College for a long time may take for granted the things that make the College such a special place to live, study and work. It takes an outsider like me to confirm that St Peter's really is the friendly and forward-looking college that it claims to be, and this atmosphere makes a remarkable contribution to the many achievements, academic and extra-curricular, of both its junior and senior members.



Our undergraduate and graduate students show real enthusiasm for their academic work, I hope not just in Master's Collections! Not only are they highly articulate in discussing their specialist subjects, but they clearly demonstrate how an Oxford education benefits them in so many ways that will stand them in good stead for the rest of their careers and lives.

I have been particularly struck by the great reserves of dedication and professionalism that my academic colleagues, both Fellows and Lecturers, put into their research and teaching, and the way that the college system facilitates the kind of close interaction between these aspects of scholarship that is the envy of universities all over the world.

The loyalty and commitment and outstanding performance of all the non-academic staff of the College have been considerably tested this term, with the disruption caused by the complete rebuilding of our kitchens, and it is hard to imagine how things could have progressed with greater smoothness and efficiency.

The kitchen redevelopment is only one of a number of exciting developments on the horizon at the College. Later this year will see the official opening of the Dorfman Centre, a stunning addition to our public and teaching space in the College. We have just been granted planning permission to construct a fifty-room student residence next to the Saxon Tower in Paradise Street, just a few yards from the award-winning Lau Building opened in 1999, and only five minutes' walk from the College itself. We have aspirations to build or acquire further residences so that we can become one of the select group of colleges that can provide accommodation for all their students at reasonable (but still economic) rents.

I have met old members from the College spanning almost its entire history, from those who joined St Peter's Hall in the early days to those who graduated just as I joined. The idea that once you join St Peter's you remain a member for life has been borne out to me in so many ways, but most especially in the way that old members visiting the College so often welcome *me*, rather than the other way round!

*Bernard Silverman*

## St Peter's 75th Anniversary Who's Who

As part of our 75th Anniversary celebrations, we are compiling a 'Who's Who' directory of all our members, from 1929 to the present day! To ensure that the information that we have on record is accurate, please

complete this questionnaire and return it to the St Peter's Development Office in the envelope provided. It would be helpful to us to receive your 75th Anniversary Questionnaire by 30th June 2004.

If you have not received a copy of the 'Who's Who' questionnaire and would like one, please e-mail the Development Office ([development.office@st-peters.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development.office@st-peters.ox.ac.uk)) and we'll happily send one out to you!

## 75th Anniversary Garden Party

in association with the  
St Peter's Society

2004 marks 75 years since the foundation of St Peter's. To celebrate we are holding a Garden Party in College on **Saturday 4th September 2004**. All of our students, past and present, will be invited and we hope that the day will offer something for everyone! The Garden Party will begin in the afternoon with Pimms and strawberries and cream, and will continue throughout the day with a variety of food, drink and live music to suit all tastes. And, of course, no party would be complete without a bop in the JCR to finish!

The Garden Party will be a perfect opportunity to catch up with old friends, whilst celebrating the College's 75th Anniversary year – we hope that many of you will be able to attend. There will be a limited number of places at this event. To register your interest please contact the Development Office. Further details will be sent out later in the year.

*(There will be a charge for this event, to cover costs.)*

# Torpids Success!

St Peter's College Boat Club enjoyed phenomenal success in Torpids 2004 finishing 2nd overall on bumps. Notable successes were those of the Mens' 2nd VIII who won blades and the Womens' 1st VIII who only narrowly missed out on blades. The club as a whole was well represented with four crews in total competing, including a Womens' 2nd VIII who qualified through rowing on, and went on to make three bumps and achieve a two place upward jump. The Mens' 1st VIII performed admirably with a number of inexperienced oarsmen in the crew, and managed to hold their

place at the top end of the second division. Their Torpids included a couple of gutsy 'row overs' and finished with a triple overbump on a desolate Brasenose Mens' 1sts on the green bank. The Peter's crews were undoubtedly boosted by the large number of 'Peter's faithful' who turned out along the banks to support, testament to the important role the club plays in college life. The current

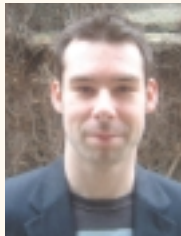


committee hope to build on this in the following months with a strong Eights campaign, and also the imminent establishment of 'The Friends of St Peter's College Boat Club', the aim of which is to ensure that the club retains the support and enthusiasm of its past and

current members. Eights this year starts on Wednesday 26th May, climaxing on Saturday the 29th. All supporters are most welcome!

For more information please visit our new website: [www.spcbc.org.uk](http://www.spcbc.org.uk)

# Student News



## MCR

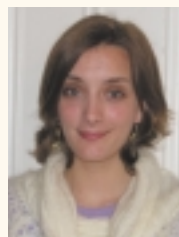
The graduate community is alive and well in St Peter's MCR. 2003 came to an end with the traditional

MCR Christmas Dinner (which culminated in a surprisingly tuneful rendition of Come All Ye Faithful). So far this year, the MCR has enjoyed a well-attended and lively Guest Night dinner, been treated to lectures on wine-tasting and telepathy, watched a series of diverse and thought-provoking films, travelled far and wide in search of the perfect Oxford pub, and danced long into the night at our famous (or should that be infamous?) MCR bops! Moreover, the MCR's premier quiz team, 'Fun C-R', demonstrated the true power of knowledge to the JCR, emerging as overall champions of last term's Bar quiz. In addition to welcoming new members from all over the world, the MCR has also seen more fourth year undergraduates

around the Common Room this year. Needless to say, they've brought much needed youthful enthusiasm (not to mention sarcasm) to the MCR!

Having moved into the 21st century with the acquisition of a DVD player, the MCR is looking forward to a substantial refurbishment over Hilary vacation, which will see new sofas and chairs, new units and countertops for the kitchen, new lighting, new artwork and extensive redecoration.

Further news and updates on the MCR can be found on our website <http://www.spc.ox.ac.uk/mcr>.



Rosalind Morgan,  
President

## JCR

This year has seen big changes throughout the college and the JCR has been no exception to this.

At the start of this year we had a fantastic Freshers' week, largely due to the new JCR Freshers' committee (established to preserve the sanity of the JCR committee!). By the end of the week the latest round of first years had been taught all the college songs and an inappropriate degree of college pride had been instilled in them. The entz have continued and both this and last term have seen the continuance of bar nights, the SPC bar quiz, bops (naturally), video nights, laser quest, band night and bops with other colleges. In more material terms the JCR has seen various acquisitions in the past year. With money generously donated from the development office fund we have been able to buy new chairs for the JCR office, a new JCR computer, an electronic drum kit (to preserve the ears of the majority) and a JCR owned PA system. To the general delight of the JCR the beginning of this term also saw the arrival of 'Peter'. Peter is a 7ft squirrel costume; some claim he is an orange

chipmunk with a big tail – I assure you they are wrong. He is to be the new JCR mascot so the other colleges won't forget us!

Very early on in Michaelmas the NUS held a national anti-fees demonstration in London. St Peter's was the best represented Oxford college there, and the lusty shouting of the various first years led me to contemplate a more political JCR. The JCR remains firm in its belief that differential fees are not the right way to fund Oxford and that it will have a significant impact upon access.

Last term saw a re-write of the JCR constitution. A laborious process but one that, I feel, has led to a necessary review of the way the JCR functions and, hopefully, a more efficient and relevant end product, something to be proud of.

Nearing the latter end of Hilary we find ourselves once again in the throes of JCR elections. So I have come to realise that the wheel keeps turning.

# Honorary Fellows

St Peter's has recently elected Prof Graham Bell, Ms Frances Cairncross and The Rev Prof Paul Fiddes as Honorary Fellows of the College.

## Professor Graham Bell (1967)

Professor Graham Bell was an undergraduate and DPhil student at St Peter's from 1967-74. He is currently James McGill Professor at McGill University in Montreal, and Director of the Redpath Museum. Professor Bell is a distinguished evolutionary biologist who has written four books and more than 90 major research papers in international journals. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and an internationally recognised figure in the field of evolution.

## Frances Cairncross

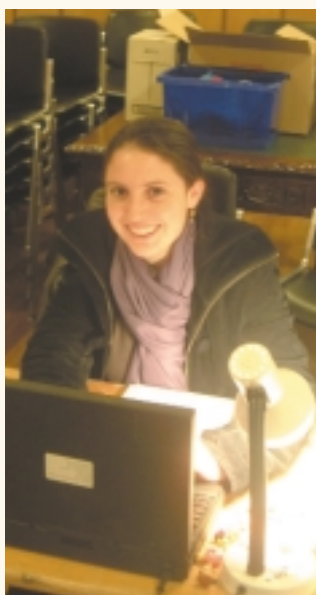
Frances Cairncross was Management Editor of *The Economist* for five years. In addition to being a world renowned journalist, she is the chair of the Economic and Social Research Council, a non-executive director of Alliance & Leicester plc and Senior Fellow at the School of Public Policy, UCLA. She holds an honorary fellowship at St Anne's College – where she read Modern History as an undergraduate in the mid-1960s – and a visiting Fellowship at Nuffield College. This October she will be taking up the position of Rector at Exeter College. Frances is the daughter of Sir Alec Cairncross, former Master of St Peter's.

## Rev Prof Paul Fiddes (1965)

Prof Fiddes read successively English and Theology at St Peter's, before proceeding to a DPhil on the theological implications of Hebrew wisdom literature. After post-doctoral research in the University of Tübingen he returned to Oxford in 1977 as a Fellow and Tutor at Regent's Park College, also being a College Lecturer in Theology at St Peter's from 1979 to 1985. He became Principal of Regent's Park College in 1989, and was granted the title of 'Professor of Systematic Theology' by the University of Oxford in 2002. Professor Fiddes is recognised internationally as one of the leading scholars in the fields of theology and literature.



# Telethon 2004



Fundraising for St Peter's got off to a fantastic start this year with the Annual Telethon. In the first two weeks of January 534 Old Members were telephoned by eight current St Peter's undergraduates to update them with the latest College news and to raise money for student hardship and bursaries. Like last year, the campaign was a phenomenal success; over 55% of those contacted made a donation, raising a staggering £100,000 for the college. This money will go directly towards supporting students in financial difficulty, and in particular towards funding the new Oxford Bursaries Scheme. It is vitally important that College is

able to provide financial backing of this nature for its students; it enables talented young people who would not otherwise be able to afford to study at Oxford to take up places at St Peter's.

St Peter's would like to thank everyone who participated in this year's Telethon. Our callers very much enjoyed the time they spent talking to our Old Members, heard many entertaining anecdotes and received a great deal of useful advice during the fortnight of calling! We would like to thank all those who made a donation to this year's appeal and helped make the campaign such a great success. In

particular, we would like to thank our younger alumni, notably those who matriculated between 1995 and 1999. This was the first year they have participated in a Telethon, and they proved to be one of our largest and most enthusiastic groups of donors!

The eight students who took part in the 2004 Telethon were:

James Bounds (Philosophy and Theology); Laura Carter (Archaeology and Anthropology); Penny Grant (Music); Pamela McGill (Physics); Rosalind Morgan (Philosophy and Theology); Cathy Pope (Ancient and Modern History);

Paul Williams (Modern History) and Jessica Wrigley (PPE.)

We hope that next year's Telethon will be as successful as this year's has been and that you will continue to enjoy hearing from our students. Whether or not you are able to make a donation, please do take the time to talk with our callers –

they enjoy the time they spend talking with our Old Members and are the best source of information about goings on within College! However, if you are one of the small number of Old Members who do not like to be contacted in this fashion please do let the Development Office know, and we will remove your name from the list.



## The Dorfman Centre

The College's recent Business Review, endorsed by the Governing Body in January 2003, highlighted the need for a modern and fully equipped seminar room to complement those in the Latner and Chavasse buildings. Keen to exploit every conceivable inch of the small site that the College occupies on New Inn Hall Street, the Bursar earmarked a potential area behind Staircase IV following an audit of space in 1997. This was always going to be a tricky plot to develop, but an imaginative design by Mr Timothy Lee, of the London architects Lee/Fitzgerald Ltd, and the generosity of Mr Lloyd Dorfman

combined to make possible one of the most outstanding new small buildings in Oxford. The building was constructed to a very high specification by Benfield & Loxley Ltd of Cowley, and the College now has a most elegant new centre capable of seating over 60 for a lecture or conference (45 at tables) and a fitting meeting room for the Governing Body. It is in constant use during term time and will be in great demand for conferences and seminars during vacations.

The centre is air-conditioned and fully equipped with remotely operated audio/ visual technology

and an induction loop. The surrounding area has been landscaped, and we have been able to link the back of Staircase IV to the seminar room by a ramped access to provide facilities for the disabled. The Dorfman Centre is one of the very few modern buildings in the area built entirely of wood. Great attention has been paid to energy conservation with a very high level of insulation and the cedar-panelled walls make the centre beautifully quiet. Large windows let in natural light and the attractive building is marked by an oak floor and elegant vaulted oak ceiling panels.

Lloyd Dorfman's benevolence has provided the College with a major enhancement. This beautiful building has been admired by all that have visited it. It has opened up what was a rather desolate 'back street' area of the College to provide an exciting new facility, drawn our attention to the fine Emily Morris building, introduced an interesting dimension to the Mulberry Quad, incorporated essential facilities for the disabled and, above all, added an elegant new room designed and built with great skill and craftsmanship.



# Kitchen Refurbishments



This Hilary term, the Hannington Quad has been transformed into a temporary building site for the long-overdue renovation of the College kitchens! In 2002 the Building Committee had concluded that the refurbishment of the kitchen and aspects of the wider catering operation at St Peter's needed an urgent overhauling. Consultants' reports on the existing kitchen arrangements highlighted serious health and safety issues, severe shortages of

storage facilities, difficulties in recruiting and retaining staff, and inefficiencies which make the operation more costly than necessary.

At the end of Michaelmas 2003 the kitchen was closed down and a temporary food preparation area was partitioned off in the space in Hall normally occupied by the High Table. For the duration of Hilary term students, staff and visitors have been served from the back of

the Hall, with simpler meals than usual and disposable cutlery and crockery. Students with rooms in St George's Gate and Cambridge Terrace have been fed in their respective annexes.

Meanwhile, the old Kitchens have been massively upgraded to feature more space for food preparation, better dishwashing facilities, new cold rooms and deep freezers, enhanced meal transportation equipment and a

much more pleasant working environment for staff.

After all this disruption, the Kitchen refurbishments are well on their way to being completed. The capacity of Hall has now increased by 25%, and all Health and Safety requirements have been met or exceeded. The new arrangements have cost in excess of £750,000, but will be serving staff, students and visitors for many years to come!

## The Chaplain

It is with both great pleasure and sadness, that we announce that the Chaplain, the Rev Christopher Jones, will be leaving the college in July this year.

After eleven years as Chaplain of St Peter's, he has been appointed Home affairs policy adviser in the Mission and Public Affairs Division of the Archbishops' Council of the Church of England. Christopher's brief will be to provide advice to the Church on areas including criminal justice, mental health, drug and alcohol policy, religious offences, and sexual offences and to maintain a watching brief on industrial and economic affairs.

We wish him all the best in his new position.



## Obituaries

**The college regrets to announce the deaths last year of two of our Honorary Fellows:**

### **Lord Dormand of Easington (1954)**

The Right Honorable Lord Dormand of Easington died on 18th December 2003 aged 84. He was Labour MP for Easington from 1970 to 1987, and Chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party during the 1980s. Lord Dormand came to St Peter's as a mature student in 1954 to study Public and Social Administration, and whilst at college was a keen sportsman, playing for the first teams in rugby, cricket and football. In 1994 Lord Dormand became Chairman of the Howard Society, founded to recognise those who have made gifts to St Peter's through their wills. He is survived by his wife Doris, and two stepchildren.

### **Sir Anthony Hollis (1945)**

Sir Anthony Hollis QC died on 24th November 2003 aged 76. A long-serving judge in the High Court, family division, he was highly regarded by his colleagues and renowned for his soundness and sensitivity in dealing with cases. Sir Anthony read Law at St Peter's in 1945 after a period of national service, and was called to Gray's Inn in 1951, joining the Chambers at 13 King's Bench Walk. He became Head of Chambers in 1971, Chairman of the Family Bar Association in 1974, and was appointed a Recorder in 1976, a post he held until he joined the family division in 1982. Sir Anthony retired in 1997 and leaves behind his wife and stepdaughter.

# Forthcoming Events

## St Peter's Arts Festival 2004

The annual St Peter's Arts festival will be held in College in third week of Trinity (**9th-15th May**) Now in its fifth year, the Arts Festival is an opportunity for St Peter's students to explore, develop and showcase their artistic talent. There are a number of ambitious and exciting events taking place this year, including 'play-in-a-day' (groups of students have ten hours to write and rehearse and perform a play) and 'canvassing' (a large piece of material is placed over one of the quads and, over the course of the day, students create a Pollock-esque masterpiece!). Old Members are very welcome to attend – for further details please contact the Development Office.

## Law Reunion

A reunion for all those who studied Law at St Peter's, and for Old Members who have gone on to work in the legal profession, will be held on **18th May** in the Boardroom at Freshfields (who are kindly hosting the event.) Drinks and light refreshments will be served from 6:30pm to 8:30pm, and we are delighted to welcome Lord Justice Jacob (Honorary Fellow) as our guest speaker. Invitations to this event have been sent out, if you have not received one and would like to attend, please contact the Development Office.

## Historians' Reunion

We are holding Reunion drinks for all those who studied History at St Peter's on **2nd June** from 6pm to 8pm at the Athenaeum (107 Pall Mall) in London. This will be a social occasion providing Old Members with the opportunity to catch up with their contemporaries and former Tutors and to meet current St Peter's Historians. Invitations will be sent out in May

to all our former Historians. If you do not receive one and would like to attend, please contact the Development Office (details below).

## St Peter's Society Reunion 2004

The Annual Reunion weekend will take place in College on **25th-27th June**. For further information on the Reunion, or on the St Peter's Society in general, please contact the Alumni Officer or the President, Frank Parker, on 01629 814518.

## 1974 Matriculands Reunion

There will be an informal gathering of 1974 matriculands, organised by former student Paul Chamberlain, at the St Peter's Society Re-union. For more information please contact Paul (pchamberlain@menzies.co.uk)

## Henley Royal Regatta

Old Members of the college attending the Regatta are invited to drinks at the St Peter's Society Henley Royal Regatta Party to be held on **3rd July** at 6:30 p.m. in Butlers Field at car park position BB270, near to the entrance of the Boat Park. Further information on the location and plan for Butlers Field is available at [www.twrc.rowing.org.uk/hrr/hrrcarpark.htm](http://www.twrc.rowing.org.uk/hrr/hrrcarpark.htm) Car parking is not available in Butler's Field except by prior arrangement with the Stewards of the Regatta.

## 50th Anniversary Dinner – 1954 Matriculands

To celebrate 50 years since coming up to Oxford, we are holding a special Dinner in College on **3rd September** for all of our Old Members who matriculated in 1954. Invitations to this event will be sent out in the summer.

## 75th Anniversary Garden Party

**Saturday 4th September 2004**  
– a date for your diary!

*Please see front cover for more details...*

## Medical, Life Sciences and Chemistry Symposium

On **11th September** St Peter's will be hosting a Medical, Life Sciences and Chemistry Symposium in the new Dorfman Centre. We are delighted to welcome a number of high profile and distinguished speakers, including Professor Gustav Born FRS (Honorary Fellow) and Professor Gordon Duff CBE (University of Sheffield and Chairman, Committee of Safety of Medicines). Invitations have been sent to all former St Peter's

Medics, Chemists and Life Scientists – if you have not received one and are interested in attending, please contact the Development Office.

## Postponed Gaudy

The postponed Gaudy for the years 1962, 1970, 1971, 1978, 1981, 1992 and 1993 will be held in college on **18th September**.

## Howard Society Lunch

Lunch for members of the Howard Society will be held in college on **28th September**, hosted by the new Chairman of the Howard Society, Professor John Barron. For information on joining the Howard Society, or on leaving a legacy to St Peter's, please contact Sean Rainey in the Development Office (details below).

*For further information on any of these events please contact Abbie Davis in the Development Office.*



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