

FLOREAT

MAGDALENA



The Magazine for Magdalen Members · Issue 10 · 2011

Inside this issue:

Robert Hardy · Botanic Garden

R.W. Johnson · Oscar Wilde



Bank of the Year 2010.

We got to the top together with our clients.

"The performance of the investment banking part of Deutsche, combined with equally sure-footed developments in areas such as retail and commercial banking and the private bank and wealth management divisions, leaves the firm well positioned to build on its tremendous performance since the crisis hit. Indeed, it is back on the front foot and growing again."

International Financing Review magazine, 2010.



IFR Awards 2010:

IFR Bank of the Year

IFR Derivatives House of the Year

Passion to Perform



FROM THE PRESIDENT

I would like to welcome you to this edition of the *Floreat Magdalena* magazine, appearing in its new format as an annual publication. I hope you find it both informative and interesting, and we welcome your suggestions and contributions for future editions.



The articles in this magazine highlight the diversity and uniqueness of the Magdalen experience. Our students are breaking records in everything they do—from being top of the Norrington Table for academic achievement to winning University Challenge again. But it is important to emphasise that this success has only been made

possible through the tremendous support of the old members. Magdalen is about much more than scholarship and research, it is also about providing our students with opportunities to learn more about themselves as individuals, and to develop a greater understanding of the world around them. The articles from current students, staff, and old members reflect this, and demonstrate the vibrancy of the wider Magdalen community.

Read about our new £3m research centre for Evolution and Human Science, the community work undertaken by our JCR, and the huge variety of different things old members and students are doing. The magazine includes in-depth features on Magdalen’s connection with the Botanic Garden, Oscar Wilde’s time here, the famous Rolling Stones Ball, and Magdalen’s link to the Oxford English Dictionary, as well as interviews with actor Robert Hardy

and the legendary Emeritus Fellow in Politics, Bill Johnson.

Many old members have asked how the reduction in government funding and the proposed increase to student fees will impact upon the College. This remains an area of great uncertainty, and the entire Collegiate University is working hard at determining its position while waiting for the picture to become clearer. I think it’s safe to say, however, that Magdalen is entering a challenging period in its long history, and we will be reliant upon the advice, generosity and influence of our old members to help chart a safe path through choppy waters.

I would like to thank you for your continued interest and support, and look forward to hearing from you, or to seeing you at a future Magdalen event. ♥

Floreat Magdalena!
Professor David Clary

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If you are interested in advertising your business in *Floreat Magdalena*, please contact: Anna Norman anna.norman@magd.ox.ac.uk for terms. Editorial Committee: Anna Norman (Editor), Marilyn Bowler, Paul Campy (1995), Christine Ferdinand, Judith Hibbert (1980), Simon Horobin, Thomas Meakin, Sean Rainey, Hadrian Wise. Cover photograph: Jaani Riordan (2009).

FLAGSHIP NEW RESEARCH CENTRE

An exciting new chapter has begun in the history of scientific research at Magdalen, with the launch of the new £3 million Calleva Research Centre for Evolution and Human Science.

The Centre was inaugurated in October at a packed symposium, which drew together both academics and students past and present, from a wide variety of disciplines. A stimulating keynote lecture was given by leading science writer Dr Matt Ridley (Zoology, 1976), who argued that the ability of humans to exchange goods and services was central to the species' evolutionary triumph, enabling us now to make items of a complexity that no single human being could possibly achieve on their own.

In three further talks, academics in the new Centre presented their research on a range of issues in Evolution and Human Sciences, from the propagation of ideas through human networking to the development of complex human social behaviour. Sessions were chaired

by Professor Robin Dunbar (Professor of Evolutionary Anthropology) and Professor Oliver Braddick (Professor of Experimental Psychology), with presentations given by Professor Cecilia Heyes (Senior Research Fellow in Theoretical Life Sciences and Professor of Psychology at All Souls College), Dr Freya Harrison (Junior Research Fellow in Evolutionary Biology), and Dr Jennifer Lau (Tutorial Fellow in Experimental Psychology, and the Calleva Research Centre's first director). Dr Lau's talk focused on the development of anxiety and mood disorders among adolescents. The first research programme of the Centre will explore changes in social behaviour. This project pulls together Psychologists, Economists, and Evolutionary Biologists to apply the principles and techniques of game theory to model aspects of social exchange. The symposium also saw the announcement of Dr Anneke Haddad (Department of Experimental Psychology) as the first Junior Research Fellow of the Calleva Research Centre.

The Centre owes its existence to a very generous donation from Stephen Butt (PPE, 1969), and his wife Caroline. The President of Magdalen, Professor David Clary, paid tribute to their generosity with this unprecedented gift, which will enable a succession of three-year interdisciplinary research projects on issues in Evolution and Human Sciences, each with a Junior Research Fellow working under the Centre Director, and drawing students and new Visiting Fellows in relevant fields to Magdalen. 🇬🇧

DR JENNIFER LAU, FELLOW IN PSYCHOLOGY



Keynote speaker: Dr Matt Ridley (1976)



PRESIDENT'S ANTARCTIC ADVENTURE

Following in the spirit of the great Magdalen explorer Wilfred Thesiger (1929), I was recently given a unique opportunity to have my own adventure.

I was invited by the British Antarctic Survey to see at first hand the science being done in the coldest continent, where bubbles contained within ice cores are analysed to determine the temperature and carbon dioxide profiles which were present in the atmosphere hundreds of thousands of years ago. I camped in a small tent on a glacier in a howling gale, which enabled me to appreciate the harsh challenges experienced by the Antarctic scientists in their efforts to obtain invaluable information on climate change.

A small dinghy took me between huge icebergs across the freezing Antarctic sea. Here divers collect bright red starfish and giant worms, which survive by producing antifreeze proteins and special enzymes, enabling them to thrive in these extreme temperatures.

The pristine sky over Antarctica provides an ideal opportunity to observe unusual atmospheric phenomena such as space weather, which is studied with sophisticated detectors above the uninterested seals and penguins gathered below. It was a trip of a lifetime for Magdalen's President—I hope Thesiger would have approved. 🇬🇧

DAVID CLARY, PRESIDENT

Photograph: Heather Clary

JCR YOUNG CARERS PROJECT

The Magdalen JCR has recently created its own community volunteering organisation, the Magdalen College Young Carers Project. In collaboration with a local charity, Oxford Young Carers, the project works with young people who have to care for a relative with a mental or physical disability, or a drugs or alcohol abuse problem.

Our student volunteers attend drop-in sessions each month, and we also host events in College, where groups of young carers come to Magdalen and take part in a variety of fun activities. In Michaelmas we played host to a Hallowe'en event, with the young carers trick-or-treating, apple-bobbing and pumpkin-carving around the College.

The University and its illustrious colleges may be physically close to many of the children we work with, but aspirationally they operate in a different sphere. Our project aims to bridge the gap, bringing the Magdalen

students and the community in which they live closer together. Working with the children provides us with a much needed sense of perspective to life within College. The benefits of giving time to do something completely dissociated from academic work are demonstrated by the numbers of volunteers we have.

In the first year of the project, we have helped the charity to expand their respite services by over a third. With a bank of over forty volunteers, the committee is looking at more ways to work with the charity, including homework clubs and careers days.

Photograph: Matthew Bilton



If you would like any more information about the project, please get in touch with youngcarers@oxfordhub.org.

DAVID BOYCOTT (2008)



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THE EYE OF THE STORM

Christian D’Andrea (1994) is making a documentary TV series about the Hurricane Hunters, the United States Air Force weather reconnaissance squadron that flies specially equipped aeroplanes into hurricanes.

The Hurricane Hunters are among the world’s most extreme meteorologists, flying into the eyes of hurricanes to get the last vital bits of meteorological data that satellites can’t, to determine whether a hurricane will hit land, and whether we should evacuate hundreds of thousands of people as a precaution.

Hurricane Earl, a 400-mile-wide monster threatening the eastern US, was my first flight with them. It had just brushed Puerto Rico, leaving 200,000 people without power. Now it was heading for a possible direct hit on America’s mid-Atlantic coast.

As we flew into Earl’s 140 mph winds, the turbulence was epic. Happily, the Hercules is designed for such punishment—the props are even outfitted with special armour to protect them from the rocks and debris that are found in a hurricane. We had to punch through the eyewall, where the swirling storm is so thick and concentrated that it’s essentially a solid cylinder of water. That’s why they use propeller-driven planes, which can churn through the water like a boat propeller through the sea. Wham. The plane hit something. The engines started to whine, and we went into a



Photograph: Sean Cross

negative-G-inducing dive that the crew took in stride, deftly punching us out of the eyewall, and into the eye, which was a beautiful and calm circular swirl of vast clouds.

The weather gurus made the call: Earl would skirt the coast. It would not hit the US. They were right. It didn’t. The Carolinas breathed a collective sigh of relief.

Back home at the Hurricane Hunter base in Mississippi, I remarked on what an adrenaline rush this incredible ride had been. The crew looked at me, amused. “That was nothing,” said a pilot. “Just wait until we ride into a really bad storm.”

CHRISTIAN D’ANDREA (1994)

PLAYING WITH FIRE

Joanna Foster (1993) heads up a specialist team within the London Fire Brigade that works directly with children and adolescents who cause fires; from toddlers motivated by curiosity, to older teenagers who deliberately cause damage and destruction through fire.

It is a fascinating role that takes me into some of the most deprived homes across London, including foster homes, residential units and Young Offender institutions. Many people raise an eyebrow to learn of my Magdalen years, but in

Joanna Foster (1993) with Fire Brigade colleagues

addition to my further study in child and adolescent mental health, my work draws upon the many skills and the questioning mind I developed as an Oxford historian: How have we reached this point today? Is what I’m being told reliable? What lessons can we learn from this family’s past to best predict future behaviour?

Working with children and families is emotionally exhausting, and at times frustrating, when generations and cycles of abuse and neglect seem impossible to break. However, the rewards and sheer joy the work brings are endless. To enable children to move from a place of mistrust and

danger to one of safety and security is humbling. Children are a delight to work with (no matter how sad their life stories) and their ways of looking at the world are refreshing and inspiring. I was asked recently by one of the children, “Were you around in the medieval times?”, much to my consternation, and the amusement of colleagues.

This type of work is very dynamic and constantly challenging. Any old members working in the field of child mental health, safeguarding or other related fields who would like to share best practice, experience, or consider joint working where appropriate, are welcome to contact me at joanna.foster@london-fire.gov.uk.

Joanna’s work can be seen in the Wonderland documentary series due to be broadcast on BBC2 this Spring.

JOANNA FOSTER (1993)



Photograph: London Fire Brigade

EPIC THREE PEAKS CHALLENGE

The Three Peaks Challenge usually refers to the mountain endurance exercise in which participants attempt to climb to the highest natural points on each of mainland Britain's three countries. John Crosse (1975) has created his own version.

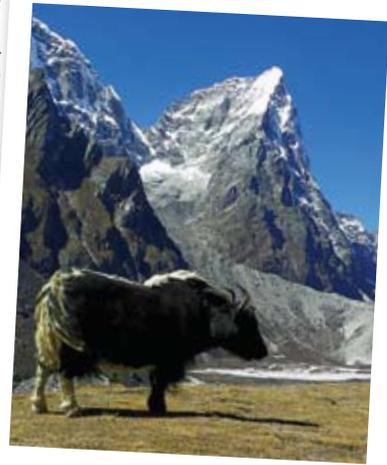
John graduated from Magdalen with an MA in Physiology and Psychology. Since then he's enjoyed a varied career, first in the Royal Air Force, then the police, and now as a leadership consultant. In his spare time John is ranked fifth in the UK for his age group as a Veteran Athlete in the javelin.

But it's what John is currently doing that really sets him apart. He has created his own version of the Three Peaks, replacing Ben Nevis, Snowdon and Scarfell Pike with Mont Blanc, Everest Base Camp, and Mount Kilimanjaro.

Between October 2010 and September 2011 John is climbing each of these three mountains to raise money for, and awareness of, ten different charities. From the Magdalen College Development Trust to Help for Heroes, and from Christians Against Poverty to Police Treatment Centres, John has chosen organisations which he has encountered in the course of his life so far.

John says, "I count myself incredibly fortunate to be able to further my own development in this way, and in so doing to provide the chance for

Photograph: John Crosse



others to do the same, and to raise money for some really worthwhile charities."

We wish John the very best of luck with his challenge. ♥

TOM MEAKIN (2008), JCR PRESIDENT 2010

For more information on John's travels please visit www.JX2020L.co.uk. This website has links to each of the charities' own web pages, where you can make a donation.



Photograph: John Crosse

Photograph: John Crosse



MAGDALEN IN AUSTRALIA

A group of Magdalen lawyers in Brisbane recently celebrated the appointment of Patrick Keane (1976) as Chief Justice of the Federal Court of Australia.

We were delighted to be joined by Rhodes Scholar Cedric Hampson AO QC (1955), whose tutors were Rupert Cross, John Morris and Guenter Treitel: three of the most brilliant academic lawyers of the common law world. We gathered to thank Chief Justice Keane and Cedric Hampson QC for encouraging us to read the Bachelor of Civil Law (BCL) at Magdalen, and were joined by this year's Rhodes Scholar, Jessica Howley (2010), who continues

the Magdalen BCL connection that Cedric Hampson fostered 55 years ago.

We Australian alumni enjoy news from Magdalen. We make pilgrimages with our families to Oxford when we can, and hang paintings and photographs of Magdalen in our rooms as reminders of our formative Oxford years. We read about your summer events during our mild winter, and about your winter celebrations as we swelter in New Year

Photograph: Martin Burns



Cedric Hampson QC (1955) and The Hon. Chief Justice Patrick Keane (1976)

humidity. Magdalen continues to exert a gravitational force upon us from afar. ♥

PETER APPLGARTH (1983)

SYRIAN INSIGHTS

Mary Montgomery (2006) is currently doing an M.Sc. in Social Anthropology and read Arabic and French as an undergraduate. She was able to visit Syria as part of her studies thanks to the Student Support Fund.

It was a winter afternoon in Damascus and I had one aim: to walk as far as I could through the friendly jumble of houses up Jebel Qassioun. The heart of Damascus first grew up to the south of this mountain, but in the 19th century, Muslim refugees from regions of the Ottoman Empire that had fallen under Christian rule settled on its rocky slope. I climbed the steps leading from one street to the next, through the district still called al-Muhajirine (Migrants' district), until suddenly, a dizzying view of Damascus was revealed. I was busy snapping with my camera when a door opened behind me. Merhaba. Hello. We exchanged greetings. Surprised to hear my Arabic, the woman invited me in for tea. That's how I met Ferah.

I was in Syria for the second year of my BA in Arabic and French, following a nine-month Arabic course. My trip was scheduled just before Finals with the aim of improving my language, both Syrian Colloquial for everyday nattering, and Modern Standard Arabic, the language of newsreaders and imams. In my spare time I sought to meet Syrian people and learn as much as I could directly from them.

Two years later, thanks to the Student Support Fund, I was able to return to stay with Ferah's family. Her three nieces made space for me in their tiny bedroom. They included me in everything: family squabbles, mealtime conversations and trips out in the car, everyone clapping to the music

turned up full. At night, the eldest daughter poured out her hopes for engagement. The custom is for a girl to accompany her mother to weddings where she will be seen by the women-folk of eligible bachelors. If they like her, the women will visit the girl's family. Only after many satisfactory visits will the girl be introduced to her elusive suitor. Several times during my stay, the house was transformed into a hairspray-filled beauty salon in preparation for these visits. I was grateful for this insider's view of a Syrian family, as it brought to life the ethnography I had been studying. ♥

MARY MONTGOMERY (2006)

Photograph: Mary Montgomery

JOHN AUBREY

Last summer, Jeffrey Miller (2006) and Thomas Roebuck (2006), Magdalen graduate students in English, gave lunch-time talks to the public on the Bodleian's exhibition on John Aubrey (1626–1696).

Aubrey was a general scholar, a polymath, who had research interests in a vast array of early-modern areas of knowledge, including mathematics, archaeology, antiquarianism, genealogy, geology and biography.

Aubrey studied at Trinity College, Oxford, in the 1640s, when students did not undertake specialised courses of study in the way our undergraduates do today. Instead, they were introduced to a broad-based arts curriculum, which included mathematics, based on a thorough understanding of classical texts.

Photograph: Bodleian Libraries



The age of John Aubrey was one in which the 'arts' and the 'sciences' were in productive dialogue with one another. John Aubrey was one of the founder members of the Royal Society (whose 350th anniversary we celebrate this year). The Royal Society's journal, *The Philosophical Transactions*, was a multi-disciplinary publication which published not only the experimental research of the Royal Society, but also archaeological and antiquarian research, among many other areas of study. This exhibition helps us to reconsider many of the current debates going on in academia in the light of a historical understanding of the way contemporary disciplines emerged. ♥

THOMAS ROEBUCK (2006)

OSCAR WILDE AT MAGDALEN: A READER OF SOME IMPORTANCE

When Oscar Fingal O'Flahertie Wills Wilde matriculated at Magdalen in October 1874 he struck the other students as decidedly different, with his long hair, his exotic Celtic names and Irish accent, and the fact that he had 'read so much more' than them, thanks to his superb education, and eminently bookish youth, in Ireland.

At Oxford, although he posed as a 'dilettante trifling with his books', friends knew that he read hard 'surreptitiously, into the small hours'. The extensive Greek, Latin and English notes in his copy of Aristotle's *Ethics*, autographed 'Oscar Wilde, Magdalen College, 1877', evidence the work behind his firsts in both Mods and Finals on his 'Greats' course.

Wilde found time for the moderns as well as the ancients. 'The Magdalen walks and cloisters' were to him the ideal backdrop for reading Romantic poetry, and his reading inspired him to write his own verse.

Wilde also read with the aim of mastering 'the more difficult art of prose', as he was determined to make a splash as an essayist in the periodical press. He marked several aphorisms in his copy of Swinburne's *Essays and Studies*, some of which would later find their way, unacknowledged, into Wilde's lectures.

If Wilde read everything at Oxford, he also read everywhere. In the Bod

he called up articles on Irish folklore; in Magdalen's Old Library he consulted Dante. Most of all, he enjoyed reading in bed. A friend described Wilde's bedroom as a 'small, stuffy' place where 'books lay in hopeless confusion'. It was there that Wilde lay in bed, as he mischievously put it in a letter, 'with Swinburne (a copy of)'.

Surviving copies of books Wilde purchased while at Magdalen suggest that he often got peckish while reading. On one page of his edition of W.H. Mallock's *The New Republic* (now housed in the Old Library) there appears to be a jam stain. In Wilde's copy of J.A. Symonds' *Studies of the Greek Poets* there is a splash of red, or as Wilde called it, purple wine. Other Oxford volumes confirm reports that he actually ate books themselves—according to friends he habitually tore off a piece of paper from the volume he was reading, then rolled it up and popped it into his mouth.

Wilde's voracious reading paid rich dividends, both at Schools and in his writing career. It inspired the undergraduate poems and essays that are among his first published works, and helped him form his mature style. Leaving Oxford for London in 1878-9 Wilde felt as though he was being exiled from Parnassus and sent to Piccadilly—yet he carried his Magdalen reading with him there. ♡

THOMAS WRIGHT (1991)

Thomas Wright is the author of 'Oscar's Books' (Chatto & Windus 2008).

Photograph: Brett Tully



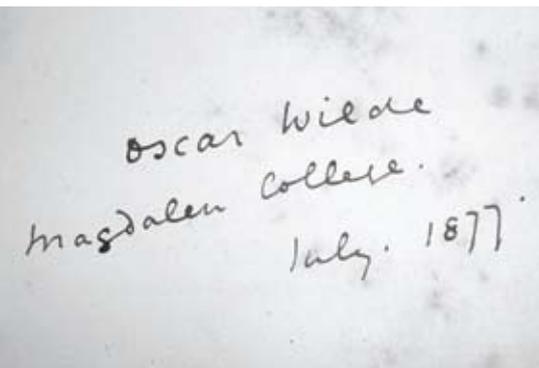
THE OSCAR WILDE ROOM

Many of the best stories about Oscar Wilde at Magdalen cluster around his final set of rooms on Kitchen Stairs. It is here that his lilies and blue china were most at home.

Unfortunately, over the years the rooms grew a little battered and threadbare. At some stage a wall was removed, and a window blocked up, producing a party space that was intended to be bright and modern, but soon ended up looking dowdy and dated.

Thanks to the Annual Fund, the Oscar Wilde Room has now been refurbished. It includes period details such as a gold ceiling, and chairs based on an original 1855 design, alongside some beautiful paper lily lights designed by Fine Art alumna Jess Shaw (1986). One wall is taken up with a large photograph of the louche young Wilde taken from the original in the National Portrait Gallery, and another features a panel showing Wilde's works contained in Magdalen's Library. For the first time in many years, the Oscar Wilde Room has an appearance that lives up to its name. ♡

ROBERT DOUGLAS-FAIRHURST,
FELLOW IN ENGLISH



Photograph: Thomas Wright

Wilde's copy of Swinburne's *Essays and Studies*

ALUMNI EVENTS

In Autumn we had a full programme of alumni events, including the Annual Alumni Dinner in College, with guest speaker A.C. Grayling (1976), and four events in London (see below and facing page). So far in 2011 we have had a London Dinner at Watermen's Hall, a sell-out Year Gaudy for matriculation years 1986-88, and a Gaudy to mark the retirement of Fellow in Medicine John Stein after 40 years.

Please see the back cover for a list of forthcoming events, including a cultural weekend in Edinburgh, a dinner in Paris, a Summer Eight's Lunch, a Law Dinner at Gray's Inn, and a Hacks' Dinner for those who work in journalism and the media. Don't forget to book for the Annual Alumni Dinner in September with guest speaker John Sergeant (1963) – this year it coincides with the University Alumni Weekend (16th-18th September 2011) for those who wish to attend both. ♥

ANNA NORMAN (NÉE KRZYŻANOWSKA)
ALUMNI RELATIONS OFFICER



Annual Alumni Dinner guest speaker, A.C. Grayling (1976)

LONDON DRINKS RECEPTION

Now in its fifth year, Magdalen's Annual Drinks Reception in London is one of the most popular alumni events in the College calendar. This year's reception was held in the stylish 'deco' ballroom of the Victory Services Club in Marylebone. The reception was well attended, despite a tube strike, with matriculation years ranging from 1942 to 2010. ♥

Photograph: Marilyn Bowler



We are enormously grateful to Luke Johnson (1980) who generously hosts this event.

OSCAR WILDE EVENING

An evening of talks on Oscar Wilde was held in London in November to mark the 110th anniversary his death.

Robert Douglas-Fairhurst, Fellow in English, opened the proceedings with a slideshow of the newly refurbished Oscar Wilde Room in College (see page 9), followed by College Archivist Robin Darwall-Smith, who gave an insight into what Magdalen looked like in Wilde's time, and some of the characters he encountered. Iain Ross (1994) spoke about Wilde's interest in the classical tombs of antiquity, while David Rose (1961) came from Paris to talk about the references to the legend of King Arthur throughout Wilde's work. ♥

Out thanks to Louis Armstrong (1966) for providing the elegant venue of the RICS headquarters in Parliament Square for this event.

Photograph: Anna Norman



WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL TOUR

Bentley's vast Byzantine cathedral, the mother church for Roman Catholics in England and Wales, is at its most dramatic at night, when the black domed ceiling disappears into the shadows. We had the privilege of having this fascinating building to

ourselves. After drinks in the Choir School library, and an introduction from Professor Andrew Sanders of the Art and Architecture Committee, we set off on our tour, starting in the crypt, which contains the tombs of Cardinals Manning and Wiseman. We were guided round the varied side chapels and their mosaics, and visited the glittering centenary exhibition of Cathedral treasures. The evening concluded with a recital by Magdalen old member Matthew Martin (1990), Assistant Master of Music at the Cathedral. ♥

JUDITH HIBBERT (1980), CHAIR OF THE
MAGDALEN SOCIETY COMMITTEE

Photograph: Anna Norman



POLITICS PANEL

The College celebrated Magdalen's recent success in the UK Parliament by holding an "Any Questions?"-style panel event in October.

The large panel required a capable chair, and we were lucky enough to have Julia Hartley-Brewer (1988), columnist and Assistant Editor (Politics) of the *Sunday Express*, to keep order with an iron fist in a velvet glove. The capacity audience of 80 members submitted questions beforehand, and, to encourage frank debate, the event took place under the Chatham House Rule, meaning what was said can be reported, but only without identifying who said it.

Questions included whether coalition government was going to become the norm in Britain, on which the panel was divided; and whether the government could avoid being defined by spending cuts, on which the general feeling was no, as the government won power promising deficit reduction.

The panellists were generally in favour of an increase in university tuition fees, on the basis that no government would ever give universities the money they needed, although they thought that in return, universities needed to make extra provision for poorer students.

A question on state-funded faith schools elicited strong opinions on both sides, with those in favour invoking freedom of choice, and those against warning that educating different ethnic groups separately risked entrenching divisions in society.

Other questions included when there would next be a state-educated Prime Minister: the panel thought it wouldn't be too long, although state schools needed to improve to ensure their pupils were selected by elite universities.

The panel was asked how history would judge Tony Blair. Some felt Blair had squandered the opportunity to lead a great reforming government, while others pointed to his electoral success and rehabilitation of the Labour Party. But most felt that Blair's place in history would be forever coloured by the Iraq War.

There were many calls to make this oversubscribed event a regular feature, so look out for future panel debates in the alumni events calendar. ♥

HADRIAN WISE, SENIOR DEVELOPMENT EXECUTIVE

Panellists

Lord Baker (1955)–Conservative peer and Home Secretary 1990-1992;
Matthew D'Ancona (1986)–columnist and former editor of *The Spectator*;
Dominic Grieve (1975)–Attorney General for England and Wales;
John Hemming (1978)–Liberal Democrat MP for Birmingham Yardley;
John Redwood (1968)–Conservative MP for Wokingham;
Siôn Simon (1987)–retired Labour MP for Birmingham Erdington 2001-2010;
Jamie Suskind (2007)–recent History & Politics student; and
Lord Wood–Magdalen Fellow in Politics and special advisor to Ed Miliband.

Thanks to MPs John Hemming and John Redwood, we were able to hold this event at Portcullis House in Westminster.

Photograph: Parliamentary copyright



THANKSGIVING IN COLLEGE

Kira Allman (2010) is a graduate student from the US, who recently spent her first Thanksgiving in Oxford

As an American living in the UK, the Thanksgiving staple of a paper turkey table decoration was a warm and welcome sight in the President's

Lodgings in November. The President and Mrs Clary had kindly welcomed American and Canadian students to their home for an authentic dinner, complete with cornbread, turkey, cranberry sauce, and pumpkin pie. I was feeling far removed from the traditions and festivities, because I was actually in class for the family-oriented holiday of Thanksgiving, with that twinge of homesickness that comes from realizing your sacred holiday is not honoured with vacation time. My nostalgic disappointment

subsided upon arrival at the President's Lodgings for a bountiful feast. We all felt inclined to give thanks for our home away from home, and for a Magdalen family that has welcomed us into an Oxford Thanksgiving tradition. ♥

KIRA ALLMANN (2010)

Photograph: Heather Clary



NEW COLLECTION OF ANCIENT FLOWERING PLANTS

Jenny Chapman (2006) has been working at the Oxford Botanic Garden to establish an exciting collection of ancient flowering plants, thanks to a generous donation from the Magdalen Annual Fund.



Walled Garden

One of the most significant developments in plant science in the last few decades has been in the study of the evolutionary history of the plant kingdom. Our knowledge of plant relationships has been transformed by the advent of DNA sequencing technologies, and more rigorous ideas about classification. The key discovery concerns flowering plants, which were previously split into two groups: monocots (like grasses and lilies) and dicots (everything else). A third, previously unrecognised, group has recently come to light.

Calycanthus floridus



The plants in this previously hidden group are known as basal angiosperms. This group includes the most primitive flowering plants and is the focus of a new and exciting collection at the Oxford Botanic Garden, supported by the Annual Fund. Key questions, such as what the first flower may have looked like, can now be answered. Many basal angiosperm species are found in botanic gardens around the world, but no other institution has a comprehensive living collection. The new collection at Oxford will be an internationally important resource and of great interest around the world.

Although obscure-sounding, you will be more familiar with basal angiosperms than you realise. Waterlilies are some of the earliest evolving flowering plants, and magnolias are another ancient group. Star anise, cinnamon, bay leaves,



Chimonanthus praecox

nutmeg and black pepper are all harvested from basal angiosperms. Even the anti-viral flu treatment Tamiflu is produced from one of these evolutionarily ancient plants.

The Department of Plant Sciences at the University of Oxford is a world-class centre for research, and the department will be using the new collection of basal angiosperms in its work at the cutting edge of plant science. The collection highlights the strong links between the department and the Botanic Garden as a scientific resource.

There is a strong and unifying theme of evolution running throughout the Biological Sciences course at Oxford, and the story of plant evolution is a major topic in the lectures and tutorials. This work is only possible thanks to the Magdalen Annual Fund and I hope you are able to visit the garden to see for yourselves the benefit of this generous donation. ♥

JENNY CHAPMAN (2006)



Herbaceous Border

All photographs: Timothy Walker, Oxford Botanic Garden

REVOLUTIONS IN THE GARDEN

Magdalen Fellow in Botany, Professor Liam Dolan, is Keeper of the Botanic Garden

The Oxford Botanic Garden was founded on Magdalen land in 1621, to grow plants for the teaching of medicine at the University, making it the oldest botanic garden in the UK. Later the scientific investigation of plants for their own sake developed, and the Garden became the focus of botanical research in the University until the Department of Botany moved out in 1951.

There were a number of revolutions between 1621 and 1951. One revolutionary botanist was the Swede Carl Linnaeus who visited the Garden in 1736 and made such an impact that the then Keeper of the Garden offered to share his salary if Linnaeus would stay. He developed a system for classifying all living organisms on the basis of their similarity. According to



Liriodendron tulipifera

the 'Linnaean system', closely related plants share a first name. For example there are approximately 25 different types of orchid in the group *Goodyera* – named in honour of botanist John Goodyer – each of which has a different second name which distinguishes it from other members of the group. For example, *Goodyera repens* is a member of the *Goodyera* group that creeps along the ground as it grows, *repens* being the Latin word for creeping.

It was not until the 1990s that the relationships between flowering plants became clear as a result of DNA sequencing technology. The Director ordered the flower-beds to be dug up for the first time in a hundred years and replanted in a pattern that reflects these newly discovered evolutionary relationships. Oxford Botanic Garden was the first to arrange plantings in this way and this is now accepted practice globally. Thanks to Jenny Chapman's efforts (see page 12), the Garden is one of the only collections in the world with an extensive selection of basal angiosperms. They will be an invaluable resource in the quest to understand the origins of the earliest flowers and their uses by humanity, as the Oxford Botanic Garden heads towards its four-hundredth year. ♥

LIAM DOLAN, FELLOW IN BOTANY

THE GOODYER COLLECTION

Magdalen's great strength in early botanical books lies in the magnificent gift bequeathed to the Library by the English botanist and physician John Goodyer (1592-1664).

Goodyer spent much of his life recording plants and searching for new medical uses for them. He assisted his friend Thomas Johnson (c.1600-1644) in his preparation of a new edition of John Gerard's *Herball* (1633). His numerous descriptions of plants are often the earliest known in the English language. His more famous botanical descriptions include the Jerusalem artichoke, which Goodyer helped introduce to English gardeners and cooks (despite the fact that when eaten 'they stirre and cause a filthie loathsome stinking winde within the bodie'), and his dismissive account of chocolate as 'well pleasing and accepted with the greatest among

the Indians, who account nothing of more esteeme; but to the Christians it seemeth a wash fitter for hogs'. In those pre-Linnaean days, he also found it useful to cross-index descriptions of the same plant described by different authors in different volumes. His library was very much a working collection, amounting in all to 239 separate titles, bound in 134 volumes.

In 1621 Magdalen College granted the University five acres near the river Cherwell for its Botanic Garden – it is likely that Goodyer contributed plants and cuttings to the project when he paid a visit to Oxford the following year. It was perhaps because



Photograph: The Goodyer Collection

Garlick

of his interest in the new garden that Goodyer decided to give his books to the College across the High Street. His will, dated 22 April 1664, bequeaths most of his property to his nephew Edmund Malden (Demy and Fellow of Magdalen College, 1630-42), but also instructs that 'all my books de plantis which I do give and bequeath to Magdalen College in Oxon to be kept entirely in the library of the said College for the use of the said College'. ♥

CHRISTINE FERDINAND, FELLOW LIBRARIAN

RUSKIN DEGREE SHOW

The University's Fine Art department holds an annual degree show to exhibit the work of final year students. The opening night of the show gives the general public a chance to view the work and enjoy live performances, music and drinks.

Photograph: Anna Norman



Flo Pepper (née Ray) (2007) writes:

My work consisted of three sheets of aluminium composite, leaning against the back wall of a squash court. Each sheet held the same design for a flat-pack lectern, with tabs holding the shapes in place. The gold, silver and bronze metals echo what we readily recognise as podium colours, heightening the fractured sense of space.

My time at the Ruskin helped me to engage with current art theory, while the studio space, material grants, and places to exhibit were invaluable. Living alongside Magdalen students reading other subjects was beneficial, especially as I was given the

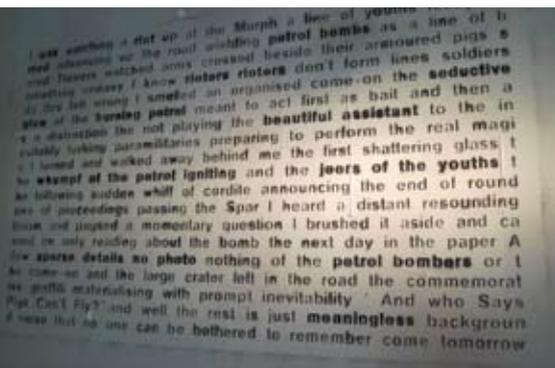
opportunity to go to other lectures, such as Philosophy and Physics, which helped me to build on lines of thought within my work, and made me question the things I did.

Rebecca Logan (2005) writes:

My work in the degree show related to my experience of life in Northern Ireland. I live on the Falls Road in Belfast, where I'm constantly surrounded by murals and flyposted slogans. My main work consisted of a piece of my own text stencilled onto sheets of newsprint paper, which were pasted onto the bare wall. At 20 feet wide, it dominated the space in the same way as a gable-end mural does, and the wrinkled paper with the sprayed-on text evoked the hastily-applied political messages I see every day on the walls of Belfast. 🇬🇧

The 2011 Ruskin Degree Show will open on Friday 24th June 6-9pm, until Monday 27th June at The Old Power Station, near Arthur Street, Oxford OX2 0AS—all are welcome. For more information please contact juliet.franks@ruskin-sch.ox.ac.uk or 01865 276940.

Photograph: Anna Norman



Photograph: Marco Borggreve

PHANTASM

This year has seen the launch of Magdalen's own 'Consort-in-Residence' with the viol ensemble, Phantasm, led by Professor Laurence Dreyfus, Fellow in Music.

Phantasm's accompaniment of Choral Evensong in Michaelmas proved a magical collaboration, with the crystalline clarity of the viols complementing the soaring voices of the choir. Phantasm are playing several concerts this year, including some with former Academical Clerk Magid El-Bushra (1999).

Thanks to the generosity of two old members, Barbara Domayne-Hayman (1980) and Mark Loveday (1962), the College has acquired a full 'chest' of six handcrafted viols, and 15 Magdalen students have been learning to play them, taught by members of Phantasm and by old member Liam Byrne (2006), Professor of viola da gamba at the Guildhall. 🇬🇧

Phantasm will be playing in the College Chapel alongside Informator Choristarum Daniel Hyde on the organ on Sunday 22nd May at 2pm. Please see www.phantasm.org.uk for details.

PROFESSOR LAURENCE DREYFUS,
FELLOW IN MUSIC

THE TAMING OF THE SHREW

For one week in July, the President's Garden provided a unique setting for the first leg of the Oxford University Drama Society's annual tour, en route to London and Japan. Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew* ran for four nights to sell-out audiences, and—with the exception of a damp dress rehearsal—benefited from the best of the summer weather. I should like to thank the President and Mrs Clary for their generosity and tolerance in continuing to offer up their garden to groups of noisy actors, and for giving us this opportunity to perform in one of the most beautiful spaces in Oxford. 🍷

ALICE HAMILTON (2007)



Photograph: Alice Hamilton

DRAMA REVIEW

When I first arrived in Oxford I wondered how I should ever have the chance to be a part of the University's illustrious drama scene. Magdalen's tradition of allowing a first-year student to direct the annual garden show created the perfect opportunity; in fact, among the twenty-strong cast and crew were a dozen students who were 'treading the boards' for the very first time. The Magdalen Players maintained their reputation for excellence with an imaginative production of *The Butterfly's Evil Spell* by García Lorca, in the President's exquisite gardens. Players' director Alice Hamilton (2007) put on a riotously successful *West Side Story*, while Rafaella Marcus (2008) directed Homer's *Odyssey*, both in the Oxford

Photograph: Bas van Schaik



Chrissy Murray (2008) and Matt Harris (2007) in *The Butterfly's Evil Spell*

Playhouse. The group's secretary, Harry Phillips (2008), took the reins of a tremendous production of Shaffer's *Equus*, while treasurer Edwin Black (2007) manned a new play, *Women's Voices*, with translations of Greek tragedy provided by Magdalen's former Classics Professor Oliver Taplin. All are to be congratulated for a year of spectacular College theatre. 🍷

JOSEPH O'HARA (2009)

FROM MAGDALEN TO SUNSET BOULEVARD

Tony Bracewell (1989) is a film producer at Punk Cinema.

Magdalen has a rich film heritage: *Brideshead Revisited*, *Howard's End*, *Shadowlands* and *Wilde* were filmed in College. Many will know of former president Anthony Smith's work at the heart of the film industry, as former Director of the British Film Institute. Terence Malick (1966), director of *Badlands* and *The Thin Red Line*, studied as a Rhodes Scholar at Magdalen in the 1960s, while Lindsay Anderson (1943), director

Richard E. Grant as Professor Julius Greengrass in *Cuckoo*



Photograph: Kerry Brown

of *This Sporting Life* and *If...* was a student during the Second World War. Magdalen continues to shape British film. Culture Secretary Jeremy Hunt (1985) has increased Lottery funding for film by 60% up to 2014, while old members in film include Cavan Ash (1990), producer of *The Infidel*, and director Barney Cokeliss (1991), who works with Ridley Scott.

I became a film producer when my brother Richard Bracewell (New College, 1988) and I joined forces to make shoestring comedy *The Gigolos*, about two London male escorts who go into competition. Their ageing clients were played by British screen legends Susannah York and Anna Massey. We premiered *The Gigolos* on Sunset Boulevard at the American

Film Institute Festival. It was released in cinemas in 2007 and topped the *Sunday Telegraph's* list of 'The Most Underrated Films of All Time'. Our second film *Cuckoo* is a thriller starring Richard E. Grant, which was released in cinemas at Christmas, and on DVD in February 2011. Some day we hope to join the ranks of films 'made in Magdalen'. 🍷

TONY BRACEWELL (1989)

Special DVD offer:

Members can buy *Cuckoo* on DVD at a special discounted price of £11.99. Please email cuckoo@punkcinema.com to place your order quoting 'Floreat Offer'. £1 from every copy will be donated to the Magdalen Development Trust.

REAL TENNIS

Three weeks into my first term at Magdalen, a friend interrupted me mid-flow about my new favourite sport, asking, “Why do you keep calling it ‘real’ tennis? Do you mean that it’s just a bit more serious and competitive than normal?” I explained, rather sheepishly, that I was talking about a completely different game from modern lawn tennis, this one played indoors, and that ‘real’ actually derives from ‘royal.’



Photograph: Anna Norman

Unlike in the modern game, the court is asymmetrical: at the server’s end, there is a large net, like a goal, called the dedans. At the other end—the ‘hazard’ end—there is a jutting surface called the tambour, and a small box called the grille. A ball that hits the grille wins you the point. You swap ends only when chases occur—but that’s another story.

There are just 47 courts in the world, over half of them in the UK. At first sight, a court brings to mind one of Lewis Carroll’s architectural fantasies: a large room full of sloping surfaces, cryptic floor markings and random cavities. As in lawn tennis, there are two ends separated by a net, and the basic gist of the game is rallying from end to end, with similar scoring to lawn tennis.

Running down one side of the court is a sloping roof called the penthouse, on which every serve must bounce. It represents the awning of the market stalls in France where the game was invented: traders amused themselves by batting a ball with the palm of their hand (hence the French name *jeu de paume*) along the top of the market. It’s strange to think that this casual passing of the time was the genesis of all modern racquet sports.

Oxford’s court is hidden on Merton Street. The club has roughly 250 members and is run by the two resident professionals, Alan Oliver and Andrew Davis, who coach students, organise matches and sew together the deceptively soft-looking balls. The Oxford court has its idiosyncracies: the grille, which is crimson, is adorned with a prancing unicorn. In Cambridge, where I learnt to play, the grille is pale green and completely plain. Perhaps this encapsulates the historical differences between the two universities, and explains their opposing sides in the Civil War.

Unicorns, penthouses, and the phantom-like presence of the term ‘royal’ don’t exactly endear the game as a ‘people’s sport.’ Nevertheless it is a very welcoming one: the Oxford club is always on the lookout for new members and caters for all abilities. I’d recommend real tennis to anyone who loves tactical games which celebrate originality and unorthodoxy. If you find the words, ‘Fifteen-thirty-hazard chase the first gallery’ strangely appealing, this game is definitely for you. ♡

ARCHIE CORNISH (2010)

WITHERED LILIES

The old members’ cricket team had an extremely enjoyable 2010 season, with three wins, two defeats and no draws. No matches were rained off, and no fewer than 28 players and umpires participated in the five games.

We were particularly pleased to have debuts from several MCR members, and the age span in the team frequently reached 40 years

or more. Many thanks are due to resident groundsman Martin Shirley and his wife Vanda, who between them produced first-rate pitches and excellent teas.

We are happy to fit people in for the odd game, so if you are interested in adding your name to the list of those already taking part, please contact me on johnandgillclaydon@hotmail.com.

Fixtures for 2011, all at home on Sundays and starting at 2pm, are:
 5th June JCR
 12th June MCR
 3rd July SCR

Photograph: Gill Claydon



10th July	Emeriti
17th July	Rain Men
24th July	East India Club

All are welcome to attend.

JOHN CLAYDON (1968)

150 YEARS OF OXFORD ATHLETICS

Helen Hanstock (2008) is Women's Captain of Oxford University Athletic Club.

Photograph: Elle Gatehouse 2010



Helen Hanstock (2008), current OUAC Women's Captain

Many people would say that modern athletics as we know it started with the inaugural Olympic Games in Athens in 1896. However, athletics events had been taking place in the form of inter-collegiate matches in Oxford for nearly half a century beforehand, while the first Varsity Match, held in 1864, is widely acknowledged to be the oldest athletics match in the world. In fact the very first Oxford University Grand Annual Games was held in 1860, which not only gives Oxford University Athletic Club a claim to the title of the world's oldest surviving athletics club, but also gave us the opportunity to celebrate our 150th anniversary last year.

We did this with a gala dinner for current students and alumni in March, at which we were to elect our most outstanding athlete from the past decade into the Club's Hall of Fame. I was struck by the overwhelming presence of Magdalen athletes in the past ten years, including six OUAC presidents and three captains, alongside countless full blues and

Varsity Match champions. Three of these Magdalen alumni, Frances Smithson (2008), Martine Bomb (2004) and Nick Talbot (2004), were in the running to be elected into the Hall of Fame, alongside names such as Roger Bannister (1960s, Exeter), Chris Chataway (1970s, Magdalen), Adrian Metcalfe (1960s, Magdalen) and Stephanie Cook (1990s, Lincoln).

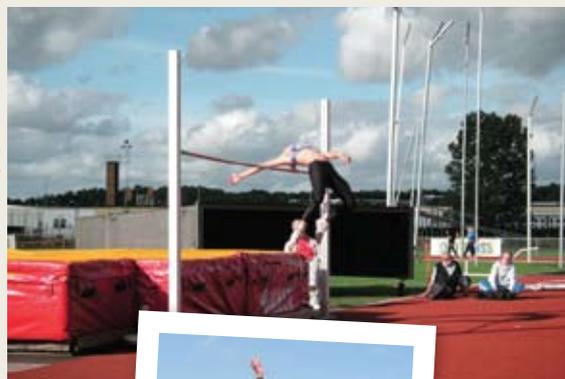
Frances Smithson was at Worcester College before joining Magdalen for her MSc in Criminology and Criminal Justice. She represented her home nation, Germany, at heptathlon as a junior, and during her time at Oxford amassed six individual Varsity Match victories, and captained the victorious Women's Blues in 2007. She features on the OUAC all-time rankings for four different events.

Martine Bomb read for a DPhil in Biochemistry at Magdalen. She was 2006 Club President, and came second on the all-time list for the 100m hurdles. She was the national record holder for the 400m hurdles in her native Luxembourg, and won Silver in the 100m hurdles at the 2007 European Small States Games.

Nick Talbot was at University College before studying for his Clinical Medicine degree at Magdalen. He picked up seven individual Varsity Match titles in the steeplechase and 5k, won the cross-country Varsity Match twice, and was BUSA (British Universities) champion in the 3k and 5k steeplechase. Nick features on the OUAC all-time rankings for three events, including being ranked first on the OUAC all-time list for the 3k steeplechase.

These snapshots indicate the calibre of just a few of the athletes that have passed through OUAC in the past

Photograph: Marco Leszczynski



Photograph: Achilles Club 2009



Top: Frances Smithson (2008) high jumping. Above: Helen Hanstock (2008) competing in the long jump at the Varsity Match, 2009

decade. It is an honour to be a part of such an historic organisation, and I enjoyed hearing of the memories and achievements of our alumni at the Hall of Fame dinner. Magdalen College members have made an outstanding contribution to the Club, not just in the past ten years, but throughout its history, and I hope that we can continue our tradition of leadership and success in the Varsity Sports for years to come. 🏆

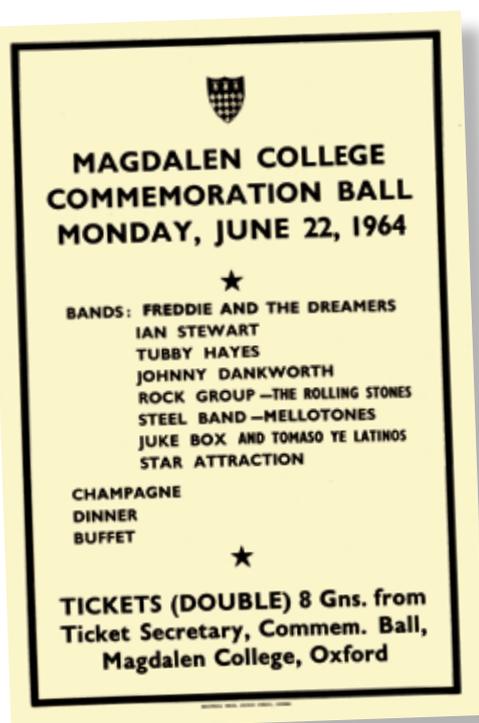
BOAT CLUB NEWS

Congratulations to the Women's First Eight for retaining the Torpids Headship. Summer Eights takes place from Wednesday 1st-Saturday 4th June, and we will be holding a Pimm's Reception and buffet lunch in College for those who would like to come and cheer on our crews (see back page).

THE ROLLING STONES AT MAGDALEN

The 1964 Magdalen Commemoration Ball has acquired the status of legend among succeeding generations of undergraduates, as the 'Rolling Stones Ball.' It even crops up in Nobel Prize winner Paul Krugman's *Economics*, which uses the uncertainty surrounding the appearance of The Stones in the chapter on supply and demand.

Photograph: 1964 Commem. Committee



It was Trevor Churchill (1961), a member of the Ball Committee, whose eye for talent found the as-yet-undiscovered Rolling Stones playing in a basement club just off Leicester Square in June 1963, and signed them up for the Ball the following year for just £100. In the meantime their career skyrocketed, meaning they were reluctantly forced to return early from their first and successful American tour to play at Magdalen, under threat of 'self induced frustration of contract'. However, their initial truculence gave way to a great performance, and a record of 1,250 double tickets were sold.

When the Ball was advertised The Stones were certainly not the main attraction, appearing fifth on the bill with the preface 'rock group' for those who hadn't heard of them. The 'star

attraction' spot was subsequently taken by the late John Lee Hooker, the one-of-a-kind bluesman, who lived up to his billing by playing long into the night with John Mayall and the Bluesbreakers, the latter still playing today. When the performers were booked, Freddie and the Dreamers, now largely forgotten, were certainly a bigger name than the Rolling Stones. Of the several hundred young females on the street outside Magdalen waiting for the performers to arrive, the majority were there for Freddie and his associates.

For the traditionalists, the ball also offered the Ian Stewart Quartet of Savoy Hotel fame, and for the jazz crowd there was the Johnny Dankworth Band and the Tubby Hayes Quartet, at that time the two biggest acts in British jazz.

Some have described the Commem. as marking the start of the sixties. Defining moment or not, it was a grand and still unique event. A copy of the programme with autographs, sold at Bonham's in 2006 for £720. 📄

GERALD TURNER (1961),
JCR PRESIDENT, 1963-4

*With thanks to contemporaries
Roger Boyes, Trevor Churchill,
Michael Hallissey, and Rodney Morant.*

REFLECTIONS ON NIGERIA

Peter Henry (1952) looks back on his time as a forester in Nigeria at the time of its independence.

At midnight, just over fifty years ago, flags were lowered and raised, and on the 1st October 1960, Nigeria attained her independence. Until then most of the country had been composed of protectorates, the subject of various treaties made in the 1890s. Apart from the relatively small colony of Lagos, the British presence had been significant in government for only 60-70 years.

I served in Nigeria in the Colonial Forest Service from 1950-62, a period which covered the transition to independence. They were enjoyable and interesting years, during which I was involved in a variety of postings. My first task was the consolidation of the forest estate, which meant plenty of fieldwork and trekking. It was a

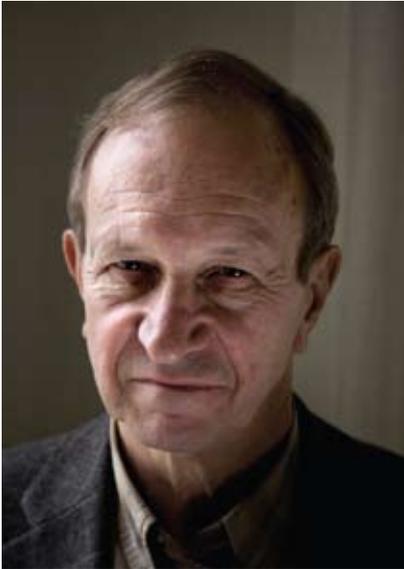
way of getting to know the country, its people and some of its flora and fauna.

At Magdalen I did a postgraduate course for Colonial Forest Officers, followed by a year in the Forest School at Ibadan, after which I spent time researching the effects of various silvicultural treatments designed to increase the stocking of species

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

Peter Gill (1963) reflects on his journalistic experiences since Magdalen:

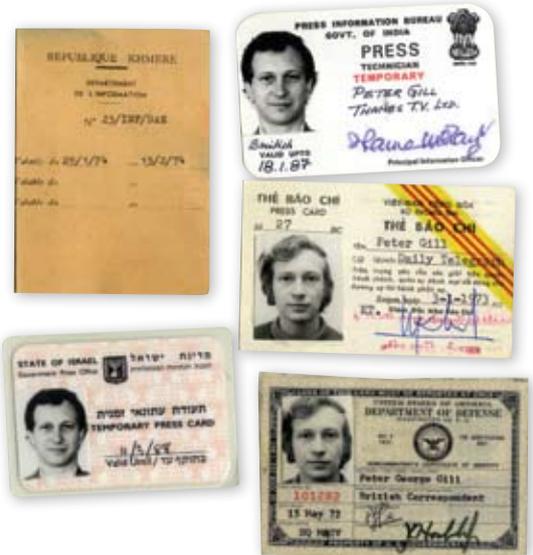
Photograph: Yiannis Katsaris



For those of us lucky enough to have been at Magdalen in the 1960s, the decade did not always seem very revolutionary. In an all-male college, for instance, the sexual revolution passed most of us by. At JCR meetings, we passed motions demanding that the College admit women—or at least allow them into breakfast. It was then my job, as JCR President, to present these motions to the President of the College, Tom Boase, who listened politely, responded agreeably, “No, Peter”, and that was the end of it.

The tumultuous politics of that era nevertheless did rub off on many of us and certainly set me on my career. In the newspapers we scoured each morning in the JCR, the big international news was of the build-up of American troops in Vietnam, of civil rights marches in the United States and, closer to home, Britain’s scramble to vacate its African colonies. Rhodesia declared its independence in 1965, and the JCR funded a scholarship to bring a South African student called Harold Magona from Cape Town to Magdalen as our gesture against apartheid. I left for Sudan with Voluntary Service Overseas immediately after Finals. It changed my life, and resolved me to return to the developing world as a journalist.

I was in Asia for *The Daily Telegraph* for the tumultuous climax of nationalist and communist revolts in the region. Independent Bangladesh supplanted East Pakistan, a Kurdish rebellion was suppressed by Saddam Hussein, and the Americans were chased out of South East Asia. I was in Saigon for the fall in 1975 where a small group of journalists stayed behind to keep the news flowing.



It was while in Sudan as a volunteer that I went to Ethiopia for the first time. I have since been drawn back to this extraordinary and beautiful country, first as a television reporter at the time of the terrible famine of the mid-1980s, and a year later to write a book, *A Year in the Death of Africa*, about how the government and the outside world had allowed some 600,000 Ethiopians to starve to death. I recently returned to Ethiopia to research a book on what has happened in the quarter century since the aid world was transformed by the famine and the celebrity campaigning of Bob Geldof and Live Aid. *Famine and Foreigners: Ethiopia since Live Aid*, was commissioned through fellow Magdalen member Andrew McNeillie (1970), Literature Editor of OUP, with whom I started work on the *Crosby Herald* newspaper in Lancashire on the same day in 1967, bringing the Magdalen connection full circle. 📍



of economic importance. This was interesting work, and involved being on tour for considerable periods, staying in various resthouses in the forest.

During the 1950s there were a number of revisions of the Nigerian Constitution resulting in increased democratic input, ministerial responsibility and major re-organizations into federal and state services. Many serving officers were involved in the democratic changes and elections; in my case I was presiding officer at four intermediate elections, and registration officer in two constituencies. Over this period more Nigerian graduates were returning to Nigeria and taking over

the provincial and other charges, so much of my touring was directed to their supervision and guidance.

I left Nigeria on the day there was a riot in the House of Assembly in Ibadan—not a very auspicious beginning for democracy in Nigeria—which was shortly followed by coups and civil war. Independence has brought many changes, but sadly not all the potential has been realized, with much of the country’s wealth plundered, largely as a result of corruption. 📍

DOUBLE BILL

Old member and former editor of *The Economist* Bill Emmott (1975) writes of his recent encounter with Emeritus Fellow in Politics R.W. Johnson.

Photograph: Irina Filatova



Bill Johnson and Bill Emmott

As a student you tend to assume your tutors are as much a fixture of the College as the gargoyles or cloisters, and are about as old. So it was a shock, meeting Bill Johnson again on a rare visit (for him) back to Magdalen, to realise that he is barely a dozen years older than me, and that when he began to teach me, in 1975, he had been at the College for just six years. Nevertheless, by the time he left to move to South Africa, in 1995, he really had become a fixture.

This was Bill's first visit back since his terrible accident in 2009, when a cut received while swimming near his holiday home in Durban turned not just nasty but almost fatal, thanks to a strain of flesh-eating bacteria, and lost him part of a leg. I was, I suppose, expecting to be greeted by an invalid, but apart from having crutches leaning nearby he looked pretty much unchanged from how I remembered him 35 years ago. I hope he thought the same of me.

Bill describes the college at which he spent 26 years as “that most perfect of academic institutions”.

In the preface to his latest book, Bill describes the college at which he spent 26 years as “that most perfect of academic institutions”. What did he mean by that, I ask?

Naturally, first, that it gave him his chance as a Fellow at the tender age of 25, a post for which he was picked out by Ken Tite, a venerable politics fellow, in an informal way that would be unthinkable now, given that the University faculty plays a much bigger role in such decisions and procedures are more formal. It is not that different from my own chance at *The Economist*, at a similar age, much assisted by a reference from a certain Bill Johnson.

He had, it is true, studied at Magdalen as a Rhodes Scholar—an unusual feat for a boy born on Merseyside as one of six children. But his father was a seaman working on oil tankers who was then offered a shore job in South Africa. As a result, at the age of 13, the family moved there and, after a first degree in Natal, Bill won the Rhodes. It was lucky he did, for he was by then in political trouble with the apartheid government. Police turned up to arrest him just after he left for Oxford.

His second answer to why he described Magdalen as perfect is that he worked in a lovely environment, with highly intelligent pupils and interesting colleagues, but above all in an atmosphere that was full of laughter.

Very few of his former pupils, he says, became academics, at least not in Britain; perhaps for too much of his time universities were facing cuts, or perhaps his very contemporary, journalistic instincts might have had an influence? Whatever the reason, he can claim three members of the current British cabinet—Christopher Huhne (1972), William Hague (1979) and Jeremy Hunt (1985)—plus Harold Koh (1975), currently Legal Adviser to the State Department in Washington.

Not that it was all smooth sailing. In 1979, when Keith Griffin was elected President, he found the College in a financial mess and asked Bill to become bursar and help him turn things round. It took them three years to, as Bill puts it, clean the Augean stables, and the College's current financial good health owes a lot to them, and of course their successors. So did the building-restoration project that began then. Bill became only the second person in the College's history to carry out a “topping-out” ceremony to mark the completion of the work on the roof of the tower. The first had been Cardinal Wolsey. 🗿

AN ACTOR'S LIFE FOR ME

Robert Hardy (1944) reflects at 85 on his acting career and time at Magdalen.

Photograph: Oxford Times



I first went up to Magdalen during the war, when Oxford was dark, filled with Americans, the colleges still strictly governed by rules, often disobeyed, and we all lived each week as if it could soon be swallowed in a deeper darkness. C.S. Lewis, my tutor, reminded me not to worry about a delayed essay, saying, "You are off to the War and you may get killed, so make the most of life here!" He had survived the trenches of Flanders.

When I and so many others returned to the lights and release of post-war Oxford we set about doing the things we had always wanted to do and had been rudely interrupted from doing: in my case it was acting. Magdalen gave me the passport. In the wartime, when I met Richard Burton and after an awkward beginning entered into a lifelong friendship, I did very little except greatly enjoy my tutorials and room parties with Lewis, and relished the extraordinary genius of J.R.R. Tolkien, whose efforts to teach me Anglo-Saxon were only partly successful. At the end of the first of his tutorials in Pembroke College,

he said, "Now then, next Wednesday, at the Bird and Baby, same time." We gathered in the Eagle and Child, and Tolkien covered his eyes and made each of us speak while he made notes. "Oh go on, don't be shy, I need more!" When the last had spoken, and it seemed to me we all sounded pretty much the same, he looked up at us and analysed one by one the influences on our speech. When this Professor Higgins reached me, he spoke of traces of the lilt of Welsh, mixed with what used to be called the King's English, and concluded that I was probably a product of the Welsh Borders; he was absolutely right; and he was right about each of us. It was an astonishing display, which bred in me a new sense of the sounds of speech, which I have kept in my knapsack all my life, an awareness of the speech of other places, vital to an actor.

We gathered in the Eagle and Child, and Tolkien covered his eyes and made each of us speak while he made notes. "Oh go on, don't be shy, I need more!"

After Schools in 1948 I went on tour with Ken Tynan, in his purple suit, and Peter Parker, who played a good Hamlet in the production. We played in France mostly, and underwent the terrifying experience of acting on a vast open air stage to an audience who not only could not understand the language, but who were also unable to distinguish our words. The age of personal microphones and sophisticated sound systems was not yet. When that tour finished I met Anthony Quayle at Stratford, and in January 1949 began the first rehearsals there of my professional career.

At the Millennium, fifty one years later, I was once again on a huge stage, playing Churchill, for the sixth time, but now in French, in the biggest theatre in Paris, which seats 3,750 people, in a piece about de Gaulle, Churchill and the French Resistance. The theatre's sound system was brilliant, and when I congratulated them they said, "Unfortunately it's an English system." Visiting the fine new statue of Churchill by the Petit Palais, I was shocked to find the plinth daubed in still wet red paint. "L'ASSASSIN DE MERS EL KEBIR." When I told the Director, Robert Hossein, he said, "Oh yes, you must be prepared, people will walk out, they may throw things when you come on, they may shoot..." I cried, "Robert, I don't want to die!" He replied, "But for an actor what a way to go!"

Magdalen may never forgive my shabby degree, sacrificed to play after play at Oxford, but blessings upon that loveliest of colleges which gave me the chance to first prove myself an actor. 🖤

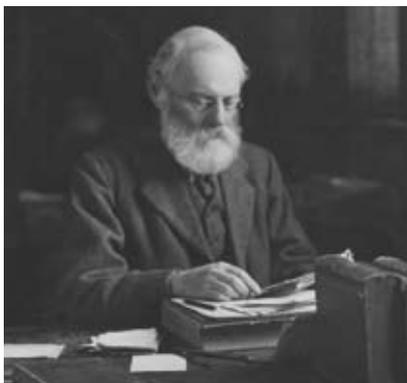
Photograph: Southern Films



MAGDALEN AND THE OXFORD ENGLISH DICTIONARY

Last summer a special exhibition commemorating the major contributions to lexicography by Magdalen members over four centuries was arranged for delegates attending an international lexicography conference, focusing in particular on the close involvement between Magdalen and *The Oxford English Dictionary*.

Photograph: Oxford University Press Archive. By permission of the Secretary to the Delegates of Oxford University Press



Henry Bradley

The first published part, known as a fascicle, of what was originally called *The New English Dictionary* came out in 1884. In 1895, Magdalen President Herbert Warren wrote to its first editor, James Murray, "I regard [the Dictionary] as one of [the] most undoubtedly valuable undertakings to which the University has ever put its hand." He liked to show Murray off: when inviting Murray to a garden party here in 1906, Warren urged him, "Please come in your Edinburgh doctor's robes." He recommended Magdalen graduates as possible *OED* assistants, and he wrote Murray's obituary for *The Times* on his death in 1915.

Murray was never made a Fellow of Magdalen (he had already been made a member of Balliol). That honour fell instead to the second editor of the *OED*, Henry Bradley. Like James Murray, Bradley never attended university, but a discerning review by him of the *OED*'s first fascicle drew him to Murray's attention. Bradley

began work for Murray in 1886, and in January 1888 he was appointed the Dictionary's second editor. He eventually edited almost one-third of the whole work.

In June 1916, when Bradley had become the senior editor of the *OED* after Murray's death, Magdalen College, through Warren's influence, elected him a Fellow. Bradley was delighted; after his election, he wrote to a friend, "Magdalen is *the* college of all others to which I should prefer to belong." He dined in Hall on Sundays, and found it amusing that, as the junior Fellow, he had to hand around the dessert to men many years younger. On Bradley's death in 1923, his funeral service was held in our Chapel.

The third editor of the *OED*, William Craigie, was the only editor to have studied at Oxford, and was a Fellow of Oriel, his old College. The fourth editor, Charles Onions, had studied at Birmingham, and had no Oxford post. In 1923, Magdalen elected Onions a Fellow in Bradley's place, and he remained a Fellow until his death in 1965. Like Bradley, Onions involved

Photograph: Oxford University Press Archive. By permission of the Secretary to the Delegates of Oxford University Press



Charles Onions

Photograph: Oxford University Press Archive. By permission of the Secretary to the Delegates of Oxford University Press



Robert Burchfield

himself deeply in College life, and from 1940-55 served as our Fellow Librarian. Some readers of *Floreat* may remember seeing Onions sitting in the New Library, deep in his work.

Onions's lexicographical activities continued long after 1928, when the last fascicle of the *OED* came out. He was editor of the first *Supplement* of the *OED* and of *The Shorter Oxford English Dictionary*, both published in 1933, and he devoted his last years to *The Oxford Dictionary of English Etymology*, published in 1966 just after his death.

Work effectively came to an end on the *OED* after the 1933 *Supplement* was published, until almost a quarter of a century later it was decided to create a new *Supplement*. The Editor of the new project, appointed in 1957, was Robert Burchfield, a young Lecturer at St. Peter's College. Burchfield, a New Zealander, was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship to Oxford in 1949, and read English at Magdalen with C. S. Lewis and Jack Bennett. While at Magdalen, Burchfield came to know Charles Onions, and Onions helped ensure Burchfield's appointment as his effective successor on the *OED*. The four volumes of Burchfield's *Supplement* came out between 1972 and 1986 to general acclaim, not least for their coverage of international varieties of English. Since Burchfield's time, the *OED* has continued to evolve, with a major revision of the work now in progress, but there can be no doubt that the contributions of Henry Bradley, Charles Onions, and Robert Burchfield, Magdalen lexicographers all, were crucial to its growth. 📖

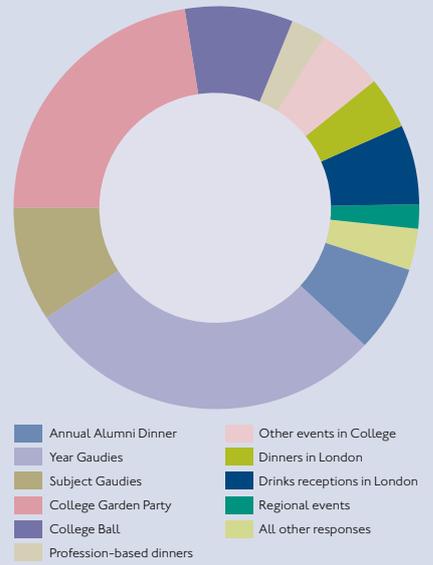
ROBIN DARWALL-SMITH, COLLEGE ARCHIVIST

With thanks to Peter Gilliver, Associate Editor of the OED.

ALUMNI SURVEY: RESULTS

Last year we invited you to complete a questionnaire about your interests, preferences and suggestions for alumni events and publications. We received over 400 responses, from seven decades of old members from all over the world, and some of the key results are shown here. We have taken your comments on board, and are continuing to tailor our events and publications programme to your needs.

Which events were attended by members in the past



Events:

The most attended events by old members were Year Gaudies in College (69% of respondents having been to one), followed by the College Garden Party (54%).

71% of respondents said they would be interested in attending locally-organised events in their region, so if you would be interested in helping to organise an event in your area, please get in touch.

The types of events that respondents would be particularly interested in attending included, in order of popularity:

- Dinners in College;
- Talks by prominent members;
- Subject lectures/symposia by College Fellows/experts;
- Drinks receptions;
- Dinners in London;
- Museum or gallery tours/talks.

There was also demand for young alumni events (for alumni within 10 years of matriculation), and for events suitable for families.

Communications:

While 93% of respondents read *Floreat Magdalena*, and 89% read the *Magdalen College Record*, only 55% read email announcements. This highlights the importance of members

giving us an up-to-date email address, as many event invitations are sent by email. If you do not currently receive emails from the College and would like to, please let us know—you can also ask to be taken off the list at any time.

Website:

We are hoping to launch a secure members' website this year, to include the following in-demand features: an opt-in secure members' directory (searchable by name, profession, region, matriculation year etc) (74%); an up-to-date guest list for forthcoming alumni events (65%); online event booking and secure payment (58%).

Please complete the form below to let us know what you think of the new-look *Floreat Magdalena*, and return it to: Anna Norman, Alumni Relations Officer, Magdalen College, Oxford OX1 4AU. Alternatively you can complete the survey online at: www.surveymonkey.com/s/6WFDJZX. For any other comments or suggestions please contact Anna on 01865 276082 or anna.norman@magd.ox.ac.uk



Floreat 2011 Feedback Form
(please continue on a separate sheet if necessary)

Name (optional): _____

Matriculation year (optional): _____

Please rate your satisfaction with the following aspects of the magazine, using numbers 1 to 5, where 1 is excellent and 5 is poor:

Look and feel	
Quality of content	
Variety of content	
Depth of content	
Representation of members' interests	
Timing of publication (Spring)	
Frequency of publication (Annual)	
Length of magazine (24 pages)	

Please add any comments or suggestions on the above: _____

What were the highlights of the magazine for you? _____

Could any part of the magazine have been improved? _____

Do you have any suggestions for future articles that would interest you? _____

Would you be interested in contributing an article to a future issue of the magazine? If so, please give details. _____

EVENTS FOR MEMBERS IN 2011

Friday 6th May

Paris Dinner at La Méditerranée, with guest speaker Lord Jay (1965), British Ambassador to France 1996-2001.

Saturday 4th June

Summer Eights Lunch: Pimm's reception in the President's Garden and two-course buffet lunch in College, followed by a stroll down to the river to cheer on our crews.

Friday 17th-Sunday 19th June

Edinburgh Weekend: A programme of cultural and social events in Edinburgh, including dinner at the beautiful Prestonfield House Hotel, and an exciting cultural programme of gallery tours, walking tours, historic houses and the John Murray archive of the firm's illustrious publishing history.

Saturday 2nd July

Fastolf Society Lunch for all Legators and partners.

Wednesday 6th July

Law Dinner at Gray's Inn for those who read Law at Magdalen or who are now working in the legal profession, with guest of honour the Attorney General Dominic Grieve (1975).

If you did not read Law at the College but now work in the legal profession, please let us know to ensure that you receive an invitation.

Saturday 9th July

Gaudy for matriculation years 1952-1955.

Saturday 23rd July

Hacks' Dinner in College for those working in journalism and the media, with guest speaker Ian Hislop (1978).

Friday 16th-Sunday 18th September

Oxford University Alumni Weekend.

Saturday 17th September

Annual Alumni Dinner in College, with guest speaker John Sergeant (1963).

Saturday 24th September

Gaudy for matriculation years 1999-2000.

For enquiries please contact:

Anna Norman

Alumni Relations Officer

Magdalen College, Oxford OX1 4AU

Tel: 01865 276082

Email: anna.norman@magd.ox.ac.uk

For more information visit:

www.magd.ox.ac.uk/alumni-and-development/events-calendar

www.facebook.com/MagdalenAlumni

www.twitter.com/magdalenoxford

Magdalen Christmas card

Price reduced to £4.00 for a pack of 10 cards.

Please order at:

www.tinyurl.com/reduced-christmascard



Photograph: Jaani Riordan



Leaving a Legacy

Your Will is your opportunity to provide for your family, friends and those organisations that have influenced and shaped your life. For most people it is the one opportunity they will have to make a significant financial contribution to those people and causes that they care deeply for. If you believe that you benefited from your time at Magdalen and you would like future generations to share your experience, perhaps you might consider including Magdalen in your Will.

A gift in your Will is the one gift that *everyone* can make. It is your chance to add to a long tradition of generosity of previous generations for the benefit of future generations. If you would like information on including Magdalen in your Will, or if you would like to discuss in confidence, and without obligation, how a gift in your Will can benefit Magdalen and its students please contact Sean Rainey in the College's Development Office.

Tel. 01865 286796

Email: sean.rainey@magd.ox.ac.uk