

NOVEMBER 07 | N° 24

NEW COLLEGE NEWS



www.new.ox.ac.uk

EVENTS

GAUDE

We knew that Old Members much preferred to have Gaude at the end of Trinity Term rather than in December. We didn't know how many of you were just bursting to come back. Faced with 260 acceptances and 215 seats in Hall, we decided that we'd test our organisational abilities to destruction and have a double Gaude, with two years seated together in Founder's Library.

It was a great success. As has become traditional, there was a power cut – luckily of short duration and in the middle of Evensong – the choir responded by singing a different service from memory at thirty seconds notice. It was a very happy occasion, and a wonderful chance to catch up with old friends.



TOP | Catching up at tea.

LEFT | Pre-dinner drinks in the Cloisters:

Tony Butler, Emeritus Fellow and **Anna Nobré**, Tutor and Reader in Experimental Psychology.

ABOVE | Hall was full so matriculation years 1965 and 1966 were seated in the Founder's Library.

NEW COLLEGE BALL

Photographs courtesy of Robert Hollingworth.



PARENTS' DAY

BELOW | **Jennifer Thorp**, (far left) the college archivist, again organised a fascinating display for the annual Open Day for the family and friends of first-year students.



NEW COLLEGE SOCIETY SUPPER PARTY

BELOW | Acting Head Chef, **Greg Lewis** (far left), presides over the splendid buffet table. The cold and wet weather forced the party into Hall this year much to the relief of many. This biennial event offers a good opportunity for Old Members to entertain their friends and family at their old college.



CHAPEL WINDOWS

A 20 YEAR PROJECT BEGINS

OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMEMORATIONS, MEMORIALS,
AND LASTING LEGACIES TO THE COLLEGE

The chapel at New College dates from 1386 and has undergone many changes over the centuries as architectural and artistic tastes changed. As part of that process of change, by the mid-18th century, much of the original medieval stained glass in the ten windows in the main body of the chapel had been lost; nevertheless, within those ten windows are important survivals of that original medieval glass.

The glass which replaced the original is attributed to two important figures in the history of stained glass in England. The windows on the north elevation are attributed to William Peckitt of York and date from the 1760s, although it is known that the westernmost windows, which date from 1773, were in fact to designs by Biagio Rebecca. Rebecca was of Italian descent, but born in England and employed as a decorative artist at Windsor Castle.

The windows on the south elevation are attributed to William Price junior and date from 1735-1740. Price was also responsible for the west window of Westminster Abbey, which dates from 1735 and so is contemporary to his New College windows.

THE CONSERVATION OF THE GLASS

A survey of the Choir windows was conducted on 26-27 October 2004 to determine the extent of the needed conservation. There is no external protection for any of the windows. The key problems identified were:

- superficial soiling of the glass
- corrosion of surviving areas of medieval stained glass
- cracks, holes and alien insertions in the 18th century glass
- enamel loose and instability in the 18th century glass
- missing ferramenta in four of the 10 windows.

FUNDING FOR THE WINDOWS

The conservation project begins in 2008. The first piece of funding has come from the Pilgrim Trust and the New College Development Fund trustees have allocated sufficient funds to start the first tranche of work. In total there are 90 lights in the 10 windows. The average cost per light is £35,000 for a total cost of £3,150,000 needed for the project.





WELCOME...



THE WARDEN'S REPORT

SINCE WE INSTITUTED GRADUATION DAY AT THE END OF SEPTEMBER, IN ORDER TO BRING OUR RECENT GRADUATES BACK TO OXFORD TO COLLECT THEIR DEGREES IN PERSON, MICHAELMAS TERM HAS BECOME A CURIOUS MIXTURE OF THE VALEDICTORY AND ANTICIPATORY.

We say goodbye to the new graduates, receive the thanks and congratulations of their parents and friends, wonder whether the incoming freshers will live up to their predecessors – and two days later find out the answer as a hundred and twenty brand new undergraduates and a hundred and five graduates flood through the Holywell Lodge. So, no, we don't yet know if they will be quite as wonderful as those who have just left, but we think they probably will...

Now that they are safely settled, it is time to turn to my annual task of telling you what we are up to and what we have done with the resources you have so generously given us. The New College Development Fund has had a good year. The total in the Fund has advanced from £10.2 million to almost £11 million; and during the year, the Fund was able to give the College £636 thousand. Almost half of this was for the support of the College's Junior Research Fellowships. Last year, these were almost too successful in fostering the careers of talented young scholars. No sooner had we begun to enjoy the pleasure of having **Alice Rio** and **Nicholas Cheeseman** with us than the former went off to a lectureship at Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge and the latter to a University Lectureship in African Politics here in Oxford and a Tutorial Fellowship at

Jesus College. We hope that **Karen Croxson**, our new Rank/Manning Fellow in economics, will be with us rather longer... The Fund also helps with teaching posts; usually, this is a matter of filling in gaps in University provision. But this year we have an innovation; we have instituted career development teaching fellowships, and have just welcomed **Frederique Ait-Touati** as our first fellow who will be with us for four years and will certainly go on to great things.

Our last year's appeal for help with conservation boxes and the repair and upkeep of our mediaeval manuscripts was a great success. We haven't reached the point where we must beg you not to pay for more boxes and further conservation, but your generosity means that at present we are more constrained by the speed at which the highly skilled creators of conservation boxes can make them than we are by the wherewithal to purchase them. Thank you all very much.

One feature of the College's fund-raising is that our American alumni/ae have been immensely generous. It is common knowledge that Americans are bombarded by their high schools, colleges, churches and innumerable other charities with requests for help, and are therefore used to making gifts to those they feel particular loyalty to. But New College, after all, is only one of the many good causes that ask for their help, so the fact that we owe the new Pavilion, and now the handsomely refurbished Savile House, to their generosity is worth a sentence of acknowledgment. Professor **Lee Bradley** left us a considerable gift a few years ago, intended for the upkeep of college buildings, and we have been waiting for the moment to spend it. We have, amazingly, managed to make the restored rooms infinitely more comfortable, without losing any accommodation. The students who live in Savile House are blissfully happy.

ALAN RYAN

THE WARDENSHIP

Having served with distinction since his election in 1996, Professor **Alan Ryan** will retire as Warden in September 2009. Alan had previously been Professor of Politics at Princeton University for eight years, and before that a tutor in politics at New College for nearly twenty years. There will be space in future issues to pay tribute to Alan's immense contribution to the College, and to the nation's intellectual life. In the meantime, the search for a worthy successor is underway, and we welcome Old Members' help with this task; if anyone wishes to suggest a possible candidate, we would be pleased to hear from them. For full details of the post and how to apply or nominate a candidate, please see the advertisement and particulars on the College website: www.new.ox.ac.uk/Job_Vacancies/Academic_Job_Vacancies.php

GIVING AND GETTING

WILLIAM CONNER, DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

IT HAS BEEN JUST OVER A YEAR SINCE I FIRST CAME TO NEW COLLEGE. FROM THE START, MY TASK HAS CLEARLY BEEN TO EFFECT A STEP CHANGE IN THE COLLEGE'S FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES AND TO PLAY A ROLE IN DEFINING THE COLLEGE'S FUNDING NEEDS FOR THE NEXT DECADE. TO THAT END WE HAVE MADE SOME PROGRESS.



We had a record year last year in annual giving thanks to the hard work of **Susan Ashcroft-Jones**, the diligence of the student callers, and of course the donors. About 13% of Old Members made a contribution to the College. Our ambition over the next few years is to raise the rate to 30%. We launched the 1379 Society giving club for higher level donors and have consequently more than doubled the number of graduate scholarships valued at over £5,000. This remains one of the most pressing near-term needs of the College, and we need a significant further increase in funding for this area.

Most importantly a number of committees have convened to consider the needs of the College and the case for those needs. After a hiatus of a few years, the College Development Committee was reconvened to work with me on internal support needed for fundraising. A series of seminars featuring the research of the Fellows' has been launched, and if demand holds up,

will continue at the rate of about two per term. Rather than always asking for money, we thought showing Old Members what money does might be more interesting. A number of Old Members are participating on the Endowment Committee, the NCDF Trustees and a new fundraising working group to help the College manage its resources and refine its strategy to keep ahead of its financial needs.

Stewart Millman from the Development Fund Trustees has written an excellent paper based on a ten-year balance sheet modelling exercise he has done in collaboration with the Bursar and the Finance Director. This will be published later this year and makes a strong case for the need for growth in the College's resources through fundraising, capital gains on land, and investment gains in order for the College to sustain and improve its position as a leading player in Oxford and UK higher education.

In the US, the American Friends of New College is raising its game by focusing on growing the Board of the AFNC, by restructuring its internal committees, and by hiring a part time person to advance fundraising in the US. New College has almost 1,000 Old Members in the US, many of whom have expressed an interest in helping the College and in wanting to feel closer to the work of the College in the same way they are engaged with the American institutions from which they have degrees.

The University will launch in the next year or so, a massive fundraising initiative. Some of New College's ambitions will be included in that "Campaign of Campaigns". The work of coordinating the College's and the University's interests is underway. Better operating protocols, more responsive personnel and better tools for working together are all in process. This has not been easy, but everyone is working hard toward a more joined up approach to the total needs of the collegiate University.

The College can claim with some pride a tradition of good communication and a warm feeling of community. This is a common theme repeated to me in my many conversations with Old Members. A new series of thought pieces is planned, beginning with Millman's paper on New College's finances, in which issues both challenging and visionary will be articulated for a broader understanding of where the College wants to go in future years.

WILLIAM CONNER

NCDF REPORT

(EDITED FROM THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS)

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The Development Fund exists to support the activities of New College, Oxford, and beyond that such wider activities in the sphere of higher education and research as the Trustees may decide. The Development Fund is connected to, but independent of, the College and under all conditions has a majority of Trustees who are not employees of the College.

New College is an educational charity established in 1379 for the promotion of religion and learning, and with the intention that most of its graduates would enter the service of church and state. Today, its objects are the promotion of education and research, the cultural and spiritual development of its students, and the care and maintenance of buildings dating from 1379 to 2001, some of them part of the national heritage. The concern for less tangible aspects of the national heritage implied by the support of one of Oxford's three world-class chapel choirs should not be overlooked.

Support for the fabric in 2006-7 was lower than for many years past.

The Trustees have, however, agreed to underwrite the expenditure of some £3 million on the Nave stained glass over the next twenty years. It is expected that most of the cost will be met from grants from charitable trusts and from the College's fund-raising activities. In 2007-8 something in the order of £250,000 of work will be undertaken.

The cost of student aid rose again to £116 thousand. With the arrival of top-up fees, arrangements for student bursaries changed, and we are entering the second year of transition from the previous regime to the new regime. The University is starting to play the major role in providing basic student assistance, and the College will increasingly provide funding for the relief of hardship, and for the enhancement of the educational experience of both undergraduate and graduate students. The Trustees have always expected that whatever may be saved on the provision of basic assistance to undergraduates will have to be expended on other forms of support and for other students. Graduate education will become an increasingly prominent aspect of the Charity's activities, particularly in the humanities, where students find it extremely difficult to secure support from funding councils.



Each year in this Report, the Trustees try to pick out some interesting aspect of what they have helped to achieve – often in helping an individual, and sometimes in helping a ‘bit-size’ project. This year, there has been a campaign to provide funds to conserve and secure the College's extraordinary holdings of mediaeval manuscripts. For many years, these have been housed in the Bodleian Library, but they were beginning to suffer from a lack of conservation. They have been returned to the College, and the alumni/ae have been very generous in funding modern manuscript boxes – which must be made to order for each set of manuscripts to provide a dry, acid-free, fire-resistant environment – as well as physical conservation and microfilming so that the manuscripts themselves are spared excessive handling. The project will cost something close to £100,000, and great strides have been made towards that target.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

The Charity keeps its activities under constant review, but is conscious of the difficulties of quantifying its success. The public benefit provided by the intelligent and energetic young people who gain Junior Research Fellowships comes over a life-time of activity. Student financial support encourages students from non-traditional backgrounds to apply to New College. It also forges bonds of friendship and gratitude between present and former members of the College and helps to sustain a climate in which philanthropy can flourish.

The fund-raising activities of the Charity are kept under constant review. New College alumni/ae have no liking for aggressive campaigns, but the annual Telethon has become well-liked by Old Members who enjoy talking to the students who make the calls. The Legacy Campaign that was launched in 2004 is also beginning to bear fruit; it is hard to put numbers on what may eventually be received, but it is certainly more than £10 million over a period of years. In October 2006, Mr William Conner began work as Development Director, a role that had been left unfilled for several years. He has begun to stimulate the College to think about its needs and to encourage the alumni/ae to think more ambitiously about ways of helping the College.

The Trustees believe that by putting £500 to £600 thousand a year into the promotion of research and teaching, student aid, and the preservation and enhancement of “heritage assets,” the Charity provides a substantial public benefit. In the absence of such support, there would either be less good work done and it would be done in a deteriorating environment by less happy people, or public funding would have to fill the gap.

Readers will find the NCDF's accounts on the College website.

TURKEY

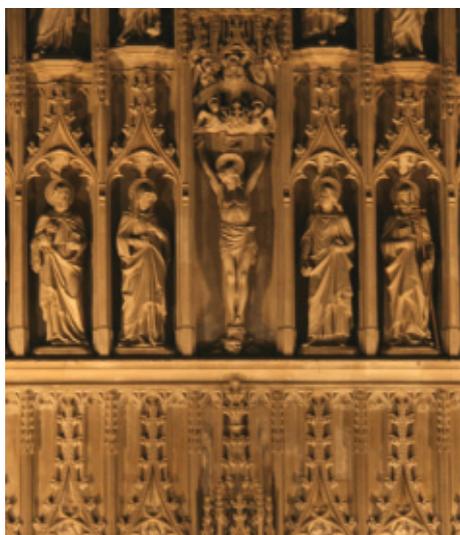
Two years ago, ten of us went by *gulet* from Kusadasi to Gocek, looking at Ephesus, Miletus, and a dozen other sites on the Aegean coast of Turkey. This September, there were twenty-four of us, in two *gulets* and we continued round the southern coast past Kas, Kekova, Olympos, and Antalya.

Once again, we were very lucky to have Richard Ashton as our guide. The Warden chanced his arm with half a dozen lectures on ancient historians and philosophers, and was reminded that the alumni hadn't lost their skills as tutorial fencers after going down.



LIFELONG LEARNING

We tell our finalists that their education doesn't stop with Schools, and that there will be much to learn in later life. Douglas East (1946) has proved us right; at the age of 84, he has just completed his PhD at the University of Essex: The Great Westminster Missal of Abbot Nicholas Lythynghon, 1383-84. Those seeking further New College connections may like to know that John Wickham Legg, Winchester and New College, and father of Leopold Wickham Legg, Fellow and Tutor, produced a famous and monumental edition of the Missal in the 19th Century.



NEW DEVELOPMENT OFFICE STAFF MEMBER

Anne Voboril Conner joins New College as our first part-time representative for fundraising in the US. With a background as a musician and equity analyst, she has for the past five years worked for Brakeley Ltd in London managing US fundraising projects for international clients including the Global Leadership Foundation and the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation. She will work from Boston for the American Friends of New College and in collaboration with the University's New York Development Office.

RICHARD'S RIDE

With thanks to the generosity of **Patrick Shea** (1970) we now have two splendid bicycles, equipped with lights, chain guards and baskets, to be used by Old Members visiting Oxford. Patrick has donated the bicycles to honour his old tutor, **Professor Richard Dawkins**. Please contact the Home Bursar's Office for further information (Tel: 01865 279562 joan.fraser@new.ox.ac.uk)

NEW ONLINE DATABASE

The on-line database was launched in September and over 1,500 alumni have, so far, agreed to display their contact information to other members of the College. As you know, this database is only available to members of New College and he/she decides what will be displayed and whether students may make contact for career advice. The data comes directly from the college system which does limit the format of any changes that you make. For instance, all forenames have to appear. Unless indicated, the first one is assumed to be the preferred forename. Undergraduate Degree is abbreviated and taken from the central

database which cannot be overwritten, and there is limited space under the heading Job Title.

We now have two on-line facilities for you to keep us up to date: (www.new.ox.ac.uk/Alumni)

- Through the on-line database you can update your address, telephone, email and current job.
- Through *Update your Details* you can send us the above updates and additionally news for publication in the New College Record: marriages, civil partnerships, births (children and grandchildren), new jobs, publications, honours and distinctions.

We hope you find this a useful way of staying in touch with your friends and contemporaries and the College. Please contact the Development Office if you have any queries (develop@new.ox.ac.uk).



THE CHOIR

July 2007 saw the choir in Alsace-Lorraine singing concerts at the Sarrebourg Festival and recording music by Nicholas Ludford for the French label K617. The choir could not escape heavenly comparisons (the local press referring to 'anges' and 'angelots' and 'paradis'), a view sometimes contested by chorister parents. Mindful of their wider obligations to the College, the clerks did some serious tasting in an Alsatian vineyard, facilitating subsequent acquisitions for the College cellars.

This December, after its various carol services and a charity concert for the Home Farm Trust in Dorchester Abbey, the choir will give performances of Haydn's Creation in four different cities of Estonia, with the Estonian National Symphony Orchestra. This is new ground (although we have been to Latvia) and the choristers hope it will be deep in snow.

As an antidote we shall be at the Antibes Festival in early February. Details of all these concerts can be found on the choir's website. You can now also purchase almost all the choir's 80 CDs online through www.newcollegechoir.com and have them sent directly to your home!

For Christmas we recommend Handel's Messiah, released last year, the festive red box set of seasonal CDs *Christmastide*, *Carols for Christmas Morning*, and this autumn's latest release: *Edwardian and Victorian Anthems* (featuring in particular Elgar and Parry). For those preferring not to buy via the internet, orders can be placed over the phone by ringing **01865 279519**.

EDWARD HIGGINBOTTOM

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

CAROL SERVICE

Saturday, 8 December 2007

Old Members matriculating before 1970 are invited to apply to the Development Office for tickets. At this stage we have very few tickets remaining for the body of the Chapel.

A SERIES OF SEMINARS featuring Research at New College: January-May 2008

You are invited to apply to Maggie Bradfield in the Development Office for tickets:
maggie.bradfield@new.ox.ac.uk or 01865 279264

Wednesday, 30 January 2008:

Before Blackwater, Dr David Parrott

Wednesday, 20 February 2008:

His (and Her) Dark Materials

Professor Joseph Silk

Wednesday, 7 May 2008:

Where am I? A machine's perspective

Dr Paul Newman

Wednesday, 21 May 2008:

Is the 21st Century a Disappointment?

Professor Alan Ryan

Seminars begin at 6pm and are followed by dinner in the Senior Common Room. There are only twelve places for dinner per seminar which will be offered on a first come first served basis.

NEW COLLEGE LAW SOCIETY DINNER 28 February 2008

The Parliament Chambers and the Queen's Room have been booked for this annual Law Society dinner. **Baroness Ruth Deech** is the guest speaker.

AMERICAN (EAST COAST AMERICAN...)

alumni will receive an invitation to one of the following dinners. The Warden is looking forward to meeting up with as many of you as possible. Of course, all alumni are welcome.

Thursday, 27 March The City Club, Washington hosted by Mr Russell Carpenter (1963)

Friday, 28 March The St Botolph Club, Boston hosted by Mr James Dillon (1970)

Saturday, 5 April The NY Athletic Club, New York hosted by Mr Derek Benham (1972)

OXFORD INTER-COLLEGE GOLF TOURNAMENT

Friday, 11 April 2008

Hosted by Corpus Christi College, the tournament will be played at Frilford Heath Golf Club.

NEW COLLEGE SOCIETY FAMILY DAY Saturday, 24 May 2008

A marquee will be in place in the College Garden for a BBQ lunch followed by tea. This is the last Saturday of Eights Week so come along to cheer the boats or just come and catch up with your contemporaries in familiar surroundings. All Old Members and children of all ages are welcome - please invite your friends to join you for a relaxed day at your old college.

GAUDE

The Warden and Fellows have reserved the same Friday each year (*Friday of 10th week*) to hold a summer Gaudé in College. With the help of Dr Andrew Wathen, we have planned a schedule and list below the matriculation dates of those to be invited over the next five years.

1958-1964 / 27 June '08 **1995-1999 / June '09**
1900-1950 / June '10 **1984-1989 / June '11**
2000-2005 June '12

OPERAS IN THE WARDEN'S GARDEN 4 and 11 July 2008

New Chamber Opera will be performing Thomas Arne's *Artaxerxes*.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY ALUMNI REUNION WEEKEND 19-21 September 2008

We tried hard to participate in the 2007 reunion but could not due to existing commitments. However, we will be offering hospitality to Old Members for the 2008 University event.

NEW COLLEGE SOCIETY REGIONAL WEEKEND IN YORK 27-28 September 2008

Kindly organised by **Dr Allen Warren** (1964). The last visit to York in 1996, again organised by Allen, was very well attended and thoroughly enjoyed by all who went. Details will be sent with the *New College Record*.

NEW COLLEGE SOCIETY DINNER Barber Surgeons' Hall: Monday, 17 November 2008

Kindly arranged by **Mr John Bach** (1956). The 2004 dinner organised by John was fully subscribed so please book early to avoid disappointment. An invitation will be sent to you with the *Record*.

CAROL SERVICE Saturday, 6 December 2008

For Old Members who matriculated after 1969.

If you have any queries, please contact the Development Office:
01865 289096 or 01865 279509