

MAY 2012 | ISSUE 35



# MAGDALENE MATTERS

THE NEWSLETTER OF MAGDALENE COLLEGE CAMBRIDGE



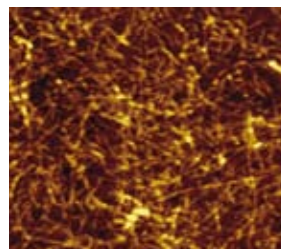
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# MAGDALENE MATTERS

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## COMMENT from the Development Director

Dear Member,

After the historic events of last term during which the Governing Body elected the 35th Master of Magdalene, The Most Reverend and Right Honourable Dr Rowan Williams PC, FBA, FRS, we are looking forward to welcoming him and his wife Jane in January 2013.

In the meantime, I hope that many of you will come back to Magdalene for a final opportunity to meet the Master, Duncan Robinson CBE FSA, DL once more before he steps down after ten successful years. We have been fortunate in benefiting from his outstanding leadership, during which time the academic standing of the College has been greatly enhanced; Cripps Court, providing twenty-first century facilities for our students, has been built and substantial efforts have been made to promote access. Most importantly perhaps, the Master and his wife, Lisa, have contributed greatly to the friendly, familial feel of Magdalene, entertaining students, Fellows and Members alike in the Master's Lodge and hosting numerous

Magdalene Dinners both here and abroad. They will both be attending the Family Day in the Fellows' Garden in July, the Annual Donors' Day and the two Reunions in September. Further details of Magdalene alumni events can be found on the back page.



Finally, I am delighted to report that this year's Telephone Campaign raised a wonderful £275,000 in cash and pledges. The 16 Magdalene students

involved did a fantastic job representing the College and over 60% of Members called made a gift. A very big thank you to all of you who were inspired to make a donation to the College, your support is greatly appreciated by all of us.

**CORINNE LLOYD (2010)**  
**EDITOR AND DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR**  
**DIRECTOR.DEVELOPMENT@MAGD.CAM.AC.UK**

# NEWS FROM THE CHOIR

BY JONATHAN HELLYER-JONES (2002), DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

This year the Choir is planning a domestic Summer Tour in Yorkshire – or God’s Own County, if you happen to be born or live in England’s largest county.



As a *multum in parvo* Choir Tour, (writing as one who has school connections with Rutland, by contrast England’s smallest county), we shall give four concerts in four days, requiring only three night’s accommodation; this is about as short a tour as one can imagine. Programmes are expected to be principally unaccompanied music from our repertoire with a small amount of secular repertoire in addition. We usually like to include some pieces with organ accompaniment to give our Organ Scholars an opportunity to perform on other instruments.

This year’s Choir Tour planning has been much assisted by the generous offers of two of our number who live in Harrogate. George Pickard, our 4th year Senior Organ Scholar and Sophie Fennerty, our Alto who is a 3rd year Music student from Murray Edwards – both have offered to accommodate members of the Choir at their homes. This will lower the costs of the tour, which are shared between choristers.

For those who are unfamiliar with the workings of choirs, it may be of interest to know that all College choirs now expect to tour at some point of the year. Some of the more adventurous (and better resourced) choirs travel to the Antipodes, Far East or to the USA. Magdalene’s smaller choir, by contrast, has in recent years concentrated on tours within Europe. In our view, wherever a choir tours, the experience is very much the same – namely to sing and share in the undertaking together. Annual tours have become very much part of the experience of being a member of a College choir and, although Magdalene’s is smaller than that of other Colleges, we believe that touring and performing is part and parcel of a successful Cambridge choir.

We welcome offers of assistance, including accommodation, for future tours from our members – please contact the Alumni & Development Office if you are willing to help in this way.

## *Choir Tour Dates*

**SATURDAY 30 JUNE**  
4 pm, Selby Abbey

**SUNDAY 1 JULY**  
3 pm, Fountains Abbey

**MONDAY 2 JULY**  
7.30 pm St Wilfrid’s Church,  
Harrogate

**TUESDAY 3 JULY**  
11 am, York Minster

Please support us by coming to a performance; we look forward to seeing Magdalene Members at one of our Summer Tour concerts.

Choir’s website:  
[www.magdalenechoir.org.uk](http://www.magdalenechoir.org.uk)

# FELLOWS' NEWS



**PROFESSOR EAMON DUFFY (1979)** Professor of the History of Christianity,

was elected an Honorary Member of the Royal Irish Academy on 16 March 2012.



**PROFESSOR SIR JOHN GURDON (Master from 1995–2002)** received an Honorary

Fellowship of the UK Academy of Medical Sciences on 24 November 2011 and received a Doctorate Honoris Causa from the Universidad Andres Bello, Santiago, on 10th Jan 2012.

**DR STEFAN HALPER (2001)** Donner Senior Research Fellow in International Studies, has been asked by the US Secretary of Defence to direct an analysis of US, Japanese and Chinese interests in the South China Sea region. Dr Halper has assembled a Cambridge-Washington team to conduct the study, which will focus on Chinese policy, priorities and military assets in the region, and US and global interests in the Maritime Commons.



**DR RONALD HYAM (1960)** Emeritus Reader in British Imperial History,

will be celebrating 50 years as a Fellow of Magdalene this July! A College Lecturer from 1960 to 2000, he was College Librarian 1963–1993, Admissions Tutor 1980–1982, and President 1996–1998. He served as an Editor for the British Documents on the *End of Empire Project* based at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies in London, and for whom he

has edited four volumes of documents on the Labour Government 1945–51. He then completed a similar collection dealing with the Macmillan Government 1957–63. He has written several books and was awarded a Doctorate of Letters in 1993. He most recently edited a 2nd edition of 'Magdalene Described', a guide to the buildings of the College.



**THE RIGHT HONOURABLE IGOR, BARON JUDGE OF DRAYCOTE (1959)** Lord

Chief Justice of England and Wales and President of the Selden Society, has been nominated for an honorary degree of Doctor of Law by the University of Cambridge at a congregation to be held on 20 June 2012. Lord Judge read History and Law at Magdalene. He was elected an Honorary Fellow in 2008.



**PROFESSOR GED MARTIN (1964)** Research Fellow 1970–1972), has

been elected an Honorary Fellow of Hughes Hall, for whom he has published its history, *Hughes Hall Cambridge 1885–2010* (Third Millennium Books 2012). It is of course an extremely rare honour for a Magdalene alumnus to be elected an Honorary Fellow of another Cambridge College – the last was Henry Chadwick, KBE.

**PROFESSOR NEIL RUSHTON (1984)** Emeritus Professor of Orthopaedics, has been awarded the Chapman Medal by the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining (of which he is a Fellow). The Chapman Medal is presented

for distinguished research in the field of biomedical materials, particularly with respect to biomaterial innovation which has produced benefits for patients and/or contributed to associated opportunities for industry.

**PROFESSOR SARAH SPRINGMAN (1988)** OBE has been appointed to a CBE in the New Year's Honours List, for services to triathlon. Professor Springman was previously appointed to an OBE in 1997 for services to sport.



**DR PHILIPPA STEELE (2010)** Henry Lumley Research Fellow in Classics, has won the Hare

Prize for her PhD thesis entitled *A Linguistic History of Cyprus: The Non-Greek Languages, and their Relations with Greek, c.1600–300 BC*. She will also be giving the Evans-Pritchard lectures in 2013–14 at All Souls, Oxford. This is a series of five public lectures (in honour of Sir Edward Evans-Pritchard, the famous social anthropologist), which will be published in book form – her theme will be 'Society and Writing in Ancient Cyprus'.

**PROFESSOR JAMES RAVEN (1990)** former Fellow and Director of Studies in History, Professor of Modern History at Essex University, has received the higher degree of LittD from the University of Cambridge. He joins Professor Nick Boyle, Professor Helen Cooper and Dr Ronald Hyam as the fourth LittD in the current Magdalene Fellowship.

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# WHEN PROTEINS GET STICKY...

BY DR. ALEXANDER BUELL (2008)

Everybody has heard about proteins, probably most commonly in the context of their role as an essential nutrient that we need to eat in order to build up muscles. However, proteins are extremely versatile molecules and perform a multitude of different essential functions in every organism. Think of a living cell as a tiny test tube of about a millionth of a millionth of a litre ( $10^{-12}$  l) that contains thousands of different chemical substances, most of them proteins, that simultaneously carry out a comparable number of very specific chemical reactions.

Together these molecules, which are in constant motion, fill about half the volume of the cell (the other half being water) and each protein will encounter many others before it meets its appropriate reaction partners. It is therefore easy to understand that proteins must not be sticky, but rather bounce off each other like snooker balls when they collide. Otherwise, the entire content of the cell would clump together in a fraction of a second and life would come to a halt. Evolution has therefore led to most proteins being extremely selective in what they interact with, in most cases only with a very small number of other substances and even then, the interactions are usually reversible – the molecules can separate from each other again after the reaction.

Sometimes, however, a protein can accidentally unwrap and expose some of its sticky parts, which are usually hidden inside its interior (and which actually help it to fold into a well-defined structure), to the outside world. This process can greatly enhance the stickiness of the protein and if this unfolding happens to a large number of molecules at the same time, they can aggregate together and form large insoluble structures. This reaction is the focus of my research in the group of Professor Christopher Dobson at the Department of Chemistry.

It all started long before I joined the group in the late 1990s with a failed experiment and a clever post-doc who didn't throw the sample away. A protein solution in a test tube had been forgotten and a few weeks later when it was rediscovered, it had turned into a thick gel. Intrigued, Chris Dobson and his co-workers studied the gel under an electron microscope and they saw fibrillar aggregates that strongly resembled those that doctors had already discovered much earlier in the brains of patients suffering from Alzheimer's

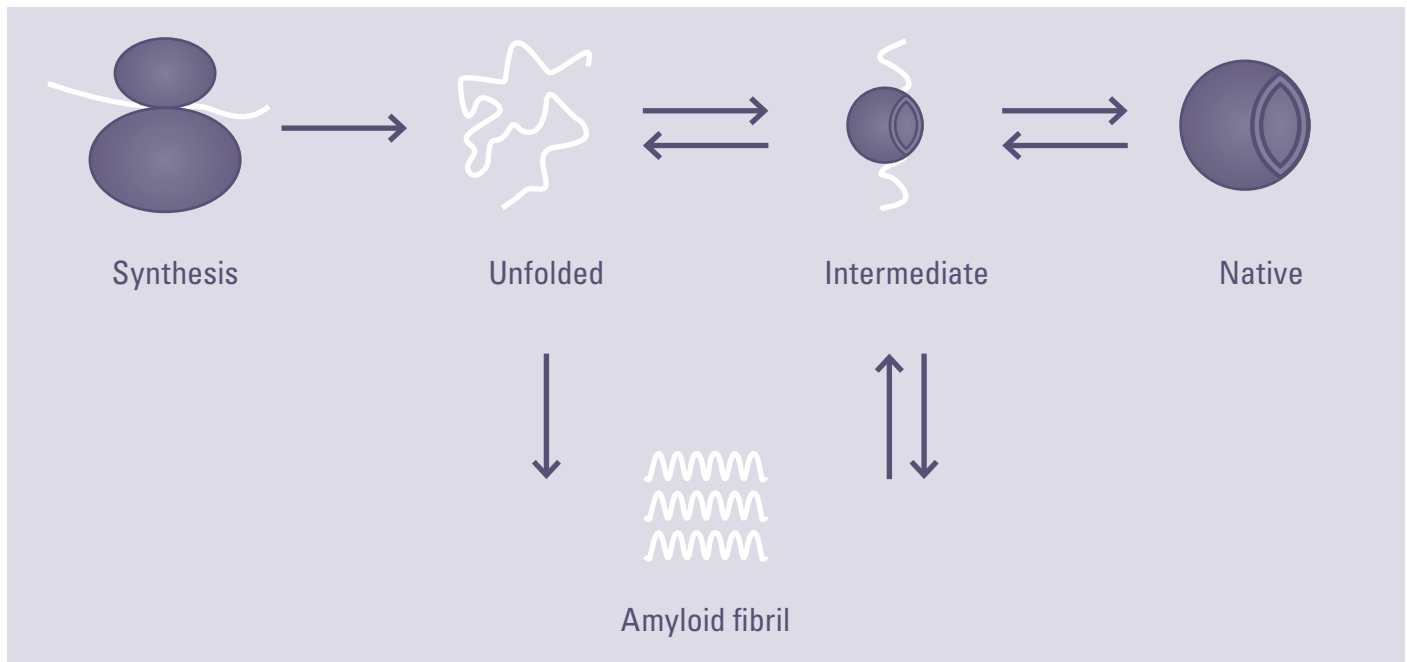
and Parkinson's disease. This was a very unexpected finding, as the particular protein that had accidentally been transformed into a gel had never been before associated with any disease.

A bit more than a decade later, Chris Dobson, like hundreds of other researchers in the world, still studies this transformation from soluble protein into insoluble fibrils, and what started as a chance finding by a single postdoc is now a substantial project involving more than 50 researchers in several departments in Cambridge alone. It is a truly interdisciplinary endeavour; the background of people contributing to it range from Medicine and Molecular Biology to Theoretical Physics. With my own background as a Physical Chemist, I am somewhere in the

*... continued*



**I joined Magdalene as a PhD student in 2008 and was elected to a Thomas Neville Junior Research Fellowship in 2011. For me, being at Magdalene means meeting and interacting with interesting people from very diverse backgrounds in an exceptionally friendly environment. But it can also mean an early morning walk in the Fellows' Garden or a glass of Madeira in the combination room – all of which have led me to greatly enjoy my time at Magdalene!**



**Scheme of the folding reactions (indicated by arrows) that a protein molecule can undergo after being freshly synthesized. The folded state on the right hand side represents the functional beneficial form of the protein necessary for the proper functioning of the cell. Partly folded intermediates can aggregate into amyloid fibrils and cause disease. (Adapted from CM Dobson, *Nature*, 2003)**

middle of this spectrum, but the classical boundaries of research disciplines lose their meaning in our day-to-day research. The problems we study lie at the interface between Chemistry, Physics and Biology and therefore, by their very nature, require the crossing of these traditional boundaries by each individual researcher.

What has emerged from these research efforts is that all proteins seem to be able to form such aggregates. Chris Dobson was able to draw the connection between the aggregation of proteins in the test tube, the devastating neurodegenerative diseases mentioned above and a strange class of rare diseases where patients are found to accumulate large quantities (in some cases, pounds) of protein deposits in their tissues and inner organs. These diseases are called amyloidoses after amyloid (“sugar-like”), the name mistakenly given to the protein deposits when they were first described hundreds of years ago. In these diseases, symptoms arise through the sheer amount of aggregated material that can disrupt organs. In Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s disease, however, the quantities of aggregates are much smaller and seem to be highly toxic, even though the exact mechanism of toxicity has yet to be established. In addition, many other proteins have been found to be able to form these aggregates under the right conditions and the resulting aggregates are often found to be also toxic to cells. From these findings, the picture emerges of life being constantly threatened by protein aggregation, and that every

living cell has to invest significant resources into ensuring that these proteins, without which the cell cannot exist, do not become sticky and aggregate into toxic clumps and fibrils.

My own work within that framework is concerned with the questions as to why and how proteins are so prone to aggregate. What are the fundamental forces that draw protein molecules towards each other and hold them together, and how can the soluble state be stabilized? I am trying to transfer quantitative methods and tools from Physics and Physical Chemistry to the study of these complicated large biological molecules. My research has, for example, led to a better understanding of why some proteins can aggregate within minutes and others take days or months. The latter cases don’t actually pose a problem to the cell as it can counteract processes that produce harmful aggregates at such a slow rate. In order to acquire the accurate data necessary for such a fundamental understanding, I have developed a new method to measure the speed of protein aggregation. I am also looking in detail into the origin of the mechanical and thermodynamic stability of amyloid. Why is it almost impossible for the organism to dissolve these structures once they are formed and how can we potentially facilitate their clearance?

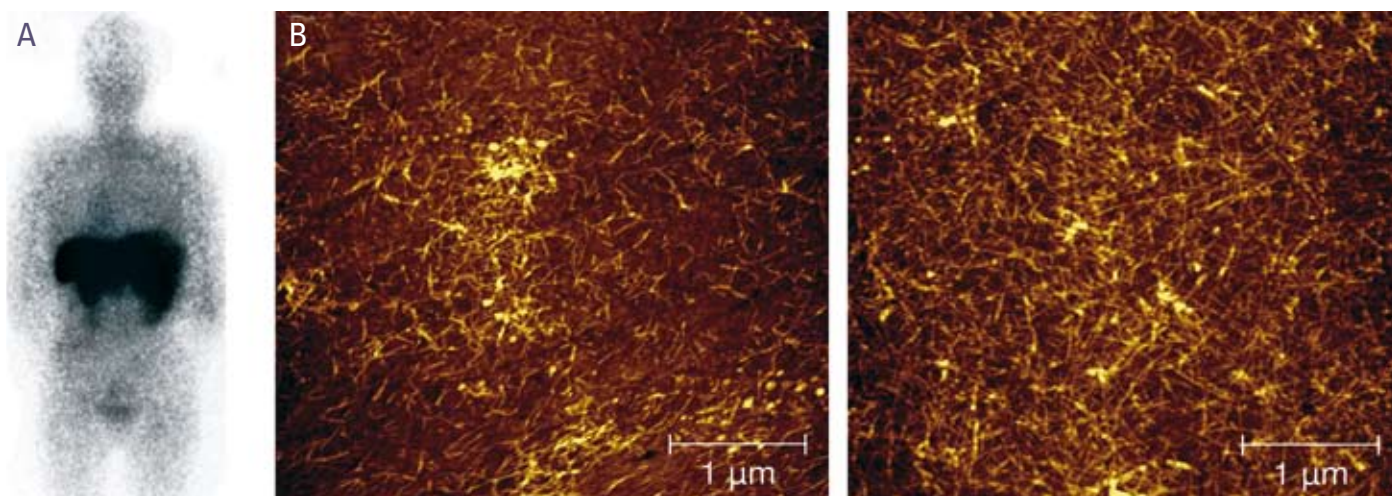
The biggest challenge we are facing today is in fact how to translate the wealth of fundamental knowledge we have gained in the last years into therapeutic approaches to the

neurodegenerative amyloid diseases. Such an achievement can only be made in collaboration with industry, and that is reflected by the establishment of the Cambridge-Elan Centre for Research Innovation and Drug Discovery in 2011. This collaboration will enable the translation of our insight into large scale screens for potential drugs. Right now, we are trying to elucidate what size of

protein aggregate is the most toxic one for a brain cell and how best to interfere with aggregation so as to avoid a build-up of large numbers of particularly toxic aggregates.

It is predicted that the occurrences of neurodegenerative diseases will see a dramatic increase in the coming years due to increasing life expectancy. Some part of the increased life expectancy

is actually connected to a significant decrease in life quality, as those of us who had an Alzheimer's patient in their family will know. This not only puts strain on individuals and families, but also on society as a whole. However, much progress has been made in recent years in understanding the origin of dementias and other amyloid diseases and we have reason to look optimistically into the future.



**A)** Whole body scintigraphic image of a patient suffering from lysozyme amyloidosis, showing heavy amyloid deposition in the liver, spleen and kidney (from Dumoulin et al., *Acc. Chem. Res.* 2006). **B)** Atomic force microscopy images of amyloid fibrils identical to the ones found in the brains of Alzheimer's patients. In this experiment, I followed the growth (compare the two images) of the fibrils in real time.

## NEW ALUMNI WEBSITE

We are delighted to announce the launch of our newly redesigned website, [www.magdalene.cambridge.com](http://www.magdalene.cambridge.com). In addition to getting a 'lick of paint', we have also completely overhauled the website's structure in response to Members' feedback in order to make accessing the information that matters to you as easy and intuitive as possible. In the coming months, we will be adding new, improved functionality to the website, including online booking for events and donation processing, as well as a password-protected Members' Directory where you can look up and reconnect with fellow Magdaleneites who have agreed to share their details with other Members.

In conjunction with the new website, we are also pleased to announce the launch of Magdalene E-mail for Life, an email service designed exclusively for Magdalene.



As a Member, you are entitled to sign up for a free [@magdalene.cantab.net](mailto:@magdalene.cantab.net) email address, with 3 months free usage at the Premium level. This is brought to you in partnership with Aluminati, who provide a similar service to a number of other Cambridge Colleges, as well as to the University. You can sign up for your new account by visiting [www.magdalene.cambridge.com](http://www.magdalene.cambridge.com) and clicking on 'Email for Life'.

Please do feel free to browse the new site and let us know what you think – we look forward to receiving your feedback!

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# MAGDALENE IN THE OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES

BY JON RIDGEON (1986)

One of my first ever memories as a young child was that I wanted to be an Olympic athlete. It was the only thing I really wanted to do and I set upon a path from a young age that thankfully would eventually take me there.



The event I chose to concentrate on was the 110m hurdles. My mother had been an English Schools hurdles champion, so I must have inherited some of her talent. I was fortunate that I made good progress at an early age and in 1984 I represented the GB senior team for the first time at the age of 16. I built from there and, although still a schoolboy, I was fortunate enough to compete at both the Commonwealth Games and European Championships, my most successful year corresponding with my first year at Magdalene (1987). That year, I broke the British record, won Gold at the World Student Games and a Silver medal at the World Championships in Rome.

The next year was Olympic year and I started to dream of Olympic success at the 1988 Seoul Games. Training had gone well in the build up to the summer but, frustratingly, I contracted a virus in May that wiped out the next four

months for me. I still managed to make the GB team for the Olympics but had missed too much vital preparation and racing, and had to settle for 5th in the final. Although gutted at the time, in hindsight it was the very best I could have possibly hoped for given my state of fitness.

1989 was my third and final year of studying for a Geography degree at Magdalene and the year I also hoped to get my athletics career back on track following the disappointment of the Olympics. Sadly it was not to be and instead I snapped my achilles tendon. After a long battle to try and recover from this injury, I retired from the sport and, post University, threw my energies into broadcasting and the business side of sport. However, some seven years later in 1996, my Olympic passion still burned bright inside me and, after numerous operations, I found myself able to run again without pain. As a result, I decided to



give my athletics career one more go but this time I took up the 400m hurdles. By the summer I was Britain's fastest at this new event for me and managed to qualify for the 1996 Atlanta Olympics. At the Games I made the semi finals, which was not bad having spent the preceding few year's sitting behind a desk at the office rather than training!

Post 1996, it was time to build a proper career for myself! I helped set up and build a sports marketing agency called Fast Track, which over the last fourteen years has now grown into an international agency with offices in five counties around the world. A significant part of our business revolves around the Olympics and Paralympics and I am hugely excited about the year ahead and the London Games. As well as working with many of the London 2012 supporting commercial brands, Fast Track is also delivering the sport presentation experience within the stadium for many of the Olympic and Paralympic sports. 2012 is going to be a great year and I'm hugely fortunate to be working in such a vibrant area. One day I'm sure I will commit to that proper career!

## Other Magdalene Olympians

### LORD BURGHLEY (1923)

Athletics (110m hurdles, 400m hurdles, 4 x 100m), 1924, 1928, 1932 (GBR) (Gold, Silver)

### PHILLIP CREBBIN (1970)

Sailing (Mixed 2 person dinghy), 1976 (GBR)

### RONALD DUNCAN (1982)

Skiing (Downhill Combined Super G), 1988, 1992 (GBR)

### PETER HOELTZENBEIN (1993)

Rowing (Coxless Pair), 1992 (GER) (Silver)

### RICHARD MEADE (1960)

Equestrian (Mixed 3-day event, team & individual events), 1968, 1972 (GBR) (3 Golds)

### GUY RICHARDSON (1946)

Rowing (VIII), 1948 (GBR) (Silver)

### TEDDY SMOUHA (1926)

Athletics (4 x 100m), 1928 (GBR) (Bronze)

### FRANCESCA ZINO (1994)

Rowing (VIII), 2000 (GBR)

# VOLUNTEERING FOR THE OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES

BY SARAH GAY (2006, FINAL YEAR VET STUDENT)



This summer, I will be volunteering as an "NOC/NPC Assistant". I will be involved in both the Olympic and Paralympic Games, based at the heart of the sailing village in Weymouth. This role requires me to be involved 'pre-', during and 'post-' Games time. I am to be allocated to a specific country, and will be acting as a personal assistant to the Olympic/ Paralympic committee

of that team for the duration of their stay in Weymouth. Exactly what my job entails is likely to be quite varied and dependent on the country. I will also have an active role behind the scenes of the opening and closing ceremonies.

I applied to take part as a volunteer because I see it as a chance of a lifetime. Since my course finishes this summer, I knew that I would be able to commit a large amount of time to the Games and also felt that I had experience to offer. When I first applied I was expecting to be offered a small role for a short period of time; needless to say I was extremely happy to be offered such an exciting role for the duration of both the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

I'm looking forward to being at the heart of the Games, and getting to work with cultures from across the world. I've already met large numbers of volunteers through the various training modules I have had to attend and it's been wonderful getting to know such a wide variety of people. It's been amazing to see the effort and commitment that all the volunteers are putting in to the Games. It has also been eye-opening to see just how much preparation work has been going on behind the scenes to put the Games together. I'm afraid that I am not allowed to give any secrets away – but it's definitely going to be a summer to remember.

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# THE HUMAN COST OF ECONOMIC POLICY

New research will bring social scientists closer to uncovering the economic basis of a “gigantic human catastrophe” that followed the fall of communism in the former Soviet Union.



As scenes of violence and anger unfolded on the streets of Greece this year, the effects of radical economic change on society became all too evident. Across the European Union, government austerity programmes have been met with public protest against tough public sector cuts and raised taxes aimed at cutting deficits.

Not only do certain economic policies trigger anger and unrest, but they can also have a much deeper effect on society, drastically affecting the health and mortality of ordinary people. This is the conclusion of Cambridge social scientists Dr David Stuckler and Dr Lawrence King, based on a decade of ground-breaking research on the political economy of public health.

Now, a project led by King has commenced that will look in depth at the human health cost of economic policy. The study – the first to look at this on such a scale – will interview 110,000 people across the former Soviet Bloc to understand how rapid privatisation affected the health of individuals, an economic crisis that the researchers describe as a “gigantic human catastrophe”.

Previous studies of the health impact of economic decisions have relied on cross-national analyses at the country level. Although this type of research is crucial, by taking the research to the level of the individual, the new project will generate decisive evidence on the role of privatisation in the post-communist mortality crisis. “Earlier studies have been a bit like flying on a space shuttle looking down. We want to generate micro-level data to make sure that our correlations are correct,” explained King.

The study follows research by Stuckler and King published in *The Lancet* in 2009 that sought to explain why the former Soviet Union underwent dramatic mortality fluctuations following the fall of communism. Between 1990 and 1995, an estimated 7 million premature deaths occurred in the countries that emerged from the USSR, rivalling the number of deaths attributed to Stalin’s politically induced famine in 1932–1933. Mortality rates rose by 12.8% in men and life expectancy fell to 64 years in 1994, the lowest level in the post-war period.

“The magnitude of this disaster was completely unexpected,” said King, who has been awarded a five-year European Research Council Advanced Investigator Award to lead the research. “And the puzzle was compounded by the dramatic variation in the mortality experience both within countries as health inequalities emerged and between countries.”

Investigating national-level data, Stuckler, King and Professor Martin McKee, from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, previously reported that a greater speed and scale of mass privatisation, a component of so-called shock therapy, was one root cause of the rise in post-communist mortality rates.

Russia, for instance, pursued a programme designed to achieve super-rapid privatisation of huge sections of the economy by giving vouchers to citizens that could be exchanged for share ownership – creating a class of ‘owners’ overnight and aiming to make the transition to capitalism irreversible. In as little as two years, almost 80% of the industrialised sector of Russia was privatised. By contrast, in countries such as Belarus, privatisation was rare and, where it did occur, the voucher system was not used. The drop in life expectancy in Russia between 1990 and 1994 was twice that observed in Belarus.

“Unemployment and the associated stress translated into increased alcohol abuse and violence, and loss of firm-provided medical care and reduced fiscal spending on health

led to decreased access to and quality of health care,” said David Stuckler.

Their results attracted much debate in the global media. Critics proposed that factors other than privatisation might correlate with mortality rates and that cross-national data might conceal the true cause. The new study will provide decisive evidence on the debate by adopting a new methodology not previously used in such analyses: using interviews with random population samples to collect data on the deaths of relatives to estimate the key factors underlying mortality. The study will also examine the importance of occupation and education on mortality, and how this has changed over time.

The research teams led by King and Stuckler have also undertaken several other studies that trace links between economic programmes and health, including the link between the Greek financial crisis and an increase in HIV, heroin use, prostitution, homicides and suicides. Their teams’ work has also assessed the role of economic policies of the International Monetary Fund in the rapid spread of tuberculosis in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union; and the role of financial crises worldwide and the transmission and control of infectious diseases.

On the basis of their studies, they argue that political and economic policies and processes can affect the lives of millions. “Economic policies can ‘get under the skin of individuals’ and have a huge impact on public health,” said King. “Not just privatisation but also freeing up markets, austerity programmes and deregulation. Policies that are being promoted to create a unified global market, if not paired with social policies to protect people, can have negative health outcomes. We want to understand why some communities and individuals are more vulnerable than others to economic upheaval and how governments can plan ahead.”

As Europe remains in the grip of economic hardship and punishing public sector cuts – the societal effects of which might well be felt beyond economic recovery – what steps can be taken to mitigate putting lives at risk through government spending cuts? “Strong social support networks,” said Stuckler. “Putting in place protective social and public health policies during, and in advance of, economic shocks appears to be key to avoiding ordinary people paying the ultimate price.”

Dr David Stuckler (2011) is a Fellow of Magdalene and a University Lecturer in Sociology

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## FIRST MAGDALENE DINNER IN AUSTRALIA!

The Master, Mr Duncan Robinson, and Honorary Fellow Mr Robert Cripps hosted the inaugural Magdalene In Australia (‘MOz’) drinks and dinner on Wednesday 26 October 2011 at The Union, University and Schools Club in Sydney. We were delighted that over 20 members of the College and their guests were able to attend, including Members who had travelled interstate from Brisbane and Canberra, and from one who matriculated in 1952 to recent graduates and a current PhD student. The evening was arranged by Michael Carr (1980) and Rhiannon Chisholm (née Jones) (1994). A most enjoyable evening was had by all and we hope to bring you news of further MOz events in the future.



Michael Carr (1980), Rhiannon Chisholm (1994) and the Master



Amanda Scott, Robert Cripps (1992) Honorary Fellow and Douglas Campbell SC (1983)

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# THE TRANSFORMATION OF KING'S CROSS STATION

BY PHILIP VEAL (1997)

The transformation of London's King's Cross station by architects John McAslan + Partners in time for the 2012 Olympic Games represents a most exciting addition to London's built environment, one that is drawing national and international recognition. At the heart of the Station is the new 'Western Concourse,' Europe's largest single-span station structure. As a Senior Architect working for John McAslan + Partners, Philip Veall (1997–2003) has led a team of architects through the detail design and construction site phases of this part of the redevelopment.





“I am very proud to have been involved with such an important project. King’s Cross has proved in equal measure to be one of the most challenging and at the same time most satisfying pieces of work I have been involved with to date – a bold, new architecture set against the refined simplicity of the William Cubitt designed, Grade I listed Victorian station, the former seeking to unlock the potential of the site, bringing new life and allowing the original structure to truly fulfil its potential as a 21st Century transport hub.

5 million small circular ceramic tiles. This structure provides new high level access back across and into the original Cubitt train shed.”

Philip has also recently completed design work on the next and final piece of the Station’s rebirth – submitting planning approval proposals for the forthcoming ‘Southern Facade Canopies’, which will involve the demolition of the old 1970s concourse to reveal in full the magnificent original colonnaded brickwork facade and lunette windows, restoring the original public face of the Station.

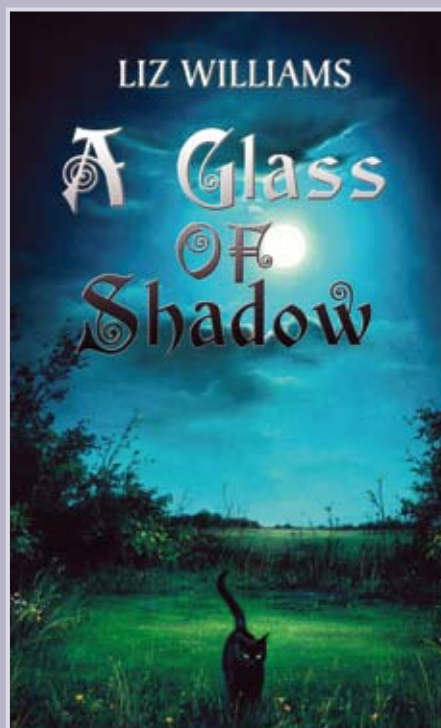
The Western Concourse at King’s Cross was officially opened by Boris Johnson, Mayor of London and The Rt Hon Justine Greening, Secretary of State for Transport, and opened to the public on Monday 19th March 2012.

## A GLASS OF SHADOW

BY DR ELIZABETH WILLIAMS (1988)

*Introduction by Tanith Lee*

A collection of stories that transports the reader from the icy Mars of Winterstrike to the searing deserts of Kazakhstan; from the exotic streets of Inspector Chen’s Singapore Three to the forgotten waterways and hidden courtyards of Venice. Liz Williams writes science fiction with the rich textures of the very best fantasy, and fantasy with the sensibilities of high-end science fiction. She reveals the world around us in subtly different shades and portrays other realms with a vividness that defies doubt. *A Glass of Shadow* presents Liz at her best. Nineteen stories personally selected by the author, including two original to the collection; tales that delve into our psyche and investigate the fragility of the human condition, that draw aside the veils of mundane reality to reveal the hidden truths of this world and beyond.



Dr Elizabeth Williams has had 14 novels published in the UK and USA, and over 70 short stories. She is currently writing for the Guardian and working on her next novel for Prime Books in the US.

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# MEMORIES OF MAGDALENE

In the run-up to recent Reunion Lunches, a number of members very kindly sent in some memories of their time at Magdalene. An unedited selection follows below:

## FRANK TERRY (1936), HISTORY

I became a Magdalene man by accident – a happy accident which I have never regretted. My first choice of College was Corpus Christi; they decided my exams paper didn't quite merit an award but passed them on to Magdalene. So I was awarded an Exhibition at a College I had never seen.

Frank Salter, the jovial entrance tutor in 1936 invited me and my father to lunch in the ensuing Easter Vac. My first sight of Magdalene was therefore on a sunny day with all the spring flowers in bloom. I was enchanted by the scene; here was a beautiful and friendly place which I took straight to me heart.

The major History scholar of my year was a quiet lad from St Pauls', about two years younger than the rest of us, very mature for his age, who effortlessly gained firsts in both parts of his Tripos. His name – Derek Ezra, happily still around with a peerage well earned by his excellent work with the National Coal Board.

I became captain of the College XV by default when Dudley Reed, an outstanding wing three-quarter on the Varsity side, was surprisingly sent down (along with an Old Etonian rowing Blue) for failing Prelims. The Daily Express got hold of the story and published it under the heading: *A bolt for those Cambridge Blues*.

I had the honour of being elected general secretary of the Amalgamation

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*I became a Magdalene man by accident – a happy accident which I have never regretted.*

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Club in my third year. I sat on the Kitchen Committee and dealt with the complaints and suggestions – nothing very serious since the meals provided were pretty good. I trust I shall find, when I attend the Reunion Lunch, that this high standard has been maintained.

## BRAHAM MYERS (1939), CLASSICS & HISTORY

The Master (A.B. Ramsay) and his 'Saying Lessons'

Once a week during our first two terms every undergraduate reading Classics had to appear before him and recite a portion of the prescribed classical text – in our case a Demosthenes oration. Every week an extra section was added so that finally one recited the complete work. Strange though this was, the formal preliminaries were even odder – taking the form of an inquisition. To the first question 'What do I expect of my boys in their saying lessons?', the required answer was 'accuracy, eloquence and deportment, Master' and to the next question 'And what do I expect of my boys in their work?', the answer had to be 'diligence and obedience, Master'. In 1939 we did not protest.

Another recollection of the Ram is much more agreeable. In late summer 1942 as an acting unpaid Lance Bombardier in the R.H.A. I happened to be stationed at Babraham Park. I discovered there was to be a Congregation and I could take my degree. Transport might be a problem but I could borrow a bicycle. By a happy chance two of my classical contemporaries, Bobby Lambert and Christopher Bradshaw (both, alas, no longer with us) also were stationed nearby and took their degrees at the same time. Afterwards the Master invited the three of us to dinner at the Lodge. The food I do not recall. The wine I do. At least two bottles of Gevrey-Chambertin and a magnum decanter of port. The bicycle ride back to Babraham was somewhat unsteady, I assume.

## PROFESSOR TERENCE LEE (1947), PSYCHOLOGY

My most vivid memories of Magdalene began before I matriculated. I had volunteered for RAF Aircrew and I was called up in August 1943, joining hopeful Air Gunners, Navigators and Pilots at Lords cricket ground, the somewhat bizarre induction centre. After a week of inoculations, lectures on STD's, and square bashing, I suddenly received a request to report to an Air Commodore at his office. I felt some trepidation but it was rapidly dispelled. He greeted me with "I believe you know Mary Jennings? " It so happened that I had a girl friend who worked at the Air Ministry in London. "So," he continued, "where would you

like to do your training?”. He offered a long list of Universities where the ground training (Initial Training Wing or ITW) could be done, and naturally I selected Cambridge. The next stage of training was Grading School. Most aircrew wanted to be pilots so we underwent about two or three weeks of training on a Tiger Moth as a test of “aptitude”. Again, I chose Cambridge. The School was at Marshall’s on the Newmarket Road, with an auxiliary field at Caxton Gibbet.

After that there was flying training with a choice of Rhodesia, Canada, and the USA. He listed the locations of the 6 British Flying Training Schools in The USA, from which I chose No. 1, Dallas, Texas. That is exactly what unfolded in the following year until I finally earned my “wings”.

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*... and I had learned  
how to send morse code  
in First Court.*

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But what about Magdalene? I applied to several Colleges after the war and the Senior Tutor at Magdalene, (Fairfax Scott) asked me why I wanted to come to Magdalene in particular, a very typical interview question. I replied that I had developed a strong attachment to Magdalene because many of our lectures were delivered there and I had learned how to send morse code in First Court. I had also taken many cups of cocoa in the Porters Lodge when doing sentry duty in the early hours on the Bridge of Sighs with an ancient rifle. (“Halt – “Advance and be recognised” is what greeted elderly dons returning to their rooms at John’s). This penetrating selection interview resulted in a verdict in my favour, the validity of which I never doubted. It is different these days I understand.

# REUNION LUNCH MAY 2012

Over 140 Members (matriculated between 1954 and 1958) and their wives returned to College on a grey and damp Saturday in May. Tea and coffee was served in Cripps Court. The unseasonal cold did not dissuade anyone, however, from enjoying a glass of sherry in the Master’s Garden. Lunch was a jolly occasion; both the Hall and the Senior Combination Room were packed to the rafters. Beautifully cooked salmon was followed by sticky toffee pudding with vanilla ice cream – a hush descended while the pudding was consumed in record time! Mr Bamber Gascoigne’s (1955) toast to the College was the cause of much hilarity. After lunch some members enjoyed an organ recital in Chapel by Dr Gwilym Beechey (1956) while others visited the Pepys Library. Afternoon tea in the Master’s Lodge completed a lovely day at Magdalene.



## Forthcoming Events

**21 JUNE 2012**

**Magdalene in the City Summer Drinks Party at ING Bank**

**28 JUNE 2012**

**Magdalene Association 'Masterpiece' Visit (London's premier art and antiques fair)**

**1 JULY 2012**

**Annual Family Day for Magdalene Members and their families**

**5 JULY 2012**

**Magdalene Association Lunch**

**4 SEPTEMBER 2012**

**Dinner in Hong Kong open to all Members**

**7 SEPTEMBER 2012**

**Dinner in Singapore open to all Members**

**23 SEPTEMBER 2012**

**The Annual Donors' Day** is open to all Members who have made a donation to the College in the financial year 2011/12. Invitations will be sent to all those eligible.

**12 OCTOBER 2012**

**Guitar Recital** in Sir Humphrey Cripps Auditorium

**3 NOVEMBER 2012**

**Dinner in San Francisco** open to all Members

**7 NOVEMBER 2012**

**Drinks reception and Dinner** in Los Angeles for all Members

**8 NOVEMBER 2012**

**Drinks Reception and Dinner** in Chicago for all Members

**9 NOVEMBER 2012**

**21st Annual New York Dinner**

**17 NOVEMBER 2012**

**Choir Association Reunion Dinner**

**29 NOVEMBER 2012**

**Magdalene Dinner in the House of Commons.** Tickets will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. Please book via the Alumni & Development Office.

Please note that other events may be added to this list. Always check our College website [www.magdalene.cambridge.com](http://www.magdalene.cambridge.com) on the 'Events' pages and read the updated listings in Magdalene E-Matters.

To register your interest in any of the above events, please email [alumni@magd.cam.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@magd.cam.ac.uk).

## Reunions

*Reunions in 2012*

**FRIDAY 14 SEPTEMBER**

Dinner for those who matriculated in 1988–1990

**FRIDAY 21 SEPTEMBER**

Dinner for those who matriculated in 1991–1993

*Reunions in 2013*

**SATURDAY 23 MARCH**

Dinner for those who matriculated in 2003–2004

**SATURDAY 4 MAY**

Lunch for those who matriculated up to and including 1955

**FRIDAY 20 SEPTEMBER**

Dinner for those who matriculated in 1994–1996

**FRIDAY 27 SEPTEMBER**

Dinner for those who matriculated in 1997–1999

Invitations will be sent out 3 months in advance. Please note that the programme usually begins at 4.30pm with tea and coffee in the Senior Combination Room. This is followed by Evensong in Chapel and then pre-dinner drinks in the Cripps Gallery at 7.15pm or Pepys' Cloisters, with dinner being served in Hall from 8pm.

Those who matriculated in 2006 will be invited to take their MA in person or in absentia in 2013.



*Photo on front cover by Charles Cook*

## *Non-resident Members' Guest Nights*

13 October 2012, 10 November 2012, 23 November 2012, 26 January 2013, 15 February 2013, 9 March 2013, 27 April 2013, 25 May 2013, 7 June 2013

These evenings are hosted by a group of Fellows and include pre-dinner drinks. They offer members the opportunity of bringing one guest to dine at High Table. Please note that numbers of NRMs are limited to a maximum of ten at any one night. Please book via the Alumni & Development Office.