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MAGDALENE MATTERS

THE NEWSLETTER OF MAGDALENE COLLEGE CAMBRIDGE



MAGDALENE MATTERS

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Magdalene Matters is published by the Alumni & Development Office, twice yearly, in Michaelmas and Easter terms.

The front cover photograph is by Roxanne Napier.



The Magdalene Calling Team

COMMENT from the Development Director

Dear Member,

The recent telephone campaign, so ably run by Kevin Bentley, was hard work but a joy to be part of! The student callers did an excellent job representing the College and in the process raised £223,210.71 in cash and pledges over two weeks in March. They spoke with 652 Members, 64 percent of whom decided to make a gift to support the Annual Fund, thank you. We were humbled that two thirds of the young alumni (matriculated 2003–2009) we called gave over £6,000. Our students are our very best ambassadors and it takes but a short conversation for our Members to realise that all is well with Magdalene and the College continues to thrive.

It is evident that Magdalene men and women around the world are keen to stay in touch and eager to hear news of their College wherever they are. We always receive the warmest of welcomes from our Members at our events both at home and abroad. In Edinburgh, over sixty Members from every corner of Scotland and from the Borders made the trip to the Royal Society of Edinburgh to toast the College with the Master; in Boston, we partied together with Clare and Christ's alumni in the residence of HM's Consul General and went on to dine with thirty of our Members (spanning forty matriculation years); and in Hong Kong, a couple of dozen alumni joined the Senior Tutor and the Development Director for a most convivial evening in the China Club. We continue to foster the Magdalene Community at large and look forward to seeing you at one of our events later this year. Do look out for the list of forthcoming events on the back page!

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to the 'Name your Chair' initiative we have just launched. Following careful deliberation on the long overdue refurbishment of the dining furniture in Hall, the College's Governing Body decided to replace the benches with 'Mouseman' chairs. This offers you a unique opportunity to name a chair listing your name or the name of a loved one. For more information on how to name a chair, please go to www.magdalene.cambridge.com/name-a-chair, email me or telephone the office.

CORINNE LLOYD (2010)

EDITOR

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FELLOWS' NEWS



DR AMIRA BENNISON, Admissions Tutor (Graduate Students), Director of Studies and

Reader in the History and Culture of the Maghrib, was elected a Fellow of the Tangier American Legation Institute for Moroccan Studies (TALIM) for her academic contribution to Moroccan Studies. This is the main US-Moroccan cultural institute active in Morocco, especially Tangier where the old American Legation building is its home, and also Washington DC. See www.legation.org for further information on TALIM. She has also done interviews for various TV and radio programmes: The Ottomans for the BBC; Sacred Journeys for the US station PBS; In Our Time on the Mamluks; and a 15 minute essay on Baghdad and Cairo for the Radio 3 series on the Islamic Golden Age broadcast in February.



PROFESSOR NICK BOYLE, Emeritus Professor of German has now retired from his University

Chair as well as from the Governing Body. This coincided with the launch at the end of last term, of *The Impact of Idealism: the legacy of post-Kantian German thought* (4 vols), edited by Professor Boyle and Dr Liz Disley.

PROFESSOR PAUL DUPREE, Tutor for Graduate Students, Director of Studies in Natural Sciences (Biological) and Professor in Plant Cell Biology, is one of the co-investigators in a major new project on the theme of Natural Material Innovation which has just secured a £1.75 million Research Programme Grant from the Leverhulme Trust. The funding will



enable exploration and development of the potential for natural materials in the built environment.

Led by the Department of Architecture, the research will involve unique collaborations with the University's Department of Biochemistry, Department of Plant Sciences, Departments of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics (DAMTP) and Department of Chemistry. The researchers involved aim to redesign natural materials to carry out different functions that will lead to completely new and innovative solutions, and will change the way we construct cities and civil infrastructure.

PROFESSOR STEFAN AND DR LEZLEE HALPER have published *Tibet...An Unfinished Story*. It is published by Hurst in the UK, Oxford University Press in the US, and Hachette in South Asia, and talks about the role of the US, Britain, India and China in Tibet's failure to gain independence after World War II. It also discusses the remarkable story of Tibet, the myth that has sustained Tibet in the Western mind for centuries and discomfits Beijing today. Stefan is also directing an analysis looking at China in 2030 for the US Secretary of Defense. It draws upon experts in the UK, the US, Europe, China and India. Will current trends yield a weaker or a stronger China in two decades? Professor Halper is the Donner Senior Research Fellow in International Studies.

PROFESSOR EMMA ROTHSCILD, Senior Research Fellow in History and Economics and Honorary Professor of History and Economics at Cambridge University, Jeremy and Jane Knowles Professor of History at Harvard



University and Director of the Joint Centre for History and Economics at the University of

Cambridge and at Harvard, has been awarded an honorary degree by the University of Edinburgh.



DR EMILY SO, MICE Director of Studies in Architecture, University Lecturer in

Architectural Engineering and a chartered civil engineer has actively engaged with earthquake-affected communities in different parts of the world; she participated in the UK Earthquake Field Investigation Team (EEFIT)'s visit to Tohoku in 2013 and took part in the opening event of an exhibition entitled "How did Architects Respond Immediately after 3/11?" at the Embassy of Japan. The exhibition introduces a diverse range of projects launched by architects in the Tohoku region in the wake of the tsunami caused by the Great East Japan Earthquake in March 2011. It looks at emergency responses, temporary housing and reconstruction projects which were implemented or planned from the period immediately after the disaster and which continue to the present day.

DR PHILIPPA STEELE, Henry Lumley Research Fellow in Classics, published a monograph in November. The title is 'A Linguistic History of Ancient Cyprus: The Non-Greek Languages, and their Relations with Greek, c.1600-300 BC' (Cambridge 2013).

FELLOWS' NEWS

OSPREYS' RECEPTION FOR LADY GURDON



Photograph by Howard Guest

LADY GURDON attended a champagne reception at the home of fellow founding committee member and Fellow Commoner Pat Marsh, along with her husband, Professor Sir John Gurdon as well as Lord and Lady Broers and former and current members of the Ospreys.

Lady Gurdon was presented with a commemorative plaque in recognition of the outstanding contribution she has made to the promotion of women's sport within the University. She was the founding President of the Ospreys and during Sir John's Mastership, the Ospreys' clubhouse was located within Magdalene College.

The Club's membership spans 43 different sports with more than 1,000 current and alumni members, all of whom have achieved Blues, Half Blues or University Colours.

An annual award has been set up in Lady Gurdon's name to reward the junior Osprey with the best academic and sporting achievement.



The Chaplain, Revd Philip Hobday, who also happens to be the President of the Magdalene College Rugby Union Football Club, is delighted to announce our triumph in the recent Magdalene vs Magdalen game (an annual fixture played against Magdalen, Oxford), where we cruised to a 27-0 victory.

VISITING FELLOWS

We welcomed **PROFESSOR MYLES LYNK**, the Peter Kiewit Foundation Professor of Law and the Legal Profession at the Arizona State University College of Law, and a Faculty Associate of ASU's Centre for the Study of Law, Science and Technology. Professor Lynk teaches administrative law, business organisations, civil procedure and professional responsibility from the beginning of Lent term and he will remain at Magdalene for the rest of the academic year.

PROFESSOR RICHARD PFAFF, Emeritus Professor at the University of North Carolina spent Lent term at Magdalene. His scholarly work focuses primarily on liturgical manuscripts, and more broadly on medieval libraries, monastic scriptoria, architecture, hagiography, and the Fathers – and also on the history of scholarship in England in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and English antiquarian studies in general. He is currently working, as a long-range project, on a history of the liturgy in medieval England.

WOMEN AT BUSINESS SCHOOL

A BRIEF PORTRAIT OF DR ALLÈGRE HADIDA

Allègre Hadida is Director of the MPhil in Management programme at Cambridge University's Judge Business School in Cambridge and a Fellow of Magdalene College.



She has pioneered teaching and research in creative, arts and media management. She recently helped establish an entertainment masterclass at the school, aimed at entertainment executives and digital media entrepreneurs.

Dr Hadida has a PhD in strategy from HEC Paris and has worked at the UCLA Anderson School of Management and MIT's Sloan School of Management in the US, CRG-Ecole Polytechnique in France and Tel Aviv University in Israel. She joined the Judge Institute of Management as a University Lecturer in Strategy in September 2000 and Magdalene as a Fellow in October 2003.

She was recently interviewed as part of the Financial Times 'Ten Questions' feature and an extract is reproduced with kind permission from Charlotte Clarke:

Who are your business influences?

I particularly relate to Henry Ford's efforts to make the automobile affordable to all, including his own factory workers, and to Steve Jobs' visionary approach to every industry Apple entered. I am also inspired by chief executive of Saatchi & Saatchi Kevin Roberts' confidence that nothing is impossible, and by Gavriel Iddan for his tireless efforts to adapt cameras to fit into easy-to-swallow pills that radically change the experience of uncomfortable and invasive medical tests.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

I love the diversity and freedom my job allows. How many activities allow you to: share your research on creative performance with award-winning content producers and directors on Monday; teach creativity on stage with professional classical musicians and coach MBA students for an international case competition on Tuesday; discuss ways forward in development and dine with Nobel Prize winning colleagues in College on Wednesday; brainstorm with co-authors on Thursday; revise the format and curriculum of a flagship MPhil programme on Friday; and advise alumni on the strategy of their developing start-up on the weekend?

What is the best piece of advice given to you by a teacher?

Never do anything half-heartedly. Even when you are told that a particular meeting, lecture, or event is not important, you never know what may unfold during it, what impact the discussions may have on their participants and what tangible actions and new ideas will result from them.

How do you deal with male-dominated environments?

Being young and often the only woman on a specific committee, project or programme can sometimes feel quite daunting, and very lonely. For instance, I am regularly the only woman teaching a core module on some of our postgraduate courses and executive education programmes. I deal with this by being myself, trying to be as good, if not better, than my male colleagues, and standing my ground when I strongly believe that a decision or deed is timely, fair and right. All in all, actions speak louder than words or gender.

... continued

What advice would you give to women in business?

I would give three pieces of advice to younger women in business.

- Don't be too hard on yourselves. Do your best at home and at work, and stop obsessing about trying and failing to be perfect. None of us, men and women alike, are.
- Become your own champion. Many of us women fail to achieve our potential at work because unlike some of our male colleagues, we tend not to blow our own trumpets. Occasionally telling your peers, superiors and subordinates about your latest achievements (facts, not brags) helps.
- Let go of your imposter syndrome. Banish "yes, but..." when talking or thinking about yourself, be more confident about your abilities (while evidently also recognising your weaknesses and being honest in addressing them), and embrace and celebrate your achievements.

The story doesn't end here however as Allègre had mentioned will.i.am as a business influence and 'creative powerhouse' in the article. The 'Ten Questions' FT profile quickly went viral in February when will.i.am retweeted the link to the interview to his 11 million followers – many of them also retweeted it. Allègre mentioned will.i.am as the business strategist whom she would most like to meet, tweeted the article to will.i.am and the rest is now social media history!

We are grateful to Charlotte Clarke who compiled the full version of the *Financial Times* Ten Questions profile. This can be found at www.ft.com/cms/s/2/97435ca8-8e93-11e3-b6f1-00144feab7de.html#axzz2t6Mj9Muq

Access Residentials at MAGDALENE



Magdalene Humanities and Sciences Residentials, especially designed for Year 12 students are annual events organised by the College as part of their Access and Widening Participation Initiative. Intended for high-achieving students who want to find out more about studying at university and with an aspiration for Cambridge, participants spend three days living and studying at Magdalene. Both highly oversubscribed events, 30–35 students are selected for each residential and over the course of three days, they are given the opportunity to talk to current students, attend

seminars and lectures given by our Fellows on topics offered as in Tripos, and experience university life for themselves. Most participants arrive at the Cripps Court entrance on the first day anxious and unsure about the days ahead but go home as ambassadors for higher education, Cambridge and Magdalene; this is the greatest reward for the staff and students involved.

Dr Emily So, Admissions Tutor, (Recruitment) and Director of Studies in Architecture

THE MAGDALENE LAW ASSOCIATION

BY MARK PARKER (1979), CHAIRMAN, MAGDALENE LAW ASSOCIATION

A steering group of keen volunteers was assembled following a Law Dinner just over a year ago looking to establish a Magdalene Law Association, and there have been several meetings of the group.

The idea of the Association is to allow those of us, who have the unique bond of having studied Law at Magdalene, to maintain contact. The Association also gives us the opportunity of renewing our bond with Magdalene. We are honoured and delighted to confirm that His Excellency Judge Sir Christopher Greenwood QC, International Judge at the Hague has agreed to be our Honorary President. We are grateful to Dr Neil Jones (Director of Law Studies, Magdalene) for his assistance in drafting the Constitution, now agreed by the Governing Body, of our new Magdalene Law Association (MLA).

Members of the Magdalene Law Association are providing mentoring to current law undergraduates and postgraduates looking to pursue a career in law, as well as alumni members looking for careers advice within the legal profession. Mentoring provides an excellent opportunity for Law Association members to share their invaluable experience to both current and alumni Members of College. Elections for the Executive Committee 2014 of the Magdalene Law Association took place in November/December 2013 and the following members of the MLA were elected:

Chair: Mark Parker **Treasurer:** Katriona Stanford
Vice Chair: Paul Stibbard **Secretary:** Emma Khoo

And now a call to arms!! – There is only so much that the steering group can achieve by themselves. The foundations have been laid for a successful and thriving Association. There are many ways in which you can help. You could simply join the Law Association by completing the online application form on the Magdalene College website: www.magdalenecambridge.com where you will find more information about the MLA in ‘Alumni Groups’. You may also wish to register an interest in the Mentoring

Mentoring provides an excellent opportunity for Magdalene Law Association members to share their invaluable experience to both current and alumni members of College.

Mentoring can include a whole host of topics, including providing advice to:

- Undergraduates on how to manage their Law Tripos studies
- Undergraduates and graduates looking to pursue a career in the legal profession, e.g. as a solicitor or barrister, or to undertake further studies e.g. an LLM or PhD.
- Fellow Law Association members looking for a career change, either into or away from the legal profession.

If you are a Magdalene Law Association member and are interested in becoming a mentor or would like to be introduced to a mentor, please contact:

MLA.mentoring@magd.cam.ac.uk or visit the following web page for further information:
www.magdalenecambridge.com/pages/content-pages/magdalenelaw-association-mentoring

Scheme, and attend or take part in the steering group meetings. Do participate and please feel free to contact me by emailing magdalenelawcommittee@gmail.com. On behalf of the Association, I would like to add a note of thanks to Corinne Lloyd, Fellow and Director of Development for her unswerving help and support for the Association. Without the help of Corinne and indeed Dr. Neil Jones, the Magdalene Law Association would not exist.

Please note that the annual dinner of the Magdalene Law Association will take place on Friday 21st November 2014.

THIS TIME IT'S DIFFERENT: HOW THIS RECESSION COMPARES WITH THE OTHERS

BY TONY COCKERILL (1969)

In spite – or perhaps because – of successive Governments taking an active part in ‘managing’ the British economy over the six decades since the end of the Second World War, recessions have remained a recurrent feature of our economic, social and political life.



The picture is painted in Chart 1, which shows the year-on-year percentage movements in the output of all final goods and services as measured by gross domestic product (GDP) since 1949. Whether gauged by periods of falling output or by sharp drops from peak output to trough, four recessions can be clearly identified:

- 1973–76: The first oil crisis
- 1979–83: The second oil crisis
- 1990–93: The consumer credit and residential mortgage crisis
- 2008–14: The global financial crisis

The chart plots the path of Britain’s economic growth and prosperity since the middle of the last century. Until the crisis of 2007/8, long spells of boom have been interspersed by short and

fairly mild recessions, followed by rapid recoveries. This pattern contrasts with the frequency and depth of the recessions between the two World Wars.

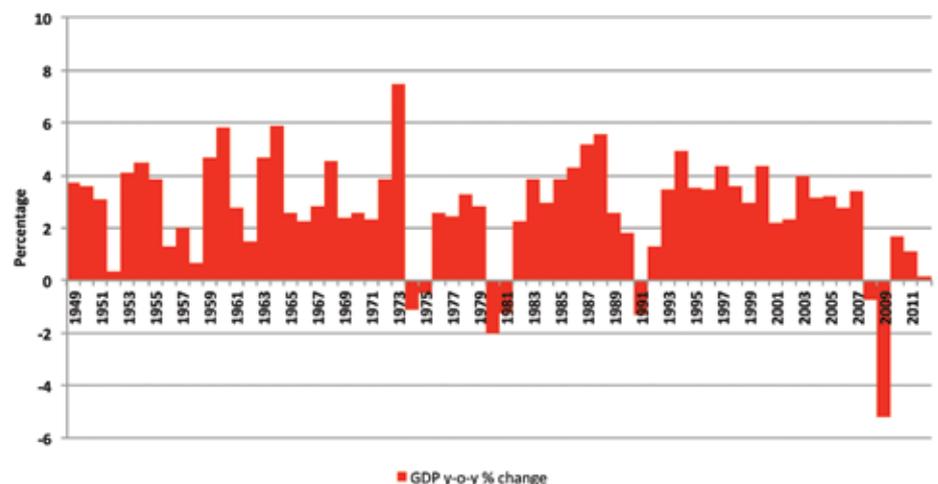
Rather than the recessions themselves, the striking feature of the post-war period is the sharp correction to output that occurred at the end of each boom. Ahead of the two oil crises in the 1970s, prices, jobs, consumer spending and speculative investment in residential and commercial property were driven up by easier credit, tax cuts and other incentives as the

Government tried to boost growth in the face of rising unemployment.

Another credit-fuelled boom started in 1983, following the Thatcher Government’s initial austerity measures. Growth was associated with financial markets’ deregulation (the ‘Big Bang’) and with looser controls on borrowing that led to a bubble in the housing market. Interest rates were put up to support the international value of the £ in relation to the German Mark but this link was broken in dramatic circumstances in 1992.

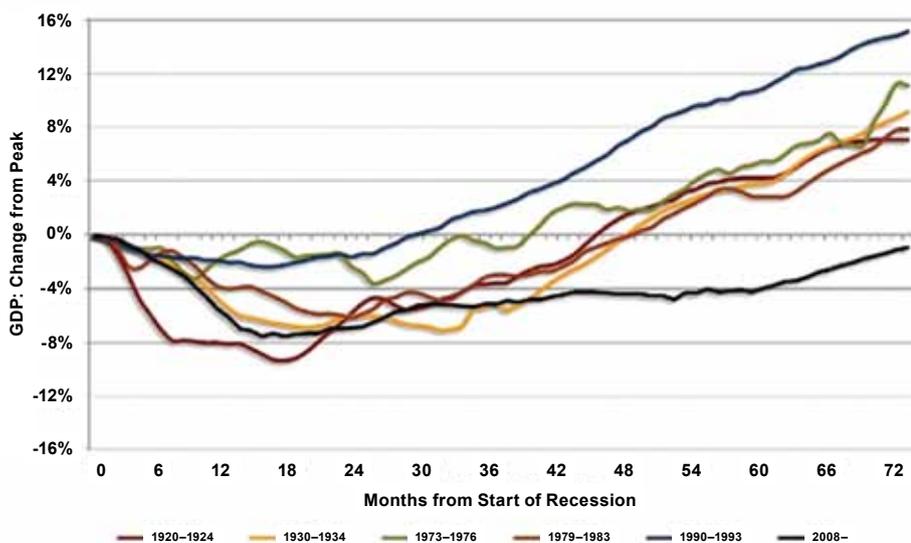
Chart 1. UK Growth and Recessions 1949–2012

Annual % change in real GDP
(chain-linked volume at 2012 prices)



Source: Calculated from Office of National Statistics Time Series data set at: <http://ons.gov.uk>

Chart 2. Recessions Compared



Source: National Institute for Economic and Social Research 2014

caused by the global financial crisis that started in America when, in the face of increasing price inflation, interest rates rose, leading the markets for mortgage-backed and other securities to fall. Banks became insolvent and some collapsed. Liquidity dried up.

The impact of the financial crisis was made worse in Britain because of the importance of financial services in our economy, coupled with our close financial and economic links with America.

The very long period of growth with low price inflation between 1993 and 2007, dubbed the ‘Great Moderation’, was encouraged by freely-flowing international financial capital and by the global supply of goods and commodities from low-cost centres of production. Typically, the booms were brought to an end by shocks to world output and trade that combined with excess demand at home to force cut-backs in consumption, output and investment, which then led to unemployment.

Four features make the recent recession stand out from the others. First, the fall in output of almost ten percent from the peak in 2007 to the trough two years later was larger than in other post-war recessions and in proportion matched the depths reached in the Great Depression of 1930–34 (Chart 2).

Second, and more disturbing still, the recovery of output has been weaker than in any other recession during the past one hundred years. At the end of last year, output was still one percent below its peak in 2008 and is not expected to regain that level until the middle of this year.

Third, and in sharp contrast to output, numbers in employment are now around two percent *above* the

pre-recession peak. At the same time, however, hours worked by individuals have reduced on average, as have their real (inflation-adjusted) wages.

Finally, and as a consequence of each of the three movements mentioned above, output per hour worked (productivity) has been *falling* during the recession, as growth in the number of workers employed has outpaced output growth (Chart 3).

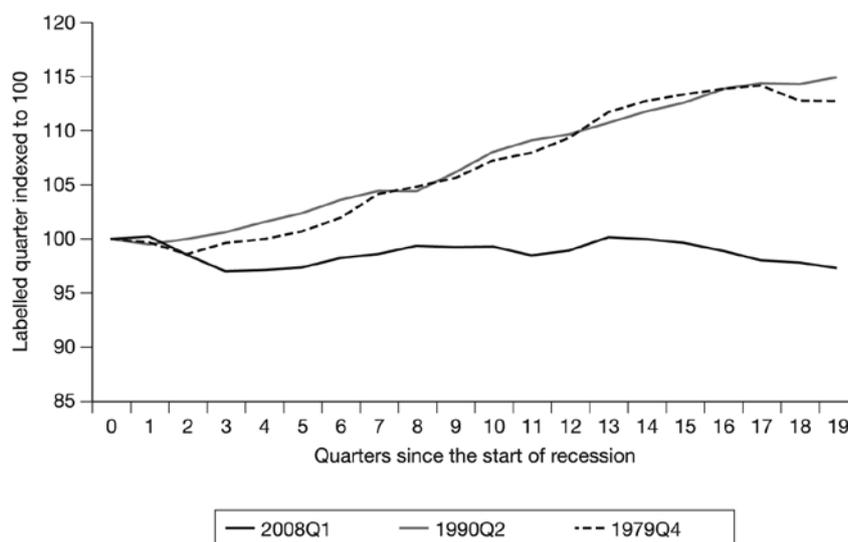
The sharp drop in output and in employment at the start of the recession was brought about in large part by the fall in world output, investment and international trade

Home-grown factors have a more important part to play in explaining the prolonged weakness of the recovery. In the private sector of the economy, households found they were over-burdened with debt when the financial crash occurred and responded by cutting back consumption spending and by increasing saving. In a similar way, companies shelved their capital spending plans and built up their cash reserves. Exports were damaged not only by the crisis among our main trading partners in the eurozone but also by a lack of cost competitiveness on the part of British producers.

The recession seriously damaged the public finances. In 2009–10, the public
... continued

Chart 3. The Productivity Puzzle

Changes to real output per hour in the UK, by recession



Source: Paul Johnson, *Fiscal Studies*, 34(2), 2013

sector net borrowing requirement, needed to bridge the gap between expenditure and receipts from taxation, had amounted to more than 11 percent of GDP, the highest proportion since the Second World War, while the stock of public ('national') debt was rising to above 60 percent of GDP.

Despite the recession, the Conservative-led coalition Government, which came into office in 2010, responded to the deteriorating public finances by cutting back sharply on spending, at the same time stating its intention to reduce borrowing. The debate about the appropriateness of these actions at a time when demand, output, incomes and employment were already falling continues to be intense. But we may note that such a programme of austerity during the initial recovery phase of a recession is unusual.

However, the Bank of England's central view (in March 2014) is that there is scope for productivity to accelerate towards its historic growth rate, suggesting that the economy has sufficient potential capacity to grow without risking undue price inflation.

Equally unusual, if not more so, is the very loose monetary policy being operated by the Bank of England. The Bank's official interest rate has been held at 0.5 percent since March 2009, the longest period of stability for 350 years. In addition, over the same period, the Bank has been working to boost normal demand by injecting money directly into the economy by

purchasing Government bonds ('gilts') and other securities from private investors, mainly pension funds and insurance companies. The intended effect of 'Quantitative Easing' is to boost spending on investment and consumption and to maintain lower interest rates in the medium term than otherwise would be the case.

The rise in numbers in employment has been brought about mainly by increases in part-time working. This is reflecting to some extent individuals' work-life choices in a flexible labour market. But it will certainly be the result also of people's need for work despite the shorter hours and relatively low wages that are on offer. For firms facing uncertainty in their markets, flexible work contracts can help to control employment costs by matching output to fluctuations in demand and can be an alternative to (inflexible) capital investment in the short to medium term.

But in the longer term, the worrying outcome from these changes in the labour market is the persistent decline in productivity since the start of the recession. This is the most distinctive feature of this recession in comparison to the two previous ones. Is it a short term consequence of part-time, limited hours working that will give way in time to increased output per hour once economic growth becomes sustained and sustainable? Or will employers still choose to boost output by hiring more workers on flexible contracts?

It is the second of these scenarios that is troubling economists and policymakers alike. If numbers in work go on increasing against a backdrop of slow output growth, unemployment will drop to a rate that on past experience signals the risk of increased price inflation in the future. In August last year, the Bank of England suggested this rate to be around seven percent, a threshold that was passed in the first quarter of this year. A credible threat of excessive price inflation would lead the

Bank shortly to consider raising interest rates which might in turn damage the robustness of the recovery.

However, the Bank of England's central view (in March 2014) is that there is scope for productivity to accelerate towards its historic growth rate, suggesting that the economy has sufficient potential capacity to grow without risking undue price inflation. But a serious threat to Britain's economic growth prospects in the longer term comes from the damage that will be done to the skills base of the available workforce if high unemployment persists among young people and if many experienced workers go on choosing to give up the search for employment entirely.

The story of the global financial crisis and its aftermath is so far incomplete. In due course it may be that, with the benefit of hindsight, the similarities between this recession and its predecessors will be more marked than the differences. Post-war recessions have typically been triggered by external shocks to aggregate demand (oil, interest rates, turmoil in financial markets). Economic output has fallen sharply. Budgetary and monetary policies have tended to be reactive. Output growth has resumed in due course, but from a lower level. Some potential output and some consumption have therefore been lost irrevocably.

But once confidence has started to improve, our experience has been that output, employment and investment have tended to increase, encouraging speculation in financial markets. A boom then ensues, at some point becoming unsustainable, and eventually another recession impacts. *Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose.*

Tony Cockerill is Leverhulme Professorial Fellow in Economics in the University and a Life Fellow of Magdalene College

THE COLLEGE GARDENS — A TRANSFORMATION

BY KANAK PATEL (1992)

The Riverside is undergoing a significant transformation. River Court, the Fellows' Garden and Scholars' Garden are positioned in a unique location along the meandering River Cam and form part of a natural and designed landscape.

The Cherry trees have graced River Court with their blooms and spectacular autumn colours for many years. Acers, Weeping Willows, the 28-metre-tall Lombardy Poplars and Sycamores along the river formed a rich and varied architectural feature and added to the visual appeal of the buildings.

Unfortunately, several trees along the River have recently succumbed to fungus. *Prunus* species are susceptible to various fungal and bacterial problems. Over the past few years, significant defects became apparent in these trees including fruiting bodies from a root rotting fungus, which is a sign of impending decay and overall lack of vigour.

The Acer in River Court was dying from *verticillium* wilt and a Willow and Sycamore in Scholars' Garden, which succumbed to Honey Fungus, had to be removed.

A comprehensive health assessment was carried out in November 2013, which found the three 28-metre-tall Lombardy Poplar trees along the riverside in Fellows Garden to have a *Kretzschmaria deusta* (root-rotting fungus). This resulted in the recommendation to remove the trees because the soft-rot in the roots can lead to sudden catastrophic failure.

During the spell of strong winds and rain in January, a large Walnut tree in the Fellows' Garden came down unexpectedly.

Losing so many mature trees at one time is a sad occasion, but now is a time of opportunity to plant trees for future generations. Replacing the trees requires careful consideration of preserving the elegant and coherent landscape along the river. The choice of species is limited by the soil condition and the setting of the landmark. From a shortlist of trees that meet the requirements of River Court, *Amelanchier lamarckii* come closest to the much admired Cherry trees. The five *Amelanchier lamarckii* that were planted recently are showing Spring is definitely in the air here in River Court.



The avenue of Lime trees in the Fellows' Garden' the newly planted *Amelanchier lamarckii* in River Court and the fallen Walnut tree.

In Scholars' Garden, the plan is to plant five *Alnus glutinosa* 'Imperialis' in winter 2014/15, which should be more resistant to Honey Fungus. The plan for replacing the three Lombardy Poplars is under review. The choice of trees will have to compliment the avenue of Lime trees and existing Weeping Willows. We plan to continue planting and improving the look of the Gardens with more shrubs and suitable trees.

Dr Kanak Patel is Director of Studies in Economics and Land Economy, University Lecturer in Property Finance, Fellow and Garden Steward of Magdalene College

THE END OF A CHERRY TREE (OR THE STORY OF A BOWL)

BY ROSS PETERS (1963)

While thumbing through *The Times* one day in early January, I read an article concerning the felling of the old Cherry trees in River Court which we all used to admire when punting along the Cam by the College, especially in spring when they were covered in pink blossom. The Times article suggested that this was necessary for health and safety reasons as some of the trees had begun to show signs of rot.



As an amateur wood turner I thought it would be a great challenge to turn a bowl from a piece of the old Cherry tree. The very next day I contacted the Development Office and asked if it was possible to send a section of the Cherry log north to my workshop in Perthshire. Kevin Bentley and the Head Gardener kindly arranged for the log to be couriered to me that week. My plan was to turn a bowl from the Cherry wood and present it to the Master at the Edinburgh dinner which was scheduled for Saturday 8th February. It normally takes a year to eighteen months for freshly felled

timber to become 'seasoned' and the moisture content to reach stable equilibrium. My challenge was to dry the wood in four weeks while maintaining the integrity of the structure.

The process began by taking a chain saw and cutting along the centre of the log parallel to the direction of growth and subsequently chopping it in half. This piece was cut into a roughly circular shape with a band saw into what is called a 'blank' which can then be mounted on the lathe for the first rough turning process. At this point the wood is very 'green' and full of moisture, however in this condition it is easier for turning as the moisture serves to lubricate the cutting surface of the bowl gouge.

Having rough turned the bowl to a wall thickness of 1.5 inches I began the accelerated drying process by placing the bowl in a microwave oven for two minutes at a time and weighing the bowl to check on the degree of moisture reduction. This process was repeated over a few weeks until the weight was lowered by circa 30 percent. At this point surface cracks began to appear as the bowl contracts eight percent along the circumference, four percent along the radius and one percent vertically. This causes severe stress as it is trying to pull itself apart the whole time. To rescue the project I decided to do the final turn hoping that it was now sufficiently stable to maintain its shape without cracking any further. The plan was to insert a silver disc in the base of this bowl however, during the final drying process it took on an elliptical form which I rather suspected might happen as it lost a further 20 percent of its weight through moisture reduction. I was able to sand and polish the bowl with carnauba wax before it began this deformation. As you will see from the photo it has



an uneven surface at the rim, however it would have been impossible to rectify this without destroying the piece.

The Cherry wood bowl was presented to the Master at the Edinburgh dinner on the 8th of February this year along with a circular bowl in Scottish Pearwood in which the silver disc was installed.

The history of my interest in wood goes back to my early years at school when I was taught woodwork having failed my 11 plus exam and then denied the opportunity of studying French and Latin. I am severely dyslexic, a condition which was nearly my downfall in one of the Tripos exams as I misread the timetable and Dr Bennett had to locate me and give me the news that I should be in the Senate House as the exam had started 20 minutes ago! I passed, thank goodness, and am now happily semi-retired. While at College, I played rugby for the 2nd XV, rowed in the Mays and sailed for the University. I also had the distinction of being Pipe Major of the University Pipe Band and still play the bagpipes despite being over 70!

The Cherry wood bowl was presented to the Master at the Edinburgh dinner on the 8th of February this year along with a circular bowl in Scottish Pearwood in which the silver disc was installed.

After a degree in Natural Sciences and Economics, I joined the Aero Engine division of Rolls Royce, subsequently becoming a management consultant before joining the largest fund manager in Scotland where I stayed for 20 years during which time I started three new public investment companies. More recently I was one of the founders of a new whisky distillery on the island of Arran which I am pleased to say is expanding due to the success of malt whisky sales worldwide.

MEMBERS' NEWS

PHILIP CARNE

Philip Carne, 1958, established The Richard Carne Trust in October 2006 in memory of his son, with the aim of supporting talented young people in the performing arts, specifically in music and theatre.

Working with five of the major music and acting academies, the Trust has since its inception provided bursaries and financial support to over 100 individual musicians, singers, actors and playwrights, not only during their studies but after graduation as they struggle with their careers.

In recognition of the philanthropy of Philip and his wife Christine, a former student at Homerton, he was in 2011 made an Honorary Member of The Royal College of Music. A year later they were both elected Honorary Fellows of The Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, the first couple to be so recognised in that college's history.

In December 2013, the Carnes received the Prince of Wales Medal for Philanthropy in The Arts. Nominated by the five academies whom they have supported over the past eight years, they were one of five awardees out of 90 nominations, and received their medals from Prince Charles at a ceremony at St James's Palace.



Mr Carne receiving his medal from HRH the Prince of Wales

Philip has also been a generous donor to the College, having provided hardship bursaries for the past 15 years, supported the College Choir, and contributed a substantial donation to the development of the new Cripps Court, where a meeting room has been named The Philip Carne Room.

THE ARCHIE LESLIE PRIZE

The Archie Leslie Prize has been awarded every year at the annual Magdalene Lawyers' Dinner to the student who makes the best complaint of an injustice suffered at the hands of one of the law Fellows during the course of the year.

Entries are required in writing before the annual Lawyers' Dinner and are read out by the adjudicator at the annual dinner, who then awards the prize. It was originally adjudicated and awarded by Mrs Dias. After her death the adjudication passed to the Master's wife (though on a few occasions Mrs Anna Jones, the wife of our senior law Fellow, Dr Neil Jones, has adjudicated). The original prize was to eat two dinners (the prize

having begun in consequence of Mr Leslie, 1968, being omitted by mistake from the annual dinner guest list, and then receiving two invitations, one from Mr Dias and one from Mrs Dias). Today, the prize, a bottle of good champagne, is as coveted as it ever was! Mr Leslie has also gone on to endow a Travel Bursary which has enabled successive generations of undergraduates to broaden their horizons through travel.

"AUSTERITY BITES"

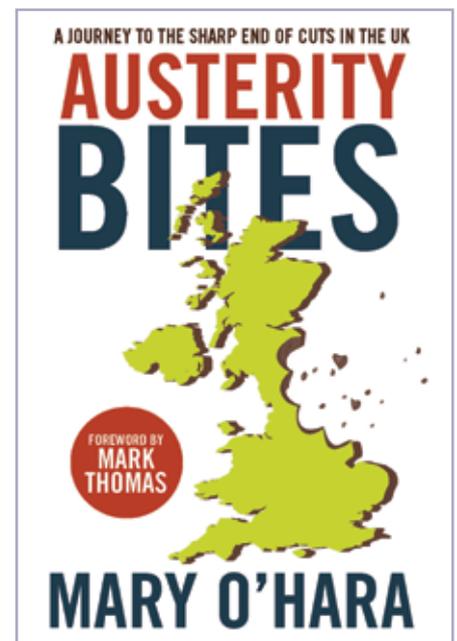
A BOOK BY MARY O'HARA

In "Austerity Bites: A journey to the sharp end of cuts in the UK," award-winning journalist and Magdalene alum, Mary O'Hara, 1988, chronicles the early impact of austerity policies introduced by the Coalition Government in the UK.

Based on a 12-month journey around the country in 2012 and 2013, it draws on hundreds of hours of compelling first-person interviews with people at the frontline, including those hardest hit. The book explores the grim reality of living under the biggest shake-up of the welfare state in 60 years. A 'must-read' book, *Austerity Bites* seeks to dispel any notion that "we are all in this together". With a foreword by activist and comedian Mark Thomas, it is described by editor in chief of The Guardian US, Janine Gibson as "giving voice to those experiencing hardship or injustice and we should all pay attention to the results." Author of *Injustice* and other books, Professor Danny Dorling

of the University of Oxford says: "*Austerity Bites* brings together many poignant stories of people affected by the first impact of the Coalition Government's choice to impose social austerity on Britain." Dr Simon Duffy, director of the Centre for Welfare Reform concludes that *Austerity Bites* "strips away the rhetoric to reveal the truth" while comic and social justice campaigner Josie Long calls it "essential reading for anyone wanting to understand the great human cost of austerity. Read it, get angry and get active."

Austerity Bites is published in hardback in May 2014 by Policy Press. Pre-order at Amazon.co.uk



Magdalene Email for Life – Have You got Yours?

Magdalene Email for Life is a free email service which has been specifically designed for graduates of Magdalene College, Cambridge. Members are invited to sign up for a free @magdalene.cantab.net email address which will never expire and looks fantastic on CVs as it clearly shows potential employers that you are a graduate of Magdalene.

Your Email for Life account will not be slowed down with advertisements that many other free email services are

hindered by and help is always on hand with a friendly support desk.

Other benefits of this service include 100MB of online storage, and enhanced accounts are also available to provide at least 2000MB of storage and the option to manage your account from another mail program.

Please visit www.magdalene.cantab.net for more information and to sign up to your new account.

Forthcoming Events

7 JUNE 2014

Buckingham Society Luncheon

25 JUNE 2014

Magdalene Law Association
Summer drinks

29 JUNE 2014

Family Day for all Members and
their families

28 AUGUST 2014

Dinner in Singapore for all Members

29 AUGUST 2014

Dinner in Hong Kong for
all Members

24 SEPTEMBER 2014

Dinner in Berlin for all Members

28 SEPTEMBER 2014

Annual Donors' Day. Invitations will
be sent to everyone who has kindly
made a gift to the College during the
academic year 2013/14

Please email alumni@magd.cam.ac.uk to register your interest
in any of the above events.

17 OCTOBER 2014

Oxford & Cambridge Club Dinner
for all Members

7 NOVEMBER 2014

Annual New York Dinner

21 NOVEMBER 2014

Magdalene Law Association
Dinner

28 NOVEMBER 2014

House of Lords Dinner for
all Members

8 DECEMBER 2014

Magdalene College Choir Carol
Concert in London

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Please note that other events
may be added to this list.

Always check our College website
www.magdalene.cambridge.com
on the 'Events' pages and read
the updated listings in Magdalene
E-Matters.

Reunions

Reunions in 2014 and 2015

FRIDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2014

Dinner for those who matriculated in
1957-1961

FRIDAY 26 SEPTEMBER 2014

Dinner for those who matriculated in
1962-1966

FRIDAY 27 MARCH 2015

Dinner for those who matriculated in
1967-1970

SATURDAY 2 MAY 2015

Lunch for those who matriculated up
to 1957

Invitations will be sent out three
months in advance. Please note that
the programme usually begins at
4.30pm with tea and coffee in the
Senior Combination Room. There
will be an opportunity to visit the Pepys
Library before dinner and to attend
Evensong in Chapel. Pre-dinner drinks
will be served in the Cripps Gallery at
7.15pm or Pepys' Cloisters, with dinner
being served in Hall from 8pm.

Those who matriculated in 2008 will
be invited to take their MA in person
or in absentia in 2015.

Non-resident Members' Guest Nights

18 October 2014

8 November 2014

21 November 2014

24 January 2015

6 February 2015

7 March 2015

25 April 2015

23 May 2015

5 June 2015

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.

