

MAY 2017 | ISSUE 45



# MAGDALENE MATTERS

THE NEWSLETTER OF MAGDALENE COLLEGE CAMBRIDGE



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The views expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily represent the views of Magdalene College, Cambridge.

Photo on the front cover 'Cherry Blossom in Benson Court' courtesy of Matthew Moon.



The 2017 telethon calling team.

## COMMENT from the Development Director

Dear Members,

The past few months have passed in a blur of activity as we launched the college's new capital Campaign, *Future Foundations*, in London, Hong Kong and New York; held a record number of events and ran the most successful telethon to date.

Easter Term brings a certain calm to the Alumni & Development office as we are back to our normal pace, busy but not frantic and very much focussed on the huge task ahead. I have included a brief overview of the college's plans on page 14 but you will find much more detail on the website [www.magdalenecambridge.com/future-foundations](http://www.magdalenecambridge.com/future-foundations). We will keep you informed with regular emails, updates on the website and posts on our social media sites. We are looking to the wider Magdalene community to help us raise £25 million over the next five years in support of our ongoing commitment to academic excellence and needs blind admission. We believe that by offering the best possible facilities and securing the supervision system we will help our students to reach their full potential during their time at Magdalene. The priorities for our Campaign include a new College Library with a much increased book stock, state-of-the-art IT provision, several new group work rooms as well as three beautifully light and spacious reading halls. The Art Gallery and the purpose built Archives on the ground floor complete this new building which we believe will greatly enhance the college's estate. Expanding our already successful bursary scheme for eligible undergraduate students as well as offering additional support for postgraduate students together with continued provision for unexpected financial hardship continues to be a prime concern. Our dedication to carry on with work to preserve the College's heritage and maintaining our ancient buildings for future generations remains unabated.

The student callers in the recent telethon spoke to over 500 Members during a fortnight of calling and two-thirds of those made a gift to the new Future Foundations Campaign. We raised almost £290,000, a truly marvellous result. Indeed, it is because of you, our wonderfully loyal and generous Members, that we feel able to launch such an ambitious campaign. Thank you!

**CORINNE LLOYD**  
EDITOR AND DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

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# A NEW DIRECTOR OF MUSIC FOR MAGDALENE

BY MR GRAHAM WALKER (2016)

September saw the arrival of a new Precentor and Director of Music, Graham Walker, who joins us from Corpus Christi to succeed Jonathan Hellyer Jones. Graham writes:



**Precentor and Director of Music  
Graham Walker.**

Having known Jonathan for many years (he tells me that we first met in 1983, when I was five and in shorts!), there was a lovely sensation of familiarity in picking up his work upon my arrival at Magdalene. Jonathan had provided such clear and helpful guidance, and the College community was so warm and welcoming, that I felt immediately at home.

The role of Precentor is somewhat unusual. As conductor of the choir you have a huge amount of self-direction, so it's very easy to forget things, especially as you begin in a new environment and start to find your bearings around the College. Most people are only aware of the

Choir's work at the major services in the Chapel's yearly calendar, but the singing happens twice weekly throughout the term, as well as for the various activities outside the Chapel, so it all gets pretty busy. You get to know the students in the Choir very well, and one of the loveliest parts of the job is seeing nervous and hesitant first-years blossom into fine and confident solo singers as they develop, and emerge into the wider world with – we hope – both skills for and love of choral singing.

Chapel music has been very well run in the past several years, under Jonathan's care, and so it was with great pleasure and anticipation that I turned up for the first Choir practice in October. We had lost several Choir members over the summer (the natural turnover of student choirs is both their biggest challenge and conversely a great strength, in that it enforces renewal and rebirth), but we were fortunate that several of our recent graduates came back to bolster us for the matriculation services. A good new collection of freshers auditioned, however, and before long we were up to strength and singing with confidence. With two new Organ Scholars there was a lot of learning to be done, but things developed quickly and by the end of term we had a well-functioning team. The Michaelmas Term always ends with a flurry of activity, with two carol services and the Alumni Concert

in London. I was really delighted with how the musicians rose to the occasion and sang with real conviction and care, especially for the final event in All Hallows by the Tower.

The Lent Term had its fair share of activities, with extra services at St John's College and St Edmundsbury Cathedral, as well as a concert for the Festival of Light. The final service of Term involved instrumentalists from around the University and featured contemplative music by JS Bach and others. It's such a treat to be able to bring instruments into the Chapel, and the students found it a very inspiring occasion. Hall was full to the rafters afterwards, and despite the Lenten season there was a delightful party atmosphere, helped no doubt by the promise of cocktails in the Chaplain's rooms! Shortly after Term finished we were invited to take part in the Campaign Launch event at St James's Palace. It's always good to be able to get out of Cambridge and to perform in different locations, but this one will live long in the memory, as much for the excellent canapés as for the swift and unexpected segue from Weelkes's masterpiece *Hosanna to the Son of David* into *Goodnight, Sweetheart*.

As I write this we are tidying up after the end of the Lent Term and beginning preparations for the Easter, with services, concerts and the annual tour still to come. Much to do – and much to be excited about!

# FELLOWS' NEWS



**DR CECILIA BRASSETT**  
Dr Brassett and the University Office of External Affairs and Communications

have produced a short film of her dissection-based anatomy teaching programme to conclude the celebrations for the 300th anniversary of the establishment of the Anatomical School in 1716. The film features two Magdalene first-year medics, and filming took place in College. The film can be viewed on YouTube: 'Body of work: the silent teacher'. Dr Brassett has also been involved in lectures and hands-on activities for the Cambridge Science Festival and hosted the Institute of Anatomical Sciences Spring Scientific Meeting at Cripps Court in April.



**PROFESSOR TONY COCKERILL**  
Professor Tony Cockerill, editor of the Economics Faculty's annual

Alumni Newsletter, *Cambridge Economics*, is delighted that this year's 'Distinguished Alumnus' main feature will be a profile of the Rt. Hon. Greg Clark MP, Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, who read Economics at Magdalene 1986–89. The newsletter will be published in September. Tony was also invited to return to the Economics Department at George Washington University, Washington D.C. as a Distinguished Guest Scholar for the first part of the Fall Semester. He worked on comparisons of industrial performance between the United States and the European Union and, inevitably, was asked to offer several seminars on Brexit.



**PROFESSOR SAUL DUBOW**  
Professor Saul Dubow joined us as a Professorial Fellow in Lent term. Saul is

the newly-appointed Smuts Professor of Commonwealth History. He is resident in College. Born in Cape Town, Saul took his BA at the University of Cape Town and his doctorate at Oxford. After a British Academy Post-Doctoral Fellowship at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, London, he taught at the University of Sussex before moving to Queen Mary, University of London, in 2012 as Professor of African History. In his area of research expertise, nineteenth- and twentieth-century South Africa, he has made major contributions to the understanding of the systems of racial segregation and apartheid through linked studies of its ideological, intellectual, cultural and institutional aspects. His interests include transnational and world history and, in particular, the growing field of global intellectual history.



**PROFESSOR PAUL DUPREE**  
Biochemist Professor Paul Dupree co-authored a paper with his father

Professor Ray Dupree unlocking the secrets of the strength in plants. The pair solved a long-standing mystery of how key sugars in cells bind to form strong robust plant walls in materials such as wood. Scientists were aware that the molecules – or 'polymers' – cellulose and xylan, found in plant cell walls played a key role in determining strength, but how remained a mystery until now. In a four-year research programme Professor Paul Dupree

led a team looking at the behaviour of cellulose and xylan, discovering that cellulose induces xylan to untwist itself and straighten out, allowing it to attach itself to the cellulose molecule. Analysing such structures requires examination at the minutest scale as cellulose and xylan are 10,000 times narrower than the width of a human hair. The team turned to an imaging technique known as solid state nuclear magnetic resonance, work which was supervised by Professor Paul Dupree's father and co-author Professor Ray Dupree at the University of Warwick's SS-NMR laboratory. The discovery may help create stronger materials and buildings as tall as skyscrapers could be built using modified wood.



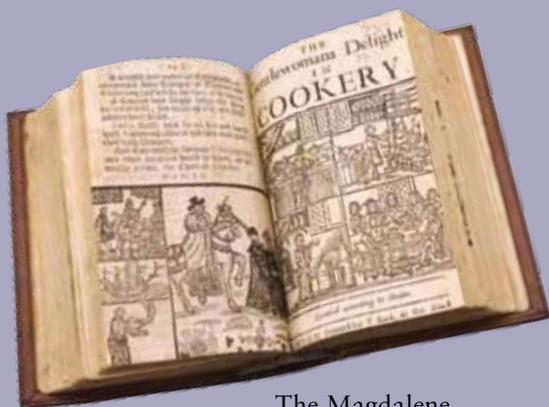
**DR NATHANIEL MILLAR**  
At the end of last Term, we welcomed and admitted a new Teaching Bye-

Fellow in Asian and Middle Eastern Studies. Dr Nathaniel Millar is an Unestablished Lecturer in Classical Arabic in the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, having received his PhD from the University of Chicago in June 2016. Before that he worked and studied in Cairo and Alexandria from 2007–10. His current book project grows out of his dissertation, which deals with the only surviving medieval anthology of tribal Arabic poetry, by the poets of the Hudhayl tribe, who lived near Mecca at the time of Islam's emergence. His next project revolves around a multi-volume twelfth-century anthology compiled by Saladin's secretary, Imad al-Din al-Isfahani. He also has an MA (Indiana University) in English literature, with a focus on British Romanticism. In his spare time he enjoys hiking and historical fiction.

# THE FRIENDS OF THE PEPYS

BY DR JANE HUGHES (1987)

The College is immensely grateful to the Friends and to other supporters of the Libraries for their great generosity at the recent special event which we held to initiate a fund for the restoration of Samuel Pepys's iconic book cases.



The Magdalene chefs, led by Gary Wren and Wayne Johnson, produced a splendid and intriguing luncheon in Hall, with dishes derived from Pepys's diaries and from seventeenth-century cookbooks: highlights of the seven-course 'taster' menu were carp with poached pear, smoked goose, a Spanish 'oleo' (a sort of veal casserole which Pepys ate first on 5th April 1669 and found to be 'a very noble dish, such as I never saw better'), and finally a selection of delicious and imaginative desserts. There was a little tweaking for modern palates of course; though the meal was not without its challenges, too. Well, it has to be said that bacon tart with coffee is an acquired taste. The afternoon continued with a recital by the De Fleo consort of music preserved uniquely in manuscripts in the Pepys Library; and the Deputy Librarian, Catherine Sutherland, assisted by Library Assistant Ellie Swire, had mounted a fascinating exhibition called 'Pepys and Gastronomy' in the Library, showcasing ballads on eating (and over-eating), foodie poems and recipe books from the collection.

Even better, the event raised enough money for us to commence the restoration project. We have 12 glazed-fronted red-oak book cases which were commissioned by Pepys across a period of nearly forty years as his library grew, with the earliest dating to 1666; and we can confidently begin work on the first three next year. The deep carving on the presses requires specialist cleaning and there is some work needed on the backs of the cases – many years ago someone well-meaningly but misguidedly added a fire-retardant material which is now perishing and must be carefully removed inch by inch without damaging the ancient timber. This kind of detailed restoration only takes place every thirty or forty years, so the work done now will ensure that we can continue to preserve the 3000 volumes of Pepys's library safely in their original bookcases, displayed to the public and available to scholars, well into the future.

The programme for the Friends of the Pepys and Historic Libraries (April 2017–April 2018) has now been arranged. Notices inviting current Friends to renew their membership will be sent shortly and new Friends are always very welcome to join. Individual membership without concessions is £45. Events are free to Friends and their guests and include refreshments. Further details will be in the Friends newsletter; or enquiries about events or about membership can be made to the Membership Co-ordinator, Mrs Aude Fitzsimons, at Magdalene. The email is [pepysfriends@magd.cam.ac.uk](mailto:pepysfriends@magd.cam.ac.uk).

## *The Friends of the Pepys upcoming events*

**4 JUNE 2017** Innovations: groundbreaking first editions in the Old Library. An exhibition. Special Sunday opening for Friends and their guests.

**26 JUNE 2017** The Pepys Librarian will give a tour of the Old Library looking specially at the Chinese materials, with a private viewing of the May Week Exhibition.

**23 SEPTEMBER 2017** C S Lewis – a seminar/workshop for Friends and their guests on Lewis, his writings and his impact.

**22 OCTOBER 2017** Friends are invited to be guests of the Perne Librarian for a tour of the Peterhouse historic libraries.

**2 DECEMBER 2017** The Friends of the Libraries Annual Lecture. Professor Christopher Page will deliver this year's lecture on the topic of the 'Guitar at the Time of Pepys'. The Pepys Library will be open with a display of music for the guitar from the collection.

**27 FEBRUARY 2018** The Presses Project – a workshop with conservationists looking in detail at the project to restore the bookcases and other Pepysian furniture, followed by a special event to commemorate Samuel Pepys's birthday in the College Hall.

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# CLANDESTINE PRINTING: ENGLAND'S SECRET ENLIGHTENMENT

BY DR JOSEPH HONE (2016)

Until 1695 all English books, newspapers, and pamphlets needed to be approved by a government regulator before they could be printed. Approval was not easily granted and the authors of unlicensed books were regularly and harshly punished.

In 1695, though, the parliamentary act that facilitated this state censorship of the press was allowed to lapse. The end of the Licensing Act has been judged a 'good thing' by both historians and modern journalists, heralding an era of open mindedness, tolerance, and political, theological, and scientific enlightenment. There is a simple problem with that narrative of press freedom, though. It is a fiction.

My research concerns the persistence of the underground book trade into the eighteenth century. Although books no longer required approval before printing, the authors of controversial texts could still be prosecuted under draconian treason and seditious libel laws, which remained powerful tools for controlling what was printed and read. Underground publication aimed to circumvent those laws. By investigating the various techniques that authors, printers, publishers, and booksellers used to evade prosecution, my research aims to clarify the key role of clandestine printing in disseminating the controversial ideas that enabled a subversive and occasionally revolutionary literary culture during the eighteenth century.

Of the techniques familiar to members of the underground book trade, none was more important than disguise. Let me offer an example. In the summer of 1705 the printer David Edwards was visited by a mysterious woman with 'Copy to be printed' on behalf of her husband. Among the cognoscenti, Edwards was known for handling scandalous texts. He rarely put his name on the books he printed (as convention demanded) and had an uncanny ability to escape serious punishment, despite having been arrested 'on suspicion of Treasonable Practices' on at least eight separate occasions. Yet this woman was even more careful than Edwards. She wore a 'Vizard mask' upon their meeting and never allowed the printer to see her face. Her caution paid off. When government thugs interrogated Edwards a few weeks after this initial meeting, the printer was unable to

confirm his client's identity. She never visited his shop again and the pair communicated only through intermediaries. When Edwards finished printing the books, they were carried to a dead drop at a local pub where they were picked up by an unknown courier.

To counter subversion among printers, the authorities recruited and cultivated an extensive network of spies and informants within the trade. Whistle-blowing was an entrenched part of the government surveillance programme. Reasons for turning informant were legion. Some informants simply worked for a fee. Other printers and authors were coerced into shopping their colleagues. Consider, for instance, Richard Savage. This poet and future mentor of the great lexicographer Samuel Johnson escaped the charge of 'having a treasonable Pamphlet in his possession' only by ratting on his former printer. Disaffected and destitute printers such as Robert Clare often made excellent spies. Having been forced out of his business by hostile colleagues, Clare found employment providing the government with the names of authors, printers, and publishers of scandalous tracts. In the cutthroat world of the eighteenth century book trade, these spies and

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informants posed very real threats to the security of satirists and controversialists. Edwards himself soon turned snitch. Government account books reveal that after the incident with the masked woman he was paid regularly from slush funds reserved exclusively for intelligence work.

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*The ‘300-year tradition of press freedom’ cited in a recent editorial leader in The Spectator is little more than an historical illusion. And if that tradition is an illusion, as I want to suggest, then we must continue to question the reality of those freedoms today.*

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What hopes can we have of identifying the authors and printers responsible for illegal books where this sophisticated government surveillance failed? Neither Edwards nor any of his contemporaries discovered the identity of the woman in the ‘Vizard mask’. Yet we now have access to information and analytical techniques that were simply unavailable during the eighteenth century. Combining established bibliographical methods (inspecting decorative ornaments, broken type, and paper quality) with methods of historical research (tracing payments and examining business ledgers and correspondence) can reveal the printers of controversial books in cases where government agents of the day could not. Identifying authorship is frequently more complicated. However, trawling archives for associated manuscripts can sometimes yield positive results. And if that doesn’t work, there is always stylometrics, whereby we compare the literary style of an unattributed text alongside texts by the primary candidates for authorship.

The aim of my work is not merely to establish the historical significance of this grubby underbelly of eighteenth century literary culture, but also to cast new light on some more familiar texts. Our interpretation of a book such as Jonathan Swift’s *Gulliver’s Travels* (1726), for example, surely changes when we discover that the anonymous manuscript was thrown through a publisher’s door from a moving carriage in the middle of the night. Swift had employed a junior scribe to copy out the manuscript, ensuring that Swift’s own handwriting could not be recognised and used as evidence of his authorship of this controversial book. The print job was split between four workshops, to ensure that no printer could be caught with the complete text. Though now famous, *Gulliver’s Travels* and several other canonical works of literature originally belonged to this shadowy world of clandestine printing and consequently demand to be read in that milieu.

And there are surely contemporary lessons to be learned from this research, too. Freedom of the press continues to be a hot topic in Britain, not least after the perceived failures of the Leveson Inquiry; the recent attempt to establish a royal charter for press regulators; and now the government plan to implement ‘Section 40’ of the Crime and Courts Act 2013, and thereby force newspapers to pay the legal costs of their opponents in a libel suit, even if the newspapers win their cases. The lapse of the Licensing Act in 1695 has become reinterpreted as a milestone in the history of journalism. In the words of one left-wing magazine, ‘For the first time since 1695, Britain now has an official state-backed regulator, called Impress’. Of course, as my work shows, what actually happened in 1695 is that press regulation simply shifted to become the responsibility of the courts. The ‘300-year tradition of press freedom’ cited in a recent editorial leader in *The Spectator* is little more than an historical illusion. And if that tradition is an illusion, as I want to suggest, then we must continue to question the reality of those freedoms today.



**DR JOSEPH HONE** is the Lumley Research Fellow in English at Magdalene. Before coming to Cambridge, Joseph held first a graduate scholarship and then a lectureship at Jesus College, Oxford, where he also completed his doctorate. In 2014 he was awarded the Katharine F. Pantzer Jr. Fellowship in Descriptive Bibliography at Harvard University and, in 2018, will take up the James M. Osborn fellowship at Yale. In his research, Joseph is interested in combining literary, historical, and bibliographical modes of analysis. His first book *Literature and Party Politics at the Accession of Queen Anne* is forthcoming from Oxford University Press. He is one of the editors of *The Oxford Edition of the Writings of Alexander Pope*.

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# ROBIN CHRISTOPHERSON MBE: HEAD OF DIGITAL INCLUSION AT TECH CHARITY ABILITYNET

Robin Christopherson (1989), has recently received an MBE for his services to digital inclusion.

*Robin was presented the MBE by His Royal Highness The Duke of Cambridge at Buckingham Palace shortly after it was announced in the New Year Honours list. We caught up with Robin to interview him about his career and how, as a blind person, technology has helped him and others to reach their full potential.*

## **I must first ask you about your MBE; what was it like going to Buckingham Palace?**

Going to the Palace was an extraordinary experience. It was amazing to be surrounded by so many who have made significant contributions to people's lives across a wide range of areas, and meeting His Royal Highness The Duke of Cambridge was incredible. He was very interested and well informed. Considering there were over seventy people receiving their honours that day he must have a prodigious memory as he asked me about AbilityNet and had no notes or official briefer whispering in his ear. He also said that the corgis would sniff out my guide dog, Archie, later and we'd see which were better behaved. He suspected that it would be Archie.

I didn't feel like I personally needed to be recognised as I've just felt lucky being able to do what I do, but if it will

help get the message about how tech can transform people's lives regardless of their particular abilities then it'll be an amazing milestone in my life. Just enabling more people to hear the phrase 'digital inclusion' with regards to my honour must help get the message out.

## **What exactly is 'digital inclusion'?**

Digital inclusion means designing apps, websites, gadgets and digital services to be inclusive so anyone can use them. Computers are incredibly powerful and offer numerous choices when it comes to how one uses them. Even at Cambridge, getting a truly excellent education would have been nearly impossible without the right tech to get round my difficulties.

## **You helped found technology access charity AbilityNet in 1998. Tell us about your work there and how it's changed over the years?**

Yes – I've been with AbilityNet since the very start and am by now the longest-serving employee by some years. This means I've either well and truly found my calling or that no one else wants me. In that time AbilityNet has grown enormously and now provides a wide range of services such as website and mobile accessibility consultancy (a team which grew from

an initial piece of consultancy I did back in 2003) and for several years I headed that team. Now that team is delivering expert services to hundreds of clients including global names such as Microsoft and HSBC and household names such as Sainsbury's and the BBC. That's quite enough about my involvement, however, as that's nothing compared to what AbilityNet is all about – and that's empowering people through accessibility and technology.

So much has changed in the last nearly two decades. In fact so much has changed in the last two months and continues to do so. As a blind person I'm just one example of how tech has helped improve the life choices for people with disabilities.

We now have all the power of computers with us wherever we go – and with a range of sensors such as camera, GPS, accelerometer and compass etc that, when perhaps one or more of your own senses don't work, can be incredibly empowering.

Whereas a disabled person used to have to purchase expensive (and often relatively limited) devices, they can often now use mainstream gadgets such as a smartphone that have all the necessary accessibility features built-in and which offer thousands of apps that have the same functions for a fraction of the price.



**Robin Christopherson being presented his MBE by His Royal Highness The Duke of Cambridge at Buckingham Palace.**

The accessibility of devices has transformed in recent years – driven in large part by Apple. Apple has led the way and shamed or energised others to follow. Disabled people are using their smartphones to aid mobility; manage their health; interact with colleagues; friends and society; play an active part in commerce and also have a lot of fun. The accessibility of the Mac and I-devices has ‘mainstreamed’ inclusion and, because of its influence on Android and other manufacturers, has meant that inclusion is now more affordable than ever before and we have largely seen the end of expensive, specialist, devices.

Having said the above, I actually use my phone considerably less since

getting my smartwatch; which is like a quick window into my phone’s most commonly used features – it taps me on the wrist when I need to turn down the next street, it means I can pay for items without even taking my phone out of my pocket, and it lets me know how bad my night’s sleep has been – but behind the watch and driving all its services is always the phone.

**And what kinds of work were you doing before AbilityNet?**  
 .....

Before AbilityNet I was an IT instructor for the RNIB and as such was able to play with (I mean research) incredible technologies such as screen reading software for Windows, flatbed scanners

that can read back printed materials and talking notetakers – all of which sounded like a Dalek with a bad head-cold but which nevertheless were opening doors like never before for people with a vision impairment.

In the UK today 90% of jobs include a computer of some shape or form, and these technologies helped make many more careers possible. That said, there are still 73% of people with a vision impairment without paid work in the UK today which is why I feel so strongly about the main aspect of my work today – namely regular public speaking to both conference and corporate audiences.

*...continued*

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If you'd like to see the strong messages I try to convey about the empowering potential of tech, simply Google me or try a search on YouTube (plug over).

**Is digital inclusion now more of a mainstream issue than it used to be?**

The concept of inclusive design is now not only more of a mainstream issue – it is, in fact, a purely mainstream issue.

We're living in the age of extreme computing. Let's think about how we use computers today. In this mobile-first world many of us are interacting with devices in ways that are far removed from the conventional set-up of your office or home where you sat in your comfortable chair, had your preferred keyboard, mouse and screen and ultimate control over your environment. If the sun was too bright or too dull, for example, you'd pull the blind or turn on the lights.

Now, whether it's juggling a phone one-handed as you weave down the street coffee in-hand, trying to finish that text or transaction, or tilting and shading your phone under the glare of the midday sun, you're involved in extreme computing – and extreme computing needs inclusive design.

If you have no disability but you are using your phone one-handed on the move then you actually do have a temporary impairment that is identical to someone who has a motor difficulty 24-7. It's true. You need exactly the same design considerations (good sized tappable areas separated by enough white space) as is needed by someone with Parkinson's or a tremor.

In the same way, if you are trying to find out some information or purchase a product online very quickly in the few seconds you have available as you stand on that escalator, then you require that the site or app you are using has extreme usability to be able to complete it in the time you have available. This extreme usability is likewise needed by someone with a learning difficulty to be able to successfully complete it regardless of how much time they have.

You get the idea. Similarly good colour contrast and choice of font will help those with small screens on a sunny day just the same as it will help those with a vision impairment regardless of their screen size.

So my message is always that technology needs to work for everyone regardless of impairment or environment – and luckily audiences have been very receptive (particularly when you throw in lots of demos of cutting-edge technologies too).

**Any last thoughts for the readers?**

A big "Hello" from me to everyone from Magdalene past and present. Make the most of it while you're there and help support it afterwards. We're the lucky ones. And if you know of anyone who you think might benefit from finding out a little more about how technology can help them in their education, at home or at work then please get in touch with AbilityNet – I'm sure we can help.



*Sir Derman Guy Christopherson OBE*

**SIR DERMAN GUY CHRISTOPHERSON OBE (1945)**, grandfather of Robin Christopherson MBE, was an eminent Engineering academic and the Master of Magdalene from 1978 to 1985.

He gained a scholarship at University College, Oxford, to read Mathematics and in 1937, went on to gain a first class degree in Engineering Science. The following year he went to Harvard University as a Henry Fellow, and was awarded an SM Master's Degree in 1938.

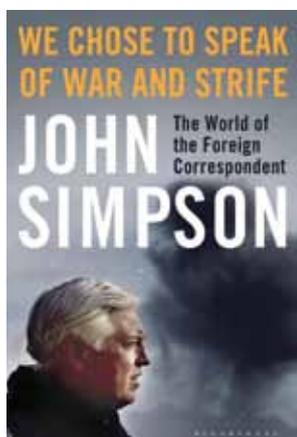
During World War II, Sir Derman was appointed as a Scientific Officer in the Ministry of Home Security, working in the research and experimental department with Sir Reginald Stradling. His work involved investigating the effects of explosives on buildings, shelters, and fire fighting. Most of Sir Derman's research was conducted at the University of Oxford (1937-41), the University of Cambridge (1945-49), and the University of Leeds (1949-55). He was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1960 and was also a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering.

**READING MORE OF ROBIN'S THOUGHTS ON TECHNOLOGY**

Robin writes frequent articles on the power of cutting-edge technology on the AbilityNet website ([www.abilitynet.org.uk](http://www.abilitynet.org.uk)). He'd also appreciate people following him on @USA2DAY on Twitter.

# WE CHOSE TO SPEAK OF WAR AND STRIFE

## – Mr John Simpson CBE



*We Chose to Speak of War and Strife* is the latest publication from Honorary Fellow John Simpson CBE. John matriculated in 1963 and studied English, he went on to be the BBC's World Affairs Editor and one of the most distinguished foreign correspondents of our time. His new book details the fascinating history of what it is to risk life and limb to bring home news of the troubled world beyond our shores.

news and – despite obstacles bureaucratic, political, violent – reporting it by whatever means available. It's a working life that is difficult, exciting and glamorous.

These stories from the last two hundred years celebrate an endangered tradition. Where once despatches were trusted to the hands of a willing sea-captain, telegraph operator or stranger in an airport queue prepared to spirit a can of undeveloped film back to London, today the digital realm has transformed the relaying of the news – even if the work of gathering it in the field has changed little.

*We Chose to Speak of War and Strife* brings us the pivotal moments in our history – from the Crimean War to Vietnam and Sarajevo – through the eyes of those who witnessed them, and the astonishing tales of what it took to report them. This is also a deeply personal book from a master of the profession.

In corners of the globe where fault-lines erupt into bloodshed and civil war, foreign correspondents have, since the early nineteenth century, been engaged in uncovering the latest

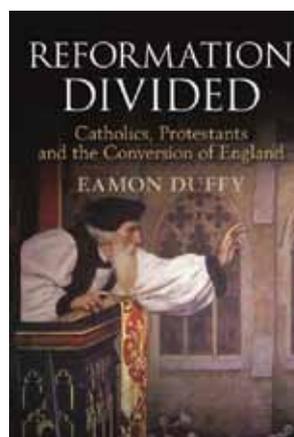
*We Chose to Speak of War and Strife* • Publisher: Bloomsbury Publishing • ISBN-10: 1408872226

# REFORMATION DIVIDED – Professor Eamon Duffy

Professor Eamon Duffy is Emeritus Professor of Christian History at the University of Cambridge and a past President of Magdalene College. His new book *Reformation Divided, Catholics, Protestants and the Conversion of England* gives a new perspective on the Catholic and Protestant reformations.

Published to mark the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's 95 Theses, *Reformation Divided* explores the impact in England of the cataclysmic transformations of European Christianity in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. The religious revolution initiated by Martin Luther is usually referred to as 'The Reformation', a tendentious description implying that the shattering of the medieval religious foundations of Europe was a single process, in which a defective form of Christianity was replaced by one that was unequivocally benign, 'the midwife of the modern world'.

The book challenges these assumptions by tracing the ways in which the project of reforming Christendom from within, initiated by Christian 'humanists' like Erasmus and Thomas More, broke apart into conflicting and often murderous energies and ideologies.



The book is in three parts: In 'Thomas More and Heresy', Professor Duffy examines how and why England's greatest humanist apparently abandoned the tolerant humanism of his youthful masterpiece *Utopia*, and became the bitterest opponent of the early Protestant movement. 'Counter-Reformation England' explores the ways in which post-Reformation English Catholics accommodated themselves to a

complex new identity as persecuted religious dissidents within their own country, but in a European context, active participants in the global renewal of the Catholic Church. The book's final section 'The Godly and the Conversion of England' considers the ideals and difficulties of radical reformers attempting to transform the conventional Protestantism of post-Reformation England into something more ardent and committed. In addressing these subjects, Duffy shines new light on the fratricidal ideological conflicts which lasted for more than a century, and whose legacy continues to shape the modern world.

*Reformation Divided* • Publisher: Bloomsbury Continuum • ISBN-10: 1472934369

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# SEASONS IN THE MIDDLE AGES

BY DR CARL WATKINS (1998)

It is something of a cliché that we, thanks to the insulating effects of technology, have ceased to live lives ordered by the seasons and that this detachment from nature's rhythms is something that separates us sharply from the experience of our forefathers. But how, exactly, did the seasons structure the lives and thoughts of our ancestors and how did they make sense of them?



In a project begun during a year of research leave, I am beginning to probe literature and art, chronicles and sermons, scientific writings, estate management treatises and much more to try to get a grip on how men and women in the Middle Ages thought about the seasons and how their lives were structured by them.

The topic is thorny because material for it is scattered in so many different places and in so many different kinds of texts and other media, but it is also tricky because some of our basic assumptions need to be unpicked at the outset. For example, a year comprising four seasons is not a given. It had to be invented – or, perhaps more accurately, imported. Old English literature – which is notably preoccupied with winter's oppressive grip and the comparative feebleness of summer warmth suggests a year

that was divided into two rather than four, split between winter and summer. The four-season year had Latin and continental origins, but it became a powerful framework for understanding time during the Middle Ages. In this tradition, the seasons were nestled in a bigger cosmology in which four was a potent number. There were, for example, four elements (earth, air, fire and water), four bodily 'humours', four principal winds, signs of the zodiac divided into four 'triplicities' (each tied to one of the elements), as well as the months divided among the four seasons. Neat arithmetic of this kind revealed something of the divine intelligence that had fashioned creation, and that intelligence – and divine solicitude for humankind – was palpable in the way the year turned too, passing through winter, spring, summer and autumn.

A commonplace piece of medieval art that captured the rhythm, and in so doing also celebrated the sacredness of time, was the 'Labours of the Months'. These images pictured each month with a characteristic activity – maybe parishioners beating the bounds in April, or the threshing of corn in September, pig-sticking in November or feasting by a blazing fire in December. The Labours were painted on church walls, carved on choir stalls, cut into fonts, illuminated in the pages of prayer books and remembered in poetry. One Magdalene manuscript calendar, in the Pepys Library, even has on the reverse of the calendar-page a series of drawings of the Labours that someone has added freehand, matched to the months. So the Labours, and their message about the cycles of time and rhythms of life were ubiquitous.

It might also be tempting to take these little works of art as evidence for life. But this might be a mistake. They are not depictions of reality. Some cycles do not even match the kinds of agricultural tasks undertaken in the places where they appear. They also do not do justice to the variability

of experience in a northwestern maritime zone. For if the way that we think about – and interact – with the seasons has changed beyond all measure since the Middle Ages, the reality that the seasons in the British Isles vary a good deal from one year to the next is a historical constant. And beyond that elementary pattern of unpredictability, medieval climate change was as much of a reality as its modern counterpart, though it was a work of nature rather than man.

The twelfth and thirteenth centuries were warm enough for grapes to flourish in many parts of England, and the line of arable cultivation crept upwards too during this period – facilitated by a beneficent climate and propelled by a growing population – until land above 300 metres was being worked on Dartmoor and in the Pennines and Lammermuir Hills. But then in the early fourteenth century there was a rude shock. In 1309 the Thames froze solid. People danced and even lit fires on the ice. It was a taste of things to come, the first stirrings of cooling that would eventuate in the ‘Little Ice Age’ and prefiguration of the famous Frost Fairs held on the Thames in the seventeenth century. But in the mid 1310s it was less cold winters than unseasonably wet summers that caused the trouble, bringing famine to western Europe as rains washed out the corn crops. The calamity was subsequently buried by the even bigger one of the Black Death that struck mid-century, but the crisis of the early fourteenth century saw perhaps a tenth of England’s population perish from starvation.

Historians have studied the economy and demography of these years, but have been less interested in the cultural consequences. How were the unseasonal seasons interpreted? Were they tribulations visited on sinners? Did they get tangled up in apocalyptic thought, construed as signs of the end of the world? Or were they – as some began to argue – natural phenomena that arose from a malign conjunction of planets. Chroniclers and sermon writers reveal the contours of some explanations, but early ‘weather forecasters’ – scholar-churchmen who thought they could detect in the motions of the heavens explanations for inclement conditions – suggest others. All of these ideas were canvassed, and the current project is leading me to examine them.

There are other questions too. Whatever unstable seasons meant to medieval people, they also had to be managed. In the later Middle Ages there was interest in trying to do this. There is evidence, for example, of the use of weather ‘prognostics’ to get a sense of things to come. These worked in varied ways. Some assumed that the elements on each of the twelve days of Christmas would reveal the character of corresponding months, or that the month of the year in which thunder was first heard

(a prognostic known as a ‘brontology’) would make it possible to gauge the likely harvest. More sophisticated predictions used astrology to the same effect, giving rise to texts that look a bit like almanacs. So even as the idealised orderliness of the seasons was celebrated, we find evidence of men and women grappling with seasons that (perhaps increasingly) went awry.

So just before we become too wistful about a past in which man lived life in harmony with the seasons, the hard world of the fourteenth century supplies a reality check. For the late medieval record supplies not only bucolic portrayals of labour and leisure, it brings out too the hard realities of lives lived in the grip of a nature that was volatile and often brutal – and the ways in which human beings, as a result, seized on predictive ‘sciences’ that, they hoped, would insulate them from its dangerous vagaries.



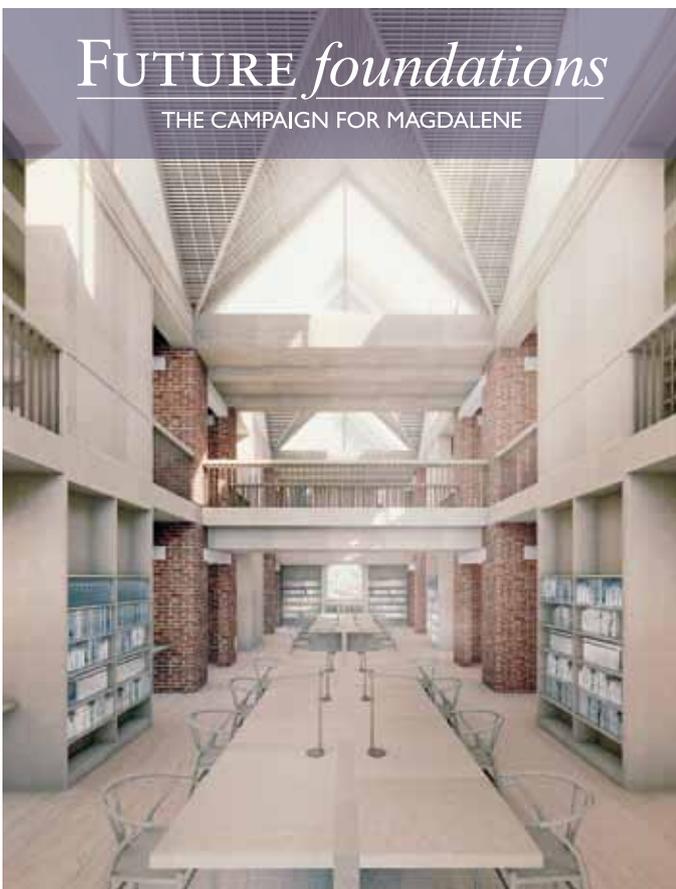
**DR CARL WATKINS** is a Magdalene Fellow and Director of Studies in History. He is the University Senior Lecturer in Central Medieval History and was awarded a Pilkington Prize by the University as an acknowledgement of his outstanding contribution to teaching. He carries out research into religious culture in the central and later middle ages and is especially interested in beliefs about, and conceptualisations of the supernatural in this period. His work encompasses the methodological problems of studying medieval religion, ‘high’ theological change and ‘popular’ beliefs about the afterlife, ghosts, angels and demons, miracles and divine signs.

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# FUTURE FOUNDATIONS

## THE CAMPAIGN FOR MAGDALENE

'Future Foundations – The Campaign for Magdalene' is an ambitious five year endeavour aiming to raise £25 million to secure undergraduate bursaries, support graduate students and early career Fellows, build a new College Library and restore the iconic Pepys Building.



### THE CAMPAIGN IN NUMBERS: £25,000,000 OVER FIVE YEARS

**£2,500,000** for undergraduate bursaries and scholarships

**£2,500,000** for graduate student support, including re-endowing the Mandela Scholarships and creating an extra Junior Research Fellowship

**£1,000,000** to help us to continue to improve the fabric of the College Estate

**£15,000,000** for the new library building

**£2,000,000** for phase II, the restoration and reconfiguration of the Pepys Building

**£2,000,000** to endow the future running costs of both buildings

The College has thrived on the generosity of supporters over the centuries and more Members and Friends are contributing to the College today than ever before. We now want to enrich our estate to ensure that our students have the best possible facilities to succeed. The College's commitment to academic excellence includes the provision of financial support, the best possible teaching and pastoral care, and building a new library. This will offer both spacious work areas with excellent IT facilities and the creation of a social hub for students, Fellows and visitors alike. We are also committed to conserving our historic estate and restoring the Pepys Building once the new, state-of-the-art library has been built.

We have already secured pledges and gifts for more than £10,000,000 for the new building. We have now gone 'public' with a number of launch events and are looking to the entire Magdalene community to take part in our most ambitious fundraising campaign to date.

Every gift, large and small, will make a difference to the success of this undertaking – a gift of just £13.34 per month (with Gift Aid) over five years will add up to £1,000! Everyone contributing at that level will have their name listed in the new building regardless of the designation of the donation.

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*We believe the Campaign is vital to secure the future foundations for Magdalene and invite you to take part! Please contact the Alumni & Development office at [development@magd.cam.ac.uk](mailto:development@magd.cam.ac.uk) for further information.*

## FORBES 30 UNDER 30: *Christina Karapataki*



**CHRISTINA KARAPATAKI (2006)** has been named in the 2017 Forbes 30 Under 30. The 30 Under 30 details today's leading young change-makers and innovators. Now in its sixth year, the 30 Under 30 embraces optimism, inventiveness and entrepreneurship.

Christina is a Venture Principal in the Early Stage Technology Investments

group at Schlumberger Technology Corporation. In this role she works closely with Schlumberger Business Units and Engineering Centers to assess joint development opportunities and lead investment evaluations. She specialises in early stage investments in energy, advanced materials, industrial software solutions and sustainability technologies.

Prior to her current role, Christina worked for ExxonMobil Gas & Power Marketing in both the European and North American offices, and gained venture experience evaluating oil and gas technology investments with Venrock Management LLC in 2011. She was also a Business Development Associate for Oscomp Systems, a start-up company developing natural gas compression systems.

Christina's background is in Chemical Engineering with BA and MEng degrees from the University of Cambridge. She is a graduate from MIT, with an SM degree in Energy Technology and Policy, where her research at the MIT Energy Initiative focused on evaluating water management technologies for shale gas production operations.

Christina serves on the board of directors of Wirescan AS and as a board observer for 908 Devices Inc. and Parsable Inc. She is an advisor on the National Venture Capital Association Corporate Venture Group Advisory Board and serves on the Emerging Leaders Committee for the Petroleum Equipment and Services Association. In 2016 she was recognised by the Global Corporate Venturing awards.

## *JCR Update* BY ALICIA PASIECZNIK (2015), JCR PRESIDENT



The new JCR Committee have worked hard to follow on from the last committee and put student life at the heart of the College.

We hosted the first ever Magdalene-Magdalen Sports Day with our sister College in Oxford, over 100 players travelled from Oxford to Cambridge to partake in rugby, football, hockey and netball matches. This was a great success and Magdalen Oxford will be hosting us next year.

Our new Green and Charities Officer, Heather Rigby, has had a busy Term, securing 'Meat Free Tuesdays' until the end of next Term. The JCR's charities for this year are Jimmy's Night Shelter,

Teenage Cancer Trust, and Against Malaria Foundation. We supported Sustainable Food Month, which included an Environm-ENT: Film & Food night and food donations to 'Cambridge Food Cycle'.

Access for all is something the Committee feel passionate about, Jools Pape the JCR Access Officer has worked alongside the Admissions Office to organise events and school visits. The most recent was the Everton Outreach Programme, where the Access Subcommittee travelled to Goodison Park to host over 400 15 and 16 year old state school pupils, disassembling myths as well as giving an accurate impression of what it is like to live, socialise, and study here.

We celebrated International Women's Day to mark the contribution women

have made to the College and to the wider world. With this year's JCR committee being over 50% women, we feel that it is important that the College recognises feminism as a core value. Exam Term has slowly crept up on us, the Welfare team has various stress relieving events planned such as welfare drop-ins, coffee and cake sessions and 'puppy therapy'.

The Musical Society performed 'Anything Goes!', which proved to be highly successful, and the Boat Club had many victories at the Lent Bumps. We are all looking forward to the May Ball, which looks to be a fantastic night and with the recent launch of the Future Foundations Campaign, we look forward to the work starting on the new library which will be of great use to future students.

# Forthcoming EVENTS

**3 JUNE 2017**

Buckingham Society Luncheon

**2 JULY 2017**

Family Day

**5 JULY 2017**

MiC/MLA Summer Drinks Party

**1 SEPTEMBER 2017**

Magdalene Dinner in Hong Kong

**8 SEPTEMBER 2017**

Magdalene Dinner in Singapore

**13 OCTOBER 2017**

Magdalene Dinner at the  
Oxford & Cambridge Club

**27 OCTOBER 2017**

Annual Donors' Event in London

**3 NOVEMBER 2017**

Magdalene Dinner in New York

**4 NOVEMBER 2017**

Magdalene Dinner in Washington DC

**9 NOVEMBER 2017**

Magdalene Dinner in San Francisco

**10 NOVEMBER 2017**

Magdalene event in Seattle

**17 NOVEMBER 2017**

Master's Campaign Dinner in College

**25 NOVEMBER 2017**

Magdalene Dinner in Geneva

**1 DECEMBER 2017**

Annual Choir Carol Concert, London

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*Additional events may be added, please check [www.magdalenecambridge.com/events](http://www.magdalenecambridge.com/events) and look out for updated listings in Magdalene E-Matters. Please email [events@magd.cam.ac.uk](mailto:events@magd.cam.ac.uk) to register your interest in any of the above events.*



## MAGDALENE FAMILY DAY 2017

We look forward to welcoming many of our Members and their families back to College for the traditional Family Day in the Fellows' Garden on Sunday 2 July, from 2.00pm to 5.00pm. In addition to the BBQ there will be the usual range of entertainment provided for adults and children alike, including a band, face painting, games and much more. Further details of the event to follow.

## Non-resident Members' Guest Nights 2017-2018

14 October 2017	:	These evenings are hosted by a group of
4 November 2017	:	Fellows and include pre-dinner drinks. They
27 January 2018	:	offer Members the opportunity of bringing
10 March 2018	:	one guest to dine at High Table. Please
26 May 2018	:	note that numbers of NRMs are limited to
13 October 2018	:	a maximum of ten at any one night. Please
16 November 2018	:	book via the Alumni & Development office.

## REUNIONS

### Reunions in 2017

**FRIDAY 15 SEPTEMBER**  
Dinner for those who  
matriculated in 1986-1988

**FRIDAY 22 SEPTEMBER:**  
Dinner for those who  
matriculated in 1989-1991

### Reunions in 2018

**FRIDAY 13 APRIL**  
Dinner for those who  
matriculated in 1992-1994

**SATURDAY 5 MAY**  
Lunch for those who  
matriculated in 1958-1964

**FRIDAY 14 SEPTEMBER**  
Dinner for those who  
matriculated in 1995-1997

**FRIDAY 21 SEPTEMBER**  
Dinner for those who  
matriculated in 1998-2000

Reunion invitations will be sent out 3 months in advance. The programme usually begins at 4.30pm with tea and coffee in the Senior Combination Room. Pre-dinner drinks will be served in the Cripps Gallery or Pepys Cloisters at 7.15pm, with dinner being served in Hall from 8pm. There will be an opportunity to visit the Pepys Library before dinner and to attend Evensong in Chapel.

Those who matriculated in 2011 will be invited to take their MA in person or in absentia in 2018.