

# MAGDALENE COLLEGE MAGAZINE



No 62

2017–18

# MAGDALENE COLLEGE

## The Fellowship, October 2018

### THE GOVERNING BODY

- 2013 MASTER: The Rt Revd & Rt Hon the Lord Williams of Oystermouth, PC, DD,  
Hon DCL (Oxford), FBA
- 1987 PRESIDENT: M E J Hughes, MA, PhD, *Pepys Librarian, Director of Studies  
and University Affiliated Lecturer in English*
- 1981 M A Carpenter, ScD, *Professor of Mineralogy and Mineral Physics*
- 1984 H A Chase, ScD, FREng, *Director of Studies in Chemical Engineering and  
Emeritus Professor of Biochemical Engineering*
- 1984 J R Patterson, MA, PhD, *Praelector, Director of Studies in Classics and USL  
in Ancient History*
- 1989 T Spencer, MA, PhD, *Director of Studies in Geography and Professor of Coastal Dynamics*
- 1990 B J Burchell, MA, and PhD (Warwick), *Tutor, Joint Director of Studies in Human,  
Social and Political Science and Reader in Sociology*
- 1990 S Martin, MA, PhD, *Senior Tutor, Admissions Tutor (Undergraduates), Director of  
Studies and University Affiliated Lecturer in Mathematics*
- 1992 K Patel, MA, MSc and PhD (Essex), *Director of Studies in Economics & in Land  
Economy and UL in Property Finance*
- 1993 T N Harper, MA, PhD, *College Lecturer in History and Professor of Southeast Asian  
History (1990: Research Fellow)*
- 1994 N G Jones, MA, LL.M, PhD, *Dean, Director of Studies in Law and Reader in English  
Legal History*
- 1995 H Babinsky, MA and PhD (Cranfield), *College Lecturer in Engineering and  
Professor of Aerodynamics*
- 1996 P Dupree, MA, PhD, *Tutor for Graduate Students, Joint Director of Studies in  
Natural Sciences and Professor of Biochemistry*
- 1998 S K F Stoddart, MA, PhD, *Director of Studies in Archaeology & Anthropology (HSPS)  
and Reader in Prehistory (1986: Research Fellow)*
- 2000 T A Coombs, MA, PhD, *Joint Director of Studies and USL in Engineering*
- 2001 H Azérad, MA, PhD, *Joint Director of Studies in MML and University Senior  
Language Teaching Officer in French*
- 2003 A L Hadida, MA, PhD, *Director of Studies and USL in Management Studies*
- 2004 C S Watkins, MA, MPhil, PhD, *Tutor, College Lecturer and Reader in History  
(1998: Research Fellow)*
- 2004 A L Du Bois-Pedain, MJur (Oxford), Dr Jur (Humboldt, Berlin), *Director of Studies  
for the LL.M & MCL and Reader in Law*
- 2005 S C Mentchen, MA, *Tutor, Joint Director of Studies in MML and University Senior  
Language Teaching Officer in German*
- 2007 S J Morris, BA (Newcastle), *Senior Bursar & Steward*
- 2007 R M Burnstein, MB, BS (Sydney), PhD, *Assistant Tutor for Graduate Students,  
Director of Studies in Clinical Medicine*
- 2008 G P Pearce, BVSc (Bristol), MA, PhD (Leeds), *Director of Studies in Veterinary  
Medicine and USL in Farm Animal Health and Production*
- 2009 C Brassett, MA, MChir, *Tutor, College Lecturer in Medical Sciences and University  
Clinical Anatomist*
- 2010 M J Waithe, PhD (London), *College Librarian, College Lecturer and USL in English*
- 2010 C D Lloyd, MA (Kent), *Development Director*

- 2010 R L Roebuck, BA, MEng, PhD, *Joint Director of Studies in Engineering and University Senior Design Engineer (Teaching)*
- 2010 A K Bennison, BA, AM (Harvard) and PhD (London), *Admissions Tutor (Graduates), Director of Studies in Asian and Middle Eastern Studies and Professor in the History and Culture of the Maghrib*
- 2011 L C Skinner, BSc, MPhil, PhD, *Joint Director of Studies in Natural Sciences and UL in Earth Sciences*
- 2012 E K M So, MA, PhD, *Admissions Tutor (Recruitment), Director of Studies and USL in Architecture*
- 2012 A J W Thom, MA, MSci, PhD, *Joint Director of Studies in Natural Sciences and UL in Chemistry*
- 2014 W Khaled, MSc (London), PhD, *College Lecturer in Natural Sciences and UL in Pharmacology*
- 2014 A Ercole, MA, MB, BChir, PhD, *College Lecturer in Clinical Medicine*
- 2014 A Spectre, PhD (Hong Kong), *Director of Studies in Psychological and Behavioural Sciences and UL in Psychology*
- 2015 T Euser, MSc, PhD, *Joint Director of Studies in Natural Sciences and UL in Applied Physics*
- 2015 J M Munns, MA, MPhil, PhD, FSA, *Tutor and Admissions Tutor (Undergraduates), Director of Studies and University Affiliated Lecturer in History of Art*
- 2015 E J Howell, LL.M, DPhil, *College Lecturer in Law and UL in Corporate Law*
- 2016 S A Bacallado, BSc, PhD, *College Lecturer in Pure Mathematics and Mathematical Statistics and UL in the Statistical Laboratory*
- 2017 S Dubow, DPhil, *Smuts Professor of Commonwealth History*
- 2017 S J Eglan, BSc (Nottingham), DPhil (Sussex), *College Lecturer in Applied Mathematics and Reader in Computational Science*
- 2017 F Livesey, PhD, *College Lecturer in HPS (Politics) and UL in Public Policy*
- 2017 N Carroll, MA, MB, BChir, *College Lecturer in Medical Science and Consultant Radiologist in the Department of Gastroenterology*
- 2018 J Orr, MEng, *College Lecturer in Engineering and UL in Concrete Structures*
- 2018 S Atkins, MA, *Chaplain*
- 2018 P Lane, MA, PhD, *Professor of African Archaeology*

#### EMERITUS FELLOWS

- 1960 P J Grubb, ScD, *Emeritus Professor of Investigative Plant Ecology*
- 1962 R Hyam, LittD, *Emeritus Reader in British Imperial History; Archivist Emeritus*
- 1964 P E Reynolds, ScD
- 1964 J E Field, OBE, PhD, FRS, *Emeritus Professor of Applied Physics*
- 1968 His Honour C F Kolbert, MA, PhD
- 1968 N Boyle, LittD, FBA, *Emeritus Schröder Professor of German*
- 1971 R J S Spence, MA, PhD, *Emeritus Professor of Architectural Engineering*
- 1978 R Lockett, MA, PhD, *formerly Pepys Librarian*
- 1979 E Duffy, KSG, DD, FBA, FSA, *Emeritus Professor of the History of Christianity*
- 1984 N Rushton, MD, *Emeritus Professor of Orthopaedics*

#### LIFE FELLOWS

- 1985 J D Lewins, MA, PhD, DSc (Eng) (London)
- 1990 W R Cornish, CMG, QC, LL.D, FBA, *Emeritus Herchel Smith Professor of Intellectual Property Law*

- 1996 T H Clutton-Brock, ScD, FRS, *Emeritus Prince Philip Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology*
- 2000 M Hughes, MB, BChir, PhD
- 2001 A R Thompson, MBE, MA, MPhil
- 2001 S Halper, BA (Stanford), PhD
- 2004 E H Cooper, LittD, FBA, *Emeritus Professor of Medieval and Renaissance English*
- 2008 T A J Cockerill, BA, MPhil (Leeds), PhD (Manchester)
- 2014 E Rothschild, CMG, MA, *Honorary Professor of History*

#### RESEARCH FELLOWS

- 2010 P M Steele, BA, MPhil, PhD, *Lumley Senior Research Fellow in Classics*
- 2012 J R Raven, LittD, *Senior Research Fellow in History (1990: Fellow)*
- 2015 S Caddy, PhD, *Nevile Research Fellow in Molecular Biology*
- 2016 R L Z Hoyer, PhD, *Nevile Research Fellow in Materials Science*
- 2016 J Hone, MA (Exeter), DPhil (Oxford), *Lumley Research Fellow in English*
- 2016 F C Exeler, PhD, *Mellon Research Fellow in History*
- 2017 A Neumann, MA, PhD (London), *Senior Research Fellow in German*
- 2017 A P Coutts, MSc, PhD, *Senior Research Fellow in Sociology, Social Policy & Public Health*
- 2017 O F R Haardt, MPhil, *Lumley Research Fellow in History*
- 2017 P A Haas, PhD, *Nevile Research Fellow in Mathematics*
- 2018 C Connolly, MA, PhD (Wales), *Parnell Visiting Fellow*
- 2018 J Jarrett, MA, MPhil, PhD, *Lumley Research Fellow in English*
- 2018 A Gregory, MA, MEng, *Nevile Research Fellow in Engineering*

#### BYE-FELLOWS

- 2017 J Woodall, MA (Oxon), *Royal Literary Fund Teaching Bye-Fellow*
- 2018 L Masuda-Nakagawa, PhD (Tokio), *Teaching Bye-Fellow in Neurobiology*
- 2018 F Scheury, MA (Clermond-Ferrand), *Teaching-Bye Fellow in Portuguese*
- 2018 F Riche, MA, MRes, MEng, *Stothert Bye-Fellow in Engineering*
- 2018 B Nxumalo, MA (Pretoria), *Donaldson Bye-Fellow in Anthropology*

#### FELLOW-COMMONERS

- 1989 T G M Keall, MA
- 1990 R L Skelton, MA
- 1997 A I J Valluy-Fitzsimons, Diplôme de l'ISIT (Paris)
- 2002 J J Hellyer Jones, MA, FRCO, *Honorary Assistant Organist*
- 2010 B Fried, MBA (Pennsylvania)
- 2011 N Raymont, BSc (Econ)
- 2011 M R W Rands, BSc, DPhil
- 2012 P J Marsh, MPhil, *Alumni Secretary*
- 2014 R V Chartener, AB (Princeton), MPhil, MBA (Harvard), *Chairman of the Magdalene Foundation*
- 2014 C H Foord, *Assistant Bursar*
- 2015 A Ritchie, QC, MA, *College Advocate*
- 2015 C V S Pike, MSc, PhD, *Joint Director of Studies in Natural Sciences*
- 2016 G H Walker, BA, *Director of Music & Precentor*
- 2017 M C Skott, PhD, *Director of Studies in History and Politics*
- 2017 H Crichlow, PhD, *Outreach Fellow*

## HONORARY FELLOWS

|      |   |
|------|---|
| 1984 | HRH the Duke of Gloucester, KG, GCVO, MA                              |
| 1984 | Professor Sir John Boardman, MA, FBA, Hon RA                          |
| 1987 | The Rt Revd S Barrington-Ward, KCMG, MA                               |
| 1992 | Professor Sir David Hopwood, MA, PhD, and DSc (Glasgow), FRS          |
| 1996 | A B Gascoigne, CBE, MA, FRSL  |
| 1997 | Professor H H Vendlar, AB, PhD (Harvard), Hon LittD                   |
| 1998 | H R L Lumley, MA  |
| 1999 | J C F-Simpson, CBE, MA, FRGS  |
| 2001 | Sir Colin Corness, MA   |
| 2001 | Professor Sir Richard Jolly, KCMG, MA, and PhD (Yale)                 |
| 2002 | Professor Sir John Gurdon, PhD, Hon ScD, Hon DSc (Oxford), FRS        |
| 2005 | D J H Murphy, MA, <i>Bursar Emeritus</i>                              |
| 2005 | Professor Sir David C Clary, ScD, FRS                                 |
| 2005 | Sir John Tooley, MA   |
| 2005 | Lord Malloch-Brown, MA, KCMG  |
| 2005 | R W H Cripps  |
| 2008 | The Rt Hon Lord (Igor) Judge, Kt, PC, MA, Hon LLD                     |
| 2009 | His Excellency Judge Sir Christopher Greenwood, GBE, CMG, QC, MA, LLB |
| 2009 | The Rt Hon Sir Andrew Morritt, PC, CVO, MA                            |
| 2009 | R H Vignoles, BA, BMus, ARCM  |
| 2009 | The Hon Wong Yan-lung, SC, MA, JP                                     |
| 2012 | Khoo Hong Kuok, BA (Singapore), <i>Pepys Benefactor Fellow</i>        |
| 2012 | D D Robinson, CBE, MA, and MA (Yale), FSA                             |
| 2015 | Professor S M Springman, CBE, PhD, FREng                              |
| 2015 | C I von Christierson, B Com (Rhodes), MA                              |
| 2015 | HRH, Sultan Nazrin Shah, BA (Oxford), PhD (Harvard)                   |
| 2015 | L L Cardozo-Kindersley, MBE   |
| 2015 | Dame C A Duffy, DBE, BA (Liverpool)                                   |
| 2018 | A Tennent, BA, MIB  |
| 2018 | T J D Cripps, BA, MBA   |

## HONORARY MEMBERS

|      |                           |      |                      |
|------|---------------------------|------|----------------------|
| 1999 | Anthony Bloom             | 2003 | Dr Helen Lee         |
| 1999 | Dr Beverly Sackler        | 2003 | Jack Vettriano       |
| 1999 | Michael Stone             | 2007 | Dato Isa Bin Ibrahim |
| 1999 | Sir Anthony O'Reilly      | 2009 | Colin Day            |
| 1999 | Lady O'Reilly             | 2010 | Margaret Higgs       |
| 2000 | Thomas Monaghan           | 2011 | Lady Braybrooke      |
| 2000 | Christopher Smart         | 2011 | Les Murray           |
| 2003 | Claire Tomalin, Hon LittD | 2015 | Allen Zimble         |



*The Master's Garden from the Old Library*



*George Mallory by Andrew Ruddell, Fellows' Butler, 2017*  
(Photo: Matt Moon)

# MAGDALENE COLLEGE MAGAZINE

NEW SERIES No 62: 2017–18

## CONTENTS

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| <b>Editorial</b>  | 8   |
| <b>From the Master</b>  | 9   |
| <b>The College Record</b>   |     |
| I Fellowship Elections  | 12  |
| II The Master and Fellows   | 18  |
| III Academic Reports  | 25  |
| IV Student Activities: Societies, Clubs, and Sports   | 29  |
| V Libraries   | 35  |
| VI Chapel and Choir   | 40  |
| VII Gardens   | 42  |
| VIII College Staff  | 45  |
| IX Events and Commemorations  | 46  |
| X Alumni and Development  | 49  |
| <b>Magazine articles</b>  |     |
| The unlikely hero of Everest: the other side of George Mallory: <i>R Hyam</i>   | 60  |
| ‘Good discourse among the old men – of Islands now and then rising<br>and falling again in the sea’: Samuel Pepys and Fantastical Islands:<br><i>M E J Hughes</i> | 68  |
| ‘Stuck in Reverse’: the disappearing Suffolk coast: <i>T Spencer and<br/>    Susan Brooks</i>   | 78  |
| Return to Vahalla: The portrait of Professor William Farish by<br>Henry Perronet Briggs: <i>J M Munns</i>   | 85  |
| Natural Disasters: <i>E K M So</i>  | 94  |
| <b>Book review</b>  |     |
| Hannah Critchlow: <i>Consciousness</i> (2017) by R D Williams   | 101 |

---

This issue is edited by Professor Rushton, assisted by Mrs Fitzsimons,  
Jo Hornsby, and Louise Foster.

---

## EDITORIAL

This issue of the *Magazine* contains an increased number of fascinating articles on a wide variety of topics. I am grateful to the Fellows who, for the most part, volunteered willingly to provide the material in good time.

Magdalene has many traditions. One of the most endearing is to fête Fellows who have either been in post for fifty years or have reached the age of eighty (not both). Recently a surprisingly young Professor Boyle celebrated five decades as a Fellow. He entertained the other guests with a fine speech part of which is published on pp 20-23.

Unusually this year we are not able to know how well our students have performed in comparison with other colleges. This is not because of protection of the sensibilities of the colleges or the students but because of the new Data Protection Act. No longer are nervous students to be seen at the Senate House notice boards anxiously searching for their results, as to display them would be a breach of the new rules. The unavailability of the data makes the calculation of Tompkins or Baxter tables impossible. Some might argue that this is a relief and a couple of decades ago Magdalene could have welcomed lack of comparison. However, the tables provided a yardstick whereby we could have an idea how well we were doing and this, though sometimes painful, is now lost.

We have been aware for many years that we have a duty of care to protect personal data. We will continue to be responsible and compliant. The Development Office keeps the master list of Members and supplies names and addresses of non-residents to our printer so that copies of the *Magazine* can be posted. We have been assured by the printer that this data is not used for any other purpose.

The FUTURE *foundations* campaign continues to be hugely successful and is, of course, inextricably entwined with the building of our new, modern library. Importantly it will support student bursaries and other beneficial funds within the College. Work is due to start on the library very soon and will be both disruptive and extensive but when it is finished, and the grass has grown back, we will have a magnificent workspace that will stand comfortably between the Master's Lodge and the Pepys Library; it is designed to last for centuries.

The generosity of the donors to the College never ceases to amaze. Both the value of the gifts and the diversity of the donors indicate the fondness that exists for Magdalene. The contributions made by Members in taking on time consuming roles are essential and greatly appreciated.

It would not be possible for me to complete this work without the dedicated help of Aude Valluy-Fitzsimons (Deputy Editor). Jo Hornsby and Louise Foster have laboured to obtain items of news from the whole College in a polite, cheerful yet determined fashion.

N R

## FROM THE MASTER

The headline news is that we shall begin work on the new Library Building in September. The response to our *FUTURE foundations* campaign has been, even by recent Magdalene standards, astonishingly generous, with old friends and new contributing with every sign of enthusiasm. The result is that at the time of writing we have raised over £18 million, and are confident that we shall meet our target well within the time we planned. We continue to share regular progress reports with our alumni, students and Fellows; and, apart from some understandable grumbling at the necessity of scaling down next year's May Ball to an event rather more modest than usual, given the constraints of the building works, there seems to be a fair head of enthusiasm. Funding continues to come in for student support, as necessary as ever, and – as reported in these pages last year – the plan to create a Professorial Chair in African Archaeology based at Magdalene in memory of Nelson Mandela has borne fruit. We shall be welcoming Professor Paul Lane as the first holder of the Jennifer Oppenheimer Chair, and continue to work at extending our reach in Africa (the Derek Cooper scholarships endowed by Standard Bank in Africa have attracted a fine quality of applicants and we look forward to two successful Nigerian candidates joining us).

But questions about domestic access have been very much in everyone's minds, thanks to a good deal of comment (not always well-informed) in the media. Despite the considerable increase in state school admissions in recent years and a University-wide focus on admitting more British students from minority ethnic backgrounds, there are still sensational stories about a supposed continuing bias against less well-advantaged applicants. The truth is that every Cambridge college devotes a very great amount of time, resource, and energy to persuading candidates from 'non-traditional' backgrounds that Cambridge is for them. If progress is not as dramatic as some would like it to be, that is partly because under-representation has many causes, most of them not under our control.

We are very much aware of the conundrum posed by the situation of a candidate with obvious intellectual promise and capacity who just misses an offer, or who is discouraged by family or school or circumstances in general from even applying, a candidate whose situation means that their hopes and expectations are not nurtured as they should be or who are likely to do rather less well than someone from an environment more used to Oxbridge applications. Many of you will have noted the initiative announced by our new Vice-Chancellor to provide the opportunity of a period of 'transition' study to address some of these matters. This will need careful planning and a lot of new funding, but we hope that it will give the clear message that we want to do all we can for fairness and diversity. Magdalene is committed to supporting these

plans as they mature; and meanwhile our outreach in Merseyside and North Wales continues, with much success. One of the most positive events in this connection was a session organised jointly with Churchill College at which the Education Secretary of the Welsh Assembly spoke in the Cripps Auditorium about issues affecting schools in Wales to a very lively and engaged group of Welsh undergraduates from across the University. As always, and as these pages have so often stressed, our undergraduates are our best ambassadors, and we were able to discuss ideas for still more direct involvement in our target area in North Wales. And meanwhile, we continue to be hugely grateful to all our (many) alumni who so readily support our various initiatives to lessen the financial burden on students and to enable us to make the credible claim that no-one will be prevented by financial challenge or hardship from joining our student community.

But outside pressure on the Higher Education world continues to increase, with a regulatory framework that shows little sympathy with the actual constraints of university life, and a continuing obsession with quantifying output and impact in ways that are adversely affecting the morale of the academic profession. This spring's strike action by university teachers, a highly unusual step, certainly not lightly taken by those involved, illustrated rather dramatically the sense of being in every way undervalued as a profession. Cambridge is shielded from some of the worst of the new climate in HE, and the stories of bullying and unjust treatment of experienced scholars that one hears occasionally from other universities are thankfully rare here. But it can't be denied that the messages coming from government and often media as well do not exactly suggest that Britain's universities are seen as a great national asset.

Which is why it is all the more welcome when some of our own make their mark as effective and popular communicators. Dr Hannah Critchlow, our Outreach Fellow for the sciences, has already made a stellar reputation in this way, and her new book on consciousness (reviewed pp 101-103) was launched at the Hay Book Festival this May at an event attended by about 1500 people – including a significant body of alumni, who had been invited to the launch and to a reception afterwards. This cheerful occasion (the sun made a brief appearance through the traditional Hay downpours) gave me the selfish pleasure of introducing a number of Magdalene men and women to the glories of the Hay Festival for the first time. Hannah is not unique in being able to share her research with panache and lucidity with a wide audience; but it is very satisfying to know that our College's name is associated with the work of serious popular education and the creation of a literate and critical public.

Academic results this year are a bit harder to analyse than usual, as new regulations about information-sharing have now come into force. But a rough and ready survey of what we do know at the time of writing assures us that once

again we have over 90% of our finalists leaving with a First or Upper Second. The first and second years are showing fewer Firsts, but also very few II.2s and practically no Thirds. As usual, a quite strong showing in Maths and Engineering, some excellent results in MML – and, blowing my tribal trumpet, some very satisfying Firsts in Theology! The academic level of the College is, in other words, keeping well up to scratch, and this is a continuing credit to our Tutorial team and to a large body of dedicated Directors of Studies and supervisors; warmest thanks to them all.

Some statistics are a little more public. This year on the river – as you will read elsewhere in these pages – produced some spectacular successes, above all the historic ‘quadruple overbump’ (no, I didn’t know what that was either when I first heard) achieved by M4, captained by the Chaplain, Nick Widdows, whose spiritual and physical encouragement to a boat of somewhat untypical rowers brought a unique flavour to this year’s events. Nick’s departure to a parish in Cornwall is universally lamented; he has not only more than tripled the size of the Chapel congregation, but has been a friend and support in every aspect and at every level of College life, accessible, unobtrusively and imaginatively kind, quietly inspiring. It is not easy to say how much he will be missed, and we wish him and Claire and the children all good things in St Ives.

Barry Holman’s retirement after seventeen years as Clerk of Works (taking up new responsibilities as a caretaker at his local primary school) also marks a significant loss to our community life. Barry’s ready response to needs, in season and out, his warmth and wit and obvious dedication to Magdalene have been a really important element in College, and he leaves with much gratitude and affection on all sides.

Staff and administrative changes and the personal stress this can bring, pressures on academics, the continuing national uncertainty about the future of our international relations – all this reminds us that Magdalene is not exempt from the wintry environment gripping so many of our institutions and our public debates. We are still living in a sort of limbo, where major national challenges all take second place to the ever more tangled question of our exit from the EU, and there is a really dangerous sense of treading water in many crucial areas – health, housing, welfare, transport and so on. What lies ahead in the next year is even less predictable than usual, and it is hard to know just how we best prepare for the range of possible challenges. But what we can do – and what we know how to do here – is to continue to hold together the ideals of education and common life, the building of a solid and supportive community here and an intelligent, compassionate global perspective. I know that our current students and our alumni alike will expect nothing less from us. Thank you to all, here in Cambridge and more widely, who help us work and plan for this.

R D W

# THE COLLEGE RECORD

## I FELLOWSHIP ELECTIONS

### Official Fellows



JOHN ORR has been elected to an Official Fellowship from June 2018. He is an EPSRC Early Career Fellow and University Lecturer in Concrete Structures. He graduated in Civil Engineering from the University of Bath in 2009 and completed a PhD 'Flexible Formwork for Concrete Structures' in 2012. He became a lecturer in 2013 before moving to the University of Cambridge in 2017. John's research has its focus in minimising embodied energy and improving construction productivity. He works primarily in concrete structures, creating new methods for analysis, optimisation, and automation of their construction. He leads several interlinked research projects. To ensure optimisation is undertaken in a reliable manner, John leads EP/M020908/1 (£1.1M) a five-year project to develop 'peridynamics' as a mesh-free analysis method for reinforced concrete. He also leads WP3 'Construction Solutions' in the EPSRC project 'Healthy Housing for the Displaced' (EP/P029175/1 £1.6M) which has the fundamental aim of creating a new science of shelter design for the 1 billion displaced people on our planet.



SARAH ATKINS has been elected to an Official Fellowship from September 2018. She remembers picking pears in the Fellows' garden in 2002 when she came up to Magdalene to read Theology. The pear tree is no more, but Sarah is more surprised than anyone that the fruit of her time as a student is that she should now serve as Chaplain (unless the illicit pear episode disqualifies her). She grew up in Dorset and on Dartmoor, attending village schools and a large comprehensive before coming to Cambridge. Work in schools, offices, and Ghanaian and Cambridgeshire churches led to ordination training at Ridley Hall and then a curacy at nearby Trumpington. She is married to Gareth, whom she met at Magdalene in the Chapel Choir, and they have two small children, Anna and Adam. She enjoys music, theology and the arts, gardening, and picnics in all weathers. But most of all she loves sharing life with others.



PAUL LANE, a Cambridge graduate, has been appointed as the inaugural Jennifer Ward Oppenheimer Professor of the Deep History and Archaeology of Africa at the University of Cambridge and elected as Mandela Magdalene Memorial Fellow from October 2018. Professor Lane was the Director of the British Institute in Eastern Africa, based in Nairobi, for eight years from 1998 to 2006, directed and coordinated the Historical Ecologies of East African Landscapes project at the University of York, and has been the Professor of Global Archaeology at Uppsala University since 2013. His main research interests are in the organisation and use of space and time in pre-industrial societies, the historical ecology of African landscapes, the archaeology of colonial encounters, cultural perceptions of place, the materialisation of memory, maritime archaeology, and the transition to farming in Africa.

### Parnell Fellow



CLAIRE CONNOLLY is the Parnell Visiting Fellow for 2018–19. She is Professor of Modern English at University College Cork, where she read English and History as an undergraduate. Her PhD, a study of the novels of Maria Edgeworth and Sydney Swenson (*Lady Morgan*) is from the University of Wales and she taught at Cardiff University for twenty years before returning to Ireland in 2012. During that time, she also spent a year as Visiting Associate Professor of Irish Studies at Boston College (2002–03) and a semester as O'Brien Professor at Concordia University in Montréal (2011). Her current research tracks the journeys of Irish authors between and across the islands and considers the shaping effect of travel on roads, rail, and sea on literature from Swift to Joyce. She reads widely, especially when she is supposed to be writing, and enjoys cooking, cycling, and walking.

### Research Fellows



JOE JARRETT has been elected to a Lumley Research Fellowship to continue his work on Renaissance literature and history. From 2009, he obtained undergraduate and graduate degrees at Christ's College, where he was elected to a Bye-Fellowship in 2017. More recently, he has been a Research Associate on a European Research Council-funded project entitled *Crossroads of Knowledge in Early Modern England: The Place of Literature*. An ever-aspiring polymath, Joe is fascinated by the intersections

between scientific and artistic cultures, and the relationship of literature to the history of mathematics. His first book will consider the influence mathematics might have exerted on the plays of Shakespeare and his contemporaries; his second one will be a biography of Thomas Harriot, early modern England's most brilliant yet undervalued mathematician. Other passions include jazz (he is a keen guitarist), walking, politics, and documentaries.



ALASTAIR GREGORY has been elected to a Nevile Research Fellowship. He studied engineering at Magdalene, at the end of which he completed a masters project on analogies between acoustic waves propagating in the presence of background flow and general relativity, for which he won the Morien Morgan Prize, the IMechE Project Prize, and the Royal Aeronautical Prize in Aeronautics. This marked the beginning of his interest in acoustics and fluid mechanics as a researcher, and for his PhD he moved into a more biomedical area, investigating the ways in which air interacts with the flexible airways of the lungs to produce wheezing sounds. He is currently broadening understanding of the mechanisms that underly various bodily sounds, including crackles, bowel sounds, and muscle sounds. The aim of this work is to make diagnoses based on these sounds more specific, reducing the need for more invasive and radioactive techniques. He loves singing, hiking, and sailing, and has built several wooden boats, including one in the Department of Engineering.

### Bye-Fellows



LIRIA M MASUDA-NAKAGAWA has been elected to a Teaching Bye-Fellowship. She is interested in how the nervous system converts the sensory world into neural signals for memory formation and retrieval. For this she uses the fruitfly *Drosophila melanogaster*, with a relatively simple nervous system, and powerful genetics. After obtaining a PhD in the University of Tokyo, she did a postdoctoral work in Basel in the late 1980s, working on molecular mechanisms in CNS regeneration in an invertebrate, the leech. She then worked on evolution of AP polarity of brain and bodyplan. Back in Japan she worked in Riken Brain Science Institute, where she developed her interests in olfactory coding. She was a lecturer in Tsukuba University where she laid the foundations of her current work on the mushroom bodies (memory centres) of *Drosophila*. In 2011 she moved to the Department of Genetics, University of Cambridge, funded by BBSRC grants as a Senior Research Associate. She has three children, enjoys walking, rowing, and gardening.



FELIPE SCHEURY has been elected to a Teaching Buy-Fellowship. He is a Senior Language Teaching Officer in Portuguese at the Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages. He graduated in Publishing from the Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro and worked as an editor in the Brazilian Publishing market from 2001 to 2008. In the same period, he was a singer, guitar player, and songwriter in a rock band, with appearances on MTV Brasil, and launched three singles and one album. He has a MA in Literature and Discourse

Analysis from Université Blaise-Pascal Clermond-Ferrand (France), where he was the Portuguese Leitor from the Instituto Camões during 2011/12. Interested in children's literature, he had his first book published in 2013: *Ralf & Demi – Uma história de duas metades*, listed as one of the 30 best books for children in 2014 by Revista Crescer (Brasil). Since 2013 in Cambridge, he has been working in outreach events to promote Portuguese language. He is currently interested in language varieties, and a pluricentric approach to language teaching.



FERGUS RICHE has been elected to a Stothert Bye-Fellowship. He is a PhD candidate in the biomechanics group at the Engineering Department. He first arrived at Magdalene in 2011 to pursue the undergraduate course in engineering, focussing on the application of engineering methods to the analysis and measurement of biological systems. After graduating, he remained in Cambridge to join the CamBridgeSens centre for doctoral training, where he is now engaged in research on

the mechanical aspects of embryogenesis for his PhD. His current work focusses on linking biological activity to changes in the mechanical properties of developing tissues. He is also active in the open-source scientific hardware community, where he collaborates with colleagues in a range of disciplines to design low-cost microscopes for applications ranging from biological imaging in Cambridge to water contamination testing in Tanzania. Outside of the lab, his interests include industrial design, art conservation, and twentieth-century British comedy.



BONGUMENZI NXUMALO has been elected to a Donaldson Bye-Fellowship. He was born and raised in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. He matriculated at Isipingo Secondary high school, later moved to Johannesburg where he obtained a BA in GIS and Geography and where he was first exposed to African archaeology. He became increasingly interested in the application of predictive models (geographical/GIS and remote sensing) to understand the human past; for

which he pursued postgraduate studies at the University of Pretoria. In 2013, he was awarded a studentship at Uppsala University, Sweden for a reading course and training in archaeological sciences. In 2015, he received his MA at the University of Pretoria and was awarded an Honours Hanisch Prize for top achievers by the Transvaal Archaeological Society of Southern Africa. In 2016, he was awarded a Cambridge Africa scholarship to conduct a PhD in Archaeology at Cambridge University. His doctoral research focuses on developing hydrological models to examine the societal demise of southern Africa's earliest state-society: Mapungubwe (1200–1300 AD) in the Shashe-Limpopo river basin, South Africa, and develops interdisciplinary conceptual and methodological frameworks in African archaeology. In addition to his academic activities, he spends his time playing or watching football (a loyal FC Sundowns, Liverpool, and Barcelona fan).

### Honorary Fellows



THOMAS J D CRIPPS is Founder and Managing Member of ET Capital Partners, Founder and Managing Member of Footyboots, LLC, Deputy Chairman of Velcro Industries Ltd, Director of Chartwell Industries, and Chairman of the Cripps Foundation. In 2009 he graduated *cum laude* from the Zicklin School of Business at Baruch College in the Full Time Honors MBA Program. Thomas has placed several investments in several early stage growth companies, and real estate opportunities across the US.

He is also building an innovative real estate development business and team in his home town of Austin, Texas. When he is not on a plane or in the office, he is spending time with his family. He thrives on adventure and uses endurance running as an outlet, having completed an ultra-marathon on all seven continents.



AMY TENNENT is the Chairman of VIL Ltd (the Velcro Companies), Executive-Vice President of Chartwell Industries Ltd, and a Director of Cripps Foundation and its various subsidiaries. In 1999, she graduated with a BA from the University of Melbourne (majoring in Political Science), and in 2003 was admitted to the degree of Master of International Business (MIB) at Swinburne University of Technology. In June 2015, Amy was appointed to the Executive Committee of the Trinity College Foundation (Melbourne), and more recently as

the patron of the Grimwade Centre for Cultural Materials Conservation at the University of Melbourne. In 2017, she was presented with the Monisaraphon Medal level Theb Din by the Royal Government of Cambodia in gratitude for

building the Neeson Cripps Academy in Steung Mean Chey commune, Phnom Penh. Whilst Amy's work schedule currently sees her circumnavigating the globe five times a year, her favourite time is spent at home in Melbourne, Australia with her husband (John), children (Harry, 10 and Frederick, 7), and two dogs (Scout and Baxter).

### Visiting Fellows

During 2017–18 we were pleased to have with us:

Professor Danny Wong, (Chinese Yip Fellow), Professor of History, who is Director of the Global Planning & Strategy Centre, and Director of the Institute of China Studies at the University of Malaya. His research interests include the history of Sabah, the Chinese in Malaysia, and China's relations with Southeast Asia

Professor Silvia Vignato who is Associate Professor in anthropology at the Università di Milan-Bicocca. Her research interest is on subjectivity as related to work/unemployment, gender and marginality, evolving structures of families and unattached children in Indonesia and Malaysia.

Professor Akinwumi Ogundiran (American Yip Fellow) who is Chair of the Africana Studies Department and Professor of Africana Studies, Anthropology & History at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte. His research interests focus broadly on emergent societies and social complexity in Yorubaland, Atlantic Africa, and the African Diaspora over the past 700 years.



*River Court in May (photo: Matt Moon)*

## II THE MASTER AND FELLOWS

The Master, among many activities, published *Holy Living: The Christian Tradition for Today* (Bloomsbury Continuum, 2017) and *Being Human: Bodies, Minds, Persons* (SPCK Publishing, 2018). In July 2017 he gave the Harold Wilson Lecture at Huddersfield University, the Leslie Newbigin Summer Institute Lecture on the theme of 'Leslie Newbigin and the Household of God' at Cripps Court, and the Inaugural Lecture for Biblical Studies at Westminster College; in September he gave a public lecture entitled 'Theology and Democracy: towards a new political understanding' at Radboud University, Holland; in December he attended the enthronement of John Davies, Bishop of Swansea and Brecon, as the Archbishop of Wales. In March 2018 he gave the Richard Chartres Lecture (a biennial lecture which focuses on the life of Samuel Pepys) at St Paul's School, London, and gave the keynote lecture as part of the Edinburgh International Festival of Middle Eastern Spirituality and Peace; in April he gave the Peyton Lectures at Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, California and the Newman Lecture entitled 'Some Modern Urban Saints – Madeleine Delbrel, Dorothy Day, Maria Skobtsova' at the University of East Anglia, and received an Honorary Degree from the University of Yale, USA; in May he lectured at Peterborough Cathedral on 'Peter Peckard and the abolitionist cause', and took part in several of the Hay Festival events, including a discussion on 'Landscape and Poetry' with Simon Armitage for BBC Radio 3, and on 'What is Consciousness' with Dr Critchlow; in June he spoke at the Primrose Hill lecture series on 'A Christian Response to the Refugee Crisis' and gave the keynote speech at Yale Liturgy Conference.

The President visited Bruges in May to check on the College's MS of Caxton which was on loan to the Groeningemuseum, and to attend a research meeting. She gave a talk on 'Pepys and Anatomy' at Dr Brassett's conference (see below).

Dr Hyam has retired after 55 years involvement with our Libraries and Archives and has been honoured with the title of Archivist Emeritus *ad hominem* by the Governing Body.

Professor Boyle has been awarded the Gold Medal by the International Goethe Society. He was given a special lunch in Hall by the Master and Fellows on 30 May to celebrate his 50th anniversary as Fellow (see pp 20-23).

Professor Duffy has published *Royal Books & Holy Bones* (Bloomsbury Continuum, 2018).

Dr Martin Hughes has published *Mediblack* (Amazon UK, 2017).

Dr Hadida has been awarded a 2018 University of Cambridge Pilkington Prize for Excellence in Teaching.

Dr Watkins has been promoted to a Readership in History.

Dr du Bois-Pedain has been promoted to a Readership in Law.

Dr Brassett was elected to the Council of the British Association of Clinical Anatomists and appointed an MRCS Examiner for the Royal College of Surgeons of England. She has published *The Secret Language of Anatomy* (Lotus Publishing, 2017) and gave a talk about it at the Hay Festival in May. She hosted the annual scientific meeting of the British Association of Clinical Anatomists in June.

Dr Waithe has published *Thinking through Style: Non-Fiction Prose of the Long Nineteenth Century* (Oxford University Press, 2018) with M D Hurley as co-editor, and *The Labour of Literature in Britain and France, 1830–1910: Authorial Work Ethics* (Palgrave, 2018) with C White as co-editor.

Dr So was a collaborator on the Anti-seismic house in Guangming which won the World Architectural Festival (WAF) World Building of the Year as well as the *Architectural Review* House Award.

Dr Khaled has been awarded a three-year grant from Breast Cancer Now to investigate unique protein-protein interactions in triple negative breast cancer (TNBC).

Mr Widdows has been appointed Vicar of St Ives with Halsetown, Cornwall, from September 2018 after three years as Chaplain.

Dr Livesey has published *From Global to Local the making of things and the end of Globalisation* (Profile Books, 2017).

Dr Steele has published *Understanding Relations between Scripts: The Aegean Writing Systems* (Oxbow Books, 2017).

Professor Raven has published *What is the History of the Book* (Polity Press, 2018).

Dr Hoye has received the Young Engineer of the Year Award from the Royal Academy of Engineering.

Dr Hone has published *Literature and Party Politics at the Accession of Queen Anne* (Oxford University Press, 2018).

Dr Coutts has been awarded a five-year grant with the Research Councils UK, Global Challenges Research Fund. The research aims to examine health and healthcare in conflict affected countries.

Mr Makarchev, Donaldson Bye-Fellow, has been awarded the best undergraduate supervisor commendation at the 2018 5th Cambridge Student Union Teaching Awards, and Cambridge's Rose Book Collecting Prize with his essay entitled: '2x2=5: Protests and Experiments in Revolution Era Russian Poetry'.

Mrs Marsh has been appointed to the Board of Trustees of the Hawks' Charitable Trust.

Dr Critchlow co-presented the last episode on 'The future of the world' as part of the BBC's *Tomorrow's World* in December 2017. She was a judge on the panel for the Wellcome Book Prize 2018. She took part in the Hay Festival with the Master in May and she published *Consciousness: A Ladybird Expert Book* (Penguin, 2018), reviewed below (pp 101-103).

## Honorary Fellows

Professor Sir John Boardman's 90th birthday was celebrated in October 2017 at a special lecture in his honour in the Ioannou Centre, Oxford.

Mr Gascoigne was appointed CBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List 2018.

Sir Christopher Greenwood was made Ordinary Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the British Empire (GBE) for his services to international justice, in the Queen's Birthday Honours List 2018.

Sir John Gurdon received the Golden Plate Award from the American Academy of Achievement in October 2017 and a Lifetime Achievement Award at the 51st Annual Miami Symposium in January 2018.

Lida Cardozo Kindersley reported that the Cardozo Kindersley Workshop has cut a plaque for Cambridge University commemorating the Borysiewicz Biomedical Sciences Fellowship Programme and Professor Sir Leszek Borysiewicz, on his retirement as Vice-Chancellor. Also the workshop has produced an exceptionally large slate plaque recording the donors to the new Kettle's Yard extension.

## PROFESSOR BOYLE'S SPEECH GIVEN ON 30 MAY 2018 TO CELEBRATE HIS 50 YEARS AS FELLOW

*This speech has been edited for publication. A full version has been deposited in the College Archives.*

My first meeting with a Fellow of Magdalene came in December 1963 and was the occasion when my dream of what the College might be was fulfilled and I fell in love with it for good. I had come on a long coach journey from the Cheltenham bus station to the equally dingy Drummer Street, so that my first impression of Cambridge was not of the grandeur of King's Parade, but of the dirt-encrusted rear of Christ's, which, with its railings and window-bars, looked more like the forgotten backside of a mental hospital than a place of learning. I had come for a week of examinations and interviews which in those days determined who got admitted, who got exhibitions – £40 a year – and who got scholarships – £60. The written exams that year took place in the Department of Engineering, which was then still under construction, and were accompanied throughout the week by the sound of nearby pneumatic drills. But between exams I moved from the grubby and noisy mid-20th century to the quiet of Magdalene First Court and the 18th century, if not the Middle Ages. D staircase, where I was housed, had no running water and in the morning a porter brought a basin and a jug of hot water for one to shave. On my first evening, with only

a light or two in First Court, I passed into a pitch-black Second Court where I had been told to make for the only illuminated window, on the first floor of Left Cloister. I passed through the open oak and a green baize door into a cave of light, lined with books from floor to ceiling and amid the lamps and elegant furniture stood a tubby figure with his thumbs in his waistcoat and a watch-chain across it, and on his round face a beaming smile of welcome. It could have been Bilbo Baggins, but it was Dick Ladborough, who was to be my Director of Studies and my supervisor in French. Dick could not have been a kinder mentor. If a smile was his welcome, his very last farewell to me was 'Deo gratias', the conclusion to a note congratulating me on my appointment to a joint college lectureship with Girton, penned from his bed in the Evelyn Nursing Home, where he died. Dick founded my conception of the College as a haven of study for the benefit of the wider world, the college of C S Lewis, Jack Bennett, and Robert Latham, of Derman Christopherson, Stephen Garrett, and I A Richards. That was not necessarily the view of the College that prevailed among those so unfortunate as not to belong to it. When I first mentioned to my sixth-form French teacher, himself a Clare man, that I was applying to Magdalene, he said, 'Ah, yes, in my time that was rather a huntin' shootin' fishin' sort of college'. Well, I'm not saying that reputation was entirely groundless. But I was definitely surprised by my second meeting with a Magdalene Fellow, a day or so after my meeting with Dick, a formal interview with the President, Fairfax Scott. His first question to me was reasonable enough – 'Good school?' he asked when I named my school, and it was a good question, if you wanted to ferret out brainy troublemakers. His second question however flummoxed me: 'Do you fish?' For a moment it seemed as if my sixth-form teacher had been right after all. Fishing to me was something people did in John Buchan, or frogs did in Beatrix Potter. But whatever I said subsequently cannot have been disastrous for on Christmas Eve, with King's College Carols on the radio, a telegram arrived from Fairfax telling me I had been elected into a scholarship.

No doubt there have always been two sides, or more, to Magdalene. But as an undergraduate I never thought of it as any less a place of true learning than any other college – if anything, it was rather more so, given its remarkable contribution to 20th-century English literature. When I was elected there were only 18 Fellows, and the danger was considerable of having to sit next to one of the older figures with dining rights, whom we knew collectively as 'the buffers', and to whom one would have to talk about London clubs or dead bishops. There could therefore be something of a scramble for the company of Simon or Ronald or the Peters, Grubb and Reynolds, or the somewhat older generation from whom one could tease out memories of their wartime experiences, of which they did not normally readily speak: the RAF men, Brian Deakin and Mickey Dias, before the dreadful death of his wife left him less communicative; David Roberts,

an always convivial architect with a famous fire-siren laugh, who had fought his way up the entire length of Italy; even Bernard Saunders sometimes, who once indiscreetly recalled how he had poisoned the water supply of an entire German regiment; and Uberto Limentani, gentle but steely, who said that a professorship was a cure of souls and had survived being torpedoed in mid-Atlantic.

Uberto was my staunch ally when in the early 70s I got myself into trouble by making a suggestion. Although female guests had hitherto been allowed on High Table only once a year, at the annual Ladies' Night, we thought it might perhaps be possible to let the enemy in a little more frequently, say, once a fortnight, every other Friday, in Full Term. We won and my first guest was the Mistress of Girton, but not before I had been summoned to the Master's study – Walter Hamilton had after all been the headmaster of Rugby – and told that it was not for so recent an arrival as myself to set about, I quote, 'turning the world upside down'. With what I now recognise as breathtaking impertinence, I replied that I had been in Magdalene longer than he had. But for all my insolence Walter was very kind to me when my upgrading from a time-limited assistant lectureship seemed to be in doubt and he assured me the College would want to do something for me. For the buffers were human, you see.

But the people who represented the College to me in its purest form and on a daily basis and still do, and to us all, were not Fellows. They were the College Staff, two of whom already impressed themselves on me when I was still taking the scholarship examinations: Andy Suttle, a cook whose style was NAAFI rather than Master Chef, and Leon Cole, who was already using his loud voice and fearsome manner to teach the would-be young gentlemen how to behave.

Tradition tells me that I should say what about the College has changed during my time here, and by now a traditional response to that challenge is to say, of course, the admission of women. But actually I don't agree with that view. I think becoming a mixed college gave Magdalene back the character it had when I first came here: a friendly, humane, unostentatious sort of a place that quietly kept its considerable distinctions to itself. The roughly twenty years during which other colleges changed around it and it stood out increasingly as involuntarily different from them were an anomaly in its history, and an unhealthy one. Now it is back to where it ought to be: a college like other colleges that is glad to be overlooked so that its members can carry on being nice to one another and can get on with their work. I was delighted the other day when at our Linguists' Dinner a freshman said to me, quite spontaneously: 'I like this college. It is understated, it doesn't show off.' In what really counts, Magdalene hasn't changed.

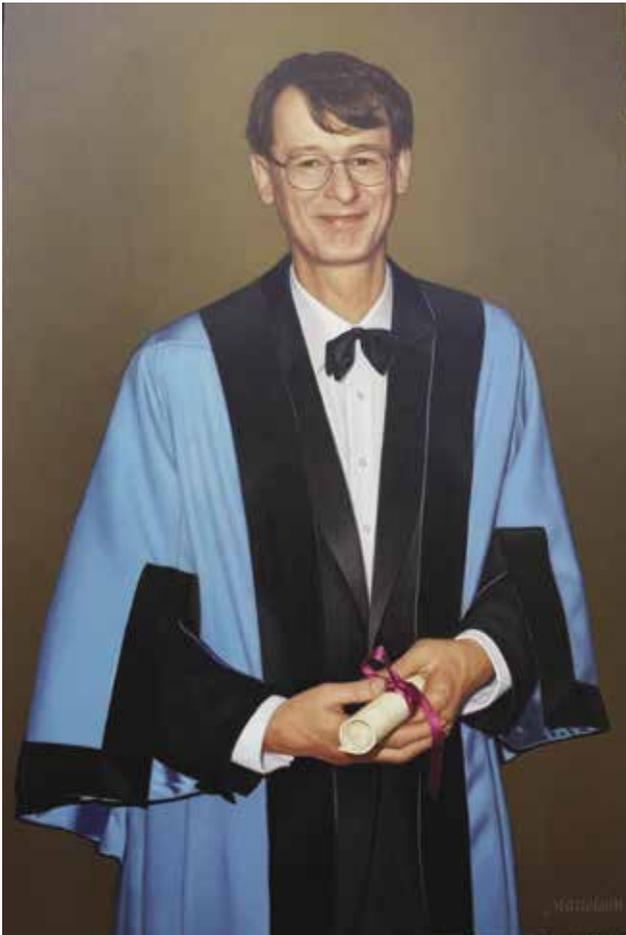
There have of course been big changes, none the less. Employment by the University has become much more demanding. Magdalene therefore, I think, needs to invest much more than it has hitherto done in a solid core of college teaching officers, whose career is with the College and who can secure its

continuity and identity by a commitment to it that is increasingly difficult for those who are also University employees to maintain. Magdalene has in my time been singularly fortunate in having a high proportion of its Fellows who spent their undergraduate days here but our sense of institutional cohesion cannot depend simply on a sort of hereditary principle. Shared memories of course cement affection, but what makes Magdalene precious to all of us is what it is, not what it was. And though, obviously, it would not be Magdalene without its mellowed and ancient buildings and its wandering, unfussy gardens, our affection is commanded in the first place not by *what* it is, but by *who* it is, wherever we have arrived from and whatever we do. Magdalene is first and foremost its people: the old from whom we have learnt, the young we have taught, the friends we have made, and with whom we have jointly done our best by the generations who preceded us. Over the last few weeks I have asked myself what are the best things I have done for Magdalene in my fifty years. I have come up with three: first, to have sat on the committee that appointed Denis Murphy as bursar; second, to have begun the negotiations that led to the election of Eamon Duffy as a Fellow; and third, when I was President, and discussing with the Charity Commissioners how the purpose of this foundation should be defined, to have secured a definition not in terms of some utilitarian function that after all might one day be obsolete, but in the simple words which I believe capture our essence: 'to maintain a college'. We are all here to live and work together for a common academic purpose within the University, bound to one another by fellow feeling and a shared inheritance, and today I thank you all for being Magdalene to me. Please rise and join me in the College toast: *Floreat Magdalena*.

N B



*Benson Court in June (photo: Matt Moon)*



*Edward Cripps (Photo: Matt Moon)*

The College is extremely grateful to Honorary Fellow Robert Cripps for the gift of a portrait of his late brother Edward (1951–2009), after whom Edward’s Court on Chesterton Road in named. The Cripps family have been wonderfully generous benefactors to Magdalene over several generations and Edward Cripps, like his brother, was an Honorary Fellow and much-loved member of the Magdalene community. The portrait, which is oil on canvas and will hang in Edward’s Court, was painted by the award-winning New York portrait artist Marvin Mattelson after a photograph of Edward taken at his induction into the University’s Guild of Benefactors by HRH the Duke of Edinburgh in 2001.

### III ACADEMIC REPORTS

#### 1 UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS RESULTS, 2018.

328 students took Tripos and Preliminary examinations.

The numbers in each class were as follows:

Class 1, 76; Class 2.1, 186; Class 2.2, 30; Class 3, 6; first year undivided Class 2, 17; Pass, 12; 1 student failed. The number of Firsts awarded by subject were: Architecture, 3; Archaeology:1; Asian & Middle Eastern Studies, 2; Chemical Engineering, 3; Computer Science, 2; Economics, 2; Engineering, 8; English, 3; Geography, 1; History, 3; Human, Social & Political Sciences, 3; Land Economy 1; Law, 2; Linguistics 1; Mathematics, 5; Medical Sciences, 5; Modern Languages, 7; Natural Sciences (Biological), 3; Natural Sciences (Physical), 11 ; Philosophy, 1; Psychological and Behavioural Sciences, 1; Theology and Religious Studies, 1; Theology, Religion, and Philosophy of Religion, 2.

A Starred First was awarded to: S Atkinson (History).

Advanced students who obtained Firsts: M E Sarantopoulos (Master of Law), TY A Wong (Master of Law), T Papadogiannis (Master of Corporate Law).

Advanced students (not classed in Tripos) who obtained Distinctions: CY C Chung (Master of Engineering Part IIB); XYao (Master of Engineering Part IIB); J XYeoh (Master of Engineering Part IIB); SYuchi (Master of Engineering); Y Huang (Master of Mathematics Part III); M Rogers (Master of Mathematics Part III); G Cattaneo (Final Veterinary MB); F W B Sanders (Final MB); S Kelly (Final MB).

University Prizes were awarded as follows:

K T Jensen (Natural Sciences: Chemistry): *Winifred Georgina Holgate-Pollard Memorial Prize* and *B P Prize for outstanding work in practical Chemistry*;

E Molloy (Modern & Medieval Languages): *The D H Green Prize*.

#### Senior Tutor's Report

A change in the regulation of personal data means that we can no longer access any comparative data to estimate our position, or the position of individual subjects, relative to other colleges. That said, looking at the results of Magdalene students alone, it is still heartening to see that over 90% of the graduating cohort will enter the wider world with at least a 2.1. More broadly, there was a disappointing decline in the percentage of Firsts, down from last year's relative high of just under 30% to this year's 23% – the lowest percentage since 2013.

The following elections were made by the Governing Body:

*Bundy Scholarships:* J Bowskill, E M Brown, G Cattaneo, CY C Chung, N Clanchy, E Delaney, T H Han, E A Howcroft, Y Huang, B Irwin, K T Jensen, S Kelly, K B T Leung, J Livingstone, I J Maloney, J P J Reynolds, M Rogers, J Rose, A J R Satow, P H T Sit, K Song, P D Thiarya, H K Turner, XYao, J XYeoh, SYin, F W B Sanders.

*Scholarships:* A Banerjee, F B Cazalet, I Coats, A Courtauld, B C Davidson, L Dhingra, C Iddon, T Joashi, B M Jones, ZY Koh, I Lewis, D Luo, D J Mayfield, T Ong Kah Yong, T Papadogiannis Varouchakis, L Qi, M E Sarantopoulos, O S R P Stupart, C Swallow, M Taketani, KY T Tang, R Todoran, Y Wang, F R Willcocks, J Yuan, C N B Abrahams, S Atkinson, G Cardoso, L Elton, L E F Fletcher, P H Htet, M-R Newis, N A Ryan, A Barthel, L N M Corry, J E Girling, R Harvey, A L H Prescott, TY A Wong.

The following re-elections to Scholarships were made by the Governing Body:

*3rd Year:* J Cheng, L F Parry, P Thomas, H Trunley, J C Woodruff, Z Xie, Y Zhou.

*2nd Year:* R Bevan, J T Duffy, H Huang, Q Jiang, AV Joshi, Y Li, P H N Luk, H Ren, H L Teoh, E Wood.

*Exhibitions:* H C Hudson, W J B Ross, V PY Molloy.

College Prizes for excellence in University Examinations were awarded as follows:

Archaeology: I Coats (*James Torre Prize*)

Architecture: K B T Leung (*David Roberts Prize*), K Song (*Cleary Prize*), C Swallow

Asian & Middle Eastern Studies: T H Han, P H N Luk

Chemical Engineering: J E Girling, N A Ryan, H L Teoh (*Lewins Prize*)

Computer Science: J C Woodruff (*Andrew Clarke Prize*), C Iddon

Economics: AV Joshi (*Brian Deakin Prize*), JYYuan (*Schoschana Wrobel Prize*)

Land Economy: D J Mayfield

Education: E Delaney, J P J Reynolds

Engineering: J M Gan (*Christopherson Prize*), XYao (*Christopherson Prize*),

J XYeoh (*Christopherson Prize*), SYuchi (*Christopherson Prize*),

P Thomas (*Lewins Prize*), Y Zhou (*Lewins Prize*), Q Jiang, Y Li, ZY Koh,

L Qi, R Todoran, F R Willcocks

Manufacturing Engineering: CY C Chung (*Christopherson Prize*)

English: E A Howcroft (*C S Lewis Prize*), G Cardoso (*Ivor Richards Prize*),

M-R Nevis (*Ivor Richards Prize*)

Geography: C N B Abrahams (*Clarabut Prize*)

History: J Bowskill (*Richard Carne Prize*), B Irwin (*Adeane Prize*),

S Atkinson (*Dunster Prize*)

Human, Social & Political Sciences: L N M Corry (*William Bill Buller Fagg Prize*),

I Lewis, M Taketani

Law: T Ong Kah Yong (*Norah Dias Memorial Prize*), KYT Tang (*Norah Dias Memorial Prize*)  
 Law (LLM): M E Sarantopoulos, TY A Wong  
 Law (MCL): T Papadogiannis Varouchakis  
 Linguistics: L E F Fletcher  
 Mathematics: M Rogers (*Davison Prize*), J Cheng (*Edward Waring Prize*), Z Xie (*Edward Waring Prize*), P H Htet (*Walton Prize*), H Huang (*Walton Prize*), H Ren (*Walton Prize*), Y Huang (*Rae Mitchell Prize*)  
 Medical Sciences: S Kelly, F W B Sanders, P D Thiarya (*Iris Rushton Prize*), A Banerjee (*Iris Rushton Prize*), L Dhingra (*Iris Rushton Prize*), B M Jones (*Iris Rushton Prize*), O S R P Stupart (*Iris Rushton Prize*)  
 Modern and Medieval Languages: E M Brown, J Livingstone, I J Maloney, A J R Satow (*Peskett Prize*), E Wood, F B Cazalet, T Joashi (*Peskett Prize*)  
 Natural Sciences (Biological): S Yin (*Newton Prize*), P H T Sit (*Keilin Prize*)  
 Natural Sciences (Physical): Y P G Poon (*Maurice Goldhaber Prize*), J Rose (*Maurice Goldhaber Prize*), H K Turner (*Tedder Prize*), K T Jensen (*Saunders Prize*), L F Parry, A L H Prescott, R Harvey, A Barthel, H Trunley (*Maurice Goldhaber Prize*), J T Duffy, Y Wang  
 Philosophy: N Clanchy  
 Psychology and Behavioural Sciences: D Luo  
 Theology: L Elton (*Michael Ramsey Prize*)  
 Theology (Religion & Philosophy of Religion): A Courtauld, B C Davidson  
 Veterinary Sciences: G Cattaneo, R Bevan

Other Prizes were awarded as follows:

*Arthur Sale Poetry Prize*: W J Coleman-Smith

*Davison English Essay Prize*: M-R Newis

*Dorothy Kolbert Prize*: W J Coleman-Smith

*Foo-Sun Lau Prize*: R Todoran, N Balakulendran, H C Hudson

*Garrett Prize*: C M D C Bourne Swinton Hunter

*George Mallory Prize*: L Belt, E Molloy

*Gill Prize*: K T Jensen

*Hart Prize*: H L Teoh

*Jim Ede Prize*: A E Pasiecznik

*Macfarlane-Grieve Prize*: R Bartlett

*Master's Reading Prize*: R Gibson, B C Davidson

*Newman-Turner Prize*: M N Bridson Hubbard, H L M Bretscher, R Longstaff

*Newton Essay Prize*: M-R Newis

*Nicholas St John Whitworth Prize*: H Williams

*Sarah Springman Prize*: A L H Prescott, P Thomas, H Trunley, F W B Sanders

## 2 GRADUATES

The following elections were made by the Governing Body during the year:

*Goulandris Award:* Eirini Kikarea

*Leslie Wilson Major Scholarships:* Ilma Jahovic, Efthimios Karayiannides

*Mandela Magdalene Awards:* Lindsay Williams, Tefo Mosienyane

*Standard Bank Derek Cooper Awards:* Laura Smith, Daniel Ukasoanya

*Marshall Foundation Awards:* Rebecca Kuang, Kobi Felton

*Roosevelt Award:* Claire McGregor

*Carne-Newton Trust Masters Awards:* David Lines, Hannah Yager

*Leslie Wilson Minor Scholarships:* Jia Min Gan, Yeuk Pin Gladys Poon, Shaowu Yuchi

The following research degrees (PhD) were conferred in 2017–18:

F Sanders (Biological Science); T Makuni (Engineering); E Boettcher (Politics

& International Studies); L Litos (Engineering); H Nguyen (Mathematics);

L Steven (Divinity); J Elias (English); T Ballance (Physics); B Bentley (Biological

Science); B Sun (Public Health and Primary Care); A Meredith (History of Art);

E Riley (Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics); P Baillie-Johns

(Genetics); B Carroll (English); D Dold (Pure Mathematics); H Male (Chemistry);

W Chung (Geography); B Hinson (Archaeology); B Solaiman (Law); A Bergstrom

(Biological Science); W Briggs (Biochemistry); A Schubert (Biological Science);

M Sugarman (History); S Yang (Engineering); S Zhang (English).



*M2 braving the snow during Lent Bumps (photo: Daniel Minister)*

## IV STUDENT ACTIVITIES: SOCIETIES, CLUBS AND SPORTS

### 1 JCR AND MCR REPORTS

#### *Junior Common Room.*

President: S Ashbridge; Vice-President: A Russell; Treasurer: H Hudson; Green and Charities: K Baker; Equal Opportunities: E Carr; Access: L Russell; Welfare Officers: S Longworth (women & non-binary), A Petter (men & non-binary); IT Officer: E Balani; Communications and Internal Affairs: D Lawson; Services, Bar and Buttery: H King; Domestic and Academic: H Bryant; Freshers' Rep: M Lupoli; Ents: G Nandakumar.

In January, over 130 students travelled to Oxford for the third annual Magdalene-Magdalen Sports Day, competing in over ten sports from rugby and football to lacrosse and darts. This was a great success and we look forward to hosting Oxford again next year. Kit, the Green and Charities Officer, organised a Green and Charities Formal to raise money for our charities: Leonard Cheshire Disability and the Against Malaria Foundation. The Ents Officer, Giri, organised two bops, with themes including 'Memes' and 'UV': much fun was had by all who attended, especially since the Treasurer Officer, Hugh, facilitated a way to take card payment. We also hosted the first-ever Wedding Formal to celebrate the Fresher's College marriages and raise money for next year's Freshers' Week. Prosecco pre-drinks, decorations in Hall and a photographer made this a highlight of the term, and we hope it is something that will be repeated for many more years to come. As Exam Term slowly approached, the two Welfare Officers, Alex and Sarah, worked hard to relieve the stress of students in College. Donut and coffee events in the bar, individual drop-in sessions and sexual health clinics have all been instrumental in this, and the students in College are grateful for all their hard work. Elsewhere, the Women's Officer, Rachel, put on a celebration for International Women's Day. The Services, Bar and Buttery Officer, Harry, organised a fantastic Halfway Hall for the second years, and the IT Officer, Edwin, organised a Room Ballot Website with 360-degree photos. The careful organisation of the Domestic and Academic Officer, Hannah, ensured that the room ballot ran without a hitch. Furthermore, the LGBT+ Officers, Nathan and Laura have organised a series of great events throughout term, including an LGBT+ Superhall, whilst the Access Officer, Lucy, has overseen several access events which aim to debunk myths surrounding Cambridge University life.

#### *Middle Combination Room.*

President: R Staats; Vice-President: A Hannay; Secretary: M Lewis; Treasurer: P Chatzimpaloglou.

The academic year has been an extremely successful one for the MCR. A significant debt of gratitude is owed to the hard work of Rowena Downie,

Amy Webster, Pedro de Oliveira and the rest of the 2017–18 committee in helping to foster a great atmosphere within the MCR. From early on the MCR community at Magdalene quickly bonded and became a busy and active social hub for Graduate members of College. Friday BA Dinners regularly sold out within hours and the termly banquets have been a highlight, even if Ben Langhorne insisted that every line of ‘The Twelve Days of Christmas’ was ‘five gold rings!’ at a memorable Christmas Banquet. As well as the social aspects of MCR life our ‘Parlour Talks’ saw MPhils present some of their extremely interesting work.

The MCR has also been active in College sport, including recently very strong MCR representation, with varying degrees of success, in May Bumps. The MCR was represented in each of the six boats Magdalene entered. This included Cat Bourne Swinton Hunter, Patrick Elwood, Chris Molteno, Max Nussbaumer, Nick Rice and Sam Vosper in the M1 boat that won blades in taking Magdalene to 5th on the river. The MCR was also well represented in the M4 ‘Fellows’ Frigate’ with Jeremy Bennett, Greg Gakis, Chris Meiring, Pedro de Oliveira and Julian Tollestrup all being part of the unprecedented ‘quadruple overbump’.



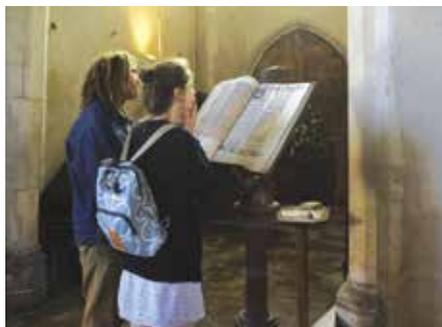
*M4 ‘Fellows’ Frigate’  
with Steward Perran Ziar (1st left top row)  
Dr Skinner (2nd left top row), Dr Thom (1st left bottom row),  
and Mr Widdows (4th left bottom row) (photo: Angus Knights)*

At the beginning of the Easter Term, a new committee was elected, including for the first time a Vice-President (Ashley Hannay). Within the first few weeks of term further committee appointments were made with Dylan Gaffney, Pascal Gehlert, Rijak Grover and Alec Josaitis joining an active and enthusiastic committee. Several small events were put on for the Champions League Final, World Cup and Summer Solstice and the MCR's facilities were upgraded. As the academic year ended the MCR celebrated with our Summer Banquet and the first MCR Bop for several years.

## 2 SOCIETIES, CLUBS AND SPORTS

*The Editor received the following society and club reports for 2017–18:*

*English Society.* There were three main events this year: our welcome lunch to greet incoming first-year graduates and undergraduates; the annual dinner, which took place at nearby St John's Chophouse; and our 'team English' trip. Our trip was to East Anglia. After a whirlwind tour of Ely, we visited the wonderful Cluniac monastery of Castle Acre, and spent the afternoon looking round Holkham Hall. In the evening we were welcomed at Ranworth Church on the Broads, where the Rector, Revd Canon Nick Garrard, brought out the famous Ranworth Antiphoner, a fifteenth-century manuscript of liturgical music and words. A climb to the top of the tower afforded beautiful views across the Broads as the sun began to set.



*Looking at the Ranworth Antiphoner*

*Law Society.* (President: P Y Kobayashi-Lui; Secretary: H Brignal). Magdalene College Law Society had another active year. The winner and runner up of last year's RWM Dias Cup mooted competition, Roddy Freeman and Caitlin Levins, represented Magdalene against Jesus College in the annual exhibition moot, sponsored by 4 New Square, Lincoln's Inn, and judged by members of Chambers. This year's RWM Dias Cup Competition was won by Tiffany Tang, with Isabel Wilson Scott as runner-up, mooted in the final before HH Judge Karen Walden-Smith.

Tiffany and Isabel went on to represent Magdalene in the annual fixture against Downing College, before Lord Justice Lewison, narrowly losing a high-quality moot, kindly sponsored by Queen Elizabeth Building Chambers. In the wider moot world, Tiffany Tang was part of the Cambridge team in the annual Varsity Roman Law Moot. Other events during the year included an evening at which several Non-Resident Members kindly shared their wisdom about legal careers, and the annual Magdalene Lawyers' Dinner, at which the guest of honour was a member of the College, Mr Adrian Hogarth, of the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel. It was a particular delight to welcome Mr Hogarth to the dinner in the bicentenary year of the birth of Henry, Lord Thring (1818–1907), likewise a member of the College, and in 1869 the founding head of the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel.

*Badminton Club.* (President: A Dupuis). Our club is quite small and informal, though very enthusiastic. We meet every Thursday evening for an hour and half of casual badminton games. These proved very popular with students who are new to the game because it is a great time to be refreshed during a busy week. These games are also the opportunity for experienced players to transfer their skills in a friendly atmosphere. We occasionally compete in inter-collegiate matches, where we currently are in Division 7. A lack of experienced players and the fact that most of us prefer casual play have led to us to opt out of the league during Lent and to focus exclusively on the casual sessions. However, we won three out of seven games in Michaelmas, and expect to resume play in the league next year.

*Magdalene Boat Club.* (Captain of Boats and Men's Captain: James Richardson; Women's Captain: Sarah Moss; Honorary Secretary: Lexie Vu; Junior Treasurer: Hugh Begley). Off-Cam racing has continued to be a theme at MBC this year, with crews competing at Huntingdon, Bedford and the Tideway, as well as plenty of races on the Cam. This year the senior men's squad has been very successful, winning a total of five different races, including both the College first and second IVs events at the Fairbairn Cup, and placing second in another two races, during Michaelmas and Lent Terms. Welcoming and training newcomers to the sport has also, as always, been a strong feature of MBC. During Michaelmas Emma Sprints (featuring fancy-dress Vikings, Jurassic Park keepers and a T-Rex cox), Clare Novices Regatta and Novice Fairbairns all provided our novices with racing experience, before moving into the senior squads in Lent Term. The progression and improvement of newcomers has been outstanding, with many 'novices' moving up through the club to make it to the higher crews by the end of the year, finding a new passion for the sport along the way.

MBC entered three crews in Lent Bumps, and despite two days being cancelled due to the weather some rowing did take place and a great experience was had by all. W1 were bumped three times, M2 rowed over twice, and M1 bumped Fitzwilliam and King's to finish up two.

Both M1 and W1 then took to the Tideway to race in WEHoRR and HoRR after bumps. W1 finished 180/300 crews, rising 41 places from the previous year, and M1 finished 140/300, rising 122 places - a fantastic result for both crews.

MBC rowers have also had great success this year at University level. Nicholas Rice and Catriona Bourne represented Cambridge in the Men's Lightweight reserves race against Oxford (at 2 and as cox respectively), and Olivia Hamilton, who learned to row at Magdalene, represented Cambridge in the Women's Lightweight Boat Race. Daphne Martschenko, CUWBC President and MBC member rowed in Blondie in the Women's Reserve Boat Race, and Patrick Elwood (MBC Men's Captain 2013-14) rowed at 2 in the Cambridge Blue Boat. All four races were won by Cambridge, as well as the Women's Boat Race, the Men's Reserves race and the Lightweight Men's Boat Race.

A highlight of the year for the club was in mid-April, when 24 MBC members began preparations for May Bumps by heading to Lake Bled, Slovenia, for a week-long training camp at the international rowing centre there. This was a truly fantastic experience for everyone – the lake, facilities and scenery were all stunning, and we hope to make this camp an annual event for the Club. On returning to Cambridge the training continued, with all thoughts on the May Bumps. MBC entered a total of six crews, including a Fellows/Grads boat (M4), captained by the Chaplain Nick Widdows. The end results were somewhat polarised, with W1, W2 and M3 each going down four, but M2 going up three, M1 going up four, earning their blades to finish 5th in the first division, and M4 going up a sensational 11 places thanks to a history-making quadruple overbump on the second day, also earning their blades. Magdalene M1 are now at the highest position in the May Bumps since 1996, and we hope to continue rising next year.



*MBC members at Lake Bled, Slovenia*

You can keep stay up to date with MBC by following us on Facebook ([facebook.com/magdaleneboatclub](https://facebook.com/magdaleneboatclub)), via our new website ([magdaleneboatclub.co.uk](https://magdaleneboatclub.co.uk)), and by signing up to the Mallory Club mailing list ([malloryclub.com](https://malloryclub.com)). The Mallory Club is the new MBC alumni community, rebranded from the Friends of Magdalene Boat Club commemorating Groege Mallory as MBC Captain, 1907–1908. If you rowed at MBC we would love to hear from you!

*Badminton Club.* (Captain: A Dupuis). Our badminton club is quite small and informal, though very enthusiastic! We meet every Thursday evening for an hour and half of casual badminton games. These prove very popular with students who are new to the game because they are a great time to be refreshed in the midst of a busy week. These are also the opportunity for experienced players to transfer their skills in a friendly environment. We also occasionally compete in intercollegiate matches, where we currently are in Division 7; a lack of experienced players this year and the fact that most of us prefer casual play have led to us opting-out of the league during Lent and focusing exclusively the casual sessions. We won three out of seven games in the Michaelmas Term and expect to resume play in the league for the next academic year. We are very grateful for the College's encouragement and financial support, which allows us to provide this opportunity for sport to new and experienced players alike.

*Lacrosse Club.* (Captain: K Baker). The 2017–18 season has seen the Magdalene Sitting Dragons consolidate their position in Division 1, with the existing core of players from last year being augmented by the arrival of a very keen group of Freshers. The Michaelmas Term saw us finishing fourth in the division, with the highlight being a 6-3 away win against a very strong Homerton side. We finished fifth in the top division in a Lent Term that included a 5-1 win against Magdalen College, Oxford, and a good Cuppers run, winning all our group games but unfortunately being eliminated by Jesus in the Quarter Finals. The commitment shown throughout the year has been exceptional, and things look very promising for next season.

*Rugby Club.* ( Captain: M Rowlands). Being a small college makes it so difficult to have sufficient players and several colleges have had to join together to manage to get a team out, but in true Magdalene spirit we still manage to get a team out each week and keep our identity as Magdalene College. We had a mixed season winning over half of our games. The highlight of the season was getting through to the semi-final of the Cuppers Shield which was played on the 3G pitch at Shelford Rugby Club. We put together an amazing performance led by Matt Rowlands but were beaten by a stronger team. We had the annual old boy's game which as usual was great fun for all that can remember it. We travelled down to Oxford for our annual Varsity match against Magdalen Oxford but we

meet a very strong side and came second best. Congratulations go to Will Briggs who got his seventh Rugby Blue, which is a record, and a winning one at that.

Bob Smith

The following obtained Full Blues (\*) or Half-Blues during 2017/18:

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Association Football:       | H Alexander*  |
| Hockey:                     | F McNab*  |
| Ice Hockey:                 | V Beranek*  |
| Polo:                       | P Sivakumar   |
| Powerlifting:               | F W B Sanders*, H Trunley*                            |
| Rowing:                     | P J Elwood*   |
| Rugby Union:                | W Briggs*   |
| Sailing:                    | P Thomas*   |
| Tennis:                     | J Long-Martinez*                                      |
| Mixed Lacrosse:             | L F Parry   |
| Women's Athletics:          | M N Bridson Hubbard*, R Longstaff*                    |
| Women's Basketball:         | C Rios Arceo*   |
| Women's Cross-country:      | H L M Bretscher, M N Bridson Hubbard*,<br>R Longstaff |
| Woman's Ice Hockey:         | S J Butler*   |
| Women's Lacrosse:           | V PY Molloy*, S L Tamblyn*                            |
| Women's Lightweight Rowing: | O Hamilton  |
| Women's Sailing:            | A L H Prescott*                                       |
| Women's Swimming:           | J A Payne   |
| Women's Volleyball:         | H S Rigby   |

*(The Editor is grateful to Mr Keall for verifying this list.)*

## V LIBRARIES

COLLEGE LIBRARY. This year the College Library added 857 books to the collection, of which 40 were donations. This represents the highest number of purchased books added to the Library since 2007 (the point at which our electronic records begin). We have also seen the highest number of books borrowed in a year, with a 15% increase in borrowing on last year. The start of Lent Term saw two significant developments in the College Library: the move to Alma, the new University-wide Library System, and the installation of a brand-new Self-Service kiosk.

Alma is a next-generation library management system that now provides library staff across Cambridge with a single platform for managing both digital and print collections, optimised workflows, and ways of working together within a single database that were not previously available to Magdalene with the old standalone system. Preparation for the system continued throughout 2017 and involved a significant amount of Library staff time. The Deputy Librarian and Libraries Assistant were required to review and update several thousand of our catalogue records, attend multiple training sessions, and review and update our borrowing policies and daily workflows. The system 'went live' at Magdalene on Monday 22 January 2018.

The new Self-Service kiosk represents a key investment by the College in supporting the students, Fellows and staff who use the Library. The Self-Service machine, supplied by D-Tech International, now provides a reliable and quick way for users to borrow and return their books, as well as the ability to check their library accounts.

Work to improve the Library's in-house classification scheme began in earnest this year with Shakespeare texts the first section to be reclassified. This work has improved the findability of texts but also helped inform us in practice of the complexities of updating the scheme. Work on reviewing several more sections has now begun, including English, Classics and Economics.

We continue to explore how the College Library can support student welfare and wellbeing, building on the creation of our welfare book section in 2016–17. This year we provided students with hot drinks, juice, biscuits and fruit, every Thursday in the Pepys Cloisters at 3pm throughout Easter Term. Our aim was to reinforce the message that it is important to take short breaks and stay hydrated during the revision period. These events proved to be very popular with the students and we received positive feedback each week.

The College Librarian and Deputy Librarian have been heavily involved in planning for the New Library, attending project meetings, and working with the architects to help ensure that the facility will meet the current and future needs of Library users and staff.

Tom Sykes

PEPYS LIBRARY AND OLD LIBRARY. The Historic Libraries of the College enjoyed an increase of 26% in visitors this year, including readers, students and the general public. The Pepys Library is open six days a week and most visitors come at the regular opening times. However, increasingly, we are arranging specialist tours of the collections. The Pepys Librarian gave 18 tours to groups from as far afield as Australia and as close to home as Comberton and addressed five conference-groups on different topics, from 'Anatomy' to 'Parchment and Paper'. The Deputy Librarian (Catherine Sutherland) spoke to groups from four schools, with a special interest in Pepys and the Great Fire of London.

The Friends of the Pepys and Historic Libraries scheme began in 2015. There are now about 80 members. Six events were held for the Friends in 2017–18, including the excellent annual lecture, given in December 2017 by Professor Christopher Page on ‘Pepys and the Guitar’. A visit to the Peterhouse Perne Library was arranged and Dr Scott Mandelbrote showed the group some fine books and manuscripts. And, looking ahead to our major conservation project for the coming year, the Pepys Librarian gave a talk on the plans for the restoration of the book-presses. A contribution from the Friends donation income was used to pay for splendid new curtains for the Pepys Library.

A key event this year has been the loan of our Caxton manuscript of Ovid to the Groeningemuseum in Bruges for an exhibition on Colard Mansion (who taught Caxton how to print). As the libraries have rarely lent items of such importance, this was a major project for us and involved the staff in developing policies on transportation, insurance and conservation. The Deputy Librarian accompanied the manuscript in both directions. The Pepys Librarian was invited to visit the museum during the exhibition and combined this with a visit to the Plantin Library in Antwerp.



*The Pepys Librarian inspects an early printing press  
at the Plantin-Moretus Library in Antwerp.*

Within the College there have been several exhibitions. The Pepys Librarian curated exhibitions on *Anatomy*, on *Ovid at Magdalene* (for the 2000th anniversary of the poet’s death), and for the occasion of the Pepys Dinner, on *Samuel Pepys and Europe*.

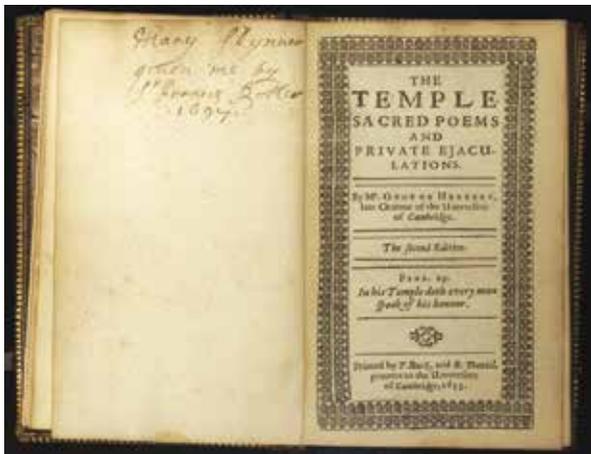
The project to photograph the Broadside Ballads, which has been in collaboration with EBBA at Santa Barbara is now complete and the new photographs will be on the English Broadside Ballad Archive website later this year. The Deputy Librarian oversaw the photographic work (by Maciej Pawlikowski) which involved photography of 1,800 separate items, and coordinated the project on our side of the Atlantic.

The project to re-catalogue the Old Library continues to progress. The twentieth-century collections are now catalogued through the hard work of the Deputy Librarian, assisted for a period over the summer by the Old Library Intern; and we are moving on to tackle the earlier material.

The libraries enjoyed our first full year as members of the Cambridge Colleges Conservation Consortium. This has been a very successful collaboration with the Consortium, which is based at Corpus Christi College; and we have benefited from the range of expertise available there as well as generous advice and training. The most significant conservation project was the repair of the Maitland Quarto, but the Consortium also worked on several projects, and assisted with the production of a facsimile of our original and fragile copy of Hollar's map of London after the Fire, which we now use routinely with group tours.

The Pepys Library has been enhanced by the purchase of new curtains and by the addition of elegant information labels on the pictures. The Old Library has been transformed by the removal of the carpets and the sanding of the floors.

The libraries have received several very generous donations. Notably the library of the late Arthur Sale (Fellow-Commoner, died 2000) was offered to the College and although we were not able to accept all the books, about 180 will form a new Special Collection of Victorian Literature. Thanks to the College Librarian, Dr Waithe, for his help in selecting the books for this new collection. Eventually these will be housed in the Old Library. Dr Hyam marked his 55 years work with the Libraries and Archives by presenting a Victorian illustrated copy of *John Brown's Self-Interpreting Bible* (c1778). To commemorate thirty years as a Fellow, Dr Hughes donated to the College a volume of George Herbert's poetry. This is said to have been owned and signed by Mary Skinner, the companion of Samuel Pepys; and from which it is (highly!) speculated that she read to the diarist in his later years.



The staff continue to contribute posts to the library blog and to liaise with other libraries and archives to develop projects. There was also a good deal of time spent to update the historic library pages on the new web site.

MEJH

ARCHIVES. Routine work and answering enquiries proceeded much as usual, with only one exhibition this year, 'Mallory: Magdalene to the Mountain'. It was held at the end of the Michaelmas Full Term, and repeated at the end of the academic year in June 2018. In all a total of 312 visitors (including those who came twice) saw the impressive display of over a hundred items, featuring a selection from the College's Mallory Archive, which contains no fewer than 367 letters from Mallory to his wife Ruth, all in his elegant hand, even those written from a tiny tent on the slopes of Mt Everest. Other letters recovered from his body were also displayed. There was general agreement that the exhibition showed us that Mallory was a man of exceptional interest and accomplishments, even apart from his mountaineering fame. A portrait of Mallory by Andrew Ruddell, Fellows' Butler, was also exhibited for the first time (see p 6).

RH



*The Archivist, Dr Hyam, with the JCR Vice-President, Alex Russell (on the left), and Rupert Wilkey (Porters' Lodge) (on the right), at the Mallory Exhibition (Photo: Matt Moon)*

## VI CHAPEL AND CHOIR

*Sacristans:* F Riche and A Lawes.

In the Michaelmas Term we studied extracts from the Letter to the Hebrews in Evensong. The series began with the Master reflecting on Hebrews 1 and he was joined during the term by, among others, Brigadier Rob Thomson (1985), Mrs Marsh, and Professor Sarah Coakley (Norris-Hulse Professor of Divinity).

The carol services were well attended as always, and the Christmas Carol service was a particular highlight as we began a new 'tradition' of holding the service in St Clement's (on the other side of Magdalene Bridge). We processed from First Court across the bridge, following the choir and attempting to join in with *Once in Royal David's City*. We finished the term with a Christingle Service before the Staff and Fellows' Family Christmas Party. The Master did a wonderful job at this service of helping some of the little ones in attendance construct their Christingles!

In the Lent Term the sermon series focused on the book of Genesis and we welcomed as our preachers, among others, Bex White (recently elected as the Labour Councillor of the Lansbury Ward, Tower Hamlets), the Revd Dr Michael Quicke (Emeritus Professor of Preaching, Lombard, Illinois), the Most Revd John Davies (Archbishop of Wales) and one of our former Chaplains, the Very Revd Dr David Hoyle (Dean of Bristol Cathedral).

In the Easter Term we followed the post-Easter liturgical pattern, returning to think about Pentecost on the Sunday after Trinity since Whitsunday is traditionally used for the Commemoration of Benefactors. This sermon was preached by Dominic Palmer (2017) who has been working part-time as a lay-assistant within Chapel and who had been an immense help, both practically and pastorally, to the smooth running and ministry of the Chapel. Dom has now left with his wife Hannah to begin a new ministry in Manchester. We were also delighted to welcome, among others, Dr Jones and the Revd Dr Vicky Johnson (canon of Ely Cathedral) as our preachers. We again celebrated Ascension Day with Sung Matins in the Fellows' Garden and enjoyed fine weather and fine singing from the Choir.

Sunday morning Chapel saw an average congregation of 35 and several students have committed to serving as Chapel Wardens at this service to help the Chaplain both during the service and afterwards at breakfast. The Master again let us use his garden for an outdoor celebration of Holy Communion which was a real highlight of the year as it was also a service of Baptism and Confirmation. One Fellow and her son were baptised by the Chaplain, alongside a member of the Choir, before the Master confirmed three Fellows and four students. A number of students and Fellows were part of bible studies and discussion groups during the year which provided the opportunity for members of the College to ask questions about the Christian faith or to deepen their existing commitment.

Donations from Chapel collections went to SolidariTEE, a student initiative based in Cambridge, Wintercomfort and Christian Aid. The Remembrance Sunday collection was for the Royal British Legion, and the Commemoration of Benefactors' collection went to the College Student Hardship Fund.

N W

CHOIR REPORT. *Organ Scholar*: A Coutts; *Assistant Organists*: J Lim and M Van der Tol. The College Choir was fortunate to retain the vast majority of its members at the beginning of the Academic year, and so we began in October with confidence and in fine voice. Some new members were welcomed of course, and these swiftly integrated into the choral sound, joining the Choir for the two Matriculation services (one each for new undergraduates and postgraduates).

The Michaelmas Term featured two special services in quick succession: a visiting Evensong at St Alban's Abbey, and on the following Sunday, a service, at which the Master preached, to mark the 50th anniversary of the Chapel at Churchill College. This was sung jointly by the College Choir and Churchill Choir, and featured a new work by Mark Gotham, Director of Music of Churchill, setting new words by John Kinsella. The end of term witnessed the usual collection of Advent and Christmas Carols, including the annual London Christmas Carols, held on this occasion at All Saints', Margaret St, where it turns out that Dr Lewins was a chorister during WW2.

At the beginning of the Lent Term the Choir travelled with members of the JCR and the College sports teams to Oxford, in our case to take part in a most enjoyable joint service at Magdalen. A visiting evensong sung in the Lady Chapel at Ely was a memorable, if cold, distraction from Week 5 rigours, while the end of term was marked by a Lent Service of words and music, the Passion story being sung to plainsong by members of the Choir.

During the Easter Term we began to prepare for our two major end-of-year engagements: our first ever tour to the USA, and our first recording for several years. The first, largely organised by the Development Office, saw us perform in Concord MA, Darien CT, and Hyannis MA, with enthusiastic audiences enjoying our slightly unseasonal Ceremony of Carols. This work also formed the centrepiece of our new recording, made possible by the generosity of Tim McCarron (1980). We hope that the CD will be available in time for Christmas.

We are as ever enormously grateful to many people throughout the College, including of course the Master for his unstinting support; the Development Director and her team for their extraordinary work on the tour; William Wilson and Mr Chartener for their hard work and generosity in making the tour happen; and then so many others too numerous to mention, whose time, support and work make our work both possible and joyful.

G H W

## VII GARDENS

What a difference a year makes. Spring 2017 was the driest for decades but spring 2018 the wettest. As I sit writing this article in late June it is some five weeks since we have seen a drop of rain in Cambridge. The garden team have almost gone insane with the seemingly endless deployment of hoses throughout College, endeavouring to keep alive borders and trees planted in the last couple of seasons, as well as several thousand bedding plants!



*The garden team at work in First Court in Oct 2017 (photo: Matt Moon)*

As ever, nature rolls her dice and the trees and plants respond. The tulips in First Court put on a wonderful display rising above the wallflowers, due to the high rainfall, as did the daffodils and fritillaries in the Fellows' Garden. The saturated ground and lack of spring warmth delayed many of the early flowering shrubs and trees, but they were nevertheless floriferous as ever. As the heat of May and June parched the lawns and turned them into something akin to a field of hay, the Wisterias throughout College did something I have never seen before; a magnificent second flush of flower. The damp spring, in tandem with judicious feeding and spraying, ensured the roses throughout College put on their best display I have seen in my six years at Magdalene.



*'Albertine'* (photo: Matt Moon)

The *Rosa x wichuriana* 'Albertine' smothered the end wall of Benson G with its gorgeous pink blooms in May and we are hoping for a good second flush in September.

The summer bedding scheme this year is pink *Pelargoniums* and *Cosmos* mixed with a variety of blues – *Isotoma axilliaris* ‘Gemini Blue’, *Ageratum* ‘Blue Champion’ and a new cultivar of *Salvia* called ‘Mystic Spires’ and a smattering of *Verbena bonariensis*. The *Salvia* has proved a big hit with the bees.

In the Scholar’s Garden, we have added to our collection of ornamental Japanese Cherries. A handsome specimen of *Prunus x yedoensis*, has been planted on the bank above the lawn behind the cottages on Chesterton Lane. The origin of this cherry is doubtful and it may be a hybrid between *P.speciosa* and *P.subhirtella*. It is planted abundantly in Tokyo and Yokohama, where it is known as the Yoshino Cherry. Ernest ‘Chinese’ Wilson (the plant biologist, E H Wilson, 1876–1930) describes it as ‘remarkably distinct from all other Japanese or Chinese cherries and one of the most floriferous and beautiful of them’. The flowers, pale pink fading to white and delicately scented are born in late March and April before the tree is fully in leaf. This should mature into a fine tree and give much beauty from the other side of the river as well as within College. We hope to carry on rejuvenating the Scholar’s Garden over the next couple of years and to increase the number of edible crops we grow in this part of College.

The new compost area, adjacent to the Scholar’s Garden, completed last summer has already produced some good quality organic matter. Much of late winter was spent spreading this across many of the borders and roses in College.

Mark Scott



*Rosa* sp. in Mallory Court (photo: Matt Moon)

## VIII COLLEGE STAFF

In December 2017 we had the sad news that Chris Rose from the Porters' Lodge had died after struggling heroically with a long illness. Despite being ill, Chris continued to work in the Porters' Lodge when he could, always being cheerful and optimistic. As a signal mark of respect, the flag was flown at half-mast and many Staff and Fellows past and present attended his funeral, thoughtfully and sensitively led by our Chaplain, Revd Nick Widdows.

Mrs Marian Martin died in January 2018. She was Housekeeper and Conference Organiser for 14 years, retiring on 2002. She was a big-hearted, forceful, lively, and energetic presence not only in College, but in Cherry Hinton, the village where she continued to live.



*Mick North*

And in March, we were greatly saddened to hear of the death of Mick North, Sarah Palmer's partner. Mick served the College 23 years faithfully as the plumber, his ingenuity being constantly called upon, until he retired in 2011. Unfortunately, his retirement was marred by ill-health, but he kept his impish grin, always remained positive, and continued to run the Staff Social Club. His funeral took place at the beautiful Rampton Church and was attended by a large gathering of family, friends, and colleagues.

On a much happier note we welcomed back those who had been on maternity leave: Sarah Reynolds, Emma Tunbridge-Hibbert, Vicky Levet, and Jenny Woodfield. Amanda Rule decided not to return after her maternity leave and Imogen Jackaman was appointed as Conference & Events Coordinator. We also welcomed Rebecca Stankiewicz as maternity cover for Jemma O'Grady in the College Office. A further new addition to the College Office was Abigail Murray to the post of Senior Accounts Administrator after the resignation of Natalie Silgram. Jenny Woodfield, HR Manager, and Georgina Rose, Accommodation Coordinator, also resigned their posts.

After 17 years at Magdalene, Barry Holman retired to take up a post of school caretaker in his village. He was Clerk of Works, an exceptional demanding job, and he was given a memorable send-off. In August we welcomed Brian Williams as Head of Building Services and in the meantime Sid Dawson, Coleen Keohane and the maintenance team worked hard on the summer maintenance programme and keeping the power supply going in very difficult circumstances.

Following the successful launch of the *FUTURE foundations* campaign the Development Office expanded with the appointment of Will Thong as Senior Development Officer and Will Southwell as Development Administrator. Harriet Lamden was appointed as the 2017–18 Development Office intern.

After an extensive review of the Tutorial and Admissions Office the department was renamed the Academic Office. Chris Percival, who worked at the College for eight years, retired in August. Deana Shorten also left after ten years working initially as Bursarial Secretary and more recently as PA to the Senior Tutor.

In the Housekeeping Department there were several changes including the retirement of Julia Morton after 12 years at Magdalene and Margaret Wilson leaving after seven years.

The catering team welcomed Bronius Maciulskas to the new post of Stores Person, Dodou Sonko as Commis Chef, Luca Gentile as demi Chef de Partie. Congratulations also go to George Marrington and Terry Hughes on their promotion to Chef de Partie.

C H F

## IX EVENTS AND COMMEMORATIONS

MAGDALENE TRIENNIAL FESTIVAL 2017–18. This was the fifth triennial festival: the Directors were Ms Mentchen and Dr Hughes and the theme chosen this year was 'Change'. The launch event took place on 12th October, chaired by the Master, and was followed across the year by fourteen panel discussions and symposia, with topics ranging from climate change to literary translation, from art restoration to reporting revolution, and from film versioning to biological adaptation. The Festival Lecture, 'Change on the Ancient Silk Road', was given by Dr Michael Scott (Warwick University). The Directors thank all the contributors and in particular the many Fellows who chaired sessions, participated in discussions and helped to develop the programme.

M E J H & S M



*Sophie Seita (2009), Clare Pollard and George Szirtes:  
three poets discuss translation and transformation at the Festival.*

PARNELL AND OTHER HIBERNISMS. Irish Studies have had a high profile in Magdalene this year. This year's Parnell Lecture was given by Professor Dáibhí Ó Cróinín, of the National University of Ireland, Galway, in the Sir Humphrey Cripps Theatre on Monday 22 January 2018. His title was 'Too good to be Irish?: Truth and Lies about Irish Latin Culture in the 7th Century'. Professor Cróinín's research interests are in Early Medieval Irish and European History, Hiberno-Latin Literature, Computistics (defined by him as everything you wanted to know but were afraid to ask about the calculation of the date of Easter in the Middle Ages), Irish Traditional Singing, and Soviet Espionage, 1918–48. He was Editor of the Royal Irish Academy's *New History of Ireland*, vol. 1 (2005). His grandmother, Bess Cronin, was a celebrated traditional singer, and he has edited her songs, in Irish and English (with two accompanying CDs) in *The Songs of Elizabeth Cronin* (2000). He is also the author of a cult novel in Irish, *An Cúigiú Díochlaonadh* [The Fifth Declension] (1994) which, he maintains 'nobody understands'. He was responsible also for the marvellous illustrated Irish translation of Pinocchio [*Eachtra Phinocchio*] (2003). Professor Cróinín's sparkling Parnell Lecture was a spirited survey of the international importance of Irish learning in early medieval Europe.

In March the College, in association with the Cambridge Group for Irish Studies, hosted an international two-day colloquium on Modernism in Irish culture, 'Joyce to Beckett', with contributions from (among many others) former Parnell Fellows Angela Bourke, Roy Foster, Declan Kiberd, Edna Longley, and Clair Wills. A high point of the event was an evening concert of words and music associated with James Joyce, including a performance of the finale of Molly Bloom's soliloquy from *Ulysses* by Irish actor Joan Sheehy, and which concluded with a reading by the poet Michael Longley. Next day the acclaimed interpreter of Beckett's work, actor Lisa Dwan, gave a lecture on 'Beckett in performance' which concluded with her own electrifying performance of part of Beckett's terrifying one-hander 'Not', and from her own monologue 'No's knife', derived from Beckett's prose writings.

Finally, in May, the College hosted a Cambridge Group for Irish Studies Symposium, chaired by Professor Duffy, to mark the publication of Cambridge University Press's major new four-volume *History of Ireland*. General editor Professor Tom Bartlett (Parnell Fellow 2001–02) was joined by the other three editors (including Professor Jane Ohlmeyer, Parnell Fellow 2014–15) for a wide-ranging conversation on Irish history, vigorously contested (as was appropriate at an Irish academic event) from the floor. Cambridge University Press donated a set of the four volumes for the occasion, which has been presented to the College Library.

E D

OSPREYS' SENIOR COMMITTEE 20TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION IN APRIL 2018. The Ospreys (a society by and for the University of Cambridge's sportswomen) originally established a clubhouse at Magdalene College, funded by the generosity of Magdalene alumni. It was opened by Prince Philip, Chancellor of the University, accompanied by Sir Alec Broers, the Vice-Chancellor, and Lady Broers, who was a member of the original Senior Executive Committee and who remains a great supporter of the club. In 2003, the Magdalene clubhouse was needed by the College for the expansion of offices and since that time the Ospreys have been without a base in Cambridge. Since its inception about 6,500 sportswomen have joined the Ospreys. They have competed against Oxford in over 60 sports and Ospreys have gone on to triumph in international and Olympic events throughout the world. Sir John and Lady Gurdon established the annual Gurdon Prize for sporting and academic excellence.

PJM



*The Ospreys' President, Lizzie Withers, presents a bouquet to Lady Gurdon, the founding President of the Senior Executive Committee.*

## X ALUMNI AND DEVELOPMENT

### 1 REUNIONS

A Reunion Dinner was held on 15 September 2017 for Members matriculating in the years 1986–1988, attended by 85 alumni, 11 Fellows, and staff. The speaker was Rt Hon Greg Clark (1986). A Reunion Dinner was held on 22 September 2017 for 1989–1991 Members. It was attended by 85 alumni, 9 Fellows, and staff. The speaker was Revd Dr Stephen Hampton (1990). A Reunion Dinner took place on 13 April 2018 for Members matriculating in the years 1992–1994. It was attended by 111 alumni, 7 Fellows, and staff. The speaker was Mr Amarjit Singh (1992). On 5 May 2018, a Reunion Lunch for Members matriculating in the years 1958–1964 welcomed 126 alumni and guests, 9 Fellows, and staff. The speaker was Mr Graham Eves (1964).

### 2 AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Sir Simon Bryan (1984): High Court Judge allocated to the Queen’s Bench Division as a nominated judge of the Commercial Court  
A J Bull (1980): MBE for services to the development of public understanding in nuclear research, in the 2018 New Year’s Honours List  
P A L Causton (1989): shortlisted as solicitor of the year in the Law Society’s Excellence Awards 2017  
G J Craddock (1977): Chief Risk Officer of the Massachusetts Mutual Life Company  
Wg Cdr J B Crawford (2003): OBE in the Queen’s 2015 Birthday Honours List  
Dr R Crellin (2006): Lectureship in Later Prehistory at the University of Leicester  
N A Dobrik (1978): MBE for services to people affected by thalidomide, in the New Year’s Honours List  
M Don (1976): OBE in the Queen’s 2018 Birthday Honours List  
J R Eadie, QC (1980): awarded a Knighthood in the Queen’s 2018 Birthday Honours List  
P L Elwood (2012): Boat Race 2018 Men’s Blue Boat winner  
V Evdokimto (2003): nominated for a BAFTA  
Dr J R J C Godwin (1962): Hon Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London  
R Harcourt (1959): Hon Fellow of the British Shakespeare Association  
Dr G C Hawtin (1967): OBE in the Queen’s 2017 Birthday Honours List for services to global agrobiodiversity conservation, subsistence livelihood enhancement and sustainable food programmes  
Sir Brian Ivory, CBE (1968): CVO in the Queen’s 2018 Birthday Honours List  
Eur ing Dr P Mann (1994): one of the Winners of Top 50 Women in Engineering Award 2018  
M Martschenko (2015): Boat Race 2018 Blue Boat winner

L J Moelwyn-Hughes (1989): appointed Master of Marlborough College from August 2018

J A McPhee (1953): 1999 Pulitzer Prize for *Annals of the Former World*

Dr J P B O'Connor (1992): Professor of Radiology at the University of Manchester and Honorary Consultant Radiologist at the Christie NHS Foundation Trust

J S Partridge (1958): Freedom of the Worshipful Company of Stationers & Newspapers Makers in July 2017

Sir Brian W Pomeroy, CBE (1962): Chairman of Age UK

D A C Ryder, Earl of Harrowby (1974): Deputy Lieutenant (DL) of Staffordshire, May 2017

Prof Dr E Wetter Slack (1999): Winner of the ETH Zurich Latsis Prize 2017 and ETH Goldene Eule (outstanding teaching D-BOIL) 2016

Revd D J Weekes (1956): PhD from the University of St Andrews

### 3 SELECTED PUBLICATIONS (to 30 June 2018)

- \*B Bland (2001): *Generation HK: Seeing Identity in China's Shadow* (2017)
- \*D K C Cooper (1972, formerly Fellow): *Christiaan Barnard: The Surgeon Who Dared* (2017)
- \*D Crawley (1999): (co-author): *The People Equation: Why Innovation is people, not products* (2017) with D P Piscione
- \*A Crisp (1968): *Colonel Belchamp's Battlefield Tour* (2017)
- \*P Ford (1971) (co-author): *Greens Annotated Acts: Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005* (2nd Edn, 2017) with S Cross
- \*I Gately: *Rush Hour: How 500 Million Commuters survive the daily journey to work* (2015) and *The Secret Surfer* (2018)
- A Ibrahim (2004): *The Rohingyas: Inside Myanmar's Hidden Genocide* (2016)
- B Kloss (2005): *The Exercise of Prosecutorial Discretion at the International Criminal Court: Towards a more Principled Approach* (2017)
- J A McPhee (1953): *Draft No 4: On the Writing Process* (2017)
- \*R N A Maguire (1973) (trans): *Napoleon's Commentaries on the wars of Julius Caesar* (2018)
- \*J Mole (1961): *Gestures & Counterpoints* (2017)
- C W R D Moseley (1985): *Latitude North* (2014) and *Coming to Terms* (2017)
- \*D Robinson (Honorary Fellow): *Stanley Spencer* (1990)
- \*G Shen (Yip Visiting Fellow 2016–17) (co-editor): *Value Management in Construction and Real Estate: Methodology and Applications* (2016) with A Yu
- \*B Staveley (1974): *Faultless Grammar: the busy lawyer's reminder guide* (2017)

\*We are grateful to these authors for presenting copies of their works to the College Library

#### 4 MEMBERS' DEATHS (to mid-July 2018)

D Chapman (1944); C Hogben (1944); H C Cockerill (1945); J C Yandle (1945); The Revd JY R Tucker (1947); J Palmer (1947); P J R Bathurst (1948); J W Drinkwater (1948); E D Ezra (1948); H A R Turner (1948); Dr D J Fairclough (1949); Sir Thomas A Beevor, Bt (1949); D A Bennet (1950); G V H Grimmett (1950); R D Hewlett (1950); H J Laurence (1951); J H Allsopp (1951); Dr J B Nichols (1951); H L B Newton (1952); A C F Thomson (1953); G A Pitman (1955); The Revd R J Dixon (1955); C G M Duncan (1955); R F Allen (1956); Major B Mollo, TD (1956); His Honour Judge E V P Reece (1956); J Shaw (1957); J M Escombe (1957); Revd J K Isaacs (1957); N McMillan (1958); J W Prince (1958); A Moger (1959); A J G Glossop (1959); J Clark (1960); Prof P H Ribbe (1960); R W Wright (1960); N Rogerson (1962); R L Preston (1962); M P Stanyer (1963); Dr D E Sparks (1964); Dr C J Bates (1967); P A Taylor (1969); Dr N S J F Bowen (1971); J Lello (1974); S J G Doggart (1979); H J Angell-James (1981); T Gooderham (1986); J M C Evans (2016).



*Raymond R Sackler, KBE, Officier de la Légion d'Honneur, Officer in the Order of Orange Nassau (1995). Raymond Raphael Sackler was born in Brooklyn, New York City in 1920, and was a psychiatrist, pharmacist and philanthropist. He was educated at Erasmus Hall High School and New York University, then at Anderson College of Medicine in Glasgow and graduated from Middlesex University Medical School in Waltham, Mass in 1944. He was one of three brothers whose*

parents were Isaac, a Jewish emigre from Austria-Hungary, and Sophie, a refugee from Poland. They ran a small grocery business. All three brothers attended medical school and became psychiatrists and later very successful pharmacists who owned their large pharma company. They were conspicuous philanthropists in the USA, Israel and UK supporting the arts, medicine, and archaeology especially within the University of Cambridge, possibly because of the presence of Napp Laboratories. Magdalene was fortunate to benefit from generous financial support from Sackler and his wife, Beverly, and they were both made Honorary Members of the College in 1999. He died on 27 July 2017, aged 97, and is survived by his wife and their two sons, Richard and Jonathan.



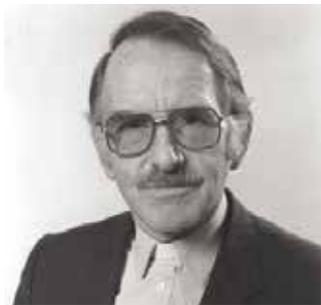
*David Derek Bourgeois*, MusD, was born in Kingston upon Thames in 1941 and was educated at Cranleigh School, Surrey. Francis Turner (1920, Fellow and Tutor) secured his election to the Magdalene Music/Organ Scholarship in 1959. The Director of Music at Christ Church, Oxford, had rejected him, maintaining to Turner that 'Bourgeois is no bloody good' – to which Turner's peremptory response was, 'You're wrong. I'm taking him'.

You'll see'. Turner was proved triumphantly right. Bourgeois obtained a First in the Music Tripos Part II in 1962; CUMS (under David Willcocks) performed his symphony N° 1 in G minor in 1961. Critically acclaimed, this brought him to public notice. In the following year he set to music a passage in T S Eliot's 'East Coker' based on a text of St John of the Cross, and it was due to receive its premiere at the Arts Council in November 1962. On being informed of this, Eliot refused permission. The Master, Sir Henry Willink, with the support of the Fellows, pleaded with Eliot to reconsider. Persuaded that the performance would be a great honour for a student-composer 'of exceptional promise', Eliot gave his 'very exceptional permission' for this single performance only; but he insisted that the passage was 'not at all suitable', and 'not one of the parts which I would normally allow a composer to make use of'.

After completing the Cambridge MusB degree and then two further years at the Royal College of Music, studying composition under Herbert Howells and conducting under Sir Adrian Boult, Bourgeois returned to his old school to teach, and launched his career as a composer. This soon led to the award of the extremely rare substantive Cambridge degree of Doctor of Music (1971), only the second Magdalene man to achieve this (the first was Thomas Busby in 1801). He was a Lecturer in Music at Bristol University, 1970–1984, Musical Director of the National Youth Orchestra, 1984–1993 (and hugely appreciated), and finally Director of Music at St Paul's Girls' School (in succession to Holst and Howells), 1993–2002. In an output of imaginative variety, he became best known for his outstanding brass and wind-band pieces, and works for school performance. His own instrument was the tuba, for which he composed a concerto, and there were others for the trombone and the euphonium. His musical style was strongly influenced by Britten, Walton, Strauss, and Shostakovich. Always accessible and atmospheric, and often witty, his music has been described as 'unfashionably melodic'; it reached a wider audience with his music for TV's 'Barchester Chronicles' (1981) and 'Mansfield Park' (1983).

He developed into a 'prodigious symphonist', completing a stream of 116 symphonies, almost all of them in retirement since 2002, when he was mainly house-bound because of his wife's disabling illness. This record-breaking number is far and away larger than any British composer has ever achieved. (Haydn wrote 104.) He died on 6 September 2017, aged 75. His first wife, the violinist Jean Bourgeois, died in 2006 and he is survived by Norma, his second wife.

R H



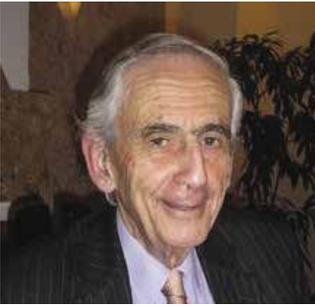
*The Right Revd R M C Beak, OBE (1943).* Robert Michael Cawthorn Beak, was born in 1925. At school he joined the Air Training Corps and was instructed by Laurence Olivier and Ralph Richardson. He read Geography at Cambridge but was called up in 1944 and became a Dekota reconnaissance missions pilot over Burma. As a child his faith had been nurtured through Crusader classes and rather than return to Cambridge he attended the London Bible

College, Tyndale Hall and Wycliffe Hall. He became a curate at St. John's, Tunbridge Wells. He held posts in Uganda and Kenya before returning briefly to the West Country. He returned to Kenya to become Assistant Bishop in Marsabit, an area of North Kenya, from 1984 to 1989, and later Hon. Assistant Bishop in Derby diocese. His first wife Eileen Forbes died in 1956. In 1987, he married Peggy Daynes who died in 2016. He died on 13 January 2018, aged 92. He is survived by his children, Liz, Gil, David, and Steve from his first marriage.



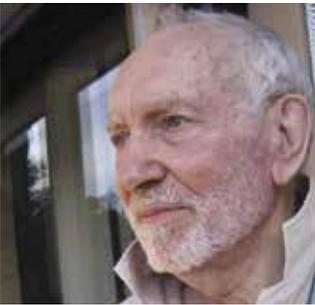
*Sir Julian Loyd, KCVO, DL (1950).* Julian St John Loyd was born in 1926 and was educated at Eton School and Magdalene College. He left Eton to join the Coldstream Guards, but his short career was ended by illness. He went to Magdalene to study Land Economy before joining Savills in Norwich where he was a partner until 1964. He left to become the Queen's Land Agent at Sandringham. During his 27 years in the role he was responsible for

modernising access and facilities including a caravan park and housing for estate staff. He was knighted in 1971 and served as Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Norfolk. He died on 7 February 2018, aged 91. He is survived by his wife, Mary, their four children, Alexandra, Charles, and Mary Rose, and six grandchildren.



*Sherban G Cantacuzino, CBE (1947).* Sherban Cantacuzino was born in Paris in 1928 of Romanian parents and was educated at Winchester College and at Magdalene where he read Architecture. He was an architect, conservationist and teacher. He was the author of several seminal books on architecture and Secretary of the Royal Fine Arts Commission. He campaigned to prevent the gold miners destroying Rosia

Montana Mountain in Romania and he was the founder and president of Pro Patrimonio, The National Trust of Romania. He died on 19 February 2018, aged 89. He is survived by his wife, Anne, their daughters Ilinca and Marina, and five grandchildren.



*Professor Lionel March, ScD (1956)* was born in Hove in 1934. It was on the recommendation of Alan Turing to his fellow mathematician, Dennis Babbage, the Senior Tutor, that March was accepted to read mathematics at Magdalene. Turing had been greatly impressed by the schoolboy's paper on 'n' dimensional numbers. But two years' national service had dimmed the mathematical spark and March spent most of

his first year designing stage sets for the ADC, the Arts Theatre and Sadler's Wells. Threatened with being sent down, he transferred to architecture under the newly-appointed first Professor, Sir Leslie Martin. Continuing his stage design and ignoring the requirement to keep nights in term, he would return from work at Sadler's Wells so exhausted that his supervisor, David Wyn Roberts, would wake him up for supervisions. He failed the final examination but, resitting, was awarded a First. Two years later, completing the diploma, Martin gave March the job of designing the University's 1962 plan for Cambridge. Awarded a Harkness fellowship, he spent a year at the Harvard/MIT Joint Center for Urban Studies before being summoned back by Martin to design the Whitehall Study of 1964. It was while working on this that March developed his theory of the relationship of building form to density – demonstrating that high towers are not necessary to save land. Influential at the time and then forgotten, this finding is, in today's post-Grenfell world, more relevant than ever. In later life, he joked that there is a major but invisible monument to him and Martin in Whitehall,

where there are still no towers. In 1969 Martin and March established the Centre for Land Use and Built Form studies (now the Martin Centre), the first research centre in a UK architecture department – the first of several groups which March formed, led and inspired. From it, in 1969, emerged one of the earliest Cambridge ‘tech start-ups’, Applied Research of Cambridge Ltd, the world’s first company devoted to computer-aided design systems for architecture. Later, March was Professor of Systems Design at the University of Waterloo, Ontario; Professor of Design at the Open University; Rector and Vice-provost of the Royal College of Art; and, for twenty years, Professor of Design and Computation at the University of California, Los Angeles. The author of several books, he was also founding editor of a learned journal. His abstract geometrical art is highly regarded. He died on 22 February 2018, aged 84.

Peter Carolin



*Canon Anthony Caesar, CVO, MusB, FRCO.* Anthony Douglass Caesar came up to Magdalene from Cranleigh in 1942, but his undergraduate days were interrupted by war service (RAF), 1943–46. He was the Music Scholar in succession to Henry Chadwick, and graduated with a MusB (First Class) in 1948, having meanwhile been elected to the University’s John Stewart of Rannoch Scholarship in Sacred Music. After ordination,

he pursued a career both as clergyman, and schoolmaster at Eton and Radley, as well as a church musician, organist, and composer. From 1979 to 1991 he was Subdean of the Chapels Royal, having previously been Canon Precentor and Vice-Dean of Winchester Cathedral. He was one of the music editors of the *New English Hymnal*, and in retirement an extra Chaplain to the Royal Household. He is best known for his ‘Missa Brevis Capella Regalis’ and his hymn ‘O for a closer walk with God’. In many different roles he brought dignity and order to the music and worship of the Church of England. He died on 14 July 2018, aged 94.

## Development Director's Report

The Alumni & Development team's focus has been on the College's ambitious fundraising endeavour, *FUTURE foundations – the Campaign for Magdalene*, during the past year. Our stated aim at the time of the launch in March 2017 is as true now as it was then, to ensure that our students have the best possible facilities at Magdalene to enable them to succeed and reach their full potential. Our commitment to academic excellence includes the provision of financial support for those who need assistance, the best possible teaching and pastoral care as well as a new Library Building, tripling available study space and doubling the book stock. It will offer spacious work areas with excellent IT facilities, a dedicated Archive Centre open to researchers, an art gallery and social hub for students, Fellows and visitors. The need for this additional building was particularly apparent during the next Easter Term when every available room in College was used to create additional study space for our students. We also remain determined to continue to conserve and enhance our historic estate and look forward, once the new state-of-the-art Library Building has been completed, to restoring the wonderful Pepys Building.

We announced our target of £25 million at the launch last year safe in the knowledge that we had secured gifts and pledges worth £10 million in the period running up to the 'public phase' of the Campaign. The gifts, promises, and above all the warm and encouraging response as well as the offers of help from the wider Magdalene community gave us the courage to believe that we could raise such a large sum – £25 million – in five years. The results so far have simply been incredible; we have already raised more than £18,500,000, of which just over £13.7 million is for the new Library Building. This truly fantastic result allows us to break ground for the new building in September this year and to plan for the opening of the new Library in two years' time ready for Michaelmas 2020. We have been immensely fortunate and are humbled by the amazingly generous response of the wider Magdalene community.

The College's alumni relations programme continues to thrive and a total of 46 events at home and abroad were held during the past year. Almost 1800 Members and their guests attended one of these events; be that one of the Reunion Dinners or the Reunion Lunch (oversubscribed again this year), the Buckingham Society Luncheon or the 8th annual Family Day which was held in early July and attended by hundreds of Members and their families. We are once again indebted to several Magdalene Members for their generosity in hosting Magdalene in the City (MiC) and Magdalene Law Association (MLA) events. Trevor Borthwick (1981) and Richard Grove (1976) hosted a summer drinks party at Allen & Overy last July. In January, Rob Sumroy (1989) hosted

MiC networking drinks at Slaughter and May, at which 25 current students joined 70 Members, and Tom Hewlett (1971) very kindly welcomed dozens of Magdalene men and women to this year's summer drinks party at the Portland Gallery in central London. We are enormously grateful to all of them for making these events possible.



*Family Day in the Fellows' Garden in July (photo: Matt Moon)*

Other highlights this year include the first Magdalene Dinner in Geneva last November. The Master and the Development Director were joined by around 25 Members at a dinner very kindly hosted by Anthony Smouha (1974). Another first was *Magdalene at the Hay Festival* in May, where the Master, and Dr Critchlow entertained a sell-out crowd with a conversation probing *What is Consciousness?* The talk was followed by a Magdalene reception in the Summer House at the Festival where around 40 alumni and guests joined us for drinks and nibbles.

As always, the Master and I travelled to Asia and the USA, and were delighted that some of our senior colleagues, including the Senior Tutor and the Senior Bursar, joined us at some of the popular Magdalene events overseas. We are most grateful to Henry Pang (1986) and James Woodrow (1985) for all their help with Magdalene Asia Pacific in Hong Kong and Singapore respectively;

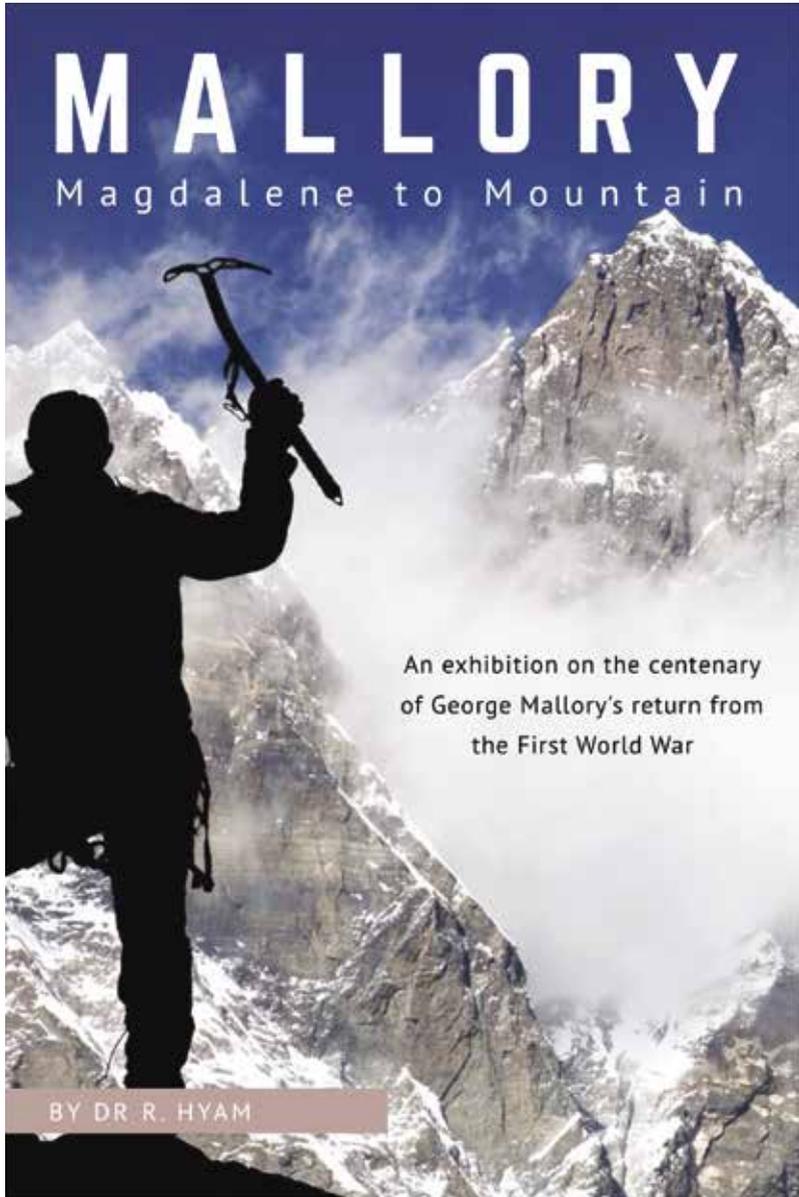
their generous assistance in hosting events for the College is enormously appreciated. Mr Pang organised the annual dinner in Hong Kong at the China Club last September and hosted drinks at Sevva for Members in April this year. Mr Woodrow hosted the annual Singapore dinner at his home for the second time and we are already looking forward to the next one. Barbara Yu (1995) hosted a fourth informal 'Open Day' for potential Magdalene applicants in Singapore, involving the Master and Senior Tutor who were delighted to meet around 60 pupils eager to study at Cambridge.

Once again, the Directors of the Magdalene College Foundation (MCF) in the USA have been tireless in supporting our work and more than \$1.5 million in charitable donations was received by Magdalene via the MCF. We thank Robert Chartener, Fellow-Commoner and Chairman of the MCF, Geoffrey Craddock (1977), William Wilson (1982), Jason Hafler (2006), and Graham Walker (1982) for everything they do for their College. Indeed, Robert and William also assisted the Chapel Choir to visit Massachusetts and Connecticut in June and their generosity as well as their considerable organisational skills ensured a most successful trip. Cyrus Mehta's (1985) invaluable expertise ensured that all members of the Chapel Choir including the Director of Music and the Chaplain had the necessary papers to perform in the USA. In conjunction with the tour, Alastair Adam (1990) hosted a lovely Magdalene Dinner in Boston at the Somerset Club. We then joined the Choir for a wonderful weekend of performances in Concord MA, and then Darien CT before returning to the UK. The Choir continued their tour to Cape Cod MA where they performed at the home of Sidney Sussex alumnus David Fyfe, a member of the Cambridge in America Board, and entertained a group of Cambridge alumni. Our most grateful thanks go to all of them and many others not listed for making such a fantastic trip possible. We are equally grateful to Frank Crantz (1969) who hosted a Magdalene Dinner at the Cosmos Club in Washington DC again this year.

Everything we do is with the help of the Magdalene Community and it is clear that we are only able to succeed because of the energy, loyalty, enthusiasm, and unfailing generosity of our Members and Friends; thank you all.

C D L.

*A complete list of those who have supported the College with a donation during the past financial year (1 July 2017 – 30 June 2018) will be published in the next Annual Campaign Report, which will be circulated with the autumn edition of Magdalene Matters.*



*Poster for the Mallory Exhibition (see p 39)  
(Design: Rupert Wilkey)*

# THE UNLIKELY HERO OF EVEREST:

## THE OTHER SIDE OF GEORGE MALLORY

*Remembered as a charismatic undergraduate at Magdalene, with many diverse interests, Captain of the Boat Club, a young man of captivating physical beauty, which made him a Bloomsbury idol, a nude model, devotee of naked wild swimming; mildly rebellious and vaguely imbued with fashionable homoeroticism, but later a happily married family man; of strong social conscience and left-wing leanings, for many years an unconventional but inspirational schoolmaster, teaching history and English literature, becoming a progressive educational theorist, a man with many friends and admirers among the London literary elite, and himself a gifted writer, aspiring poet, and accomplished scholarly author, setting everything down in elegant penmanship; impractical, perhaps, but something of a polymath, a 'Renaissance man' indeed: and now, in 1924, aged 38, poised on the brink of a promising career as a Cambridge academic, likely to become an influential and much-loved university character...*

*So where did it all go wrong? The short answer is a fatal fall a few hundred feet from the top of the highest and most challenging mountain in the world, Everest-Chomolungma, Goddess-Mother of the Earth, on 8 June 1924.*

*Because George Mallory, for all his other attributes, was above all, a mountaineer, who came to an untimely and mysterious end – a man celebrated ever since as a romantic symbol of human dedication, determination, courage, vision, and endurance. And so there have been numerous books and speculations innumerable about Mallory in the last 94 years. This article can make no claim to originality: almost anything one can say about even the lesser-known side of his life and personality has already been said by someone during the last 94 years. But details can be added from the College Archives.*

\*

Like everyone else seeing Mallory for the first time, A C Benson (then Junior Fellow of the College) was struck by his exceptional good looks. Benson was to figure in Mallory's life from his early days in Magdalene during the Michaelmas Term of 1905. Mallory read for the Historical Tripos and Benson was his supervisor ('one of my History boys; he is also a great Alpine climber'). Benson concentrated on technique for the compulsory English Essay, at which his pupil soon excelled. They became close friends, and remained so for the rest of Mallory's life. Benson visited Mallory in his rooms 'at the corner of the court', overlooking the street. At the end of the Michaelmas Term 1906 Benson invited him to stay for a week at his Cambridgeshire retreat, Hinton Hall in the village of Haddenham. This was followed by another particularly enjoyable week of rural rides in June 1907, and then by a few days in July at the Benson family home, 'Tremans' in Sussex: Benson was pleased how easily he fitted in. He introduced him to his circle of Cambridge

notables. For his part, Mallory took his friend Rupert Brooke to meet Benson; and when his supervisor was suffering from depression between 1907 and 1909, he was the only junior member confident and close enough to try regularly to help, sometimes inviting Benson to tea, or suggesting a bicycle ride together, or joining him in the evening for a game of cards, or simply a chat. Benson gratefully recorded that ‘the charming Mallory’ had been ‘endlessly good to me’ during his depression, ‘always ready to talk or walk or fall in with everything’.

Mallory led an extremely active student life, taking up rowing, joining the Fabian Society and the Women’s Suffrage Association, even acting in the Marlowe Society’s inaugural production, *Dr Faustus* (he played the part of the Pope), and morris dancing in *Comus*. He was secretary of Magdalene Boat Club in 1907 and Captain in 1908 (‘a phenomenally successful year’). He was secretary of Benson’s Kingsley Club (a discussion group for the brightest Magdalene men), at which he read two papers himself, one on St Francis, (‘very thoughtful & enthusiastic, & in some places with a real beauty of style’), the other on James Boswell (‘long



and interesting’). His third secretaryship arose out of his keen interest in the College’s urban mission, the Magdalene Lads’ Club in Camberwell, organising a Whitsunday outing in Cambridge for the boys (a cricket match and a trip by river launch to Baits Bite Lock). This was in his fourth year, after he had completed the Historical Tripos with a Second, at the time an undivided class; and with Benson financially supporting him. As a graduate, Mallory was living in a College hostel, Pythagoras House, as it was then known (but no longer), 26 Northampton Street, where a famous photograph of him was taken. Looking studious and sophisticated, you would never guess he had only recently narrowly escaped being

arrested for ‘indecent exposure’ on Magdalene Bridge after a bibulous nocturnal punting spree with his rowing chums.

It was Benson who inspired Mallory’s interest in Boswell, Dr Johnson’s biographer, and writing about him was the excuse for the fourth year. Benson then encouraged him to turn an essay into a book. *Boswell the biographer* (1912) was the result, a substantial, comprehensive treatment, and its status as the first modern study of Boswell has led to several reprints. It was published during Mallory’s eleven years as a schoolmaster at Charterhouse, 1910 to 1921. In the preface, Mallory

thanked three friends: A C Benson, G L Strachey, and E H Marsh. He could not have had three better literary mentors. Benson had taught him how to write, and his own biographical writings were among his best and most enduring; Giles Lytton Strachey was acclaimed a few years later for his *Eminent Victorians*; and Eddie Marsh, private secretary to Winston Churchill as a Liberal government minister, 1905–1915, was literary editor to a number of leading authors, and literary executor to Rupert Brooke.



Pastel drawing by Simon Bussy (c 1909)



Nude study (oil) by Duncan Grant (1909)

By this time, Mallory had abandoned his earlier intention of being ordained like his father; Benson did not discourage ordination, but Mallory's faith perhaps was weakened by his mentor's rationalism. He began to wonder whether *Boswell* might lead to a lectureship in a provincial university. His literary ambitions were stimulated by finding himself right in the midst of a group of Bloomsbury friends, mostly Cambridge-educated: not just Rupert Brooke, Eddie Marsh, and Lytton Strachey, but Lytton's brother James, Maynard and Geoffrey Keynes, the climber Geoffrey Winthrop Young, and the painter Duncan Grant. Mallory was an enthusiastic nude model for Grant ('I'm profoundly interested in the nude me'). This group were united by their left-wing and homoerotic interests, youthful rebels, believers above all in the value and importance of friendship and aesthetic experience, unafraid of expressing their emotions, both verbally and physically. Mallory was strongly attracted to James Strachey (later a leading psychoanalyst), and insisted on trying out anal intercourse with him; afterwards, this was not something he wanted to repeat, but it led to his being pursued by James's brother. Lytton's rhapsodic description of Mallory has been frequently quoted:

Mon dieu! George Mallory! He's six foot high, with the body of an athlete by Praxiteles, and a face – oh incredible – the mystery of Botticelli, the refinement of a Chinese print, the youth and piquancy of an unimaginable English boy.... The sheer beauty of it all is what transports me.

In 2015, 34 letters written by Mallory to Lytton Strachey from 1909 onwards were sold at auction by Bonham's for £18,750. They were said to reveal his 'flirtatious side'. One of the letters written at about the time of Mallory's unexpected marriage to Ruth Turner in 1914 sought to reassure Lytton of his continuing friendship: 'I am still part of that [homosexualist] persuasion'.

Benson noted in his diary that Mallory the schoolmaster had a number of 'emotional affairs' with the boys, and 'mostly entertains boys' even after his marriage. Those whom Mallory found rewarding included Alan Goodfellow ('a delightful boy... one of the nicest of people'), Raymond Rodakowski ('he makes me feel better'), and Raymond's friend Robert Graves. Mallory took each of these three boys – and several others at different times – on climbing holidays in Snowdonia. These expeditions were some of the most idyllic aesthetic experiences of his life. Robert Graves was the most appreciative. He became the most famous of Mallory's pupils, a poet and novelist, author of a classic autobiography, *Goodbye to all that* (1929), in which he writes about Mallory's influence on him. Having been bullied, Graves was grateful for his protective tutelage, and for introducing him not only to modern literature but to the joys of climbing. A man of such originality and sensibility was, he decided, 'wasted at Charterhouse'. When Mallory died, Graves told Ruth that 'George was my first real friend and he always remained so... I did love him'.



*The young Robert Graves*



*Ruth (Turner) Mallory*

Ruth proved to be an ideal partner for Mallory. Not only did Ruth completely understand Mallory's delight in nudism, as her father was a committed family nudist, but she was easily co-opted into her husband's friendship circle with special boys, his 'most select number of pals'. He was pleased that Ruth became fond of them too: 'you are good at loving my friends'. When he went off to fight in France in the middle of 1916, Ruth carefully maintained these relationships, not least by supporting Robert Graves in his unconventional friendship with a much younger boy, Peter Johnstone ('Dick' in *Goodbye to all that*). In October 1916 she arranged for them to stay together with her while Robert was on leave, and Johnstone still at school. Mallory was pleased, and of course wished he could have joined them.

Mallory was a gunner-officer with the Royal Artillery, and had a comparatively easy war, though he wanted 'to fight in this cause', and 'would much rather be in the thick of it'. He had not 'the slightest interest in military affairs excepting in so far as they bear upon the end of the war'. He was able to keep up his reading, particularly of 'the vast and wonderful French literature', and to reflect more deeply about education. Ruth bombarded him with long letters and regular chocolate cakes, together with parcels of anything he asked for, such as potatoes and carrots, Turkish cigarettes, gin, soup tablets, and a loafah. He yearned for a decent swim in a green meadow, to feel 'the ripple of a delicious stream over my limbs'. In September 1918, with the end of the war in sight, he had to organise a sports afternoon for soldiers stationed near the Channel coast. He arranged for the event to kick off with the men standing to attention. Then, 'at the blast of a whistle [they] began to undress; when nude they ran to the sea, rolled in it, & came back.... Altogether the men enjoyed themselves, & so did I'.

After the war he returned to Charterhouse, until in January 1921 his life took a dramatic turn. He was invited to join the expedition to Mt Everest, planned for later in the year. He had always climbed regularly since he was a Winchester schoolboy, and he had acquired a reputation as the foremost Alpinist of his generation, admired for his resilience and agility. With Ruth and a growing family to consider, he was always in two minds about going to Everest, but Ruth was supportive, and the three expeditions presented ever-growing opportunities. He and Ruth relieved his repeated absences, as they had during the war, with a full and affectionate correspondence. Particular highlights of this were his descriptions of the great mountain, how he experienced 'the strange elation of seeing Everest for the first time.... It was a prodigious white fang excrescent from the jaw of the world'. In another remarkable letter he laid out a plan to bring a young Nepalese Sherpa, aged about eighteen, back to England with him as a houseboy or personal servant. Nyima had accompanied him as a porter on several exploratory searches for the best route to the summit. He was attracted by his 'boyish outlook on life', and described him to Ruth as 'one of the most helpful people I have ever seen... a ready, willing, unselfish & extraordinarily happy & smiling character'; he had 'a quality

of devotion', and would be faithful as well as intelligent and quick. He explained in detail to Ruth how Nyima might fit in and work with their existing servants. Although this fascinating scheme reflected the middle-class needs and attitudes of the time, it also shows his continuing affinity with promising boys and young men, and his desire to help them. However, uncertain of Ruth's reaction, and whether she would be inclined to take the inevitable risks, he decided against it. Getting her to pass on exotic postage stamps he occasionally bought from street-vendors was much easier: 'If you know of any small boy of our acquaintance, Bobby, or John, or Franz, will you send them on to them'. (Franz Knefel, or Nevel, was a Czech refugee of eleven when Ruth invited him to stay with them for holidays: this he did for several years from 1922, idolising Mallory.)



*1922 Everest expedition team; Mallory, bottom row, far left*

The trials and frustrations of the expeditions obviously figured largely in their correspondence, but never exclusively. One special interest they shared was in botany and gardening: his botanising in the Himalaya, her gardening at home. He enjoyed the beauty of semi-tropical Sikkim, and its opportunities for wild swimming ('bathing properly'), but he didn't care for the bleak high-altitude desert-plateau of 'treeless Tibet'. There were however some rewarding valleys, and during the 1922 expedition he discovered on a hillside valley among the rhododendrons, 'a fine yellow polyanthus primula & it was so beautiful I nearly fell down and wept with the joy of it'. Rather like a clustered snowdrop, it was 'a ravishing flower.... I've never seen anything that so knocked me silly'. The expeditions regularly collected seedlings, and Mallory desperately hoped they could get this one home safely; perhaps it would be named after him, 'for I am certain it's new'.

He and Ruth always wrote about what they had been reading. Apart from card games, evenings in a tiny tent on the mountain were usually spent relaxing with a book. As in France, his pocket-volume of four Shakespeare plays – *Lear*, *Hamlet*, *Romeo and Juliet*, & *Othello* – always accompanied him. He enjoyed recitations from *The Spirit of Man* (1916), a new anthology of poetry edited by Robert Bridges. His one disappointment with Andrew Irvine, chosen as his final climbing companion, was that he was ‘poetry shy’ and would not join in.



*Irvine and Mallory (1924)*

\*

Mallory had resigned from Charterhouse in order to join the 1921 expedition. The 1922 expedition followed on so closely, it was only after it was over that alternative employment needed to be found. Not immediately, because he made more money than as a schoolmaster by lecture tours all over Britain and in the USA and Canada. Almost certainly, he wanted to make writing his career. ‘I wish I were a poet’, he once told Ruth. Perhaps he could make a living as a journalist? In that way, he could have promoted the causes dear to him, progressive education, iconoclastic modern art, the cosmopolitan ideals of the League of Nations (‘I think and feel passionately about international politics’). For several years he had wrestled with an unpublished manuscript, ‘The Book of Geoffrey’, cast in the form of a novel, but in fact a polemic about the deficiencies of the public school system. He had however published a pamphlet on *War work for boys and girls* (1915), emphasising the need for ‘clear thought’, one of his favourite pedagogic principles; he particularly hoped Benson would approve of it. There were also articles on theories of education for the *Daily Telegraph*, and on ‘the art of climbing’ for the *Alpine Journal*, the *Climbers’ Club Journal* and other periodicals. He had written a sparkling and evocative official report on the 1922

expedition. Had he lived to tell the tale, he might have written a brilliant and exciting masterpiece about the conquest of Everest.

But in 1923 he still needed a job. He applied for the post of Secretary and Lecturer for the Cambridge Extra-Mural Studies Board, linked to the Workers' Educational Association. Benson was once more part of the story. It was the Master of Magdalene's reference which was crucial in securing Mallory's appointment from October 1923. Benson was one of the first of his friends to be invited to dinner in George and Ruth's new home, Herschel House, a large 1880s property, just off Grange Road, leased from Clare College (the house was demolished in 1966 to make way for the new Clare Hall). Benson was thrilled by the new appointment: it was good for the College, and a post 'which would have given him full scope for his energies, and afforded him exactly the opportunities he most desired'. Mallory was elected as a Member of High Table.

How badly Benson was affected by Mallory's death only a few months later we cannot be sure, but he was 'not well enough' to attend the College Memorial Service on 24 June 1924; he was apparently laid up with 'bad legs', but perhaps he did not trust himself not to break down. So he did not deliver the address he had written: instead it was read out by the President, A S Ramsey. There is certainly anguish in Benson's diary entry about the tragic news from Everest: 'After all, it is just a feat'. He did however attend the national Memorial Service in St Paul's Cathedral in the autumn: 'I was somehow more impressed than moved – it all seemed so unlike George to be celebrated – unlike his unaffected modesty'.

As a young man, Benson himself had enjoyed climbing, until he sustained an injury. There was so much they had in common: a love of beauty, art, and literature, poetry especially, a commitment to the importance of friendship, a rapport with young people, a scepticism about public school education, a similarity of outlook, of preferences, of opinions, a refusal to accept anything unthinkingly, least of all religious dogma, or social convention. Benson had essentially taught Mallory how to think more clearly, and to write well. In all these ways, there was so much Mallory had imbibed from his close friendship with his charismatic mentor. In so many ways, therefore, Benson is the key to understanding the other side of the hero of Everest.

R H

# 'GOOD DISCOURSE AMONG THE OLD MEN – OF ISLANDS NOW AND THEN RISING AND FALLING AGAIN IN THE SEA':

SAMUEL PEPYS AND FANTASTICAL ISLES

The College is fortunate to own Volume II of the influential first edition of *Gulliver's Travels* by Jonathan Swift, which was printed in two volumes for Benjamin Motte in 1726. The narrative recounts Lemuel Gulliver's fateful voyage as a sea captain: he is abandoned on a mysterious island by his treacherous crew, who conspire to follow a new career as pirates<sup>1</sup>. He finds himself in the land of the Houyhnhnms – a race of civilised and cultured horses. Our delightful edition offers a map purporting to show the island, marked 'Discovered AD 1711' (Fig 1). Over time, Gulliver learns about, and comes to respect, his hosts and their society: 'I had not been a Year in this Country, before I contracted such a Love and Veneration for the Inhabitants, that I entered on a firm resolution never to return to human Kind, but to pass the rest of my Life among these admirable Houyhnhnms in the Contemplation and practice of every Virtue.' The more he learns of the gentle equines, the more Gulliver grows aware of the failings of his native Britain. The volume quickly turns to satire. Lawyers, doctors and politicians are especially derided in comparison with the noble horses of the island.

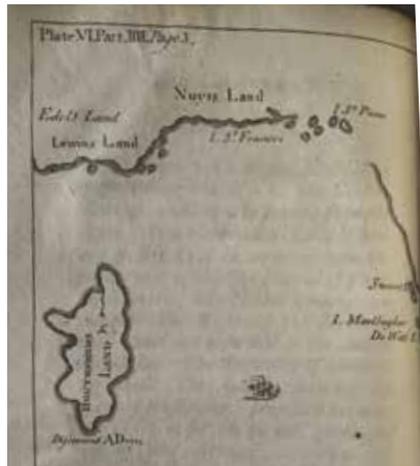


Figure 1

---

<sup>1</sup> Magdalene Old Library C.5.12 – there is no evidence that the College ever owned volume I.

The history of using an adventure which takes place upon a fantastical island in order to lampoon British political and social folly is a long one; examples range from Thomas More's *Utopia* to Julian Barnes's *England, England* (though Barnes's insular other world turns out to be the Isle of Wight). In this article, I shall explore a chain of fantastical islands which we find in the world of Samuel Pepys, ranging from classical Utopian lands to the subjects of sailors' tall tales. Our odyssey will end with perhaps the most bizarre of them all – Pepys's Island.

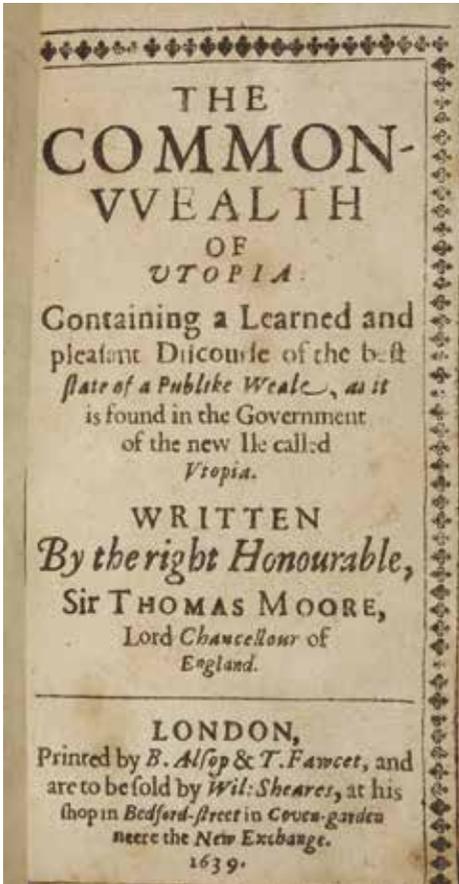


Figure 2

sparkling *Utopia*, written within an intellectual Latin-language sparring match with his friend Erasmus. Pepys's copy was the English translation by Ralph Robinson (first published in 1551) in the 1639 edition [PL 222(1)] (Fig 2).

Early examples of fantastical locations include the island described by the ancient Greek writer Lucian of Samosata (c AD 120 to 200), whose satiric fiction 'A True Story' became the model for many Renaissance iterations of the *topos*. Sir Henry Sheeres, friend of Pepys (and with him at that memorable period when he assisted with the demolition of the mole at Tangier), was one of the authors of a translation of Lucian which was published in 1711, eight years after Pepys's death; and Lucian was taught in the advanced class at Christ's Hospital School, witnessed by a letter sent by Magdalene tutor Sir Samuel Morland to his former pupil Pepys in 1687. Lucian's writings are both fantastical in themselves and also a mockery of the fantastical: thus, of earlier mythic writers, including Homer, Lucian says, 'what did surprise me was their supposition that nobody would notice they were lying'. Pepys owned a copy of one of the most famous Lucian-inspired satires – Thomas More's

The Ilande of Vtopia conteyneth in breadthe in the myddell part of it (for there it is brodest) CC. miles. Whiche bredthe continueth through the moste parte of the lande, sauynge that by lytle and lytle it commeth in and waxeth narrower towards both the endes. Whiche fetchynge about a circuite or compasse of .d. myles, do fassion the hole Ilande lyke to the newe mone. Betwene thys two corners the sea runneth in, diuuydyng them a sonder by the distaunce of .xi. miles or there aboutes, and there surmounteth into a large and wyde sea, which, by reason that the lande of euery syde compasseth it about, and shiltreth it from the windes, is not rough nor mountith not with great waues, but almost floweth quietly, not muche vnlike a great standing powle; and maketh almoste al the space within the bellye of the lande in maner of a hauen; and to the great commoditie of the Inhabitauntes receaueth in shyppes towards euery parte of the lande. The forefrontes or frontiers of the .ii. corners, what wythe fordys and shelues, and what with rockes, be very ieoperdous and daungerous.

The benefits and disadvantages of being an Island race, occupied the discourse of many English writers in the seventeenth-century both philosophically and also in terms of military strategy.

The next island in this Pepsian archipelago is found in a rare and attractive volume in the Library: the fantastical travelogue and satire on gender and politics, *The Isle of Pines* [PL 1399(3)]. Attributed on its title page to the fictitious Dutch explorer 'Henry Cornelius van Sloetteni', it is in truth by Henry Neville (1620–1694), a political pamphleteer, who had spent some of the period of the English Civil War travelling on the European continent, returning to England in 1645. With anti-Cromwellian but Republican leanings, whatever the political climate Neville was never too far from danger. On 19 May 1659, he took a position on the new Council of State, but he was arrested for treasonable practices just four years later; he was suspected of involvement in the 'Yorkshire Rising' or 'Farnley Wood Plot' and held in the Tower of London. In May 1664, he was released without punishment and turned to writing, including in 1668 the volume preserved in the Pepys Library. The frontispiece to the *Isle of Pines* is a delightful visual summary in four tableaux of the plot: an Elizabethan ship is destroyed on the rocky shore of a desert island; the five English-speaking survivors salvage what they can and begin to build a society; eventually, the island is populated by their numerous offspring; and finally a Dutch crew arrives (asking in the apparently incomprehensible Dutch tongue, 'What eyeland is dit?'), to whom a written account of the adventure is handed over.<sup>2</sup> (Fig 3). One of the most intriguing aspects of this fantasy is its original aetiology of ethnic diversity: four female survivors of a shipwreck find themselves on a deserted island with one man of prodigious sexual appetite, George Pines

---

<sup>2</sup> I am grateful to C S Knighton for the observations that the sinking ship has the Tudor arms with a gibberish motto, while the Dutch ship carries the correct flags, and could be described as a three-masted barque; it is not a realistic sketch because the figures on board are disproportionately large.

– it has not gone unremarked that the surname is an anagram of ‘penis’. Pines has children with each of the four women, who represent different social classes and different ethnicities, creating separate ‘tribes’ which go on to breed first among themselves and then inter-tribally. Eventually, George can number one thousand, seven hundred and eighty-nine of his progeny. The account illustrates a wider seventeenth-century recognition that Islands offered fictional locations where themes such as gender, ethnicity, sexuality and natural conduct could be explored with a certain licence by polemicists.<sup>3</sup>

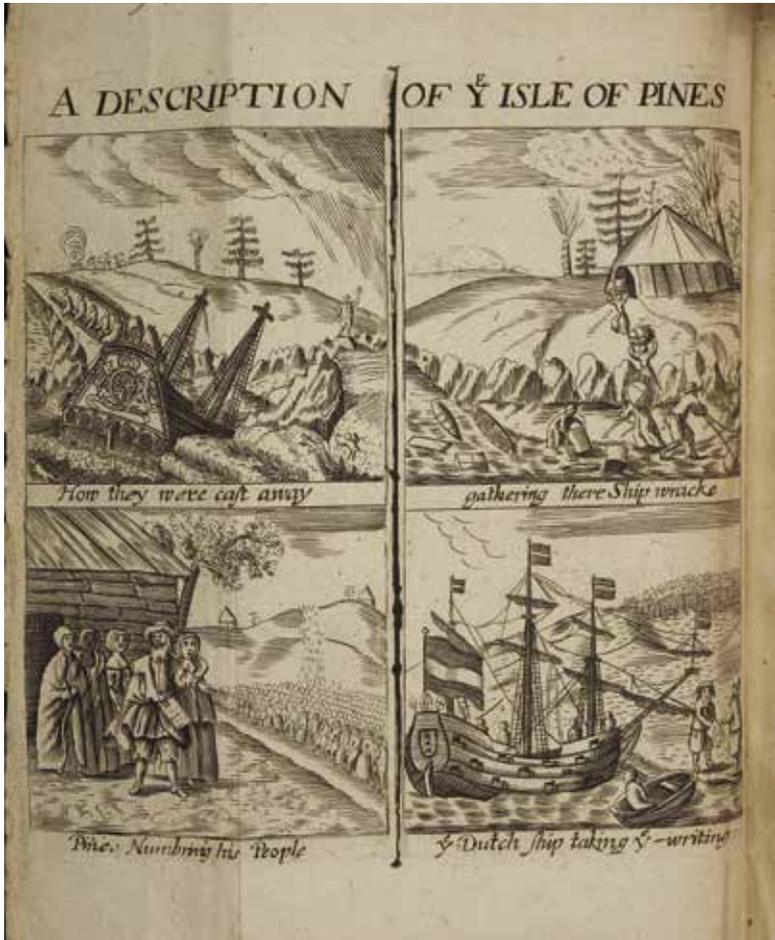


Figure 3

<sup>3</sup> See Richard H Grove, *Green Imperialism: Colonial expansion, tropical island Edens and the origins of environmentalism, 1600-1860* (CUP, 1996) pp 95, 225-226.

The fecundity of George Pines is, frankly, comical. Yet there is also something sinister about a dictatorship where sex rather than power is the driving force. Furthermore, George is the source both of the vast population of the isle and of its historical account, for it is his verbosity which, in the fiction, generates the manuscript from which this printed book offered up to the reader by 'van Sloetteni' is originally conceived.

Fecundity was a key association of exotic islands in the seventeenth-century popular imagination, and a particular example worth mentioning is that of Bermuda (or Summers Isle).<sup>4</sup> In Pepys's copy of the poems of Edmund Waller [PL1155], we may read of the generous supply of natural resources on the island and the inducements offered by such an environment to the growth of passion:<sup>5</sup>

Bermudas wall'd with rocks, who does not know  
That happy Island where huge Lemons grow,  
And Orange trees which golden fruit doe bear,  
Th' Hesperian garden boasts of none so fair?  
Where shining pearle, corall, and many a pound  
On the rich shore, of Amber-greece is found:  
The lofty Cedar which to heaven aspires,  
The Prince of trees is fewell for their fires:  
The smoak by which their loaded spits do turne  
For incense, might on sacred Altars burn...  
O how I long my carelesse limbs to lay  
Under the plantanes shade, and all the day  
With am'rous eyes my fancy entertaine.

In this poem, 'The Battell of the Summer Islands', the profusion of riches generates amorous intent. Yet as so often, the fruitfulness of the isle arises thoughts of a sterile antithesis back in the old country. Before the Edenic peace of Bermuda is shattered by the appearance of two whales, the island's abundance is a reminder of European folly: the islanders eat delicious fruits but pay taxes to their English masters in the form of 'weeds' – one of many seventeenth-century attacks on tobacco.<sup>6</sup>

Accounts of such mysterious islands as Neville imagines in his satire must have been part of many an old salt's tale recounted to land-lubbers around

---

<sup>4</sup> By coincidence, Magdalene holds many important documents relating to the growth of seventeenth-century Bermuda, in the Ferrar papers, once wrongly thought to have been owned by Pepys – but that is a story for a different article.

<sup>5</sup> The poems were first collected in 1645, but Pepys owned a fourth edition, from 1682. Andrew Marvell, in the 1650s, famously wrote in his beautiful poem 'Bermudas' of the overabundance of fruits, with the iconic image of pomegranates as jewellery-cases full of precious seeds, like gems.

<sup>6</sup> 'Tobacco is their worst of things which they/ To English Land-lords as their Tribute pay:/ Such is the mould, that the blest Tennant feeds/On pretious fruits, and payes his rent in weeds'.

the dining tables of London. Indeed, on Wednesday 23 March 1663/64, Pepys records in his *Diary* such an occasion. And for Pepys, too, political commentary is not far removed from fantastical narrative:

So to the office, where very busy all the morning; and so to the Change, and off thence with Sir William Rider to the Trinity-house and there dined very well. And good discourse among the old men – of Islands now and then rising and falling again in the sea; and that there is many dangers of grounds and rocks that come just up to the edge almost of the sea, that is never discovered and ships perish without the world's knowing the reason of it. Among other things, they observed, that there are but two seamen in the Parliament house, *viz.*, Sir William Batten and Sir William Pen – and not above 20 or 30 merchants; which is a strange thing in an Island, and no wonder that things of trade go no better nor are better understood.

The Islands which 'rise and fall into the ocean' as a danger to shipping are transformed into the British Isles, where the absence of maritime experience in government presents parallel – if metaphoric – strangeness and danger.<sup>7</sup>

And it is perhaps not very surprising that one of Pepys's favourite plays was *The Tempest*, in Dryden and Davenant's version adapted from Shakespeare. With a fecundity worthy of George Pines, the playwrights populate their islands with many extra characters, such as Caliban's sister. Miranda, too, has a sister, Dorinda; while Ariel's beloved is the spirit Milcha. And the version expands the number of mirroring sub-plots, with a generous supply of liaisons and wooings. Dryden and Davenant's excessive theatricality generated a parodic satire at the Theatre Royal by Thomas Duffett in 1675, in the form of *Mock-Tempest*, where the island is London, the storm a riot in Mother Stephania's brothel, and the enchanted location Bridewell Gaol. *The Tempest* was one of several similarly themed plays on shipwrecked sailors and enchanted islands which form a popular seventeenth-century sub-genre; such was *The Storm* or *The Sea Journey* by Fletcher and Massinger, seen by Pepys on 25 March 1668: '...and then with my wife to the King's playhouse to see "The Storme"; which we did, but without much pleasure, it being but a mean play compared with "The Tempest," at the Duke of York's house, though Knepp did act her part of grief very well.'

The most unlikely location to appear in our chain of Pepysian 'islands' is California. The earliest explorers, the Spanish Conquistadors, were very aware that California was a peninsula, but it seems that one later travel account of 1625

---

<sup>7</sup> Perhaps some explanation for the rising and falling of islands is offered by the case of Surtsey off the southern coast of Iceland, formed in 1963 in a volcanic eruption 426 ft below sea level. The island reached its maximum size of 1.0 sq mile by 1967. It has since been eroded by wave action and is now half that size. Eventually it will fall again beneath the sea.



Finally, we land at our insular destination: Latitude 47°40'S, Pepys Island. The Master of the *Bachelor's Delight*, William Ambrose Cowle(y), recorded in his ship's log for December 1683:

We held our Course S. W. till we came into the lat. of 47 deg. where we saw Land; the same being an Island not before known, lying to the Westward of us. It was not inhabited, and I gave it the Name of *Pepys* Island. We found it a very commodious place for Ships to water at and take in Wood, and it has a very good Harbour, where a thousand sail of Ships may safely ride: Here is great plenty of Fowls, and we judge, abundance of Fish, by reason of the Grounds being nothing but Rocks and Sands.

His ship was engaged in a circumnavigation of the globe when he came upon this unknown and uninhabited island, which he named after his boss back in London, the Secretary of the Admiralty. Pepys owned a copy of Cowle's account of his discovery [in PL1426].<sup>8</sup> There is not a jot or a mark by the account of the island named for him, nor any indication next to the drawing of the island (made by Cowle and reproduced in the printed volume) of what Pepys must have recognised as a singular honour (Fig 5). In a later manuscript, Cowle recorded more details about the island, including the fact that there was a supply of birds for the sailors to eat – abundant, but marred by their fishy taste. 'I should have liked to have spent the night in the lee of the island', Cowle noted, 'but the purpose of my voyage was not to make discoveries.'



Figure 5

<sup>8</sup> In William Hacke, *Collection of Original Voyages*, published in London in 1699 by James Knapton.

Where is Pepys Island? It appears on globes such as the one by John Senex which we have in the Magdalene Old Library (Fig 6). And on maps, too. A 1787 example (*Amérique Méridionale*, by Rigobert Bonne, 'Ingenieur Hydrographe de la Marine') hangs today on the wall of the Pepys Scholar's reference library.<sup>9</sup> (Fig 7). The island itself has 'disappeared'. Many expeditions attempted to locate it during the eighteenth century, often observing the flocks of sea birds amid the sargassum and seaweed.<sup>10</sup> In 1839 the historian Pedro de Angelis identified Pepys Island as being synonymous with Puig, a phantom island sought by the French and known as 'the Great Island'. 'In view of the explicit statements made by those who have actually visited the island,' wrote de Angelis, 'those who deny its existence cannot be trusted.'



Figure 6

<sup>9</sup> Rigobert Bonne and Nicolas Desmarest, *Atlas encyclopédique contenant la géographie ancienne, et quelques cartes sur la géographie du moyen âge, la géographie moderne...* (Paris, 1787).

<sup>10</sup> Including voyages by Lord Anson (1740–1744), Commodore Byron (1764), Captain Cook (1778), Banks and Solander (1769), Pernetty (1763–1764), Bougainville (1760–1769), Pérouse (1785) and Vancouver (1790–1795).

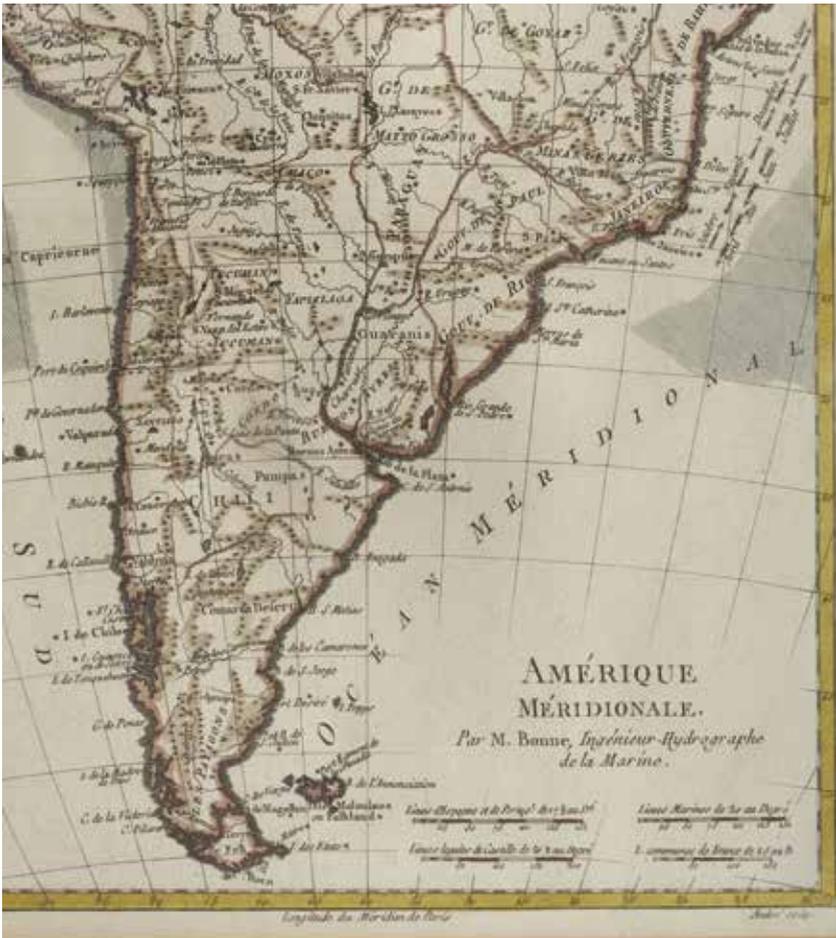


Figure 7

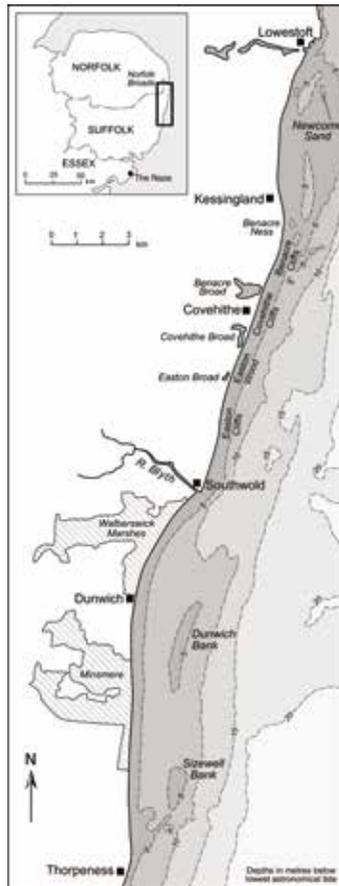
Sadly, the current thinking is that, like other phantom isles ('Coral', 'Dougherty', 'Emerald'), 'Pepys Island' is a figment, generated by a mistake in navigation: the description we have of the island coincides in almost all details to the Falklands; and the sketch map by Cowle of the discovery he named after his superior represents exactly the alignment of East and West Falkland with the central strait which divides them.<sup>11</sup>

MEJH

<sup>11</sup> See the comments by Pedro Pessati in *Antonio de Viedma, Diarios de navegación – expediciones por las costas y ríos patagónicos 1780–1783*, (Buenos Aires, 2006).

# 'STUCK IN REVERSE':

## THE DISAPPEARING SUFFOLK COAST



The world's coastal zone is on the front line when it comes to the likely impacts of global environmental change. Accelerated sea level rise combined with possible increases in the frequency and magnitude of extreme weather events is likely to lead to more damaging windstorm events, greater wave energy and higher rainfall intensity, producing accelerated erosion of beaches and coastal margins. Such impacts will have profound implications for human societies and ecological communities located at, or close to, the present coastline, raising problems that are likely to increase in prevalence as the global coastal population grows from

1.2 billion (1990) to 1.8 – 5.2 billion by the 2080s. Even now, within the UK alone, £150 billion of assets and 4 million people are at risk from coastal flooding.

Fast eroding, and thus rapidly retreating, 'soft rock' cliffed coasts are particularly vulnerable to environmental change and provide serious management and coastal zone governance challenges. Some of the most rapidly retreating shores in the UK lie close to Cambridge, on the Suffolk coast of the southern North Sea

The Suffolk cliffs are composed of loosely cemented sands and gravels, reflecting the more northerly course of the River Thames before the estuary was shunted southward by advancing ice sheets during the glacial periods of the last two million years. We are interested in how easily these materials are eroded and how quickly the cliffs are retreating. For the past decade we have been studying these cliff dynamics over a range of timescales. We have plotted former shorelines from historic Ordnance Survey maps from the 1880s to the 1980s, analysed aerial photographs in the Cambridge University Collection of Aerial Photography (CUCAP) and those taken annually by the UK's Environment Agency (1992–2016), looked at cross-shore profiles taken twice a year at 1 km intervals along the shoreline, (also by the Environment Agency) and undertaken our own cliff top surveys using state-of-the-art satellite-based ground survey equipment which allows positions and heights above sea level to be established (internet signal permitting) to an accuracy of less than 20 mm.

Since 1883, where the coast is not protected<sup>2</sup>, the greatest shoreline retreat has been between Benacre Ness, 10 km south of Lowestoft and Southwold, with over 500 m of retreat in the north.



*Old tree stumps below eroded cliffs south of Benacre Ness (photo: T Spencer, 3.3 2013) To W G Sebald (The Rings of Saturn (1998)) 'the broken, barkless wood looks like the bones of some extinct species, greater than even the mammoths and dinosaurs...'*

Some of the greatest rates of annual retreat since the 1880s, averaging 3.5 metres per year<sup>3</sup>, have been at Covehithe. More recently, over the 1980s and 1990s, average annual retreat rates here increased to 5 metres per year. And these averages hide individual years when retreat rates have been greater than 10 m. It has been usual to ascribe these 'big years' to the impact of southern North Sea storm surges, ever since the then bursar of Fitzwilliam House, W W 'Bill' Williams, reported up to 27m of coastal cliff collapse at Covehithe during the 1953 storm surge and the former Head of the Department of Geography, Emeritus Professor Alfred Steers, reported 35m of retreat after the 1978 surge. Surges occur when strong winds associated with intense low-pressure systems drive water south into the shallow southern North Sea; the elevated water levels can cause extreme erosion and extensive flooding if they coincide with high spring tides. Strong winds also generate high energy waves, which can undermine the cliffs when they approach from offshore. The greatest storm since the catastrophic 1953 event (when over 300 lives were lost along the east coast in the worst natural disaster to befall Britain during the twentieth century) took place on the same day as the passing away of Magdalene's Honorary Fellow Nelson Mandela, 5 December 2013. Whilst there was considerable impact on the Lincolnshire and North Norfolk coasts, by the time the surge reached the Suffolk coast the high tide had passed earlier that evening and the winds were offshore rather than onshore. Nevertheless, the cliffs still retreated by up to 7 m in this one event.



*The 1953 storm surge level on The Harbour Inn, Southwold at 3.50 m above sea level.  
In 2013, the level on the nearby Coastguard Cottages only reached 2,76m.*

High rates of cliff retreat do not always relate to surge events. The key seems to be the presence or absence of a sand and gravel beach at the base of the cliffs. When this is present the beach absorbs the incoming wave energy but when there is no beach, waves can reach the cliff base uninterrupted and cause undercutting and cliff collapse. Particularly potent are sequences of events where the first storm removes the beach and the next in the sequence then has unhindered access to the cliff foot. This is what happened in early 2018, when 4.4 m high waves generated by the strong easterly winds of 'The Beast from the East' removed the beach sediments, revealing the underlying basement clays. Two weeks later, the next easterly storm, the so-called 'Mini Beast', generated 8 m of cliff retreat under waves 4.0 m high.



*Collapsed buildings and exposed beach platform: Covehithe 7 weeks after the 'The Mini-Beast' (photo: S Brooks, 7.5.2018)*

At their highest, the cliffs reach 13m above sea level. So when they retreat they release a great deal of sand-sized material onto the beach and into the nearshore region. Our calculations suggest that over the period 1992–2008 something like 160 thousand cubic metres of sediment have entered the sea each year (equivalent to over 60 Olympic-sized swimming pools) as a result of cliff erosion. Where has this enormous amount of material gone? The dominant movement of sediment along this coast – 'the longshore drift' – is from north to south so we should look to the south for clues as to where it might be stored.

It was the geologist William Whitaker, in his testimony to the Royal Commission on Coast Erosion in 1907, who described accounts of submarine lost towns and churches on this coast as 'partly fabulous but partly true'. Many of these tales focus on the fate of Dunwich. Up until the early Middle Ages this town was a thriving port located on an estuary, with a population of several thousand served by eighteen churches, chapels, and monasteries. However, a severe storm in 1328 blocked the harbour, diverted the old Dunwich River to the north and initiated a long period of sustained coastal erosion; a large part of the town was lost to the sea by the 1580s, there was a further 300m of retreat by the 1750s and erosion continued to deliver Dunwich's monastery walls, church towers and tombstones to the sea into the period of the photographic record in the early twentieth century. The most notable loss is documented by the ghostly demise of the church of All Saints, with claims of the sound of distant bells coming from the sea. Measurements of retreat rates in the historic period (1883–2010) actually show rather modest cliff retreat compared with Covehithe, with rates typically less than 1 m per year. While rates at Covehithe appear to have been increasing through time, the rates of retreat at Dunwich slowed to just 0.5 m per year in the period 1925 to 1941. To go to Dunwich now is to see a series of grassed, clearly stable cliffs and to wonder what all the fuss has been about. Why has this change happened? Interestingly, early bathymetric charts of the seabed from the 1820s show two separate offshore banks – the Sizewell and Dunwich Banks – along this frontage. However, by the late 1800s, the two banks had partly coalesced, a process that has continued up to the present with the offshore banks being raised towards the sea surface by up to 4 m. It is likely that these sandbanks now protect the Dunwich cliffs from storm wave attack. Where has the sediment come from to build this natural protection? Could it have come from Covehithe to the north? As on all dynamic coasts, there are always 'winners' and 'losers' alongshore.

As well as long-term changes in the cliffline, there are on-going habitat changes along this coast too. The cliffs are interrupted periodically by river valleys that are closed off by sand and gravel barriers at their seaward margins. The barriers allow the formation of lagoons, or 'broads', fed by freshwater streams and, when storms breach the barrier, which they do frequently, there are episodes of freshwater drainage and saltwater incursion.

As the cliffs retreat so do the gravel barriers and thus over time the lagoons have been getting smaller – we calculate, for example, that Benacre Broad will be 'extinct' sometime between AD 2157 and 2236. Loss of nest sites in marginal reedbeds and a decline in freshwater food resources due to increased tidal inundation may severely affect breeding bittern

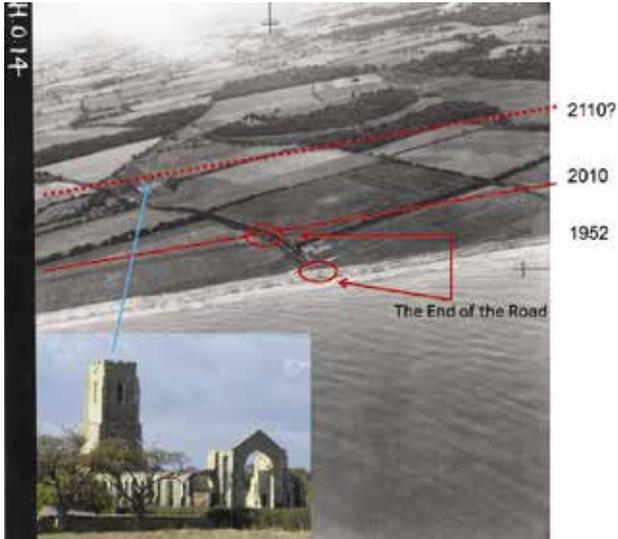
(*Botaurus stellaris*) populations; thus the fate of the broads and how similar, compensatory habitat might be re-created elsewhere on the coast, is of considerable nature conservation concern. Further south, from Walberswick to Dunwich village, gravel barriers enclose important coastal habitats. Magdalene PhD student Tom Pryke has shown that, as well as the loss of saline lagoons, saltmarsh and vegetated shingle is under threat by 2080, and under the highest estimates of future sea level rise even lowland grasslands and deciduous woodland is threatened.



*Benacre Broad, 1 March 2007: barrier breached and lagoon drained*  
(photo: © Mike Page, 2007).

And so, what to the future? We have developed models to predict future positions of the Suffolk shoreline under a range of possible sea level rise scenarios. We have been able to do this because we have experienced two distinct phases when we know both the shoreline change rates as well as the rates of sea level rise. Thus we can see how an acceleration in sea level rise has actually affected the shoreline response in the past. Thus, for example, if sea level rise accelerates to 6.7 mm per year by 2095 the shoreline will be a further 300m inland to the north of Southwold. What of Dunwich? Will the offshore banks continue to grow, as the cliffs to the north continue to erode and supply sediment downdrift? Will these rates of growth be able to keep pace with sea level rise? Or will the offshore banks be 'drowned out' by deeper water, allowing

waves once again to reach the cliffbase and erode away what remains of the town? And at Covehithe? When will the end of the road, literally, reach the C17th church-within-a-medieval-church of St. Andrews? Most likely sometime around the start of the twenty second century.



1952 oblique aerial photography (Cambridge University Collection of Aerial Photography © copyright reserved) of the Covehithe cliffs with 2010 shoreline position from UK Environment Agency vertical aerial photography and estimated position of 2110 shoreline from coastal modelling (photo of St. Andrews Church: John Goldsmith, 2007).

Watch this (coastal) space!

T S and Susan Brooks<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> With thanks to the writer Blake Morrison (the poem 'Covehithe' in *Shingle Street*, Chatto & Windus: London (2015))

<sup>2</sup> Given the cost of maintaining hard defences (the Southwold seafront defences were renewed at a cost of £8.5m between 2005 and 2007, yet the system is under-performing, with beach levels typically 1-2 m below what was expected) there is a vigorous debate in progress over how to manage the coast into the near future. The UK Government's Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) advocacy of the 'withdrawal of maintenance' and the 'managed realignment' of the entire shoreline from Kessingland to Felixstowe is opposed by many local stakeholders, arguing for protecting what we have – including EU-designated coastal wetlands – for as long as we are able.

<sup>3</sup> By comparison, a chalk or sandstone sea cliff will erode back at 10 cm to 1.0 metre per year and a granitic cliff on average at an imperceptible 1 mm per year.

<sup>4</sup> (Girton, 1981), Dept of Geography, Birkbeck, University of London

# RETURN TO VALHALLA

THE PORTRAIT OF PROFESSOR WILLIAM FARISH  
BY HENRY PERRONET BRIGGS

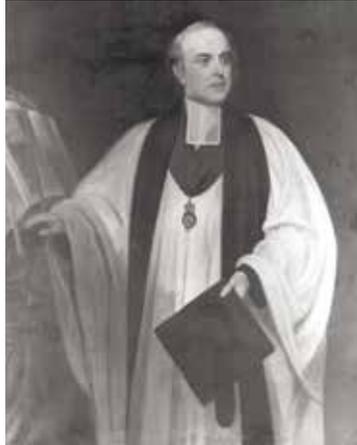
In a past edition of the *College Magazine*, Gareth Atkins commented on the removal of the College's portrait of Charles Kingsley from Hall, and taught us all a good deal more about Kingsley in the process.<sup>1</sup> Recent visitors and eagle-eyed residents may have noticed that Kingsley's replacement has now been replaced in its turn. Not by the father of *The Water Babies* (he now presides over Benson Hall), but by H P Briggs's portrait of Professor William Farish (1757–1837).



*William Farish by Henry Perronet Briggs, 1813*

The name of William Farish is probably less familiar to most readers than that of Charles Kingsley. So why the preference? After all, authority for Kingsley's place in what Dr Atkins calls the College's 'Valhalla' comes from no less than Benson himself who, in *The leaves of the tree* (1912), recalls how the 'strangely contrasted' portraits of Kingsley and Pepys 'gaze at each other across the long tables' of his College's 'little paneled hall'.<sup>2</sup> Farish's cause finds support in nothing so romantic. His prior claim, however, is clearly attested in the first edition of Le Keux's *Memorials of Cambridge* (1842), which in turn draws on a description in *The Cambridge Guide* of 1830.<sup>3</sup>

In fact, the original usurpation of Farish was not by Kingsley; his portrait was not painted until 1862.<sup>4</sup> By then, Farish had already been moved to the Combination Room, seemingly in order to make room for a grand rendition of George Neville-Grenville.<sup>5</sup> The Reverend and Honourable George Neville (the -Grenville was added later) became Master of Magdalene in 1813 at the grand old age of twenty-four. His qualifications included being a younger son of the 2nd Baron Braybrooke, in whose gift the appointment lay.



*George Neville-Grenville (1789 –1875) by H W Pickersgill, 1846x54*

Our story moves briefly to a shop in Bath, and a bunch of nineteenth-century letters through which I was browsing recently (as you do). My eye fell upon one addressed 'To Mr H. P. Briggs, 71 Berners Street, Oxford Street'. The name rang a bell, so I read on. The next thing I saw were the words 'Magdalene Lodge' in the top right-hand corner. Post-marked '7 o'clock' on 22 March 1819, the letter reads:

*Magdalene Lodge  
March 21st*

*The Vice Chancellor of Cambridge begs to acknowledge Mr Briggs' obliging letter and to opine him how very much pleased he is with the prospect of having this excellent picture of [Mr?] Professor Farish placed in Magdalene College. The Vice Chancellor begs Mr Briggs will accept his best thanks for the great addition he is making to the collection of portraits at Magdalene College, & will thank him to order a handsome gilt frame on the behalf of the College, in order that full justice may be done to so admirable a performance.<sup>6</sup>*

Magdalene Lodge  
March 21<sup>st</sup>

3N 6811  
111-221  
2201 JPL

2/20 1/2 Post

H. P. Briggs  
Barners Street  
Oxford Street

The Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge  
begs to acknowledge Mr. Briggs  
obbliging letter, and to assure  
him how very much pleased  
he is with the prospect of  
having this excellent picture  
of Mr. Professor Farish  
placed in Magdalene Lodge.  
The Vice-Chancellor begs  
Mr. Briggs will accept  
his best thanks for the  
great attention he is

Letter from George Neville-Grenville to H P Briggs, dated 21 March 1819

Before the twentieth century, the Vice-Chancellorship rotated for a year at a time between the Heads of House. Thus, in 1818–19, it was the turn of the (by now) twenty-nine-year-old Master of Magdalene, the aforementioned George Neville. His correspondent, Henry Perronet Briggs, was younger still. Probably born in Walworth, London, in 1793, Briggs was about twenty-six in 1819. By then, his portrait of Farish (like Neville’s mastership) was already six years old.

Briggs, who died in 1844, has been served rather meanly by art historians. Writing in the 1860s, those most Victorian of commentators, Richard and Samuel Redgrave, dismissed his work as that which, whilst ‘not without merit, ... cannot be said to belong to the highest class of art’.<sup>7</sup> His flesh tones come in for particular criticism. Their judgment was parroted almost word-for-word in the *Dictionary of National Biography* twenty years later.<sup>8</sup> Briggs’s contemporaries, however, held him in higher esteem. For W M Thackeray he was ‘out and out the best portrait-painter of the set’.<sup>9</sup>

Although exaggerated, Thackeray’s report does Briggs the greater justice. By then, however, he was a well-established member of the Royal Academy. In fact, Briggs had made his name in London as a history and subject painter, and it was only after his marriage in 1830 and election to the RA in 1832 that he turned his focus back to the more lucrative business of portraiture. His portrait of Farish is

the work of a young man with just two years of formal training behind him, and is all the more impressive for that.

Some sources suggest that Briggs's father, John Hobart Briggs, was an amateur artist.<sup>10</sup> Certainly, he moved in artistic circles. His cousin's daughter was Amelia Opie, best known in her own right as an author and activist, but also the wife of John Opie, Professor of Painting at the Royal Academy Schools until his death in 1807. Briggs Senior subscribed to Amelia's publication of her late husband's lectures in 1809. He was also friends with the brothers R and J B Cuming, both of whom exhibited at the Academy in the 1790s. The early emergence of his son's artistic talents seems to have been encouraged. After the younger Briggs's death in 1844, Amelia Opie remembered his father 'dwell with great pleasure on his son's rapid progress' during a visit to her in Norwich many years earlier.<sup>11</sup> Briggs's first published works appeared as early as 1806 in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, alongside a letter from his tutor extolling 'the juvenile efforts of a rising young genius'.<sup>12</sup>



*Views of Epping Church, by H P Briggs, Gentleman's Magazine, 1806*

This combination of talent and family connections accounts for Briggs's admission to the Royal Academy Schools on 26 February 1811, and on 5 April

to draw in the British Museum 'on the recommendation of Mr Northcote' (coincidentally, it was James Northcote's death in 1832 that made room for Briggs's own election as a Royal Academician). Two years later, in 1813, Briggs moved to Cambridge 'and painted a professor and many of the members of colleges there'.<sup>13</sup> The professor in question was William Farish; Briggs was, at most, twenty-one.

Why he came here, and what led him to paint the portraits that he did remains a mystery, although, once again, it may be that family connections played a part. Besides Farish, he painted at least one other member of the College: Thomas Kerrich, the University Librarian. Kerrich was a fine amateur artist in his own right, and had been producing portraits of Cambridge worthies since his own undergraduate days. Like Briggs, he also came from a long-established Norfolk family, and may have looked to offer the young artist an opportunity.<sup>14</sup> Apparently, Kerrich not only sat for Briggs but also bought the painting; it was subsequently in the possession of his daughter, Frances Hartshorne.<sup>15</sup> His satisfaction with it is confirmed by its engraving and publication in London by G S Facius in June 1815. The Facius brothers had been reproducing copies of Kerrich's works since the 1770s. The printing of his portrait almost certainly resulted from their relationship with the subject rather than the artist, but it seems to have given the artist an idea.

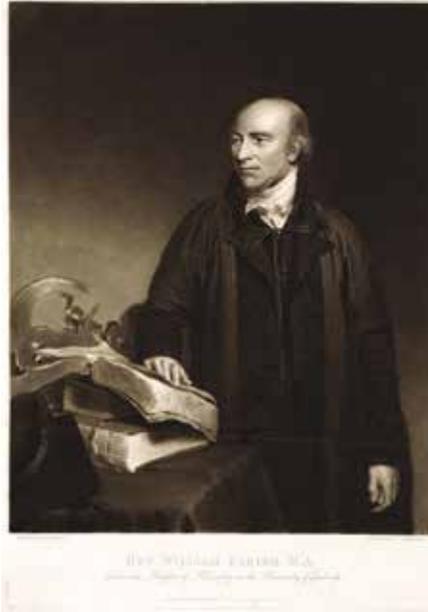


*Thomas Kerrich (1748–1828) by G S Facius after H P Briggs*

However it was that Briggs came to paint William Farish, the portrait was not a commission: we know from the letter above that it was still in the artist's possession in 1819. By the time Facius's engraving of his portrait of Kerrich appeared, Briggs was living back in London. He seems to have decided that

his large study of Professor Farish could profitably be given the same treatment. He arranged for it to be engraved by Henry Dawe, and published it himself. The print's inscription gives the details:

*Rev. William Farish M.A. / Jacksonian Professor of Philosophy in the University of Cambridge. / Painted by H.P. Briggs. / Engraved by Henry Dawe. / London, Published by Mr. Briggs No. 6, Old Compton Street, Soho, Oct.r 21, 1815.*



*Rev. William Farish MA, engraved mezzotint by H Dawe  
after H P Briggs, 1815*

The painting itself evidently remained unsold, hence the correspondence with Vice-Chancellor Neville in 1819. By this point, Briggs had moved from Old Compton Street to 71 Berners Street; and from portraiture to history painting. Perhaps his change of direction made it unnecessary for him to keep the large canvas, which might otherwise have been used to showcase his skills to potential patrons. Having commissioned its frame, as requested by Neville, he passed it into the College's possession. Neville's letter makes clear that it met with approval, presumably with its subject as well as his Fellows: it was hung in the Hall during Farish's lifetime.

So much for the artist. What of the sitter?

The son of a Cumbrian vicarage, William Farish matriculated at Magdalene as a sizar (a scholar of sorts) in 1774, the same year in which the College installed its twenty-first Master.<sup>16</sup> The improbably-named Barton Wallop proved to be spectacularly hopeless in the job, but he was also admirably absent and that left the College in the care of its capable President, Samuel Hey. As well as a young Thomas Kerrich, recently returned from the Grand Tour, the fellowship at the time included the brilliant Edward Waring, Lucasian Professor of Mathematics since 1760. Wallop was succeeded as Master in 1781 by the eminently more suitable Peter Peckard.

More than two centuries on, Waring may still reign as the College's brightest mathematical star, but William Farish retains a place in the firmament. In 1778, he followed in his older colleague's footsteps by graduating as Senior Wrangler, adding first place in Smith's Prize for good measure. He was quickly elected to a fellowship and appointed as a tutor. Made a deacon in 1780, admitted MA in 1781, and ordained a priest in 1782, he became Professor of Chemistry in 1794. In 1813, shortly before Briggs painted his portrait, Farish was elected as the third Jacksonian Professor of Natural Philosophy. The latter event may well have provided the motivation for the former.

For 'natural philosophy' in the twenty-first century we can read 'natural science'. As it is, Farish was to be known to posterity as the world's first de facto professor of engineering. When first appointed to his chair of chemistry, he knew that the principles of the subject were already well covered in the lectures offered by his colleague F J H Wollaston. Farish, therefore, decide to indulge his fascination with practical application. He delivered what was effectively the first course of university lectures in engineering in 1794.

To aid his demonstration of practical mechanics in these lectures, Farish made further innovations. He designed a collection of 'loose brass wheels ... axes [sic] of various lengths ... bars, clamps ... frames, and whatever else might be necessary to build up the particular machines ... for one lecture', which may then 'be taken down, and the parts built up again, in a different form, for the lecture the following day'. To the delight of children down the ages, and for the most admirable of pedagogical reasons, Farish had created the prototype of Meccano.<sup>17</sup>



*Infusion pump made from Meccano used in physiology experiments in the 1960s*

He next set his mind to finding a way in which similar principles could accurately be communicated in 2D. The result here was the first systematic set of rules for drawing in isometric, which he outlined in the inaugural paper of the Cambridge Philosophical Society's Transactions.<sup>18</sup> Our sense of Farish's standing is further enhanced by the knowledge that he had earlier been elected as the Society's first President.

Brilliant, innovative, and pious, the softly-spoken Farish was also inclined towards diffidence and absent-mindedness, all in the best professorial tradition.<sup>19</sup> The portrait painted of him by the young Briggs successfully captures many of these traits. His pose is learned, his hand resting on a vast open tome; his expression manages at once to capture both distance and engagement. The arc of the mechanical model beside him shadows the fine dome of his cranium. Unusually, the strings of Farish's academic gown are tied in a bow. This seems to have been his habit: they appear the same way in an almost contemporary drawing of him by Thomas Uwins.



*William Farish, by Thomas Uwins, 1815. © Trustees of the British Museum*

Farish the innovator is of interest to anyone who has struggled through the tripos for another reason too, because I'm afraid that this is also the man who invented the modern examination. He's sometimes credited with creating written examinations in their entirety; in fact those had begun to emerge by the middle of the eighteenth century. What Farish did was to revolutionise the way the examinations were assessed. Before his appointment to the office of University Moderator in the 1790s, examiners had relied on their well-honed powers of discernment in order to class each student's performance. The fact that the system

was open to subjectivity and bias had been attracting complaints for decades.<sup>20</sup> It made the ranking of candidates within each degree class controversial, and effective moderation practically impossible. To combat this, Farish developed the concept of grading students' performances quantitatively, assigning for the first time a proportion of marks to each individual question and adding them together to produce a definitive overall grade. Discussion of the full consequences of this in the more recent history of education is probably best left for another time.

Technical drawing, quantitative assessment, the university study of engineering, even Meccano, all owe their innovation, in full or in part, to William Farish. Writing in the *College Magazine* in 1955, Dr K R Webb goes on to list the wide 'catholicity of applied scientific interests' covered in his lectures, from coalmining and cotton production to inland navigation and civil engineering.<sup>21</sup> Farish was an enthusiastic early exponent of steam power. Less predictably, his model of a self-acting trough for flushing closets was exhibited in the year he died. Finally, notes Webb, he was fascinated by the construction of bridges and aqueducts, 'ships, docks, harbours and naval architecture. Here, surely, is a man whom Pepys of all men would have loved to acknowledge as a twin saint!'<sup>22</sup> The evangelical Farish would no doubt have preferred to imagine himself amongst the saints than the *einherjar*, but never mind: his portrait by the similarly precocious and under-celebrated H P Briggs is surely worthy of its place in our collegiate Valhalla.

J M M

---

<sup>1</sup> G W Atkins, 'One of Our Portraits is Missing! Charles Kingsley (1819–1875)', *Coll Mag* 56 (2011–12), pp 55–68.

<sup>2</sup> A C Benson, *The leaves of the tree* (1911), p 230.

<sup>3</sup> *The Universities: Le Keux's Memorials of Cambridge*, II (1842), p 8; *The Cambridge Guide* (1830), p 165.

<sup>4</sup> By Cato Lowes Dickinson (1819–1908). The College's version is a slightly later copy.

<sup>5</sup> C H Cooper, *Memorials of Cambridge*, II (1861), p 184. The portrait was subsequently moved again to Benson Hall, where it hung until the Hall was re-decorated in 2012 (see *Magdalene Described*, p 23).

<sup>6</sup> The letter is offered for sale by Samwells of Bath Ltd.

<sup>7</sup> R and S Redgrave, *A Century of British Painters* (1866), pp 78–79.

<sup>8</sup> W W Wroth, 'Briggs, Henry Perronet (1793–1844)', *Dictionary of National Biography*, 6 (1886), p 327.

<sup>9</sup> W M Thackeray, *Frasers Magazine*, 17/102 (1838), p 759; 'the set' being the Royal Academicians of the time.

<sup>10</sup> M Myrone, 'Drawing after the Antique at the British Museum', *British Art Studies*, 5 (2017).

<sup>11</sup> Mrs S C Hall, *The Art-Union*, 6 (1844), p 88

<sup>12</sup> *Gentleman's Magazine* (April 1806), p 313.

<sup>13</sup> Hall, p 88

<sup>14</sup> See D Robinson, 'Thomas Kerrich (1748–1828): Portrait of a Magdalene Artist', *Coll Mag* (2002–03), pp 53–64. It might be noted that Kerrich himself produced at least two portraits of women with the surname Briggs, of whom one lived in Norfolk (the other was Elizabeth Briggs, the College Laundress), but there is no evidence of a family connection with H P Briggs in either case.

<sup>15</sup> A copy currently hangs in the Parlour.

<sup>16</sup> Articles about Farish have twice appeared in the *College Magazine* in the past: see C Smyth, 'William Farish, 1759–1837', *Coll Mag*, 76 (1937), pp 281–86; K R Webb, 'William Farish, 1799–1837', *Coll Mag*, 86 (1955), pp 25–9. The latter is an abbreviated version of an article that appeared in *Chemistry and Industry* (1955).

<sup>17</sup> W Farish, 'On Isometrical Perspective', *Trans. Cam. Phil. Soc.*, 1 (1822), pp 1–20 (at pp 1–2).

<sup>18</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>19</sup> See M D Archer and C D Haley (eds), *The 1702 Chair of Chemistry at Cambridge* (2005), esp. pp 105–06; as well as the *College Magazine* articles by Smyth and Webb, cited above.

<sup>20</sup> *ibid.*, p 106.

<sup>21</sup> Webb, p 27.

<sup>22</sup> *ibid.*

# NATURAL DISASTERS

Are natural disasters really natural? The hazards themselves in the form of floods, earthquakes, volcanoes and hurricanes certainly are. The disastrous consequences of these natural phenomena are not natural at all, far from it. We as human beings in our pursuit to prosper, are settling in areas that are exposed to these natural events, putting ourselves in harm's way, physically, socially, and financially. Professor James Jackson at the Department of Earth Sciences coined the phrase the 'Fatal Attraction' (Jackson, 2016). Our ancestors chose to settle where there was easy access to water with fertile and flat lands, which happen to be the exact locations where active faults, in creating breakages in the earth's crust, elevate groundwater. As we continue to urbanise, large settlements along important trade routes have evolved into megacities, housing hundreds of thousands of people, and in the case of Tehran in Iran, over nine million are at risk from an inevitable earthquake. The last major earthquake was in 1830.

It is not just density of populations that aggravate consequences of natural hazards. We live in a global village where we and our neighbours in different countries are reliant on food, goods and services that travel thousands of miles before they reach our homes. We are therefore susceptible to naturally occurring events that are seemingly remote but now have major impacts on the global consumer and financial markets. A local flood just outside Bangkok in 2011 which hardly made mainstream news in the UK, brought the production of hard drives, cameras, and microchips to a standstill. A single facility in Bang Pa-In owned by Western Digital (Fig 1) produced one-quarter of the world's supply of 'sliders', an integral part of hard-disk drives and halted global production for over two weeks.



Figure 1

The cost of global disasters is likely to continue to increase. An analysis of events worldwide between 1990 and 2008 carried out by Barthel and Neumayer (2012) concluded that ‘the accumulation of wealth in disaster-prone areas is and will always remain by far the most important driver of future economic disaster damage’. Any large weather event hitting densely populated areas now causes huge losses because the value of the infrastructure has increased tremendously. That was the case in August and September of 2017, with Hurricane Harvey closely followed by Maria devastating parts of the Gulf Coast and the Caribbean, tallying damage costs of over \$125 billion and \$91 billion respectively. Major flood events are also affecting many more people. In 2010, Pakistan saw its largest ever flood, affecting over 20 million people from the northern Himalayan mountains right down to the southern tip of the country and costing nearly \$10 billion in losses (Fig 2). It has been battered by floods every year since then.

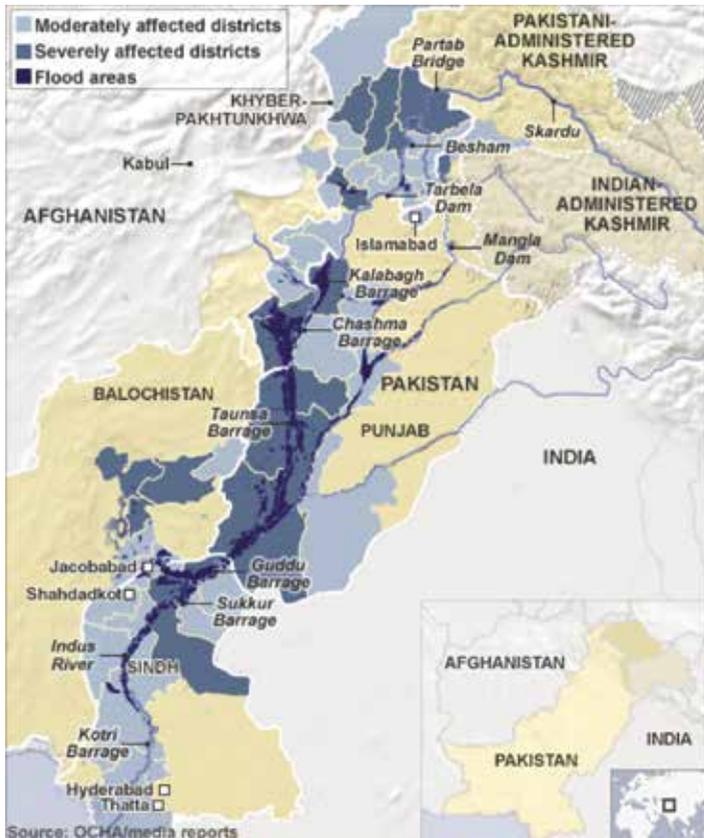


Figure 2

For the first time in a decade, the evolving risk landscape of the world has changed. According to the World Economic Forum, major natural disasters now feature in the top five global risks in terms of impact in 2017.

This has been reflected in the insurance industry, with Lloyd's of London reporting its first loss in six years in March 2018, attributing most of the loss of £2billion to natural disasters. The question is why is this, are we experiencing more floods, earthquakes, and hurricanes?

Analyses of loss events worldwide carried out by Munich Re, global reinsurance company with a premium income of €31.6bn from reinsurance alone, supports an upward trend in the total number of natural hazard events recorded since 1980. According to their figures, the number of severe floods has almost tripled, and storms have nearly doubled, which they suggest in part is related to the impact of climate change. 'It would not seem plausible that climate change doesn't play a role in the substantial rise in weather-related disasters', says Ernst Rauch, head of Munich Re's Corporate Climate Centre.

Climate scientists believe that the frequency and severity of extreme-weather events will increase as global temperatures continue to rise. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warns that some areas could become 'increasingly marginal as places to live in' (IPCC, 2012).

As Benjamin Franklin advised fire-threatened Philadelphians in 1736 'An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure'. 'The quality of infrastructure we develop today will determine the level of risk tomorrow. To prevent new risks from being created we need to act now with solid foundation for science, technology and innovation.' This was the message from Minister Kiren Rijiju, Minister of State for Home Affairs, India and a UNISDR Disaster Risk Reduction Champion addressing an Asian forum in Bangkok in 2016.

For some hazards, a major event does not repeat very often. There are often several hundred years between earthquakes or volcanic eruptions, even longer, so in general, we have time. The challenge is to convince those in authority and those potentially affected to do something. After the Long Beach, California earthquake 1933 which damaged 75% of public school buildings in the city, the government and city officials decided not to focus on vulnerable masonry residential houses but instead targeted their efforts on schools and public buildings. The California Joint Technical Committee on Earthquake Protection responded: 'Strengthening of public buildings, however, is subject to the will of the people and there should be no delay in making these buildings—particularly school buildings—safe'. This led to the Field Act, the first state-wide building requirements in California that applied to all public-school buildings in the state. With the regeneration of buildings within cities and some luck that an earthquake has not occurred in the area since 1933, all the old residential masonry buildings have gradually been replaced over time. The city and State are now through

policies and building regulations, in a much better position to withstand the next event.

It is clear from recent large earthquakes that engineers and architects can design buildings that stay up in even the biggest events. Earthquakes do not kill people, buildings do. In studies examining fatalities due to earthquakes, it is found that over 75% of casualties are attributed to building collapses. The 2010 earthquake in Chile was the fifth largest recorded event worldwide in the last hundred years, yet it killed very few people. In Chile, the public can sue architects, engineers, and contractors if there is damage to their buildings in earthquakes. An acute public awareness and people working together to create a resilient built environment is the key to Chile's success in living with earthquakes. This emphasises the need to educate the public, the construction industry, and scientists, so that everyone works together toward making better buildings.

The reason buildings collapse is because of poor construction, and builders trying to save money by cutting corners. We have seen this time and time again, reviewing the aftermaths of earthquakes during reconnaissance missions. The image below (Fig 3) shows a collapsed building after an earthquake in Taiwan in 2016 where tin cans were used as 'fillers' in a reinforced concrete wall.



Figure 3

Bad construction is associated with problems of corruption and a lack of education. In the last decade, single events like the Wenchuan earthquake in China killing over 80,000 in 2008, and 200,000 deaths in Haiti in 2010. Most of these deaths were entirely preventable.

Even though as scientists, architects, and engineers, we have the knowhow to build for natural disasters and disaster management teams have plans in place to prepare and evacuate for these events, the messages are still not getting through to the people at risk. Despite multiple warnings of the incoming Hurricane Harvey in 2016 and orders to evacuate, images on our TV screens showed people refusing to leave their homes and subsequently mounting roofs of houses awaiting rescue. In this country, evacuation orders issued to communities in Great Yarmouth by the Environment Agency were largely ignored in 2017 (order issued on 13 January 2017). Fortunately, it was a near miss as the wind direction changed by three degrees, but the lack of action is of key concern to the Environment Agency, and next time they may not be so lucky. These examples are stark reminders that people do not always react the way we expect and that as practitioners in disaster risk reduction, we need to do more.

Globally, The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 is the first major agreement of the post-2015 development agenda, with seven targets and four priorities for action. It was endorsed by the UN General Assembly and is an international commitment to making a difference for poverty, health and resilience, setting actions to understanding disaster risk, strengthening risk governance and investment, and enhancing global resilience measures. At a city level, other recent global initiatives include the Rockefeller Foundation's 100 Resilient Cities and the Lloyd's Register's Resilience Shift which aim to work with public and private institutes to encourage those involved with all aspects of civil protection and planning in order to share knowledge and experience that will enhance resilience.

At a community level, there is the challenge and a need to engage directly with the people at risk, and work together as they do in Chile and Japan for earthquakes, to educate and raise awareness and resilience. Naturally, the strategies used in different countries will vary and there will continue to be an emphasis on reducing the vulnerability of the built environment through improved buildings codes, implementation of regulations and building control. However, without a more concerted focus on people, those we are trying to protect, the progress of disaster risk reduction will be hampered. We have to improve and innovate in the ways we communicate, reviewing how we engage with people and what the messages are. At the Cambridge University Centre for Risk in the Built Environment (CURBE), we have always focused on solutions-driven research. Recent workshops conducted by the Environment Agency (EA) called *Public Dialogues* in the UK revealed the desire of communities to understand more about the scientific information behind the flood

warnings. Subsequently with the EA, we explored novel methods of explaining why hazards occur and their associated consequences, in *Flood Narratives*. Using physical models and story-telling kits, we created tools to allow the population at risk to explore alternative scenarios and take responsibilities for their decisions on risk mitigation. We all assess and take risks daily. Without full awareness and access to information, it is irresponsible of scientists, engineers, and disaster managers to expect the public to take action against risk that may not occur during their lifetimes.

Taking the Sendai priority actions forward is an example of building back better post-disaster. An earthquake in the Ludian county of China destroyed many rural rammed earth houses in the impoverished mountainous area in the northwest of the country in 2014. Even though there was a willingness for change, proposed modern building forms often transported from outside the county, or even country, were simply unaffordable to the local communities. Partnering with the Chinese University of Hong Kong and the Kunming University of Science and Technology in China, we created *The Guangming house* (Fig 4) which won the World Architectural Festival's World Building of the Year 2017. A modest dwelling for an elderly couple that fully encapsulates the essence of designing for people, it embraced the '3Ls principle' using local technology, local materials, and local labour. It succeeded in giving the couple and the local community confidence in an old building technique that was enhanced and tested using earthquake shake tables. It also respected their traditional ways of living.



Figure 4

This and other community-based efforts may be a drop in the ocean, they reinforce the idea that to truly implement change, we must first understand and respect what people at risk from natural hazards prioritise and what their physical, social and financial constraints are. These efforts are crucial in helping them prepare and change their attitudes towards the inevitable, but critically not irrepressibly.

As we commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Wenchuan earthquake in China this year, there is hope that disaster risk reduction practitioners are making more noise and bringing disaster resilience to the top of the global development agenda. The hazard itself is not what creates the disaster, it is the quality of the housing and the social fabric. What is clear is that we cannot view this problem through a single lens on the physical environment but need to work together with social scientists, anthropologists, planners, public health specialists and psychologists to change the way we live and our attitudes to natural disasters. To make a significant difference and reduce the impact of these natural phenomena, we must learn to cohabit with our natural environment, and all that comes with it.

E K M S

References:

F Barthel and E Neumayer, *A Trend Analysis of Normalized Insured Damage from Natural Disasters*. *Climatic Change* (2012), 113 (2), pp 215-237.

J A Jackson, *Fatal attraction: living with earthquakes, the growth of villages into megacities, and earthquake vulnerability in the modern world* (2006), *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London A*, 364 (1845), pp 1911-1925. DOI 10.1098/rsta.2006.1805.

## BOOK REVIEW

HANNAH CRITCHLOW, *Consciousness*.  
*A Ladybird Expert Book* (Penguin, 2018, 56 pp)



No, this is not one of the irresistible Ladybird 'How It Works' Books for Grown-Ups (*The Hangover*, *The Dad*, *Mindfulness*, and many more delights, a staple of family Christmas present giving in some households, including the Master's Lodge). This is a perfectly serious revival of the old Ladybird format, in the shape of crisply written and rather startlingly illustrated brief introductions published by Penguin/Random House dealing with complex issues in science and policy, climate change, nuclear physics, evolution and so on. Our greatly-admired colleague Hannah Critchlow (described by one broadsheet in impeccably patriarchal terms as 'a female Brian Cox', which is, I suppose, an attempt at a compliment) has produced one of the latest volumes, a breathlessly vivid and completely

engaging essay on neuroscience and specifically on what neuroscientific research has to say about the nature of consciousness.

Given that both philosophers and neuroscientists regularly refer to this as 'the hard problem' – also the title of a recent Tom Stoppard play on the subject – Hannah has given herself a tough job. It involves setting out first the sheer scale of the question: we know that the brain contains not far short of 100 billion nerve cells and that there are something like 100 trillion connections traceable between them. We know how to track brain activity and to distinguish between different sorts of patterns in the brain depending on different states of mind and/or body. We know something of both the specialisation of particular areas of the brain and the extraordinary capacity of the brain to shift tasks sideways if the usual pathways are destroyed or obstructed – but we also know how a lot of what we would unthinkingly regard as intrinsic to 'human personality' depends on a complex of material interactions which are vulnerable to disruption and dissolution in the wake of trauma. We can construct images of feeling, in the sense that we can provide visual representations of when and how emotions and thoughts arise in the organ where they are registered, the brain. The rate of discovery is dizzyingly rapid; the complexity of the issues raised is at once exhilarating and intimidating.

All this Hannah sets out with exemplary clarity – and with obvious delight and enjoyment. She introduces us to the actual working of the brain, summarises

key experiments over the last few decades, touches briefly on the challenges posed by Artificial Intelligence and by those experiments (like the notorious Libet experiment) that appear to put a fundamental question to our ideas about free will, and tantalisingly sketches the areas where the major philosophical problems arise, without attempting to offer an authoritative resolution. She very understandably wonders whether we really know what we mean in using the (very modern) term 'consciousness' in the first place, and ends by musing in an almost Zen-like mode that perhaps the simplest thing we can say about it is that it is what makes it possible for us to ask questions about consciousness.

Philosophers like Daniel Dennett and Douglas Hofstadter (co-editors some thirty years ago of what is still one of the most varied, literate and provocative collections of essays, fictions and dialogues on the subject) got us used to thinking of consciousness as a sort of elaborate feedback loop: somehow or other, our performance of an activity – or, in less question-begging terms, the occurrence of a set of processes – becomes itself the object of that activity or those processes. A 'first-person perspective' is generated. Not only does something happen, but there is another level of happening in which there is an awareness of awareness itself. Unfortunately, there is no formulation of this that does not drop us deep into philosophical molasses. To say, as some thoughtlessly do, that consciousness is a 'mistake' imports a conscious mental category into what's meant to be a strictly third-person, mechanistic and descriptive account. The very ideas of 'giving an account' could be said to be already tied up with mental happening. And even with the Libet experiment and its challenge to over-optimistic formulations about free will, it seems to be (as Hannah notes) impossible to dispense with the idea of some sort of choice and 'self-moving' if we are to manage our complex social relations and to make sense of our language. It may be evolutionarily advantageous to believe that we are free and conscious; yet this does not immediately tell us that we are 'only' automata and that such beliefs are fictive. There is something logically odd in any case about such a belief, as it would dissolve the very possibility of dependable research and any way of distinguishing between true and false belief. If there were true propositions, we could not know that we knew them, because our mental acts would be determined by non-mental factors.

We can go on elaborating the 'Moebius strip' aspect of all this; but the teasing conclusion is that – at the very least – evolution has produced a magnificently self-subverting conundrum in the cluster of phenomena we call consciousness. Hannah's book does not try to cut the Gordian knots here, only to give us a feel for the vastly sophisticated research that has focused these questions in a new way. I for one look forward hugely to her next book, which is planned as a further treatment of issues around free will. But meanwhile, this is a splendid dish of hors d'oeuvres for that fuller discussion.

I confess to being less than completely happy with some of the more dramatic illustrations, which are not always easy to decipher or even to connect helpfully to the text. More's the pity, given how very lucid that text is, even for a scientific illiterate like this reviewer. But forget that; this is a really impressive example of how scientific research can be made accessible and appealing, and it will fulfil a seriously important function in opening up such research to potential students as well as a wider interested public.

R D W



*The Master and Dr Critchlow testing brain connections  
at the Hay Festival in May 2018*



*The gardeners' cottage*