

From Pembroke
to Broadway:
Sarah Ruhl

Two years at
Pembroke and Still
No Routine

Literature
vs Science

The Glorious
Gardens of
Pembroke

Thomas Beddoes
at Pembroke

THE PEMBROKIAN

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THE PEMBROKIAN

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JOHNSON AT 300

SAMUEL JOHNSON

A MAN WHOSE TALENTS, ACQUIREMENTS, AND VIRTUES, WERE SO EXTRAORDINARY THAT THE MORE HIS CHARACTER IS CONSIDERED, THE MORE HE WILL BE REGARDED BY THE PRESENT AGE, AND BY POSTERITY, WITH ADMIRATION AND REVERENCE.

Johnson at 300

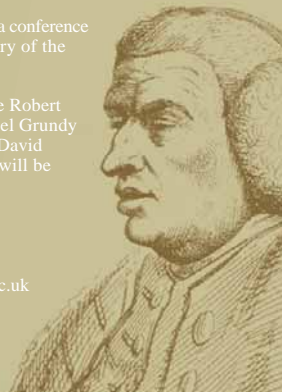
14th - 18th
September 2009

Pembroke College, Oxford.

Pembroke College is hosting a conference to mark the 300th anniversary of the birth of Samuel Johnson.

The plenary speakers will be Robert DeMaria, David Fairer, Isobel Grundy and Howard Weinbrot. The David Fleeman Memorial Lecture will be given by James McLaverty.

For more information
Visit www.pmb.ox.ac.uk
Telephone 01865 610900
Email jill.roberts@pmb.ox.ac.uk



Pembroke for Conferences and Dining

An important aspect of Pembroke's financial well-being is its conference and private dining business. Whether you are looking to hold a private family function or are responsible for organising a major corporate conference, you might like to think of your college as a special venue. We are able to offer private dining options and small day conferences year-round, and larger conferences with overnight accommodation during vacations.

You may just want to re-visit Oxford, alone or with others; we have a small number of guest rooms available throughout the year, and can often offer more accommodation during the vacations. Details are available on the website. Conference and dining enquiries should be directed to Heather Earwicker on 01865 276484; accommodation requests to Jane Osborne on 01865 276462. You are also very welcome to call the Home Bursar, Daren Bowyer (01865 286081) to discuss ideas for using the College's facilities.

2 YEARS AT PEMBROKE AND STILL NO ROUTINE: IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT



by Andrew Seton
Strategic Development
Director

Last year I thanked everyone for making my first year easy and welcoming. This year, as you might expect, they stopped giving me the benefit of the doubt, removed the pink Pembroke kid gloves and...

Well, no, it hasn't been as bad as that. The platform constructed in the years before I arrived is made of durable stuff and, pardon the oily metaphor, it is not proving difficult to carry on "building while drilling." I am talking, as you might imagine in my case, of meeting more and more people and raising more and more money – whilst helping to track the design of that new development to the South of the College. Indeed, the job of "Strategic Development Director" could be described as "future-proofing", using the expression our Bursar likes to use when referring to the increasingly detailed ongoing work on our new building.

There are many people I could thank for not removing their gloves this past year, but let me single out a few in particular:

Due to the efforts of a new and highly creative spirit in the Development Office, Juanita Hughes, in finding new and centrally located venues in London for some events, it is becoming more convenient for Pembroke alumni, academics and students to meet – of course, nothing beats Pembroke, but it is not easy for all our alumni to make the trip to Oxford.

Consider some of our original venues these past months: the exclusive Walbrook Club, a secluded eatery for today's somewhat edgy financiers tucked between City car-parks; Trinity House, that great beacon for lighthouse-keepers of the world, its 18th century bay windows shining out over the Thames and the skulking form of the Tower of London at night (no coincidence, of course, that Juanita chose both Club and light-house HQ one after the other: from meltdown there shall come enlightenment...); the un-meltable, heavy-metal-filled Imperial War Museum with its James Bond sideshow, none too homely perhaps, but not a wholly inappropriate backdrop for the Master's annual *tour d'horizon* as we head towards Campaign mode. Next year watch out for Catherine McMillan, Deputy Development Director, as she takes Pembroke events further afield to Edinburgh, Manchester and the rest of the country.

Consider the different and new themes – for Pembroke – which brought people together: financial collapse as seen through the eyes of hedge-fund managers (if not quite anticipated by them); soaring East London teenager aspirations fired by our Access scheme;

Gallery

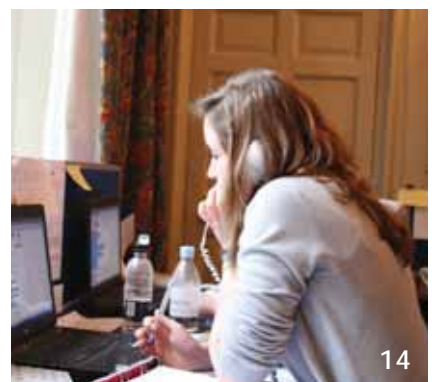
a celebration of Economics and Management for alumni and current students, as one of Pembroke's "homegrown" Final Honours Schools. The events staged in College have also been uplifting: at a fine Ossulston lunch in March, invited donors were rewarded by the sight of orchids and home-made chocolates adorning each dining table in the Hall, whilst they listened to a memorable speech from our guest of honour, the Vice Chancellor, and then went on to a chamber concert featuring three talented undergraduate musicians in the Damon Wells Chapel.

In the meanwhile, we are doing our best to turn Pembroke into an even more stunning College for future generations of students and academics. It has been a year of painstaking and detailed planning to ensure we make the best use of the group of new buildings and spaces which will make up the long hoped-for extension to the College's main site. So I can only express admiration for Bursar John Church and his team of professionals for steering the Brewer Street project featured in last year's Pembrokian through many complex design iterations in the last 12 months to its final planning authorisation, a major and essential condition fulfilled on the road to attracting the necessary funds for the project and bringing an enthralling new dimension for the College closer. Read about the all-important first step in the construction schedule – the refurbishment of our Hall and kitchen – in the pages which follow.

The Master gets an accolade, too, for bringing off a second year in which he successfully juggled his dual responsibilities at the helm of Pembroke and the Collegiate University as Chairman of Conference. At the same time as he wore the bewildering array of hats that only a job like his in a place like Oxford can confer, he has managed to fly the College flag in no less than 8 countries around the globe.

And what of myself? In short, no thanks are due – as I have had a good time. I would just thank the people I met for so many stimulating encounters. Aside from accompanying the Master on much of his Middle Eastern itinerary, spending several days in Tokyo and still longer in the USA, I continue to enjoy Greater Pembroke. If there is any routine in all this, it is that I keep re-discovering the simple truth that those curious and intelligent people who passed through this College insist on getting the most out of life. Our alumni today remain as versatile as some of those extraordinary polymaths from our 18th century golden age viz. Thomas Beddoes, about whom you can read in the next few pages. How about our 21st century stand-up comedian-turned-writer on the history of landscape and confectionery? The Tokyo-based neuro-physiologist-cum-artist? Or a New York investment banker giving it up to become a musician, or in another UK case, the leading light in a major charity? Or the entrepreneurial owner of a London consulting firm who has sold up to devote himself 100% to faithful restoration of a period property? Or the Texan gynaecologist who is successfully exploiting a niche in horticultural and other markets for the landscape and water erosion control material he has recently patented? (*Enough polymaths. Ed.*)

Is the oil flowing? Maybe it will surprise you to know that it is, in spite of the grim financial news that dominated the year, not least because of the enthusiasm of the students who helped us raise funds in our second telethon, because of the interest which our new building is already arousing and the general desire of Greater Pembroke to see us flourish as we aspire to better things. We will give you numbers at the end of the year. In the meanwhile, please enjoy stories of our current wealth in terms of Pembroke's glorious and well-manicured green spaces, our high-performance academics, multi-talented alumni and student all-rounders.





- 1 Jon Aisbitt (1975) *City Breakfast Walbrook Club*
- 2 Paddy (1952) and Wendy Nolan, David Fell (1972) *Trinity House Reception*
- 3 Geoff Cotterill (1979), Richard Eccles (1979), Philip Moor (1978), Andrew Vickery (1978) *Imperial War Museum Reception*
- 4 Prof. Ken Mayhew, *Economics & Management Dinner*
- 5 Katarzyna Stochniol (2004), Kulchetan Sanga (2004), Jason Mahendron (2004) *Economics & Management Dinner*
- 6 Richard Deeble (1949) and Catherine Prichard *Ossulston Lunch*
- 7 John Church (Bursar) and Andrew Buxton (1959) *Ossulston Lunch*
- 8 Rosie Duckworth (2008) John Duckworth (1969) *Blackstone Society Dinner*
- 9 Denzil Davies (1959) and Peter Cuthbertson (1967) *Blackstone Society Dinner*
- 10 Charlotte Rhead (2002), Sam Scheuringer (2002), Hannah Slee (2002), Lyndsey Sambrooks-Wright (2002) *2001-2002 Gaudy*
- 11 Dan Prentice (Emeritus Fellow), Giles Henderson (Master) *Dan's Retirement Dinner*
- 12 1948 Year Group *Oxford Alumni Reunion Weekend Dinner 2008*
- 13 Glorious weather for the *2009 Annual Garden Party*
- 14 Nikki Zywna (2007), *2009 Telethon*
- 15 Houston alumni – at the home of Tom Solis (1960)
- 16 Jon Burney (1979), Ivor Mason (1979), Patrick Malein (1979), Matthew Freeman (1979) *1974-1979 Gaudy*

Future Proofing Pembroke

by John Church,
Bursar

We are pleased to report that our plans for the major upgrading and expansion of the College are going very well. But we need to be ready to cope with the extra demands on our historic facilities generated by the 90 or so more students who will be living on the College's enlarged main site when we complete the main project.

The first phase of our project is thus to refurbish completely the main College Hall, the kitchen and other parts of the Hall building. The centrepiece of this initiative will be to build a new servery immediately adjacent to the Hall, which will allow those taking informal meals to collect their food from a purpose-built facility with ease and efficiency. The kitchen will be re-sited in the area immediately behind the servery with the result that food will be delivered directly from the kitchen. This will result in a much better "customer experience" by speeding up the queues and also allowing an easy transition from an informal hall to a full-service formal hall (when the doors to the servery will be closed) allowing us to provide two sittings in one evening. This will also enable us to handle the much larger numbers which we expect once the Brewer Street Scheme has been completed.

Elsewhere in the building, more significant improvements will be seen. The basement area, occupied by the current kitchen, will be refurbished to provide modern preparation areas and storage facilities. The College Bar will be re-sited in the attractive vaulted storage space which runs beneath the whole length of the Hall increasing capacity by about 50%. The Forte Room will be refurbished and the facilities for staff much improved. Toilets for users of the Hall will be provided within the building. Access, particularly for wheelchair users, will be improved by the provision of a lift to all floors.

The Governing Body has now given its approval to proceed with this phase of the work, starting in January 2010. It is expected to take a year to complete, with the result that the new facilities should be available at the start of Hilary Term 2011. This is, of course, subject to the necessary listed building and planning consents but we have been working closely with the City Council Conservation Officer in preparing our plans and are reasonably confident of the outcome. Inevitably, there will be some disturbance to College life, but a temporary Kitchen/Hall will be positioned in North Quad and we expect to keep the disruption to a manageable level.

Turning to the main Brewer Street Scheme, I can report that, after a year of intensive design and consultation work, the College's planning application was approved by the relevant City Council Committee in May 2009.

Inevitably, given the size and complexity of the project, there are a number of conditions with which we have to comply but these are not expected to cause us difficulty.

We are now progressing to the very detailed design stage with a view to being ready to go out to tender for construction contracts in 2010. The decision to proceed will be contingent upon our success in fundraising. In undertaking the detailed design work, we are consulting widely with Fellows, staff and students, as well as taking professional advice on such matters as the design of the auditorium.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our professional team, particularly our Architects Berman Guedes Stretton and all those colleagues and members of the College past and present who have provided such strong support to allow us to reach this stage. Now for the hard part as we move from the planning board to implementation!



From Pembroke to Broadway

Sarah Ruhl (1995) studied English Language and Literature as a visiting student at Pembroke. Sarah lives in New York and is an acclaimed playwright.

Sarah Ruhl's plays include *The Clean House* which came to Oxford Playhouse in 2008, (Susan Smith Blackburn Award, 2004, Pulitzer Prize finalist, Pen Award), *Melancholy Play*, *Eurydice*, *Late: a cowboy song*, *Orlando*, *Demeter in the City* (NAACP image award nomination), *Passion Play* (Fourth forum freedom award, Kennedy Center), *Dead Man's Cell Phone* (Helen Hayes Award), and *In the Next Room (or the vibrator play)*. Her plays have been performed at many distinguished venues across the USA. Her plays have been translated into German, Polish, Korean, Russian and Spanish, and have been produced internationally. Sarah received her M.F.A. from Brown University, and is originally from Chicago. She is the recipient of a Helen Merrill award, Whiting Writers' Award, PEN/Laura Pels award, and a Macarthur Fellowship. She is a proud member of New Dramatists and 13P (National Endowment for the Arts).

In a recent interview Sarah recounted fond memories of her time here

P_ What are your fondest memories of Pembroke?

S_ Reading outside in the spring on a bench until very late with the moon rising; sitting with Frances O'Gorman, my tutor, and talking about modern poetry, punting with James Platt, writing in my beautiful 16th century room with the wooden beams on the ceiling, eating cheese on toast in the afternoon from the man who made cheese on toast (what was his name?), the daffodils coming out in the spring and walking by the river, listening to Tom Paulin lecture on Yeats, and sitting on the big lawn in front of the dining hall with friends – a figure alighting from the dining hall with a magical tray of extra sandwiches for us all to eat... coming back years later and visiting Pembroke and being so pleased that nothing, nothing had changed...

P_ What are you currently working on?

S_ A play about the history of the vibrator; a 19th century costume drama about the early use of the vibrator on female and male hysterics.

P_ Who has influenced you most in life?

S_ My mother and father.

P_ Where do you get your inspiration from?

S_ Other writers, my daughter, the passage of time, tea...

P_ A favourite quote...

S_ "Every moment some form grows perfect in hand or face; some tone on the hills or the sea is choicer than the rest; some mood of passion or insight or intellectual excitement is irresistibly real and attractive to us—for that moment only. Not the fruit of experience, but experience itself, is the end. Not to discriminate every moment some passionate attitude in those about us... is to sleep before evening. With this sense of the splendor of our experience and of its awful brevity, gathering all we are into one desperate effort to see and touch, we shall hardly have time to make theories about the things we see and touch." *Walter Pater, The Renaissance*.



THE GLORIOUS *Gardens* OF PEMBROKE

by Tim Richardson
Photographs by
Andrew Lawson

It is probably the case that most visitors to Pembroke, and indeed the majority of its students and fellows, pass by the gardens, think 'That's nice' and then move on. But it is worth giving the garden a little more time than that. Over the past 18 years head gardener Richard Markham, working alone, has made Pembroke's garden into one of the very best in Oxford.



Old Quad has long been celebrated for its window boxes, but the horticultural interest now extends across the college. All kinds of interesting shrubs can be found in Pembroke's gardens and overall a muscular shape to the plantings which suggests a powerfully creative horticultural mind at work. Like many professional gardeners Richard is not normally the most voluble of men, but when the topic turns to plants he reveals himself to be passionate, knowledgeable and single-minded about his work. He also says he enjoys working alone and would not have it any other way.

As we all know, Pembroke is unique among Oxford's colleges in that its gatehouse is sited in the corner of a quadrangle, not in the centre of an entrance range. This architectural reticence makes the entry into Old Quad feel like a peep around a corner. Perhaps that is partly why John Betjeman referred to

Pembroke as 'so polite and shy' in 'Summoned by Bells' (though we shall have to make up our own minds about that judgment). In many colleges the symmetry of this first quad can seem overwhelming as one emerges at the centre, making any plantings look like 'window-dressing', literally. At Pembroke the oblique view into Old Quad means that the double tier of window boxes (47 in all) plays a powerful perspectival role, exaggerated by bright floral colour.

Richard's window boxes are interesting in themselves -- this summer the planting, which is identical in each box, consists of the wonderfully blowsy Fuchsia 'Blue Mirage', the soft pinks and vivid magentas of verbena, diascias, pelargoniums, lobelias and surfinia petunias, plus the overflowing green and gold leaves of plectranthus. Fuchsia standards flank the doorways while the beds by the walls





contain climbing roses, ceanothus, hydrangea petiolaris, heliconia ('lobster claw') and clematis, as well as ferns and large, purple-leaved canna lilies, the latter being something of a horticultural signature for Richard.

The highlight of any tour of Pembroke is arguably the transition into Chapel Quad, since the vista is so dramatic, unexpected and open after the intimacy of Old Quad. Again, it is the corner siting of the gatehouse which is crucial here, since it entails a sudden 90-degree turn into the dark covered passageway.

Even for those familiar with Pembroke, it can be a thrilling moment. The variation in levels (there are three steps up from Old Quad) enhances the feeling of excitement as one walks up and into the green spaciousness of the quad, with the magnificent hall straight ahead hovering into view, the architecturally intriguing chapel on one's left and a sense of open-ness up and over the city wall beyond it.

A large, open space such as Chapel Quad can easily cope with big plantings, and Richard has explored his interest in flowering shrubs

to good effect here. Against the hall, choice specimens of choisya, eleagnus, buddleia, escallonia, philadelphus and hydrangeas have been allowed to bulk up to considerable size, with hebes and fuschias offsetting them lower down. "I like 'full'", Richard explains. 'It's a constant compromise between what I like and things getting too big.' There is blue and white wisteria around the SCR doorway to the north and several thriving abutilons, with their luscious downturned pink flowers, against the (so-called) New Building adjacent.



Climbing roses abound. Other plants worthy of note include a fine actinidia to the right of the hall steps and two solanum species (the blue and the white) against the south wall of the quad. Amid all this Richard allows self-seeded foxgloves to add a sense of spontaneity, together with oriental poppies and the scented nicotiana (tobacco plant).

The most intense plantings in Chapel Quad can be found around Broadgates Hall, where more delicate plants combine including sculptural silver echinops, aquilegia, the larger alliums, salvias, lysimachia, phlomis and more unusual subjects such as the herb Calamintha nepeta. These Richard sources from the RHS garden at Wisley in Surrey, with Pembroke's blessing in the shape of Professor Alex Kacelnik, fellow in charge of the garden. Richard is fond of the striking, strap-leaved phormiums in bronze and green shades; a particularly fine

example defines the corner by Broadgates (massed phormiums are also used to good effect in Library Quad). Against the wall the deep red blooms of a Handel rose mingle with the purple floral stars of *Solanum crispum*.

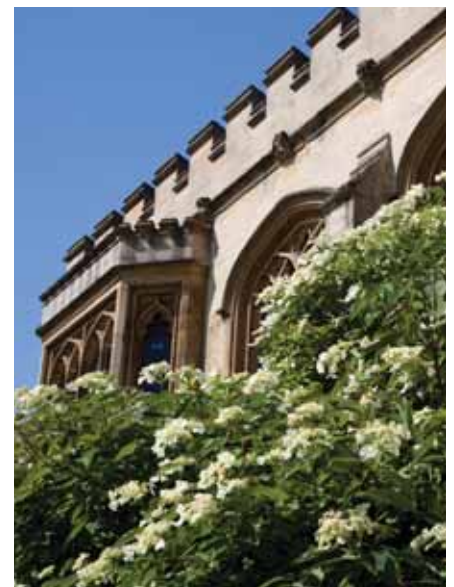
The disparate spaces of North Quad represent a challenging environment for any planting designer, and Richard has followed his instincts with more bold plantings, creating what is in effect a mature shrubbery in the large bed by the path leading to Staircase 12. Here a purple hazel, a weeping pear and a pair of judas trees lend structure to a vibrant mix of smaller perennials including alliums, sedums and astrantia. Plans are afoot to develop the potential of the paved enclosed garden in front of what is now Staircase 18, which abuts another small shrubbery containing a fine arbutus (strawberry tree). Meanwhile the dark, north-facing aspect of the New Building is enlivened by a large clematis (in which a

family of ducks nests every year) and a fine *Garrya elliptica*, with dangling catkins in winter. One of the richest moments of all comes just around the corner, where outside Staircase 8 is a large semi-circular raised bed containing a choice mix of smaller herbaceous plants, including small-leaved pittosporums, several grasses (including *Festuca*), elegant *Euphorbia characias* 'Silver Swan', lavenders and numerous pemstemons, the latter a favourite with Richard. And then there is the private sanctum of the Master's Garden, where Richard gardens more romantically than elsewhere, with numerous salvias ('Hot Lips' stands out), achilleas, roses, verbascums and a marvelous yellow phygellus (long, trumpet-shaped flowers) which has turned itself into a climber. Pembroke's gardener must also deal with the Geoffrey Arthur Building ('the GAB') over Folly Bridge, which would be deserving of another article, so creative is Richard's gardening there across three quadrangles. There is indeed

more to Pembroke's gardens than perhaps first meets the eye, and that is testament to the diligence and creativity of its gardener.

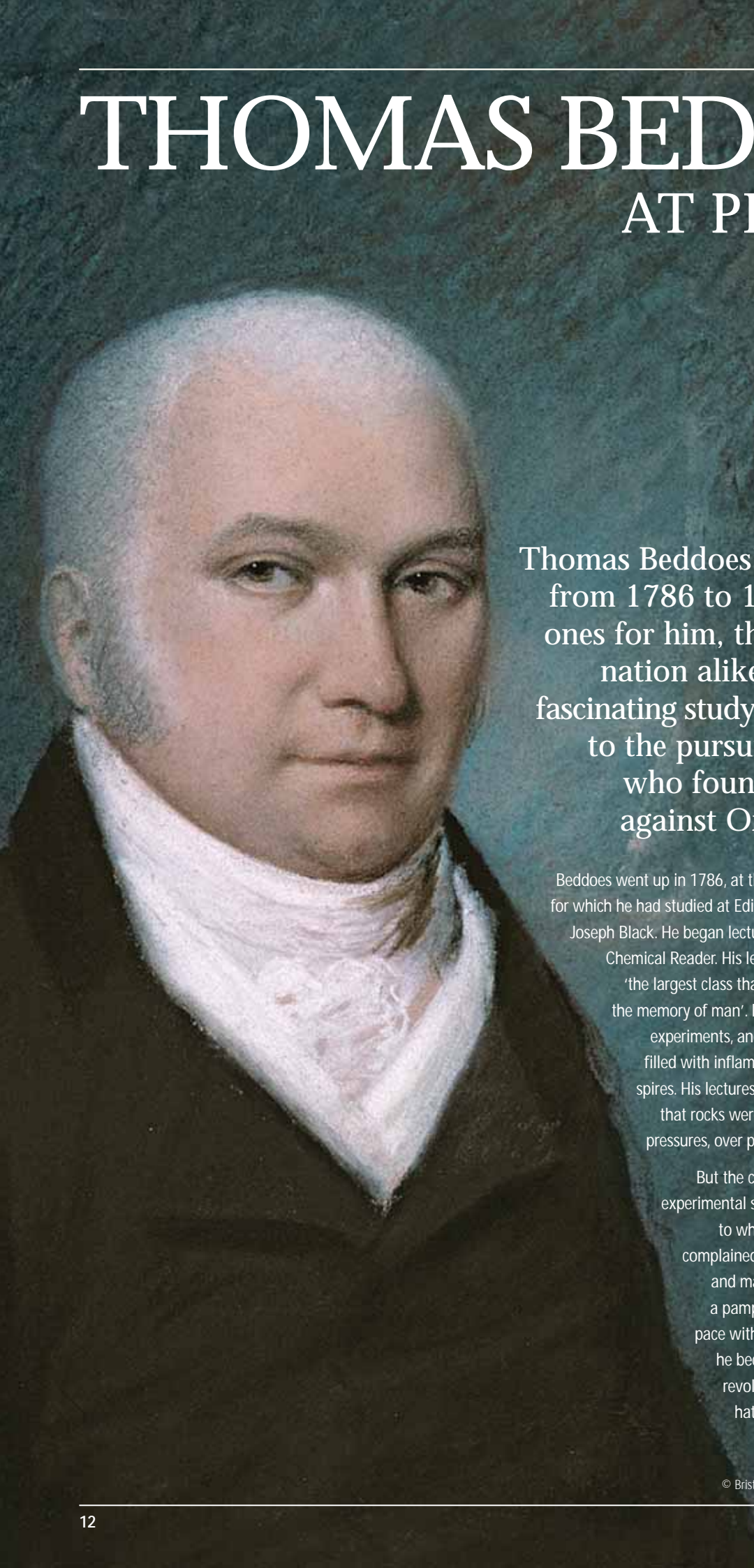
Tim Richardson (1986) is a garden historian and landscape architecture critic. His recent books include Arcadian Friends: Inventing the English Landscape Garden (2007) and Avant Gardeners (2008). Tim studied English at Pembroke.

Photographs contributed by Andrew Lawson (1963). Andrew studied Medicine at Pembroke and is now a well known garden photographer whose pictures have been reproduced extensively in books and magazines worldwide. Andrew is a keen gardener himself and his pictures are informed by a deep knowledge of the subject. He wrote and illustrated 'The Gardener's Book of Colour' published by Frances Lincoln and he has provided pictures for numerous books including those written by Rosemary Verey, Penelope Hobhouse, Roy Strong and HRH The Prince of Wales.



THOMAS BEDDOES AT PEMBROKE

by Mike Jay



Thomas Beddoes' years at Pembroke, from 1786 to 1793, were turbulent ones for him, the university and the nation alike. His career offers a fascinating study of a figure dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge, but who found himself swimming against Oxford's cultural tide.

Beddoes went up in 1786, at the age of 26, and took the medical degree for which he had studied at Edinburgh University under the great chemist Joseph Black. He began lecturing, and in 1788 was appointed Oxford's Chemical Reader. His lectures, he reported proudly to Black, drew 'the largest class that has ever been seen at Oxford, at least in the memory of man'. He enthused packed halls with spectacular experiments, and caused a sensation by sending a balloon filled with inflammable gas in a meteoric arc over the city's spires. His lectures on geology presented the startling theory that rocks were formed under colossal temperatures and pressures, over previously unimagined immensities of time.

But the climate at Oxford was not conducive to the experimental sciences, or to the freethinking conclusions to which the likes of Beddoes directed them. He complained about his inadequate laboratory funding, and made enemies at the Bodleian by publishing a pamphlet accusing the library of failing to keep pace with modern scientific knowledge. After 1789, he became a passionate supporter of the French revolution, wearing the tricolour cockade in his hat and supporting political reform in Britain.

James Sharples, Thomas Beddoes, pastel.

© Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery/The Bridgeman Art Library



James Gillray's satirical print of Davy's nitrous oxide demonstration at London's Royal Institution on 20th June 1801. Davy is depicted as a rustic youth holding a set of bellows and sniggering as Count Rumford offers the gas to the distinguished spectators in evening dress. Coloured etching, 1802. Wellcome Library, London.

This made him increasingly conspicuous in Oxford's conservative milieu, which reacted with horror to the unfolding events in France. By 1792, when Thomas Paine's *Rights of Man* was prosecuted for seditious libel and the Home Office began to assemble lists of political undesirables, Beddoes fell under suspicion. He had become, as he put it, 'eminently and much beyond my importance, odious to Pitt and his gang, as I know from an hundred curious facts'. Under a political cloud, and fearing that the experimental sciences were destined to wither 'under the shadow of ecclesiastical & scholastic institutions', he tendered his resignation.

This was a doubly awkward situation for the University because his name had, by this point, become entwined in the campaign to establish a Regius Chair in chemistry. Oxford's vice chancellor, John Cooke, had specified in his application to the Home Secretary that, should a chair be granted, it must be offered to Beddoes, who had 'so unequivocal a claim in his line'. Cooke begged him to remain, and he deferred his departure; but by the end of the year, as war with France loomed and Beddoes' reputation as a 'British Jacobin' led to students boycotting his classes, he made his final decision to leave.

His send-off was cordial: except for one colleague 'who would not speak to me, I have remarked an unusual forwardness of civility in the rest of my acquaintances', which he attributed with characteristic optimism to 'the increased liberality of the age'. But his passion for practical science, and particularly for turning

new chemical discoveries to medical benefit, was propelling him away from the academies and into the wider world. By the spring of 1793 he had relocated in Bristol and set up the Pneumatic Institution, a pioneering research project to test the efficacy of newly discovered gases in treating lung diseases. He would receive the support of leading industrialists such as James Watt and the Wedgwoods, attract a coterie of brilliant young followers including Samuel Taylor Coleridge and Robert Southey, and discover the young Humphry Davy, the great chemical genius of the generation to come.

But Beddoes' Oxford years would also influence the coming generation, not least through his student and fellow Pembrokian Davies Giddy (1767-1839). The pair remained lifelong friends and collaborators, and over his long career Giddy applied the science that he had first learned from Beddoes with surpassing effectiveness. He assisted in the design of steam engines and suspension bridges and, as an MP, supervised public works and agricultural policy. As Davies Gilbert – he changed his surname when he married an heiress – he was awarded a knighthood and, in 1827, succeeded Davy as President of the Royal Society.

Mike Jay has just published his latest book: *The Atmosphere of Heaven – The Unnatural Experiments of Dr Beddoes and His Sons of Genius*.



by Helen Small
Jonathan and Julia Aisbitt
Fellow in English Literature

Literature

Something tends to go wrong whenever the two cultures debate rears its head.

Those who followed the reconstruction of Snow v. Leavis, 1959, hosted on Oxford University's website in Hilary Term of this year to mark the 50th anniversary of the controversy, will know what I mean. (See http://www.ox.ac.uk/oxford_debates/past_debates/hilary_2009_poetry_and_science/). The debate was won, handsomely, 'by the Humanities'—or at least the votes fell heavily against the proposition that 'Poetry is beautiful, but science is what matters'. Peter McDonald (Christopher Tower Student and Tutor in Poetry at Christ Church—a poet and a critic) had argued wittily against; Peter Atkins, formerly Professor of Chemistry at Oxford, had argued strenuously for. Atkins made some large and impassioned claims for the greater utility and grandeur of science, but the wording of the proposition provocatively did science a disservice, giving it a pretended monopoly on 'what matters' which was almost bound to fail. Empiricism is one way of defining what matters, or 'the real thing', as McDonald put it, after Ian Hamilton, but there are others, and we all live in and through many of them. The reality of a man on an operating table is not the same as that of someone addressing a meeting, making the dinner, or stricken with grief or with love. Different things will matter, all of them for good reasons.

I assume few scientists (Atkins included) would disagree, once the performative constraints of the debate were left behind.

The humanities have no necessary quarrel with the sciences, even in a funding climate where the concentration of government resources on the STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) might encourage that view. For now, at least, those of us in the humanities are generously cross-subsidised

by the sciences, and the pressure upon us to come up with more persuasive accounts of the value of what we contribute to society, and why we should be in receipt of public money, is being driven not by them but from central government. Our real antagonist in 2009 is not the natural sciences but the social sciences—or rather a debased form of social-scientific metric quantification which has taken hold of UK (and European) government funding bodies in recent years. The humanities at present are badly in need of arguments that encounter and respect the utilitarian but are not defined by the utilitarian. There should be no disagreement that we ought to be willing and able to make those arguments, but they are not easily formulated when the terms of the questions have already been set in the language of quantifiability. Most of us in English, Modern Languages, Classics, History and History of Art are in bad faith with ourselves as soon as we try to mount a defence of what we do in terms of straight utility: we don't conceive of our own work in terms of its economic 'impact', or quantifiables of significance, or even, always, of 'knowledge transfer', though we can perform that mental exercise when it is required of us. But nor do we think we are here to promote sweetness and light and preserve the best that has been thought and said (well, some of us do, and some of us don't and that is in itself a problem).

At present we risk settling into a cynical agreement that the humanities must regularly deliver accounts of themselves which match the utilitarian terms given. The giving of an account is not damaging. The cynicism is. This is a predicament we share with the sciences, rather than one which sets us apart from them. Ask any scientist about the process of securing grants for projects and you are

likely to hear very similar complaints about answerability to measures of usefulness which do not, or do not often, accord with scientists' own sense of where the good, or the possible future good, of research lies.

It is a predicament which has been around for quite a long time. One of the least commented upon aspects of the original Snow-Leavis exchanges is C. P. Snow's remark, in 'The Two Cultures: A Second Look' (1963), that a 'third culture' was coming.

This body of opinion seems to come from intellectual persons in a variety of fields—social history, sociology, demography, political science, economics, government, psychology, medicine, and social arts such as architecture. It seems a mixed bag: but there is an inner consistency. All of them are concerned with how human beings are living or have lived—and concerned, not in terms of legend, but of fact.

Remove 'medicine' and 'the social arts' from that list, and it is a remarkably accurate prediction of how the intellectual work of universities in the twenty-first century have come to look.

But there is a further factor, which Snow could not have predicted, and which significantly wrong-foots any attempt to construct a deep cultural conflict between literature and science 50 years on. Perhaps the most lastingly important effect of the Snow-Leavis debate was that it generated resistance. The rapid growth of interdisciplinary work on literature and science over the past 25 years and more has been the consequence of a desire to give the lie to Snow's charge that there is an unscientific, anti-scientific flavour to modern literary culture. The primary goal of 'one culture' criticism, as it is sometimes called, has been to overcome perceived antagonisms

Science

between the two fields, freeing up traffic in ideas, analysing creative connections and abrasions at the level of language.

The institutional successes of this still young field have been impressive. There are journals dedicated to its pursuit, many books and essays, popular undergraduate and graduate courses, PhDs. The British Society for Literature and Science has counterparts in America, Europe, Australasia. The intellectual successes are what matters more: brilliant, thoughtful work which takes the skills of the humanities disciplines (close analysis of rhetoric, an understanding, especially, of narrative and metaphor, a properly complex understanding of history) and shows us just how deeply science remains and will always remain a cultural and creative endeavour.

It may seem odd, then, to have to confess that I am fighting a certain amount of jadedness with the word 'interdisciplinarity' of late. For some time now, participants in conference roundtable discussions, and candidates at interview for posts in English Literature, have routinely answered the question 'How do you see the future of literary criticism?' with the claim that it will be 'interdisciplinary'. It is a response, but not an answer. Unless you are a theorist, interdisciplinarity is a method, or (better) a framework, rather than a subject.

It is a means of answering questions that may arise out of literature but which literary analysis alone cannot adequately answer, or a means to asking certain questions of literature that would not necessarily arise out of it but which we deem to be important (historical, political, philosophical questions). In 2009 interdisciplinarity has had too long and significant an influence on the humanities for it to represent a future transformation in what we do. No job candidate, in my experience, has

ever hazarded the alternative answer that we are about to become 'post-disciplinary', though that word, too, has had theoretical currency for at least a decade. Of course, the job-interview context itself may foreclose that answer: it would be a rash, or spectacularly confident, interviewee for a lectureship in English who replied to the question 'what is the future of English?' by asserting that it has none.

One (partial, but important) explanation of how the term 'interdisciplinarity' has gained such a firm foothold in the professional self-descriptions of people working in English is that it has become a very prominent component in the rhetoric of the public funding bodies for the humanities. Take, for example, the Arts and Humanities Research Council's assessment criteria for the Research Networking scheme, which tell applicants that submissions will be evaluated with reference to (among other things)

- the level of genuine interdisciplinary collaboration proposed ... ; and
- the extent to which the proposed interdisciplinary activities will generate genuine and novel interaction, including the potential for them to lead to advances in knowledge and understanding in the fields concerned and/or new high quality cross-disciplinary research projects

The most relevant function of the term 'interdisciplinary' here is that it assists the AHRC in meeting the Whitehall-imposed requirement that research council distributions of public money should promote 'knowledge transfer', 'economic relevance', 'impact'. The word 'interdisciplinarity' has been effectively harnessed so as to encourage applications that will be self-evidently collaborative (because they involve skills and, often, personnel from

more than one area of expertise), self-evidently innovative (because not confined by the intellectual and methodological parameters of existing disciplines), and will self-evidently involve the transfer of knowledge beyond old disciplinary boundaries. 'Interdisciplinarity' in such contexts is always deemed to be a good, but is deliberately underdefined and its invocation is primarily strategic. Its prioritisation in the literature of UK public funding assumes (what is true for some institutions more than others, and for some scholars more than others) that the old disciplines still provide our basic structures of working, and that when we are being interdisciplinary we are being interdisciplinary from a traditional disciplinary base.

When invoked as a generally 'good thing' rather than a framework for particular kinds of methodologically plural scholarship, the word 'interdisciplinary' has a tendency to sound obviously unexamined, pleased with itself, in danger of vacuity. I was briefly tempted to argue, here, that there is a clear and present danger of the excellent intellectual goals and achievements of 'literature and science' being distorted by political and economic instrumentalism. I dismissed that temptation. Good interdisciplinary work on literature and science is not at any immediate risk from the exploitation of the term by our funding bodies as a quick route to demonstrating the 'impact' of the humanities. But there is some risk to our profession if we do not keep clear the distinction between strategic rhetoric (the responses we give when asked to justify our claims to public funding) and our own intellectual frameworks for research, and if interdisciplinarity starts to pass for a persuasive account of what the future content of our subject should be.

Life at Pembroke from an American Perspective



by Chris Hardy

I came to Pembroke to study Economics and Management at a time when the Anglo-American variant of capitalism, the mode of political economy that is embedded in our social kinship, has suffered its most significant financial downturn in generations and catalysed historic responses from our governments and businesses.

Here I have examined information from both sides of the Atlantic through a whole new array of logics and theories and matrices, and engaged with a whole community of tutors, fellow students, and dedicated staff, whether it was playing cricket on a team of students against a team of Fellows, including my tutors, in the final weeks of Trinity term; rambling through the Cotswolds with the Master, his wife, their dogs, and a few other students on a brilliant

Archives Come to Life Via Digitisation

by Lucie Walker, Librarian

A recent donation by the Helen Roll charity to the McGowin library enabled us to digitise some of the College's most important and precious documents from the archive and special library collections. These items cannot tolerate anything other than the most delicate handling, so our wish was to digitise them to help prevent damage and decay. This work is an important step to help preserve our precious documents.



We began the project by selecting three of the original College foundation documents, a couple of manuscripts, and autograph letters. This included material related to Samuel Johnson: his two surviving undergraduate essays, and some letters to his friends including a recently acquired one that he wrote to Rev. Adams, the then Master. Included was also our MS 20, a Book of Hours commissioned for King Wenceslaus IV of Bohemia, c. 1410-1419, one of our most valuable, and certainly most beautiful manuscripts.

Illuminated Grant of Arms, awarded by the College of Heralds in 1625.



English summer day; and talking to the college staff about life in the England since the post-war era; among other experiences. What has made these exchanges so poignant is Pembroke's atmosphere of trust and good-fellowship, made possible by the healthy distribution of fellow Americans living in the quads and the rich knowledge of America among the college Fellows and staff based on living, studying, or working on the other side of the Atlantic.

As I prepare to join the ranks of American Pembrokiens, which includes several who have served our nation with distinction in a variety of fields, I remain hopeful that the 'special relationship,' whose dimensions and dynamics I have examined up close this year, will continue to not only adapt and sustain itself, but provide the leadership that is expected of us.

Farewell to Brian

by Daren Bowyer, Home Bursar

Brian Jordan, who has worked for the College as a night porter for ten years, retires this June. Before coming to Pembroke Brian had spent his entire working life at British Leyland but he had clearly missed his vocation, for a better personality could not have been found to be the welcoming face of the College to students and visitors alike. Brian, who once coxed for City of Oxford Rowing Club (where he had the nickname 'Cheyenne' – though you'd have to be a fan of old TV westerns to know why!) has clearly relished all aspects of College life and has been a true Pembrokiens. He won't be far away and we hope we'll continue to see him often.



Brian Jordan receiving his 10 year long service award from Bursar John Church.



Experts from the Bodleian visited to view the material and advised on the suitability for scanning and procedures. The chosen items were then taken to the Bodleian's imaging studio and scanned in our presence. Extra precautions needed to be taken for MS 20 due to its high value and its fragility. There were some 370 scans taken in total. The data was then transferred onto DVDs which serve as our archive copies, and further copies are kept on the College's computer network.

We are now able to deliver electronic versions of these items to researchers wherever they are located, without disturbing the originals. With digital copies it is also possible for us to select some of the items for printing and put them on permanent display in the library for visitors to the college.

This major project has now been completed requiring a large investment of time and money, helping us to achieve the long-term preservation of vulnerable items. There is scope for further digitisation however, especially from the archives collection and library manuscripts, and we hope to be able to continue with this work in the future.

MS 20, Book of Hours, commissioned for King Wenceslaus of Bohemia, Prague, c.1410-1419.

Fol. 35 r: Jacob is asleep at Bethel with his ladder in the background.

UK India Business Scholarship

Of the six bright and ambitious undergraduate students from the Economics and Management course at Saïd Business School selected for the inaugural UK India Business Scholarship, Saara Hanif, a first year, was chosen to work with Get Through Guides. The scholarships give students the opportunity to spend 8 weeks working with leading companies based in India, with a view to creating a new generation of ambassadors to build relationships between Indian and UK businesses. Saara reports: "India was incredible. Living and working there made me realise that there is a world out there that most of us haven't experienced, where things don't happen as we expect them to, people have a different interpretation of timelines, and generosity knows no bounds. I left the UK filled with excitement about the time ahead. I knew I was in India as soon as I landed due to the heat, humidity and smell. My first week was spent with the Pargoankars family, in Aundh who made me feel very much at home, feeding me authentic Indian food and showing me around the local area.

During my first week at 'Get Through Guides', an accountancy and financial qualification textbook publishing firm, I was assigned to help out the Editing team and do some English proofing. After a week of this, despite my initial enjoyment, I was slowly going mad. I was then assigned to the Distance Learning project for ACCA students. The brainstorming process when deciding the components of the package was the most memorable part of the job. I was in charge of 'Email A Day' – sending the student a semi-magazine, semi-study guide page to keep them on track with their studies. I enjoyed working within the team and I made some great friends."

Saara also managed to visit many cities and sites during her time – it was not all work and no play.



MCR ramble on!

On a recent trip to the Cotswolds with the Master and Mrs Henderson, the MCR members were greeted with glorious sunshine in which they were able to take in the beautiful sights around Eastleach, near Burford. The ramblers set off across meadows, over gates, and through fields of cattle, to admire the stunning buildings and scenery for which the Cotswolds are famous. Discussion ranged from politics to favourite Pembroke moments of the past year. The ramblers were accompanied by the Master's dogs, Ellie and Gracie, two very excited blonde retrievers, who led the group over the meadows and through the trees, although no one followed them into the stream for a quick dip to cool off in the heat! After a picturesque couple of hours walking in the countryside the party retired to the Victoria Arms for lunch. With views of the village church below and the sun beating down it was the perfect way to end a charming day out of Oxford. "The ramble is always a favourite event for the members of the MCR, and all agreed that it was a thoroughly enjoyable day which we hope to repeat in the future!" said Laura Taylor.

Records in the Attic?

It transpires that the College does not have a complete archive set of The Record and some copies are completely missing prior to 1966. If you are having a clear out and discover any copies we would be delighted to have them to add to our collection. We are also keen to have articles from any Pembrokiens from matric years 1960 onwards detailing your experience at Pembroke, for future publications of the Record. This would be a great source of interest and provide an historical record for future generations. It would be especially good to have something from one of the first female undergraduates (1979). Please send in your recollections by either email, letter or even a phone call. These need not be too long as we can amalgamate them for a future article.

Alice in Wonderland?

For this year's Arts Week, a group of Pembroke undergraduates wrote and performed a stage version of Alice in Wonderland. They have subsequently been invited to perform the show in "a proper theatre". Thoughtful, sophisticated and moving are some of the many words that could not be applied to this production. With tongue firmly in cheek, the students gave two performances of slapstick (including custard pies) and ribaldry which was enjoyed by all those that came to see it. This was the first time for quite some time that the college has been able to put on a production where everybody involved has been a Pembroke student. We hope it will be the first of many.





Pembroke Student Ball

The Pembroke Through the Looking Glass Ball took place on May 15th and proved to be a great success. The live music in both the North Quad and Chapel Quad Marquees provided non stop entertainment with the final act 'Monarchy' (a Queen tribute act) closing the ball with a bang! The shisha tent was packed throughout the night, as partygoers lounged in the Arabian themed Caterpillar's Garden. Both the silent disco and casino proved to be very popular as did the entertainment provided by Alice in Wonderland Characters and a selection of acapella singing groups and magic acts. Undergraduate Sohini Dhutia says "The ball was spectacular; it went above and beyond my expectations and was a truly magical night."



College Grace Set To Music

At the MCR Collingwood Dinner, held on 22nd May, a group of Pembroke students sang, for the first time, the College Grace set to music arranged by German conductor Christoph Ostendorf. A scroll version of the score was presented to the Master and will be kept in the College archives.

Double Header's Racing Days Over

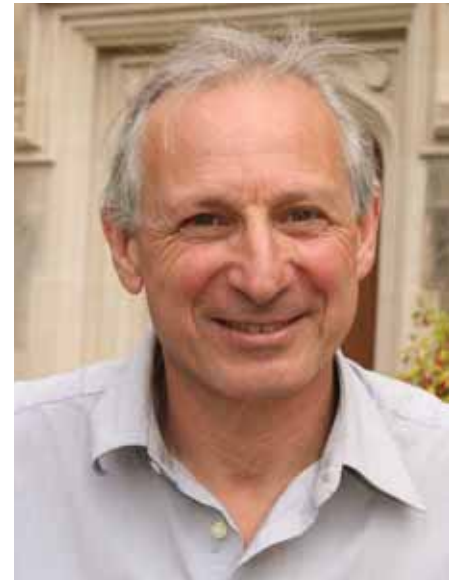
We are sad to announce that Double Header, the "Pembroke Racehorse" featured in last year's Pembrokian has had to retire from racing. His owner is Dick Williamson (1952). During his racing career Double Header made several contributions to the Annual Fund from his winnings.

Eduardo De Robertis Prize

Professor Alex Kacelnik (Professor of Zoology) has won the Eduardo De Robertis Prize from the Argentinean Society for Research in Neurosciences.

The prize is given annually in recognition of the trajectory of distinguished researchers in neurosciences. The prize acknowledges the laureates' scientific production, their contribution to education and the international projection of their work. Those elected receive a medal and deliver the "de Robertis" lecture at the annual Gathering of the Society.

Professor Kacelnik's work includes publications on the behaviour and physiology of amphibians, fish, birds and mammals, including humans, but is best known, publicly, for his work on optimality models of decision-making in birds and in the tool-making behaviour of New Caledonian crows. He has been the EP Abraham Research Fellow at Pembroke College and head of the Behavioural Ecology Research Group at Oxford University since 1990. "Having been away from my mother country for such a long time, it is very comforting to receive this recognition from my Argentinean colleagues. I wouldn't have anticipated that they would even remember me!" Alex will receive his prize in Argentina on September 5th, 2009.



New Head of Politics and International Relations



Professor Stephen Whitefield, Pembroke's Fellow in Politics, has been elected as the new Head of the Department of Politics and International Relations from September 2010. He will, of course, continue to have overall responsibility for politics in Pembroke during his three year tenure in this post. The Department is a major world-class international centre for teaching and research and one of the largest Politics and International Relations Departments in the world and is top ranked in national research and teaching assessments. 'It is a tremendously exciting job and an honour to have been elected by my departmental colleagues', Stephen said, while noting that there were great challenges to continue to build the strength of the department in what looks to be a very difficult financial environment facing higher education in the next few years. 'I think my experience as Senior Tutor in Pembroke in the tough times we faced in the 1990s, when we put the College on a sound financial basis while safeguarding our academic standards, will be of great help to me as Head of Department.' He added that there were other important lessons from Pembroke's success that he hoped to apply in the department. 'One reason that College was able to respond so well in the 1990s was that Fellows felt a strong sense of ownership and responsibility for the institution. The Department of Politics and International Relations is relatively new and we need to find ways to give academics a similar sense of responsibility there. Of course, we also have to maintain that sense in Pembroke too.'

Doctor Of Letters

Roger Boning (1969), Fellow of Pembroke by Special Election has been awarded the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Letters. This was awarded for Roger's work at Oxford University Press over the last thirty years, latterly as Group Finance Director where he played a central role in turning the Press into an organisation capable of generating the funds that underpinned the transfers totalling £300m that have been made to the university. The citation states: "His commitment to the Press's traditions has been whole-hearted; he has been a great servant of the Press and the University".

The degree was conferred at a ceremony on 9 May, followed by a tea party in the college attended by his family, the Master, and many ex-colleagues and friends from the Press. Roger said: "My time working at the Press was as rewarding and enjoyable as one could imagine any job to be. To be recognised in this way by the University is a great thrill".



Roger Boning with his family

Pembroke's successful subject dinners for alumni look like becoming a tradition. Hot on the heels of Economics and Management came a rather larger legal event which included Pembrokian lawyers who had not read law, as well as those who did.

Blackstone Society Dinner

By Clara Zhang and Natalie Lister, co-presidents

In the 2nd week of Trinity, the Inaugural Blackstone Law Society Dinner was held, which saw the gathering of law tutors, current students and alumni together for an excellent evening thoroughly enjoyed by all. We were delighted that so many old Pembrokiens were able to attend and hope that this will become an annual event, providing current students the opportunity to meet former law students of Pembroke and allowing alumni to maintain links with the college.

We were grateful and honoured to have Lord Carswell as our speaker for the evening. Lord Carswell received a Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts in Classics and Law at Pembroke College. He was appointed a Lord of Appeal in Ordinary as Baron Carswell, of Killeen in the County of Down in 2004 and was previously

the Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland and Lord Justice of Appeal at the Supreme Court of Judicature in Northern Ireland.

The evening ended with a toast to Sir William Blackstone, a renowned English jurist who is particularly remembered for his contribution to the common law system and after whom the Pembroke law society is named.

The dinner is open to all alumni who either studied law at Pembroke or who studied another subject but have subsequently entered the legal profession. It was great to see so many of you at Pembroke this year, and we hope very much that you will return on future occasions. Our provisional date for the 2010 Blackstone Annual Dinner is the 30th April, so please put this date in your diaries! If you or someone you know did not receive an invitation this year but would like to come, please contact Natalie Lister or Clara Zhang, Blackstone Society presidents.

Look out for more Subject dinners in the future. Plans are afoot for English and Biochemistry next year.



Locus Iste: Choir Records a CD



During the Christmas vacation, the Pembroke College Choir, supplemented by members of other College Choirs, made a CD recording which, inter alia, featured a work by Pembrokian composer, Tarik O'Regan (1996),

written while he was an undergraduate of the College. The CD was produced by Barry Rose and Laurence Lyndon-Jones. Barry produced BBC Radio 3's Choral Evensong for many years, as well as being organist at St Alban's

Cathedral, and, latterly, St Paul's Cathedral while Laurence is our Senor Organ Scholar. They were assisted by Myles Hartley.

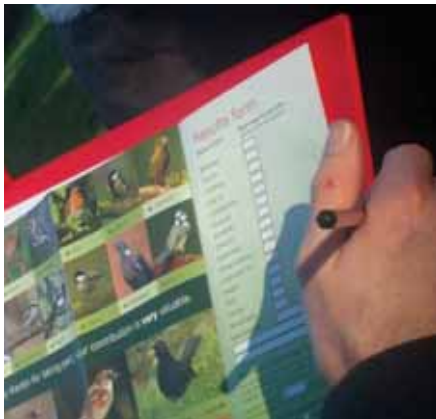
"Barry's touch was like a master class for us, and the concentrated practice, listening to each other, and precise guidance, contributed to a level of musicality which was profoundly moving" said Andrew Teal, Chaplain and choir member.

The Choral programme included works by Bruckner, Ives, Herbert, Britten, Rachmaninov, Eccard, Gibbons, Tallis, Purcell and Tarik O'Regan (1996).

Tarik was recently nominated for a Grammy Nomination in two categories, Best Classical Album and Best Choral Performance for the 51st Annual Grammy Awards for his Threshold of Night with Conspirare/Craig Hella Johnson. The CD will be available from College via the Merchandise section of the website.

(POS) Pembroke Ornithology Society

The Pembroke Ornithology Society (POS) was founded in Michaelmas Term 2008. The society runs a range of activities for ornithologists plus events that might interest others. POS ran a trip to the North Norfolk coast, helped in counts by the RSPB, and placed six bird boxes in Pembroke which will hopefully lead to a long term project looking into bird cognitive ability. This was in addition to holding meetings throughout the term, trips to Port Meadow, and producing a termly publication, 'The Birdsheet'. It was not all birdwatching: they held social events such as an Easter egg hunt, and the POS Annual Summer Ball. It has been a good year and, given the level of interest in the college, POS hopes to become a permanent member of Pembroke's clubs and societies.



Linnean Society's Bicentenary Medal Goes To...

Dr William (Bill) Baker FLS (1990) who is Head of Palm Research at Royal Botanic Gardens Kew won the Linnean Society's Bicentenary Medal for his achievements in palm research, the breadth of his international collaborations and his broader contributions to capacity building and the systematics community. Bill is a systematic botanist specialising in palms and is based in the Herbarium at Kew. His responsibilities include the management and development of a cutting-edge research programme on the evolution and systematics of the palm family and the development of Kew's long term interests in the palm flora of Southeast Asia, especially New Guinea, with strong commitments to capacity building in partnership with botanists in less-developed countries.

Bill has also co-authored a new benchmark monograph of the palm family, which has just been awarded the Council on Botanical and Horticultural Libraries Annual Award for a Significant Work in Botanical or Horticultural Literature.



Entrepreneurial Flair and Innovation

Richard Darbourne (2000), who was featured in last year's Pembrokian, was named one of the Future 100 Young Entrepreneurs for 2008 during Global Entrepreneurship Week. The week looks to unleash people's enterprising ideas to address some of society's biggest issues – Climate Change, Poverty, Gender Equality and Health. The Future 100 awards profiles young entrepreneurs aged 18-35 who are demonstrating entrepreneurial flair and innovation in progressing a responsible business venture; which demonstrates a balance between economic, environmental and social goals to achieve ultimate business success. Richard is founder and Managing Director of Living Learning.

Richard said: "It's great for the work we've done to be recognised and such awards help us with funding and raising our profile which is important at this stage."

Pembroke does the Paso Doble?

The Pembroke College Dance Club was formed in October 2008. It was set up by Fay Ashcroft-Hawley, a 3rd year student at Pembroke, who was inspired by attending similar classes at another college. The club provides weekly fun, informal Latin and ballroom lessons to all Pembroke students. The lessons are taught by Bruce Richardson, a professional qualified teacher from Oxford University Dancesport, who has proved to be an entertaining and excellent teacher.

The classes attract mainly beginners but all levels of ability are welcome. The dances include the jive, cha cha, waltz, Viennese waltz, quickstep, Argentine tango, rumba, samba and paso doble. In Trinity term, the dance club entered 3 couples into the Dancesport Cuppers competition. They all did really well, with one couple reaching the semi-final in the waltz. "I was delighted at how quickly the dance club became established and the level of its popularity. The lessons have a great atmosphere and attract a group of regular dancers, plus newcomers, throughout the year. It's given Pembrokiens who would never have considered attending formal dance lessons the chance to learn to dance in a relaxed environment." The club has received and will continue receive some financial support from the Annual Fund.





Award-winning Poetry by Pembroke Alumna

Alex McRae (1999), who graduated with a 1st in English, has just won the 2009 Eric Gregory Award for poets under 30. This is a wonderful achievement and has been the first stepping stone to a career in poetry for many writers. Alex works as a broadcast journalist and producer for BBC World News Television. Here is one of the award winning poems.

'Barnacle Geese'

Full-grown, they're black and white,
dapper as piano keys and tuxedo-sleek.
They gab about their back-story
outside West End theatres
as the crowd goes home.

No golden egg and hapless farmer;
they hatch from barnacles
in the sparkle-cracking Arctic night.
Still translucent grey as raw prawns
they agitate on scurf and tundra,
flaring out their slippery wings.

They were early developers who knew
they'd go far. After six weeks,
they become beating arrows, pointed south.

Honorary Fellowships

A special High Table dinner was held in Michaelmas by the Master and Fellows to celebrate recent election to Honorary Fellowships of the College of Mr Jon Aisbitt and Sir Ian Burnett. Jon Aisbitt (1975) who read English Language and Literature, is currently the Non-Executive Chairman of the Man Group Plc, the largest hedge fund in the world. He was previously a Partner in Goldman Sachs. Sir Ian Burnett (1976) studied Law at Pembroke. After a distinguished career at the Bar, Sir Ian was approved on 8th May 2008 by HM The Queen to be appointed a Justice of the High Court assigned to the Queen's Bench Division.



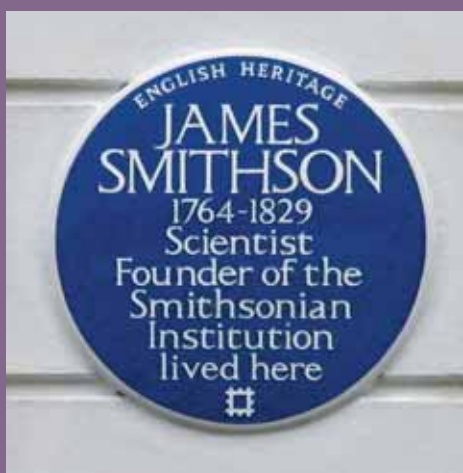
Josef Loschmidt Prize 2008



Howard Maskill (1961) has won the Royal Society of Chemistry's Josef Loschmidt Prize 2008 for his significant contributions to physical and mechanistic organic including the discovery and characterisation of new carbon-nitrogen bond-breaking reactions. In addition to research publications, he has published three textbooks, a sonnet, a Haiku, and recently edited a monograph

on the investigation of organic reaction mechanisms. Since 2000, he has held visiting professorships at universities in Japan and Spain, and is currently Visiting Professor at the University of Huddersfield and Guest Member of Staff at Newcastle University.

He writes "Chemistry is a fundamental science which has a direct effect upon modern life in numerous ways (pharmaceuticals, plastics, paints, synthetic fibres, etc). Our work has been aimed principally at trying to understand how chemical transformations in solution take place at the molecular level. I was introduced to this area of organic chemistry by my tutor at Pembroke, Mark Whiting".



Smithson's Home gets Blue Plaque

The name of one of Pembroke's most famous alumni, James Smithson, has been honoured again. An English Heritage "Blue Plaque" has been affixed to his house in Bentinck Street, London. Smithson was a distinguished mineralogist and chemist, but is best known for the contents of his will! It was at his house in Bentinck Street that he penned it – bequeathing his fortune to the USA "to found Washington, under the name of the Smithsonian Institution, an Establishment for the increase & diffusion of knowledge..." Pembroke was represented at this event by the Vicegerent Mark Fricker, Strategic Development Director, Andrew Seton and Deputy Development Director, Catherine McMillan as well as alumni Brian Wilson (1948), David Mitchell (1958) and Greg Neale (1999).



Over the last year we have maintained, and indeed, added to, a lively programme of events for our alumni. These have included the Annual London Reception which was held at the Imperial War Museum in November followed by an Economics and Management Subject dinner, the Annual Meeting and lunch in January, the Alumni City Breakfast at the Walbrook Club in February, the Alumni Reception at Trinity House and the Ossulston Lunch for Major Donors in March, the Gaudy (1974-79) in April, and the Garden Party at the end of May. In addition we held events in Boston, New York, Washington DC and Houston.

We are always keen to welcome a wide range of alumni to all of our events, from recently departed finalists to our most venerable older members. Irrespective of where these events take place, at home or abroad, we are always pleased to see so many Pembrokeians reconnecting with us and catching up on news. Do look at the photo galleries of our events on the alumni website: www.pembrokecollege.org.

A new initiative is that we now have a Facebook group! Join us at Pembroke College Oxford Alumni. We are planning to hold fairly impromptu gatherings which will be advertised via Facebook. You need to join to be there!

We have lots of plans for interesting events in the forthcoming year. We always give advance notice of these in our Monthly Email newsletter and website. If you are not receiving these newsletters, please let us have your current email address.

Future Events

Dates for your diary. Full details for all of these events will be sent to you in due course.

2009

AUGUST

7 Fri Gaudy for matriculation years 1992-1994

SEPTEMBER

3 Thur Reunion for 1959

11 Fri Gaudy for matriculation years 2003-2004

Oxford Alumni Reunion Weekend:

25 Fri Buffet Dinner in College

26 Sat Black Tie Dinner in College

OCTOBER

tbc Subject Dinner

NOVEMBER

17 Tue Annual London Alumni Reception at Lords Cricket Ground

2010

JANUARY

30 Sat Annual Meeting

APRIL

9 Fri Gaudy for matriculation years 1983-1988

JUNE

25 Fri Gaudy for matriculation years 1998-2000

AUGUST

6 Fri Gaudy for matriculation years 1995-1997

SEPTEMBER

3 Fri Gaudy for matriculation years 1989-1991
Twenty Years On Reunion

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Contact details for individual members of the Development Office, and details of the areas each member of staff handles, are available on the Pembroke Alumni website: www.pembrokecollege.org.

Alternatively, please feel free to call the general office number above, and our Development Assistant will be pleased to connect you with the right person to handle your enquiry.

The Pembrokian



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