

Readers will recognise the front cover of this issue as being the work of Quentin Blake (1953). He went to Chislehurst and Sidcup Grammar School before reading English at Downing. After National Service he did a postgraduate teaching diploma at the University of London, followed by life-classes at Chelsea Art School.

He has always made his living as an illustrator, as well as teaching for over twenty years at the Royal College of Art, where he was head of the Illustration Department from 1978 to 1986. His first drawings were published in Punch while he was still at school. He continued to draw for Punch, The Spectator and other magazines over many years, while at the same time entering the world of children's books with *A Drink of Water* by John Yeoman in 1960.

He is known for his collaboration with writers such as Russell Hoban, Joan Aiken, Michael Rosen, John Yeoman and, most famously, Roald Dahl. He has also illustrated classic children's books, and created much-loved characters of his own, including Mister Magnolia and Mrs Armitage.

His books have won numerous prizes and awards, including the Whitbread Award, the Kate Greenaway Medal, the Emil/Kurt Maschler Award and the international Bologna Ragazzi Prize. Most recently he won the 2002 Hans Christian Andersen Award for Illustration, the highest international recognition given to creators of children's books. In 2004 Quentin Blake was awarded the 'Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres' by the French Government for services to literature.

In 2000 he was elected an Honorary Fellow of Downing and in 2004 the University of Cambridge conferred on him the degree of Doctor of Letters.

Downing College 2006



Downing College 2006

Downing College

Association Newsletter and College Record
2006

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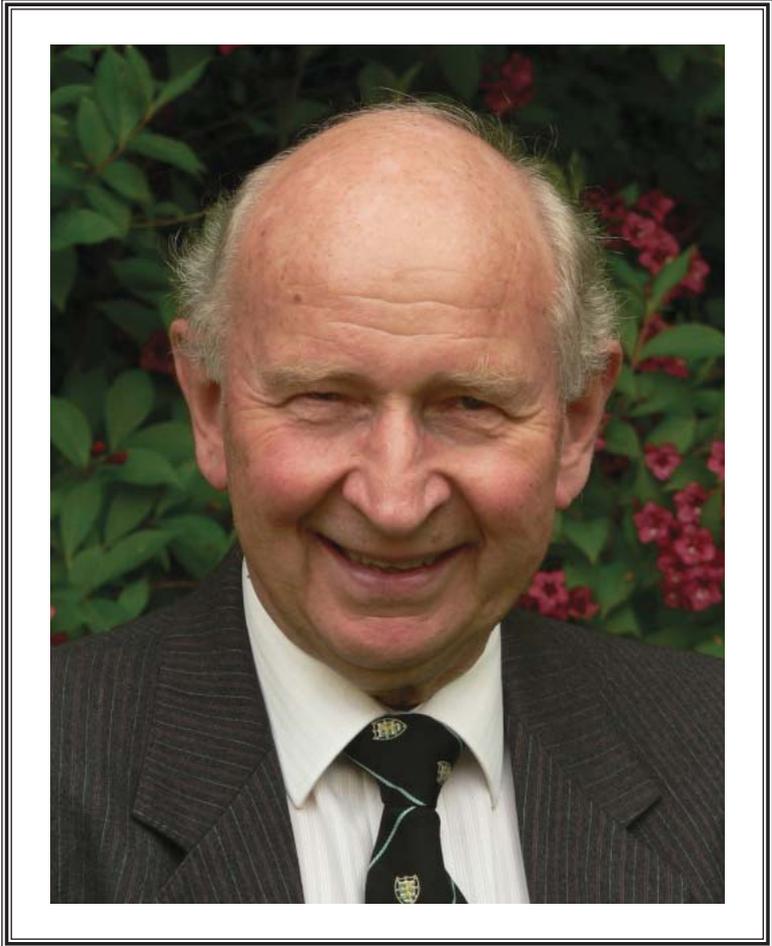
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Downing College Association

Founded 1922





A R Farmer MA PhD

■ Officers and Committee 2005–2006

PRESIDENT

A R Farmer MA PhD

VICE PRESIDENT

C W Hill MA (*Deceased 13.2.06*)

The President Elect

J Childs MA

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The President

The Immediate Past President (M J S Gibbons MA)

The Honorary Secretary & Editor (J G Hicks MA FREng)

Assistant Secretaries

W J Hall MA

R J Stibbs MA (College Record)

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S Coates MA PhD

C Howes MA

I Redding BA

C Clarke MA

Ex-officio Committee Members

T Sadiq BA (Durham) MSc (LSE) (Development Director)

R J Stibbs MA (Fellows' Steward)

Honorary Auditors

D A Blackadder MA DPhil(Oxon)

S G Fleet MA PhD (*Deceased 18.5.06*)

M J Mays MA PhD FRIC

■ President's Foreword

Whereas members out of residence may be well aware of the Association and what it stands for, it became very clear, very early on in my year as President, that students had little or no such appreciation. This situation became evident when, for the first time, freshers were asked to 'opt-in' to the payment of membership fees. Even though a briefing sheet had been included in their welcome pack, more than one third failed to sign up, either through forgetfulness or inertia or for other reasons. Alarm bells rang and the Executive Committee convened to discuss how recruitment shortfalls might be avoided in the future.

Importantly, ways had to be found of bringing the Association to the notice of the students and to win their long-lasting goodwill and support. Meetings were held with the JCR and MCR Presidents, who backed and helped promote this initiative and to whom we are very grateful. We were able to publicise the Association by sponsoring a number of student activities, notably the ÆTHERIA Spring Ball and Yearbook 2006. In addition, links to our web pages were added to the student web sites.

In parallel, we held a number of discussions with the College and, on going to press, heard the excellent news that next year's freshers will be 'opting-out' rather than 'opting-in' to fee payments. Although this is likely to resolve the recruitment problem, the on-going development of student communications remains a high priority.

At the AGM in September 2005, we agreed to set up a new Student Support Fund to help the increasing number of students, undergraduates and post graduates, who need financial assistance with the purchase of course media and in defraying the costs of vacation studies, including course-related travel. I am pleased to say we have received a steady stream of applications and expect all of the £5,000 allocated to be distributed by the end of the academic year. Perhaps this is the most important way in which the Association has become more 'visible'.

No doubt you will have noticed the extended range of Association merchandise that is now available. Sales volumes have built up steadily throughout the year and profits have gone to swell the Student Support Fund. We are indebted to Frank Weiss who volunteered to manage the merchandise activity and who is now getting the operation on an even keel.

I feel greatly honoured to have been elected as your President and it has been a real privilege. I have enjoyed attending many College and Association events and reunions throughout the year and meeting enthusiastic, highly motivated alumnae and alumni from a wide range of age groups. These occasions also provided opportunities to keep in touch with The Master and many of the Fellows and to gain greater insight into the ways the College is moving forward. Downing is very fortunate to have such a dedicated team guiding its progress.

My time in office was made much easier by help from my colleagues on the Executive Committee and I should particularly like to mention John Hicks, Peter Thomson, Colin Howes, Michael Gibbons and Julian Childs, who always responded willingly and tackled unexpected tasks with energy and enthusiasm.

■ Association News

The expansion of the role of the Association initiated by Past President Michael Gibbons has been pursued by our current President, Roy Farmer. The extended range of merchandise has been on sale for almost a year and receipts have accordingly increased to enable us to move the other expansion which was in the area of student support. This year we have made grants to 22 undergraduates and 9 postgraduates totalling almost £5,000. However we still have to improve on our sales figures and members are urged to look at the leaflets sent out with Dow @ Cam in May (which may be downloaded from the Association pages in the College website) and order some of the items described. We have encouraged communication with the student body both through links with respective websites and the presence of the JCR and MCR Presidents at meetings of our Executive Committee. In addition the Association has given sponsorship to the Spring Ball and the 2006 Yearbook.

May we remind members that the Association web pages are carried on the College website at www.dow.cam.ac.uk through "information for – alumni".

■ The Secretary's Diary

On the editorial front readers will have noticed the delightful cover of this 2006 Newsletter. We made a major change in 2002 by introducing a picture of the College and last year we showed the Spring Ball floodlit scenario. However we thought that the magenta and black theme had begun to look rather funereal so we looked for something representing the happier side of life. We asked Quentin Blake (1953), one of our number and an Honorary Fellow of the College, and very well known to many members, and their children and grandchildren, through his own books and his illustrations for many Roald Dahl and other authors' books.

Quentin kindly agreed to design a cover for us and in response to the natural question said "I wouldn't think of asking for a fee from my own college."

Last year we tested the printing market by asking for competitive tenders and chose the cheapest which, as some members will have found, was not entirely successful. This year we returned to Cambridge Printing, a business of the University Press with whom we have worked happily in the past.

We are hoping to produce an electronic newsletter which will carry notices and information for members and which will be available on the Association web pages; this will not be a substitute for the printed Newsletter. The year representatives now receive summaries of the minutes of the meetings of the Executive Committee.

Colin Hill's death in February came with some prior warning but nonetheless leaves a gap in our lives. After he invited me to succeed him in 1998 he exercised care and patience in showing me the multifaceted roles of the honorary secretary and editor which positions he had fulfilled for twelve years. Only a few months later we were further saddened when we learned of the death of Stephen Fleet, a former President of the Association and former Master of the College. His support for the Association matched that which he gave to all the bodies to which he contributed as is described in the tributes to be found in the College Record.



Colin William Hill 1921–2006

Our Vice-President, Colin Hill, died on February 13th 2006 after a series of epileptic seizures the first of which had occurred shortly before the Association's 2005 AGM. His funeral took place in the presence of a large congregation in Great St Mary's Church, Cambridge at noon on Monday March 6th 2006. Addresses were given by Mr Norman Friskney and Mr Colin Greenhalgh which we publish below. On retirement Colin

became the Association's Honorary Secretary and Editor from to 1986 to 1998, a role he filled with care and enthusiasm. He was then elected President and subsequently Vice-President for life. The Association will remember Colin in the Chapel service on September 23rd as part of the usual Association Weekend. We publish here a tribute by Dr Paul Millett, Collins Fellow of the College and Senior University Lecturer in Classics, who shared with Colin a love of and a respect for the Classics:

Colin Hill as a classical colleague

A few days after being admitted to the Fellowship at Downing in 1983 I was intrigued (and impressed) to receive an invitation to join the Downing Association written in Latin; and in very good Latin. It seemed to me that I had joined a College where they took their learning seriously. In fact, this was Colin's own way, as Secretary of the Association, of welcoming a fellow-Classicalist. Although it was many years since he had taught any Latin or Greek, he continued to read and enjoy his Classics, always wanting to hear about the latest interpretation of this or that text, or events in ancient history. For my part, I was fascinated by Colin's vivid recollections of those legendary dons who had taught him in the 1940s: Charlesworth, Adcock and, at Downing, Bill Cuttle, about whom he retained the warmest of memories.

It should be stressed that Colin was never an exponent of the dryasdust school of Classics. It remained for him an evolving and practical discipline, as evidenced by his enthusiasm for botanical Latin, which certainly tested my own grasp of Greek and Latin terminology. He also had a theory (tenaciously held) that the word 'sylo' which appeared on the earliest wheelie-bins was derived from the ancient Greek *syloa*, 'to get rid of'. In that case at least, I remain sceptical. I pass over Colin's remarkable repertoire of Classical limericks, save that I wish he were still around to remind me of the third line – which I have forgotten – of the one beginning 'There was a young man of Lampeter' (to rhyme with 'dactylic pentameter').

Colin's time as an undergraduate at Cambridge was, to put it mildly, overshadowed by the war. His own recollections of the war in the Western Desert and the arrival there of Montgomery cut across the accounts found in most of the textbooks. Although prepared to give his new Commander credit for the outcome of Alam Halfa, that was as far as Colin's approval went. One vigorous after-dinner exposition of the desert campaign ended with the summing-up: 'Why, with all that equipment and manpower, I could have won the Battle of Alamein!' Those around the table did not doubt it. As I recall, he was twice

Mentioned in Dispatches. He was one of that dwindling band to whom we owe directly the freedoms which we enjoy today.

Colin's wartime experiences and the Classics came together on an occasion shortly before his death when he took part in a lecture course I was organizing in the Classical Faculty. The lecture-series was entitled 'Undertones of War' and the lectures were concerned with how Greek and Roman authors represented warfare in their writings. Colin spoke for half an hour, without notes, about his own recollections of battle and how he would himself set about describing his thoughts and feelings. The audience of undergraduates listened spellbound and as he sat down spontaneously broke into warm applause. Colin's words loomed large in the essays that were later written on that topic in the Tripos.

Through the kindness of Colin's family, the College has been able to choose as many of his books as were wanted for the Downing Library. As a result, we have made impressive additions to our holdings on Napoleon and Wellington: two of his longstanding interests. He had already given the Library many of his Classics books. I am especially grateful to Colin's daughters for having let me keep as a memento his bound collection of undergraduate Classical compositions; that is, translations out of English, not only into Greek and Latin prose, but also into various kinds of verse. To my mind, that remains the true test of a Classical scholar. The Latin letter I have mentioned inviting me to join the Association ended with a quotation from Virgil's *Aeneid*, 'forsan et haec meminisse iuvabit': 'Perhaps it will one day be agreeable to recall these happenings'. I hope that these few words recalling Colin bear that out.

Paul Millett

An address delivered at the funeral by Mr Norman Friskney (Former Headmaster of Wilson's School)

Colin was a close friend for over half a century. Educated at Barnsley Grammar School he went to Downing College as a classical scholar and then, like so many of his generation, served his country. We were both officers in the 8th Army although I did not know him then. He served from Alamein, through the Salerno landings and then in North West Europe. At the time of the victory parade in Berlin he apprehended two Christmas cards signed by Adolf Hitler!

Returning to University after the war, I to Oxford, Colin to Cambridge where he gained a first. He taught at Barnard Castle School and we were then colleagues at Bedford Modern School and later fellow Headmasters. He was an exemplary teacher, matter of fact, brisk and sympathetic. He coached on the river and took a full part in every aspect of the life of the school. Today at the House of Commons at an Old Boys' luncheon a minute's silence is to be held in his memory. After

leaving Bedford he Headmastered two Grammar Schools, one in Birmingham and the other here in Cambridge, later to become Hills Road Sixth Form College. He lived a full life. His interests embraced so much. He did a prodigious amount of work for Downing after retirement, whilst his work for Rotary, for the Botanical Gardens and his own interests as a plantsman will be known to many of you. A familiar figure in Cambridge on his bicycle (off which he fell once or twice) he was greeted in the street with affection by many who knew him as former pupils or colleagues who frequently stopped us whenever we were with him in Cambridge.

Friendship and his love for his family was an enduring part of his life. Not only was he endowed with substantial intelligence but also with humour and wit, generosity of spirit and a love of life. He brought a warmth to every occasion when he was present. He could have a wicked sense of humour and certainly endowed me with a fund of anecdotal material some of which I treasure as part of his memory. Colin was fun.

All our sympathies go out today to Jenny, Sue, his grandchildren his brother and others of the family at this time. When someone dies we too die a little. But they continue to live with us as a part of our memories of them. It is now nearly twelve years since Peggy died. Staying with us soon after her death we were in town in London with Colin when we passed an outstanding sculpture. Walking ahead of us Colin exclaimed 'Look, Peg' .In reality she was still with him. Very recently he said to me 'Do you think I will ever be with Peggy again?'. Today I believe he really is.

An address delivered at the funeral by Mr Colin Greenhalgh (Principal of Hills Road Sixth Form College, Cambridge, 1984–2002)

I have been asked to talk about Colin's life in Cambridge, although there will be some digressions, of which Colin would surely have approved. Colin's was a life of great commitment and high achievement. That so many of you have come to Great St Mary's today bears witness to Colin's widespread and benign influence and to his membership of this congregation from which he drew strength.

Colin started life with two distinct advantages. First, he was born in God's Own County and second, soon afterwards, because of their mothers' friendship, he met Peggy, the love of his life. Colin first came up to Cambridge in 1940, having won a place at Downing College to read Classics. As you have heard from Norman, Colin's studies were interrupted by the Second World War in which, with the rank of Captain, he fought at the Battle of El Alamein and then in Italy and Normandy, ending the war in Berlin where the democratic values to which he was so strongly committed were finally secured. As always with Colin, even the most serious

circumstances could include lighter moments. Former Head of Modern Languages Tony Gande remembers Colin telling him that whilst serving in Italy, utterly exhausted, Colin fell asleep in a gutter, only to be woken by water flowing over him. His somewhat disoriented waking words were memorable: "But I'm a bloody Captain and where the hell are all my men?" It is a strong and exceptional leader who can share such personal memories with those of lower professional status whilst retaining their respect. Colin never lost this common touch, something which helped to cement the new community which he created at Hills Road, where he was always willing to participate in social events, including turning out for Spooks, the staff cricket team, and performing a stately Elizabethan gavotte in one of Roger Dalladay's extravaganzas.

After the War Colin returned to Downing where he was made a Scholar and took a First. He also learned after a late night out with Peggy, who by this time was teaching in Cambridge and was soon to be Colin's wife, to scale Downing College's walls and to evade the porters' midnight vigil, mild deterrents to a veteran of El Alamein. As Norman has already said, Colin and Peggy's marriage was long and happy, blessed with Jennifer and Susan and subsequently through their families with four grandchildren, all of whom brought them great joy, as did their close friendship with Colin's brother Gordon's family. We offer them all our sympathy and condolences in the sure knowledge that they can be very proud of Colin's good and exceptional life.

In 1969 Colin returned to Cambridge for the third time as Headmaster of Cambridgeshire High School for Boys. He was delighted to take a position just 10 minutes cycle ride away from the classical ambience and convivial high table of his beloved Downing College. The staff of the High School were also delighted that someone with such academic distinction, integrity and personable persuasiveness had been appointed to lead them. Colin was widely read and cultured, sociable and generous of spirit and rewarding to work with – but no soft touch! He was invariably at least one step ahead of even the most ingenious Head of Department. There was also Colin's impish smile and his graciousness, native wit and good humour. He once greeted a new French Assistante by apologizing for the Battle of Waterloo. And as the President of the Old Cantabrigian Society confirms, pupils found Colin to be firm but approachable and fair, always willing to listen to their serious concerns.

The 1960s were a turbulent time when the young challenged all manner of conventions. Nevertheless, on his return to Cambridge, Colin found that there were even more important challenges than sex, drugs and rock 'n roll. State grammar schools were under siege and Cambridgeshire was planning to reorganize secondary education. Colin played a key role in this debate and was influential in the establishment of two sixth form colleges to be partnered by

secondary comprehensive schools for pupils aged 11 to 16. As Principal of Hills Road Sixth Form College, which grew out of the County High School, Colin embarked on perhaps his greatest achievement. He led with skill, enthusiasm, optimism and extraordinary success the radical change from boys' grammar school to co-educational sixth form college. Succinctly, Colin described his vision: "We shall be concerned exclusively with the education of young men and women at the most formative stage of their careers". Although public funding for this radical reform was meagre, Colin persuaded the LEA and former pupils such as Sir David Robinson to provide new common rooms for staff and students, a superb enhancement of the Library, a squash court and the magnificent Robinson Theatre. So successful was the new enterprise that the public confidence previously enjoyed by the High School was magically and seamlessly transferred to the Sixth Form College.

Colin's achievement in this respect, wonderfully supported by an outstanding staff including a group of very talented women from the County High School for Girls, was overwhelming. Colin enjoyed female company and the new staff and sixth form girls were warmly welcomed. Some say that their civilizing influence – Vice Principal Sheila Clarke's first impression of the High School was of big and physical boys lunging along corridors, their satchels like weapons whirling in the air – allowed the more tolerant dimension of Colin's personality to flourish although no one ever dared mess him about. There were surprises for male staff too. When venerable Vice Principal George Barlow gave examination results to a girl who had achieved straight A's, in her delight, she kissed him. Shocked, George turned to Careers Master Peter Bilton, and said, "I can't be doing with this, Bilton. Next year you'll have to give out the results."

Under Colin's leadership, Hills Road soon established a formidable reputation for academic achievement. The highly critical Cambridge audience – who think they know a thing or two about education – was delighted. Students, not least from independent schools, flocked to the College which soon became oversubscribed and a national beacon. Colin's inspiring leadership engendered a rare combination of serious commitment to learning, intellectual excitement, a wide range of extra-curricular activities and a great sense of fun. He never forgot how important his own secondary education had been to him and he was determined that Hills Road should never settle for second best. Thousands of Hills Road students owe a great debt of gratitude to Colin for demonstrating so decisively that the good need not be the enemy of the best and that academic excellence is possible in a comprehensive system of state education. The College's students enjoyed an enviable reputation at top universities and Colin became a well respected figure at high tables in Oxford and Cambridge and at Heads' conferences where the prosaically named Hills Road soon sat comfortably

alongside Eton, Winchester and Manchester Grammar School. And in spite of the heavy demands of principalship, Colin always realized the importance of playing a prominent part in the Cambridge community, where he was held in high esteem, and in supporting the Old Cantabs Rowing and Rugby Clubs.

When I was appointed as Colin's successor in 1984, he told me that with 600 students the College had become too large to sustain its success. He thought it important for the Principal to know everyone in the College and feared the consequences if this were to be lost. There was also something about the figure of 500 which appealed to him with its connotations of Athenian democracy and as a result of which he initiated a regular college forum where staff and students were allowed to ask the Principal all manner of impertinent questions.

Colin did not allow differences of view over the size of the College to inhibit our friendship. He kindly introduced me to the Rotary Club of Cambridge, of which he became President in 1981, and regularly invited me to dine and take wine at Downing, where to his delight he was made a Fellow Commoner. Happily, the present-day much larger Sixth Form College still reflects the educational values which Colin cherished and sustains its national reputation, albeit with almost 2,000 sixth form students and 4,000 part-time adult students on roll. The foundations which Colin built were indeed far stronger than his own natural modesty would acknowledge and at the annual dinners attended by former pupils, great pride is taken in every period of the School's and College's history. We were delighted when Colin agreed that the College's Recital Room should bear his name and today the College's Cantabrigian flag flies in his honour, as does the flag of Downing College.

Norman has already described Colin's active, enjoyable and successful retirement, including his work for the Botanic Garden and the Downing Association, a well deserved reward for a life of great commitment and public service. In saying farewell to Colin, we pay our respects to a good and exceptional man who will be greatly missed. Colin loved and inspired the young people and colleagues with whom he worked. He did so much to raise their aspirations and to develop their love of learning. His life and work will live on in their affections, memories and achievements as in those of so many others and most of all, of course, in the family which he loved so much.

Colin was indeed a good and exceptional man.

■ Next year's President

Julian Childs (1969) says: I graduated with an honourable 2.2 in Oriental Studies. My excuse for not achieving anything better was due to hours spent on the river, luckily ending up as Captain of Boats in my last year. Oriental Studies was not a highly rated commodity in the early 1970's and, as with many others with equally useful degrees, I ended up doing accountancy. We did not gel and, after a year, I joined a money broker in the City. This job took me to the Philippines, Japan, and Hong Kong. In Hong Kong I transferred to an associated company called Telerate, ran their Asia Pacific region and eventually ended up in New York after Telerate had been bought by Dow Jones & Company. We sold Telerate in 1998 and this became a catalyst for earlyish 'retirement'. I returned to London, enjoyed the dot com boom and bust and have since been involved in several small businesses, some with my ex-Downing and Cambridge colleagues. I have also been happily involved with the College on several fronts. Last but not least, I finally entered the joys of marriage and now have a three year old and a 5 month old...

■ Forthcoming events

The Association's AGM and Annual Dinner will be held on Saturday 23rd September 2006. As last year the Association Weekend will be augmented by the College's Alumni Day which includes events such as lectures and wine tasting. By the time this Newsletter is published members should have received a notice and application form with Dow @ Cam.

■ The Master writes:

My first comments in this summary of the past academic year necessarily are the saddest. I refer, of course, to the deaths of Stephen Fleet and Colin Hill. Stephen died on May 18th 2006, the day of the Commemoration Dinner. You will find much about Stephen elsewhere in this issue of the Newsletter, including my address at his funeral, as well as in the obituaries written by me for The Independent and by Richard Stibbs for The Times. Suffice to say here that Stephen

was devoted to Downing and did so much over so many years both for the College and for the Association. He was kind, wise, gentle and a dear friend to so many of us. Alice's loss, so soon after her marriage to Stephen and with such exciting times ahead of them, is immense. Alice gave Stephen so much support and love during the difficult period of his treatment and is facing the future with characteristic bravery and resolve. There will be a Memorial Service at Great St Mary's on October 7th, 2006.

Colin Hill, Fellow Commoner of Downing College 1994–2006 and formerly President, Honorary Secretary and Life Vice-President of the Downing Association as well as Editor of this Newsletter for many years, died on 13th February, aged 84 years. Colin matriculated in 1940 and obtained a First Class degree in Classics. He returned to Cambridge in 1969 as Headmaster of the Cambridgeshire High School for Boys and, in 1974, oversaw the reorganisation of the school as the Hills Road Sixth Form College where he remained as its exceptionally successful Head. Colin made an enormous contribution to education in Cambridge, as was made wonderfully clear at his Funeral Service in Great St Mary's and was, of course, a devoted member of the College and of the Association. You will read more about him in this issue of the Newsletter.

During 2005/6 there have again been several changes in the Fellowship. Iain Dupère left to take up a lectureship at Manchester University in January having done so much for the College over so many years. He was an undergraduate scholar, then a graduate student at Downing and as a Fellow directed studies in Engineering, was a Tutor and also Praelector. I don't believe I ever saw Iain angry or without optimism for the future and I am delighted to report that he and his family have settled happily in Lancashire. Ludmilla Jordanova resigned her Fellowship to take up a research chair in history at King's College, London and we will greatly miss her dynamism and great commitment to the teaching of History or Art and History in Downing. Roger Thomas retires as Professorial Fellow in Physiology at the end of this year and we wish him and Monica what is certain to be a busy and happy future. Neil Turok, Darley Professor of Mathematics, has taken extended research leave in the University to set up an astrophysics institute and he has resigned his Fellowship so as fully to concentrate on that venture. Bill Adams, Stafford Withington and Chris Haniff were promoted to Professorships in the University, thereby marking their great achievements in research. Ian James, CTO and Fellow in Modern Languages, was appointed to a University Lectureship. David Feldman, Professorial Fellow in Law, was elected Fellow of the British Academy. Ian Roberts, Professorial Fellow in Linguistics, has just been awarded the degree of Doctor of Letters. At the start of the last academic year, we welcomed new Fellows Penelope Nevill (Law), Rachel O'Reilly (Research Fellow in Chemistry), Natalia Mora-Sitja (History) and Kathleen Liddell (Law). Rachel was

subsequently elected as the first Mays Wild Fellow in Natural Sciences, a Fellowship made possible through the generosity of so many of you. We also elected Bill O'Neill as a Fellow in Engineering and he was promptly promoted to Reader in the University. At the end of September this year, we will admit Amy Goymour as the first Hopkins Parry Fellow in Law – again an appointment that would not have been possible without the very great generosity of so many Downing Members. We will also welcome Simone Lacqua, Research Fellow in History and Adriana Pesci, Fellow in Mathematics. Ralph Lewin, Professor Emeritus at the Salk Institute of Oceanography in San Diego was elected a Wilkins Fellow in recognition of his very great generosity to Downing over many years. Sadly, Arthur Von Mehren, the eminent Story Professor of Law Emeritus at Harvard and Honorary Fellow of the College, died on 17th January 2006. I reported last year that we celebrated the 90th birthday of our distinguished Honorary Fellow, Wilfrid Mellers, with a wonderful concert in the College. One result of that occasion is a recently released CD of the concert (*"Grains of Sand: Music by and for Wilfrid Mellers. Cameo 2051/52"*), produced under the guiding hand of John Turner.

This year also saw the welcome reinstatement of Bye-Fellowships at Downing, which had been put into abeyance many years ago as an economy measure. We have elected a substantial number of Bye-Fellows during the past 12 months (details may be found on the Downing Website). They are mostly postdoctoral researchers, but also graduate students, who are actively engaged with the College, many of them teaching for us as College Lecturers. I am sure many of you will know that in the past Colleges have not made sufficient effort to introduce and integrate postdoctoral researchers into College life and we are delighted to welcome these talented researchers and teachers to Downing.

We have again welcomed several visiting Fellows: Yoshikazu Kenjoh from Keio University; Dr Maurie McInnis, Thomas Jefferson Visiting Fellow from the University of Virginia, and Professor Helena Wall from Pomona College in California. We are delighted to be able to host such distinguished international visitors. Susan Lintott was the Downing visiting Fellow at Pomona 2005/6 and John McCombie will be the Keio Fellow in Tokyo during the Michaelmas Term 2006. The biennial Oon International Award in Preventive Medicine has been made this year to Professor Jeremy Farrar from the Oxford University Clinical Research Unit and the Hospital for Tropical Diseases in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. He will deliver his lecture *"Emerging Infectious Diseases and the Implications for International Health"* on November 14th 2006, a highly topical subject given the impending threat of an avian flu pandemic.

This June, when acting as the Vice-Chancellor's deputy, I awarded degrees to the first group of students that I matriculated 3 years ago and it has been a

pleasure for me to get to know them during our time together. Apart from finding it hard to believe that I am now ending my third year as Master, it brought home to me rather forcefully how much I enjoy the privilege of being in such close contact with our undergraduate and graduate students. Fellows devote enormous time and energy to selecting students for admission – and again, more students per place applied to Downing than to any other College in Cambridge. It is a difficult and critically important task and one we take very seriously indeed as, for three weeks in December, interviews occur pretty much all day every day. But it is also highly rewarding (and not infrequently challenging!) to see and encourage them to develop their intellect and talents to the full whilst they are here. The Senior Tutor, Graham Virgo, writes elsewhere in this volume about this year's results and the excitement we feel about the potential of the students entering their 2nd and 3rd years. The spectacular results of the current 1st year emphasizes that students arriving here can and do make the transition from school to University, but it feels increasingly challenging to facilitate that transition and to maintain the momentum that sees them fulfil their great potential.

A new and highly successful venture this year was the introduction of Graduate Seminars at each of which 3 current graduate students give talks on their research. The first two saw the coverage of a wide range of subjects; from mathematics applied to dating primate evolution to French philosophy to the structure of the proton at high energy and more. Each evening of three seminars and discussion is followed by a buffet supper and it is now clear that these Graduate Seminars will be regular events in the College Calendar. Downing now has some 200 graduate students, many of them undertaking research for the Ph.D. degree, but many studying a wide range of Masters and other degrees. They are a richly talented and diverse group who, through the combined efforts of active MCR Presidents and their Committees working closely with the Senior Tutor, Bursar and me, are becoming increasingly integrated within the life of the College. There is much still to do, but excellent progress has been made.

Our students study, but they play too. I am biased, of course, but Downing does seem to me to be exceptionally cohesive socially. Our music within the College has again been superb with excellent recitals in the Lodge and concerts by the College choir and music society. The Drama Society has again been very active during the year and a truly original musical – "The Master of the Thing" was staged this year, with music and dialogue by a very talented Natural Sciences student, Shamini Bundell. Another extremely successful spring ball was held in sub-zero temperatures in March. The enthusiastic reviews in the student press have encouraged this year's Ball Committee to plan a May Ball to be held on Wednesday June 20th, 2007. Book early!

I am happy to report that I have held some very fruitful meetings with the Griffins Committee who have taken up the challenge and are energetically promoting sporting excellence in the College. A great start was made at this summer's garden party when College colours were awarded to all our sportsmen and sportswomen and elections to the Griffins were announced. I do encourage all members of the club to try to attend next year's annual dinner.

There have again been several opportunities to meet with Old Members during the year, both at Association and reunion events at Downing, and further afield. Our annual London Event was held last October (although I was unable to be there having succumbed to the 'flu – even though I had had a flu shot!). The annual Reunion Dinner, held in the spring, was again a great success as almost all alumni present were celebrating a significant decade of years since they were here (in fact, 10, 20, 30, 40 and 50 years plus). There was a gathering of 'Midlands' alumni in Warwickshire and another at Old Trafford complete with a tour of the museum and Lancashire County Cricket Club. There have been two meetings of the City Group – many are graduates in economics and related subjects but all are involved in the City's financial world. At the first meeting Barry Moore gave an excellent talk on the history and standing of Economics and Land Economy at Cambridge. At the second meeting, Stephen Peel (1984) give a short talk on trends in the global private equity markets. There were two meetings of Cambridge-based Downing alumni and Fellow Professor Charlie Ellington FRS gave a talk on his research into the mystery of 'flight' in bumble bees in the first, while Dr Paul Millett spoke on Greek wine (with some tasting) at the second. Emeritus Fellow Martin Mays hosted a gathering of Alumni in Hong Kong in association with the launch of the University's 800th Campaign while Tariq Sadiq represented the College at a similar event in New York. We are looking forward this coming year to gatherings in Bristol (for our south-west alumni), at which Honorary Fellow Professor Richard Gregory FRS will speak, and in Brussels for the many alumni we have working in and close to Belgium. Do contact the Development Office in the College if you wish to find out more about upcoming events which are always extremely enjoyable.

We have survived a most disruptive year of building works on the Domus as the kitchens and servery were completely rebuilt and disabled access to the West range ground and first floors provided. We are currently completing much needed improvements to the administrative offices (which were originally guest bedrooms) and the parlour, which has been enlarged. The catering staff somehow managed to feed students, Fellows and staff from temporary kitchens for 8 months, but the new facilities came back into use in June and they are superb. The final phase of the project will be the restoration and redecoration of the Hall, which is so clearly the social heart of the College (the undergraduates would, I am sure, say this is supplemented by the bar!) and is also a major component of

our business activities which generate absolutely vital income. Many of you have already been extremely generous in helping us to achieve our goal of completing this important final element of the West Range project and we are still hoping to at least commence the work on the 200th anniversary of the laying of the Foundation Stone of the College in 2007. My sincere thanks to all of you who have given so much support and encouragement to the College this year and over many years. Our ability to continue to thrive and do the best for future generations of students depends upon it.

And so as another academic year draws to a close I remain optimistic about the future even though our Collegiate system of education continues to face enormous challenges. On a more personal level, my daughter awaits the results of her A levels as she moves into her own undergraduate career, my third grandchild arrived and I have just learned that the Medical Research Council have renewed for a further 5 years the funding for my research into the causes and treatments of drug addiction. I predict another busy year ahead.

My best wishes to all Members of the Association. Do please stay in touch and do, please plan to visit us, here or at one of the reunion venues, during the coming year.

Barry Everitt
Master, July 2006

■ The Senior Tutor writes:

In the middle of July, once students have graduated and all the exam results are in, it is time for the College to reflect on the year which has passed. There are different ways in which the College can be judged. The College as a community, made up of students, Fellows, staff and old members, has had to deal with the deaths, both tragic in their different ways, of Henry Sealey, a fourth year undergraduate, and Stephen Fleet, former Master. Both of these deaths affected the members of the College community and many of those members, myself included, drew solace from the fact that we were part of that community and shared the loss. It is clear that the College as a community remains as strong as ever.

The College should also be judged as an educational institution and the clearest evidence of this are the examination results. It is worth emphasizing why this evidence is significant, because it is the best evidence we have of whether

the students we have admitted have fulfilled, or are in the process of fulfilling, the potential which was discerned at interview for admission. The College's examination statistics reveal an overall performance which is slightly better than last year, but more detailed analysis reveals a somewhat mixed picture. It is fair to say that the results of the graduating cohort of students was overall disappointing, with potential sometimes not fulfilled as we had hoped. But there were some individual triumphs, whether this was the student who had just missed a first for two years who obtained one in their finals, or the student who had faced very difficult personal difficulties, maybe physical or mental or family-related, who managed to pull through and secure a more than satisfactory final result.

The second year, which last year performed very strongly, did less well this year. The reasons for this are being investigated and the Fellowship will be working with these students over the next academic year to ensure that their early potential is fulfilled. But it is the cohort of first year students which has been the jewel in the College's crown this year. Rather like rising summer temperatures their results appear to be the best of any first year since records began. This is not a matter of grade inflation; this is genuine academic excellence. At the top end, of 127 first year candidates, 39 obtained firsts or distinctions, more than half of the first class results and distinctions obtained in the College as a whole. A particular highpoint of this year are the Natural Science results, where 50% of the candidates obtained a first, compared to the University average of 25%. But what is especially pleasing is that this impressive performance was spread across all subjects within the College, with every subject admitting at least four students having at least one first class result and often many more than one.

But this focus on the overall performance by year and by subject must not be allowed to hide the individual triumphs which make up these results. This year the Governing Body has been able to award 19 prizes for special distinction, judged by a student being ranked in the top 2.5% of a class list. Even within this select group some results were particularly outstanding. In the first year Emily Milligan was placed top in Part IA of the Classics Tripos and Thomas Frater was top of the History Prelim to Part I. Jenna Waugh obtained a starred first and was ranked top in Part IIA of the History of Art Tripos; Lakshmi Harihar was ranked second in Part IB of the Medical and Veterinary Sciences Tripos; Alex Silver was ranked first in Experimental and Theoretical Physics Part II; Andrew Bennett was joint first in Materials Science and Metallurgy Part II; Charles Kok was ranked second in Chemistry Part III and Stuart D'Alosio was ranked second in the LLM.

Every year when the examination results are published members of the Governing Body initially, and then the Education Committee, examine the results carefully to identify trends and strengths and weaknesses. It might be asked why

we do this. It is partly due to a personal responsibility which we all feel following our own decisions to admit these students. But our sense of responsibility extends beyond whether we made the right decision, but extends to whether the potential which we initially identified, sometimes nearly two years before matriculation, has been fulfilled. Sometimes this is called 'value-added'. This is a demeaning phrase, but one which has a core truth. For that is our purpose as an educational institution, to ensure that, by the environment we provide and the supervisions we give and the personal interaction with our students, we can show that we have added value to their Cambridge experience. This may be reflected academically, by the improvement in their academic performance. But it can also be shown much more subtly through the growth in confidence and maturity and the development of personality. It is because of this desire to ensure that our students meet their potential that the Master and I see at the start of the academic year those students who have been identified by their Director of Studies as having underperformed in their examinations. These meetings are motivated solely by the desire to ensure that individual students make the most of their precious time at Cambridge, including the fulfilment of their academic potential. Last year we saw 50 such students at the start of the new academic year. The meetings themselves vary as to their precise aim, depending on the particular circumstances of the student. Sometimes the meeting focuses the student on the need to work harder. But other times the meeting may identify problems involving studying and motivation. Strategies can then be considered, in consultation with Directors of Studies and Tutors, to ensure that the forthcoming academic year is more successful.

But this emphasis on the academic, for which I do not apologise in any way, must not hide the significant strengths of the student body in many other areas. In a wide variety of areas initial potential has been fulfilled, whether it is in the field of music, drama, sport, and the organisation of another successful, albeit very cold, Spring Ball. Details of all of this can be found elsewhere in the College Record. One area which tends to be forgotten in this review of the year's events is the very important participation of students, both undergraduate and graduate, in the running of the College. Elected representatives of both the JCR and MCR attend a variety of committee meetings and engage with the administration of the College in a variety of ways. The working relationship between College officers, the Fellowship generally and student representatives tends to be very good, but it does not mean that the student representatives simply sit back and let the Fellowship do what it wants. There is an important dialogue between the Fellowship and the student representatives. It is invidious to mention particular student representatives by name, especially when all members of student Committees have worked so effectively, but the JCR and MCR Presidents, formerly

Kat Beechey and Rich Wilkinson, and presently Amy Froomberg and joint MCR Presidents Beth Wensley and Jennie Doolan, have worked very hard and very effectively for their various constituencies.

The College should also be judged as an institution of research and there has been much evidence of this in the course of the year. The new Entrepreneur's Competition elicited entries from throughout the student body, both graduate and undergraduate. Many of these entries showed evidence of originality, creativity and application of learning. Further evidence of the quality of research being undertaken by students of the College has been provided through the newly established graduate seminars. These seminars have been developed through the perceived need to integrate the graduate body further within the College community. Two seminars have been held so far. Each one has provided three graduate students with the opportunity to showcase their work, by providing a short talk about the nature of their research to an audience consisting of other graduate students and Fellows. The seminars have covered a wide variety of topics from a disparate group of disciplines. The seminars have proved so popular that there is a waiting list of students who wish to participate. More seminars are planned for the next academic year.

So, however, the College is judged, whether as an institution of education or research or simply as a community to encourage learning, the College and its members have had another very successful year.

■ Development Director's report

In 2005–06, we made progress with two ongoing fundraising projects and further developed our alumni events. The Mays Wild Fund for the Natural Sciences achieved its interim target of £350,000 enabling the appointment of Dr Rachel O'Reilly as the first Mays Wild Fellow. At the time of writing, the fund has reached £387,000, well on its way to the target of £500,000.

Amy Goymour (1999) was appointed as the first Hopkins Parry Fellow in Law following the successful fundraising campaign and will join the Fellowship in the Michaelmas Term.

The University and the colleges launched the 800th Anniversary Campaign in September 2005 with events in Cambridge and London and around the world. I attended the launch in New York in November and Dr Martin Mays represented the College in Hong Kong in April 2006. Both events featured a day of talks by

academics from Cambridge and were attended by hundreds of alumni. In New York there was a special dinner at the Racquet and Tennis Club with alumni from several Cambridge colleges coming together. The aim of the 800th Anniversary Campaign is to collectively raise £1billion by 2012. All gifts whether given to the University or the colleges will count towards the total.

Many of you will know that the next major refurbishment project in College will be the restoration of the Hall. Planning permission for a substantial redecoration and replacement of services has been applied for and it is anticipated that this will be granted shortly enabling the Hall appeal to be properly launched. However, in the interim we took the opportunity to use the telephone fundraising campaign to find out how attractive this project would be with alumni. The response was magnificent with about £170,000 raised from 350 donors for the project. This takes us about 17% of the way towards the £1m total and will provide a solid foundation for the wider appeal which will take place over the course of the next two or three years.

The Downing Enterprise Competition was also a great success in its first year. Donations from alumni established an enterprise fund of nearly £85,000 to fund student business ideas. Fifteen competition entries were received of which five teams eventually made presentations to the alumni board on 4 May in London. Such was the quality of the entries that the Board decided to provide seed funding totalling nearly £33,000 to three teams of postgraduates and undergraduates. The winners will now be mentored by members of the alumni board for a period of 12 months and helped to get their businesses properly established and funded.

We have formed the Downing City Group for all alumni who work in the financial services, banking, property and related sectors. The aim is to create a network that puts alumni with common business interests in touch with each other so we circulate business contact details to members of the group with their consent. The inaugural meeting was held at Morgan Stanley in December 2005 with Barry Moore giving a talk on the history of Economics at Cambridge. The second meeting was at Goldman Sachs in July 2006 when Stephen Peel (1984) of Texas Pacific Group spoke about global private equity markets. Please do get in touch if you would like to join this group.

As always our regular alumni events were well-attended including the Alumni and Association Day in September with Ambassador John Richardson as the main speaker, the Year Reps meeting and dinner, the ten-year reunion dinner in April and the Donors' Garden Party in June. In addition we held the first ever Garden Party for members of the 1749 Society hosted by its Honorary President, John Hopkins. This was designed specially to thank all those alumni who have made Downing College a beneficiary in their wills which is a very important source of support for the College. We held regional events at the Shakespeare Museum in

Stratford, the Old Trafford cricket ground in Manchester and two more Cambridge receptions at which Professor Charlie Ellington gave a presentation on animal flight and Dr Paul Millett talked about ancient Greek wine.

Finally, after Mary Evans' departure we were delighted to welcome Susan Luton who is providing part-time assistance to the Development Team.

■ Teaching at Downing

by Graham Virgo, Senior Tutor

The nature of teaching at Cambridge has remained essentially unchanged for many years. One of the key features which continues to make Cambridge distinctive in its teaching provision concerns the fundamental division between teaching in the University and in the College.

Particular Faculties and Departments within the University organise large group teaching, typically in the form of lectures and seminars, and, where relevant, practicals. There is, in addition, a growing trend for small group teaching to be organised by Faculties and Departments, especially for third and fourth year students in the sciences.

There have been a number of key developments over the last few years which have meant that a number of different categories of people are now involved with teaching in the College. Within the College the long-standing distinction between Tutors and Directors of Studies continues. All undergraduates, as well as graduate students, have their own Tutor, who will be in a different subject, and who is responsible for the welfare of the student. All undergraduates also have a Director of Studies, who is responsible for the academic development of the student. Every subject has its own Director of Studies and, especially for large subjects, sometimes more than one. Directors of Studies tend to be Fellows of the College, but, especially for the smaller subjects, they might be Fellows at another College or have some other position within the University.

One of the key responsibilities of the Director of Studies is to make supervision arrangements for their students. It is the supervision system which makes the teaching in Cambridge so special and important. Supervisors fall into a number of categories. All teaching Fellows at Downing are expected to participate in the supervision of Downing students and also supervise students of other colleges on the basis of an exchange arrangement, which means that a Fellow at another college will supervise Downing students in exchange for a Fellow of Downing

supervising the students of that other college. The amount of supervising which is done by Fellows varies depending on the category of the Fellow. For those Fellows who have a University appointment, whether in a teaching or a research position, the expectation is that that Fellow will undertake a minimum of 80 hours of supervising, for Downing or other Colleges, throughout the academic year. However, some of the Fellows of the College are classified as College Teaching Officers. This means that they are employed by the College specifically to supervise, with a contractual requirement that they will do 240 hours teaching during the academic year.

We also have other categories of supervisor. For example, we have a number of College Lecturers. These are people, who may be Fellows of other Colleges, who do a substantial amount of teaching for the College, usually at least 80 hours a year. College Lecturers receive additional remuneration and are invited to participate in the life of the College, especially by attending matriculation, scholar's and graduation dinners. A College Lecturer who does not have a Fellowship at another College will also be given the title of Bye-Fellow, a position which the Governing Body has recently resurrected. College Lecturers do a great deal to assist in teaching and it is especially pleasing to note that a couple of College Lecturers have now joined the Fellowship in their own right.

We also use graduate students and post-doctoral workers as supervisors, and some of these are made Bye-Fellows as well. All supervisors who have little or no experience of teaching are required to attend supervision training courses run by the University.

Much of what I have described here will be familiar to many members of the Association, although the titles of some of the categories of supervisor may be new. But just to prove that the supervision system can change with the times, let me finish by saying something about CamCORS. Many members may remember that supervisors wrote supervision reports about them at the end of each Term. For many years these reports and their copies were sent to Tutors and Directors of Studies who may have discussed their contents with the student at End of Term meetings. Four years ago, the Cambridge on-line supervision reporting system was created which enable supervisors to write reports on-line which can then be released to students and seen by Tutors and Directors of Studies as well. Although this system had a number of teething problems, as I know in my capacity as Chairman of the CamCORS Management Committee, it has now settled down to be an accessible and convenient system, as reflected by the fact that a version of it has recently been sold to Oxford.

■ Around the College

By the Domus Bursar, Wg Cdr Dick Taplin

Shortly after the publication of last year's Newsletter & College Record, work began on the rebuilding of the kitchens and offices over them. Temporary kitchens appeared and intruded on the Fellows' garden, the principal external effect being to reduce the area of lawn available for croquet. Behind the scenes we lost the parking in, and use of, the kitchen yard which became the builders' yard, and the squash courts were given over to staff rooms, stores and offices, with alternate arrangements being made with Kelsey Kerridge Sports Centre for the racqueteers. New entrances and operations were introduced, such as using the external door to the SCR, and tailoring morning coffee around lulls in the noisy building routine, while huddling over a proliferation of electric heaters!

Despite all this disturbance, the preparation and service of meals went on, apparently unaffected, a tribute to the determination and skill of the catering manager and his staff, who had to work in very difficult circumstances. Then, in May Week 2006, the temporary kitchens vanished as if by the sweep of a magic wand, leaving a parade-ground area of new gravel until the lawns are reinstated in October 2006.

The new kitchens are state of the art, and will cope with 3 times the volume of meals we have produced in the past, and the new servery, fitted with black laquered panels, stainless surfaces and lights focussing on the food brings 'Food as Theatre' to the fore.

However, this major delivery is only part of these works, and the top floor offices and Parlour are yet to be completed as we go to press. The new Tutorial & Admissions Office is due to be delivered in mid-September 2006, with the remaining offices, and a Parlour doubled in size, coming at the end of the year. Elsewhere on the Domus, what have become routine annual works – e.g. complete refurbishment of 54 Lensfield Road, major repaints of 30 and 32 Lensfield Road, and a new roof for I staircase – will continue throughout the summer to deliver improvements to a further 40 student rooms. At Downing the process of improvement – and the staff – never flags.

■ “The Swankiest Do in Town”

After a year of hard graft and complete devotion we pulled it off. TCS heralded it as ‘the swankiest do in town! It was no easy feat but Aetheria, the Downing Spring Ball 2006, was a huge hit. Close to 700 people filled College as it was transformed into a celestial haven, divided into the planets of the solar system and inspired by the ancient myths behind them. The main band tent – Jupiter – played host to a number of up and coming bands with Luxembourg as the headlining act. They have been described as ‘Quintessential Englishmen’ by NME and certainly didn’t disappoint but perhaps the most unforgettable performance was from Mickey J. The marquee was crowded to capacity for this Michael Jackson impersonator, who also happened to be a woman! We recreated a Mars like atmosphere in Hall, pitting guest against guest in a variety of fairground attractions not to mention a skittle alley. It was here that we had our own brand of Aetheria Ale. With the boys catered for in Mars we devoted the Music Room to Venus for the girls. Massages, hair styling and of course chocolate and Baileys were the order of the evening here and it was filled with its fair share of boys too. Downstairs in the West Lodge, Uranus, god of the sky, was the inspiration for the novel idea of an inflatable planetarium, which with several showings throughout the night was soon fully booked. Outside in the West Lodge Garden, Neptune made waves as the dance tent, which hosted the typical mix of DJs as well as Salsa and Rock and Roll lessons.

The Howard Building was the designated chill out zone in honour of the time god Saturn, with upstairs being the cabaret which hosted some wonderful musical talent, a hypnotist and a couple of comedy acts. The casino tent – named after Pluto the god of the underworld – was, as usual, a popular attraction and this year had the added benefit of some fantastic live jazz acts.

Another much talked about aspect of Aetheria was the delectable food, ranging from sushi to sausages and mash, there was something for everyone, including a huge vegetarian selection. Typically, the Yubba Yubba doughnuts proved to be the most popular. Without a doubt the most memorable aspect of the ball were the dodgems on the Paddock, dubbed Mercury for the night. They showed up two days before Aetheria and were the talk of an excited College that couldn’t wait to have a go. I’d like to take this opportunity to thank Will Owen, the president of Aetheria, and the hardworking, dedicated committee, of which I was proud to be a part, for making such a night possible. The brilliant success of Aetheria has given us the much needed reputation to hold next year’s ball in May Week. It will be a hard act to follow.

David Wotherspoon
Downing Ball President 2007

Visit www.downingball.com to leave your feedback and check for exciting updates for next year’s ball.

■ News of members



Steve Abbott (1995) has been promoted from Group Captain to Air Commodore as Assistant Chief of Staff (Training) in the Training Group Defence Agency. He joined the RAF in 1974 as a University Cadet and gained a BA Honours at the University of East Anglia in 1977. Following officer and specialist training at the RAF College, RAF Catterick and the School of Artillery Larkhill, he joined 37 Sqn RAF Regiment as a Rapier Flight Commander in 1978. This was followed by 10 years of

operational tours in Europe and frequent detachments to Belize and the Falkland Islands. In 1988 he was promoted to Squadron Leader and posted to HQ Strike Command as the staff officer responsible for the Bloodhound, Oerlikon and Rapier defence systems. In January 1990, he was appointed military assistant to the Commander British Forces, Hong Kong. Returning to the United Kingdom in 1992 he commanded 20 Sqn RAF Regt at RAF Honington. In 1994, he returned to Strike Command with responsibility for RAF Nuclear, Biological and Chemical policy. He took an MPhil in International Relations whilst at Downing and was promoted to Wing Commander in 1996. He attended Joint Staff Defence College, Greenwich and in August 1997, he took up the appointment of Air Plans, Long Term Costings, in the MOD Directorate of Air Plans. In 1999 he was appointed to command the newly formed No 3 RAF Force Protection HQ (RAF Marham), deploying immediately to Kuwait. Following this he returned to HQ 2 Group, on promotion to Group Captain in the post of Deputy Assistant Chief of Staff A3 Regt & STO (Survive to Operate) at Strike Command. In December 2001 he was appointed to command the Air Point of Disembarkation at Kabul airport in support of the International Security Assistance Force. In 2002 he returned to HQ 2 Group to take up a new appointment as Group Captain, Force Protection Plans and Force Development within the reorganised Air Operations Regiment and STO Branch. He commanded RAF Honington from June 2003 until May 2005 when he took up his present post. He was awarded the Queens Commendation for Valuable Service in November 2000 and appointed CBE in January 2003. He is married to Patricia and has a son aged 15 and a daughter aged 13. His interests and hobbies include riding the Cresta Run, field sports, cricket, military history and current affairs.

Wg Cdr Dick Taplin, Domus Bursar of Downing, prompted us to offer an explanation of the background to the STO concept.

STO, 'Survive to Operate', was a NATO air forces description from the Cold War era that encompassed a variety of activities on military airfields that were intended to ensure the necessary resilience to cope with attacks should they occur.

The tasks covered the active defence of the airfield such as guarding, passive defence measures such as camouflage, constructing blast walls, training people to survive chemical and nuclear attacks, first aid and the rapid repair and recovery of essential facilities. The term Survive to Operate has now given way to the more generic one of 'Force Protection', which applies to all three Services. In the Royal Air Force, the responsibility for directing and coordinating Force Protection activity rests with the Royal Air Force Regiment. On operations the command and control of the Force Protection effort is carried out by a RAF Force Protection Wing Headquarters. There are 6 such headquarters units in the RAF comprising a core cadre of 11 personnel, which is reinforced by appropriate specialists, for example police and bomb disposal, depending upon the nature of the task and the threat. The wing headquarters are held at high readiness, are self-sustaining for up to 14 days and can be easily deployed by air.

John Bourne (1944) has celebrated his golden wedding anniversary with Jean (Stead), a fellow journalist whom he met when joining the Yorkshire Post after graduating in 1951. He first came to Downing as a naval cadet towards the end of the war, later serving as an R.N.V.R. sub-lieutenant in Minesweepers. In 1953 he was a reporter on the Manchester Guardian, and the paper's Labour Affairs reporter, covering trades union and industrial relations from its London office. This was followed by a career on the Financial Times as labour correspondent and then chief Lobby correspondent and Lobby Editor at Westminster. Before retiring, he was Features Editor, and launched the Weekend FT. His wife was on the Guardian in London: in turn reporter, a distinguished news editor, assistant editor and finally Scottish correspondent.

They now have a thatched cottage in Cadgwith on the Lizard peninsula in Cornwall, from where they ran a national news magazine, the New Reporter, in 1993/94. In the early days of his retirement, John helped the local rowing club, which has done well in gig championships and racing on the Thames. His experience as Secretary of Boats at Downing was invaluable!

Jean owns a young horse, Black Beauty, which she bought as a six-month old foal, and the mare has won a number of area and national riding events.

Their eldest grandchild, Edward, has had a "work-experience" vacation job on the Guardian and is at University College School, aiming to get a place at Downing to read classics. He has made his mark as a school and Church organist, and studies piano and violin at Guildhall School of Music.



Thandie Newton (1992) was named best supporting actress at the BAFTA awards ceremony held in London on February 19th 2006 for her performance in the American film *Crash*, about fraught racial tensions in Los Angeles. Thandie read Archaeology and Anthropology at Downing from 1992 to 1995 and achieved a 2.1 in her final year whilst also pursuing her acting career in the vacations. Her breakthrough rôle was as Sallie Hemmings in the film *Jefferson in Paris*;

serendipitously it is believed that William Wilkins' neo-classical campus plan for Downing influenced Thomas Jefferson's design of the University of Virginia in Charlottesville.

Dr R Walter Dunn (1934) MA MB BChir(Cantab) MRCS(England) LRCP(London) FRCS (C) FRCOG tells of his professional life.

I was born on November 21, 1915, in Germany where I also went to school. From 1934 to 1937 I lived in Britain where I obtained my medical education (Cambridge University and St. Mary's Hospital, London) and specialist training in obstetrics and gynaecology, culminating in the M.R.C.O.G. degree, in addition to the usual qualifying medical diplomas. In due course I was elevated to the Fellowship status in both the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists.

After emigrating to Canada from the U.K. in 1948 and serving an internship at Grace Hospital in Vancouver I conducted a private specialist practice at New Westminster, B.C., interrupted by a number of absences for conventions and post-graduate courses. Furthermore I served as locum Lecturer in my specialty at the University of the West Indies in Jamaica from 1960 to 1961, and as Visiting Consultant in Dominica, under the auspices of the Canadian Medical Association in 1970. I am an ex-President of the Westminster Medical Association and was Chairman of the local unit of the Canadian Cancer Society until 1979, also acting on the Education Committee at the Society's head office in Vancouver.

Throughout these years I was on the active staffs of the local hospitals, and this has led to a good deal of administrative experience, involving committee work, clinical and business meetings and teaching of students, interns and nurses. I served as Chief of Service in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the Royal Columbian Hospital (500 beds) and kept in touch with the corresponding departments of the Vancouver General Hospital and University of British Columbia, through courses and attendances generally. Membership of Intern and Audit Committees brought me in close contact with the welfare, interests and progress of the next generation of physicians, as well as making me aware of the importance of maintaining high standards of clinical practice. In

1970 I was appointed H K Detweiler Fellow by the Royal College of Physicians, enabling me to see and learn some new methods of treatment in my field on a trip to Europe. In 1973–74 a course in Health Services and Administration at the University of Toronto helped me gain a better insight into newer methods of health delivery.

At the end of 1978 I decided to retire from my busy private practice, in order to work in other countries and see the world at the same time. Thus, in 1979, I served as locum Consultant in my specialty under the National Health Service in England, a somewhat different mode of health delivery from the one to which I was accustomed. During the first half of 1980 I took the place of Consultants in New Zealand where I also became associated with the University of Otago as Lecturer in my field and once more faced the challenge of formal and informal teaching in an academic setting. Later that year – for a very interesting, most challenging and quite different experience – I was Acting Coroner for the city of Vancouver, B.C., for almost two months. In 1981, after attending a concentrated post-graduate course at Harvard University, I worked for ten weeks in Newfoundland and Labrador, under the aegis of what used to be the International Grenfell Association. Shortly afterwards, my travels took me to South Africa where I was attached to the University of Pretoria for four months, again attending a brief refresher course “en route” in London at the Royal College. Several other post-graduate sessions have been attended since then closer to home, in an effort to keep up to date in my specialty.

Paul Laband (1967) is Head of Public Markets, Unisuper (University Superannuation), Australia.

■ Why Downing?

by **Paul Crawford Walker (1959)**

How many of us ask ourselves the question “Why Downing?”. For my part it was because my maths master told me that if I was interested in doing medicine I should apply to either Downing or Gonville and Caius. Looking at the entrance scholarship requirements of the various college groups it was clear that those for the Downing / Trinity etc group suited my particular academic portfolio best. So Downing it was. Only when I went up did I realise that I could have applied to

any college! In fact Downing suited me rather well because in those days it was largely peopled by fellow grammar school boys from the North.

But did going to Downing do us any good?

As a lifelong devotee of league tables I look forward each year to the publication of the Tomkins table to see how Downing has done in the Tripos results. I don't recall seeing or even knowing about Tomkins when I was an undergraduate – did it exist then? Nevertheless, we felt that overall Downing just about punched its weight academically speaking but that it was definitely a heavyweight in natural sciences and law. My impression is that over the years overall academic performance has improved.

But what happens to Downing graduates when they go down? How do they acquit themselves in the real world outside? For surely this is the real test of a college's performance?

An impossible question you might respond because no relevant database exists from which to infer such performance. Well true, but not entirely so. Two accessible databases exist which give some insight on the subject – the lists of the great and the good updated annually in Who's Who and Debrett's People of Today. Of these Debrett's is probably broader in scope than the very establishment focused Who's Who and thus a better bet for this purpose.

A preliminary analysis of the 2006 Debrett's database shows that Downing achieves 112 entries out of a total of just over 26,000 (0.04% of the total UK population) and ranks 11th among Cambridge Colleges. Without average undergraduate numbers over the period in question readily to hand it has not been possible to calculate performance in terms of rates per undergraduate. But my guess is that the Downing performance would improve on this yardstick.

The score of 112 entries represents 2.7% of the total Cambridge score of 4043 entries which constitute 15% of the total. This is marginally fewer than from Oxford – but doesn't the other place have more students? Unsurprisingly, Trinity, King's and St John's score highest with 723, 305 and 286 entries respectively. And, again unsurprisingly, the Downing tally is replete (40%) with lawyers. In my day Downing majored in law, natural sciences, medicine and English but the scale of the current dominance of law among its elite alumni is remarkable. Also, the matriculation years 1965 to 1975 seem to have been anni mirabiles.

It would be fascinating to explore how college Debrett's scores relate to their Tomkins scores; and how well Debrett's entrants did in the Tripos. But this will have to wait until I am retired.

■ Nelson's other column

Norfolk received the sad news of Nelson's death at Trafalgar in November 1805 and it was immediately obvious that some memorial to him should be erected in his native county. A meeting was held at the Shire Hall in Norwich later that month and it was resolved to open a subscription for a memorial. By March 1806 over £800 had been collected for a monument whose suggested site was to be Norwich. It is uncertain what happened to that scheme, for in August 1814 a new subscription was opened, and in October a committee was formed for that purpose. Norwich Corporation proposed to contribute £200 urging that the monument should be erected on the Castle Hill or some other commanding situation in or near the city. A coastal site was thought to be much more appropriate, however, and in January 1815 the committee decided that the monument would be most suitably placed at Great Yarmouth and that a column would be the best form for it to take. It would also have a dual use as a seamount. Meeting at Thetford in March 1815 the committee approved the designs for the column by William Wilkins, a Norfolk born architect.



Wilkins had already designed a number of public buildings and later in life was responsible for the building of University College, London, and the National Gallery (and, of course, Downing College, Ed.). His design for the column is thought to have been adapted from an earlier unsuccessful design of 1808 for a similar monument in Dublin.

The original estimate for the building of the column was £7,500. The committee, thinking of the value of the proposed column as a seamount, approached Trinity House for financial help. Trinity House were not very impressed. They thought that the column would serve no useful purpose as a seamount and felt unable, therefore, to contribute any funds to it. Planning went ahead, however, and a site, given by the Yarmouth Corporation, was chosen on the South Denes in Yarmouth, in the centre of what was then the racecourse. After a survey of the site an additional estimate of £2,000 was made to cover the costs of special plank foundations, necessary because of the great depth of sand there. Another appeal to

Trinity House for funds was unsuccessful and encouraged a brief but equally unsuccessful revival of the Norwich lobby. It was found necessary, therefore, to reduce the scale of the monument, cutting it by twenty feet in height, in order to meet the amount of money subscribed. This had reached a total of nearly £7,000.

The foundation stone for the monument was laid with great ceremony by Colonel Wodehouse, the Chairman of the Monument Sub-Committee, on 15th August 1817. The Mayor and Corporation of Yarmouth, the Mayor of Norwich, and other local worthies were led in procession to the site from the Town Hall, by the band of the East Norfolk Militia. A copper plaque and various gold and silver coins were buried in the foundations. In the evening, the Mayor of Yarmouth, Isaac Preston, gave a ball at the Town Hall for over 350 guests. The monument was completed in 1819 and remains substantially as it was then. It predates Nelson's Column in Trafalgar Square which was built between 1840 and 1843. The column originally stood alone on the open South Denes but it has been gradually enclosed and surrounded by later industrial development.

The monument takes the form of a fluted Doric column rising from a square pedestal standing on a terrace. The column carries a podium upon which stand a number of caryatids in the form of Victories supporting a cupola which is surmounted by the figure of Britannia. The whole structure is 144 feet high and is built of white Mansfield stone. A small viewing platform at the top of the column, giving views out between the caryatids, is reached by an internal staircase of 217 steps. On the four sides of the capital are the names of the ships on board which Nelson gained his principal victories – *Vanguard*, *Captain*, *Elephant* and *Victory*, and at the top of the pedestal are carved the names of those victories – Aboukir, St. Vincent, Copenhagen, and Trafalgar. The west side of the pedestal carries a Latin Inscription to Nelson by William Frere, law-serjeant and Master of Downing College, Cambridge. A contemporary translation of the inscription reads as follows:

*Horatio Lord Nelson,
Whom, as his bravest champion,
Britain, whilst he lived, most sedulously honoured;
And, when he fell, bewailed;
With triumphs in every clime,
Distinguished for the vigour of his designs,
Not less than the dauntless warmth of his courage, The terror of the world,
That Nelson, by birth, lineage and education,
By mind, by manners, and by disposition, Norfolk proudly boasts her own.
The renown of such a name, than brass or stone more lasting.
His Norfolk fellow-countrymen have,*

*By this monument, created at their joint expense, Attempted to record.
He was born in the year 1758,
Entered the Navy, 1771,
And was in nearly 150 engagements;
He gained, amongst other victories,
That of Aboukir, in August 1798;
Of Copenhagen, in April, 1801;
Of Trafalgar, in October, 1805;
Which last of his splendid achievements,
He crowned with his death
An event as distressing to his country, as it was
Honourable and welcome to himself.*

Other inscriptions record the laying of the foundation stone, and the names of the architect, members of the committee, contractor, mason and superintendent of works. The latter, Thomas Sutton, the Town Surveyor, had unfortunately collapsed and died at the top of the monument whilst on a tour of inspection in June. The column was not actually completed as designed. It was originally to be crowned by a Roman galley but Britannia was later thought to be more suitable and Yarmouth Corporation paid to have this substituted instead. Britannia faces inland, looking towards the harbour. The figure and the caryatids, unlike the rest of the column were made of Coade stone*. The monument should also have had a sarcophagus at the foot of the column, but this was never placed there. A small cottage to the south of the column was erected to house a caretaker for the monument. The first holder of the post, James Sharman, was an ideal candidate. He was born in Yarmouth in 1785 but in 1799, at the age of 14, whilst working at the 'Wrestlers Inn', he was press ganged into the Navy. After his first ship was wrecked in 1803, he joined the *Victory* under Captain Hardy and he claimed to have helped carry the fatally wounded Nelson to the cockpit. After service in other ships, he was discharged from the Navy and was admitted to Greenwich Hospital. He came from there to be keeper of the monument on the recommendation of Captain Hardy in 1817. Later, Dickens is supposed to have visited Sharman at the monument and modelled after him the character of Ham Peggotty in *David Copperfield*. The shipwreck described by Dickens in that book is probably based on Sharman's own experiences in 1829 when he helped rescue a crew member from the brig *Hammond* which was wrecked on the beach. The column saw some excitement in its early years. In May 1863, an acrobat called Marsh climbed out between the caryatids and sat on Britannia's shoulders. Unfortunately, in climbing down again, he lost his footing and died when he fell to the ground. The feat was attempted again, this time successfully, in November 1875 by a Scotsman named Watson. He climbed out between the caryatids onto the figure

* an artificial stone whose principal ingredient was china clay.

of Britannia, and then returned to the ground by way of the lightning conductor which ran down the outside of the column.

In building the monument by public subscription, the committee had not made adequate provision for keeping it in good repair. Crisis came in October 1852, with gales causing severe damage to Britannia. Another countywide public subscription was needed to pay for the necessary repairs which were completed in 1860. In later years, Great Yarmouth Council assumed responsibility for the maintenance of the column and in 1896, replaced the deteriorating caryatids with concrete replicas.

As Norfolk's monument to Nelson, however, it was most fitting that Norfolk County Council should take over this responsibility which they did in 1975. Further extensive repairs were subsequently found to be necessary involving the complete replacement of Britannia and the caryatids with glass-reinforced plastic replicas in 1982/83. New railings, paving and flowerbeds around the monument were part of a landscaping scheme by Great Yarmouth Borough Council to complete this restoration in 1984.

Nelson's Monument is now once again open to visitors on a regular basis, and on Trafalgar Day each year (October 21st), it is 'dressed overall' with flags spelling out Nelson's Trafalgar signal 'England Expects That Every Man Will Do His Duty'.

This article is an extract, by kind permission of the Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service, from their Information Sheet on the monument written by C H Lewis MA AMA, a former curator of the Great Yarmouth Museums. The subject was brought to our attention by Michael Denham (1956)

■ Publications

Frank Salmon (1981)

"Perspective Restorational Drawings in Roman Archaeology and Architectural History" *The Antiquaries' Journal*, Vol 83, 2003, pp 397–424.

"Charles Heathcote Tatcham in Italy, 1794–96: Letters, Drawings and Fragments, and Part of an Autobiography" (with Susan Pearce), in *The Walpole Society*, Vol LXVII, 2005, pp 1–91.

Summersion and Hitchcock: Centenary Essays on Architectural Historiography, Yale University Press for the Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art, 2006, edited and with an introductory essay by Frank Salmon.

■ College sport

As is customary, readers will find the individual club and society reports in the College Record but this year Ruth Danvers, JCR Sports Officer, summarises the overall sports picture.

Downing sport has been of a great standard this year, with both individual and team successes. These have been formally celebrated with the rejuvenation of the Griffins Club at the beginning of last term.

Coupled with the success of the College teams, many students have also contributed to university sport, representing Cambridge in the Varsity matches this year. In total, seven full blues, six half-blues and eight university colours have been awarded. These have been achieved in a range of different sports; cricket, hockey, judo, squash, mountain biking, lacrosse, rowing and tennis, to name just a few.

Many College teams have done well in the leagues and coppers, upholding the excellent reputation that Downing has built up for sport in the last few years. The women have been very successful; the hockey team were promoted to the first division and the first netball team successfully defended their premier league title. The men have also done well; all three football teams came in the top three in their respective divisions. The first men's boat has maintained their high standard in bumps this year. The rugby team have also had a great season, reaching the semi-final of Cuppers.

The newly-formed Griffins Committee have formally acknowledged this success in their garden party, kindly hosted by the Master. Forty Downing members were awarded their Griffins membership and achievement at the College level was marked by the presentation of colours. Alun Rees, the Junior President, and the rest of the committee have made some changes to the constitution with a view to rekindling the prestige and importance once commanded by the Griffins. They have been extremely successful and the club will be organising more events next year for both current and past members of Downing College.

This year has, once again, been an excellent one for Downing sport. Well done to everyone involved, long may it continue.

■ Appointments, retirements and distinctions

Clive R Hickman (1975) has joined Everatt & Co, Solicitors, in Evesham.

M J C Waters (1969) Councillor, Sheffield Metropolitan District Council.
Deputy Leader: Conservative Group, 2004.
Chairman, Cambridge Society, Sheffield Branch, 2004.

■ Births

To Catharine MacLeod (1984) and Frank Salmon (1981): Isobel, born 8th February 2006.

Glynn Jones Scholarships for Business and Management Education

Members of the Downing Association are reminded that they are eligible to apply for Glynn Jones Scholarships. These valuable scholarships are for those wishing to further their education for careers in the business and management fields. Any who have already embarked on such careers are welcome to apply if they consider that further education and training are likely to improve their career prospects. Typically, Scholarships have been awarded to help fund MBA or equivalent courses in this country or abroad, but the awards are not restricted to such courses. Scholarships of up to £10,000 per annum, for courses of up to two years' duration, have been made in the recent past. Further information about the awards and application forms are available from the Tutorial and Admissions Office. (email: senior-tutor@dow.cam.ac.uk)

■ Visiting Cambridge

Visiting Downing

People who have been undergraduates or graduates at Downing are now known as Members out of Residence and are most welcome to visit Downing at any time when it is open. Limited parking is available and to make arrangements please telephone the Porter's Lodge on 01223 334800.

Business meetings in Downing

The College makes its facilities available for conferences and meetings; for Members out of Residence the College offers rooms, subject to availability, for meetings during term time. For further information contact the Conference Office on 01223 334860 or fax 01223 467934.

High Table Dining Rights

Members out of Residence in the categories below are welcome to dine at High Table twice per full term, the first occasion being free of charge. Appropriate gowns can be obtained on loan from the College on the evening, but you may wish to bring your own.

You are eligible for dining rights if you have one of the following:

- a Cambridge BA and 19 terms have passed since you matriculated at Cambridge.
- a Cambridge MA or higher Cambridge degree.
- any other Cambridge postgraduate degree, and 19 terms have passed since you began your first degree.

For further information please telephone the Conference Office on 01223 334860 or e-mail: dining@dow.cam.ac.uk (Unfortunately members may not bring guests to High Table.)

Visiting other Colleges

As a graduate of the University you are entitled to a Cambridge University "Camcard" which permits you and four guests to free entry into all of the colleges of the University when they are open. For further information telephone or write to the University Development Office, 1 Quayside, Cambridge, CB5 8AB. Tel. 01223 332288 or e-mail to enquiries@foundation.cam.ac.uk

■ Obituaries

Gerald Caldecott Anthony (1937)

The widow of the Revd Gerald C Anthony has written to tell us that he passed away on the 27th March 2006. He was 87 years old and died 9 days short of his 88th birthday. He came to Downing from Rydal School to read Theology.

Robert Berman (1939)

Dr Robert Berman died on August 1st 2004. His widow, Mrs Maureen Berman, writes:

Because of the absence of so many people during the war he was Secretary of the JCR, Captain of Chess, Captain of Fives, rowed in the 2nd Boat, on the Committees for Tennis and Athletics, President of the Scientific Society and played in the Cricket XI! At the time of his death he was an Emeritus Fellow of University College, Oxford and had been University Lecturer in Physics.

Their son N R D Berman came to Downing in 1970.

Charles Campbell (1938)

Charles Campbell died in November 2004. Mrs Mary Campbell writes:

He came to Downing from South Shields to read Natural Sciences. After a short wartime degree and work for the Ministry of Aircraft Production he joined the Fulmer Research Institute on its inception in 1945 staying there until 1958 when he moved to join UKAEA at Culcheth and later at Risley where he stayed until his retirement in 1984. He retained a keen interest in Downing and Cambridge and was pleased and proud when his sons followed him, John, as a scholar, in 1966 and Robert in 1970. He was very physically handicapped for the latter half of his retirement but his mind remained lively and enquiring until the end with wide intellectual interests but overwhelmingly scientific still. He leaves his wife, Mary, two sons, a daughter and three granddaughters.

Stanley Philip Chapman (1935)

He died in May 2004. He was known as Peter and read English, initially under Leavis. An obituary will be published in the 2007 issue of the Newsletter.

Philip John Cooper (1948)

Died 16th October 2005. He came to Downing from Bryanston School and read History.

John Richard Gray (1948)

Professor John Richard Gray who died in London on 7th August came up to Downing from Charterhouse as a Richmond Scholar. In 1951 he moved to the School of Oriental and African studies in the University of London, where he researched for the PhD degree in the company of the first generation of graduate students from the recently founded African university colleges. His doctoral thesis, later published as *A History of the Southern Sudan 1839–1889*, soon became a standard work and led to his first academic post at the University of Khartoum. Meantime, he spent two years of research and collaboration with Philip Mason on a three-volume study of the history of race relations in the Rhodesias and Nyasaland. There followed the three years spent between Khartoum and Rome which gave him his first experience of university teaching and access to the Vatican archives, also the beginnings of a lifelong concern with the relations between the Muslim north and the Christian or Animist south of the Sudan. In 1961 Gray returned to SOAS, where he served successively as Lecturer, Reader, Emeritus Professor of African History and Dean of Postgraduate studies until his retirement in 1989. There one of his earliest preoccupations was the editing of the fourth volume of the Cambridge history of Africa. Gray married in 1957 Gabriella Cattaneo, the daughter of a well-known Catholic family in Bergamo, whose members had been personal friends of Pope John XXIII. In 1965 he published a guide to materials for West African History in Italian Archives. In 1966 Gray was awarded the Vatican Order of S. Silvester. In 1967 he was visiting Professor at UCLA and was Editor of the Journal of African History between 1968 and 1971. He was also Chairman of the Africa Centre, Covent Garden (1967–1972) and the Britain-Zimbabwe Society (1981–1984). In 1989 Gray took early retirement from SOAS in the hope that this might enable him to produce a comprehensive study of the Papacy and Africa. This was followed by the publication of *Black Christians and White Missionaries* in 1990 and *Religion and conflict in Sudan* as editor in 2002. He was regarded by many Sudan southerners as one of the few British Khawajat, [white people], who was truly a friend of South Sudan. He also had a great understanding of the nature of the Islamist government in Khartoum. As a teacher and colleague, Gray had a singular quality of gentleness and charm and was regarded as a true example of what a university teacher should be, giving unselfish and generous support intellectually and morally to all colleagues and students. He leaves his wife Gabriella, son Camillo and daughter Fiammetta.

Peter Brian Griffith (1974)

Peter Griffith died on 9th January 2006 at the age of 49. After graduating he qualified as a chartered accountant. He remained a keen sportsman and was captain of Bearsted Mens' 1st tennis team, playing in the Kent League until his illness. The following is an extract from the local business press:

Mr Griffith was finance director of Wallis, founded in the 1860s and now part of the Kier Group. Before moving to Wallis he was finance director at Weeks, an engineering consultancy, and handled its stock market flotation. He died in the Heart of Kent Hospice after a two-year battle against a brain tumour. For the last year of his life, he campaigned strenuously for more Kent firms to take up payroll giving schemes, working closely with the Charities Aid Foundation in Kings Hill, West Malling, and local employers. On Christmas Day, during a visit to the Hospice by MP Ann Widdecombe, Mr Griffith spoke to her about the need for more official encouragement of payroll giving. A letter arrived shortly after his death saying that she had passed his comments to the Government. Richard Bush, chairman of Wallis, said: "Peter was a well respected and hardworking colleague who greatly helped the development of our business and was an inspiration to us all in his time of adversity. He will be sadly missed". More than 150 mourners packed St Nicholas, Church, Otham, for his funeral on January 23. He leaves a widow and two children.

Bernard Harrison (1958)

Died on August 3rd 2005. He was Dean of Education at Sheffield University before going to Edith Cowan University in Perth, Western Australia, as Professor and Dean in the Faculty of Education in 1996. He had strong research and teaching interests in the education of ethnic minorities and disadvantaged students and authored a number of books in this field. He retired in 2001.

Geoff Bowen (1961)

Raymond John Hopkins (1951)

Died 4th November 2004. He came to Downing from the Leys School and read Natural Sciences.

Leslie James Hulton (1950)

Died 4th November 2005. He came from Kent College, Canterbury and read Mechanical Sciences.

Joseph Patrick Roberts (1943)

Frank Reavell (1943) writes:

Prof. Pat Roberts died on 28th October 2005 at the age of 79. I had the good fortune to share rooms with him when we came up to Downing in 1943 to read Natural Sciences. Together with Rolf Collier and Ken Mosdell, who read Agriculture, the four of us have remained great friends ever since. After graduating Pat joined the Royal Aircraft Establishment at Farnborough. Whilst there he acquired a BSc in Physics as a part-time student of the University of London and was later awarded a PhD based on his work at the RAE. He moved to Leeds University in 1957 and gained an international reputation for his research and publications in the new fields of ceramics and glass technology, of importance to the nuclear and engineering industries. He was a meticulous and enthusiastic researcher, setting high standards for himself and his students. He was appointed the first Head of the Department of Ceramics in 1966. Pat established extensive course programmes for industry and national research centres and played a key role in the exploitation of the new materials across Western Europe. After 16 years in Leeds he was appointed Professor of the new Department of Ceramics, Glasses and Polymers at Sheffield University. He was instrumental in bringing together the many disparate traditions in the broad field of Materials Science. He was President of both the British Ceramics Society and the Institute of Ceramics. After retiring in 1981 he moved his home to Stamford, chosen as a midpoint between his many friends in Yorkshire and his friends and family connections in Windsor where he was born. He was busy there with archival studies for his old school, the Windsor Boys School. In Stamford he set up an informal group of scientists and engineers that he had chatted to on his visits to the local pubs and they met monthly to discuss technical ideas accompanied by the odd pint! Pat's many interests included Roman Civilisation leading to a keen interest in the Roman technology of firing ceramics. He was a lifetime railway enthusiast. He travelled far and wide in pursuit of his interests and particularly in maintaining contact with his many friends whom he had acquired and charmed; but whenever possible he returned home to tend his cats to whom he was devoted. Pat was always great company, charismatic, often expounding irreverent and heretical views on people and life but always loyal, kindly and entertaining as with his idiosyncrasies such as 'smoking' an endless stream of matches to light his pipe which burnt many a hole in his Downing jacket! Pat is survived by his three sons Frank, Paul and Mark.

Owain Rocyn Jones (1934)

Died on 13th October 2005 at the age of 89 having been the fourth of his brothers to attend Downing. He was President of the Downing College Association in the early 1980's. We hope to publish an obituary in the 2007 Newsletter.

Alan Sizer (1965)

Alan Sizer died on December 13th 2004. He came to Downing from The Perse School.

Roy Moreton Turner (1937)

Died on August 25th 2005. He came to Downing from Rotherham Grammar School to read Law.

Martin Ward (1957)

Martin Ward died on 16th May 2006. An obituary will be published in the 2007 Newsletter.

Nigel Williams (1973)

Nigel Williams was made Northern Ireland's first Commissioner for Children and Young People just two years before his death from cancer in March 2006, aged just 51. He had a highly distinguished career, working for children, families and communities in a variety of government and charitable organizations. He was a committed Christian. Nigel was born in Devon, but brought up in Northern Ireland. He came up to Downing from Portadown College to read Geography under Dick Grove and Graham Chapman in 1973. At Downing, Nigel took a leading role in the Christian Union and in CICCUC, of which he was Vice-President 1975-6, to which task he brought his characteristic quiet authority and endless good humour. Nigel also loved Geography with a passion, battling enthusiastically with the intricacies of central place theory, and writing a challenging Part II Dissertation on religious segregation in Northern Ireland. He took a 2.1 each year, in an era when this was an unusual achievement. But life was not all serious: he took to the river (6th, 5th and 3rd boats in the Mays), played rugby for the 2nd XV, and reached the quarter finals of croquet cuppers, as well as allegedly joining an illicit nocturnal punting expedition for croquet at dawn at Granchester, to avoid the noise of the May Ball. On graduation, Nigel joined the Northern Ireland Civil Service, a conscious decision to move home. He met and married Heather in 1978, and in 1984 left the Civil Service to found the Computer Learning Centre, a business training people to use computers. In 1988, he moved again, to work

with Christian Action Research and Education (CARE) in London. The family moved to Peckham in 1991, joining what became the Living Waters Community, and latterly the Anglican All Saints Church. In 1995, Nigel stepped out again, leaving CARE to set up a new charity, Childnet International (<http://www.childnet-int.org>). Nigel served on the Boards of the Internet Watch Foundation and the Internet Content Rating Association, and in 2001 was appointed to the Home Secretary's task force on child protection on the internet. Nigel also devoted himself to local politics with the Liberal Democrats, being elected to Southwark Council in 1994, and standing for Parliament against Harriet Harman in the General Election of 1997. Nigel moved to take up the new post of Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People in 2003. He had a bare two years in the post, the last 18 months battling his illness and repeated chemotherapy. Nonetheless, he made a huge impact across Northern Ireland, building the role of Commissioner, communicating with and on behalf of children with the energy and fluency that characterised everything he did. His achievements in that post, as in his previous work with Childnet, have been widely and rightly celebrated on: <http://www.niccy.org/article.aspx?menuId=489>; <http://www.celebratingnigel.org/>).

Nigel is survived by Heather and their children Kathryn, Simon, Lynda and Elizabeth.

Prof. Bill Adams

Kenneth R.R.Wilson (Boris) (1948).

Boris came back to Downing in 1948 after three years away with the Bengal Sappers & Miners in India. He was immediately recognised as a contributor and not just a passenger on the College scene. In his second year he became Secretary of the Amal Club, the College's 150th anniversary year. As an anniversary present from the Amal Club to the College, with the Amal Club President, and of course the much under recognised treasurer, Dr Frank Wild, he obtained the candelabra which have graced formal dinners in Hall for the last 56 years. Boris became President the following year and is remembered for his efforts to improve the food, which, with wartime rationing still in place, was appalling. Boris was born in 1925 in Halberton near Tiverton when his father taught at Blundells, but came to Downing on an Army Short Course in 1943 from King William's College Isle of Man where his father was then Principal. Cambridge at that time provided a short interlude between school and going to war and gave a glimpse of what life could be like if you were lucky enough to return to it. The main aim was to prepare for the service which lay immediately ahead. In Boris's case this was India. India and the Indian Army had made a considerable impression on him, and on his return

he talked a great deal about climbing expeditions in the KaraKoram and had a map of the Himalayas on his wall in Downing. But he always acknowledged his greatest good fortune on returning to read English was to be one of the generation who was tutored by FR Leavis. Boris did not have any pretensions to great intellectual or sporting achievements, although he played for the College 2nd XV, but at that time when Cambridge was getting back its "sparkle" after the drab war years he was a catalyst, being a member of the XI club, a winning, dining and wit club, and was always an agreeable and amusing companion. His advanced sense of humour led him to create a mythical "Count Boris," in whose name he wrote letters to unsuspecting recipients. When close friends discovered the "nom de plume", he inevitably became "Boris," a name that stuck with him for the rest of his life. When he went down Boris went to teach at King's in Taunton for 34 years, and a housemaster for 15 of these, and never wanted to move anywhere else. In his second year he became Head of English where he used his Leavis training to become a truly inspirational teacher, and CO of the CCF using his Indian Army experience, his fertile imagination, and sense of fun to devise devilish exercises and Chindit camps. He also found time to court and marry Kay! His memorial service in Ruishton near Taunton was packed with friends and former pupils. One appreciation sums up Boris's life achievement:-

For me he, more than any other member of staff at the time, was more than just my housemaster and English teacher. He provided a window on life in the broadest sense – something that was badly needed in that rather confined era. He was worldly, thoughtful, sensitive and witty. When I look back on my school years, Boris is the figure that stands out above all others in my memory. He was, and will always remain, a great influence on me.

For friends from Downing and Kings his epitaph should be "What fun he was to be with."

AT-W

■ Letter to the editor

Sir

I was, if I may say so, quite taken aback by Dr John Horton's conception (p26 of the 2005 Newsletter) of a "...special language called blazon". A brief glance at the Concise Oxford brings us to know that "a blazon" is arms themselves, or their (correct!) description, and that "to blazon" is to describe or paint arms. I am not, by any of this, led towards the idea that "one blazons in blazon", so to speak. This is not to dispute that heraldic terminology has its peculiarities, or that it uses words derived from French. But I remain unwilling to concede, without further persuasion, that blazon is a language or "the" language (of heraldry). Why not just "heraldic language".

Derek Green (1945)

■ Acknowledgements

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Downing College

2005 - 2006



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Stephen George Fleet 1936–2006

It is with deep sadness that we record the death on May 18th 2006 of Stephen Fleet, former Master of the College and Registry Emeritus of the University of Cambridge. His funeral was conducted in the College Chapel by the Reverend Bruce Kinsey, former College Chaplain, on the morning of Friday May 26th. A memorial service will be held in Great St Mary's Church at 11.30 on Saturday 7th October 2006.

At the funeral Dr Kinsey gave an address:

We are here today to bid a fond farewell to Stephen. When Alice and I were thinking about this service we were well aware that there was to be a more formal 'proper' memorial in October. But we were also aware that today, Stephen's funeral would also have to be that odd mixture of formal and personal. And we realised that that was of course somehow appropriate and correct, because Stephen himself always managed to mix and balance those aspects so well in his own life. It seems such a short time ago now when we were here in this Chapel for Stephen and Alice's wedding. He had chosen the shortest day, he claimed, as he wanted as little fuss as possible, and it would all go on far too long. We also knew that he was such a private man, that he was easily embarrassed and was never too sure about the public displays of emotion. He was genuinely surprised at all the good will and love that people showed towards him and Alice, and what that happy marriage gave to all of us too. That was just one of the many wonderful things that his marriage to Alice brought. It also relaxed him, and gave him a sense of boyishness and playfulness that were truly close to his heart and he then had an excuse to reveal. My memories of Stephen are very special. I'm aware, having had several people contact me to tell me, that you too all have personal memories of why he was special to you.

I recall when I was first here, before I became a Fellow, I remember him gently taking me aside and suggesting that the energy with which I was attacking the political viewpoint of one of his friends was admirable, but not at a dinner. When Stephen rebuked it was gentle, necessary and useful. Subsequently, he then made

a point of taking my side as if in sport and trying to provoke me to go too far. It became a game and one I grew to love him for. He had such a good sense of humour and would tease and nudge me into clearer thinking and wiser behaviour. I, like many, owe Stephen a great deal. There was also a naivety and simplicity about him. When I took a group of Fellows to a performance of Sweeney Todd by some of the inmates of Wormwood Scrubs [where I used to work], it was Stephen who was stopped by security, who found a Swiss Army knife in his pocket... 'but I take it everywhere'... he said as they confiscated it for the duration of his visit. As he trusted, so he expected others to trust him.

When we were trying to get support for the idea of a centenary fund for the Boat Club we knew that if old members and Fellows alike were going to take this venture seriously we needed Stephen on board. Just his name would secure the idea that this wasn't just a passing fashion or idea, but this was something that was going to be followed through. I remember arranging to go and see him in his rooms. He was genuinely pleased to be asked and took to it full heartedly. It all suddenly became easy and possible with Stephen's involvement, and Chairmanship.

I remember the boatie students at the first Boat Club dinner after that, who hadn't really met him before, being genuinely surprised how easy he was to talk to, discuss issues and how fast he got a grasp on the necessary and what good company he was. He had, of course, prepared himself with knowledge of students, their work and subjects. His seeming effortlessness was also the result of a lot of work and preparation. He worked hard and well to get things right. It was hardly surprising that he was known and loved. He cared and bothered and we all benefited from that. Stephen has left all of us with many memories, of his generosity, care and interest. Naturally thoughtful and reflective, I found him very helpful in this College as my time here was coming to a close. Stephen was a great supporter of this Chapel and its music. It was here that he prayed and sang and he was a regular attender at Evensong. He had a fine singing voice, and early on when I commented on this he said that as a school boy he had sung in a chorus at Glyndebourne. I remember wickedly introducing him to a musicologist friend of mine as a singer from there; Stephen was not to be upstaged, played along with it perfectly, and gently moved the subject on. On other occasions he would gently grill the preacher at dinner; if the preacher was a friend of mine they got a harder time, if they were of a theological persuasion not mine, he would let them off really easily, or feign to agree with them, despite the liberal stance and protestations of me, the College chaplain! He was the loveable rogue, creating warmth and affection, delight and play. He had the tremendous gift of being himself, being thoughtful, kind and generous, not a man to bear grudges, or to judge others harshly.

And so today we bid him farewell. In a few moments some of the choir will be singing the Nunc Dimittis. This anthem of faith, commitment and trust in God is one that Stephen heard regularly at the Evensong Service here. We give thanks for his life here with us and we commend him to God and to the life hereafter. Amen

The Master, Prof. Barry Everitt, followed:

It is heart warming to see so many here today, gathered together because of the untimely death of Stephen Fleet on Thursday, May 18th 2006. The fact that so many are here and as many more could not be emphasizes that Stephen was very special, someone held in the highest esteem as a colleague and as a dear friend. Someone who loved and was loved by his family – his wife Alice, his brother Robin and sister-in-law Anne, their two daughters, Elizabeth, Helen and her husband Paul, and his grand nieces.

Let me begin by saying something about Stephen's career. Having first attended Brentwood School, he came up to St John's College Cambridge from Lewes County Grammar School in 1955 as a Scholar to read Natural Sciences, graduating in Physics. He stayed here and completed his PhD at the Cavendish Laboratory in 1961 and then worked briefly as a Research Scientist for the Mullard Research Laboratories in Surrey. He returned to Cambridge in 1962 as a University Teaching Officer in Mineralogy, a post he held until 1983. His research was concerned with the crystal structure of minerals, phase transformations in minerals and meteorites, and the development of the use of electron optics in mineralogy. He published (jointly with McConnell and Ribbe) the first papers on electron-optical studies of minerals.

He was proud to be elected a Founding Fellow of Fitzwilliam College in 1963, serving as Junior Bursar and then to be elected an Honorary Fellow; he was twice President of the Fitzwilliam Society in 1977 and 1999. In 1974, he was elected Fellow and Bursar of Downing College – and was an exceptional Bursar until 1983, chairing the Bursars' Committee from 1980–83. It is still astonishing to remember that this was a part-time job as Stephen continued as a lecturer and researcher in mineralogy. In 1983, he was appointed Registry of the University, a post in which he excelled until his retirement in 1997.

Stephen was a tremendously active Fellow of Downing; in addition to serving as Bursar, he was also President of the College (1983–85) and of the Downing Association. He served three stints as Vice-Master: 1985–88; 1991–94 and 1997–2000. At the end of this last stint, to his and the Fellowship's great delight, he was elected Master serving from 2001 until his retirement in 2003.

If this were not enough, Stephen served extremely actively on a range of

University and outside Committees: the Cambridge Overseas Trust, as Treasurer, Cambridge Commonwealth Trust, Gates Cambridge Trust, Strangeways Research Laboratory, Cambridge Housing Society, Chairman of Trustees: Foundation of Edward Storey, a charitable trust. He continued to serve on all of these but the last until his death. He was especially involved with the Cambridge Trusts and was extremely influential in developing support for overseas graduate students in Cambridge. Why was he asked to serve on so many committees and for so long? The answer is clear: because so many trusted his judgement, his integrity, his full commitment to the tasks he undertook. And, of course, because of his financial acumen: nobody, in my experience relished a spreadsheet quite as Stephen did! He was also Treasurer of the Friends of the Fitzwilliam Museum and it was in this role that Stephen first met Alice.

It is almost 30 years to the day since I met Stephen on admission to my Fellowship here and I immediately experienced his kindness and forbearance as he supported me in my ignorance and inexperience as I attempted to be Steward. He told me after my appointment that he was both amused and charmed by my naïve volunteering for the job. I am certain that my experience of Stephen in Downing was like that of many others: he was kind, generous, fair and totally straightforward in everything he did. I don't believe I can ever remember him saying anything negative about anyone, even when the easy option was to do so. He had a soft touch when managing difficult situations. I remember at one of my first Governing Body meetings, when as Bursar he asserted that the College simply had to make cuts in its expenditure, he illustrated this by wielding a meat cleaver whenever he said the word "cut". And thus the unpalatability of cuts was made somehow less so as we voted to abolish the Audit dinner and more besides.

Stephen had an almost encyclopaedic knowledge about the often arcane workings of the University. He was also deeply knowledgeable about Downing's history and rarely needed to look something up if asked for clarification about any matter. He was always ready to give advice and offer the chance for reflection – but only if asked; and this is something I took advantage of very frequently since my election as Master. Although seemingly shy and reserved, he was in fact very approachable as students, staff and Fellows rapidly appreciated. He was always supportive.

But if I think of Stephen's most defining characteristic it was, for me, his sense of humour. Described frequently as dry or wry, my memory is that it was often impish and mischievous. At the dinner to celebrate his admission as Master, this reserved and confirmed bachelor teased us by asking whether we thought he might be more likely to acquire a vintage car or marry in the years ahead. We all thought – or at least I did – that marriage was a false hare and that he already had a vintage car lined up. In fact it was the other way round: he knew that he

would propose to Alice and it was from Alice that the idea came for the vintage car. An idea planted to release his sense of fun – hence the Bentley in Downing colours discovered by Alice in a used car magazine when they were travelling to Suffolk later that year. It is effortless for me to bring to mind his smile on occasions such as that, often accompanied by a characteristically rich chuckle that would give way to a face transformed by his all embracing laugh full of warmth and fun. That same laugh accompanied his setting fire to one of his speeches as he tried to read it by candlelight after dinner in the Hall.

Stephen was overjoyed when he was elected Master of the College he had given so much of his time and life to – a College that owes him so much, though he would never have seen it that way. And although his election brought him such happiness and fulfilment, there was more to come through his marriage to Alice. Those who saw him regularly over the last 5 or 6 years will know that he was happier than he had ever been. He had met Alice in 1999 and, if I may use Alice's words which to me seem so fitting, after 'stepping out' for a year or two, he proposed and they were married in this chapel on December 21st 2002. He radiated happiness living here in the Lodge as Master with Alice by his side. It is especially tragic then that so soon afterwards, just after retiring as Master, he was diagnosed with cancer. Yet he faced the challenges that this brought with characteristic bravery and also an optimism that was undoubtedly fuelled by Alice's love and support. It was in this mood and having undergone prior surgery and treatment for 16 months, that he elected to undergo a new, combined form of surgical and medical treatment, very recently introduced to the Hammersmith Hospital from the USA. This he did necessarily at a time when he was well and strong and he did so because of the possibilities for the future that it opened up for him. But sadly, through a postoperative complication, he died in hospital.

His death was so untimely and so sad; our loss is very great. But it is with the greatest affection and gratitude that he will be remembered; remembered for his generosity of spirit, warmth and sincerity as a true friend and loving husband. Remembered for being Stephen.

Obituaries

Stephen Fleet devoted his life to enhancing the success and standing of Cambridge University as well as two of its Colleges. He was a most outstanding chief administrative officer of the University and also underpinned developments in the funding of graduate students as well as undergraduates from financially disadvantaged backgrounds. He was educated first at Brentwood School, Essex and then at Lewes County Grammar School, Sussex from where he won a scholarship to Cambridge in 1955 to read Natural Sciences, graduating with a 1st

in Physics. He completed his Ph.D. at the prestigious Cavendish Laboratory in 1961, before working very briefly away from Cambridge at the Mullard Research Laboratories in Surrey. He rapidly returned to Cambridge in 1962 as a University Demonstrator, then Lecturer in Mineralogy until 1983. During this period he actively researched the crystal structure of minerals, phase transformations in minerals and meteorites, publishing jointly with his colleagues McConnell and Ribbe the first papers on the use of electron optics in mineralogy.

In 1963, Stephen Fleet was elected a Founding Fellow of Fitzwilliam House, soon to become Fitzwilliam College in 1966 having been intimately involved in the drafting of the new College's statutes. He served as Junior Bursar of the College and this was to mark the beginnings of a shift in his career towards finance and administration in the University. In recognition of his great service to Fitzwilliam, he was proud to be elected an Honorary Fellow and continued actively to support the College, serving twice as President of the Fitzwilliam Society. Word had spread that he was a very talented Bursar and in 1974, he was elected Fellow and Bursar of Downing College. He excelled as Bursar, introducing effective investment policies and sound financial management that enabled the College to recover from the substantial debts incurred through refurbishment and development projects in the 1960s. Astonishingly, managing the College's finances was seen as a part time job and Fleet established his reputation for working excessively long hours – in the Department by day and in his College office long into the night. It was during this period of growing financial stability that, under successive Masters Sir Morien Morgan and Sir John (later Lord) Butterfield, Senior Tutor John Hopkins and Admissions Tutor Martin Mays that Downing's academic reputation grew progressively as did its sporting success. Fleet not only very effectively ran the finances, but also took increasing interest in the provision for graduate students who were increasingly being admitted to the College. And he became a perhaps unlikely, but great supporter of the Boat Club, an interest that both saw him riding along the tow path shouting encouragement, and later at the heart of establishing a Centenary Trust Fund that secured a wonderful new Boathouse for the club through the generosity of many former rowers and old members.

Increasingly, Stephen Fleet became involved in the running of the University, serving on the Council of Senate and Chairing the intercollegiate Bursars' Committee. His growing reputation as an administrator meant that there was little surprise and universal approval of his appointment in 1983 as Registry, the senior of the three key administrative posts in the University of Cambridge at that time, the others being Secretary General of the Faculties and Treasurer. He firmly believed that the holders of these offices should, like himself, have experienced life in the University as academics so that they could bring an

appreciation of what it was like to work as a teacher and researcher in a University with a sometimes puzzling system of governance (which he came to know in every detail). However, that has been changed forever by the phenomenal expansion of bureaucracy over the past decade or more, much of it required by overburdening regulatory and other demands from government. This has resulted in the recruitment of an entire tier of professional university administrators and, whether causally related or not, a progressive and damaging increase in the administrative burdens placed on those whose prime role it is to teach and research. Perhaps the recent appointment of academic Pro-Vice Chancellors will limit the damage, but it is too early to say.

It was during Fleet's time as an exceptional Registry that Cambridge University built up the momentum that still keeps it precariously in the top league. It is widely, if not universally recognised that his huge contribution in running, quietly and ably, an administration, which, despite the growing demands upon it, was economical, elegant and efficient. He continued to work immensely long hours to achieve this. He had an intensely personal management style, preferring to talk to his staff and colleagues rather than phone them (and certainly not use the curt, frequently unaddressed, unsigned e-mails that substitute for communication today). He also effected a change from rotating, two-year Vice-Chancellors drawn from among the Heads of House to the 5 year position it is now and this has undoubtedly enhanced the development of longer-term strategies for the University, critically important if it is to have any chance of maintaining its high standing during this period of under-funding of Higher Education and research.

It is impossible to over-estimate Fleet's immense contribution to the funding of graduate and, more recently, undergraduate students in Cambridge. From a small beginning in 1981, when the University allocated an initial £30,000 as an incentive to attract funds for overseas students to offset the large increase in fees that had been introduced, various Cambridge Scholarship Trusts were established. He worked as Treasurer for each of the Cambridge Commonwealth Trust, the Cambridge Overseas Trust and more recently, the Gates Cambridge Trust (established by the largest endowment ever received from a philanthropist by any UK University) and continued working for the Trusts after his retirement and up until his death. The number of overseas graduate students increased four times (from 750 to more than 3,000) in less than a quarter of a century. Half of these students have been supported by the Trusts. At a time when there has been a decline in domestic students who want to pursue graduate research, it has been able students from overseas that have helped Cambridge to remain at the top of the international league. In particular, Fleet helped the Trusts implement a strategy in which relatively modest amounts of 'in-house' resources elicited

matching support and more from outside. In this way Cambridge University has established a uniquely effective system of financial support for overseas students. With a total endowment now totalling almost £300 million, over 1,000 new awards are made each year and some £15 million a year in total. Stephen Fleet also served as Trustee, and then later as Treasurer, of the Isaac Newton Trust set up by Trinity College and played a key role in supporting the Newton Trust bursaries for financially disadvantaged UK undergraduates, something that had been close to his heart since his arrival in Cambridge through the award of a then valuable scholarship. Fleet developed the algorithm by which Colleges other than Trinity eventually were persuaded to contribute to this scheme in relation to their means. Thus, the 'needs blind' schemes of awards at Cambridge, both for overseas and for domestic students, owe a great deal to his endeavours during the 25 years of his involvement.

Retiring as Registry in 1997 following a period of ill health, Fleet not only continued his work with the Trusts, but also with several other Trusts and Committees, including the Strangeways Laboratory, the Cambridge Housing Society and also as Treasurer of the Friends of the Fitzwilliam Museum. He also continued to play an extremely active role in Downing College. Having served as President and twice as Vice-Master during his period of office as Registry, he was again elected as Vice-Master in 1997. He would joke that this was a non-job, involving showing a face when the Master could or not show his, but in fact he had a major impact on the running of the College at a particularly demanding time. The sure and compassionate style he displayed during that period meant that he was elected to general enjoyment and acclaim as Master at the end of 2000, taking office in January 2001 following the resignation of the previous Master, Sir David King, who left to become Government Chief Scientific Adviser. Fleet had been devoted to Downing ever since he became a Fellow and was deeply knowledgeable about its history; he was often to be found delving into its archives to add to his remarkable memory for facts and events. He was elated by his election as Master of the College to which he had contributed so much, though his modesty would have prevented him even entertaining such a thought. He served his Mastership with great success during the less than three years until his retirement in 2003, commanding respect and affection from students, staff and Fellows for the gentle but effective, consensus-driven approach to leadership.

Fleet was seemingly shy and reserved, not given to public displays of emotion and this perhaps gave rise to the misleading impression of being somewhat lonely and distant, and an apparently confirmed bachelor who during the 70s and 80s lived as a resident Fellow in Downing. He was a distinctive figure: tall, with a somewhat stooped gait, invariably with a well-worn hat pulled onto his head and a most distinctive bicycling style as he headed to his office or the station with an

old leather briefcase thrust into a basket on his handlebars. But in reality, as students, staff and Fellows soon discovered, he was extremely approachable: kind, warm, generous and with a readiness to listen and give wise counsel to anyone and everyone who sought it – as frequently they did. He possessed a sometimes dry and often mischievous sense of humour and enjoyed teasing whenever and wherever he could get away with it. He had a deep love of music, indeed had sung in the choir at Glyndebourne when a schoolboy in Sussex and gave the strongest support and encouragement to talented young musicians at Downing, purchasing a grand piano for students to practice on and for recitals in the elegant Regency drawing room in the Lodge, where it remains in active use. During the first year of his Mastership, he surprised everyone by announcing, after making light of the possibility earlier in the year that he was engaged to be married to Alice Percival whom he had met in 1999 during his work for the Fitzwilliam Museum. They were married in the beautiful chapel at Downing College on 21st December 2002 and there followed the happiest time in Stephen's long and previously work-oriented time in Cambridge. Tragically, when looking forward to an active and fulfilling retirement with Alice, he was diagnosed with cancer just two months after his retirement in 2003. Facing his illness and its treatment with characteristic bravery and an optimism fuelled by Alice, he elected when both strong and well to undergo a new form of surgical and medical treatment recently introduced to the Hammersmith Hospital from the USA. Sadly, through a postoperative complication, he died when in hospital.

He will be remembered with the greatest affection and gratitude for his unstinting service to Cambridge, to two Colleges and to higher education in general. His generosity of spirit, warmth, sincerity and wonderful companionship will greatly be missed.

Prof. B J Everitt, Master.

The office of Registry, the chief administrative office in the University of Cambridge, is an ancient one dating to 1506. At times, it was an undemanding appointment. Joseph Romilly, Registry from 1832–62 gave cause for the Vice-Chancellor to rebuke him for "his frequent absences from Cambridge during term time". The opposite rebuke might have been in order for Stephen Fleet who, as one of the most distinguished University administrators of the late 20th Century, was also well-known in Cambridge for his prodigiously long working hours.

Stephen Fleet devoted his life to the service of the University of Cambridge and its Colleges, and never forgot his debt of gratitude to an educational system that allowed him the opportunity to flourish. He was a Grammar School and scholarship boy, an early example of the great expansion of talent in Cambridge,

mainly coming from the Grammar Schools and the Direct Grant schools which gave Cambridge in the 1950's and early 1970's, a wider social mix than before or after. Kingsley Amis's 1959 gibe that "More means worse" was certainly disproved by the cohorts of those years. Fleet was not content with self-indulgent nostalgic reminiscences on College High Tables when the wanton destruction of the Grammar Schools started narrowing the class mix, but set about practical action to ensure that Cambridge was and is open to talent by being deeply involved in the great Cambridge Scholarship Trusts. These have since 1981 reached a total endowment of almost £300m and have enabled 14,000 students world-wide to have a benefit of a Cambridge education. Fleet served as treasurer, mostly in a voluntary capacity, for the trusts, including being a guiding spirit for the Gates Cambridge Trust whose endowment now worth £170m, represents the largest endowment received by any University in the United Kingdom.

Stephen Fleet was born in 1936, educated in Brentwood School Essex and Lewes County Grammar School, Sussex. He came up as a scholar to read Natural Sciences at St John's College Cambridge, taking a first before staying on to take his PhD in Physics at the Cavendish laboratory. After two years working at the Mullard Research Laboratories, he returned to Cambridge to academic posts in Mineralogy and Crystallography. He published widely in his field of the crystal structure of minerals, phase transformations in minerals and meteorites, and the development of the use of electron optics in mineralogy. He was also heavily involved in teaching being the principal designer of the new Crystalline State course in the reformed Natural Sciences Tripos in the mid 1960's.

During this time he was getting drawn into what was to become his true vocation as an academic administrator. He was elected a founder Fellow of Fitzwilliam House in 1963 and took posts of Tutorial Bursar and subsequently Junior Bursar. These were exciting times for Fitzwilliam as it moved to Collegiate status and to its new buildings on the Huntingdon Road. Fleet's affection for Fitzwilliam lasted his lifetime. He was proud to have been President of the Fitzwilliam Society in 1977 and 1999 and to have been elected Honorary Fellow in 1997.

His experience as Junior Bursar stood him in good stead when he was elected Fellow and Bursar of Downing in 1974. Downing at that time had a reputation as a worthy if slightly dull College, but over the following decade Fleet with Senior Tutor John Hopkins, Admissions Tutor Martin Mays and Morien Morgan and John Butterfield as successive Masters built the reputation of the College academically and on the river and playing fields. Fleet had inherited major debts from the refurbishment of College facilities in the late 1960's but with careful and imaginative investment policies handed on the College finances in good heart. During the decade he was heavily involved in University politics, being member

of the Council of Senate and of the Financial Board and Chairman of the Bursars' Committee.

These years gave him an unsurpassed knowledge of the working of a Collegiate University, so his appointment as Registry in 1983 was widely welcomed around Cambridge. The Registryship at the time was the senior in the triumvirate of Registrar, Secretary General of the Faculties and Treasurer of the University and all three posts were held by officers drawn from the ranks of academics within the University or Colleges. Fleet was of the view that a community of scholars needed to be administered by those coming from their ranks, and that although outside professional expertise was certainly necessary when faced with governmental bureaucratic demands, the creation of a separate class of professional University Administrators might well be divisive. His view seems now to be vindicated when after a decade of the appointment of many professional administrators to the University Administration, the University has found it necessary to appoint a number of academic pro-Vice-Chancellors. How this extra layer of management will affect governance issues has yet to be worked through.

Fleet was an outstanding Registry. He had that rare gift of being at ease with all, be they the Chancellor of the University, the Duke of Edinburgh, or the University postman. He was in his office before anyone arrived and left many hours after everyone had left. He believed in management by walking about. When he wished to consult or instruct his staff, he would go and find them in their own offices, believing that they would be more relaxed there rather than in the magnificent but daunting Registry's office. During his 14 years in post, the University of Cambridge prospered in its dominant position within UK Higher Education and became increasingly important as a world-ranking University. One of the important changes that Fleet successfully saw through in his time was the change from the two-year Vice-Chancellorship rotated around the Heads of Houses to the permanent Vice-Chancellorship which has allowed for a more consistent long-term vision from the academic leadership of the University.

In 1997, at the age of 61, after a bout of ill-health, Fleet decided to take retirement from the Registryship. It was by no means retirement from University and College service. His health improved and he devoted himself to his work with the Cambridge Trusts and to many other organisations including the Cambridge Housing Society and the Friends of the Fitzwilliam Museum. He had served Downing during his Registryship as President (1983–85) and Vice-Master (1985–87 & 1991–94) and in 1997 the College re-elected him Vice-Master. It was no sinecure. A crisis in confidence arose at a time when the Master was taking a term's sabbatical leave. Fleet's leadership at the time saw the College through a very troubled time. His strength of character and deep compassion were evident to the whole Governing Body, so it was natural when the Mastership became

unexpectedly vacant at the end of 2000, Fleet was elected overwhelmingly. His Mastership was a great success. It afforded the College a time to consolidate and reflect, and to enjoy his company.

At first meeting, Fleet seemed rather daunting. A large man, he seemed rather reserved and introspective. Nothing could be more misleading. He had an impish sense of humour and he could hide his teasing behind a stern visage. He was kind, compassionate and excellent company. He loved opera, literature (especially history), food and wine. He charmed all College visitors. However his service to the University appeared not to have given him time to develop any close relationships, and his friends were resigned to seeing the phrase "he never married" appear in his obituaries. That would have given quite the wrong message.

It was therefore with delight in 2001 that his friends and colleagues greeted the news that he had been "stepping-out" with Mrs Alice Percival. They subsequently married in December 2002 and she joined him in the lodge as Master's wife. Fleet blossomed and looked forward to a long and happy retirement with Alice. Sadly, it was not to be. Shortly after relinquishing the Mastership in 2003, he was diagnosed with cancer. Luckily the next two years of treatment still allowed him to lead an active life and he was still working with the Trusts and taking full part in College activities when he entered the Hammersmith hospital for an elective operation where he died from the subsequent complications.

Richard Stibbs
Fellow.

Tributes to Stephen Fleet

Stephen was elected Fellow of Downing in 1974 and remained an integral part of the College and its workings to the end of his days over 30 years later. It is probable that no one else had so great an influence on the College and its members having regard to the length of time for which he held his Fellowship and the several offices which he held during that time. They included those of Bursar, Vice-Master for three periods and, of course, Master and then Honorary Fellow. And crucial to his influence is the manner in which he approached his responsibilities and discharged them.

He was never interested in power – though the power of the offices which he held was undoubtedly his. He was utterly devoted to the College and selfless in his regard and service to it. Obviously, that included material matters – tending to the financial welfare of the place and the maintenance, improvement and development of its buildings. Yet important though such matters obviously were to him, their furtherance was not an end in itself but rather a mechanism through which the members of the College, using that term in its broadest sense, might be helped, nurtured and given the opportunity to develop and flourish – Fellows,

undergraduates, graduate students and members of the College staff alike. His devotion to them, his thoughtful and considerate attending to them, his respect of confidences which they communicated to them and his ability to remain dispassionate but unprejudiced won him great devotion from virtually all, at every level, who had dealings with him. And, it need scarcely be added, he was of total integrity in all his dealings – and everyone knew it.

Yet he was, until the later years of his life, in some ways a solitary and possibly a lonely man. For although so many regarded him as their friend and confidant, there was for long a certain sense of detachment in his dealings with them. He was often to be found, for example, in his leisure time, such as it was, immersed in reading the voluminous early records of the College and other historical matters. But that possible loneliness changed when he came to realise, perhaps to his surprise, that so many were indeed genuinely fond of him and, with the palpable affection showed to him by others, other aspects of his character emerged.

Thus it became apparent to most that he was, in a broad sense of the term, a learned and cultured man. That he was a distinguished scientist everyone knew. It also emerged that he was enormously well-read in history (his private bookshelves included well thumbed volumes on political history and biography), in English literature (his private bookshelves were similarly adorned); he was also a genuine lover of music. While a schoolboy at Lewes Grammar School, he had appeared in the choir, on the stage at the Glyndebourne Opera House and in later life went regularly to performances at that House; he encouraged the holding of concerts at Downing and was regularly to be seen at chamber concerts in the city and, when Master, he acquired a grand piano upon which members of the College were encouraged to perform at concerts in the Master's lodge. He was a lover of fine furniture; he had a huge knowledge of English clocks – and he also acquired a good deal of admirable 18th century English furniture, quite apart from his being deeply involved in the Fitzwilliam Museum.

Other aspects of his character also emerged. His devotion to the College was manifested additionally by his support of the Boat Club – and he was prominent not only in his support of it from the towpath during the Fairbairns, Lent and May races, but also in his being instrumental in causing to be built the magnificent new boathouse, the envy of virtually all other Colleges' Boat Clubs. Perhaps few things gave to him greater pleasure than his being made by the Boat Club an honorary member of its first eight – and being presented by it with a first eight blazer. He never failed to wear it on every possible occasion

As he gradually came to realise the extent of the affection in which he was held by the whole College, another side of his character emerged – a sense of frivolity which further endeared so many to him. His infectious chuckle which had occasionally emerged became more prominent – and he engaged in light-

hearted activities: an increasingly great enjoyment of good food and wine with the occasional possible and endearing eccentricity: baked Alaska appeared on his dinner table, in part to celebrate a forthcoming cruise to Alaska and at his wedding breakfast "cow pie" was served – in celebration of his youthful enthusiasm for the comic character Desperate Dan. He became a devotee of cruises to various parts of the world and, to ensure domestic travel in appropriate style, he acquired a splendid Bentley motor car, magenta in colour, the ceremonial colour of his College.

In all this, he was so aided by his beloved wife Alice who made his final years the happiest and most contented of his entire life.

John Hopkins
Fellow Emeritus

Dr. Fleet wasn't a man driven to or for the limelight, but – he was one who got things done behind the scenes. He was a patient, thoughtful and politically tactful person. When I was up at Downing (having matriculated in 1977) Dr. Fleet was then the Bursar of College. When I undertook the responsibilities of becoming the Treasurer of the Graduate Society I worked with Dr. Fleet (and the Steward) to improve the daily lives of the graduates – many of whom like myself were from overseas, by turning our attention to the physical facilities of the MCR and we strove together to garner greater participation by Downing's graduate student body in College activities. Pursuing the minutiae of detail down to the Graduate Dinners by tweaking the menus, the wines on offer and such like wasn't beyond Dr. Fleet's commitments to those under his care. As they say, 'the devil is in the detail' and Dr. Fleet knew both where to find and how to address those details. While I served for a few years on the Board of Directors of CAM (formerly The American Friends of Cambridge University) and sought to preserve its charitable tax-exempt status of the entity during and subsequent to the merger with CUDOUS (the Cambridge University Development Office in the United States), Dr. Fleet was always responsive to the practical realities that dictated structure. Securing agreement amongst the Bursar's Working Committee and within the other institutions of the University were no small tasks. Presenting a unified front was then – as it remains today, predicated on the relentless efforts of rare men (and women) like Dr. Fleet.

Dr. Fleet's wry and subtle sense of humour will be missed by those who'd had the privilege to be around him. During his many years of service to the colleges and University of Cambridge his untold accomplishments were innumerable. His will – indeed – be large shoes to seek to fill, however, his legacy will live on for a long time to come.

Bernard L Turnoy
Chicago

Henry Sealey (2002)

Henry Sealey died in tragic circumstances at the age of 22 on 15th May 2006. He came up to Downing from Uppingham to read mathematics and was in his fourth and final year.

■ News of the Fellowship

Prof. Quentin Blake (Honorary Fellow) described his new book on the BBC Radio *Today* programme on October 7th 2005 – *The Life of Birds*, Doubleday 2005 ISBN: 0-385-60985-X. For his other books see <http://www.quentinblake.com/books/books.html>.

David Holbrook (Fellow Emeritus) *English in a University Education*. Cappella Archive. 2006.

To be re-issued: *Gustav Mahler and the Courage to Be* and *Flesh Wounds*.
Under consideration: an anthology.

David Holbrook has given to the College library seven volumes of the Gentleman's Magazine for the years 1734 and later. They are fascinating for the information they give of affairs of state, discussions in parliament, stock market prices, foreign affairs, criminal cases and so forth.

Margot Holbrook *Where do you keep? Lodging the Cambridge Undergraduate*. Cappella Archive. 2006. A history of the lodgings system in Cambridge which has plenty of quotes from Downing men.

Ian James has been appointed a University Teaching Officer in the Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages.

Richard Stibbs has been elected to the Board of Scrutiny (the University's equivalent of the Audit Commission). It is a post that, to quote Rudyard Kipling and his cousin Stanley Baldwin that has "power without responsibility – the prerogative of the harlot throughout the ages.". He also continues to take photographs of anything that moves in College (and a lot of stationary objects). For the result, see http://www.dow.cam.ac.uk/dow_server/events/index.html

In 2005, **Bill Adams** was promoted to Professor of Conservation and Development in the Department of Geography.

Graham Virgo has published his *Principles of the Law of Restitution* 2nd ed., 2006, OUP and a variety of papers on the Law of Restitution and Criminal Law, especially developments concerning the law of homicide.

Ian James gave a keynote paper in June 2005 'Sensorium: Philosophy and Aesthetics', International Conference, University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Australia. In January 2006 he published 'The Fragmentary Demand: An Introduction to the Philosophy of Jean-Luc Nancy' with Stanford University Press and in October 2006 was appointed to a University Lectureship in the Department of French.

David White joined the fellowship in October 2004. After a gentle introduction to College life he took up the roles of Tutor and Director of Studies in Engineering, trying to replace the irreplaceable Iain Dupère following Iain's departure to the University of Manchester at the end of 2005. Dave has been in Cambridge since 1994 as an undergraduate, postgraduate and then research fellow. He has enjoyed steadily improving college architecture over this period, moving from Churchill to St John's before joining Downing. Dave is a University Lecturer in Geotechnical Engineering and specialises in the analysis and construction of foundations and pipelines for the offshore industry. His research is primarily experimental, based at the geotechnical centrifuge facility within the Schofield Centre of the Engineering Department, located on the West Cambridge Site. In 2005 he was awarded the Bishop Medal by the Institution of Civil Engineers and the Best Paper Award by the British Geotechnical Association for publications related to the behaviour of piled foundations.

Marcus Tomalin (Fellow in English) has continued to pursue research in a wide range of different academic fields. In the past year, his monograph *Linguistics and the Formal Sciences*, CUP 2006, explores various interconnections between mathematics, logic, and linguistic theory in the 20th century. In addition, Marcus has published journal articles on a variety of topics including early 19th century Maori grammars, and the use of discriminatively trained generalised Gaussian mixture models for sentence boundary detection in automatic speech recognition systems. In addition (and for respite), Marcus has given a number of lute recitals this year, including one in the Master's Lodge at Downing.

Rachel O'Reilly joined the college as the Mays/Wild Research Fellow in October 2005 after being awarded a Royal Society Dorothy Hodgkin Fellowship in the Department of Chemistry. Rachel joins the Fellowship after a two year position in the United States where she worked on the functionalisation of polymeric nanoparticles, at the IBM Almaden research center in San Jose California, under the joint direction of Craig J. Hawker and Karen L. Wooley at Washington University in Saint Louis, Missouri. In 2004 she was awarded a Research Fellowship from the Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851 and in 2005 returned to the UK to take up her current position. Rachel graduated from the University of Cambridge with first class honours in Natural Sciences and a first class M.Sc. in Chemistry in 1999. She then went on to complete her PhD studies in the area of polymerisation catalysis at Imperial College, London in 2003 under the supervision of Professor Vernon C. Gibson. Her current overall research is highly interdisciplinary and is orientated towards bridging the interface between creative synthetic, polymer and catalysis chemistry, to allow for the development of materials that are of significant importance in medical, materials and nanoscience applications.

Penelope Nevill joined the Fellowship in October 2005 as a College Teaching Officer in Law. She specialises in international law, currently teaching Tripos International Law and European Union Law. Prior to beginning at Downing Penelope was a Research Fellow at the Lauterpacht Centre for International Law in Cambridge where she undertook a mixture of academic and professional activities in international law, working with Sir Elihu Lauterpacht and Professor James Crawford. Penelope first came to Cambridge in 2001 for the LLM, graduating in 2002 with first class honours. Before then she worked for four and a half years as a litigation lawyer in Auckland, New Zealand, at Chapman Tripp, a large commercial law firm. She was admitted as a Barrister and Solicitor of the High Court of New Zealand in January 1998 and received her undergraduate degree – a LLB (Hons)/BA, majoring in English in her BA – from the University of Auckland in 1997. Her current research focuses on various issues in public international law.

■ College clubs and societies

Athletics

Downing athletics saw a huge surge of enthusiasm this year. Cuppers was held on a cold October weekend early in the year, and a huge amount of effort was put in by all who took part. Downing did extremely well and came second in both the men's and ladies' competition. Special performances that should be mentioned include Chris Dix on the hammer, Roger Schofield throwing the discus, and Jacob Goodman on the pole vault, who were all selected to represent the university in the Varsity Freshers match. Charlie Hill was also exceptional on the ladies team, running extremely well in the 100m and 200m. Interest in athletics continued throughout the year, and when selection for the actual Varsity match took place, Downing had six athletes competing. Andy Bennett and Clare Palmer represented Cambridge on the blues team, while Chris Dix, Katie Irgin, Phoebe Bointon and Kristina Clark were all selected for the second team. This increased interest in athletics has shown that there is a lot of talent within Downing college, and hopefully this will continue next year.

Badminton

Captain: Mark Lee

With the badminton team coming on the back of relegation last year, and losing a couple of players to graduation, hopes looked a little sparse on the ground as Michaelmas ambled in. Luckily, talented freshers abounded, with Alex Smith, Jamie Wilson and Matt Capener joining the team for the year. Rich Turner was even dragged back from the boathouse from time to time. The resulting improvement meant an unbeaten Michaelmas, and an easy promotion to the third division. Lent was supposed to be tougher, but a few easy wins once more showed that Downing was no longer putting the bad in minton. A harsh draw in men's cuppers to Catz and mixed cuppers to Girton (both with attendant blues players) meant little more than pride at spirited performances could be salvaged from cup competitions, but the league looked to be another easy promotion. Then Girton came, and we were forced to play with 4 first team players (out of 6) unavailable. We lost. Then came APU, with a Danish international. Downing's first pair of Alex Smith and Tom Ash managed a surprising win against that international player, but the team unfortunately went down overall 5 games to 4, and with it went promotion hopes. Next year starts in division 3 once more, losing both this year's captain Mark Lee and long time performer Ian Couchman to graduation, but if there are a couple of decent freshers next year, hopes are high of rising even

higher. Overall this year, with 11 league wins out of 13, and some rather 'international' socials, it has been quite the year for Downing badminton. Colours Awarded to Tom Ash and Alex Smith (Captain for 2006–7).

Boat Club

Captain of Boats: Richard Hammond

Women's Captain: Jo Clay

In recent years, DCBC has been struggling to achieve the membership numbers that were common in the late nineties and the early part of this decade. The past year has shown something of a turnaround in this regard, and the club is well on its way back to being a truly prolific College sport. The year began with a stronger novice intake than previous years, with a particularly keen women's side. The senior women, low on returning oarswomen from the previous year, used this opportunity to quickly develop some of the talent and achieved a very creditable 8th place in the Fairbairns, beating many more experienced crews in the process. The men's senior squad, comprised of returning oarsmen from the previous year, and introducing some of those who had rowed at school, were confident of good results. Unfortunately, in the last week, two separate injuries meant they could not capitalise on their true ability. Two Segreants Vllls also competed in the Fairbairns race and the old boys and girls were a welcome addition to the Boat Club Dinner in the evening. The Lent term, as usual, began in earnest with the annual training camp at Tideway Scullers School. The 1st Vllls both progressed rapidly from here. The women had the difficult task of trying to hold onto the Headship that they had gained two years before. The men found themselves, again, third on the river and within reach of the Headship. Over the week, the surrounding crews showed just how little separated them, and the top three rowed over. The women had come a long way, several from complete novices at the beginning of October but, despite their best efforts, finished 5th on the river. For the 2nd men, they had undergone the transition from novice boat to senior. All oarsmen in this crew had not rowed before the beginning of the year, and stepped up to the challenge putting them in good stead for the following term. For the 1st men, the Lent term was not over and they went on to row the Head of the River Race on the Tideway, finishing over 100 places up from the previous year, at 160th. There were signs that the May Term would be a very good one for DCBC, with the year's work really beginning to show it's worth. The M1, M2 and W1 crews travelled to Twickenham Regatta early in the term where M1 won the Senior 3 event, narrowly losing out in the final of S2. W1 surged through to the finals of both Senior 3 and Senior 4 but were unfortunately beaten by Newnham in both. The same three crews travelled to the Metropolitan Regatta in Dorney later in the term. M1 were only entered for Senior 2 – in their

heat, they blasted off the start line, outpacing Oxford Brookes to the 500m mark. Over the course, they finished 2nd and went straight through to the final. Unfortunately, lack of 2 kilometre and side by side race experience meant that they struggled to hold it together over the course. W1, in Senior 3, finished 2nd in their heat, to the Oxford University crew, and then came through for an overall placing of 5th in the final. M2, up against greatly more experienced crews in Senior 3, gained much needed race experience and put in a very good time, comparable with previous Downing 2nd Vllls. The May Bumps, however, proved mixed. The women really did excel, with W1 moving up 3 to finish 9th on the river. W2 finished up 1, having achieved an overbump during the week, and nearly repeating that feat on the last day. Despite the anticipation of good results, M1 strained to row how they knew, and in the rough water fell 3 places over the week. M2, placed high at 2nd in the 2nd division at the beginning of the week faced significant challenges and fell 3 places. The results for both men's crews were really not indicative of the dedication and standard of rowing shown throughout – most will be back next year to ensure the same does not happen again. The 1st Men finished the term off with a welcome return to Henley. In the qualifiers, they rowed well but were unfortunately just over a second off the pace. The experience alone was enough to ensure many will want to return for the main event next year. Particular thanks over the year go to Alan Inns, whose coaching has ensured that DCBC are always striving to compete at higher and higher levels. Best wishes go to Jon Leczkowski who retires as boatman from DCBC after more than 20 successful years of service. We are very grateful to ex-men's Captain, Ben Whitehead, who ably filled the role of Boatman whilst a long term successor was found. During the Easter Term, Ian Watson was appointed as coach and Boatman and, in his short time here, has already begun to turn the club around. Thanks also go to all those ex-members of DCBC who, each year, give their time to coach club crews. The prospects for the club, under Alan Inns and Ian Watson, and with the drive and dedication of the current (and past) membership are excellent – we look forward to being a part of it.

Football

Captain: Richard Grieveson

This year has been a hugely successful one for the club as a whole. Whilst we normally struggle to fill three teams, this season we have been inundated with players, thanks to a great set of freshers and a good retention from last year. The 1sts were unlucky to miss out on promotion straight back to Division 1 after last season's relegation, losing only one game all season. Whilst Henry Goodfellow and James Brown made impressive step-ups from the 2nd team (the former

finishing as top scorer with 8 goals), we were also strengthened by a good intake of freshers, Jack Snowden and Ben Hanslip from the JCR, and James Whittingham from the MCR, whilst Brett Griffiths emerged from the second year as an outstanding goalkeeper. The season's highlights included a hard-fought 1–0 win over promoted Sidney, and 6–0 and 4–0 hammerings of Selwyn and Jesus II respectively, but after a disappointing 1–1 draw with John's II and an early season 2–1 defeat to Tit Hall we just missed out on promotion. In Cuppers we were unlucky to go lose 2–1 after extra time against eventual Division 1 winners Churchill. The 2nd and 3rd teams faired even better, both gaining promotion under the expert stewardship of Chris Ringland, Ollie Carter and Pete Hanson. The 3rds had to negotiate a tricky play-off against CCSS which they eventually won 5–4 on aggregate to win their promotion to Division 6 for next season, the first time that a Downing 3rd team has achieved such a feat. The 2nds, meanwhile, will grace the heady heights of Division 4 next year after a superb second half of the season thanks in part to 11 goals from Dave Filtness. The club now also has its own website, www.downingafc.net, and look forward to another successful year in 2006–7 under the joint stewardship of John Haigh and Ashley Butcher. Player's Player of the Year was won by club stalwart Ben Dewhirst, whilst Captain's Player of the Year went to goalkeeper Brett Griffiths.

Women's Hockey

Captain: Karen Beaumont

This year saw a strong women's team and a successful season – we remained unbeaten in the league (2nd division) although a draw with Churchill on grass mid-season (who we later beat 3–0 in cuppers on astro) meant we finished second on goal difference. We will be playing in the heady heights of the 1st division next year. In cuppers we went out against a strong Magdalene side in the quarter finals (1–0) in a tightly contested battle. The loss of many of the third years to bigger and better things in the real world will be sorely felt in the coming year – Phoebe Arnold our star goalie (uni 2nd team), Kat Beechey one of our top goal scorers, Rachael Watson and Irina Reder, always strong in defense, Ali Fielder one of our most improved players, and Ruth Collins who leaves for her year abroad. Special mention also to Tash Close (blues/2nd team) and Nuala Tumelty (3rd team), both of whom represented the university in the Varsity matches.

Women's Squash

Captain: Karen Beaumont

A strong first team guaranteed our continuing dominance in the first division of the inter-college leagues, which we won again this year, continuing on from our success of last year. Unfortunately cuppers seems to have got lost in exam term fever but we are still in at the quarter final stage and are hoping to repeat our win of last year. Special mention must go to Lana Kettle who played for the blues team in the varsity match, beating her opponent and helping to secure a win for the Cambridge ladies.

Netball

Both the ladies' and mixed netball teams had a very successful season this year. Once again the ladies' first team won the league following exciting matches against both Homerton and Trinity College. Their Cuppers campaign went very well, with the team reaching the semi finals. The ladies second team improved vastly over the course of the year, becoming a strong team in their own right and show great potential for next year. The Mixed A team came second in the league, which was extremely pleasing since a number of injuries did plague the team in the second term. The Mixed B team were a very new team, who took to the game instantly and won the second division. This was a very pleasing season, and all four teams should be congratulated on their hard work.

Rugby

Captain: Jake Goodman

As the new academic year, and consequently, the new rugby season approached, duplicating the successes of the previous season seemed an almost insurmountable task. That is aside from the fact we approached it with a largely unchanged pack, only a couple of losses (due to graduation, naturally) in the back line and a lot of experience. With this in mind we approached a rigorous pre-season training programme, combining old experience with the new Fresher intake, culminating with an exciting pre-season friendly against Homerton, a match we won. It was with this confidence we approached our first game against relatively new rivals Girton. Sadly pride came before a fall, and after a painfully narrow loss, Downing regrouped and approached the rest of the first term's rugby with characteristic passion, recording record wins over Pembroke and Jesus and narrowly losing to Johns. With the New Year came the promise of a first game against Johns and pre-term training began again. Sadly both residual injury and unavailability meant we went into the game slightly under strength, and despite

fearless attack and defence Downing were unable to secure the victory. On the back of this we approached our popular annual Old Boys fixture, another thrilling game with an all-star cast which all credit to the Old Boys' resolve was won by them in the last minute of the game. Following this, and the loss of their captain with a broken leg (for the third consecutive year) as well as a number of other injuries to players Downing struggled in the last few games of the league, finishing an eventual fourth, with newcomers Magdalene and Pembroke going straight back down. The Cuppers competition, however, provided a new resolve which saw us drawn against Homerton, a team who hadn't lost a game since we last played them. A thrilling display of Downing power ensued, which was described by their captain as 'a lesson in how the first division play rugby'. The next round was against Girton, a game where the whole team fought through the elements to make good their league losses and proved to be one of the games of the season with Downing winning a comfortable 25–10. With only a semi-final against Christ's in our way to the final against John's, we fronted up but were sadly narrowly beaten in a side once again plagued by injury. Cuppers semi-finalists proved a quality result to what was a quality season. Thanks to all players and supporters who have given so much to Downing rugby this season, and may I wish you all the best for next year. If any alumni wish to keep track of Downing's progress, you can do so by visiting www.crazyaboutsport.com.

Men's Tennis

Captain: Edward Pickles

This year's season began with the cuppers campaign and a secure first-round victory against the Fitzwilliam second team. In the second round however, the team lost to St. John's. The match was a lot closer than the final score indicated and the team had a hard time battling against the elements as well as strong opposition. Downing started positioned second in the colleges' ladder, having lost to Jesus last year. The team beat Christ's comfortably (9–0) to maintain second place. In the last match of the season, however, Jesus was unable to field a full team and consequently conceded the match. Thus, Downing is ranked first for the third time in four years, a commendable achievement which shows the strength and depth of talent in the club. Particular mention must go to Amani Khalifa who took time out of her busy Blue's schedule to play for the men's team. New player Alex Smith showed a great level of skill and enthusiasm, playing exceptionally well against St John's and Jamie Pollard performed consistently well again this year.

Music Society

President: Jonathan Lewis; Vice-President: Richard Adamson

On the whole, it has been a good year for the Downing College Music Society. January saw the return of the DCMS orchestral concert, which featured performances of Bach's B minor orchestral suite and Schubert's "unfinished" symphony. Jonathan Lewis made his conducting debut with a spirited performance of the Bach (the flute solo ably handled by the Chaplain, Keith Eyeons) while Richard Adamson took up the baton for the Schubert. The popular recitals in the Master's Lodge have continued with some memorable performances this year, including a two-pianos arrangement of Holst's "Planets" suite, and we are grateful for the hard work of all those who have performed this year. We are very grateful to the Master for putting on these recitals, and for his support of music at Downing. We hope to build on this next year with the new committee and look forward to presenting another series of concerts in the coming year.

Whitby Medical Society

President – Shanika Nayagam

Secretary – Catherine John

The year was once again a successful one for the Whitby Society with a host of events entertaining students both past and present. The traditional Freshers' Drinks allowed new members to meet the rest of the society and alleviate any worries about the year ahead. Our guest speakers included Dr Colin Ball who spoke about the paediatric HIV crisis afflicting South Africa; Prof John Jefferys who talked about his work on epilepsy; and Dr Sreeharan, the Vice President of GlaxoSmithKline Research and Development who addressed the society about the future of drug development. The highlight of the year was the Annual Dinner where the post-dinner speech was given by Dr Matthew Smith, a parapsychologist who regularly appears on the TV show Most Haunted. His speech was thoroughly entertaining and thanks must go to Kristina Clark and her mother for their help in his demonstration. I would like to thank Catherine for all her help during the year and I wish her all the best for the next year. I am sure that Catherine, with the help of Sam Shribman, will ensure another successful year for the society.