



Downing College 2008

Our front cover shows the wistaria on R staircase.
Photo by Prof. Barry Everitt, Master.

Downing College

Association Newsletter and College Record
2008

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Downing College Association

Founded 1922





Prof. Quentin Blake CBE. President 2007-2008

■ Officers and Committee 2007–2008

PRESIDENT

Q Blake MA

PRESIDENT ELECT

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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The Immediate Past President (J Childs MA)

The President-elect (W Tudor John MA)

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

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R J Stibbs MA (College Record)

The Honorary Treasurer

P Thomson MA

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I Redding BA

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K Dyer MA

K Storey MA

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G J Virgo MA, BCL. (Oxon), (Senior Tutor)

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

Honorary Auditors

D A Blackadder MA DPhil(Oxon)

M J Mays MA PhD FRIC

■ President's Foreword

I found it interesting, when settling down to write these few words, to look back at the introductions of other recent presidents. The purpose of the Association is, of course, to keep the alumni in touch with each other and with the college. Latterly, however, the Association has expanded its role so as to offer wider support to, and communication with, the students. Its ventures and activities remain complementary to, and not in competition with, those of an energetic Development Office. I believe that in its more informal and domestic manner the association continues to play a valuable role. My predecessors also identified the need to extend the range of the committee and it now has representatives from the JCR and MCR and from, thank goodness, both sexes.

I note also that the association has needed to review its approach to the merchandise that it offers to members. This is partly because we now have an increasing number of alumnae as well as alumni, with new needs and tastes, and partly because of our awareness of the importance of offering financial support to individual students. Julian Childs has introduced some desirable new silver items – the cufflinks and the pendant are both striking – and I have been permitted to make free with the dignity of our griffin to what I hope is the general benefit. The success of the extended range of merchandise has enabled us to increase significantly our grants to students, by tenfold over a period of a few years.

Another discovery for me was there existed something of a tradition that the President of the Association was the retiring Senior Tutor of the College. The advantages of this, in the way of knowledge of the student body and intimacy with the college, are evident. The more common source of candidates lies in the general body of the alumni (and perhaps soon, the alumnae) and may have a different advantage: that to have a President from outside the immediate Cambridge scene may serve as a signal of openness and of welcome to alumni equally far from the College.

At least I can claim, selfishly, that it has brought benefits to me, not least in new pretexts to visit Downing. The wealth of trees on the campus (pretty well all new since my undergraduate days), like the refurbishment of the Hall and the building works on the new Howard Theatre, seem to me like the outward and visible signs of the vigorous and active intellectual community that is Downing today.

John Hicks assured me that Association Presidents are kindly treated, and so it has proved. I have been happy to ask him at any point what I was supposed to do next and I am deeply grateful for his care and guidance. My warmest thanks are due to him; to Peter Thompson, our treasurer; to Frank Weiss for his constant care of our merchandising efforts; to Julian Childs for his welcome and co-operation; and to all the other members of the executive committee.

To have been President of the Association has been not only an unexpected privilege but a real pleasure.

■ Association News

Over the last few years the Association has pursued a policy of improving communications with the student body as a whole and we see benefits working in both directions. The JCR and MCR Presidents are now ex-officio members of the Executive Committee and give us guidance on current student preferences in merchandise and the Association sponsors the Student Yearbook through an advertisement for the Association and College Balls through advertising in the Ball Programme.

The Association's Student Support Fund has been able to disburse £10,000 in the year 2007–2008. Grants were made to 37 undergraduates and 15 postgraduates ranging from £55 to £500. The current level of merchandise sales suggests that this figure may be able to be maintained in the coming year. For the catalogue of Association merchandise see the College Website under *alumni*.

The Hall is approaching the conclusion of its restoration and although it will be available for the Annual Dinner on September 27th it will be for a reduced number of diners. The Executive Committee has decided that the equitable way of dealing with this position is to restrict attendance at the dinner to members. An event for partners of members attending the dinner has been arranged.

■ The Master writes:

The luxury of a year without major building works came to a sudden end in October and December last year as two major projects began. Both of them will transform the College. The first has been made possible by a third, major benefaction from Dr Alan and Jon Howard, through the Howard Foundation, to provide a new theatre. It will open in early 2010 and will provide an outstanding facility for our students as a venue for drama, music and lectures, as well as a major enhancement for our conference business, which is vital to the financial well being of the College. The second is the result of major gifts from two alumni, Richard Williams and Tim Cadbury, as well as donations from a further 750(!) Downing members, to restore and redecorate the Hall. After an uncomfortable Lent and half of the Easter term during which the new acoustic ceiling, floor and services were completed, the Hall partially re-opened for meals beginning with the Commemoration event on May 18th. The new decorative scheme, the restored detail in the frieze and new chandeliers were then revealed. There is enormous enthusiasm for this ambitious project and there is no doubt that when it is fully

completed, scheduled for January 2009, it will again be one of the most beautiful interiors in Cambridge and a superb focus for the heart of Downing life. The new stone floor will be laid over Christmas this year and there is still an opportunity for old members to purchase a named floor tile.

This year began on the academic high of 2007, which saw the College make further great steps forward in providing an environment in which our students, undergraduate and graduate, thrive and achieve. As you will read from the Senior Tutor's report, this continues to be our greatest challenge. The graduating year have been exceptional throughout their time here and this year achieved what appear to be the best results we have ever seen in the history of the College. But the second year have not maintained their excellent results of last year (and this is not uncommon during the second year, especially in the sciences). The first year, while showing great potential, have also found it difficult to translate this into examination success. We are very concerned about the widening gulf between being a successful pupil at school and a successful undergraduate at Cambridge and the Senior Tutor has described some of our new initiatives which aim to narrow it. Of course, this task is continuous and the relatively small Fellowship Downing works with great dedication to try to ensure that we select the best students and then provide the best of opportunities for them during the three or four years they are here.

Our undergraduates work very hard and achieve academically, but they also continue to fulfil themselves in many other ways. It has been an excellent year for sport across the board. The Boat Club has been resurgent this year, with excellent results in the Fairbairns, Lents and Mays as well as in several regattas, helped I am sure by our excellent Director of Rowing, Ian Watson. Our men's and women's crews are poised to return to the top. The netball teams have been exceptional – the ladies team winning the league and cuppers, the mixed team winning the league and cuppers and the 2nd mixed team coming second in the league. The men's football team won promotion to the 1st division; the men's and women's rugby teams had an excellent season in both league and cuppers. The women's hockey team was unlucky to lose a closely contested cuppers final, while the men's team came 2nd in the league. The lacrosse team won cuppers again and both the men's and the women's athletics teams won cuppers. The Griffins Club is thriving on the basis of this sporting excellence. Our students also performed at superb concerts and recitals in the Master's Lodge during the year – indeed, the final recital of the year will take place here in a few days and will feature some of our outstanding musicians among the graduate student community. The drama society is thriving and is no doubt eagerly anticipating the new theatre. A new College society for the Arts has been founded and named the Blake Society in honour of Quentin Blake, who gave its opening lecture. The

many College Societies – Danby, Whitby, Cranworth, Maitland, Mathias and more have continued to hold lively meetings and social events. The graduate community has continued to be active during the year and the extremely successful MCR seminar series is now an established termly event in the calendar.

This has again been a year of good news, sad departures and happy arrivals for our vibrant Fellowship. Professor Bill Clyne has just been elected a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering; Professor Graham Virgo has been elected an Academic Bencher at Lincoln's Inn; Professor David Feldman FBA has been appointed QC *honoris causa*; Rachel O'Reilly won the Meldola Medal, a mark of great distinction for research in chemistry; our Research Fellows Simone Laqua and Amy Milton were both awarded their PhDs. David Wales (Fellow in Chemistry) and Sarah Bray (Fellow in Developmental Biology) were both promoted to Professorships in the University. Michael Bravo (Fellow in Geography) was promoted to Senior Lecturer. Amy Milton and Amy Goymour (Hopkins Parry Fellow in Law) were both appointed to temporary University Lectureships. Dr Dave White (Fellow in Engineering) has left us to take up a Research Professorship in Perth, Australia. Barry Moore, who has been Fellow in Land Economy/Economics since 1979 and a dear friend and colleague retires at the end of this academic year. Very regrettably, Dr Rachel O'Reilly, the Mays Wild Fellow in Natural Sciences, will also be leaving us during next year to take up a permanent post as Associate Professor at the University of Warwick, having been ranked first amongst intense competition to be awarded a career acceleration award by the EPSRC. Dr Jonathan Trevor joined the Fellowship as Fellow in Management Studies in February 2008 and we will welcome three new Fellows on October 1st: Kendra Packham, Research Fellow in English; Dr Guy Brown, Fellow in Biochemistry and Dr Kenneth McNamara, Fellow in Geological Sciences.

I am very sorry to report the deaths of distinguished Fellows of the College: Honorary Fellow Sir Arthur Watts QC; Honorary Fellow and former Professorial Fellow in Engineering, Austyn Mair and Honorary Fellow Professor Wilfrid Mellors. John Hawkins, Associate Fellow, chair of the Mays Wild Fellowship Committee and former President of the Downing Association, who worked tirelessly for the College over many years despite progressively ill-health, died in June. You will read more about these remarkable people in this issue of the Newsletter.

The College elected two exceptional and distinguished Honorary Fellows this year. Professor Sir Brian Vickers is an internationally renowned Renaissance scholar and was a Fellow in English at Downing in the 1960s. Aitzaz Ahsan is a distinguished lawyer, President of the Bar Association, politician and human rights campaigner in Pakistan; he spent many months in prison and under house arrest during President Musharraf's period of marshall law last year, but was eventually released after the elections. We have also elected two Wilkins Fellows in

recognition of their great generosity the College: Jon Howard of the Howard Foundation that has provided us with three major buildings, most recently the new Theatre; Chris Bartram, Chair of the Campaign Board and who has supported the building of the boat house, restoration of the Hall and teaching in English.

We have again been fortunate to have three visiting scholars during the year: Professor Yasushi Watanabe was the visiting Keio Fellow from the Faculty of Environment and Information Studies at Keio University; Professor Carl Creutz was the visiting Thomas Jefferson Fellow from the Department of Pharmacology at the University of Virginia; Meg Worley was the Pomona Fellow, visiting from the English Faculty at Pomona College in California.

I was delighted again to have had several opportunities to meet with Old Members during the year, both at Association and reunion events at Downing, and further afield. I visited Hong Kong last October on my way to an exceptional 2 week scientific visit to China and met alumni at an excellent event generously hosted by Colin Cohen. In March I made visits, along with Tariq Sadiq, the Development Director, to San Francisco (in association with the University's alumni event) and attended a superb dinner with a group of old members, hosted by Jeremy Woan at the San Francisco Yacht club. We then went on to the Los Angeles area and attended another fine alumni gathering that was generously hosted by Gary Blankenship. A special event was held here in College in July to mark the 25th anniversary of the graduation of Downing's first women undergraduates in 1983. Having taken part in the Governing Body vote in 1978 in favour of changing the College's Statutes so as to admit women – and as Director of Studies in Medicine having admitted the first woman to the College – the day brought back many memories for all of us. And the sun shone!

On a personal level, it has been another interesting year. My daughter Jessica has completed very successfully her Part 1 finals at Wadham College in Oxford and has been rowing all year for their 1st VIII. She is doing a vacation research project in Psychiatry in Cambridge this summer. My wife Jane has been chairing the Dermatology specialism committee for the Royal College of Physicians and is trying to finish a (very large) chapter on skin diseases for the latest revision of the major Dermatology text book. I have just returned from the European Neuroscience meeting in Geneva at which I delivered the Presidential lecture, and was delighted to have been elected a Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences earlier in the year. My research on drug addiction continues to thrive and I can only hope that my funding from the MRC does too.

Finally, my sincere thanks go to Quentin Blake for all his work as President of the Association this year (and for those wonderful Griffin drawings, T-shirts and mugs) and to the Committee, especially to John Hicks for his tireless work as Honorary Secretary and Editor of the Newsletter, and to Peter Thomson as

Treasurer. The Association is providing wonderful support to the present generation of students at Downing. I send you my best wishes for a happy and successful year ahead. Please stay in touch and do plan to visit us here at Downing or at one of the reunion venues during the coming year.

Professor Barry Everitt ScD FRS FMedSci
Master's Lodge, July 2008

■ The Senior Tutor writes:

Over the last year Universities in this country have been given a rough ride by the media. Whether it is a story about grade inflation, the admission of overseas students for financial reasons rather than on academic merit or allegations of plagiarism, the practices of some Universities have been found wanting. Cambridge has been found guilty by association, and so too, by implication, has Downing. Now we in the University and the College are not complacent about the seriousness of such concerns, but the reality here is very different. For example, whilst there has been an increase in the number of firsts which are awarded compared, say, to 30 years ago, we remain confident that the award of a first remains a class of genuine academic merit, as vouched for by the external examiners who moderate all aspects of our examination processes. Plagiarism is another serious issue which the University and the College have been considering. I have been involved in a variety of working parties which have reviewed how we define and identify plagiarism, discipline those who resort to it and, just as significantly, support students throughout their studies to ensure that they adopt practices appropriate to their subjects to ensure proper use of citations and acknowledgements and avoid the 'cut and paste' mentality.

Admissions remains a matter of constant controversy, specifically as regards admission to Oxbridge. At Downing it is certainly true that we are now admitting a few more overseas students than previously, but this reflects the dramatic increase in the number of overseas students who are now applying to the College. But we maintain our policy that admission is based only on academic merit and not on our ability to charge premium fees. We remain under great pressure from the Government to ensure that we meet the benchmark of admitting 63% of students who have been educated in the State sector. At Downing, and elsewhere in the collegiate University, we have a very clear policy as to how we will strive

to meet that requirement. We maintain a fundamental distinction between widening participation and admissions. We spend a great deal of time seeking to encourage strong applicants from the State sector. But once those applications have been submitted we judge each one on proven merit and potential for their chosen subject regardless of school background. As part of our widening participation policy we maintain strong links with the South West. Our Schools and Colleges Liaison Officer, Jessica Royles, has spent a great deal of her time over the last year visiting schools in the South West, organising trips to Downing and answering enquiries from students and teachers. The success of this work is reflected in the number of students from the South West applying to Downing and other Colleges, the numbers being accepted and the strong performance of many of those students whilst they are here. Jessica has decided to move on to pursue doctoral studies, but she will not be moving far since she has been accepted as a graduate student at Downing. We are delighted that the new holder of the liaison post is Jim Cannon who has just graduated from the College and who himself is from the South West and attended the College's South West open day.

Despite the pressures from politicians and the media we continue to focus on that for which we were founded, namely the education of our undergraduate and graduate students. Academically the achievements of our students this year has been mixed. The first year has disappointed, but Directors of Studies are generally of the view that it is a year still of real potential but which still needs to prove itself. The second year too has disappointed, failing to maintain the high standards which it had previously set, but again there is a sense that this is a year still with a great deal of untapped potential. The academic glories of the College, however, goes to the finalists who, so far as I have been able to discover, have consistently produced the best results of a year group in the history of the College. It is this year group which contributed well over half of the 92 distinctions and firsts obtained by our students this year. This is only the second time in the history of the College that we have exceeded the 90 mark of firsts and distinctions (and the first time was last year).

Within this group of 92 candidates, 20 were ranked in the top 2.5% of their respective class lists and so were awarded prizes of special distinction by the Governing body, the highest number of such prizes ever awarded. These prizes were awarded to Ben Copey (Archaeology and Anthropology), Michael Norton (Chemical Engineering), Emily Milligan and Alex Smith (Classics), Michelle Jin (Economics), Jonathan Hobbs and Rodrigo Quiero (Engineering), Jonathan Balls and James Palmer (Geography), Marianne Crowder, Stefan Liberadzki, Jennifer McLeod and Charlotte Pursey (Law), Aswin Chari (Medical Sciences), Matthew Capener, Lucy Cheke, Anna Masson, Sonya Pemberton and Alice Turnbull (Natural Sciences) and James Williams (Theological and Religious Studies). The range of

subjects in which these prizes were awarded is a matter of particular pleasure. Of these students Michael Norton, Michelle Jin, Alex Smith, Lucy Cheke, Sonya Pemberton and Alice Turnbull all came top of their respective class lists, The latter four were finalists and so were awarded Association prizes.

One of the other issues which continues to receive continued coverage in the media, and is also often commented on by politicians, concerns the educational attainment of the students on coming to the College. The students we are now admitting are arguably the most tested students ever. We have no doubt that the intellectual potential of these students remains as high as it always has been, as reflected by the fact that gaining a place at Downing continues to be highly competitive. But there is growing evidence that a number of the students who arrive at the College, often regardless of educational background, are not able to cope immediately with the demands of their chosen courses, either because the course assumes a more extensive knowledge than had been provided at school or because the student lacks the requisite study and writing skills. Various Faculties and Departments are reviewing the way their courses are taught to ensure that all students of ability are able to cope with the demands of the course. Further, Downing considers it to be a significant part of its educational mission to ensure that all students who have been admitted are given the support, assistance and encouragement to get the most out of their demanding degrees. This may be done within the existing supervision system, but we are also introducing innovative ways of teaching study and writing skills. Richard Burns, a recently elected Bye-Fellow, has done a great deal of work during the year with individual students and with groups of students to assist them with studying, writing, revising and, in some cases, coping with the demands of English as a second language. This is important work which has had a dramatic effect on the examination performances of a number of students. Next year this work will continue and will hopefully expand, with plans to introduce mentoring of undergraduates by graduate students who will be able to provide additional support and advice.

So there is a great deal going on in the College, in addition to the excellent sporting, musical, dramatic, debating and many other achievements of our students. Much of this will not be reported by the media and will be ignored by the politicians, but rest assured that the Fellowship will continue to do all it can to select the best students, to nurture them while they are at Downing and ensure that they all fulfil their true potential.

■ The Secretary's Diary

Michaelmas Term 2007 started with weather which was truly in the vein of an Indian Summer. The College grass looked immaculate and the window boxes glowed with colour. Vacant spaces on the perimeter left by the removal of dangerous trees or just their larger limbs were a visual shock which only the growth of their replacements and the fading of our memories will overcome. Advance work for the building of the Howard Auditorium had demolished the sunken garden in Howard Court which has now been in part restored. During the year The College has joined many other sites in Cambridge proclaiming their building works by the highly visible presence of a tower crane; the building work will continue into 2010. The restoration of the Hall began in December which has required unusual dining arrangements for both students and Fellows.

Still, enough here about the grounds and the buildings. So how about the people? New Fellows now appear as regularly as autumn crocuses (a flower also known as the Naked Lady which might be inappropriate to use here as again the majority of our new Fellows have been ladies). Meeting the freshers, undergraduate and postgraduate, at the Matriculation Dinners is always a pleasant and refreshing experience. One fresher told me that he really wanted to be an airline pilot but as he had to wear glasses he wasn't sure of being accepted so he came to Downing as a back-up. So much for the perceived status of the College!

For many years the College invited former students for reunions which until 2003 grouped people in three year matriculation bands. In 2004 the selection was changed to include people of the year ending with the current figure with the addition of all pre-1950 matriculands. In March 2008 some 140 people returned, the oldest being Tim Yearwood who came up in 1938 to read law. Most encouraging was the number of 1998 matriculands, defying the common experience of few younger people returning to their almer mater. There was some novelty in this event in that because of the Hall restoration in progress the dinner was held in a marquee on the paddock, enlivened by a gusty wind which, as the Master was speaking, threatened to raise the roof, literally.

On the University scale your Secretary and Editor has for the last three years acted as an invigilator in Tripos and other examinations. This is mainly a volunteer operation, although a very modest wage is paid, directed by the Board of Examinations. Invigilators are not allowed to read newspapers or books, which means spending three hours in effect doing nothing except keeping an eye on the candidates. This is initially a daunting prospect but it is surprising how one becomes accustomed to the process. There are of course occasional breaks such as when a candidate becomes ill and has to be assisted to leave. Queries may arise from

candidates who don't understand a question on their paper; easily dealt with in the first twenty minutes when the examiners are present but causing rather more effort when they arise later in the examination. The Board is always looking for invigilators so if anyone living near Cambridge wants a few days of contemplation do get in touch with them.

Finally, if the Secretary and Editor may be allowed to indulge in a little personal item, he has joined that band of alumni whose children have become Downing members. My son Peter having graduated from Durham in 2007 has been a PGCE (Post Graduate Certificate of Education, see our article on Page 19) student at Downing this year. With a few other postgraduates he received his certificate at a charming ceremony held in the West Lodge during graduation week.

■ Next year's President – Bill Tudor John

I went to Downing in 1963 against all the odds. You see, the headmaster of my school wanted me to try for Oxford, as did my father. I was set on reading law at Cambridge, eager to change from my sixth form Classics studies. To appease the opposition, I agreed to sit Oxford exams; to satisfy myself, I applied to Downing where I knew one undergraduate who had sung its praises to me. The Downing exam I sat in my school in Wales in December 1962. The Oxford test took place in January 1963. Fortuitously, the day before travelling to Oxford to sit their papers, I was interviewed at Downing by Clive Parry and immediately following he told me that I'd secured a place there to read law. So, armed with that good news, I lightheartedly sat the Oxford Classics exam over the next two days. During the viva which followed the written test I was asked whether, if I read Jurisprudence, I'd give up the Classics altogether. I hesitatingly replied that I would not. "You'll hop into bed with Horace", smiled one of the interviewers. "I think I'd prefer a Trollope", I responded. I think it was that, rather than my written papers, which caused Worcester College to offer me a place.

However, Downing it was, despite the protestations of my father and headmaster, and thence began a love affair with the College which has lasted 45 years.

What do I remember of my time as a student? Formal Hall and sconces; the Squirt and girls from Homerton; Proctors, bulldogs and getting girls out of College before the 10pm curfew; bicycles and the New Bengal curries; rowing on cold

February mornings and the Squirts' annual rugger match with Teddy Hall; on a more sombre note, JFK's assassination during my first term and watching, with horror, the scenes from Dallas on the JCR telly; lectures and the supervisions with John and Cherry Hopkins (or Busbridge as she was in my first year); the anticipation of the up-coming World Cup while revising for finals in 1966. So many memories, a lot of which were shared with my dear wife, Jane, who often visited me and to whom I became engaged during my second year. Little wonder I so enjoy returning on visits.

It was John Hopkins who suggested I write to Allen & Overy, the City lawyers, for Articles. It was the only job I applied for. Luckily, they offered me a place. I began there in 1967 and, apart from a brief sojourn in a merchant bank between 1970 and 1972, I stayed at A&O for 33 years, becoming a Partner in 1972 and ending up as the Senior Partner, having set up a Banking Department and leading it for 20 years and doing a stint as Managing Partner. I was the first Downing graduate to join A&O; during my Senior Partnership between 1994 and 2000, there were twelve other Downing people who were Partners in the firm!

Now, almost in my dotage, the love affair continues. I look forward with pride to my year as President of the Association and am excited to have been offered the role.

Bill Tudor John

■ Forthcoming events

The Association AGM and Annual Dinner will take place on Saturday 27th September 2008. As been the custom in recent years the Association Weekend activities will be augmented by events arranged by the College through the Development Office.

As mentioned above the restoration of the Hall, although well advanced, will not be complete by the date of the dinner which means that the seating capacity will not be at its usual level. The Association's Executive Committee has therefore decided that an equitable solution is to restrict the dinner to members only and a separate event will be provided for persons accompanying members and all will be able to meet again in the bar after dinner.

Application forms will be sent out by the Development Office as usual.

■ Education at Cambridge

By John Raffan, College Director of Studies in Education.

Study, research and training in Education at Cambridge were, for many years, the responsibility of three separate, though cooperating, institutions: the University Department of Education, the Cambridge Institute of Education and Homerton College. In 2001, however, staff from the institutions formed the integrated Faculty of Education while Homerton relinquished its teacher training functions and assumed all the usual roles of a Cambridge College. The Faculty is now one of the largest groups of researchers and teacher educators in the country. A fine new Faculty building on Hills Road was officially opened by Prince Philip, as University Chancellor, in 2005.

The main teacher education and training courses – for the University's Postgraduate Certificate of Education (PGCE) – are taught within the Faculty of Education and cooperating schools but each PGCE student must also be a member of one of the Colleges. All of the Colleges offer places to PGCE students and, every year, Downing has several PGCE members. Some of these took their undergraduate courses and first degrees at Downing; others have come to Cambridge and Downing with degrees from other universities.

An interesting recent feature of the PGCE course is that it is now possible for Cambridge University PGCE trainees to gain recognition for the first year of a Master of Education (MEd) qualification at Cambridge. This is because the assessed assignments in the PGCE course are expected to be at the level appropriate to a Master's degree. The quality of the course is well recognised as it is the most highly rated PGCE course in the country by the Government's Inspectors (OfSTED).

The Education Tripos for undergraduates has also recently undergone substantial revision and innovation. It combines the study of the disciplines of Education (history, philosophy, psychology and sociology) with another subject chosen from a wide range of other Tripos subjects, such as English, History, Mathematics or the Sciences. The degree course does not include specific teacher training and the graduates who intend to teach would then take the PGCE course. The Education Tripos, however, prepares graduates to enter a wide range of careers relating to education, including administration in both local and national government; arts and museum education; educational journalism; educational activities within the community (including drama and music); educational careers within the media and politics. The emphasis throughout the course on understanding contemporary issues in society means that the Education Tripos

can lead to careers in a range of other areas such as human resources and other forms of management.

Many Colleges admit undergraduates to the Education Tripos; some, such as Downing, prefer undergraduates to start with a main subject Tripos and then, if they wish, transfer to the Education Tripos for Part II. The experience of those who have transferred so far has been entirely positive and successful. Downing also offers membership to a number of PhD, MPhil and MEd students who are undertaking their research and graduate courses in the Faculty of Education.

The broad areas in which the Faculty is active in research are shown by its five academic groups:

- Education, Equality and Development: historical contexts and contemporary practice
- Leading Learning for School Improvement
- Pedagogy, Language, Arts and Culture in Education
- Psychology and Neuroscience in Education
- Science, Technology & Mathematics Education

The high international standards of the Faculty's research and publications have made it one of the most successful research-oriented centres for Education in the UK.

A full account of all of the teaching and research in the Faculty of Education may be found on the official website at www.educ.cam.ac.uk

Anyone interested in the architectural design of University buildings, particularly libraries, would find a visit to the Faculty's main building at 184 Hills Road most worthwhile.

The author was, until 2007, Vice-President of Hughes Hall.

■ Devon Cambridge Society

Trevor Blackshaw (1963) has been appointed President of the Devon Cambridge Society.

The Society was founded over a century ago “for the furtherance of social contact and good fellowship between Cambridge graduates living in Devon”. It is older than and not connected to the Cambridge Society and has in excess of two hundred members.

The committee arranges a programme of social, cultural and sporting events (some against the Devon Oxford Society). The proceeds are used to fund grants to assist Devon undergraduates at Cambridge Colleges to undertake interesting academic or humanitarian projects during their long vacations. This year grants of approximately two thousand pounds were made. Unfortunately there were no applications from Downing undergraduates, although two years ago one was made for an art history project in Italy.

The annual subscription is £10 or £100 for life. However, it is free for the first twenty years after matriculation, provided communications can be made by email. Any graduates interested in joining the Society or any undergraduates seeking grants towards appropriate long vacation projects should contact trevorblackshaw@tiscali.co.uk, who will direct their application to the appropriate source.

■ Thomas Hope (1769–1831) and Downing College

By David Cotton (1956)

At the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, there was a recent exhibition (March–June 2008) about the Regency designer and arbiter of taste Thomas Hope. He was a Dutch man whose family came to England in 1794 when France invaded the Netherlands in the Napoleonic Wars. Possessing great wealth through the family bank he made extensive tours of Turkey, Greece, Egypt and the Near East. He became enamoured of the exotic styles he found there and wrote a book *Household Furniture and Interior Decoration* in 1807, in which his designs incorporated these influences. His houses in London and Deepdene at Dorking became centres where he showed these key new ideas to leading members of the art world.

On display at the exhibition was a copy of a book – Hope called it “a letter” – that he wrote in 1804 addressed to the Master of Downing, Francis Annesley MP. It was called *Observations on the Plans and Elevations designed by James Wyatt architect for Downing College Cambridge*. In it, Hope inveighed against the Classical neo Palladian designs of Wyatt. Hope, whose appointment as judge of Wyatt’s designs seems a little partisan, was firmly in favour of the Greek revival style in architecture. Ultimately the rival designs of William Wilkins were accepted.

As readers will know, Wilkins’ plans, although not carried out in their entirety, gave us the East and West wings of the College that we see today, and are echoed and reinterpreted in the designs of later buildings.

For further reading on this seminal episode of Downing’s history see *Committed to Classicism: The building of Downing College Cambridge* by Cinzia Maria Sicca, page 32 etc, published by the College in 1987. (Available from Downing College Association. Hardback £18 + £6 p&tp, Paperback £5 + £5 p&tp).

■ A Developing Career

By Vernon Robertson (1949)

I was only resident at Downing for one year when I was taking a Postgraduate Diploma in Agriculture as a means of entry into the overseas agricultural service. By the time I obtained the Diploma the chances of a career in the overseas services seemed so poor (with most of the “colonies” becoming independent) that I accepted a teaching post with the School of Agriculture at Cambridge – duties mainly on the University Farm. I had originally intended to take my initial degree at Cambridge but Downing could not accept me. Both my younger brothers – Jim (R C J Robertson) and John (J T Robertson) were at Downing – in fact in my year brother John was still in residence in his final year reading economics. I went to Edinburgh in 1946 where I had been on a short course in 1941 arranged by the Army (Royal Artillery in my case) for people with “officer potential” prior to entering the full course leading to a commission. At that time Edinburgh offered any of us wanting to read for a full degree after the war immediate acceptance without an entry exam. Having been turned down by Downing I immediately applied to Edinburgh and went back to school 10 days after being demobbed. This was quite a shock after nearly 6 years in the Army serving in N Africa and Italy.

After a couple of years on the University Farm I had the opportunity to start up a consulting firm dealing with land and water resources overseas. This worked well, we had work all over the world and I got an OBE for our efforts in 1977.

In the entry for Vernon Robertson in Who's Who we see that Vernon Robertson joined Hunting Aerosurveys Ltd which became Hunting Technical Services Ltd of which he was Managing Director from 1959 to 1977. Amongst other positions he was Vice-Chairman of the Environmental Planning Commission of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and from 1982 to 1990 a Board Member of the Commonwealth Development Corporation.

■ News of members

Anthony Ernest Alexander (1964) is an Honorary Associate of The University of Sydney where he teaches Classical Greek.

Justin Davies (1989) is married to Julie and they have sons Joe, 4, and Will, 2. Justin is a Consultant Colorectal Surgeon at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

Jai Diwanji (1995) writes "I presume quite a few Downing alumni, tutors and students would be passing through Bombay, India every year. I spent two excellent years thanks to numerous people at Downing, notably Mr. John Hopkins and Mr. Graham Virgo, and would be happy to assist in any which way I can any Downing student, tutor or alumni prior to or during their visit to India. My wife and I would be happy to assist in any way we can."

Jai can be contacted as follows:

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Robert Fothergill (1958) is Associate Professor (Emeritus), Department of Theatre, York University, Toronto.

David Grayson CBE (1974) has held the Chair of Corporate Responsibility, Cranfield School of Management and Director, Doherty Centre for Corporate Responsibility since April 2007. He is Visiting Senior Fellow, CSR Initiative, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard and Chairman of Housing 21.

Flemming Heilman (1953) writes –

"Arjun Puri travels from his home in Delhi to the United States from time to time, to visit his daughter Shalini and her family in Pittsburgh, where both she and her husband are teachers at advanced levels. This year I was able to take advantage of an opportunity to meet him in Washington, having not seen him for 51 years. Others of our approximate vintage, including Jos Bird, Peter Thomson, Dickie Dent and Edi Freitag have visited Arjun and his wife Amrita in New Delhi, I believe. I had only periodically corresponded with Arjun over the last few years, after he was good enough to re-establish contact. Until then, I had only remembered Arjun vividly from the two years we overlapped at Downing: Arjun the master of the squash courts, the tennis player, the mathematician, and Arjun the quiet friend who was always there with a smile and a caring interest in the people around him.

Over four hours at a restaurant in the centre of the beautiful atrium of Washington Union Station, we shared a simple lunch, pots of coffee, our respective family histories, great memories of Downing life and common friends. We even had time to solve the major socio-economic problems of India and the United States. I would not have missed a moment of it for all the tea in China, which is easy for me to say because at the unavoidable end of our reunion, Arjun presented me with a most beautiful lacquered box of select Indian teas! This invaluable meeting would never have taken place if we had not both reconnected with the College after many years of detachment. I am thrilled that Downing nowadays does so much, so effectively, to bring alumni together. I trust the alumni population will make ever increasing use of the opportunities the College affords us to reconnect and stay in touch."

Mariana Hogg (2004) was awarded The Glynn Jones Scholarship in 2007 (see the displayed notice below) and took The MSc in International Business and Emerging Markets at the University of Edinburgh. Mariana says that the Fund helped her to undertake what was an invaluable experience.

Steven Sawaryn (1973) received the degree of PhD(Cantab) by special regulations on 21st July 2007.

Peter Thrower (1957)

At Carbon 2007 in Seattle on July 19, 2007, Professor Peter Thrower received the first International Exceptional Contribution Award given jointly by the American Carbon Society, the Asian Association of Carbon Groups, and the European Carbon Association. This award recognizes "the distinguished contributions and accomplishments of an individual, which have significantly influenced the advancement of research in the science and technology of carbon materials and have contributed to the collaboration of carbon researchers worldwide." This award acknowledged Professor Thrower's outstanding contributions over the past 34 years as Editor-in-Chief of the journal Carbon, as Editor of the monograph series Chemistry and Physics of Carbon, and for his role in fostering collaborations among researchers worldwide. The award will henceforth be known as the "Peter A. Thrower Award"

Justin Taylor (1967) was appointed Vice-Director of the Ecole Biblique et Archeologique Francaise, Jerusalem in 2007. In 2006 he was made a DD(Cantab).

Robert Wilson (1970) has been awarded the Iraq Reconstruction Service Medal.

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).



Professor Peter Thrower with Professor Seung Kon Ryu, Chairman of the Asian Association of Carbon Groups, Dr. Wesley Hoffman, Chairman of the American Carbon Society, and Professor Rosa Menendez, Spokesperson for the European Carbon Association.



"Cari amici di Downing", says John Meddemenn here shown with the very charming undergraduates of his College, Ghislieri (1567), Università degli Studi di Pavia. He says he is easily identifiable in the middle of the College Dragon Boat Team.



A detail of the painting by Terence Cuneo of the opening of the Baker Building in the Department of Engineering in 1952. Austyn Mair is to the right of Duke of Edinburgh.



Downing College Chapel Choir.

■ Publications

R J Davies (1989) et. al.

Colorectal Cancer Screening: Prospects for Molecular Stool Analysis. *Nature Reviews Cancer* 2005; 5: 199–209.

Analysis of minichromosome maintenance proteins as a novel method for detection of colorectal cancer in stool. *Lancet* 2002. 359: 1917–1919.

Robert Fothergill (1958)

Public lies and other plays. Playwrights Canada Press, 2007.

Plays: *Borderline*. CBC Radio 2006.

Disciples. Toronto Summerworks Festival. 2007

The Dershowitz protocol. Michael Weller Theatre, New York. November 2007.

Robert Greenwood (1960)

Economics for CSEC. Cambridge University Press. 2007.

ISBN 13:9780521701174.

Julian Jeffs (1950)

A Short History of the Lodge of Antiquities No 2 (2005).

Ed. with Jocelyn Hillgarth. *Maurice Baring, Letters*. 2007. Michael Russell Publishing. 2007. ISBN-10: 0859553094. ISBN-13: 978-0859553094

Harold Johnson (1951) & Francis A Dutra, Eds, *Pelo Vaso Traseiro: Sodomy and Sodomites in Luso-Brazilian History*. Tucson. 2007.

John Meddemmen (1959)

"Destare a nuova vita la città dei morti" «Gli ultimi giorni di Pompei» di Edward Bulwer (1834), *Le antichità pompeiane e l'immaginario del mondo moderno*, Convegno presso il Collegio Ghislieri, Pavia, 1° marzo 2007, a cura di Renzo CREMANTE, Maurizio HARARI, Stefano ROCCHI, Elisa ROMANO, Flavius, Pompei 2008, pp.33–52.

In Inghilterra fra i portaspilli, *Pinocchio in volo tra immagini e letterature*, Convegno internazionale di studi, Scuola Normale Superiore, Pisa, 1 e 2 ottobre 2004, a cura di Rosanna DEDOLA e Mario CASARI, Paravia, Bruno Mondadori, 2008 pp-145–157.

Barrie Mencher (1955)

Jackdaw and other stories. Durrant Publishing, Norwich. 2008. ISBN 978-1-905946-03-07. £5-99.

Justin Taylor (1967)

Pythagoreans and Essenes: Structural Parallels. Peeters, Paris-Louvain. 2004.

Nicola Upson (1988).

A detective story entitled *An Expert in Murder*.

■ Birth

James Elder (1986) has two children, born 2003 and 2004.

■ 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.

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

■ The Newsletter (and College Record) back numbers

The College archive is missing issues for 1940–1952 and would be grateful to receive copies. We appreciate that it is possible that no issues were published during the Second World War.

■ Obituaries

Last year we published an obituary for **Claire Morgan (née Cutler) (1989)**. There is a website where people can send in memories of Claire for her children to read about in future. www.eleanorandkit.com

In last year's issue we put the matriculation date for the late **Richard Jacob** as 1965 when it should have been 1962. This is an editorial error for which we apologise.

Professor Austyn Mair, President of the Association in 1984–1985, died on January 17th 2008, a few weeks before his 91st birthday. Addresses given at a memorial service held in the College Chapel on March 1st 2008 appear in the accompanying College Record.

John Hawkins, President of the Association in 2001–2002 died on June 10th 2008. An obituary appears in the accompanying College Record.

Lloyd Best (1953) After a long illness Lloyd Best died in Trinidad in March 2007. After Downing he went on to Oxford before returning home to the Caribbean where he taught at the University of the West Indies. In Trinidad he gradually moved from academic life into politics, and in 1969 founded Tapia, initially a movement and a journal which metamorphosed into a political party in the seventies. Although primarily an intellectual and a thinker he became involved in day to day political life and served two terms as leader of the opposition in the Senate of Trinidad. He was awarded the Order of the Caribbean communities for his public service. The Trinidad and Tobago Institute of the West Indies was renamed The Lloyd Best Institute of the West Indies in his memory. Like many West Indians he was passionate about cricket, a game that he was said to have played with enthusiasm but no great distinction.

Pieter Adriaan van Buuren (1948) Died on 28th March 2008. He was at one time the Dutch Ambassador to South Africa.

Robert Coles (1953) came up from Reading School, read maths and natural sciences, and subsequently worked at the Atomic Weapons Research Establishment. We hope to be able to publish an obituary in the 2009 issue of the Newsletter.

Ronnie Fisher (1936) distinguished as the founder of hospice care in the National Health Service, died on 15 August at the age of 90. He came to Downing from Heversham School in Cumbria to read Medicine, enjoying an active sporting life with cricket, rugby and athletics, and continued his training at Middlesex Hospital. From 1943 to 1946 he served as an RNVN surgeon in Java, then as medical officer at what is now Surabaya. For service aboard the rescue ship *Zamalek* on the Arctic convoys he was awarded the Arctic Star in 2006. In 1952 he taught at McGill University in Montreal, then from 1953 spent twenty years as a consultant anaesthetist at the Bournemouth area group of hospitals. While there he became concerned at the lack of special care for terminally ill patients, and persuaded the local health authority to fund an appropriate facility if public support could build and equip it. He himself raised most of the money required, with one third coming from what is now Macmillan Cancer Support. The resultant Macmillan Unit at Christchurch Hospital, opened in 1975, was the first NHS palliative care service in the country. Ronnie, later vice-president of Cancer Relief, went on to pioneer the Macmillan Nursing Service, and the Wessex Region's anaesthetic departments are named in his honour. He wrote *Palliative Care for People with Cancer*, and in 2006 was presented with the Macmillan

Gold Medal for outstanding service to cancer relief worldwide. His professional career was paralleled by achievement in the world of acting, first as an amateur actor himself and later in administration. He became chairman of the Palace Court Theatre in Bournemouth and a director of Louis Michael Theatres, a group including the Theatre Royal in Haymarket. He is survived by his wife and two daughters.

Robert Forsythe (1945) We have learned that Robert Forsythe has died.

Arthur B Goldstraw (1939) died on 21st May 2008.

The Reverend Peter Handley Gooderick (1947) died in Warwick hospital in January 2007. He grew up in County Durham and went to school in Stockton-on-Tees. When he left school he thought of becoming a priest and spent a happy year in St. John's College, Durham, before National Service intervened and he joined the Navy. By the time he came up to Downing in 1947 he had changed his mind and studied Modern Languages with the thought of going with ICI to South America. By the time he graduated in 1950 what he called 'the inexorable pressure of the Holy Spirit' had drawn him back on course. He spent a further year studying Theology and applied for ordination. When he regaled the Church's selectors with all the reasons why he should *not* be accepted they chose him at once! After two happy years at Lincoln Theological College he was ordained in Wakefield and went to be a curate for three years in Brighouse, Yorkshire. His sense of adventure then drew him to chaplaincy abroad and he became Precentor of Gibraltar Cathedral. He ministered in Malta and in Turkey before returning to a senior curacy in Wimbledon. It was in this era that he became a visiting territorial chaplain in Germany, drove a perilous second-hand Jaguar, acquired a black retriever, Mick, the first of many dogs and cats; and in 1963 became vicar of St Paul's, Streatham.

In 1968 he became vicar of Merton where he is remembered not only as an outstanding priest but also for his parties. After 12 years there, during which Bishop Mervyn of Southwark had offered Peter various moves in vain, a Church Times advertisement for an intriguing sounding parish called 'Stoneleigh with Baginton and Ashow', caught his attention. After satisfying a selection panel the fullest, and longest, final period of his ministry began. Peter's final moves brought him to places where his and his partner Douglas's gift for love and friendship were invaluable in drawing people together. He also volunteered to go and help out the parish of Berkswell after a long period in which their rector had been ill and the rectory virtually closed to parishioners. Peter's time there gradually changed things and he opened the house up for delightful social gatherings which enabled members of the diverse congregations from the various services to meet, and to get to know one another better. The whole place began to re-develop its old potential and to come alive as a community.

He retired to Kenilworth but the last three years of his life were dogged with serious illness and depression. During most of that time Douglas devotedly nursed him. A Thanksgiving Service for his life, which had touched and uplifted so many people, was held at St Nicholas Church, Kenilworth. It was a joyous occasion, reflecting Peter's last wish that we should all have a party for him at his funeral, attended by many of the congregations from his previous parishes. Giving an inspiring address at the service Bishop Simon Barrington-Ward said "So let us, sad as we all are that he can't be here with us physically, grieving for the loss of his dear company, nonetheless be ready now, deeply and genuinely, as we give thanks for his wonderful life and ministry amongst us, to *rejoice* with him."

Jack Seabright (1947)

We record with sadness the death of Margaret, wife of **Robert Greenwood (1960)** on 7th June 2007. They had been married for thirty three years.

David Tudor Griffiths (1954) died on 27th April 2008.

The following is taken from a tribute at his funeral:

"David Tudor Griffiths was a man of many parts and excelled in many things.

He was a great scholar, a talented sportsman and a connoisseur of painting.

He loved animals and the whole of nature. He has given much dedicated service to many people in the educational field.

He was at Shrewsbury School and during National Service was commissioned in the Royal Air Force and became a navigator. At Downing he read Agriculture. He started to teach science to 11 to 16 year olds in private and state schools. David became the Head of Science and Garden Advisor for Essex County Council. He was responsible for 600 schools in Essex as the Science Inspector and designed the school laboratories. He also served as the Chairman of the Educational Trust of Essex County Council. In recognition of his services, David was invited to one of the Queen's Garden parties and met Her Majesty the Queen. As a sportsman, David boxed, skated, played hockey, cricket, football and golf. At Cambridge he won the title for best footballer of the year. He became a cricket player for the Country Gentlemen's association. Playing golf, he became the Champion of Champions at Whittlebury golf course near Towcester."

Anthony Cranford Hepburn (1959) died of the effects of motor neurone disease on Friday 25 April 2008. He came to Downing from Dulwich College. His last appointment was at the University of Sunderland, Department of Arts, Design, Media and Culture.

Roger Hubbard (1958) died on 20th May 2008. He came to Downing from Bristol Cathedral School to read Natural Sciences.

Peter Bernard MacCorkindale (1943) died on 27th September 2007. A memorial service was held in Dry Drayton Parish Church on Sunday 25th November 2007. The College was represented by Richard Stibbs, Fellow, and the Association by John Hicks, Honorary Secretary, in a congregation which filled the village church to standing room only. Peter's son Simon gave the following tribute at that service:

"Dad was a truly special man – a proper chap – a man's man – a ladies man, a cheeky wink never far away. He was born in Edinburgh, raised in Harrow, educated at Orley Farm in Harrow, Sutton Vallance in Kent and Downing Cambridge for six months courtesy of the RAF. 5 foot 10 at thirteen, he stood a foot above every boy in the school. Double pneumonia and whooping cough put paid to his growth spurts and at 5 foot 10 he stayed. He was a superb athlete – very fast over a hundred yards and he excelled behind the wicket and on the rugby wing – representing London Scottish and he would also have played for the RAF but for untimely injury – he enjoyed tennis and golf – the former for the RAF and socially, as much as anything for the mixed company – and the latter – like all of us well – there were good days when you're as good as Nicklaus for one shot – and bad days when you're not – often seen scrubbing around in the rough.

I read the other day only 25% of us are really happy in our work. Fortunately Dad fell into that 25%. As a boy he cycled every day to RAF Northolt and watched the aeroplanes over the fence. As soon as he could, he realised his dream and enlisted as an airman, did his officer training in Arizona and won his wings in 1945 just as the war was ending and he never looked back – with fantastic postings and great opportunities that he seized with both hands – Mosquitoes to Victors in-flight refuelling. He was highly regarded but, in so many ways, massively under confident and always punished himself for not being smart enough – could always do better. Being rewarded for his service to the career and country that he loved in 1968, when he was given an OBE by the Queen, was one of his proudest moments and gave the lie to not being good enough. When he retired from the Royal Air Force as a Group Captain, he worked for PYE/Phillips in Cambridge, creating the PYE Welfare Association which continues strongly today, 30 years on. He was proudly Deputy Chairman of 104 Squadron of the ATC, Cambridge; he was President of Rob Roy and a constant, passionate supporter of all things Downing.

For his two sons growing up, he was a great role model – unlike many service children who rebelled against authority and discipline – we both understood it, thanks entirely to him. Without ever ramming it down our throats he taught us

all the good lessons of life – loyalty, honesty, integrity, unselfishness, graciousness to others and generosity.

He was not an emotional man and didn't often express his feelings – stiff upper lip and all that – but he had his passions and many of them developed more and more as he grew older. Sport – rugby and rowing particularly – a great supporter of the University at both and a keen skuller, seen on many an inclement morning taking his yellow skull "Tiny Tim" for an outing on the Cam right up to his 76th year.

Classical music, opera and ecclesiastical music, in particular, grew to be great passions and where better than King's College. He was also Chairman of the Cambridge Festival for 4 years – loving a job that challenged him and supported the Arts. He was so disappointed that the Festival folded 2 years after he was replaced. He loved his native Scotland and – above all – he loved people, particularly his family, Gill, his wife of 57 years, his sons, his daughters-in-law and he was immensely proud of his two grandchildren, Andrew and Finlay, all of whom survive him."

John Douglas McClure Mackay (1936) died in July 2007 shortly after his 90th birthday, after a period of ill health. Born in Essex, to Scottish parents he was educated at local schools and Bedales, and then went up to Downing to read Mechanical Sciences. This was a time which made a great impression on him, and indeed he visited the college only a year before his death. Douglas started work as an engineering apprentice in Manchester, at the princely salary of £2-10 a week. No going straight into a professional job from university in those days – graduate apprentices were paid less than manual workers! This was followed by a period of work at Colvilles in Motherwell, before enlisting with the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. After basic officer training, he was posted to the Indian Army, and spent the rest of the war years in India, first in various jungle camps, and later at Mountbatten's Headquarters in Calcutta and Ceylon. Douglas met his future wife, Eileen, on a troopship, returning home after the war, and they were married in 1946. They returned to Scotland, where Douglas soon moved to work for ICI Nobel Division, where he stayed for 25 years, moving up through various posts, and reaching a fairly senior level of management. He was made redundant in a period of major cutbacks, and, having decided to stay in Scotland, he worked until retirement at Hunterston Nuclear Power Station. Douglas and Eileen lived in West Kilbride, on the Ayrshire coast, all their married life. They had four children and eight grandchildren. In retirement they travelled to many parts of the world, as well as being involved in a wide variety of local activities.

Pamela Norrie (Daughter)

Harold Mettrick (1951)

My brother, Hal Mettrick, who died in Italy on August 15, 2007, spent the vast majority of his working life in the field of the economics of agriculture in the third world. Born in Meltham, Huddersfield in 1932, he was the first member of his family to go to university. He read Mathematics and this was followed by a period of work in Canada as a meteorologist. Returning to the UK in 1958, he read economics at the LSE. Then his life's work really began. In 1963 he joined with the ODI [the Overseas Development Institute] starting in Kenya. After returning to London he wrote *Aid in Uganda – Agriculture*. He spent various periods abroad while working for ODI. In the late 1960s he became a lecturer at Reading University and during this time Hal lived in the Old Forge on Pangbourne Hill, a house he has owned ever since. Between 1970 and 1975 he was seconded from Reading University to the Botswana Government as senior agricultural adviser. Returning to Reading in 1975 he lectured in development oriented agriculture.

In 1981 the Reading course was amalgamated with a similar course at Wageningen in Holland under the auspices of ICRA [The International Centre for Development Oriented Research in Agriculture] and Hal moved there to teach. Students from around the world benefited from his teaching and he wrote the definitive course book, which is still being used today. Already proficient in French, he translated the book into French with the help of a North African student. While he lived in Holland, Hal became fluent in Dutch and its regional variations.

On his retirement in 1993, he decided to improve his schoolboy German with the intention of translating the book into German, so he moved to Bonn. While there he realised that languages and their culture were really more important to him, so after learning German, he moved to Salamanca to learn Spanish, then to Tui to learn Portuguese and finally to Italy where he enrolled in the *Universita per Stranieri* [literally the University for Strangers] in Perugia. He fell in love with Italy, and especially Umbria and on completing his course decided to settle, first in Bettona and then in Bevagna. Hal had a wide circle of friends and acquaintances – his visiting card holder containing cards from no less than 19 countries. His course director at IRCA, Dr J P Andriessse, has written of Hal:

“He was a marvellous teacher. He could be critical and demanding, but was so foremost for himself. He praised where this was due, but never asked for it in return; he was a very modest man. If not knowing him well, he could give the impression of being avert from becoming intimate, whereas in reality he had a warm feeling heart and was a very good and loyal friend for those he was able to get close with. Apart from his many professional capabilities he was a great lover of classical and medieval music. The years after he had left ICRA were put to good use. Being a strong believer in 'Education Permanente' he never stopped studying philosophy (he was an ardent fan of Popper), literature, and languages. He deserves to be

remembered as a scientist with a very likable personality who has made a tremendous contribution to develop ICRA as a Centre where up to present date over 1000 scientists have learned how to conduct Agricultural Research in Developing Countries which is oriented and focused on the all-embracing environment of generally the small farmer with its physical, socio-economic, institutional and political components. In so doing he made himself a fellow traveller in life for many who got to know him and held him close to their heart."

Judith Horton [Newnham, 1962]

Claire Lee, née Pennel (1989) died of cancer on 27th April 2008. She entered Downing in 1989 to read Classics. She came with warm support from Tonbridge Grammar School for Girls; even then, one of the few schools in the maintained sector to offer both Latin and Greek at A level. From the start, Claire bore out all the good things her school had told us about her. She flourished in the College, achieving a good balance between academic work and time spent with a wide circle of friends. Part I of the Classical Tripos was followed by the Law Tripos. She was eventually, after extensive travel abroad, to join a leading law firm. It was, however, clear to her friends and other acquaintances that, in Claire's scale of commitments, her family came right at the top. Having married Daniel on 15th September 2001 she had two children, Alice and Edward. In due course, she returned to live in Otford in Kent, where she had grown up, and where her parents still live. The closeness of these family connexions made all the more poignant the outcome Claire's long and courageous battle against cancer. The church was packed for her funeral service, with many friends present from her time at Downing: testimony to the great affection in which she was so widely held. The service itself was deeply moving. At its heart was a wonderful address which Claire herself had recorded shortly before her death. She made manifest her continuing love for her family and friends. From her own words, it was clear at in latter days she was sustained in her struggle against illness by a strong Christian faith. Appropriately she ended by encouraging her two young children 'never to stop fighting'.

Dr Paul Millet

John Richardson (1940) died in June 2007; he was 86. He came to Downing from Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, Blackburn to read English. By the time he arrived at Downing, he had already joined the army and much of his time at the College (which was limited to 5 terms) was spent at the University OTC. After leaving Cambridge, he was commissioned into the Royal Signals. He served in India and Burma and was evacuated out of Burma in 1946 with tuberculosis. There followed a long period of medical treatment and convalescence during which romance blossomed

and shortly after discharge from hospital in 1951 he married on Lundy Island one of the nursing sisters who had been looking after him during his long illness; this proved to be a lifelong partnership. He then started working in various of his father's businesses but nurtured an intention to qualify as a lawyer. Exemptions due to war service and his time at the College enabled him to qualify as a solicitor in just under 2 years. However, following qualification in 1960, a chance encounter led him into a family business in tie manufacturing where he remained retiring in his 70s. He always had a great affection for the College and visited frequently when his son John (1971) came up to read law. Later in life, he continued to attend reunion dinners after he re-established an old friendship with a Downing contemporary from the 1940s. He is survived by a wife, three children and six grandchildren.

John Richardson (1971)

John Richardson was one of a group of four of us, – the others were John Wearing, John Metcalfe and myself, – who from 1940 until we were called up, did everything together: we read English with FR Leavis, acted in the Dramatic Society – *Dr Faustus* and *Sweeney Agonistes* – played football, rowed in the 1941 Lents *sports boat* – none of us had rowed before, and we rowed over: were active members of the Yorkshire Society, though I was the only Yorkshireman – were members of Cambridge Corps, – one navy, one air force and two, army – John Richardson being one of the two – squired four Homerton students, with memories of a hilarious outing, after the 1941 exams, by punt to Grantchester, where John Richardson – to the delight of the other seven, fell in.

In July, 1941, we were called up into Army, Navy and Air Force, where John Richardson served in the Far East, and suffered for it, and I was told he was dead. In the year 2002 I rang a telephone number I'd been given, and a voice answered: "This is John Richardson; who is that?" I told him: "Great heavens, I thought you were dead", he said. "I thought you were dead too" I replied, and we then talked for a long time, as though it was not over sixty years since we had last spoken to each other, – a testimony to the kind of fellowship that the Downing community fosters. Since 2002, we met several times at College reunions, with our wives.

John was a true friend and a gentleman, in every sense, our condolences to his charming wife, Cherry, and his son John.

Geoffrey Stuttard

Nick Richens (1979), died on 21st February of natural causes at the age of 47, having returned home after feeling unwell on holiday in the United States. Downing contemporaries who did not know Nick personally will have known of

him through his role as the 1979 year representative and he wrote his latest report for *Magenta News* before his death.

Nick was a leading ecclesiastical lawyer, a partner in the Westminster law firm Lee Bolton Monier-Williams. In the diocese of Guildford he was deputy to the registrar, Peter Beesley, senior partner at Lee Bolton Monier-Williams, with whom he worked for the National Society on education law. He was also joint deputy registrar to the dioceses of Ely and Hereford, secretary of the Ecclesiastical Law Association, and deputy secretary of the Ecclesiastical Law Society. His sudden death deprives the National Society and diocesan directors of education of one of their foremost advisers, and government lawyers and officials in the Department for Children, Schools and Families of one of their most formidable sparring partners. Nick's knowledge and insight were invaluable to the firm's ecclesiastical practice, and also enabled him to run rings around most officials and lawyers when he advised senior staff of the Education Division (and National Society) at meetings in the Department, during the passage of educational legislation. His skills were deployed to preserve the Church's position, but never to undermine justice, for which he had a strong feel. His incisive perception of the issues in any particular case, and his sometimes devastating wit, coupled with his determination to ensure that truth and sense prevailed, made his answers to questions from diocesan directors of education, under the National Society's legal-advice scheme, a pleasure to read.

Nicholas John Richens was born on 13th November 1960, and brought up in Marple Bridge, Cheshire. He was an only child. He started at an early age going to Marple Bridge Congregational Church with his parents, and was educated at Marple Hall Grammar School. He was a rather serious child, academic rather than sporty. When he was a teenager, he surprised his parents by preferring to attend Mellor Parish Church. He read Law at Downing. Admitted in 1985, he was articled at E Edwards Son & Noice in East Ham, where he became a partner. He joined Lee Bolton & Lee in 1991, becoming a partner in 1995. He quickly earned the respect of his colleagues for his immensely wide knowledge of the law. Nick was a private man, with a wonderfully acerbic sense of humour, but loyal to his friends. He was sacristan in the small East End parish of St Bartholomew and St Mary Magdalene, East Ham, for more than 20 years. He was always supportive and caring to parishioners, while being harder on the clergy. He was no great fan of anything modern. Inclusive language in the liturgies, new stoles, and modern hymns were all given the same treatment; and yet most of the time he seemed to enjoy the tease. Nick married in his early 40s, but the marriage did not last. After his mother died, Nick moved his father to his own house in Ilford, where he cared for him until his death last year.

By kind permission of The Church Times

Douglas Noel Rhodes (MA 1959) died of natural causes on 24th April 2008.

Alexander Sandomirsky (1936) (Sandy) died in his sleep at home at Lasell Village in Auburndale, USA on February 26, 2007. Born in Moscow, Mr. Sandomirsky, lived in Russia until the age of 12, in a rural suburb of Moscow during the civil war period which followed the Russian Revolution. The family moved to Berlin in 1927 and at Downing he read chemical and mechanical engineering. He worked on the design and manufacture of military vehicles and equipment during the massive British effort to prepare for World War II and emigrated to the USA in 1946. He began his career there as manager of engineering with a start-up sponge rubber company in 1949. The company was acquired by B.F. Goodrich and the plant developed steadily into a major manufacturing complex. He was manager of engineering for B.F. Goodrich manufacturing facilities in Shelton, Conn., for more than 30 years. He retired shortly after Goodrich sold the plant in the 1980's and became a consultant on manufacturing plant operations. Active in community affairs in Orange for decades, and teaching courses in applied engineering and practical physics at the community college in New Haven, he received a lifetime achievement award from the Rotary Club of Orange. An avid gardener, animal lover and naturalist, he enjoyed tennis and chess, and was a gifted artist, with a passion for drawing and painting. He enjoyed many summers on Cape Cod. Fluent in French, German, Russian and English, he had an extensive background in literature as well as science and engineering. He travelled extensively and was recognized among his friends and colleagues for his integrity, reliability, strength of convictions and grace. His wife Lilian predeceased him. He leaves his son and his wife, Gregory and Susan, two grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, his sister, Zoya Slive and several nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.

Based on an obituary published in The MetroWest Daily News, Framingham, Massachusetts USA.

The Very Reverend Canon John Alexander Short (1960) died on October 2nd 2007. Although he remained fervent in his Roman Catholic faith, the gentle priest, a friend to two of his denomination's great leaders, delighted in the coming together of the Christian traditions in Liverpool. John Short was born in Orrell Park. From St Mary's College, Crosby, he moved to St Joseph's College, Upholland, and then to the Venerable English College, in Rome, to study for the priesthood. He was ordained there in 1956. He had made his first journey to Rome by train with a fellow student from Portsmouth, Cormac Murphy O'Connor, now Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster. During his final year of studies in Rome, a student from the Diocese of Lancaster, Patrick Kelly, went to the English College with

Father Short, not knowing that he would one day be his Archbishop in Liverpool. Father Short graduated from Cambridge before becoming a teacher at St Joseph's College. In 1974, he returned to Rome as spiritual director at the English College, where he remained until 1980. He returned to the archdiocese to serve as Parish Priest at Our Lady of Compassion, Formby, and in 1998 was appointed as Parish Priest of St Thomas More, Aigburth. He was a compassionate priest, listening to the problems of parishioners before gently offering wise counsel. He was also appointed as an honorary canon of the Metropolitan Cathedral Chapter. He became a trustee of the Archdiocese and was appointed as a vicar general. Throughout his ministry he was a great friend and supporter of The Grail, an Association of lay Catholics. He also worked closely with the Sisters of Notre Dame in the Archdiocese, supporting them in their teaching ministry. In 1998, he was one of the first members of the newly-formed Archdiocesan Child Protection Management Commission. He served on the Archdiocesan Ecumenism Commission and enthusiastically encouraged Christians throughout the area to work together for the greater good of Christianity. One of his last projects before retirement was to undertake a major survey to review ecumenical relations in the archdiocese. He retired in 2006, but continued offering spiritual help, and in March gave a powerful presentation on spirituality to a meeting of priests. He died at Ince Blundell Hall. A funeral mass for Father Short was celebrated by Archbishop Kelly at the Metropolitan Cathedral on Thursday, followed by burial at Ince Blundell.

Liverpool Daily Post. Oct 9 2007

Eric George Smith (1946) died on 18th December 2007, aged 86. He went to Forest School and during the Second World War served with the Royal Engineers. In the attack at Alamein in 1942 Eric's job, with five sappers, was to find and mark out the first enemy minefield with blue bicycle lamps. He solved the problem of finding the forward edge of the minefield by loading an old truck with sandbags and guiding it forward until it blew up. There was no shortage of volunteers to drive the truck! Eric was wounded and while in hospital learned that he had been awarded the Military Cross. By chance another future Downing man, Bernard Jarvis, had to do the same job that night, with five other sappers, on the second minefield. The two lost touch until, four years later, they met at Downing. They and their families became lasting friends.

Bernard Jarvis (1946)

Bernard Storr (1938)

His widow has written to say that Bernard Storr died in February 2008 after a short illness. He read medicine at Downing before proceeding to Westminster Hospital.

E.H.V. Syfret (1938) passed away on April 9th 2008.

Alan Clason Thomas (1942)

Mr Ian Thomas has told us that his father passed away on 4th February 2008. He came to Downing from Swansea Grammar School and read Law.



Richard Jolliffe Thomas (1966) died suddenly on 22 September 2007, aged 59. Richard was always one to work hard & play hard. He arrived at Downing in 1966 from Wells Cathedral School to read Engineering and immediately became part of the rucker scene. He also quickly joined the Rugby VIII on the river. He won his oar, of course. A quiet and practical person; he did things, rather than talk about them. He was a very good friend, always ready to share a joke, an opinion, or an intolerance of the rubbish that is spouted today. Many of his life-long friends go back to College days and indeed earlier. He was a rock and an anchor-man

to his friends and work colleagues, to his sons Simon, Callum & Anthony. Most of all to Katie, his wife, to whom he was happily married for 37 years. He leaves a real and lasting legacy behind. In business, he was the driving force behind Blawood Andrews Computing, the company he led for 25 years, up to a week before he died. His attitude to business, and to all aspects of his life, was simple – things were either right or wrong. He told people how things were, and not just what they wanted to hear. This earned him the undying respect of his customers, who came back again and again; and of the company's employees. A pillar of the village community, he was Chairman of the Village Hall. He was the driving force behind the development of the new hall, which remains both financially and socially a great success. It is a monument to his effort, hard work & tenacity; and his vision. When his sons grew up and left home to lead their own lives, Richard provided support whenever it was needed – 100% rock solid, any time, any place. One of his family ambitions was achieved when he played one game in the same rugby team as all three of his sons. He did not miss a Varsity Match in 30 years; he loved ski-ing & sailing. To Katie, whom he met in Cambridge, he was a very much loved husband – always strong, supportive, encouraging & practical. To his friends, he was generous and loyal, always reliable and dependable. He lived life to the full – he loved his family, his work, his rugby, his College, the village where he lived – he loved life. So many people will miss this exceptional man.

Compiled by Mark Wilks (1966)

William E Walker (1938) died in December 2007 and his son tells us of his life: "He was the son of a coal miner who attended Rotherham Grammar School and who won a scholarship to Downing in 1938. He read for the Natural Sciences Tripos and left in 1940 after a shortened wartime degree. After returning from service in the Army, he was took his MA in 1950 and went on to pursue a career as a teacher of secondary school mathematics in London, retiring in 1979. My father was the goalkeeper of the College association football side which in 1939–40 won the varsity knockout cup having scored 44 goals and conceded none over five rounds. No team had ever previously achieved the feat of winning the cup without conceding a goal. Attached is a copy of the programme of the dinner held to celebrate – I would be very pleased to pass on the original if it were to be of any use to the College. In addition, my father kept his football club blazer and I would be similarly happy to pass that on if you wished. I believe that my father went on to represent the University at both football and hockey".

Ronald White (1933) read Modern Languages – and Law in his final year. After passing the Law Society exams to qualify as a Solicitor he volunteered for the Royal Air Force. His ability with languages took him to a period teaching Polish recruits to speak English until he was commissioned and drafted into Intelligence work, mainly debriefing Bomber Air Crews after their missions. Local Government work followed until he was appointed Clerk to five area Magistrates Courts in Devon. In 1956 he moved to Oxford as Clerk to the City Justices, where he remained until retirement. He worked closely with the Lord Lieutenant in the appointment of Magistrates, and with the University in solving specialist legal problems – this resulted in the award of an honorary MA. When the Commonwealth Magistrates Association Conference was held in Oxford he was responsible for many local arrangements. He was claimed by his contemporaries to be the best ever Justices' Clerk – his maxim always was –

"Not only that justice might be done, but that it might manifestly be seen to be done."

Mrs M J White

Stephen Garnett Wilkinson (1952) died on 14th January 2008, aged 73. He was born in Castleford, West Yorkshire, and attended King's School, Pontefract, in which he obtained form prizes in every year. On gaining an Exhibition to Downing he came up in 1952 to read Natural Sciences, reading Chemistry in Part II. Two years of National Service in the Royal Air Force followed, being commissioned in the Education branch, for the greater part of his time as an instructor at RAF

Weeton in the Fylde. In 1957 he was employed as a Research and Development scientist by Reckitt and Colman in Hull. This proved a significant move, for one of their main products was Dettol, a mixture of chlorinated xylenols, a widely used antiseptic. Dettol was effective against a high proportion of bacteria, but not all. To gain a greater understanding of the components of the bacterial surface in the outer membrane of Gram-negative cell walls, which antibacterial agents need to penetrate, Wilkinson was seconded to the Department of Chemistry of the University of Hull to undertake research in bacterial chemistry, gaining his PhD in 1962. This became the centre of his life-long research. A further year of research followed at King's College, Newcastle, then part of the University of Durham. He returned to work for Reckitt and Colman in Hull in their bacteriological laboratory, but this was to be for only one year. Research in an academic background called: he was appointed an Assistant Lecturer in Chemistry in the University of Hull in 1964, remaining there until retirement in 1999. During this period he was steadily promoted, finally appointed to a personal chair in Bio-Organic Chemistry in 1991. He published over 180 scientific papers, and was used as an external examiner and invited lecturer worldwide. In 1988 he was elected a Charter member of the Scientific Program Committee of the International Endotoxin Society of which he was the sole UK member of IES bodies, and gave papers at the inaugural congress in San Diego. Within the University he filled a wide range of responsible positions on Faculty and University committees, had a full teaching programme and was recognized for his care and concern for students. In his later years he returned to his Methodist roots, becoming a steward in his local church. His last years were blighted by much illness, dominated by Parkinson's Disease. Immediately after graduation he, with three other Downing men, had a cycling holiday in northern France. There he met Yvette: they were married a year later. He is survived by Yvette, three daughters and four grandchildren.

Kenneth Neighbour Woodward-Fisher (1943) died on March 27th 2008. He came up to Downing from Dulwich College in April as a Royal Navy cadet and in the September he joined the Royal Navy in which he served for four years. He did not return to Downing and worked in the family business W T Woodward-Fisher Ltd, wharf and barge owners in London Docks. He married Anne Pank in July 1950; they had four children and nine grandchildren. They lived in Kensington and he was a church warden at Christchurch, Victoria Road. He was Master of the Waterman's Company in 1973. He was a keen oarsman and sailor and raced for Thames RC at Henley.

■ Editorial acknowledgements

This publication, combining *The Association Newsletter* and *The College Record*, is built on contributions from students, past and present, Fellows, and College staff. Richard Stibbs (Fellow), Assistant Editor, collects contributions for the College Record from current students and the Fellowship. His tasks within the College comprise being Fellows' Steward, Secretary to the Governing Body, Supervisor in Mathematics and in the University as a Senior Computing Officer and Chairman of the University's Board of Scrutiny. From the College departments Jane Perks, Manager of the Tutorial and Admissions Office, with her colleagues gives us the list of joining students, examination results, academic awards and the colours and Blues. Tricia Beer, College Secretary, supplies us with the Fellowship which changes from year to year. Sara Brinkley, Helen Limbrick and Susan Luton of the Development Office keep us in touch with the alumni database and assist us in a myriad of matters. Peter Thomson (1953), Association Treasurer, and John Hall (1955), Assistant Editor, help with proof reading and compiling obituaries. Norman Berger (1952) and his wife Cynthia stepped in to proof read this issue at the last minute when Peter Thomson was in hospital. Finally we have for many years enjoyed the company of the University Press in their role as Cambridge Printing in producing this publication.

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Please help us to keep an up-to-date record of your activities and achievements by providing below any information which has not been supplied previously or which has changed since your last return.

Name (Block Letters): Matric year :

Address :

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Please state whether this is a new address: YES / NO

Marriage, birth of children (year):.....

Appointments:

Publications:.....

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Any other information: (Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary.)

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2007 – 2008

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Dr J Stock
 Dr T. Chenvidyakarn*
 Dr D Pratt (Michaelmas & Easter)
 Prof Smith (Lent)
 Dr K Yunus*
 Mr F Basso (Part IA & Part IB)
 Dr P Millett (Part II)
 Dr J Sterling*
 Ms C Northeast*
 Dr N Allington*
 Mr R G Bates
 Mr J Raffan*
 Dr W O'Neill (Part IA & Part IIA)
 Dr L Xu (Part IB & Part II)
 Dr Tomalin (Michaelmas)
 Dr C Phillips (Lent & Easter)
 Mr D Beckingham (Michaelmas)
 Prof R Smith (Michaelmas)
 Dr M Bravo (Lent & Easter)
 Dr K McNamara
 Dr D R Pratt (Michaelmas & Easter)
 Prof R Smith
 Dr N Mora-Sitja
 Dr Laqua-O'Donnell (Lent)
 Dr F Salmon*
 Dr J S L McCombie
 Prof G J Virgo
 Ms P Nevill
 Dr A Ledgeway
 Dr J S L McCombie
 Dr A Pesci (Parts IA and IB)
 Dr S Demoulini (Part II)

Medical Science
Modern & Medieval Languages
Music
Natural Sciences (Biological)
Natural Sciences (Biological)
– Assistant DOS
Natural Sciences (Chemistry)
Natural Sciences (Physical)
Assistant Natural Sciences (Physical)
Natural Sciences (Physics)
Oriental Studies
Philosophy

Social and Political Science
Theology and Religious Studies
Veterinary Medicine
** External Director of Studies*

Dr N Coleman
Dr I R James
Dr S Barrett*
Dr S Bray
Dr S Ellington*

Dr D Wales
Dr Z Barber
Dr R O'Reilly
Dr P J Duffett-Smith
Mrs H Laurie*
Dr M Cameron (Michaelmas)*
Dr M Tomalin (Lent & Easter)
Dr H Wydra
Dr R Manning*
Mrs J Pearson*

College Lecturers

Economics

Mr N F B Allington
Mr R G Bates
Dr F V Comim

Law

Modern & Mediaeval Languages (Spanish)
Modern & Mediaeval Languages (German)
Music
Physics
Social & Political Sciences
Veterinary Medicine

Dr R C Clark
Dr C Woodford
Dr S J Barrett
Dr R Bolton
Dr H Wydra
Mrs J Pearson

College Lektor

German

Mr M P Rohde

■ Obituaries

William Austyn Mair CBE MA FREng FRAeS Honorary Fellow

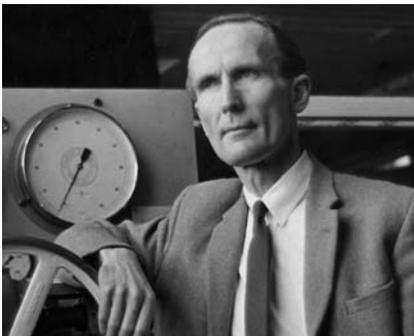
Francis Mond Professor of Aeronautical Engineering 1952–83

Head of the Engineering Department 1973–83

A memorial service was held in Chapel on the afternoon of Saturday March 1st 2008. The Master gave this address to a congregation which filled the Chapel:

A warm welcome to everyone here today, especially Mary, Christopher, Robert and their families; we are here, family, friends and colleagues, to remember and honour Austyn Mair, who died on January 17 2008, aged 90, a few weeks before his 91st birthday. Austyn was born in London, went to Highgate School and Clare College, where he had a very distinguished undergraduate career, taking a 1st with distinction in the Mechanical Sciences Tripos. During the war he worked at the Royal Aircraft Establishment in Farnborough which, as you will hear from David Newland, was the beginning of an outstanding research career there, at Manchester and at Cambridge Universities. He met Mary Crofts at a dinner party held by his parents in Surrey and they were married in London in 1944 – indeed, were married for 64 happy years, the parents of two sons, Christopher and Robert, who are here today with Eva, Margaret, Anne-Marie, Julia and Patrick.

The family home was in Barton Road, where Christopher and Robert grew up and, unless there was an unavoidable commitment in the University or College, a home to which Austyn would cycle every day for lunch. All his recreational time was spent in the garden, where he grew vegetables. But Mary also told me that



Austyn Mair (at the controls of what is now called the No 1 Supersonic Tunnel, completed in 1960.)

an important feature in the garden was a tree stump upon which Austyn would place a notebook so that when working – I suppose with his mind elsewhere – he could stop, sit on the tree stump and make notes of his thoughts and ideas so as to remember and discuss them later with his students. He was a very organized man and, it seems, somewhat genetically predisposed to be a meticulous engineer. Robert, for example, recently discovered a label inside a family carriage clock that had,

in Austyn's hand, an anti-clockwise arrow and the words "15 winds". This is very precise! And Austyn and Mary would travel in a caravan on holidays to Scotland, the Lake District and abroad with Robert and Christopher, boys who found hilarious the very idea of a caravan, and who would sleep in a tent outside. There were 4 legs on the caravan which had to be unwound onto blocks of wood to make it stand level, which was achieved not of course by eye, but as an engineer would, by using a plumb bob and spirit level! On one holiday the winding tool was left in a grassy field and lost, so a replacement had to be bought which Austyn promptly painted in red and white stripes so that it would not easily be lost again when packing up the caravan to leave.

In 1953, the year after he was appointed to the Francis Mond Chair of Aeronautical Engineering in Cambridge, Austyn was elected a Professorial Fellow of Downing College. I found myself thinking about what I might have been doing at the time – a 7 year-old at home watching on our first 9-inch TV set the coronation of Queen Elizabeth the 2nd, or news of Hillary and Tensing reaching the summit of Everest – which I suspect touched Austyn greatly given his great love of mountains, whether in Scotland, the Lake District or the Alps.

The Fellowship that Austyn joined at Downing was less than half the size it is today – only 20 or so male Fellows and an entirely male undergraduate population. Sir Lionel Whitby was Master and was someone whom Austyn both admired and liked very much. He subsequently took part in the election of three further Masters, Keith Guthrie, Sir Morien Morgan and Sir John, later Lord, Butterfield, but he played a very special role in the election of Morien Morgan, who had himself been Director of the Royal Aircraft Establishment at Farnborough. At that time Austyn was Vice-Master of Downing and therefore charged with managing the election, which he did with calm efficiency. In fact, he was responsible for introducing Morien to the College as a candidate and subsequently supported him in the role of Master through what were sometimes difficult times.

Austyn was devoted to Downing and also to this Chapel, to which he would regularly come with Mary and their two sons to attend Evensong. But, as I am sure many here will remember, he was a rather quiet, shy and self-effacing man, despite his great eminence, which meant that his role within the Governing Body was subtle and gentle. He and Mary were extremely welcoming and kind both to engineering students who would be invited to tea in their home in Barton Road, and to new Fellows who would be invited with their partners to lunch or dinner, as were Jane and I in 1976. These invitations were motivated by a genuine desire to be friendly and to make people who were new to Downing and Cambridge feel welcome and at home. Arriving at their house, one would be met by a very tall Austyn in his charming, but quiet way, and by Mary who, if I may say so, was not

so tall but full of boundless energy and easy sociability. They really were a wonderful partnership.

Dining in Downing during Austyn's time could have its 'social hazards', as one former Fellow of Austyn's time confided. But not if Austyn was there, in which case you could count upon social ease, pleasure, light humour, charity and always intelligent conversation.

In the context of the 1960s Downing, like many other Colleges and indeed the entire University, were on occasion in great turmoil, and in the 1970s undergoing significant change. Austyn played an extremely important role. I've already mentioned the election of Sir Morien Morgan at a critical time following the retirement of Keith Guthrie. But more, he was able to bring great stability, common sense and good judgement to a sometimes fractious and argumentative Governing Body – not at all like the Governing Body of today, of course... He was renowned for bringing free-ranging discussions back to the point. Mary told me she always knew if the Governing Body meeting had been argumentative not because Austyn told her, but because she would hear the garden gate slam as he came home.

The major debate over the admission of women to Downing was held for the final time in 1978, when I was a recently elected, junior Fellow. Having studied at Universities elsewhere, I was somewhat taken aback by the fact that Downing did not already admit women and to hear strongly held views opposing doing so. Austyn stood out as one of the Senior Fellows who argued for admission on merit, regardless of gender. And so it came to pass. The College Austyn retired from was co-educational, co-residential and had appointed its first female Fellow – a materials scientist. The Fellowship was substantially larger than the one he had joined, but not so large as to lose the intimacy which he so valued and enjoyed.

On his retirement in 1983, Austyn was promptly elected an Honorary Fellow and he retained a close interest in all aspects of Downing and its wellbeing, being President of the Downing Association in 1984–5. Whenever I met him, he would always cut to the chase (small talk was not really Austyn), wanting to know how my research was going, how as Director of Studies in Medicine my medical students were doing and how the College was doing generally. His last formal visit to the College was in 1997 when we celebrated his 80th birthday. At that time, Austyn was showing the clear physical signs of his Parkinson's disease that had been diagnosed a few years earlier; his movement was slower than before and his facial expression appeared to show disinterest, as it so often misleadingly does in this illness. In a poignant moment that I remember very clearly and to my and many others' pleasure, he rose slowly to respond to the admiring birthday toast. There came from his seemingly frail, physical presence a surprisingly young, clear and strong voice, his words revealing his wonderfully sharp intellect, gentle humour and great affection for Downing.

Sadly, very sadly, Austyn's last years spent in the Hope Nursing Home were not easy. But it has been emphasized to me that he did not complain, nor was he angry about his illness; he was always very happy to see his close family and friends, making a point as they left of thanking them for coming to visit.

We will remember Austyn, and vividly so, as a brilliant scientist, devoted Fellow of Downing, and especially as a kind, gentle and warm friend.

BJ Everitt
Master

There then followed an appreciation by **Professor David Newland**, Emeritus Professor of Engineering, Head of the Engineering Department from 1996 to 2002 and Fellow of Selwyn.

When the new Engineering Building was opened in 1952, the old pupils' association commissioned an oil painting by Terence Cuneo to mark the occasion. His large panorama has hung in our foyer ever since. It shows a youthful Duke of Edinburgh with assembled dignitaries in the Heat Laboratory. They are all peering at part of a polished steam engine. The Duke and Professor Baker are in full scarlet academical dress. As they lean over a railing to look down at the engine, a tall figure looks over Baker's shoulder. That figure is instantly recognisable. Austyn was one of those fortunate people whose bearing and dignity make them look old when they are young, and young when they are old.

He and Mary had arrived in Cambridge just a month earlier with their two young sons. They came in October 1952 for Austyn to take up the Francis Mond Chair of Aeronautics on the retirement of Bennett Melville Jones. The major part of Austyn's life's work had begun. How did it all start?

The early years

Austyn was an undergraduate between the wars. He was born in London to Scottish parents in 1917. I'm told that he rather regretted not having been born in Scotland, not being a "proper Scotsman", as his brother had been. I never saw him wearing a kilt, and asked Mary about this. "*Oh, no.*" she said, "*He was much too tall for a kilt.*"

He came to Cambridge in 1936. In those days you couldn't read Engineering. It was Mechanical Sciences (Cambridge didn't have an Engineering Tripos until years later). He graduated in 1939 with 1st Class Honours, taking the Rex Moir Prize for the top student on the final class list. The Master mentioned that he became a fellow of Downing College in a coronation year. He had also been an undergraduate in a coronation year, that of the Queen's father in 1937. It was a time of great change and anxiety with the looming dangers of war growing ever nearer.

Austyn recalled afterwards that he was encouraged to take up aeronautics by his predecessor Melville Jones, and, on graduating, he went as an engineering pupil to the Experimental Department at Rolls Royce, Derby. He remembered leaving the factory on a Friday in September 1939, on the weekend when war was declared. When he returned on Monday, the skylight windows were already blacked out and the Rolls-Royce cars had all been removed for safekeeping elsewhere.

War service

Austyn volunteered for the RAF and soon found himself at the Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough, doing secret research into high-speed flight.

The focus was on making aircraft fly faster, a wartime goal of huge importance. This led to urgent work to build a high-speed wind tunnel to test model aircraft by blowing air past them. Design of RAE's tunnel had begun in 1938, but it was a big project and not completed until 1942. The tunnel was huge, about 140 feet long and 40 feet high. It needed a 4,000 hp motor to blow the air round and had to be artificially cooled to prevent overheating. Austyn arrived in time to help with the construction phase and he played a major role in setting up the necessary measuring instruments.

In addition to wind tunnel testing, test flights were also made to obtain experimental data. This was done by flying to as high an altitude as possible, usually in a Spitfire because this was the fastest plane, and then diving steeply for as long as possible to get up speed. It was hair-raising and dangerous work. They were testing at probably the highest speeds that had ever been recorded in flight for any aircraft in the world. At these speeds, the handling characteristics of aircraft were unknown, and there was concern that violent buffeting would make the craft uncontrollable or even whether the pilot would be able to pull out from a high-speed dive.

A flurry of Reports and Memoranda from the Aeronautical Research Council, published between 1942 and 1951, document Austyn's contributions to this wartime research. Their subjects range from the design of guide vanes for the wind tunnel to measurements of pressure on the control surfaces of a Spitfire at high speed. At the time, these were secret, but most of them were eventually released after the war ended.

One RAE report records in 6 parts the results of wind tunnel tests on Meteor jet-propelled fighters.

The first jet aircraft

The Meteor was the first operational jet fighter. It had two turbo-jet engines. For production aircraft, these engines were made by Rolls-Royce, which had taken over Whittle's original firm Powerjets Ltd. The Meteor's engines were based on

Whittle's design. It was the design on which Will Hawthorne had worked. Later, at Cambridge, Austyn and Will became colleagues and they served successively as heads of the Engineering Department.

The Meteor flew first in March 1943, but it suffered from instability problems at high speed. Urgent research was carried out at Farnborough to understand and rectify these problems, which caused a number of early crashes.

High-speed buffeting was traced eventually to irregular airflow around the engine nacelles and Austyn's work led to the nacelles being lengthened. This resulted in much improved aircraft performance and his modifications were incorporated in all Meteor aircraft manufactured subsequently. In 1946, the Meteor broke the world air speed record, reaching over 600 mph, a consequence of increased thrust and because of its re-designed engine nacelles.

At the end of the war, Austyn edited the RAE's definitive monograph documenting all their wartime research. This very substantial volume has 150 closely printed pages with almost 200 diagrams and photographs. With the help of our librarians, I tracked down an original, unmarked copy in the Engineering Department. It is a beautifully bound book, obviously prepared meticulously, and explaining succinctly but in detail all that was done during those critical war years. It established Austyn's professional reputation.

Demobilisation

Austyn was demobbed with the rank of Squadron Leader. Although he had not been a pilot, he was very conscious that flight research always involves risk and he had often flown as an observer when tests were being made. When writing RAE's acknowledgements, in the final monograph, Austyn recorded his admiration for the work of RAE's three wartime test pilots *"on whose skill and courage the whole of the high-speed flight research depended"*. That experience made a big impression. Years later he was very distressed when, in 1966, the Cambridge University research aircraft crashed, killing the pilot and a member of Austyn's research team. Henry Gardner of the British Aircraft Corporation, speaking afterwards, remarked particularly on the *"deep effect this accident had made on him (Professor Mair) some months ago."*

Many good things came out of that period of concentrated research at Farnborough. Some led directly to improvements in aircraft design. Others led to improved testing methods and procedures. But the most important personal benefit of the wartime period arose from a different quarter. During the blitz, a Red Cross detachment from Cornwall was posted to a hospital in Surrey where the London wounded were being treated. Austyn's father, who was a doctor, had come out of retirement to help there. One of those sent from Cornwall was a young nurse, Mary Crofts. In circumstances that remain a wartime secret, Mary met Austyn at a dinner party given by Austyn's parents. And a romance flourished.

This seems to have been love at first sight, and Mary and Austyn were married in a London church in 1944. It was the beginning of the long and happy partnership which we have all admired so much for so long. Christopher was born during wartime in St Thomas's Hospital shortly before a flying bomb exploded nearby, fortunately safely, in the Thames, and Robert was born in the immediate post-war years when the family had moved to Manchester.

Manchester University

The high-speed flight research at RAE attracted a great deal of attention when it became public knowledge after the war, and Manchester University wanted to enter the field of experimental high-speed fluid mechanics. In 1945, the University decided to establish a Fluid Motion Laboratory. This was to be in an empty hangar at Barton Airfield near Eccles. The intention was to keep noisy supersonic wind tunnel tests out of earshot of the university community. Austyn was invited to become the new Laboratory's first director, and he was appointed to a Readership in High-Speed Fluid Mechanics in 1946.

I asked Mary whether she had any qualms about moving to Manchester. "*Good heavens, no*", she said. "*That was where the job was and so we went. The subject wasn't raised*".

Years afterwards, Austyn recalled that, when he arrived at Barton Airfield, there were no facilities whatsoever, "*not even a table and chair, but there was an awful lot of good will*". However, the separation of the airfield from Manchester University made life difficult and this experience made him determined not to accept a laboratory miles away from the main Engineering Department when he moved to Cambridge. This determination led to our Aeronautics Laboratory being in the South Wing of the Baker Building.

Austyn was just becoming established at Manchester when Sir Melville Jones, Cambridge's first Professor of Aeronautics, retired. There were older and more experienced people interested, but the electors preferred youth to age and by now Austyn had a great deal of experience in setting up and running experimental facilities for aerodynamic research as well as a substantial reputation. He was elected to the Francis Mond chair at age only 35 and, in 1952, Mary and Austyn and their family came to Cambridge in time for the start of the Michaelmas Term; in time for Austyn to be present at the opening of the new Engineering building and to appear in Cuneo's picture.

Cambridge 1952–62

When he arrived here, Austyn took over the existing aeronautical facilities. These consisted of three small wind tunnels in a wooden hut. The hut had originally belonged to the University Air Squadron and, when it came to be removed, a

detachment of Cambridge Scouts dismantled and took it away in a day. It became their scout hut. The old facilities urgently needed replacing with more modern equipment. Melville Jones had concentrated on flight testing, which had been carried out at the RAF base at Duxford, but the emphasis was moving to precision experiments under carefully-controlled conditions. That meant that new wind tunnels were essential.

Austyn wanted improved versions of the tunnels he had set up in Manchester. Soon after he arrived, in February 1953, he submitted a report to the Faculty Board headed "*Notes on a Proposed New Fluid Mechanics Laboratory for Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering*". In addition to the new wind tunnels, this proposed that there should be new laboratory space for other fluid mechanics and heat transfer research to be carried out in collaboration with Professor Hawthorne. Will Hawthorne had arrived from MIT in 1951 and he also wanted new laboratory facilities.

Initially there was no money. The Faculty Board could do nothing except endorse Austyn's report, which it did. They submitted his report to the University's Secretary General "*for information*". Initially a long wait looked in prospect.

But all at once, later the same year, everything changed. Winston Churchill was back for his second term in Downing Street and his government decided to give increased grants to university engineering departments. The upshot was that new money unexpectedly became available and the UGC agreed to pay for extending the new engineering building in Cambridge and for part of the cost of equipping it.

A large addition at the south end would accommodate new wind tunnels and laboratories, and another, smaller one, at the centre would provide a home for mechanics of machines and fatigue research which would be displaced from their then temporary building by the new south wing. Detailed drawings were completed in 1956. Construction took two years, but by September 1958 (6 years after Austyn had arrived) the new building was complete. It then took time to build and commission the wind tunnels but the new high-speed blow-down tunnel was completed in 1960 and the larger return-circuit low speed tunnel by late 1963. Both still exist at Trumpington Street and are still used.

The photo on the front of our Order of Service shows Austyn at the controls of what is now called our *No 1 Supersonic Tunnel*, the one completed in 1960.

During those early years, research was building up using what equipment was available and by flight testing with the help of RAE using their Vampire jet aircraft and with an Auster monoplane which had been modified to achieve high lift by controlling airflow over the wings by suction. This was kept at Marshall's Airport in Cambridge during a long period of collaboration with Sir Arthur Marshall. The supersonic tunnel was used for studies of three-dimensional shock wave interaction with structures and with fluid jets, but Austyn's own interest was turning towards high lift aircraft and hovercraft.

Cambridge 1963–72

For the next 10 years, with his laboratories completed, Austyn concentrated on teaching and research in all branches of flight and industrial aerodynamics. His research focus began to change. It had been about making aircraft go faster and be more manoeuvrable. But by now STOL (short-take-off and landing) aircraft, and soon VTOL (vertical take-off and landing) aircraft were being developed. There was much interest also in the aerodynamics of hovercraft.

Hovercraft had just been invented by Christopher Cockerell, an alumnus of the Department (Peterhouse, 1933–35), who made his first tests on the Norfolk Broads in 1952. Cockerell's people-carrying hovercraft's first "flight" was in 1959. In January 1964, Austyn delivered his paper *"The Physical Principles of Hovercraft"* to a half-day symposium of the Royal Aeronautical Society and, in it he thanked Cockerell who had *"greatly assisted"*.

In 1966, Austyn was back at the Royal Aeronautical Society to deliver their 9th Lanchester Memorial Lecture on the subject *"STOL – Some Possibilities and Limitations"*. This was especially appropriate because in 1963 he had been appointed Chairman of the Powered Lift Committee of the Aeronautical Research Council. This gave him a very good, up-to-date view of national developments in the field. By then the prototype Hawker Siddeley Harrier aircraft was being developed (its first flight was in 1960), and there was huge interest in developing S/VTOL aircraft for both military and civil applications.

Research, much of it experimental from the results of wind-tunnel and aircraft testing, on these and other topics of industrial aerodynamics continued in conjunction with colleagues in the Department. Even some studies of the aerodynamics of cricket balls were included. In 1969, Austyn was awarded the CBE for his services to the aeronautical profession, and he was twice honoured by the Royal Aeronautical Society by their *Orville Wright Prize* in 1953 and their *Silver Medal* in 1975.

Cambridge 1973–83

Austyn became Head of the Engineering Department in 1973, succeeding Will Hawthorne, and he served for two full 5-year terms until close to retirement in 1983.

He appointed Donald Green as Deputy Head of Department with responsibility for teaching. Donald had been in the Department for a long time and had served as Senior Tutor of Sidney. The two made a formidable team. It was a time when much departmental business was done in the 2nd floor Tea Room, because almost everyone worked at Trumpington Street. The combination of Austyn's gentle persuasion with Donald's precise drafting and eye for detail saw through a root and branch review of the Engineering Tripos. A new *Production Engineering Tripos*

was also introduced and, just as the dust had settled on that, the government produced its *Finniston Report* of 1979 which recommended that all engineering courses should last for 4 years and all students should receive MEng degrees. This brought renewed pressure on the newly-revised 3-year Engineering Tripos. Discussions were resumed about extending the undergraduate course to 4 years for everybody. That went on after Austyn had retired in 1983, but the groundwork was started during his period in office. His endorsement of the 4-year principle coupled with his support for the broadened syllabus bringing together engineering science with policy and management was very influential in enabling the major developments in teaching that occurred during and after his time.

Changing times

Austyn's engineering career has spanned a time of great change in technology. In 1952, in aeronautics, speed and power were everything. Now energy conservation and silence rule. They killed off Concorde and spelt the end of tracked hovercraft. And VTOL has disappeared except for military applications. Instead, aeronautics is now about economy and keeping quiet. And there has been a sea change in what and how engineering is taught. In 1952, engineering science was king. We taught analytical principles, always based on hard science. Design was regarded with suspicion because no-one could articulate what its principles were. And engineering policy and planning had not been recognised as academically respectable topics. Now design and the creative parts of engineering have much greater recognition. All these were maturing during Austyn's time in Cambridge.

Reminiscences

My abiding memory of Austyn is his interest in all new developments and his tolerance for new ideas and new theories, even those he did not agree with. And I remember his period as Head of Department as a happy time without rancour or ill-will. Even as he bore illness with patience and fortitude, he maintained a continuing interest in his Department and all its activities. Robert told me several times how much his father enjoyed seeing the Department's weekly news sheet. His interest in all our activities was matched by the respect and admiration of his colleagues. His upright bearing reflected his upright intellectual stature. He was a man of integrity who planted seeds and allowed them to flourish naturally. We appreciated his unassuming manner and his gentle humour. We respected his straightforward approach and natural kindness. And that comment applies also to Mary. All of us here will have received Austyn and Mary's friendship and hospitality in one way or another and for that we give thanks.

The Master has mentioned how meticulous and organized Austyn was. He usually cycled home from the Department at 1pm to have lunch with Mary and

then cycled back to the Department to arrive at 2pm. Someone once remarked that you could set your watch by his departure and arrival times. And here's another example. Tom Kimura, a distinguished geotechnical engineer at the Tokyo Institute of Technology, who spent the snowy winter of 1977–78 in Cambridge, claims that you could tell whether snow was expected by observing the front gates at 74 Barton Road. If snow was expected, Austyn left them open. If the gates were closed, you could be confident of good weather.

So, sadly that tall figure in Cuneo's painting has completed his life's work. We remember his courteous, gentlemanly stature. We recall his achievements in war and peace; his contribution to this University, to this College, and to the Engineering Department, his contribution to aeronautical engineering, and his contribution as husband, father and grandfather as someone who deeply loved and enjoyed his family.

On learning that Austyn had died, Tom Kimura emailed from Tokyo about what had happened to him the previous day, before he had heard the news. *"Very strange (strange might not be a suitable word), Robert. We had a very heavy snowfall yesterday, more than 15 cm, which is very rare in Tokyo. I had to remove snow from a small gate of my house. While I was doing this, the scene of the opened gate of your parents' house came back to me many, many times. Is it a mere coincidence? I don't think so."*

For so many of us, his family, his colleagues, his friends, his students – he has left us better than he found us. All of us. We remember that, and we rejoice for that.

John Hawkins (1952) Associate Fellow

John Hawkins, former President of the Downing Association and Chairman of the Mays Wild Fellowship fundraising group that has raised close to £500,000 to support teaching and research in Natural Sciences, died on Tuesday 10 June after a long illness throughout which he continued to visit the College for various functions. John was devoted to Downing and will be sadly missed. He came to Downing from Wyggeston School after national service in the Royal Air Force. He read Natural Sciences, specialising in metallurgy, and many years later instigated the Alcan Prize for undergraduates. His funeral took place on June 25th followed by a service in his memory at St James Church, Gerrards Cross. Present were a number of John's College contemporaries – Derek Bailey, Norman Berger, John Biggs and David Owen. The Association was represented by its Honorary Secretary, John Hicks.

The following is based on an appreciation of John given at his Memorial Service by Mr Tim Boucher a former colleague and by his brother, Ted:

John was a people person. He had a great ability to develop personal

relationships & partnerships with business associates. Whether chairing the aluminium lithium aerospace project, or supporting daughter Julia's British Design display at the Centre Pompidou in Paris by arranging supply of an aluminium structure, John had a talent for putting people and ideas together creatively. He established enduring relationships with colleagues, organisations, and especially to those he mentored.

He was a leader, much more than a manager: a shrewd businessman with a cool head. As a builder, always moving forward, John had mapped out a career path for himself. He was deeply impressed by the approach to personal development that many of us learnt from the Centre for Creative Leadership. As an explorer he was excited by new opportunities and markets. He had a comprehensive understanding of aluminium and its capabilities and was visionary in seeing the potential for aluminium and pushing the material to its limits

John's 36 year career in Alcan commenced as a management trainee in 1955. He was in product & market development in Banbury for 14 years, involved with aluminium applications ranging from colour anodising to beer kegs, from armour for military vehicles and the superstructure of the liner Canberra, and from automobile radiator cores to lithographic sheet for colour printing. In consumer foils he set up some highly innovative and successful media campaigns. These activities were punctuated in 1963 by business school in Switzerland at the Centre des Etudes Industrielle. He went into General Management in 1969. The company won Three Queens Awards for both Export and Technology including aluminium lithium alloys for US defence & space programmes, Westland/Augusta helicopter, Eurofighter, and Airbus jointly recognising Alcan & Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough.

Between 1969 and 1991 John was Managing Director or Chairman of 12 Alcan businesses, as well as being a Director of several others, and a member of the British Alcan plc Management Team. In 1982 he patented a cylinder for home dispense jointly with Cadbury Schweppes. Other cylinders were developed for diving, fire extinguishers and medical gases.

After retiring from Alcan in 1991 John undertook a huge range of activities. With the Open University he was a mentor for MBA students. He took on extensive consulting roles, including the House of Commons Select Committee on Competitiveness of UK Manufacturing.

He helped with alumni activities with the Business Graduates Association, IMI in Geneva, and IMEDE in Lausanne. As President of Gerrards Cross and Chalfont St Peter Rotary Club, he helped raise £25,000 for diagnostic equipment at High Wycombe Hospital.

John leaves his wife Maureen and two sons and a daughter, David, Julia and Edward.

Professor Wilfrid Mellers

Honorary Fellow, died on May 16th 2008 at the age of 94. Wilfrid Mellers was the pre-eminent musicologist and critic of his generation and a talented composer. He came to Downing from Leamington College and took a first in English at Downing studying under F.R. Leavis whom he later joined on the Editorial Board of *Scrutiny*. Having taken a further degree in music, he was appointed to teach English and Music in Downing in 1945. There followed a distinguished career as an academic, composer and critic which continued into his nineties. He had been found a post by Leavis at Downing as supervisor in English, and began writing literary and musical reviews for *Scrutiny*, also lodging rent-free in the Leavises' house until 1948. In 1964 Mellers was invited to join the newly founded University of York. He designed a degree course, characteristically entitled *Musica Poetica*, with an emphasis on theatre together with ethnic music, folk music and jazz. This led to music becoming a separate department under his professorship, and to a radical rethinking of the purpose of university music education. Obituaries were published in *The Times*, *The Independent* and *The Guardian*.

Sir Arthur Watts (1951) Honorary Fellow

Sir Arthur Desmond Watts KCMG, QC, Honorary Fellow and sometime scholar of the College, formerly the Legal Adviser to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, member of the Institut de Droit International and President of the British branch of the International Law Association, died on 16 November 2007 aged 76. He was an international lawyer of high distinction who followed in the footsteps of his mentors, Sir Robert Jennings and Professor Clive Parry, but who was not dwarfed by them.

Born in India in 1931, the son of Colonel Andrew Watts, Arthur Watts was educated at Haileybury and Imperial Service College and at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst where, according to his commanding officer, he would "undoubtedly" have become under officer. But, owing to an accident, a military career was foreclosed to him. Accordingly, and to our great advantage, he came to Downing in October 1951, initially to read Economics. But he soon changed to Law, took firsts in both Parts of the Law Tripos and in the LL.B. (now LL.M.) and was awarded the University's Whewell Scholarship in International Law. In large measure on the urging of his director of studies, Clive Parry, he applied to and was accepted by the then small but highly influential Legal Advisers' Department of the Foreign Office (now Foreign and Commonwealth Office). He rose steadily in that Department to become the Deputy Legal Adviser in 1982 and the Legal Adviser in 1987. He was appointed CMG in 1977 and KCMG in 1987. He was called to the Bar of England and Wales by Gray's Inn in 1957, was elected Bencher of the Inn in 1996 and appointed Queen's Counsel in 1998.

Arthur Watts' career as Legal Adviser to the Foreign [and Commonwealth] Office involved a truly remarkable range of activities and responsibilities. The following account, which makes no claim to being complete, it is hoped, gives some flavour of its range and influence. In 1959, he was posted to Cairo as senior lawyer of the British Property Commission, set up to administer the re-establishment of commercial and financial relations with Egypt after the Suez fiasco of 1956 and the massive resultant confiscation of British property and commercial interests that followed it. Following that, he returned to the Foreign Office but in 1967 was posted to the British Embassy in Bonn. (He lived in a house on the banks of the Rhine, immortalised by John le Carre in *A Small Town in Germany*.) After brief secondment to the Attorney-General, he returned to the Legal Advisers' Department of the Foreign Office and was the key legal official in the tortuous negotiations leading to the accession of the United Kingdom to the European Communities (now European Union) in 1972 and, as Legal Adviser to the United Kingdom's Representation in Brussels in the labyrinthine issues which arose during the period of its associated membership in the years immediately following.

His next major task was to be in charge of the United Kingdom's role in the treaty system involving the sixth Continent – Antarctica – which had been established in 1959. In Antarctica are situated unimaginably large deposits of minerals of every description; competition between States claiming rights of exploitation of those resources could well have led to conflict. Watts was deeply involved in the negotiations which culminated in 1988 in the creation of an international minerals regime and, through his skill, compromise was reached balancing the political impossibility of banning minerals exploitation altogether with the scientific and ecological requirements which made actual exploitation highly unlikely. And then in 1987, his career in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office reached its peak when he was appointed Chief Legal Adviser. As it has been put, rightly, of his many years in the Foreign Service, "he saw it as his task to help to make and to guide policy rather than to criticise from the sidelines".

Upon his retirement from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in 1991, a new but equally active career opened up for him which continued until his death. Upon the encouragement of its then Head of Chambers, Anthony Hallgarten QC (now His Honour Judge Hallgarten – another Downing man), he became a tenant in 20 Essex Street, a leading set of international and commercial Chambers in The Temple. He very quickly built up a huge practice at the Bar of England and Wales and especially as counsel before the International Court of Justice. Those activities give the lie to the assumption that skills in advocacy grow only out of independent practice.

Only States can be parties to cases before the international Court and Watts was constantly engaged by States appearing before the Court, notwithstanding that whilst in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office he had been unable to take

part in such activities. He appeared in seven large cases before the Court – and additionally was adviser to more than two dozen Governments. Of the cases in which he appeared, with conspicuous success, two especially should be mentioned. First, he was counsel for France in the *Nuclear Tests Case*; it is believed that he was the only English lawyer ever to have been engaged by France in proceedings before the Court. And he represented Jordan in the Case involving *Legal Consequences of the Israeli Wall in the Occupied Palestine Territories*.

He also became much involved and in demand as arbitrator in international and commercial disputes. Thus, at the request of the relevant United Nations' High Representative, he undertook the mammoth task of bringing about settlement of the almost unbelievably complex issues of the dispute concerning the assets and liabilities of the former States of Yugoslavia. His firmness and grasp of principle and his legal adroitness overcame the bitter hostilities between the States successors to Yugoslavia and he brought about a settlement to these hostilities almost single-handedly. He was awarded a highly distinguished order by the Government of Jordan – and was to receive a similar order from the Government of Slovakia a few days after his death.

In addition to all the above, he was also a prolific writer. Thus he was co-editor with McNair of *Legal Effects of War*, with Clive and Anthony Parry of *Encyclopaedic Dictionary of International Law*, author of *The International Law Commission* (3 volumes), *International Law and the Antarctic Treaty System* whilst his lectures on the position of a Head of State before the domestic courts of another State, printed in *Recueil des Cours* (1994), was of immense influence on the House of Lords in the famous *Pinochet Case*. But his major and most lasting work was as co-editor with Sir Robert Jennings of *Oppenheim's International Law* (9th edition 1992). *Oppenheim* is the leading work on international law in the English language but by 1992 it had become seriously out of date. It is so no longer – and it will be a lasting memorial to its learned editors. A copy of the monumental work, memorably inscribed by the co-editors and presented by them to the College, is in the Law section of the College library.

Watts was a man of enormous energy. Of medium height and upright bearing, notwithstanding a severe limp which he developed in later life, precise of and concise in speech, he could appear formidable but was friendly and approachable and was possessed of a most agreeable sense of humour. He was an enthusiastic member of the Cranworth Law Society; he came to almost all its annual dinners and also read a (different) paper to its meetings biennially. He was also a man of wide interests, two of which deserve mention here.

First, cricket. He played cricket for Haileybury as a schoolboy and then for Sandhurst and, later, he was capped for Shropshire and played for them in the Minor Counties league. But his major contribution to the game of which he was,

rightly, proud was wholly unique. He introduced cricket to Antarctica. His feat is best described by Sir Martin Holgate, President of the British Zoological Society and himself an expert on Antarctica. He writes:

"I was the umpire for the cricket match that Sir Arthur Watts organised in Antarctica on 11 January 1985. It took place at a hutted field camp set up by the United States Antarctic Field Programme on the Bowden Nevé at approximately 84 degrees south amid the Transantarctic Mountains and 400 miles from the pole itself. The match took place during a conference convened to discuss the future of Antarctica at a time when possible mineral exploitation was a hot issue. The venue was chosen to give certain diplomats who were eloquently pontificating in the United Nations a taste of what the Antarctic was really like. Arthur captained the Beardmore Casuals who were narrowly defeated by the Gondwanaland Occasionals led by Chris Beeby, a New Zealand ambassador. The pitch was the ski track of a C130 Hercules aircraft – as Arthur wrote 'probably the heaviest roller ever used in the game'. The bails were cans of beer, balanced on a board on which the stumps were blacked out in ink. The temperature was about minus 12°C (7°F) and the umpire's personal can of beer froze during the game. Arthur was disappointed that whilst the Guinness Book of Records accepted it as the southernmost game ever played, it judged it to be a 'unique feat' rather than a competitive record and 'too specialist' for inclusion in its volume."

Second, his house and conservation. In 1996, he bought a plot of land close to Arundel and formed a most splendid scheme to restore and convert the derelict ancient barn incorporating all that remained of the 12th century Tortington Priory. The restoration by Neil Holland won several architectural awards and led to Arthur's becoming chairman of Sussex Heritage as well as providing him with a home that became his favourite place of work.

Arthur married in 1956 Iris Collier, an historical novelist. They had two children. Though subsequently they lived apart, they remained on excellent terms. Arthur thereafter shared Tortington with a devoted companion, Cecelia Gillette, who had previously been a Foreign Office colleague of his at Brussels.

Let the last word here be of law and certain lawyers. Since the Second World War, five Downing international lawyers have achieved high distinction: Sir Robert Jennings, Professor Clive Parry, Sir Derek Bowett, Sir Arthur Watts and Rt. Hon Sir Lawrence Collins. It is indeed a distinguished roll call – and reflects admirably the position of Law in our College's original Charter.

John Hopkins

Tim Cadbury (1951), Wilkins Fellow, writes:

I was saddened to read of Arthur Watt's death, just two days after his 76th Birthday. He was born just 10 days after me in 1931!! Although a prominent lawyer of International standing, in his first year he read economics, and that is when I really got to know Arthur, since few economists went to Downing, and we studied and were supervised together and continued the friendship when he read Law in his finals. His career was such that by the nature of his work it was largely unnoticed, until his obituary revealed the wide variety of International commitments. I feel that his early involvement in economics must have been helpful in administering the settlement of assets in Egypt after nationalisation and the sharing of assets following the disintegration of the former Yugoslavia!! We came together again in my final year, when I read International Law, which was to be his career both with the Foreign Office, and in private practice. Our paths only crossed at College reunions, but he was a person I felt that I was very fortunate to know.

Mary Berry, CBE, musicologist and nun, born on June 29, 1917 died on May 1, 2008. An obituary was published in The Times of May 7th 2008. She was the daughter of Arthur Berry, a Fellow in chemistry, from 1913 to 1951.

Val Vester, daughter of Admiral Sir Herbert Richmond, Master of Downing from 1934 to 1946, died on June 15, 2008, aged 96. She read English at Somerville College, Oxford. When her father moved to Cambridge she became involved in the Footlights; she went on to become a professional actress and subsequently an hotelier. An obituary was published in The Times of June 17th 2008.

■ News of the Fellowship

The Master, Barry Everitt, was elected a Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences in 2008. He lectured during an extended visit to China in October, co-organized and spoke in a Royal Society conference on the neurobiology of addiction and also took part in a BBC radio programme on drug addiction broadcast on Radio 4. He gave the Presidential Lecture at the European Neuroscience Forum in Geneva.

Bill Clyne has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering. He is distinguished for his work on the thermo-mechanical behaviour of metal composites, layered systems, sandwich sheets, metallic foams and surface coatings.

He maintains close collaboration with small companies engineering new science into new products.

Paul Millett has published papers on Aristotle and slavery, and on Alfred Zimmern, a distinguished ancient historian and an early expert on modern international relations. He has also published a monograph *Theophrastus and His World*, an historical reading of Theophrastus' 'Characters': thirty literary caricatures of the kinds of disagreeable people who might be met on the streets of Athens in the late fourth century B.C. Last September, he was to be heard on the wireless, as a contributor to Melvyn Bragg's 'In Our Time', discussing Socrates.

Bill Adams continues to help manage a project funded by the UK Darwin Initiative on human-elephant conflict in northern Kenya. Its aim is to strengthen local capacity to respond to free-ranging elephants that raid smallholders crops on the Laikipia Plateau (<http://www.laikipiaelephantproject.org/>). Bill has been supervising one of the project's Kenyan staff, Tobias Nyumba, who has been studying for an M.Phil. in Society, Environment and Development at Downing, and holds one of the two Stephen Fleet Scholarships (<http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/univ/gsprospectus/colleges/downing.html>).

Graham Virgo has had the following papers published on different aspects of the law of restitution including: 'The Law of Taxation and Unjust Enrichment' in *Comparative Perspectives on Revenue Law: Essays in Honour of John Tiley* (Ed. Harris and Oliver. 2008. CUP); 'Restitutory Remedies for Wrongs: Causation and Remoteness' in *Justifying Private Law Remedies* (Ed. Rickett. 2008. Hart Publishing); 'Causation and Remoteness within the law of Unjust Enrichment' in *Unjust Enrichment in Commercial law* (Ed. Degeling and Edelman. 2008. Thomson). Also the seventh edition of *Maudsley and Burn's Trusts and Trustees: Cases and Materials* has been published. OUP. 2008, of which he is the editor. He gave a paper at an international conference on Commercial Law and the Law of Restitution at the University of New South Wales, Sydney. He has been elected Bencher of Lincoln's Inn.

Trevor Robbins presented the Flynn Lecture at Yale University this May. This is the most prestigious lecture of their School of Medicine. Topic "Fractionating Impulsivity". He was appointed a Member of Academy of Medical Sciences Committee which in May 2008 produced a report on "Brain science, addiction and drugs". This had widespread media coverage, especially on the concept of

"cognitive enhancers" (drugs that improve cognitive function). He published three papers in Science magazine this year (2008). One with Barry Everitt on impulsivity and compulsivity in addiction. One with a graduate student showing that your diet can affect your social perception of fairness by affecting serotonin in the brain and the other is in press on the brain basis of obsessive-compulsive disorder. The Times Higher Supplement in January published a Table showing that Trevor was in the top cited 10 neuroscientists in the world (number 7). He has lectured at the Karolinska Institute (Stockholm) and MIT and has co-lead the Cambridge Neuroscience initiative with big international launch meeting in September 2007.

In September 2007 **Ian Roberts** was admitted as an Ordinary Fellow of the British Academy, and in May 2008 he was nominated for membership of the Academia Europea. He was invited to lecture at the Ecole Normale Supérieure in Paris, at the University of Campinas, Brazil, as well as in Japan, Taiwan, India, Italy and The Netherlands.

David Feldman was appointed Queen's Counsel honoris causa in March 2008 in recognition of his contribution to the development of public law. Earlier, he was a Miegunyah Distinguished Visiting Fellow in the Law School of Melbourne University in August 2006 where he gave the Miegunyah Public Lecture on 'The Roles of Parliaments in Protecting Human Rights: a View from the UK' at the opening of the conference on Parliamentary Protection of Human Rights organised by the Centre for Comparative Constitutional Studies. While in Australia, he also gave lectures at the University of Sydney, the University of New South Wales and the Australian National University, and addressed conferences and seminars of the New South Wales Supreme Court, the Supreme Court of Victoria, and the Federal Court of Australia. In 2007 he delivered a paper on "Judicial review of legislation" at the Anglo-Israeli Judicial Exchange at the Supreme Court of Israel in May, and a lecture on "The role and independence of international judges in a national constitutional court: the case of Bosnia and Herzegovina" at a conference on The Independence of the Judiciary in International Law at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem in June. In September 2007 he gave a paper on the relationship between constitutional principles and international law, concentrating particularly on the impact of the UN Security Council, at an international conference in honour of Sir Kenneth Keith, "From Professing to Advising to Judging", at the Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand. As well as publishing a number of articles, he has continued to serve as Chairman of the Faculty Board of Law in Cambridge and as a Vice-President of the Constitutional Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina of which he had been a judge since 2002.

Bill O'Neill was a keynote speaker at the Conference for Lasers And ElectroOptics, San Jose, California, April 2008. Across the year, he gave invited talks on the subject of high brightness laser matter interactions to the Laser 2008 event in Stuttgart, The PHAST conference in San Francisco, and the National Science Council of South Africa in Pretoria. Bill also gave a lecture to attendees of the Cambridge Science Festival entitled "Making and Breaking things with High Power Lasers" in which he demonstrated the technical elements and applications of modern high power laser technology. April saw him deliver the first EPSRC IKC annual 5 day workshop on Laser Machining and Surface Structuring, at Downing in April 2008.

Marcus Tomalin has continued to pursue his interests in a range of different academic disciplines. He has recently become an Affiliated Lecturer at the English Faculty; his new monograph about linguistic theory during the Romantic period will be published by Palgrave Macmillan in September 2008, and he presented some of this work when he addressed the Hazlitt Day-School in Oxford in June 2008. Also, during the past year, Marcus has written a number of articles about Haida, an endangered language spoken on the Pacific Northwest Coast of Canada (e.g., 'Reassessing Nineteenth-Century Missionary Linguistics on the Pacific Northwest Coast', *Historiographia Linguistica* 35:1/2, 2008, 83–120). In addition to these things, Marcus was once again a member of the AGILE team which built speech technology systems that were used in the latest Global Autonomous Language Exploitation (GALE) evaluation. The AGILE team obtained the best results in the evaluation, and this work resulted in several publications.

As usual, in order to escape from academic work, Marcus has given numerous lute recitals throughout the year, including a performance of 17th century Italian lute duets (with Anna Langley) and a recital of John Dowland songs at the Downing Master's Lodge (with Brendan Gillis and Jennie Doolan).

Rachel O'Reilly was recently awarded the 2007 Meldola Medal from the Royal Society of Chemistry in recognition of her recent independent work in the area of precision polymer synthesis and self assembly. Earlier in 2008 she was awarded her chartered chemist (CChem) status and has recently been awarded a university research fellowship (URF) from the Royal Society. In September 2008 at Downing Rachel marries her fellow chemist Dr Andrew Dove.

Amy Milton joined the fellowship in October 2007 as a research fellow in Experimental Psychology, shortly before completing her Ph.D., *Neuropharmacological Mechanisms Underlying CS-US Memory Reconsolidation: Implications for the Treatment of Neuropsychiatric Disorders*. Her current work extends that begun during her Ph.D., and examines the pharmacological mechanisms underlying memory retrieval and destabilisation. She has recently

been appointed to a departmental lectureship in the Behavioural and Clinical Neuroscience Institute in the Department of Experimental Psychology.

The Rt Rev Dr **Tom Wright**, Bishop of Durham, (Honorary Fellow) was awarded the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Divinity by Durham University at a ceremony in Durham Cathedral on 23rd June 2007.

■ Chapel Choir Tour 2007

Montreal – Blue Mountain Lake, NY – Woodstock, VT

The Downing College Chapel Choir completed an ambitious and highly successful two week tour of Canada and the United States from 9th–23rd July 2007. The twenty-strong student led choir of undergraduates and graduates spent a week in Montreal, Quebec performing two evening concerts at St. Matthias Church and St. George's Church, as well as singing both Sunday Eucharist and Evensong at Christ Church Anglican Cathedral, the latter of which was broadcast live on local FM radio and over the internet.

The choir then hired cars and negotiated US immigration officials as they drove down to Blue Mountain Lake in the Adirondack national park, where they were hosted by Mr Flemming Heilmann (Wilkins' Fellow). On their arrival the choir sang from a launch on the lake to various surrounding guesthouses and residents, with the spectacular backdrop of the lake, mountains and a sinking sun. The choir performed an evening concert at The Blue Mountain Lake Centre for the Arts, which was recorded for broadcast by North Country Public Radio.

Taking to the road once again, the choir travelled to Woodstock, Vermont where they played a central role in St. James' Church four day festival of liturgy, art and music, entitled *Building Faith: The Role of Space & Place in Worship*. The choir sang in a number of venues, including two evensongs in St James' Church; the local synagogue as part of their Friday evening Shabbat Service; the local Catholic church at their Saturday mass and the local Town Hall in a multi-choir concert. The weekend highlight was a Festival Eucharist involving both Downing and St. James' choirs as well as a local brass group and two organs, with the Bishop Thomas Ely celebrating.

The tour gave the choir a chance to substantially increase its secular as well as sacred repertoire, performing a great variety of music including many a cappella jazz arrangements. Around a busy schedule the choir also found time for swimming in lakes and rivers, boat trips, hiking, trips to theme parks, many nights out in Downtown Montreal and much more!

The Downing College Chapel Choir is incredibly grateful to the following, without whom this trip would not have been possible: Prof. Oliver Goodenough and St. James' Church, Woodstock; Mr Flemming Heilmann; Mrs Alice Fleet; The Downing College Development Office and The Downing College Amalgamation Club.

■ College clubs and societies

Athletics

This has been a formidable year for Downing athletics. We started well in October taking second place in the Women's Cuppers competition, and fifth in the Men's. Momentum built over the winter months with many more Downing athletes training consistently in the University teams than in recent years. The hard work paid off in summer Cuppers where there were resounding victories for both the Mens and Womens teams. Downing also had great impact at the University level, with Scott Knackstedt, Tim Pattison, Georgie Hurt and Clare Palmer all making the Blues teams, and Qia Li, Phoebe Bointon, Christine Partridge and Mahalia Miller in the second teams. We look forward to retaining our trophies next year, and there are more to be won!

Boat Club

Overall captain: Laura Hughes

Men's captain: Oliver Hughes

Women's Captain: Angela Cheetham

Secretary: Beth Sawyer

Junior Treasurer: Matthew Gregory

Lower Boats Captains: Chris Robson, Dan Chapman, Ben Pierce, Kay Slade

This last year has been one the most successful for many years for DCBC. Both Men's and Women's crews amassed a number of victories at events off-Cam, but most importantly in the University competitions; culminating in both First Vllls up 2 in the May Bumps.

The first trial of strength for the year was the Autumn Head. Both first men's and women's crews produced the fastest times of their events to win the competition. M1 beat First and Third – one of the only crews to do so for the whole

year, but were unfortunately knocked out by them a few weeks later in the semi-final of Uni-IVs. The women were also knocked out by the eventual winners in the Uni-IVs semi-finals. In the major event of Michaelmas Term, The Fairbairns Cup Race, the first men and women came in 3rd and 4th respectively, while the novice women performed exceptionally, placing 6th in their category.

After the success of last year's winter training camp, DCBC returned to Banyoles, Spain, in January. In all, 34 novice and senior squad members attended the week-long camp, and the trip was a huge benefit for all, with many of the novices making the transition to senior squads during the trip. There were also quite a number who unintentionally took a swim in the lake during first attempts at single sculling!

In the run up to the Lent Bumps both the men and women picked up some shiny glass tankards at Bedford Head, each winning their respective divisions. In the Bumps the first men went up 2, finishing 3rd, whilst the first women finished up 1 at 5th. An M2 crew composed substantially of first years' raced very impressively all week, narrowly missing out on winning their blades on the last day.

The men's first VIII started off Easter term with a win at Head of the Champs regatta, setting a new course record in the process and beating a Trinity first VIII which went on to claim the Headship. They then went on to win Nines Regatta a week later, at which the women were beaten in the final by a strong Jesus crew. DCBC also fielded a mixed crew at the Nines Regatta (mostly for fun), which won the division and the prize of a keg of beer.

As the May Bumps approached, expectations were unsurprisingly high for all crews. Both the first men and women were unfortunately victim to bad luck and an inopportune starting order; such events conspired to deny both crews deserved bumps on day one. Both crews fought back decisively during the remaining days, each finishing 2 places up. The second men rowed over twice and bumped twice, also finishing 2 up. The second women raced remarkably well over the course of the week, finishing an impressive 3 places up, and administering an exciting overbump to Caius second women on the way.

This year saw the return of a rugby boat in the Mays for the first time in several years. Despite starting as novices at the beginning of term, they managed to pull together a powerful crew and acquitted themselves well in the bumps, going up 3 overall and even overbumping on the third day.

Another welcome return was that made by Downing to Henley Royal Regatta. The VIII was unlucky to find itself in a high division, but raced well, losing by just a length and a quarter to a vastly more experienced crew.

DCBC would like to thank everyone who has supported the club this year, particularly the coaches (both permanent and visiting), without whose constant support our successes would have been impossible. We would also like to wish Annie Vernon, an ex-DCBC rower, the best of luck in the Olympics this summer.

Hockey

The College progressed over the year from the Second Division of the League to being Second in the First Division.

Netball

Captain: Sarina Williams

The Downing netball ladies' first team won the league undefeated (for the third time in four years). They also won coppers, beating Catz in the final.

The ladies' second team won the second division and will be promoted to the top division next year (Hannah Perry was second team captain this year).

The mixed first team won the league undefeated for the second year in a row and won coppers, beating Corpus in the final (last year's coppers winners).

The mixed second team came second in the top division so Downing held the top two spots in the university.

Women's Rugby Football Club

Captain: Lisa Jayne Walker

Vice-Captain: Sarah Gibson

DCWRFC was formed in 2006 by Lisa Walker and David Nathan. Despite being a brand-new and inexperienced team, Downing finished fourth in the league, and went on to knock league-winners St Johns out of Cuppers, after a convincing 33-7 victory. A nail-biting 17-12 win over Jesus earned us a place at Grange Road for the Cuppers final. We went on to beat Girton 10-0 to become 2007 Cuppers champions. Charlotte Jefferies was our top try scorer, and also the 7th highest point scorer in the league. I finished 10th highest.

This season was sadly not quite so spectacular. Disorganisation of the league this year meant many matches were cancelled. We still had several clear victories though. We made it to Cuppers Semi final, one of the closest matches in Downing history, against our Girton rivals. The score was 7 all throughout the majority of the match, until Girton scored in the last play of the game.

Congratulations to Laura Fraser who was voted Player of the Year in both 2007 and 2008. Special thanks to David Nathan, Joe Bell, Alex Martin, James Moyle, Ali McWhirter and Dan Rourke for their amazing coaching, and to Master Barry Everitt for his continued support from the touch lines.

Next season looks extremely promising. Lucy Chumas takes over as Captain, and Ali has a tough training regime planned to ensure Downing reclaim the Cup.



New Green Theatre for Cambridge

Work has begun at Downing College on the construction of a new and unique Theatre that will combine the latest technologies with a design that will reflect the College's commitment to classicism as initiated by its first architect , William Wilkins, in 1807.

It will be an environmentally sustainable building, the main features being:

- a design by the architects Quinlan & Francis Terry
- stone construction to minimise heat loss and reduce noise pollution
- ground source heating and cooling technology
- solar panels to generate hot water
- tiered and gallery seating for 170

The Howard Theatre will be used for conferences, concerts, and theatrical productions. It will also include dining , reception and breakout rooms for meetings, and music and drama rehearsal areas

To find out more about this project and other conference facilities at Downing College, please visit the web site: www.downing-conferences-cambridge.com
Or call the Conference Services Team on: 01223 334860