

Brazen Notes

Issue 4

Spring 2007

Celebrating a 50 year Brasenose Career



In mid May an array of former pupils, colleagues and contemporaries returned to BNC to celebrate the extraordinary 50 year contribution that Graham Richards has made to the life of the College. Endeavouring to cover every facet of Graham's Brasenose career was bound to be a challenge but a group including former students, colleagues and Fellows came up with a programme that included a reception and a talk in the new Chemistry building - itself a testament to Graham's undoubted abilities as a leader and fundraiser - followed by a dinner in College, with a cricket match the following day.

People travelled from all over the world to attend the weekend and the College staff pulled out all the stops to make the evening particularly special. Kate Burt (1988), Rod Clayton (1986), and Fellow in French, Richard Cooper, spoke about Graham's outstanding contribution to science, his role as the Senior Member of the Phoenix Common Room and as an active, and indeed trailblazing, member of the Fellowship. The dinner ended with a moving speech from



Graham himself, touching not only on memories of BNC, the faculty and his pioneering business interests but also on the state of the University and the College today. A full version of his speech will be included in the next *Brazen Nose*.

Thanks are due to Paula Carter (1978), Kate Burt (1988), Guy Grant, Perry Gauci (1986), Andy Bethell (1984) and Nick Langman (1980) for making the weekend such a success.

The new Chaplain writes:



Until I came to Brasenose, I was curate in a parish of around 25,000 people. This was the parish of Hatfield Hyde in Hertfordshire. At first glance, Brasenose looked a much smaller theatre of operation. Then I discovered the Alumni Relations Office, its lists and databases. I'm glad to find that Brasenose is a parish that grows and grows.

The assertion that people are "welcome" at religious services is probably too commonplace to carry much weight as an invitation. But I would like to stress that all Old Members of BNC are indeed welcome to attend College Prayers at 6pm on Sunday evenings in term-time. The service is a Book of Common Prayer evensong, with music provided by our splendid College choir. The sermon is delivered by a variety of interesting preachers - or alternatively, the Chaplain. And, if that wasn't attraction enough, Sunday is the best night to dine in College at High Table - so do join us for dinner afterwards. Feasting is praise: and praise doesn't end with Evensong!

The Chapel is also available to Old Members for those "occasional offices" of the Church of England - baptisms, weddings and funerals. Generally these should take place in your local parish church; but with the permission of your parish priest it is possible to have these services in the familiar surroundings of your old College Chapel. I welcome enquiries to my email address: graeme.richardson@bnc.ox.ac.uk

In the more immediate "parish" of current members I am primarily involved with Welfare. I'm widely advertised as an available resource for anyone to come and see me on any matter. The tools of my trade are therefore less "Bell, Book and Candle" and more "Tea, Talk and Tissues". I'm also likely to be out and about supporting Brasenose on the river or the sports field; and you'll be amazed to hear that I'm even to be seen, from time to time, down the bar. No doubt this all sounds worryingly close to the dreaded "Trendy Vicar". But I'd like to think it's the right sort of ministry to offer to Brasenose. I'm keen to try and emulate the style of Brasenose Christians of the past such as Robert Runcie, or R.O. Hall. Theirs was a faith not afraid to engage with ordinary life, with politics, art and sport; a faith, most of all, with a sense of humour. There's never been too much of the cloister, I feel, about BNC.

I am always glad to hear from Old Members, especially those who were particularly involved with Chapel - either as Bible Clerks, or as organists and choristers. In fact, I feel it would be a very good idea to have some sort of Chapel Gaudy in the future - if you are interested in such an event, do email me or the Alumni Relations Office.

Cuppers Glory

On Friday, 9th March, Brasenose footballers limbered up at the Iffley sports grounds, waiting to take on St Anne's in the final of the men's Cuppers. Meanwhile, back at Brasenose, Principal Roger Cashmore sat in the Tower Bursary, nervously awaiting the arrival of students for their annual 'Principal's Collections'.



There might have been a conflict of interests: academic and sporting achievements were both at stake. Fortunately, graduate student Eugenio



Donadoni was on hand at the game to keep the Principal up to date via a steady stream of text messages:

Time - 2.17 p.m.

Fine weather, little humidity. The game so far very balanced. Eugenio.

Time - 2.39 p.m.

Excellent header by De Haes, just tipped over by their keeper. Corner sent flying into the middle, our number 11 volleys and hits the post. Thrilling stuff!!!



Time - 2.50 p.m.

Half time BRASENOSE 0-0 St Anne's. A very balanced half, though at no point did they threaten the goal of our giant Mitropoulos. Two clear occasions by the Nose - one hit the post.



Time - 3.04 p.m.

BRASENOSE 1 - St Anne's 0! Header straight into the back of the net from a corner by number 10 Oli Garthwaite.



Time - 3.22 p.m.

BRASENOSE 2 - St Anne's 0! Lambert, our centre back appears from nowhere in the box to head free kick from the halfway powerfully into the back of the net. Spectacular.

Time - 3.26 p.m.

BRASENOSE 3 - St Anne's 0! Number 14 Levisieur takes a pass from the right and powers it in. Great strike.



Time - 3.29 p.m.

BRASENOSE 4 - St Anne's 0! Penalty to the Nose calmly placed to the left of the keeper by number 8 Freddie Young. Turning into a walk in the park.

Time - 3.44 p.m.

Final score BNC 4 - St Anne's 0. Eugenio out.

New Face in the Alumni Relations Office

Laura joined the Alumni Relations Office at the beginning of January, having completed a BA in Music at New College. Providing support for the office, she has become an invaluable member of the team, organising events, co-ordinating travel schedules for reunions and meetings with alumni at home and abroad. Arriving just in time for the launch of our Annual Fund, Laura has had plenty of work over the last few months. She has, she insists, fully adapted to office hours, leaving behind the more unconventional patterns of student life: '9 to 9 but with a four-hour lunch break', she recalls nostalgically. We are delighted to welcome her on board!

Laura Pack,
Development Assistant



This year's victorious Ale Verse

To be sung to the tune of "Hit Me Baby One More Time" by Ms Britney Spears.

Domestic Bursar, how was I supposed, to know,
that hot bread was ille-gal?

You took my toaster, now I don't know what, to dooo-
ooo-ooo,

I might just have to starve, yeah.

Tell me, how now can I ea-at
Toast and but-ter? That was clearly
stu-dents' staple diet.

My lack of toast is killing me, (and I)

I must confess, I'm breaking free (breaking free).

My electric heater toasts perfectly,
so give me a fi-i-i-ne.

Dean me baby one more time.

Domestic Bursar, you're hoarding them all, I bet,
Down in the Bursary, yeah.

Ten thousand toasters, a proper menagerie-ee-ee-ee
of Breville and DeLonghi.

Marma-lade, honey, and mar-mite,
No they just don't taste as
good with cold bread underneath.

My lack of toast is killing me, (and I)

I must confess, I'm breaking free (breaking free).

My electric heater toasts perfectly,
so give me a fi-i-i-ne.

Dean me baby one more time.

Did You Know?

A SNEAK PREVIEW FROM THE BNC COLLEGE HISTORY



Did you know that Walter Pater, author of *Studies in the History of the Renaissance* (1873) and patron of the Aesthetes was once a stylish young Fellow of Brasenose? Possibly. But do you know where his rooms were, and what they looked like?

The new, quincentenary history of Brasenose will be published by OUP towards the end of 2008. Here is the first of a series of trailers, supplied - exclusively for *Brazen Notes* - by its author, Joe Mordaunt Crook (1955).

Between his election as Fellow in 1864 and his death in 1894, the rooms of Walter Pater (Old Lodge 3; now Dr. David Groiser's rooms), were a shrine for devotees of the Aesthetic Movement. Here Gerard Manley Hopkins came for tutorials. Here Oscar Wilde exchanged epigrams. Here Pater's more decadent friends - Harry Melville, Oscar Browning, Simeon Solomon - lingered over luncheon. Here eccentric BNC Fellow Dr. Bussell chattered late into the night.

Picture the scene in Pater's heyday. Ebony-tinted doors, stamped with antique iron; primrose-painted panelling, greenish-white in later years; a bowl of dried rose-petals; a Persian carpet; tapestry over the chimney; books bound up in palest vellum; blue chintzy curtains; lilies of the valley; classical statuettes; a scatter of

Greek coins; a table draped in bluish baize; engravings after Michelangelo, Corregio, Ingres.

On one side, at right-angles to the fireplace, stood the focus of the room: an oriel window. Here Pater would lounge on cushions, while the sun played late upon All Souls; the Camera on his left, St. Mary's on his right, half Oxford in his hand. On the opposite side of the room, across a narrow passage filled with cupboards, stood 'a low, ancient, stone-framed, gothic doorway [leading] into a tiny slip of a bedroom, only a few feet wide'. At one end, a small window, looking out over the Old Quad; at the other a projection like a step - the roof in fact of a staircase below - on which rested a simple truckle bed. Nothing else, just a chest of drawers and a cold-water basin. Here Pater slept late, breakfasting later still, feasting on dictionaries, and making notes on tiny slips of paper. This is not the boudoir of an aesthete; it is almost an anchorite's cell.

In recent years, the space has been truncated; the ceiling lowered; the panelling scraped and varnished; the original contents scattered. But with the help of contemporary photographs and descriptions, Pater's rooms could be re-created fairly easily. Now there's a quincentenary project!



Oxford University Reunion Weekend

Friday 14th to Sunday 16th September 2007

The Oxford University Society Reunion Weekend, *Meeting Minds*, is fast approaching, and looks set to be an exciting event. The three-day programme includes academic lectures, musical concerts, and tours of libraries, colleges and gardens. For more information or to order a brochure, visit www.alumniweekend.ox.ac.uk, or call 01865 288087.

Brasenose is one of the many colleges participating in this university-wide reunion, and is offering its Old Members accommodation for the nights of the 14th and 15th. Please book early as space is limited. We will also be hosting a drinks reception in College on Saturday 15th September. Invitations have been sent and we are also happy to receive bookings by email. Please contact development.office@bnc.ox.ac.uk

Alumni Dining - Update

In our Winter Issue we invited Old Members, as guests of the College, to come and dine with us in Hall. Old Members are welcome to dine three times a year on Tuesdays and Sundays in full term, and so far we have welcomed quite a number of you back into our midst. As before, if you wish to dine, please write to, telephone or email the Alumni Relations Office (development.office@bnc.ox.ac.uk) to enquire about dates, giving us at least a week's notice so we can arrange to welcome you properly. We look forward to seeing you.

Launching the Brasenose Australia Scholarship Fund



Oxford's Australia Scholarship Fund is celebrating its tenth anniversary this year. It has provided an opportunity for many able young Australians to study at Oxford. The scholars receive a very significant contribution toward their fees and living expenses - funded by donations and regular gifts from Australian Oxonians who wish to share the advantages of their Oxford experience with future generations. Both Univ and Magdalen have established their own scholarships within the larger fund specifically linked to their college - and Brasenose is planning to do the same thing.

As a starting point, and thanks to generous gifts from two Brasenose people, one from the UK and one from the US, we have raised the GBP 70,000 required as matched funding. Our next step is to reach out to Brasenose's Australian community to ask them to contribute to the AUD 150,000 that is still needed to fund a scholarship fully. Many have already pledged their support. There is a groundswell of enthusiasm among Old Members for strengthening the College's ties with Australia by joining together to start a scholarship programme. We look forward to announcing our first Brasenose Australian scholar in a future edition.



Brasenose *Gaudy* 2007/8

GAUDIES 2007

Matriculation years 1996-1997 23 June
Matriculation years 1998-1999 28 September

GAUDIES 2008

Matriculation years 2000-2001 4 January
Matriculation years 1970-1973 11 April
Matriculation years 1974-1976 4 July
Matriculation years 1983-1984 12 September

Mentioned in Despatches

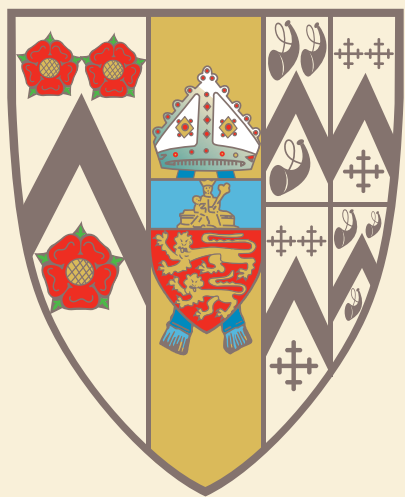
Former BNC Chaplain Patrick Irwin (1973), currently Chaplain to the Household Division and Senior Chaplain for the Army's London district, has been appointed Senior British Chaplain at the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE). He takes up his new post near Mons in Belgium in September.

There have been more accolades for Fellow in Management Christopher McKenna's book *The World's Newest Profession : Management Consulting in the Twentieth Century* which has just been awarded the 2007 Hagley Prize for the Best Book in Business History.

Senior Kurti Fellow Andrew Zisserman has been elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society. He is one of the principal architects of modern Computer Vision. His laboratory is internationally renowned, and its work is currently shedding new light on the problems of object detection and recognition.

Tiggy Salt (1993) recently won considerable accolades, and a silver medal, for her courtyard garden design at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show. The CAF Giving Garden *Where the Wild Things Are* was inspired by Maurice Sendak's classic children's book.

A book of the poems and writings of the late Robbie Sharma (1983) called *Hiraeth* has recently been published and Robbie's family has kindly donated a copy to the library. Anyone interested in getting hold of a copy of Robbie's book is welcome to contact the Alumni Relations Office.



BNC

1509 - 2009

500

2009 Quincentenary

Excitement is building as we approach our 500th anniversary, and Brasenose is planning a whole year of exciting events to mark the occasion. We will be organising festivities in the UK and also internationally, so that Old Members from all around the world can join in the celebrations.

We will be giving tantalising previews of the events in future issues of the *Brazen Notes*, and on the Brasenose website (www.bnc.ox.ac.uk). This year will culminate with a spectacular celebration on 26th September 2009, to which all Old Members will be invited. It will coincide with the University Reunion Weekend which is scheduled to take place between the 25th and 27th September 2009. At present, we are in a creative ferment – but more anon!



Brasenose *Society*

Events 2007

21 June
Summer Party at the Royal Courts of
Justice

22 September
AGM and Annual Dinner

23 November
North West Party at Chetham's in
Manchester



Platnauer Concert and Masterclass

The Platnauer concert for Michaelmas term will take place on 26th October at 8.45pm, when organist and composer Guy Bovet will give a recital in Brasenose Chapel. Guy is Professor at the Musikhochschule in Basel, Switzerland, and organist of the Collegiate Church of Neuchâtel. He has written extensively on the history of the instrument and gives recitals, lectures and classes all over the world.

Before returning to Basel and a busy calendar, Guy will be giving a masterclass for young organists on Saturday 27th October. Oxford organ scholars will be able to attend and benefit from this opportunity, along with students from the Royal College of Music and members of the Royal College of Organists.

If you are interested in attending this or any future concert, please contact the Alumni Relations Office.

Contacts

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