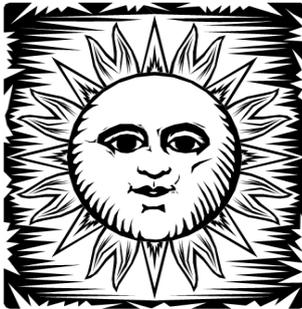




Jesus Old Members' Group 1959-64

Newsletter



Trinity
2002

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Editorial

This newsletter opens with a welcome to two new members -Malcolm Gall and Roger Stephens Jones - who joined at the recent gaudy. We hope they will find something of interest in these pages. An apology is due to existing members who have suffered from difficulties in the bank's collection of their subscriptions. It is hoped that the problems have been overcome. And thank you to those who have amended or reinstated their standing orders.

However, some have not yet renewed, and if you are among them, do please confirm to George Reah not later than 1 July whether you wish your membership to continue. If you think you have renewed but are unsure, it is worth contacting him in any event, and checking whether your bank has in fact debited your subscription.

George is compiling an up to date directory of members, and you will find here a pro forma for completion by those who have not yet supplied the information which is to be included. However, for use in the meantime, you receive an abbreviated list of contact names and addresses.

A final enclosure is a further booking form for the Old Members' Day, which is one of a number of dates for your diary. Among them is next year's AGM and for those unable to attend this year's, you will find a summary of the main items of business.

John Pearse has contributed an amusing account of what it was like to return to College late in the days when snow fell and when students were not given keys to the gate. We announce details of two events in London and test your mental skills with the dreaded brainteasers.

Within the context of the group's new assistance to undergraduates, I was asked to find out what the College is doing to cast its net as widely as possible to attract students from all backgrounds. A report will be included in next terms' newsletter.

<i>Diary Dates</i>	29th June	Old Members' Day
	25th August	Anglo Swedish Cultural Event
	23rd October	Visit to Victoria & Albert Museum
	4th April 2003	Association Dinner
	5th April 2003	AGM

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Fresher Snow

Three disconnected events have prompted this little recollection. First was the remark of Sue McIvor after one of the excellent tours on an Old Members' Day to yet another Oxford treasure that we had taken for granted in our undergraduate years: "Oxford is rather wasted on the young!" The second was the explanation of the rope in Tony Hughes' article on a Rope-Carrying Trumpet-Player. And the third was the sudden fall of snow (here in Wiltshire at least) at the end of 2001.

Can it really be 40 years ago that we first came up to College as such raw undergraduates? Did you share my mixture of elation and anxiety? We had actually made it. But what would the others be like? How soon would one's Tutor realise that his suggested reading had been left largely undone? Would one be able to keep up with the lectures? Everything was strange as well as exciting.

Freshers' Fair revealed the span of interests catered for by obscure clubs and societies: even the Wodehouse Society; the Railway Society; the Scholar-Gipsies. (What would Matthew Arnold have said of the huge caravan park now along his "stripping Thames at Bablockhythe"?). Instead of school's peremptory order to participate in team games, a notice read: "The following gentlemen are invited to represent the College at" Equally eye-opening was a new undergruadette's ever-shorter skirt (a year or two before Carnaby Street claimed to invent the mini-skirt), especially on her bicycle! (Where is Gillian O'C now?)

By November, we were finding our feet. Oxford was ours for the next 3 or 4 years, and we wanted to make the most of the opportunity. The only people who were somewhat disconcerted were those reading English (no-one in my circle in College or beyond) as they thought they had escaped the rigours of Latin, German, or Russian. One encountered young ladies who dreamed of baring their souls in essays on Jane Austin, and young men who wanted to direct the young ladies in experimental theatre. And what did they get? "Beowulf" in the original and the "do or die" of English Prelims at the end of their first Term!

At that time the College gate was locked very early (10 or 11 pm?). A small

group of us decided that it would be a good idea to practise evading the Proctors and to check that we could all climb over the Market Street wall, just in case. (In much the same spirit a couple of years later after we had punted 200 miles to Cambridge, Roger Price proposed that we renew our brass River Cam punt-licence for the following years "as one never knows when one might be passing that way.") So one cold Saturday night in late-November found us in a nearby pub waiting for closing time. But when we finally left to brave the perils of the Proctors, we found an unforeseen layer of crisp snow outside. That was not an insurmountable problem, nor was the Market Street wall, even for the shortest of us. However, as we slipped quietly past the waste bins and the back of the old JCR, the moon came out to reveal an unblemished carpet of snow all over the Second Quad. Vague memories of an Aesop fable came to mind about tell-tale tracks of all leading into the lions den but none emerging.... We halted. If we headed straight across the Quad to Staircase XIII (a small Staircase with half the accommodation occupied by the Chaplain and 2 other Dons, but not normally overnight), our tracks would surely give us away on Sunday morning to the Junior Dean.

So we split into 2 groups, one clockwise, one anticlockwise round the Quad, carefully going into and out of each stairway (even the SCR for good measure) until we met in the safety of Staircase XIII for a warm cup of coffee. We need not have worried. When we woke up on Sunday morning and looked out, from the multi-

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tude of tracks in the snow, you would have thought that half the College had spent the night criss-crossing the Quad. Perhaps they had.

John Pearse 1961

John Pearse

Visit To The V & A

Victoria and Albert Museum – The British Galleries
October 23rd at 6.45pm for 7.00pm

The reopening of the British Galleries last year won international acclaim. With new initiatives to “define” what is British, this visit will sharpen the individual focus. The galleries - 15 in all - display an unsurpassed breadth of British life during 1500-1900 and we have been fortunate to arrange an introductory tour - all that is possible in an hour - with Dale Thompson. Dale has im-

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bued many new friends of the museum with a thirst and enthusiasm for discovery and lectured on many aspects of British culture, from furniture and silver to painting, in England and Scotland. She has been influential on V& A committees and brings many years' experience of antiques to her talks. Notice of particular interests will be welcomed.

We shall meet in the Dome twenty yards inside the main entrance at 6.45pm (the bar is open from 6.30pm) and start our tour promptly at 7.00. Practical aspects suggest that numbers be limited to twenty. A charge of £10 per head will be split equally between the Museum and the new undergraduate bursary. Early booking will be appreciated (tel .01202-769297 / e-mail Malcolm.McIvor@aexp.com).

Close by we can have dinner at the Oratory Restaurant which offers good fare at a reasonable price in period surroundings. Which period? After the tour, you will know!

Anglo Swedish Cultural Event

Venue: Kenwood House, Hampstead
Date: Sunday 25th August (Monday is a Bank Holiday)
Format: Out door concert / picnic
Time: Performance starts at 7.30 pm
Featuring: ***Bjorn Again***, a musical ensemble recreating the works of ***ABBA***, the 1970's popular beat combo.
Followed by: Fireworks
To book: Ring 020 7413 3353 (ticket master). Specify that you want tickets for the ***lawn*** at £15 (£13 if you have a John Lewis or Waitrose Card)
Then: Let Peter Silverman (p@petersilverman.com 01895 625770) know you are coming and he will arrange that we all meet up on the day.

Members are encouraged to bring their 20 something children



AGM 2002

Our Group held its Annual General Meeting in the Habbakuk Room at the College on 6 April and we are pleased to report the following points from the meeting:

- We had pleasure in welcoming Peter Clarke, Acting Principal; Sue Morris, College Development Officer; and representatives from other Old Members' Groups to the meeting.
- The officers of the committee for our Group were all re-elected.
- Our finances are in good shape.
- We confirmed that we would continue to fund one or more undergraduate bursaries beyond the current commitment for 2002.
- On-going work being carried out on building a database of members with helpful input from the College was described.
- It was agreed that the committee would look at ways of taking forward the idea of an umbrella association of all Old Members' groups.

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Brainteasers

If you remember last term's teaser was:

After a heavy drinking session Charlie staggered out of his club. At that precise time there was a power failure affecting the area for miles around. All the lights went out and stayed out for the next 2 hours. With his brain confused by alcohol he headed in the wrong direction, he stumbled across a field and fell over a fence down a railway embankment ending up sprawled across the single track line totally unconscious.

A minute later an express train came round a bend in the track heading at full tilt towards him. Charlie was dressed in dark clothing and dark footwear. He had dark hair and was facing away from the train. The moon had not yet risen. The train had no headlights.

How did he manage to survive? Answer: The driver saw him clearly on the track (as it was broad daylight) and he applied his brakes.

Full marks to **Michael Ferguson** for the only correct solution.

This term there are two teasers to stimulate the grey cells:

1. **Imagine a windowless room in which 3 light bulbs A, B and C hang down from the ceiling. They are each individually wired to 3 switches X, Y and Z on a wall outside the room. You have to work out which switch operates which bulb, however you can only enter the room once. You cannot see into the room from outside or glean any information about what is happening in the room from the outside. To start with all of the switches are in the up position and all of the lights are off.**
2. **What is unique about the number "4"?**

Answers to jesusbrainteasers@petersilverman.com.

** We would like to hear your favourite teasers for inclusion in future editions.**

