



SAMUEL PEPYS – 300 YEARS ON



Samuel Pepys 1633 – 1703

Samuel Pepys is a figure of national and international importance and the tercentenary in 2003 of his death has seen a renewal of interest in both the man and his life. He was born on 23 February 1633, educated at Huntingdon Grammar School and St Paul's, before coming up to Magdalene in 1650, taking his BA in 1654 and his MA in 1660. He died on 26 May 1703. Pepys is remembered primarily for his renowned Diary, even though he only wrote this from 1660 to 1669, when fear of failing eyesight forced him to bring his career as a diarist to a premature end. His skill as a chronicler lay in his ability not merely to record events but to recreate them for the reader, so that the flavour of life in 17th century London is brought dramatically to life. He covered two of the great disasters of his times – the Plague of 1665 and the cleansing Great Fire of 1666 with vivid compassion, seeing both events as essentially human tragedies. But he also wrote about what might be termed scenes from life: river outings, amorous adventures and domestic disagreements, as well as national events and the business of Government. For example, the diary records several

sentimental visits to “our College of Magdalene”, during one of which he drank his “bellyful” of beer from the buttery “the best I ever drank”. Various College contemporaries crop up repeatedly in the diary, notably James Peachell, later Master (whom Pepys liked, but whose inflamed bottle nose made Pepys ashamed to be seen with him in public) and Clement Sankey, one of Pepys's undergraduate drinking companions, who became a respectable London City Rector, and married a girl named Mary Archer who was worth £1,000 a year. Pepys had admired her sister, “the fair Betty”, and like many an old friend assessing their contemporaries' marriages, could not quite see what it was that attracted girls to Sankey.

His diary apart, Pepys has many other claims to greatness. A protégé of his distant relative Edward Montagu, he was a pioneering administrator and civil servant. As Secretary to the Admiralty, he was the architect of a reorganised Royal Navy that was to establish the *Pax Britannica* in the succeeding centuries. He became a Member of Parliament in 1673 and was an exemplary President of

the Royal Society from 1684 to 1686. Perhaps unsurprisingly, given his accomplishments and contacts, he became the friend and confidant of the leading intellectuals and politicians of his day. Not the least of his achievements, however, was the creation and preservation for posterity of the exceedingly beautiful and fascinating Library that now graces the College.

The Pepys Library is one of the principal jewels in Magdalene's crown. In his will, Pepys left his personal – and unique – library to his nephew, John Jackson, making it clear, however, that on Jackson's death, the Library was to be transferred to his old College. Pepys laid down specific instructions for the arrangement of his bequest “That my said Library be continued in its present form and noe other books mixt therewith” The three thousand books, covering an eclectic range of topics, are thus still housed in the twelve beautiful oak bookcases or ‘presses’ probably made especially for Pepys and to his own prescription. The books are arranged by size, from Number 1 (the smallest) to Number 3000 (the largest). The whole collection is laid out to resemble as closely as possible the arrangement in Pepys's London house and the Library is located in what has come to be known as the Pepys Building. Though not constructed for the specific purpose of housing the collection, this late 17th century building was, nonetheless, in part funded by Pepys himself. The distinctive inscription *Bibliotheca Pepysiana 1724* above the central arch of the façade records the date of the arrival of the Library at Magdalene. It is amongst the most photographed and iconic of all of Cambridge's many distinguished buildings.

The Library is of international significance and the College is thus the guardian of a collection of the greatest significance, offering a fascinating window on the man and his times.

The GKN Lecture in Management 2002

The End of Newspapers

Alan Rusbridger, Editor The Guardian

2002 might have seen the 13th Annual Lecture in Management but it was certainly not unlucky for the College. This lecture series was started in 1989 when the development of the Judge Institute of Management and the University's MBA was seen as an opportunity for Magdalene to take part in Management Studies on a national level. The lecture topics have been wide, from managing industry and banks, to managing cities and the Church. Our connection with GKN plc (the old Guest, Keen and Nettlefold) goes back further, to days when the developing company ran Management Training courses in College in vacations, and had led to their previous generosity in founding the GKN Fellow, currently held by Dr Holger Babinsky, Reader in Engineering.

The 2002 Lecture, held in Benson Hall on 21 November, was given by the Editor of *The Guardian* (and Magdalene man), Alan Rusbridger (1973), who took as his subject *The End of Newspapers*. He gave us a fascinating insight into the challenge facing national and international newspapers from the ubiquitous



The Master and Alan Rusbridger

internet: news available 'instantly', with a wide range of prejudices and at little cost. Could newspapers hope to compete, let alone survive? Well, *The Guardian* is competing and Alan's talk was masterfully illustrated, pulling down current web pictures over the College IT system, to enthral a spellbound audience of over 80. We were more than pleasantly surprised how far the project had got and began to understand some of the problems of running the old and new systems, with different ethics and different pay scales, in common harness. We intend to publish the lecture in due course and copies of past lectures are available from the College Office.

This was the first GKN Lecture for our new Master, Duncan Robinson, who presided over proceedings during the talk and the subsequent question period, and at the informal reception afterwards, where Alan Rusbridger was able to meet our wide range of guests drawn from the University and from local City and County Business leaders.

Jeffery Lewins
Life Fellow

P.S. Next year's lecture (date yet to be announced) is on Managing Naval Forces, appropriate in the year of the tercentenary of the death of Samuel Pepys.

College Choir – Latest CD

As *Magdalene Matters* goes to press, the latest CD of the College Choir has just been released. It is a compilation of music by a variety of composers from different periods and includes repertoire that you may have heard the Choir sing when you were in College. If you wish to support this latest venture by the Choir, please go now to the inserted sheet and fill in the order form.

I know you will be impressed by the standard that the Choir has achieved

on this CD – I believe that you will also enjoy it. And if you feel that you want to hear more of the Choir, remember that you can always come to a service during Full Term: Thursdays at 6.45 pm and Sundays at 6.30 pm. The Choir is on good form at the moment and would be delighted to welcome you back to College.

Finally, don't miss the opportunity to publicise the Choir CD – it is up to you to request a track to be played on BBC Radio 3 or on Classic FM. They

can be contacted on listeners.choice@bbc.co.uk (on Radio 3 Saturdays 2 – 4 pm) and requests@classicfm.com (Monday to Saturday 12 noon to 2 pm and Sunday 9 – 11 am) and mark.griffiths@classicfm.com (Sundays to Thursdays 12 midnight – 5.00 am). That will encourage a lot of listeners to enjoy the singing of the Magdalene Choir!

Jonathan Hellyer Jones
Precentor and College Organist

New Court for Magdalene

Magdalene is to get a new Court. Thanks to a magnificent benefaction from the Cripps Foundation, plans are well advanced to develop a site behind Numbers 1 and 3 Chesterton Road, opposite Wentworth House, into new student accommodation and facilities. Planning permission for the development was granted in February 2003 and we hope to begin construction in July.

When completed, the Court will offer 42 en-suite study bedrooms, a 140-seat lecture theatre, as well as seminar and meeting rooms, together with ancillary facilities. The architect is Tristan Rees Roberts, who was responsible for the Jerwood Library at Trinity Hall. His innovative design is sympathetic to its environment and combines Cambridge brick, Portland stone and oak in a gracious and harmonious series of buildings, set around a traditional open court. The design is notable for both its fidelity to the time-honoured concept of a Cambridge court and for its human scale. The College's existing properties at 1 and 3 Chesterton Road will be fully integrated into the design; the houses will be refurbished and then linked by a new entrance building. The new accommodation will be provided in two ranges to the north and west of the site, with the lecture theatre and other facilities occupying the eastern side.



Artist's impression of the new Court

As the land slopes upwards to the northern edge, the open court will be tiered and landscaped, and will incorporate a water feature. At a later stage, if funds allow, it is proposed to add a small sports hall which could also be used as a gallery for exhibitions.

Denis Murphy, Chairman of the College's Development Committee, told *Magdalene Matters* 'We are very excited by the project which, when completed, promises to be a splendid addition to the canon of Magdalene - and

Cambridge - buildings. Not only will the court provide excellent accommodation and facilities for our own members, it will also make a useful contribution to our ability to attract conference business, which is increasingly needed to support College finances'.

If all goes to plan, the new court will accept its first undergraduate occupants in the Michaelmas Term 2005.

CAMPAIGN NEWS

£7,613,107

has been given or pledged to the Magdalene Campaign by 31 March 2003.

Contributions totalling £3,908,845 have been received from 1,161 members of the College, i.e. 21% of the total membership.

LONG-TERM TARGET

£20 million

Fellows' News

PROMOTIONS

Dr Eamon Duffy and Dr Robin Spence have been appointed to personal Chairs.

Dr Holger Babinsky has been promoted to Reader.

Dr John Patterson, Dr Jeremy Rawson and Dr Paul Dupree have been promoted to Senior Lecturer.

HONOURS & AWARDS

Dr Peter Reynolds has been elected to Honorary Membership of the Société Française de Microbiologie: this is an elite

body of just 20 members, so the election of a British scientist is a signal honour - and at this particular juncture in Anglo-French relations a cheering sign!

Dr Tom Spencer and Dr Mark Billinge have been jointly awarded one of ten 'Eco Champion' awards for their contribution to Environmental/Cultural protection in Greece.

Dr Simon Stoddart has been awarded a Balsdon Fellowship at the British School at Rome during the academic year 2003-4.

Professor Duffy has been elected to an Honorary Fellowship of St Mary's College, Strawberry Hill.

New Development Director



Dr Mark Billinge

Magdalene has now re-joined the majority of Cambridge Colleges in deciding that its Development effort needs to be overseen by a dedicated Director. The College considered an external appointment for this vital post but felt that an existing Fellow would have more empathy with both the needs of the College and the views of its Alumni. As a result, Dr Mark Billinge, currently

Senior Tutor, has been appointed as Development Director and will take up his new post when he stands down as Senior Tutor at the end of July. Mark tells *Magdalene Matters* that he is very excited by the opportunities that lie ahead and that he looks forward to meeting as many Alumni as possible. He noted that the recent Government White Paper on Higher Education

was likely to have important implications for the College not least in the area of finance. The challenge remains that of raising sufficient funds to defend the College's autonomy in major decision making whilst meeting our obligation to broaden Magdalene's admissions base through the provision of effective access and hardship funds.

Telethon Two

As reported in Issue 15 of *Magdalene Matters*, the College held its first ever 'Telethon' in September 2001 which eventually raised the impressive figure of £128,960 for the Development Appeal. We have now just completed our second 'Telethon' and the initial results were even more encouraging. Almost 900 Members were contacted and, to date, over £155,000 has been pledged. If previous experience is anything to go by, this figure will increase considerably when all the non-specific pledges have been confirmed (by way of comparison, at a similar stage in the 2001 campaign, £80,000 had been

pledged). The student callers thoroughly enjoyed swapping reminiscences with their predecessors and from the feedback we have received, so did many

of those contacted. We are extremely grateful to all who donated so generously, and to Emily Foreman and her calling team.



Telethon 2003 Team

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

***27 June 2003**

The Magdalene Association will hold a Golf Day at St George's Hill Golf Club, Weybridge, Surrey. The day will begin with breakfast at 7.30.

***3 July 2003**

The Magdalene Association will hold a lunch in College on Thursday, 3 July for members and their guests. The programme for the day will include a display of the College silver, an organ recital and the Pepys Library will be open for members to visit.

***20 July 2003**

The Magdalene Association will hold a Garden Party for members. Families are very welcome and the afternoon will include activities for children. Your invitation for this event is enclosed.

26 and 27 September 2003

Reunion Dinners will be held in the College on these dates. The Friday dinner will be for those who matriculated between 1961-1963; and the Saturday dinner for those who matriculated between 1964-1966. Formal invitations will be issued by the College in May.

***24 October 2003**

A reception at the House of Lords, to be hosted by Lord Ezra, will be held on Friday, 24 October for members of the College and their guests. The event includes a guided tour of the House of Lords.

24 October 2003

The New York Dinner will be held at the Union Club, 101 East 69th Street

on Friday, 24 October. Invitations will be sent out in August to members living in the USA and Canada. For information, please contact Mr Robert Chartener: chartener@winslowpartners.com

*Please contact Miles Broadbent, Chairman (miles@miles-partnership.com), or Wendy Meharg, Secretary (wendymeharg@hotmail.com), for further details of any of the Association events listed above.

The Magdalene Association is not a fund-raising organisation, and the sole purpose of all the events is to put Members in touch with each other and with the College in a social setting.