

GREEKS BEARING GIFTS?

Readers of *Magdalene Matters* may be forgiven if they have been left feeling bothered and bewildered by recent debates and impending decisions concerning the so called “top-up fee” and its likely impact on University finances. They may be further forgiven for harbouring an impression - too often allowed to go unchallenged - that, however painful for individual students and their families, the top-up fee will at least solve the University’s and Colleges’ funding crises and put a welcome end to the need for College fundraising. RIP the Magdalene Campaign. Goodbye to all that.

On the contrary - though elements of the final package have yet to be determined (at both Government and University level) - it is already clear that the present proposals do not provide the hoped-for solution to the University’s funding problems and that they are most unlikely to do anything to improve the College’s finances.

3. This is a top-up *University* fee levied to address *University* needs and there is no requirement that *any* of the additional income should filter down to the Colleges. Since Magdalene currently receives £1,500 *less* per undergraduate per annum than it costs to provide for their education - a shortfall met wholly from the College’s own resources - this is not good news. Inevitably there will continue to be substantial and increasing claims on the Endowment which the new funding arrangement will do little, if anything, to ameliorate.

4. Significantly and - in its long-term implications more concerning still - any income derived from an increased University fee comes to the University not as “free-money”, but rather as a latter-day Trojan Horse. This takes the form of the Office of the Access Regulator whose powers include those of withdrawing funding from any institution which fails to toe whatever



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1. A conservative estimate of the *extra* income required to fund Cambridge *University* (as opposed to its constituent Colleges) puts the figure at something in the region of £24 million p.a. The present proposal will yield at most £20 million p.a. (gross).

2. A condition of the “new money” is that a large proportion of it must be “top-sliced” and set aside for student hardship in order to ensure that the higher University fee does not prevent those who cannot afford to pay it from coming to Cambridge. The College warmly supports this principle. However, the estimated £7.9 million p.a. which will be disbursed in this way is £7.9 million p.a. unavailable for other purposes. On this calculation, the University will gain only £12.1 million p.a. (or barely half) of the additional £24 million p.a. it requires to support its teaching and research.

admissions line Government - present and future - may care to impose.

For these reasons, the College remains unconvinced of the merits of a scheme which will not yield sufficient money to solve its financial problems, is unlikely to help in the recruitment and retention of junior and senior members and will erode yet further the College’s ability to make its own decisions free from political interference.

It is clear then that Magdalene’s future is in no way strengthened, let alone guaranteed, by the new funding arrangements and that its fate lies - as it always has - in our collective hands. So it’s goodbye to nothing: the Campaign goes on.

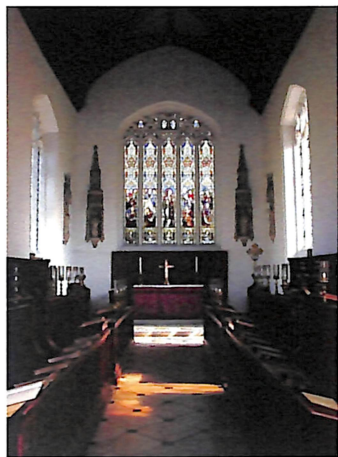
MARK BILLINGE

THE MAGDALENE CAMPAIGN 



Quires of Angels

Over the last few years the College Choir has undergone a radical transformation of its fortunes under the direction first of the late Stephen Farmer



and, more recently, College Precentor Jonathan Hellyer Jones.

At the same time, the Choir has become an increasingly important ambassador for the College both at home and abroad. It has visited major cathedrals in Britain (including St Paul's and Westminster Abbey) and has toured to South Africa, Ireland and Malta. This summer it will be visiting Wales and is in the early stages of planning a visit to the USA in 2005.

Despite the inestimable advantage of the new College organ, the Choir's further development has been hampered by the indifferent quality of the musical editions from which it has been obliged

to perform. Happily, the process of replacing these outdated and unscholarly texts has now begun thanks to a generous benefaction from Philip Carne (1958) and his wife Chris. Hearing of the lamentable state (textually) of the Choir's *Lamentations*, they determined to help make a start, and significant elements of the Choir's core (service) repertory have already been purchased. It is hoped to extend this process, and with it the richness of the Choir's repertoire, over the coming years as funds allow.

Anyone interested in helping to further this splendid initiative or in supporting the Choir in other ways is encouraged to contact the Development Director.

PEPYS BENEFACTION

The Pepys Library has received a welcome boost to its fortunes as a result of a generous benefaction from Lord Ezra (1936). An Honorary Fellow of the College and long-time member of the Association Committee, Derek has entertained a life-long interest in Pepys to which this gift gives welcome practical expression. As he told *Magdalene Matters*:

'I wanted to support the Pepys Library Fund, partly for personal reasons, because I have the same birthday as Pepys and we both went to "our College of Magdalene", but more importantly because I admire the Library, its contents and good order, and consider it should be more widely known and used.'



The Butler did it !

Honorary member Jack Vettriano (2003) has been much in the news recently. Featured in an edition of the *South Bank Show* in early March he was also Sue Lawley's guest on *Desert Island Discs* later in the same month.

More recently still, his most popular painting *The Singing Butler* sold for £744,800 at auction near Edinburgh on 19 April. A record for the artist, for any Scottish painter and for any painting sold in Scotland, the evidently strong interest at auction amply demonstrates the enormous popularity and appeal of an artist whose prints out-sell those of Van Gogh, Monet, Picasso and Warhol. *The Singing Butler* was originally sold for just over £4,500 in 1991.

Born in Scotland in 1951, Jack began painting full time only in 1988. His first

solo exhibition took place in London in 1992. He is represented by Tom Hewlett (1971) of the Portland Gallery, London.

Magdalene's Jack Vettriano Scholarship was established by Mr Vettriano to help encourage and support students from Scotland in financial hardship.



Members' News

Mervin Kingston (1945) was the recipient of an *Unsung Heroes and Heroines Award* given by the City of Liverpool for his long commitment to community work in the city.

Robert Chatterton Dickson (1981) has been appointed Her Majesty's Ambassador to Macedonia.

Ben Gooder (1981) has won the 2003 Oscar Moore Screenwriting Prize for his original script *A Fine Line*.

Dr Helen Lee (2003) has received international acclaim for the development of "Firstburst" a rapid and cheap test to detect Chlamydia. Chlamydia is one of the most common sexually transmitted diseases, with 92 million new cases recorded by the World Health Organisation in 1999.

COLLEGE NEWS

Spring Comes Early to Chesterton Road

EDWARD AND ROBERT
CRIPPS
LAID THIS FOUNDATION
STONE
IN MAY 2004

NON OMNIS MORIAR

First there was a large mess, then an even larger hole, more recently a very tall crane and at last - as though to challenge the Spring flowers around it - the first signs of a structure as Cripps Court began its stately rise above

Chesterton Road. Planned for completion in the summer of 2005, the Court should receive its first residents in October 2005.

The Foundation Stone will be laid by the benefactors at a ceremony on 27 May this year. Denis Murphy, Chair of the Committee overseeing the project, said: 'So far we are very, very pleased with the contractors' progress! Continuing to meet our deadlines will, however, be crucial if the

College is to get the full benefit of the new court from October 2005'.



*Signing the Building Contract:
The Senior Bursar, Mr Murphy and
the College Accountant*

photographs by Mark Billinge; aeroplane flown by Andrew Thompson



Demolition: October 2003



Construction: April 2004

Full Nelson!

Almost ten years after its inception by Chris von Christierson (1969), the Mandela Magdalene Scholarship Scheme for South Africa has entered an exciting new phase. Over the last two years Sir Derek Oulton has met with senior representatives of all of the major South African Universities and has secured their agreement to help identify the very best graduate students for the scheme.

An advertising campaign, sponsored by CUP (through the kind offices of Andrew Brown (1967)), together with an offer from British Airways to provide Scholars with free return tickets

(courtesy of Charles Forsyth (1987) BA's General Manager for Southern Africa) should ensure that more South Africans than ever know about, and have the opportunity to benefit from, these important awards.



Sir Derek Oulton

CAMPAIGN NEWS

£8,228,404

**has been given or pledged to
the Magdalene Campaign
by 30 April 2004**

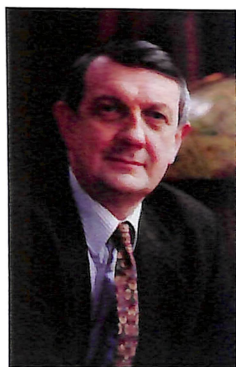
**Contributions totalling
£4,429,856 have been received
from 1,443 members
of the College,
i.e. 25% of the membership.**

CAMPAIGN TARGET

£20 million

ASSOCIATION NEWS

Enlightened Reformation: the Association Dinner



This year's Association Dinner was held in the College on 27 March and was preceded, for the first time, by an afternoon lecture given by the President of the College, Professor Eamon Duffy. His informal but masterly talk on *The Reformation and the People of England* attracted a large and appreciative audience. This innovation was judged such a success that the format is to be

repeated in future years.

More than fifty members subsequently attended the dinner at which the Master spoke of the College's present condition and its future challenges. Diners then repaired to the College Bar where deep, occasionally tired and sometimes emotional conversation was heard until the early hours of Sunday morning.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2004

*Friday, 18 June

The Magdalene Association will hold a Golf Day with lunch at St. George's Hill Golf Club, Weybridge, Surrey for members of the College and their guests. Breakfast will be served in the Clubhouse at 7.30 am. Tickets are available from Miles Broadbent at a cost of £125 each.

*Thursday, 1 July

The Magdalene Association will hold a Breakfast and Tour of the *Art of the Garden Exhibition* at Tate Britain for members of the College and their guests. This will take place from 8.30 am -

10.30 am and tickets are available at a cost of £18 per person.

Friday, 24 September

The Reunion Dinner for members who matriculated between 1967 - 1969 will be held in College.

Saturday, 25 September

The Reunion Dinner for members who matriculated between 1970 - 1972 will be held in College.

Friday, 5 November

The New York Dinner will be held at the Union Club, 101 East 69th Street. Invitations will be sent out in August to members

living in the USA and Canada. For further information, please contact Mr Robert Chartener: robert@magdalene.us.

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

The Magdalene Association is not a fund-raising organisation, and the purpose of its events is to put members in touch with each other and with the College through social activity.

Fellows' News

The President, Professor Eamon Duffy has been awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Divinity by the University of Hull. By happy chance, he is the second Magdalene Fellow to have been honoured by the University of Hull in this way. The late Professor Uberto Limentani was awarded an Honorary DLitt in 1985.

Professor Nicholas Boyle was admitted to the degree of DLitt at a very well-attended congregation held in the Senate House on 24 January.

Professor Neil Rushton has been promoted to a personal Chair in Orthopaedic Surgery and Dr Tim Harper to a Senior Lectureship in History.



"Well, it's not a good sign, that's for sure..."

Further Information:

For further information on the Magdalene Campaign, contact:

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