Welcome to the Autumn 2008 edition of *Petrean News*. Meet the Development Office team: from left to right below, Angela Reeves, Neil Plevy, and Ann Munro.

We are pleased to announce the launch of our new *Petrean website*, designed by a member of the College who is now a professional website designer, Mr Mark Dodwell (matric. 2003). Please do look at the site, which can be viewed directly at [http://www.petreans.net/](http://www.petreans.net/), or via the general College website at [www.pet.cam.ac.uk](http://www.pet.cam.ac.uk). It is intended to bring together all strands of information for non-resident Petreans, with pages for the Peterhouse Society, the Development Campaign, the Friends of Peterhouse and much more. We hope that members will wish to contribute to the content of the site, and we look forward to receiving your views, comments and contributions. The webpages are very user friendly, and we hope to turn information around far more quickly than it has been feasible to do in the past.

Following the success of the Head Gardener’s ‘seasonal tips’ section in the last edition, this time we have the first in a series of ‘wine tips’ from the College’s Wine Cellar Manager, Mr Rupert Espley. Head Gardener Richard Harris will return with more garden hints in future editions.

It was always our hope that *Petrean News*, as well as being an informal newsletter, would also be a means of communication between our members, and this is obviously proving to be the case. In the Autumn 2007 edition we featured an article by Dr Ray Wijewardene (matric. 1945), who resides in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Dr Wijewardene received an email from another Petrean who asked if he was a relation of his former room-mate on Trumpington Street, Mr Ranjit Wijewardene (matric. 1956). He happened to be a cousin, and Dr Wijewardene was happy to put them in touch with each other again.

We’re always keen to receive your biographies and news of publications and other activities, so please keep them coming: more appear in this edition.
RECENT EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES


The eighth annual Peterhouse Society ‘London Drinks’ evening was again held at Corney and Barrow Wine Bar, Broadgate Circle, in the City, on Thursday 24th April. Once again the event was well-attended, so much so that the Society has decided to hold a further ‘London Drinks’ session in the West End of London in October. More on this event can be found later in this edition.

May Bumps 2008: 11th – 14th June 2008

The May Bumps took place between 11th and 14th June, and were successful for the Peterhouse Boat Club: the 1st Men went up one place, the 1st Women stayed level, the 2nd Men gained their Oars and the 2nd Women went up three places. Full details and further news can be found on the Club’s website at: www.peterhousebc.org/easter08, together with a summary by the Captain, Will Richards (matric. 2005). This site contains links to race reports, photos of the main events, and details of all the main race results last term.

Key Boat Club dates for next term are as follows:

- Fairbairns Cup: Thursday 4th – Friday 5th December 2008.
- Fairbairns Dinner: Friday 5th December 2008.

Launch of Wilson of Tillyorn: 15th June 2008

On Sunday 15th June, members and guests of the Peterhouse Boat Club attended a special launch ceremony of a new shell for the Men’s 1st VIII, named Wilson of Tillyorn in honour of the outgoing Master. The name had been successfully kept a secret.

The Captain, Will Richards, writes: ‘Thanks to the generosity of those supporting the Peterhouse Boat Club Fund’s Spirit of ’56 Campaign, the Fund was recently able to purchase a new racing shell for use by the 1st Men’s VIII. The Club took delivery of the new shell soon after Easter, to allow the crew to use the new boat for training as well as for racing during the term. Following the very successful May Bumps for all the Club’s crews, Lady Wilson named the shell Wilson of Tillyorn for the outgoing Master and President of the Boat Club. The boat was then launched with a mixed crew of alumni, the current 1st Men’s VIII, and Lord Wilson himself, rowing in the number Four seat. The Club was glad to welcome back so many former members to the Boathouse for what was a very happy and memorable morning after a fantastic week of racing on the river.’

Our pictures show (left) Lord Wilson launching the new shell; and (right) the new boat taking to the water, with Lord Wilson at Four.
‘Topping out’ Ceremony: 16th June 2008

A number of Petrans attending this year’s Peterhouse Society Gathering were fortunate enough to have rooms in the newly-refurbished William Stone Building. This became possible because the completion of the refurbishment project was achieved significantly ahead of schedule, allowing access for the Gathering weekend. The ‘topping out’ ceremony for the building took place on Monday 16th June 2008.

The first photograph below shows representatives of some of the contractors (Britania Build, Burrell Associates, Bidwells, and S.C. Fire), and the former Master, Senior Tutor, Senior Bursar and Development Director toasting the refurbishment. The second photograph shows the Senior Tutor, Dr Philip Pattenden, and the Clerk of Works, Mr Keith Stock, on the roof, examining the new solar panels which make the building both ‘green’ and highly energy-efficient.

Peterhouse Society annual Gathering: 27th – 29th June 2008

The 2008 annual Gathering, held between Friday 27th and Sunday 29th June, turned into yet another memorable occasion. The weekend was very well attended, and this year we were thankful for the fine weather. This Gathering also marked the 50th anniversary of matriculation of the 1958 matriculands. Mr Paul Matthews, a member of that group, commented on the reunion as follows:

‘Almost 200 Petreans and guests converged on Cambridge from near and far during the last weekend of June, to take part in the Peterhouse Society’s annual Gathering. Our doyen had matriculated in 1938, while the most recent matriculand processed to the Senate House as recently as 2001 – a remarkable spread of 63 years. Thanks to the initiative of Mr Michael Burrell, 18 participants in the 1958 matriculation decided to mark the 50th anniversary of that event by attending the 2008 Gathering – remarkably, several of us were able to recognise each other, notwithstanding the 47 year interval since graduation!

As always, participants were free to do as much or as little as they wished. Popular events were the guided tours of the beautifully-restored Hall and the gardens. The Perne Library, including carefully-restored old books, and the College silver were available for visits, as was the College’s art collection, with a useful written guide. A lecture on C.S. Lewis by Dr Michael Ward (matric. 1999, Chaplain 2004-07)* provided stimulation for the mind, while a tasting of wines from the College’s renowned cellar provided stimulation for the palate. For the more energetic, rowing and cricket events were organised on Sunday, a welcome antidote to the copious and delicious Dinner offered by the College to its members on Saturday evening. During the Dinner, toasts were made to the Queen, the College and the Peterhouse Society. Sir Hilary Synott (matric. 1964), President of the Society, provided a tour d’horizon of the Society and of some of the more memorable achievements of its members. In the absence of the new Master, the senior Fellow, Professor David Watkin, brought us up-to-date on the State of the House, which appeared to be gratifyingly sound.

On Sunday morning, Mr Neil Plevy (matric. 1978), Development Director and Secretary to the Peterhouse Society, presented Professor Adrian Dixon (matric. 1986), one of the world’s leading radiologists, who had taken over just four days earlier as Master from Lord Wilson of Tillyorn, and who returned specially from a long-standing commitment in Budapest so as to be
with us. Professor Dixon – the first Master to be elected from within the Fellowship since the late Sir Grahame Clark (matric. 1926) in 1973 – introduced himself, taking us fluently and often amusingly through his impressive curriculum vitae, including pioneering work on medical scanning devices. He also outlined the main College goals by the achievement of which he imagined that his Mastership would be judged: maintaining the collegiality encouraged by his predecessor among the Fellowship; restoring the academic achievements of the College to their former high level; and overseeing the completion of the projected new residential building on the Birdwood / Fen Court side of Gisborne Court.

The Gathering was blessed with fine weather, and the College had organised the event flawlessly. Old acquaintances were renewed, new ones made, and strolls were taken down memory lane as well as around the Deer Park and other gardens. All too soon, it was time to leave, reassured that Peterhouse remains worthy of our affection and respect.’


COLLEGE NEWS

Professor Andrew Parker, a Fellow of the College in Physics since 1989, and formerly a Tutor, recently appeared on BBC Radio 4 as part of their ‘Big Bang’ coverage of the CERN Large Hadron Collider switch-on, on Wednesday 10th September. Professor Parker was interviewed for a series of programmes with Simon Singh, author of Big Bang, and presenter of 5 Particles, which was scheduled to go out every day for three weeks.

Professor Parker also attended the Research Council media launch in London on Wednesday morning, when the Today programme was broadcast from CERN. Professor Parker has been heavily involved in the Large Hadron Collider project for many years. Details can be found on his personal website http://www.phy.cam.ac.uk/people/parkera.php. Also closely involved is his Peterhouse colleague, Dr Christopher Lester, who has been a Bye-Fellow since 2005 and takes up a full Fellowship in Physics from 1st October 2008.

Publication announcement: Dr Mari Jones (matric. 1993)

The Guernsey Norman French Translations of Thomas Martin: A Linguistic Study of an Unpublished Archive, by Dr Mari Jones, Fellow in Modern and Medieval Languages and Linguistics since 1993, has recently been published by Peeters Publishers. This major linguistic study of Guernsey Norman French offers an extensive presentation and analysis of one of the most important sources of data available in the dialect, namely Thomas Martin's translations of the Bible and of 100 plays from the work of Shakespeare, Longfellow, Pierre and Thomas Corneille, Molière and Voltaire. The book describes the socio-political development of Guernsey Norman French, its salient features and linguistic context, and presents the translations against the backdrop of late nineteenth-century Guernsey society. The linguistic analysis focuses on Martin's orthographic system, the way in which the translations reflect nineteenth-century Guernsey Norman French and how the corpus can provide new grammatical and lexical information about the dialect. Transcribed extracts from the translations are also included, supplemented by linguistic notes. The book will be of interest to linguists studying dialectology, translation and language contact and change. Details are available at: http://www.peeters-leuven.be/boekoverz.asp?nr=8529.
Admissions News

Mrs Jennie Brandon, Admission Co-Ordinator, writes: ‘After over 18 months of consultation with Junior Members, collaboration with designers, intense editorial discussions and exhausting photo shoots, the new College Admissions Prospectus has finally been published. Both Fellows and Junior Members have commented enthusiastically on the clean lines and stunning photography. Particularly popular are the ‘Day In The Life’ pages which each consist of a portrait and commentary from an individual student. The articles span one student from each year group, commenting on everything from the nerves of Freshers’ week to the satisfaction of graduating, plus the experiences of an international student at the College. This is the first completely revised Prospectus for eight years and reflects the enormous changes which have affected the admissions process during that time, and the increasingly broad spectrum of applicants which the College attracts. If you would like to receive a copy, please contact the Admissions Office at jennie.brandon@pet.cam.ac.uk (01223 338223). Alternatively, the new Prospectus will soon be available on the College’s web-site.

Another major enhancement to the work of the Admissions Office is the recruitment of the College’s first Schools Liaison Officer, supported by funding from the Friends of Peterhouse. Miss Rosie Woodbury joined the Admissions team on 1st September 2008. Her role is threefold: to develop relationships with schools; to encourage and aid young people from a diverse range of backgrounds applying to the University in general and Peterhouse in particular; and to analyse statistics on previous admissions rounds, in order to inform and focus future admissions efforts. Having read Education Studies with Mathematics at Homerton College in Cambridge, Rosie has had first-hand experience of ‘target’ and ‘access’ schemes, having been encouraged to apply to Cambridge from a state school in Manchester. She hopes to continue and expand on the current work of the Admissions Office by offering help to intending applicants through school visits and ‘Aspiration Days’. She will also be building on Jennie Brandon’s successful work with ‘hub’ schools, where a high-achieving school in a particular area invites in students from other schools in their consortium to attend a talk about applying to Cambridge. Miss Woodbury would be delighted to hear from Petreans, especially teachers who feel that their school could benefit from a visit or could provide a ‘hub’ for other schools to hear about the undergraduate application process.

The photograph above shows Jennie Brandon (left) and Rosie Woodbury (right) in the Admissions Office.
Wine tips from the Wine Cellar Manager, Rupert Espley

Rupert Espley is the Wine Cellar Manager at Peterhouse, with ten years’ experience in the wine trade. His article below gives tips on decanting.

‘One of the questions I am most often asked is whether or not to decant a wine and if so what is the best way to do it. There is a great deal of discussion surrounding the subject of decanting so let me outline what, in my opinion, are the most important points to remember.

There are two reasons to decant, and the main one is simply to remove the sediment from a wine so that it can be served in a clean and bright condition. With the advent of modern fining and cold stabilisation techniques, most wines today are bottled in a clean and filtered state, and simply need to be opened and poured. The problem arises with wines that throw sediment over time after they have been bottled, and these are principally mature red wines and vintage ports which have been cellared for over ten years. They represent only a small fraction of wines consumed, and are very much at the ‘fine’ end of the scale.

The other, more divisive, reason for decanting is for the purpose of aerating a wine. This encompasses a slightly broader spectrum of wines, mature and young, although we are again dealing with mainly vintage reds of ‘finer’ quality. There are differing views; but, for my part, the vast majority of everyday wines do not benefit from being allowed to breath before serving. So, having established that only a minority of wines benefit from aeration, how long should they be left to breath? As a general rule, the younger the wine the more time should be allowed; and, with many wines being drunk too young, decanting two hours or more before drinking definitely serves to soften the harsher tannins, making the wine more palatable (how often has one returned to a young wine opened the previous night to find it much improved the next day?).

More caution, however, is required with older wines of twenty years or more, since they can be fragile when exposed to air. For this reason it is safer to begin drinking these wines soon after opening. There are always exceptions to the rule, and good older vintages of well-cellared wine can also develop remarkably after a period of two or three hours in the decanter.

As to the method of decanting itself, preparation is the key. Two hours before decanting it is important to loosen the cork and stand the bottle upright, to enable the sediment time to settle. To decant, slowly pour the wine into a glass receptacle, until the first traces of sediment appear in the neck of the bottle. You can use a candle or torch to help illuminate the progress of the sediment as it makes its way along the shoulder to the neck of the bottle. It doesn’t matter if you catch a little of the first traces of sediment, but the important thing is to stop pouring before the bulk of the sediment arrives in the decanter. You should be left with about half an inch of wine in the bottle, along with the sediment. The amount of sediment can vary greatly according to the style and age of the wine, with vintage port tending to produce a heavier sediment or crust. With vintage port in particular, I find it easier to place a funnel with a sieve into the neck of the decanter, for two reasons. Firstly, the heavy nature of the sediment/crust behaves differently, and you tend to get flakes of crust mixed in with the wine during pouring, that the sieve will catch. Also, it is often impossible to remove the cork from on old bottle of 1960s or 1970s vintage port without breaking it and pushing part of it back into the bottle. The floating cork tends to make pouring difficult, and the sieve will help catch any subsequently disturbed sediment and cork fragments.

Perhaps the most important thing to remember is that decanting generally won’t do any harm to most wines. The fact that decanted wine looks elegant is also a good enough reason for doing it, and at Peterhouse we like to decant most red wines as a matter of course.

Peterhouse Junior Member achievements

Shiraz Badurdeen (matric. 2003), who read Medicine and is now a clinical student at Addenbrooke’s Hospital, has recently been awarded the Peter Brook Award – a University-endowed award administered through the Department of Psychiatry – for a paper on the drug treatment of Alzheimer’s Disease.

Shiraz (pictured overleaf) submitted an unpublished report which explored the mechanism through which drugs used to treat patients with Alzheimer's Disease incidentally also improved symptoms such as depression and anxiety. The hope is that the elucidation of these novel
pathways will allow certain brain areas to be more specifically targeted in future when treating patients with a variety of neuropsychiatric conditions.

Shiraz Badurdeen

Shiraz’s fellow-Medic, Jennifer Taylor (matric. 2005) (pictured below) recently received the College’s Dwyer-Nixon Prize in Medicine. Applicants are invited to write about their extra-curricular involvements during their time at Peterhouse. Jenny writes: ‘I had been involved in the Peterhouse Sexcentenary Club, orchestra and several sports teams, along with travel during the holidays and some voluntary work. It is important that medical students have other interests outside studying, as this helps with the teamwork and communication skills that are vital for any doctor - and this Prize highlights this’.

Gerd Grau (matric. 2007), who reads Engineering, is one of five students shortlisted for sponsorship by Siemens Magnet Technology. Two students will be selected for sponsorship, in the next round, to be held next year.

Ph.D. Mathematics students Anthony Ashton (matric. 2002) and Angus Brown (matric. 2002) were both awarded distinctions for essays submitted for the Smith-Knight and Rayleigh-Knight Prizes, 2008. Anthony was awarded a Prize for his essay on ‘Symmetry, Integrability and Boundary Value Problems’. The main result in the essay was an extension of a classical result due to Emmy Noether, relating symmetries and conservation laws. The contents of the essay have been spread over two publications: one in SIGMA (Symmetry, Integrability and Geometry: Methods and Application) and the other is currently under review in JNMP (Journal of Nonlinear Mathematical Physics). Angus was awarded a Prize for his essay on 'The Effects of Diverse Beliefs and Market Clearing on Financial Markets'. This essay described a new framework for modelling financial markets, which allows the participants within the market to have diverse beliefs about a parameter of the economy. Using this frameworks we are able to derive asset prices and show how parameter uncertainty can affect their behaviour.
**The Cross Keys Cricket Club** (article by Dr Jamie Muir Wood, matric. 1998, Secretary)

The Cross Keys Cricket Club has improved on last year’s performance, having won three and lost three, with one game to play, against Wilson Carlisle’s (matric. 1966) Falkland XI.

The season started with a washout and was followed by heavy defeat in Cambridge against the current Peterhouse XI (and friends). The next fixture, on the Sunday of the Peterhouse Society Gathering, was a closely-fought twenty20 fixture against the Old Spring – despite the valiant batting efforts of Adam Gold (matric. 2001) and Richard Bevan-Jones (matric. 2004) the Old Spring total eluded us by six runs. Both of these fixtures were played ‘away’ with Bentley Road unavailable for its home team – a great shame, as many members had looked forward returning to the ‘field of dreams’.

Our first London fixture was against another local side on Wandsworth Common – excellent batting by the top four batsmen (especially Adam Gold) enabled us to set an unattainable target for our hosts, and tidy work in the field, including three spectacular catches by Duncan Wagstaff (matric. 1997), saw us win by 50 runs.

A week later the Cross Keys made the annual pilgrimage to Herefordshire to take on the Rock Select XI at the Hatfield Oval, kindly hosted by Ray (matric. 1962) and Vida Godson. Despite their best efforts to weaken the visiting side by plying it with delicious food and drink, the Cross Keys stuttered to a decent total (guest batsman, Paul Wallace, rescuing an early-order batting collapse) and some fantastic bowling, by Thomas Probert (matric. 2005) and Henry Worthington (matric. 2003) amongst others, helped break through the top order, leaving the hosts 25 runs short at the end of their innings. Another London fixture a few weeks later saw the season’s biggest victory over Faisal Sethi’s (matric. 1992) West London Massive – our top five batsmen (Ed Simpson (matric. 2004) and James Shotter (matric. 2001) making particularly valuable contributions) set a total of 299 in 35 overs, and the visitors were sent home 100 runs adrift after good bowling by Thomas Probert and Ed Simpson.

Our most recent fixture again saw us chasing down an achievable total in a twenty20 fixture against the Ectopics in Oxford, captained by Duncan Wagstaff. Despite some good bowling by Ed Simpson and Javed Abrahams (matric. 2003), the target was too high, and the Cross Keys were all out, ten runs behind, with six balls to spare. All was forgotten afterwards, though, as the players enjoyed a decent barbeque and thought ahead to the final fixture in Newbury.

The Cross Keys Cricket Club attempts to play around eight friendly fixtures in and around London each summer and is open to any Petrean who wants to play – please e-mail Jamie Muir Wood ([jmuirwood@hotmail.com](mailto:jmuirwood@hotmail.com)) to join the e-mail list. The photograph above shows Ben Shribman (matric. 2000) bowling, with James Shotter looking on.
Michael Dobbin (matric. 2004): Sword of Honour

Michael Dobbin (matric. 2004) was awarded this year’s Sword of Honour at Sandhurst, as the Officer Cadet considered by the Commandant to be the best on his Commissioning Course. The Sword was presented by His Majesty King Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of Bahrain, representing Her Majesty The Queen. Michael has been commissioned into the Grenadier Guards. Details of his award can be found at [http://www.sandhurst.mod.uk/news/parades.htm](http://www.sandhurst.mod.uk/news/parades.htm).

**FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

- **Peterhouse Music Society**
  - **Saturday 25th October**, Chapel, 8.30 p.m., followed by a reception in the Combination Room. Maxim Kosinov: music for solo violin.

  Please contact Dr Mark Berry at [mkb1002@cam.ac.uk](mailto:mkb1002@cam.ac.uk) for further information.

- **History Society**
  - **Monday 3rd November**, Dr Magnus Ryan (Peterhouse): title to be confirmed.
  - **Tuesday 18th November**, Dr Kwasi Kwarteng (former Kennedy Scholar at Harvard University): *The Ghosts of Empire: the last days of the British Empire*.

  All meetings take place at 8.45 p.m. in the Parlour. Wine will be served. Please contact Tanwen Berrington, Secretary ([thb29@cam.ac.uk](mailto:thb29@cam.ac.uk)), for further information.

- **Politics Society**
  - **Tuesday 14th October**, Mr Douglas Murray, bestselling author and commentator.
  - **Monday 27th October**, Mr Vincent Cable, M.P., Deputy leader of the UK Liberal Democrats and MP for Twickenham.

  All meetings can place at 8.45 p.m. in the Parlour. Please contact Andrew Noakes at [an315@cam.ac.uk](mailto:an315@cam.ac.uk), for more information and to reserve a ticket.

- **The Perne Club**
  - **Thursday 16th October**, Dr James Carleton Paget (Fellow, Peterhouse): *How did Jesus become God?*
  - **Thursday 6th November**, Dr Maja Petrovic-Steger (Fellow, Peterhouse): *Thinking of the dead as social software: art and anthropology in the 21st century*.
  - **Thursday 27th November**, Dr Paul Connerton (Gonville and Caius College): *The virtues of forgetting*.

  All meetings take place at 8.15 for 8.30 p.m. in E1, Old Court.
• Kelvin Club

  - **Tuesday 21st October**, Lubbock Room. Dr Christopher Lester (Bye-Fellow, Peterhouse): *High Energy Physics*.
  
  - **Tuesday 4th November**, Upper Hall. Professor Alfonso Martinez Arias (Department of Genetics, University of Cambridge): *Physics of living matter*.
  
  - **Tuesday 18th November**, Lubbock Room. Dr Remy Ware (Fellow, Peterhouse): *The invasive ladybird Harmonia axyridis: A risk assessment for British species*.

All meetings take place at 8.30 for 8.45 p.m.


Most dates are still to be confirmed, but the following speakers will lead discussions over the course of the year:

  - **Monday 20th October, 21st October**, Ms Nici Dahrendorf (working for the UN in the Congo): *Violence in post-conflict* situations.
  
  - Professor Adrian Poole (Faculty of English, University of Cambridge): *Shakespeare and the Dogs of War*.
  
  - Professor Paul Cartledge (Faculty of Classics, University of Cambridge): *Ancient War and Ideas of Heroism*.
  
  - Ms Britt Bailey (Peterhouse and Department of Archaeology): *Heritage Reconstruction: The Continuation of War by Other Means*.
  
  - Dr Ian Patterson (Faculty of English, University of Cambridge): *Guernica and Total War*.
  
  - Mr Jeff Bailey (Faculty of Divinity, University of Cambridge): *Interfaith Conflict*.
  
  - Mr Gary Knight (War Photographer, Founder of VII Photo Agency, Chairman of World Press Photo 2008): *Shooting War*.

Unless otherwise announced, all meetings will be held at 5.30pm, in The Parlour, Peterhouse (G staircase). Wine will be served with the discussion.

For dates and further information, please contact Dr Morgan Barense (mdb41@cam.ac.uk), Dr Maja Petrović-Šteger (mp333@cam.ac.uk), or Dr Jennifer Wallace (jmbw1@hermes.cam.ac.uk).

• Petrean Dinner, Saturday 20th September 2008

Petreans who matriculated between the years 1971 and 1975 have been invited to attend the ‘Petrean Dinner’ on Saturday, 20th September. The deadline date for bookings has now passed. A report on the occasion will be made in our next edition.

• West End ‘London Drinks’ evening, Thursday 16th October 2008

A reminder that a second Peterhouse Society ‘London drinks’ evening will be held this autumn – especially, but not exclusively, with younger Petreans in mind – this time in the West End. The event will be held at Café Koha, 11 St Martin’s Court, London WC2 (10 metres from Leicester Square underground station, Charing Cross Road (sough exit). The downstairs bar has been reserved from 6.30 p.m. onwards. No booking or admission fee is required. Drinks and food, if required, can be purchased at the bar. This is an informal event: simply come and go as you please. Why not make up a party with friends?
• Remembrance Day Service, Sunday 9th November 2008

Many members were very appreciative of the Remembrance Day Service held in Chapel in 2007, and we are repeating this again for 2008. The Service will be at 6.00 p.m. on Sunday 9th November, in the Chapel. The Preacher will be the Chaplain-General and Archdeacon for the Army, The Venerable Stephen Robbins, QHC. All Petreans are welcome.

YOUR NEWS

Dr Adrian Travis (matric. 1981)

On 9th June 2008 at The Royal Academy of Engineering Awards Dinner in London, Dr Adrian Travis was awarded a Silver Medal ‘for his outstanding personal contribution with a commercial benefit to British engineering’. A Cambridge engineering academic, Dr Travis is now employed as a Senior Scientist at Microsoft Corporation in Redmond, USA. Full details of Dr Travis’ award can be viewed on the Department of Engineering, University of Cambridge’s website at http://www.eng.cam.ac.uk/news/stories/2008/RAE_Silver_Medal/.

Mr Mark Hammond (matric. 1983)

Between noon on Tuesday 15th and Wednesday 16th July, former Peterhouse Organ Scholar Mark Hammond undertook a sponsored twenty-four hour organ marathon at St Edmund’s Church in Northwood Hills, Middlesex, in aid of the Church Hall Roofing Fund. On the Tuesday evening, Mark gave a formal organ recital, including a complete performance of Widor’s Fifth Symphony. Earlier in the afternoon there was a ‘children’s experience’ where Mark gave a demonstration of how the organ works and a chance to have a go and have requests played. Money is still coming in but well over £5,000 has been raised so far towards a new Church Hall roof which will be needed in the next few years at cost of upwards of £50,000. Further photos, video and audio can be found on Mark’s website www.mark-hammond.co.uk and he can be contacted on hammond@cantab.net. Mark has been Organist at St Edmund’s since 2000 and is also Assistant Director of Music at St Margaret’s School, Bushey, an independent school for girls aged 4-18.

Mr Philip Sawyer (matric. 1968) and the Hellendaal Fund

Philip Sawyer writes: ‘In my last year as an undergraduate, my composition teacher was Alan Ridout. With an enormous amount of cheek, I asked him to write an organ piece for performance in the chapel of Peterhouse during the Cambridge Festival of 1971; he agreed immediately, and was content with the small fee that I was able to offer him. The result was the set of three ‘Nativity Dances.’ According to the composer, some of this music was used later in a Christmas oratorio, given its first performance in the United States of America. These three pieces were broadcast on Radio Scotland in the late 1970s, and have been played in France and the Netherlands, as well as in many places in the UK. I have made a music-processed copy of the pieces, of which I am the copyright-holder, and am able to make them available to others on the following terms:

• the cost is £11.00 (eleven pounds) per copy;
• I will keep £1.00 (one pound) to cover the cost of paper, printing and postage;
• £10.00 (ten pounds) will be passed to the Hellendaal Fund at Peterhouse, a fund established to finance organ lessons in the Netherlands for the College’s Organ Scholars;
• those who purchase copies undertake to make no further copies.

If you would like an unpublished copy of Alan Ridout’s organ music, please send a cheque for £11.00 (payable to Philip Sawyer), along with a note of your address, to me at 18, West Savile Gardens, Edinburgh EH9 3AB.

Mr Duncan Collis (matric. 1993)

In May of this year, Duncan Collis played a significant role in rescue efforts after the Sichuan earthquake in China. Mr Collis, who read Natural Sciences, is a caving specialist who was called in to help with finding people trapped in the debris.

Mr Paul Balen (matric. 1971)

Clinical Negligence, of which Paul Balen was the General Editor and contributing author, has recently been published by Jordans. Combining know-how about the conduct of clinical negligence claims with the latest thinking on new and developing areas of practice, Clinical Negligence offers focused coverage on areas of clinical negligence. The result is a highly practical work offering detailed guidance and expert legal analysis.

Petreans and the Eggheads

Mr Michael Spittal (matric. 1960) writes: ‘A group of somewhat mature (matric.1960) members of the College recently took part in a BBC2 TV quiz programme, Eggheads. Involved were Peter Borrows, Mike Lunan, John Maskell, Brian Russ and Michael Spittal, with John Mallinson as a Svengali-like travelling reserve, known collectively as the Senior Moments. Our involvement stemmed from an encounter John Maskell had in a pub (actually he describes it as a ‘golf club’), but the story behind the involvement of these particular Petreans is almost as interesting.

The year is 1963, and University Challenge is in its infancy. The programme was chaired by the elegant and agreeable Bamber Gascoigne (you would be looking at Mr Paxman for a long time before you saw a resemblance). Cambridge's senior college was invited to participate. Now in those days, each broadcast was a one-off; University Challenge was not yet organised on a knock-out basis. This however was about to change, and Peterhouse's participation had to be postponed to the following season. At first this seemed a minor problem, but in those days all contestants had to be undergraduates: no Ph.D. students, and certainly no grizzled veterans representing the Open University. Our team members were all in our finals year, and about to depart the Fen for ever. So, the opportunity to bathe in the lambent glory of Mr Baird's cathode-ray was unceremoniously snatched from us.

Four and a half decades pass, and Maskell tells his melancholy tale to some open-hearted souls in the Nineteenth Hole. ‘Ah,’’ they say, ‘Have you seen Eggheads?’ John bites back the
obvious reply, and as a result, to cut a long story short(-ish) we are invited to the BBC TV Centre to participate in this feast of intellectual endeavour. Our moments of near glory will (eventually) be broadcast on 11th November. Yes, my friends, contemporaries of the Beatles are now classified as Old Soldiers! But dare I suggest that Daphne and her Myrmidons will never be quite the same again...

The photograph below shows, from the left, John Mallison, Chris Hughes (Eggheads), Daphne Fowler (Eggheads); behind her, Brian Russ, Michael Spittal, John Maskett, Peter Borrows, Kevin Ashman (Eggheads), Judith Keppel (Eggheads), and Mike Lunan, seated. The photograph was taken by the missing Egghead, CJ De Mooi.

WHAT’S ON IN CAMBRIDGE – SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER 2008

Cambridge Arts Theatre:

- **Girl With a Pearl Earing**, 11th to 20th September. Playing only at Cambridge’s Arts Theatre, prior to opening in the West End. A new stage play by David Joss Buckley based on the novel by Tracy Chevalier.

- **The Doubtful Guest**, 15th to 18th October. Inspired by the dark and absurdist drawings of Edward Gorey, Cambridge-based Hoipolloi present the Doubtful Guest – a delightfully dark and sneakily sinister tale that is perfect for anyone who enjoys a little havoc in their lives.

- **Calendar Girls**, 10th to 15th November. A star-studded cast, including Lynda Bellingham, Patricia Hodge, Sian Phillips, Gaynor Faye, Brigit Forsyth, Julia Hills and Elaine C. Smith, take to the Arts Theatre stage as Calendar Girls comes to Cambridge as part of a major UK tour.

For a full programme and information visit [www.cambridgeartstheatre.com](http://www.cambridgeartstheatre.com); box office: 01223 503333.

Cambridge Corn Exchange:


For a full programme and information visit [www.cornex.co.uk](http://www.cornex.co.uk); box office: 01223 357851.

**West Road Concert Hall:**

• **Cambridgeshire Music - Reflections**, 21st September. Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Youth Choir, conducted by Julian Wilkins, perform a selection of works from their repertoire including some of their most-loved pieces. Lucy Landymore and Tanya Pendred will also be playing the premiere of Mark Aldous’s ‘Mirror Opposite’, specially composed for these two talented percussionists.

• **Britten Sinfonia – Family Music Day**, 12th October.


For a full programme and information visit [www.westroad.org](http://www.westroad.org); tel: 01223 335184.

**ADC Theatre:**

The ADC Theatre will reopen in October 2008 following the final stage of redevelopment.

For a full programme and information visit [www.adctheatre.com](http://www.adctheatre.com); box office: 01223 300085 (3pm – 7pm).

**Fitzwilliam Museum:** **Places in the Night : The urban landscape in Whistlers prints,** 23rd September to 18th January 2009. This second exhibition of the Fitzwilliam's collection of etchings, drypoints and lithographs by the American artist James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) is devoted to the cityscapes for which he is most celebrated as a printmaker.

For a full programme and information visit [www.fitzwilliam.cam.ac.uk](http://www.fitzwilliam.cam.ac.uk); telephone: 01223 332900.

**Kettle's Yard:** **Conversations**, 27th September to 16th November. Conversations brings together a selection of artist pairings originally devised as a series of week-long exhibitions at Ingleby Gallery in Edinburgh between July 2007 and July 2008. Seen for the first time as a group, these pairings offer insight into the practices of a diverse assembly of artists, and different ways of thinking about their work.

For a full programme and information visit [www.kettlesyard.co.uk](http://www.kettlesyard.co.uk); telephone: 01223 352154.

**Cambridge Alumni Weekend**, 21st to 23rd September. Cambridge University.

For a full programme and information visit [www.foundation.cam.ac.uk](http://www.foundation.cam.ac.uk); tel. 01223 332288.

*Why not combine a visit to one of the above events with a stay at the College? Details of guest rooms can be obtained through the Conference Co-ordinator, Ms Anne Gifford, telephone 01223 338205 ([anne.gifford@pet.cam.ac.uk](mailto:anne.gifford@pet.cam.ac.uk)).*

I do hope that you have enjoyed this eighth edition of *Petrean News*. As always we would appreciate your comments and feedback. I know a great many of you enjoy being kept up-to-date with news from the College, but we would like to receive more of your news, so please contact me at [amm85@cam.ac.uk](mailto:amm85@cam.ac.uk) with anything you’d like to share relating to your own lives and interests.