Season’s Greetings, and welcome to the third edition of Petrean News!

As the year draws to a close, we want to thank you for all your comments and support, and to wish you and your family a merry Christmas and a happy and fulfilled 2007.

Once again feedback from the Autumn edition has been very positive. Please keep your suggestions coming, and if there are any features or news items that you would like to see incorporated into Petrean News, please let me know at amm85@cam.ac.uk. We’d like to think that this e-Newsletter gives you the opportunity to offer your news and ideas.

In contrast to the icy ‘seasonal’ background of this Newsletter, November and – so far – December have in fact been very mild, and we thought we would share with you the surprising fact that the hanging baskets and window-boxed geraniums are still flowering around Old Court; much to the bemusement of the gardeners. The photographs below show the the ‘ever-blooming’ geraniums in the low winter sun, taken on 1st December.
RECENT EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

‘Petrean Dinner’ for members who came into residence in the years up to and including 1951, 9th September 2006

The College gave two of its long-established ‘Petrean Dinners’ for particular matriculation year groups in September. The first, on Saturday 9th September, welcomed back many of the most senior members of the College, the oldest attendee having matriculated in 1935. Dinner was enjoyed amidst scaffolding, caused by the first part of a phased programme of restoration to the Hall roof, made possible by a highly generous bequest.

One attendee, The Revd Bob Beresford (matric. 1951) writes: ‘The invitation to enjoy the College’s hospitality included the usual and very English caution “if the weather is fine” about tea in the Fellows’ Garden. In fact, the weather was perfect. So, as well as meeting people, the gardens and indeed everything about the visit, even the crowds of tourists in King’s Parade, was thoroughly enjoyable. There is a particular delight in getting together with old friends, but the circle of friendship at these meetings by now extends far beyond contemporaries to include those of other years met at similar gatherings, and is continually enlarging. Being a Petrean makes everyone interesting.

The staff always seem very glad to see us. We had heard just beforehand of the death of the Combination Room Butler, Mark Cooke, and one realised that this was felt as a loss to the whole College community. Everyone took in their stride the highly unusual state of the Hall; the roof decoration being restored to the condition in which William Morris left it in 1870, with scaffolding round the walls and under the lantern leaving room for only three tables, and a whiff of paint-stripper. The large number attending must have been a bit worrying for those making the arrangements, but in fact those of us in the Combination Room did not feel uncomfortably overcrowded. And the speeches, relayed by microphone from the Hall, were beautifully clear. Some of us missed the challenge of the benches in Hall and of extricating ourselves! A big “thank you” to the Master and Fellows for their interest in us, and to all involved in the arrangements, from us all.

Dinner for Natural Scientists, 16th September 2006

A dinner for Petrean Natural Scientists was held on Saturday 16th September, in the Combination Room. It was organised through the Peterhouse Society Office by Dr Clare Baker, Director of Studies for Biological Natural Sciences. This was the first dinner held for Petrean Natural Scientists, and it was a great success. As well as complimenting the food, wine and company, several people mentioned how nice it was to be able to bring spouses/partners/friends to dine in Peterhouse. Dr Baker hopes to make this a regular event, to be held every two years.

‘Petrean Dinner’ for members who came into residence in the years 1952-1960, 23rd September 2006

The take-up for the second of the ‘Petrean Dinners’, held on Saturday 23rd September, was so great, that, with great regret, we had to disappoint a number of you. Our apologies if you were one of the unfortunate ones.

One attendee, Mr Tony Wassell (matric. 1955) commented: ‘It would have been nice to have a few more present at the dinner from my year, but this enabled me to enjoy a much greater interchange between the years. The meal was excellent and we were suitably lubricated! You even laid on excellent weather in between two stormy days.’

Members attending this dinner were the first to see the newly cleaned and restored Hall roof, and another member, Mr Geoffrey Coppock (matric. 1959) commented, ‘Dinner in the Hall was excellent - amid the fragrant aroma of linseed oil’.

Financial Services and Accountancy Dinner, 29th September 2006

Also held for the first time this year, on Friday 29th September, was a dinner for Peterhouse accountants, and those concerned with financial services. The dinner was intended to bring together Petrean financiers and accountants of every generation, whatever subject they read at Peterhouse, and proved to be a very successful evening. It was organised by the Peterhouse Society Office with the kind assistance of Mr Ray Godson (matric. 1962).

Mr Godson writes: ‘A very varied and interesting group foregathered, with the younger element predominating as we had hoped. Uniquely in my experience of events at the College, I was the second oldest present. After bubbles in the Parlour, the College provided a really excellent meal, and formalities were preserved with full Grace, faultlessly proclaimed by a former Scholar, and the usual toasts, mercifully unaccompanied by long speeches. Networking was clearly the order of the day, with people moving from table to table in the latter stages of the evening; and, when I departed at about 11.00 p.m., the hard core looking as though there were many deals still to be negotiated. This is an excellent precedent for a repeat event in three or so years time: our thanks must go to Michael Davies as Chairman of the Society for promoting the event, and to the College staff for making it run so smoothly’. 
Fours Head of the River Race on the Thames, 19th November 2006

The Peterhouse Boat Club sent the Men’s and Women’s First IVs to the ‘Head of the River’ Fours Race on the Thames on Sunday, 19th November. The race was held over the Varsity Boat Race course, though ‘backwards’, and featured 550 boats from around the country, including elite crews from Cambridge University Boat Club (CUBC), Leander, Molesey and other top rowing clubs.

Patrick Overy (matric. 2003), the Boat Club’s Development Officer, reports as follows: ‘The Boat Club had not competed on the Tideway since 2003, and not in a IV for a while before that. Both crews came back satisfied with their performance. The results themselves are fairly meaningless given the scale of the field and the different types of boat: we were never likely to contest for a victory (the coxless quads were won by a crew containing at least three of the world’s best scullers, and CUBC won the coxless IVs), especially as neither crew had any prior experience on the Tideway. The aim was more to use the event as a training aid, and to be inspired by competing alongside some of the world’s finest crews. We certainly learnt a huge amount from the race, so in that sense it was a great success.’ Further information on the race itself can be found at http://www.hor4s.org.uk/.

Photo taken before the race, showing the new Danny Taylor coxed IV

In action, overtaking another crew

Patrick Overy adds: ‘Members may also be interested in the Club’s results in the Fairbairn Races (the major end-of-Michaelmas Term races in Cambridge). For the first time, we entered five novice Vllls (not bad given that four crews last year was a record as well!), as well as three senior IVs. The 1st Novice Men came 11th (of 69) and the 1st Novice Women 15th (of 62); commendable results from such a small College, especially in the case of the women as a footplate failed during the race, causing one girl to row ‘arms only’. Of the senior crews, the 1st Men came 6th and the 1st Women 10th. The 2nd Men were the fastest 2nd IV.

Also of interest is that, for the first time, the Cross Keys Boat Club (PBC alumni) put out a Fairbains crew – who, despite not having rowed together in over a year, finished in a very commendable 3rd place of the invitational crews, with their time beaten by only one College crew.’ A picture appears below.

The Cross Keys Boat Club exists for all Peterhouse alumni who rowed in their time at College, of whatever vintage, and who would like to stay in touch with rowing at Peterhouse, to participate (if they wish) in occasional rowing and social events, and to support the Peterhouse Boat Club. Details are available at www.crosskeysbc.org, or you can contact the club secretary, Mel Harbour, at mel.harbour@ctm-it.com.
Refurbishment of the Garden headquarters, October – November 2006

For the last couple of months work has been on-going to rebuild and refurbish the College garden headquarters, sited near the William Stone Building. The old sheds have been transformed into a new workshop, complete with storage facilities, a chemical preparation area, new office space and a mess room; and the whole premises have been re-wired, re-plumbed, and reheated to new standards of economy and energy efficiency, with a new boiler installed. Until now the College Gardeners (Richard Harris, Guy Goodhart, Daniel Osborne and Sally Wright) had been obliged to combine all their administrative and manual tasks in one small area. They are delighted with the changes.

The ‘before and after’ pictures, below, show (above) the start of rebuilding work, and (below) the newly completed premises, with Richard Harris, Head Gardener, standing outside the tool sheds.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- Camerata Musica Concerts

Camerata Musica is a new College Society that aims to complement the activities of the long-standing College Music Society (which promotes music-making by Junior Members themselves) by bringing leading performers of international calibre to Cambridge to perform. Generous sponsorship allows these concerts and recitals to be offered without charge to Junior Members in residence. All are welcome at modest prices; if you would like to attend any of the forthcoming occasions in the Lent Term 2007 series, or to receive a copy of the finalised programme, please be in touch. The evolving programme, subject to finalisation, is currently as follows:


- **Thursday, 8th February 2007, Charles Siem, Violin.** Programme to include: Elgar, *Violin Sonata*; Richard Strauss, *Violin Sonata*.

- **Thursday, 15th February 2007, Penelope Thwaites, Piano.** Programme to include: Schubert, *Sonata in A*, D 858; Rachmaninov, *Etudes Tableaux*.

- **Thursday, 1st March 2007, Soloists of the Philharmonia Orchestra.** Programme to include: Shoenberg, *Verklärte Nacht*; Schubert, *C Major Quintet*.

- **Thursday, 8th March 2007.** To be confirmed.
Saturday, 28th April 2007, The Tallis Scholars (12 voices), directed by Peter Phillips. Programme to include: Victoria, Tenbrae Responsories; Palestrina, Missae Papae Marcelli.

Saturday, 5th May 2007, The English Baroque Soloists, Sir John Eliot Gardiner, Allan Clayton, tenor. Programme to be confirmed, but to include: a Bach Contata and Britten, Serenade for Tenor, Horn, and Strings.

- Peterhouse Music Society

The Music Society’s Lent Term 2007 concert series is as follows:

- Tuesday, 13th February 2007, Friends of Peterhouse Theatre, 8.30 p.m: Alison Wells (soprano); Ian Mitchell (clarinet). To include works by Berio and Colin Riley.

- Saturday, 3rd March 2007, Friends of Peterhouse Theatre, 7.30 p.m. (location and time to be confirmed): Peterhouse Chamber Orchestra. To include Bach, Concerto for Two Violins and Orchestra, and Beethoven, Symphony No.4.

- Monday, 12th March 2007, Combination Room, 8.30 p.m: Mark Berry (piano), to include music by Haydn and Liszt (programme to be confirmed).

- Friday 16th March 2007, venue to be confirmed, 8.30 p.m.: concert of vocal and choral music.

- Tuesday, 25th January; Tuesday, 6th February; Tuesday, 20th February; Tuesday, 6th March 2007: a series of short lunchtime concerts in the Lubbock Room at 1.15 p.m.

There will be at least two other recitals, at dates yet to be finalised, including one of three Mozart string quintets, led by Petrean Benjamin Moore (matric. 2002), some time in March 2007. The May Week Concert will be held on Tuesday 19th June 2007.

- May Week

May Week begins on Saturday 16th June 2007; support for the Peterhouse boats in the May Bumps, in the later half of the following week, will be most welcome. There will be a special tent for Petreans, with drinks and a prime viewing spot, on the Friday of the Bumps, by courtesy of the Boat Club’s sponsors CTM. Please contact the Peterhouse Boat Club Development Officer (pajo2@cam.ac.uk) if you would like to come.

- The Peterhouse Society Gathering, 2007

The Gathering will be held from the evening of Friday 29th June to Sunday 1st July 2007, at the College. Please note that this is one week earlier than in recent years. Full details and a booking form will be sent to all Petreans at the end of January 2007. Guests are welcome.

- ‘Petrean Dinners’

Forthcoming ‘Petrean Dinners’ will be held as follows, for those who matriculated in the years indicated:

Saturday 22nd September 2007: 1966-1970
Saturday 27th September 2008: 1971-1975
Saturday 26th September 2009: 1986-1990

Invitations to the ‘Petrean Dinners’ will be sent automatically to those Petreans concerned.

**YOUR NEWS**

**Peterhouse Cricketers in Herefordshire, 2nd July 2006**

Ray Godson (matric. 1962) writes:

Hazy memories of my only venture into county cricket on the Peterhouse tour of Ireland in 1965 always engendered a warm feeling when periodic news came of Peterhouse cricket tours to the south of France. Somewhat foolishly, with no French tour being arranged in the summer of 2006, I had a frivolous exchange with Neil Plevy which prompted a rapid response from the cricket team and a fixture against them at our home in Herefordshire. The unpredictability of my pitch has always been a
cause for concern, and the inevitable comparison with the wonderful tracks that I remembered in Cambridge heightened my worries.

Various hiccups on the way through the summer, with the cricket captain devoting more attention to the May Ball than to my fixture, led to it almost being abandoned; but at the last minute Jamie Muir Wood (matric. 1998), a third generation Petrean, persuaded eleven people to appear from all over the south of England. They duly appeared looking incredibly young (hardly surprising) and incredibly keen and athletic (rather more surprising). The terror amongst my motley crew reached fever pitch with the appearance of two people wearing Crusaders sweaters, followed by a decision by the College skipper to ask us to bat and to ask the two Crusaders to open the bowling. Mercifully the hot weather had hardened the pitch to the extent that full-length balls were bouncing over the wicket-keeper’s heads, which led to the unusual sight for someone of my antiquity of every batsman wearing a helmet. We were also helped by the leg strain suffered by James Shotter (matric. 2001) which prevented him taking more than two paces before bowling.

The core of my side was my family and that of my predecessor as Peterhouse cricket captain, Nick Horne (matric. 1981). Some very steadfast batting prevented the very fine bowling attack from making early inroads, with the score only reaching fifty in the 13th over. Then the Horne brothers cut loose and we reached a total of 164 for 3 after 35 overs, at which point it seemed politic to declare.

At the end of their ninth over the Peterhouse score was 35 for 1, with the College batsmen looking comfortable; but this was where the surprises really started, with my non-cricketing son proceeding to take a hat-trick. With a couple of superb catches, the College never really recovered, with Adam Gold (matric. 2001) top-scoring with 36 and only Shotter and Thomas Probert (matric. 2005) of the others reaching double figures. The innings closed at 95 in the 19th over, leaving us as unlikely victors by 69 runs. Much celebration followed by my team, although it was rather sad that the College - with people needing to get back to places like Maidstone - were only able to stay for half an hour or so.

My congratulations to Jamie Muir Wood for assembling a team at such short notice in such an inaccessible place. I am just hoping that the astonishing performance by my side will not prevent them coming down again.

**Archbishop Whitgift: article from Mr Martin Thompson (matric. 1973)**

Brian Walling’s article in the last issue of *Petrean News*, on Thomas Gray, has prompted me to volunteer this brief piece on John Whitgift, being another extraordinary Petrean.

It is recorded by an aunt with whom he once lodged that “though she thought at first she had received a saint into her house, she now perceived he was a devil.” I found that salvo, courtesy of the Ward Librarians, in a 1924 Peterhouse anthology which proceeded to note that “the cause, however, of this striking reversal of judgment was not character but theology.” Thus I am courting controversy, so let me just describe Whitgift as someone with forthright opinions.

Whitgift was born in or around 1530 in Grimsby, where his father was a merchant, and was educated in London at St Anthony’s School. A Fellow of the College from 1555 to 1567, he went on to be Elizabeth I’s last Archbishop of Canterbury, and was much favoured by her. Archbishop Whitgift died in 1604, just a few months after the Queen.

Croydon was the location of a palace which was a summer retreat for Archbishops of Canterbury in that era, and it is there that Whitgift’s name lives on in the form of his eponymous foundation. His benefaction still supports homes for the elderly and infirm, and three thriving and substantial schools – Whitgift and Trinity for boys, and Old Palace School for Girls, which, although only recently taken under his Foundation’s umbrella, is so called because it is housed in the palace buildings once used by Whitgift.
WHAT’S ON IN CAMBRIDGE – JANUARY TO MARCH 2007

Cambridge Arts Theatre:

Winter programme not yet available. Details available shortly at www.cambridgeartstheatre.com; box office: 01223 503333.

Cambridge Corn Exchange:

• **The Snowman**, 7th January: the Cambridge Philharmonic Orchestra perform music from the classic children’s story.
• **Acorn Antiques, The Musical**, 29th January to 3rd February: based on the classic BBC comedy.
• **Johann Strauss Gala**, 11th February: the music of 19th century Vienna recreated onstage.
• **Simply Ballroom**, 21st February: a ballroom dance spectacular hosted by Lionel Blair.
• **Romeo and Juliet**, 22nd March, and **Coppelia**, 23rd and 24th March: The Russian Classical Ballet Theatre, with a live orchestra, present these classic ballets.

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

West Road Concert Hall:

• **Endellion String Quartet, Beethoven String Quartet Cycle**, 17th January, 14th February and 14th March.
• **Mark Nightingale and Cambridge University Jazz Orchestra**, 28th January.
• **Cambridge String Players**, 24th February: Mendelssohn’s *Hebrides* Overture, Beethoven’s *Piano Concerto No. 5* and the Dvorak *Symphony No 9* (*The New World*).

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

ADC Theatre:

Winter programme not yet available. Details available shortly at [www.adctheatre.com](http://www.adctheatre.com); box office: 01223 300085.

Art and Museums:

• **Fitzwilliam Museum: Rembrandt and Saskia**, 14th November 2006 to 11th March 2007. To celebrate the 400th anniversary of Rembrandt's birth in 1606, this is the latest in a series of exhibitions of the Fitzwilliam's outstanding collection of the artist's prints. It focuses on images of Rembrandt and his wife Saskia van Uylenburgh (1612-42);
  **Treasures of Today – Silver from Goldsmiths’ Hall, London, 1980-2000**, 2nd February to 29th April. This exhibition represents some of the best, and most innovative silver to have been made in Britain over the past two decades.

Information at [www.fitzwilliam.cam.ac.uk](http://www.fitzwilliam.cam.ac.uk); telephone: 01223 332900.

• **Kettle’s Yard: WE the moderns, Gaudier-Brzeska and his European contemporaries**, 20th January to 18th March. Henri-Gaudier-Brzeska’s career as a sculptor was brief. He came to England from France in 1911 and died in the First World War in 1915 at the age of 23. This exhibition, for the first time, sets his remarkable achievement in the context of his European contemporaries. Gaudier-Brzeska's work is here seen alongside the artists he cited as fellow 'moderns' including Brancusi, Modigliani, Epstein and Archipenko, as well as Rodin. Other artists include Duchamp-Villon, Laurens, Lipchitz, Matisse, and Picasso, as well as German Expressionists and Italian Futurists.

Information at [www.kettlesyard.co.uk](http://www.kettlesyard.co.uk); telephone: 01223 352124.

• **Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology: Pasifika Styles**, until February 2008. An exhibition and festival celebrating contemporary art work inspired by Maori and Pacific Island culture. The exhibition is presented alongside an unparalleled collection of historic oceanic art.


*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 ([jag26@cam.ac.uk](mailto:jag26@cam.ac.uk)).*