Welcome to the first e-Newsletter from the Peterhouse Development Office.

*Petrean News* is intended to be an informal way of sharing with you interesting news, activities and events recently enjoyed by, or in prospect for, the College and its members, and will be circulated via email on a quarterly basis. It will supplement the *Peterhouse Newsletter*, which will continue to appear at the end of every January, and, of course, the *Peterhouse Annual Record*.

I started work in the Development Office in June 2005 and was joined by Alison Holroyd in November 2005. It's certainly been a busy year for us, beginning last year with the Peterhouse Society annual Gathering and ending more recently with the 50th Anniversary Henley Ladies’ Challenge Plate Dinner on 22nd April 2006 and Sir Hilary's Synnott’s highly successful 'Talk Dinner’ on Iraq, for Peterhouse Society members and their guests, at the Athenaeum in London, on 17th May 2006. To bring the year full circle we are once again preparing for this year’s annual Gathering, and look forward to seeing many of you again, for what we hope will be another happy and memorable occasion.
RECENT EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Telephone Campaign 2006

Just after the New Year, the Development Office launched its 2006 telephone campaign. We are delighted to announce that so far this has raised well over £140,000, with donations still coming in, and are extremely grateful to all our members who have made a donation to the Development Campaign as a result. Just as important, we also had great feedback from the majority of the Petreans whom we called, some 1,500 of you. We learned a lot about what you would like to see in the College’s relationship with you, and we found that many of you enjoyed chatting with our Junior Member callers about each other’s time and experience at Peterhouse.

We are immensely thankful to our Junior Members who assisted in the campaign. One of them, Emanuel Buttigieg, commented: ‘I think the campaign is a truly great way of bringing non-resident and current members of Peterhouse together to share memories and information. It has the practical aim of securing the College’s future whilst keeping it in touch with its roots and more recent past’. Another caller, Ralph Goodchild, commented: ‘I found the campaign far more enjoyable and stimulating than I had imagined. I hadn’t realised the diversity of Petreans’ experiences in College and beyond’.

50th Anniversary PBC Henley Ladies’ Challenge Plate Dinner

Past and present members of the Peterhouse Boat Club, and their guests, were invited to a special 50th Anniversary Henley Ladies’ Challenge Plate Dinner on Saturday 22nd April 2006. The dinner was in celebration of the annus mirabilis of Peterhouse rowing in 1956. We have received numerous comments from those who attended the event, delighting in the occasion and happy to see old friends again. Those of us in the Development Office are grateful to the Captain and Officers of the Boat Club for their outstanding help in making this event a great success. (The group photograph below is available for purchase through www.jetphotographic.com, price £10).

Many guests also attended the launch of a pair of new Coxed IVs and a single scull on the Sunday morning at the Boathouse, the day after the Dinner. IV’s were named for PBC stalwart Gordon Hewlett (matric. 1954) and the late Dr ‘Danny’ Taylor (Fellow 1957-68). The scull was named, by Matt Cannon (matric. 1996), of the PBC’s Sponsors CTM, for the late Andy Silk, Boatman until his untimely death last year. The occasion was attended by many Petreans, including our current world champion Sebastian Thormann (matric. 2006). The boat launch marked the launch also of the Spirit of ’56 Campaign, intended to provide a permanent endowment for the Peterhouse Boat Club Fund. Petreans interested in supporting the Campaign are warmly invited to contact the Development Office.

‘London Drinks’ Evening

The sixth annual Peterhouse Society ‘London Drinks’ evening was again held at Corney and Barrow Wine Bar, Broadgate Circle, in the City, on Wednesday 26th April 2006. Once again this event was a huge success, with approximately 150 members of all ages attending at different times throughout the evening: the largest attendance ever. We have received good feedback from this event, with many welcoming the chance to meet old Petreans in convivial surroundings.
One member described the evening as follows:

‘I managed to get away from the office, for once, in time to arrive before the end of the Corney and Barrow ‘London Drinks’ evening, originally aimed at ‘younger’ Petreans and organised by the Peterhouse Society with the usual multi-disciplinary mix. A large percentage of Petreans in attendance were City lawyers and accountants; but the rest included, amongst others, a former Chairman of the Coal Board, a bookmaker, a chemical engineer and an arms salesman, not to mention our esteemed Chairman, the former Clerk to the House of Lords. The futuristic setting overhanging the Broadgate ice-skating rink only lacked skaters, and seemed very far removed from my days as an Articled Clerk in the sixties when the area looked exactly the same as it had some ninety years earlier, when Jack the Ripper used to prowl down Sun Street. As usual the large and varied gathering conversed at increasing volume throughout the evening – some whingeing about the bar prices did not seem to stop people being very hospitable, and I think I left (not the last at 10.15pm) with as much money as I had when I arrived. Hopefully the West End version in the autumn will be equally successful and I am sure nearly everyone who attended in 2006 will want to be in Broadgate in April 2007.’

M.A. Buffet Lunch

Members of the College proceeding to the M.A. can take their degree at any one of a number of Congregations of the Regent House. This year, however, M.A. graduands were invited to consider in particular taking their degree on Saturday, 13th May, and, for the first time, to bring their guests to join them at a special buffet lunch in the College beforehand, at which the Master and Fellows were hosts. The invitation received a very enthusiastic response, bringing together, in many cases for the first time since they graduated B.A., some 50 members of the College (mainly those who matriculated in 1999), together with a further five M.St., M.Phil. and Ph.D. graduands. After lunch, a procession of graduands and Fellows left for the Senate House, where degrees were conferred by the Master, acting as the Vice-Chancellor’s deputy. It all made for a very happy occasion, which we plan to repeat annually in the hope that it will bring and keep successive generations of Petreans more firmly in contact with one another, and with the College, than can so easily be the case in the first few years after graduation.

Members of the College who are due to become eligible to proceed to the M.A. are customarily written to by the Praelector, Dr Philip Pattenden, at the appropriate time.

We take this opportunity to remind Petreans that continuing membership of the College for life is normally conferred, free of charge, on all members who proceed to degrees by examination. No fee is charged for proceeding to the M.A. degree. All M.A.s have the privilege of dining at the High Table on any three ordinary dining nights in the calendar year, and may book guest rooms in College for personal use. If you wish to dine in College, please notify the kitchens (telephone 01223-338206) or the Porters’ Lodge (telephone 01223-338200) of your intention to dine, at least 24 hours in advance. For guest room bookings please contact the Conference Co-ordinator, Ms Anne Gifford, telephone 01223 338205 (jag39@cam.ac.uk) for full details.
FORTHCOMING EVENTS

• May Bumps
If you would like to come along and support the Peterhouse Boats, the May Bumps will be taking place from Wednesday 14th to Saturday 17th June 2006.

• May Week Concert, Thursday 15th June 2006
The programme will include Mozart’s Spatzenmesse and other works by Mozart and Schubert. Friends of Peterhouse Theatre, 7.30 p.m.

• May Ball, Wednesday 21st June 2006
Petreans and their partners are welcome to attend this event. Invitation cards have been circulated, but if you have yet to receive yours, please contact Mike Dobbin (mocd2@cam.ac.uk). Further information and tickets are available from www.thepeterhouseball.com.

• Peterhouse Society Gathering, 7th-9th July 2006
This year’s annual Gathering will be held from Friday 7th to Sunday 9th July. The programme continues to be refined (see the Petrean pages on the College Website www.pet.cam.ac.uk for updates), but amongst the speakers on Saturday afternoon will be John Simpson, the architect of the projected new building in Gisborne Court.

Let’s keep our fingers crossed for good weather!

• Petrean Dinners
  o Up to 1951, Saturday 9th September 2006
  o 1952-1960, Saturday 23rd September 2006
Petreans who matriculated up to and including 1951 are warmly invited to attend the ‘Petrean Dinner’ on Saturday, 9th September; Petreans who matriculated between 1952 and 1960, the ‘Petrean Dinner’ on Saturday 23rd September.

On both of these occasions, dinner will be served at 8.00 p.m., with pre-dinner drinks from 7.30 p.m. in the Fellows’ Garden or, if the weather is poor, in the Combination Room. Afternoon tea will be provided between 4.00 and 5.30 p.m., again in the Fellows’ Garden if the weather permits.

Invitations and further details will be sent out shortly to members in the years concerned.

• Subject-related events
  o Natural Sciences Dinner, Saturday 16th September 2006
  o Financial Services and Accountancy Dinner, Friday 29th September 2006

Petreans whom we know to have read these subjects, or to be active in these fields, will be contacted separately shortly. If you think you may not be on our records and would like to hear about this event, please contact the Peterhouse Society Office by telephone on 01223 765187 or by email at develop@pet.cam.ac.uk

• Cambridge University Alumni Weekend 2006
The University of Cambridge Alumni Weekend will take place from Friday 22nd to Sunday 24th September. To preview highlights of the weekend or to request a brochure, visit the Cambridge University Alumni relations website on www.cam.ac.uk/alumni or contact the Alumni Office (not the Peterhouse Development Office), telephone 01223 332288, email alumni@foundation.cam.ac.uk

MUSIC AT PETERHOUSE
The Music Society has been mounting a series of recitals and lectures to commemorate the 250th anniversary of Mozart’s birth, and this will continue over the year. There will be a recital of Mozart’s string quintets by Benjamin Moore (matric. 2002) (violin) et al in the Combination Room on Tuesday, 13th June at 8.30 p.m.

NEW YEAR HONOURS LIST 2006 – Petreans honoured
Prof William James Stirling (m.1972), Pro-Vice-Chancellor, University of Durham: CBE, for services to science.

Christopher Austin (m.1964), formerly Executive Director, Community Rail Development, Strategic Rail Authority, and Chair, West Somerset Railway Company: OBE, for service to passenger transport.
WHAT'S ON IN CAMBRIDGE – MAY TO SEPTEMBER

Cambridge Shakespeare Company: 8-week Summer festival runs from 10th July to 19th August. Plays by Shakespeare performed in full period costume, with Elizabethan music performed in idyllic College grounds. Members of the audience can picnic in the garden prior to performances.

Information at info@cambridgeshakespeare.com; tel: 01223 511139.

Cambridge Arts Theatre:

- An Audience with Michael Portillo (Peterhouse, matric. 1972): Friday 9th June.
- A Touch of the Sun, 13th-17th June: a sharply-written and humorous exploration of the journeys we all take to find happiness.
- Strangers on a Train, 19th-24th June: Patricia Highsmith's compelling novel brought to life.

Information at www.cambridgeartstheatre.com; box office: 01223 503333.

Cambridge Corn Exchange:

- Seven Brides for Seven Brothers, 19th-23rd June: glorious romantic romp with dazzling dance routines.
- Annie, the Musical, 12th-15th July: involving local actors of all ages.

Information at www.cornex.co.uk; box office: 01223 357851.

West Road Concert Hall:

- Cambridge Philharmonic Orchestra, 17th June: works by Hindemith, Korngold and Bartok.
- James Lisney, 22nd June: a selection of Chopin's music for Piano.

Information at www.westroad.org; tel: 01223 335184.

ADC Theatre:

- Cambridge Footlights presents Niceties, 13th-24th June: fast-paced and sparky, this is two hours of comedy about earnest people, in odd situations, not understanding things. Packed with little ideas and crammed with futuristic talent, Niceties promises to be the most exciting and innovative sketch show when it hits the Edinburgh Fringe later in the year.
- My Three Angels, 4th-8th July: drama by Sam and Bella Spewack.

Information at www.adctheatre.com; box office: 01223 300085.

Other Activities:

- Film Festival, 7th - 17th July: 25th Annual Cambridge Film Festival, held at the Arts Picturehouse. Information and programme at www.cambridgefilmfestival.org.uk.
- The Imagery of War at the Fitzwilliam Museum: this exhibition explores the influence of patrons, audiences and attitudes on the depiction of war in medallion art. Tuesday 9th May to Sunday 27th August. Also showing The Jesus College Collection of Japanese Prints, 23rd May to 17th September. Information at www.fitzwilliam.cam.ac.uk; tel: 01223 332900.
- Kettle's Yard; Sarah Dobai: Photographs and Filmworks, 27th May to 9th July: information at www.kettlesyard.co.uk.
- Open Studio: Cambridge artists open their studios for the day, 1st July: information at www.camopenstudios.co.uk.
- Strawberry Fair, 3rd June, one-day festival of music, entertainments, arts and crafts. Midsummer Common.
- Pop in the Park, 14th July, Parker's Piece, 6pm to midnight, free open air concert.

Why not combine a visit to one of the above events with a stay at College? Details of guest rooms can be obtained through the Conference Co-ordinator, Ms Anne Gifford, telephone 01223 338205 (jag39@cam.ac.uk).

I hope that you have enjoyed this newsletter. As always we would appreciate your feedback and comments, and if there is any item of news that you would like to share with us, please contact me, telephone 01223 765187, email dev@pet.cam.ac.uk.