



Issue 19 Autumn 2012	
The Project of Rebuilding	page 06
Honorary Fellows	10
End of The Peers Show?	12
Vive La Team GB!	14
The Importance of Teaching	18



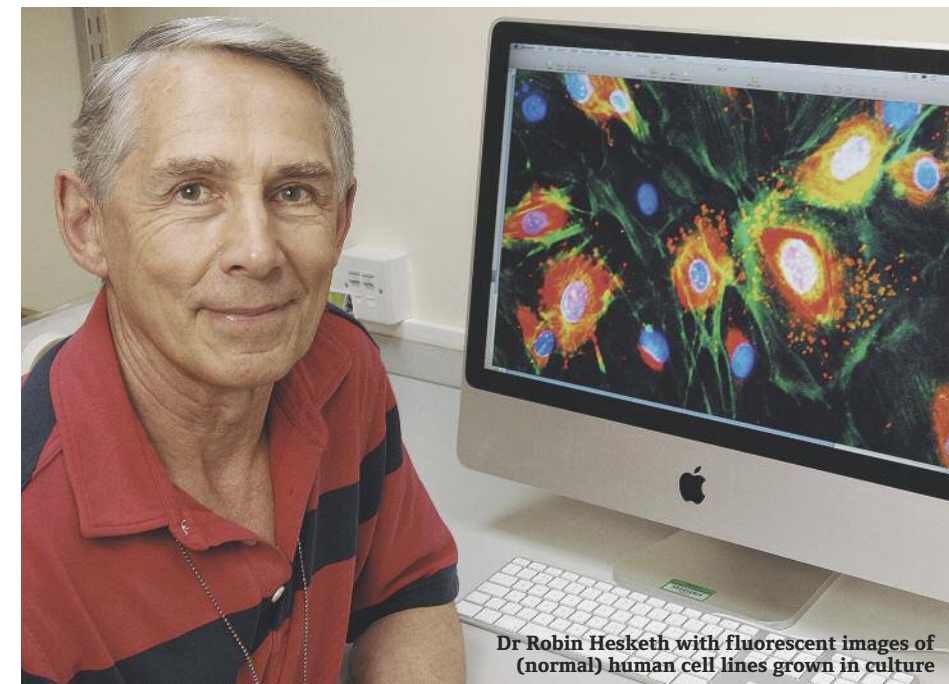


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News



Dr Robin Hesketh with fluorescent images of (normal) human cell lines grown in culture

Almost everything we think we know about cancer

In 1971 President Nixon's signature launched what has often been called the war on cancer, but in 2008 the disease still killed over seven million people, a figure predicted to double by 2030. As **Robin Hesketh** (SE Fellow) notes in his new book, *Betrayed by Nature: The War on Cancer*, these facts suggest that cancer is rather complicated. Nevertheless, one of his main messages is that the basic causes are fairly easy to grasp – even for the most 'unscientific' of folk. In what he describes as a 'sci-nov', he illustrates in the simplest ways how molecules can mis-behave to make cells grow when or where they shouldn't – the essence of cancer.

Robin, a Fellow at Selwyn since 1978 and a member of the Department of Biochemistry, begins with a brief history of cancer, taking us from the earliest Egyptian records of treatment, through the

major advances of the 18th and 19th centuries to the discovery of DNA. This leads into the molecular age and how mutations in our genetic code can affect the way proteins work and hence how cells behave. Some of the causes of these disruptions are beyond our control – not least the fact that on average we are living longer – giving more time for damaged DNA to accumulate. However, our lifestyle is also an important contributor – for example, if we smoke, get sunburned or drink too much alcohol.

The key to the complexity of cancer is that, rather than one mutation, several critical genetic abnormalities act in combination. And it's the multiplicity of effectors that makes every cancer different at the molecular level and the disease so difficult to treat, particularly if it's not detected at an early stage. This amazing

world of cells and the molecules that control them is a continuous theme in *Betrayed by Nature*. The tone of the book is optimistic, despite the incredible scale of the genetic mayhem that drives tumour evolution, and it recounts the major strides of the past 50 years in detection and treatment that have made some types of cancer relatively manageable. However, the most dramatic part of this remarkable story outlines the quite astonishing technical developments that have followed the Human Genome Project, completed in 2003. These have ushered in the greatest revolution in the history of medicine in which it is now feasible to obtain the complete DNA sequence of a tumour in a day or so. These breathtaking developments not only mean that treatment strategies can be designed from the outset on an individual basis but portend a future in which chemotherapy may supplant surgery as the main way of dealing with cancers.

These great advances provide, for the first time, a molecular basis for cancer medicine and in due course they will affect all of us. As Robin points out: "You can avoid a lot of things in life if you really want to: football, hamburgers, sex ... but you can't avoid cancer at least coming very close to you." Despite the technical strides, as far as what we can do to help ourselves goes, the advice remains as clear and simple as ever: "Don't smoke – but if you do, give up – it's not too late!" "Eat sensibly and do a bit of exercise." And finally: "Men especially, if you think something's wrong...don't be macho – go and see your doctor."

Betrayed by Nature: The War on Cancer was published this year by Palgrave Macmillan

To read more about Robin's latest book, visit www.cam.ac.uk/research/features/everything-we-think-we-know-and-know-we-dont-know-about-cancer/ and <http://cancerforall.wordpress.com/>

Mike Baker (SE 1966)

In the 2012 New Years Honours List, Mike was appointed MBE for services to the community in Huntingdon. Mike, who is the Huntingdonshire District councillor for Ellington, has been co-ordinator of the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme at Hinchingsbrooke School for more than 30 years and is a trustee of numerous community groups across Huntingdonshire.

Directing Admissions

Mike Sewell (SE Fellow) has been made Director of Admissions for the Colleges from this autumn. Mike has been an Admissions Tutor in the Arts at Selwyn since 2003, and the College's admissions have flourished with Mike's watch. As Director of Admissions for the Colleges, Mike will represent the Colleges on University bodies. Selwyn is delighted to have Mike in this role – congratulations, Mike!

The American President of Arbitration

William 'Rusty' Park (SE Past Fellow) has been elected President of the London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA). Founded in 1883, The LCIA is one of the leading international institutions for commercial dispute resolution, and works with the most eminent and experienced arbitrators across the globe to resolve cross-border commercial and investment disputes and Rusty is the first American to be given the office of President.

A Keasbey Fellow at Selwyn from 1975 to 1977, Rusty is a Professor of Law at Boston University and the General Editor of *Arbitration International*. In 2008 the United States appointed him to the Panel of Arbitrators for the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes and in 2010, he took up the presidency at the LCIA. Prior to those roles, Rusty was active in resolution of Holocaust-related litigation, serving as an arbitrator both in Zürich, with respect to dormant Swiss bank accounts, and in London, for Holocaust-era insurance claims.

Of the position and on how his time at Selwyn has affected his career, Rusty says, "The LCIA Presidency provides a combination of challenges and pleasures. Quite daunting to appoint arbitrators and hear challenges, particularly in high stakes cases, and to weigh in about questions of legal policy, yet a true joy to work with so many fine colleagues in Britain and around the world. My years as a Fellow of Selwyn provided an excellent foundation in at least two ways. First, as a springboard for development of a career in transnational law. Second, in stimulating greater appreciation for the value of service to the larger professional community."

In brief

Mahima Khanna (SE 2009)

Mahima was awarded the University's Stevenson Prize last November, which is given to acknowledge exceptional performance in post-graduate work in Economics. Mahima is the third student from India to win the Stevenson prize, and follows in illustrious footsteps: Economics Nobel Laureate Professor Amartya Sen was the first Indian to win the award in 1956 and Sir Partha Dasgupta, Frank Ramsey Professor of Economics at Cambridge, won it in 1967.

Adrian Smith (SE 1965)

On 1 September 2012, the former Director General, Knowledge and Innovation, at the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills took up the post of Vice-Chancellor at London University. As Vice-Chancellor, Sir Adrian will be the principal officer of the university, which comprises 18 self-governing colleges and institutes. A past President of the Royal Statistical Society, he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 2001 and was appointed a Knight Bachelor in the 2011 New Year Honours.

Juliet John (SE 1985)

In February of this year, Juliet took up the Hildred Carlile Chair in English at Royal Holloway College in London. Professor John, a leading expert on Victorian Literature, said of the appointment: "The Victorian history and architecture of the college, as well as its excellent reputation for Victorian Studies, makes it a dream place to work for a Victorianist. I am honoured to follow in the footsteps of such highly esteemed predecessors by taking up the Hildred Carlile Chair in English and delighted to be joining such a dynamic and collegiate department."

David Ford (SE Fellow)

As an addendum to the article detailing the College's connections with Ely Cathedral in our last issue of Selwyn (pp 8–10), David Ford, a Fellow of Selwyn and the University's Regius Professor of Divinity, has been made an Honorary Canon at Ely Cathedral. Professor Ford's appointment came after we had gone to press last year.

Diary

We hope you will be able to join us for one of the many events planned for the upcoming year. Dine in opulence at the House of Lords; explore the nooks and crannies of Britain’s largest residential library; or ring in the festive season with mince pies and carols at our Carol Service; whatever your interest, we think you will find a Selwyn event to fit it. Certainly, if your matriculation year ends in 8 or 3, please take particular note of the Reunion and Commemoration dates below. Whether it has been fifty years or two weeks since you last walked through the Porters’ Lodge, coming back to Selwyn for a Reunion is a special time. We look forward to seeing you soon.

For more information about any of the events listed, please get in touch with our Alumni Officer, Shona Winnard at alumni-office@sel.cam.ac.uk or call 01223 767844.

Other forthcoming events

Events 2012–13

2012		
Dec	6	The Varsity Match
2013		
Mar	2	1882 Society Lunch
Mar	16	The Parents’ Lunch
Mar	24	MA Ceremony and Dinner (for those who matriculated in 2005)
Apr	13	1963 and 1973 Reunion Dinner
May	13	Friends of Selwyn Choir Evensong
Jun	8	Lyttelton Dinner
Jul	5	Commemoration of Benefactors (for those who matriculated anytime before 1960, 1968, 1978, 1988, and 1998)
Jul	6	Donors’ Garden Party (for those who have donated to Selwyn over the past three years)
Sep	21	1983 and 1993 Reunion Dinner
Sep	28	Selwyn Alumni Association Dinner* /Alumni Forum (open to all alumni – especially those from 2003)

Choir Events 2012–13

2012				
Dec	4	1.10pm	Christmas Concert	St Mary’s Church, Bury St Edmunds
Dec	5	7.30pm	NSPCC London Carol Service	Christchurch, Spitalfields
2013				
Jan	19	8.00pm	Beethoven’s Missa Solemnis with choirs of Clare, Trinity, Caius and Jesus under direction of Sir Roger Norrington	King’s College Chapel
Feb	16		Choral Evensong	Hereford Cathedral
Mar	16		Choral Evensong	Ely Cathedral
Jul	13		Choir Tour of Germany	

2012-13 Event highlights

1 Carol Service: St Dunstan-in-the-West, Fleet Street

4 December 2012
All alumni and friends of the College are warmly invited to this Christmas Carol Service led by Selwyn’s Chaplain, Hugh Shilson-Thomas and the Selwyn College Choir in the historic church of St Dunstan-in-the-West on Fleet Street. A wonderful opportunity to begin the festive season, the service will be followed by mulled wine and mince pies. Families are most welcome to attend. Time: 6.30pm
Cost: Free of charge, although any donation to the Choir’s expenses will be gratefully received.



Tom Catchpools



Richard Bryant/Arcaid



Castle Howard

2 The House of Lords

29 January 2013
Please join us for this unique opportunity to dine in the magnificent surroundings of the Houses of Parliament. The Bishop of Leicester, Tim Stevens (SE 1965), who is on the House of Lords Reform Committee (see p. 14 for details) will be our host for the evening.
Cost: £85 per head



4 David Chivers’ Retirement Dinner

4 May 2013
We hope all of David’s old students and tutees will be able to come back to Selwyn to celebrate his many years at the College. Gibbon calls guaranteed!
Time: 7pm for 7.45pm

3 Castle Howard

6 October 2013
Home to the Howard family for over 300 years, Castle Howard is a magnificent 18th-century residence set within 1,000 acres of breath-taking landscape in Yorkshire. Explore behind the scenes of this great house with its estate manager, Henry Rayment (SE 1974), who will be our guide for the morning. Enjoy tea and biscuits whilst Henry talks about his work at the Castle, and then take a private tour of the gardens. After lunch in the Grecian Room, guests will be free to discover the house and grounds at their leisure.
Time: 10:30am (arrival)
Cost: £45 per head
www.castlehoward.co.uk



Gladstone’s Library

5 Gladstone’s Library

9 February 2013
Founded by William Gladstone in 1894, Gladstone’s Library is the UK’s largest residential library and its only Prime Ministerial library. The library is home to an amazing collection of just under 250,000 printed items, including Gladstone’s own personal book collection. We hope you will be able to join us for a tour of this remarkable institution, in part, to celebrate Gladstone’s gift of one of Selwyn’s chapel bells! The tour of the library will be followed by lunch.
Time: TBC
Cost: TBC
www.st-deiniols.com

Gladstone’s Library

The Project of Rebuilding

We talk to Marcus Robinson (SE 1979), the artist whose work is documenting the rebuilding of the World Trade Center after 9/11, about art, Selwyn and New York.

Q: I know you're working on a long-term project following the redevelopment of the World Trade Center; what interested you in the project?
A: From the moment the idea of making a film about the rebuilding of the World Trade Center first came into existence in the summer of 2002, I knew in my heart that this was something I was so inspired by that I would do whatever it took to accomplish it. Having spent the whole of my career specializing in urban transformation and exploring innovative ways of capturing large-scale construction projects, I felt a calling to come to New York. I had an intuitive vision that if only I could somehow get my foot in the door, there would be a place for a film that was more experimental and 'Zen' and less like a conventional documentary. Something that while still having a gripping narrative would be in essence a more

artistic and contemplative exploration of the years of transformation of this historic place.
Having also for many years drawn and painted in Paris, I kept a drawing book with me and on many occasions drew and painted the changing landscape on the World Trade Center site as my time-lapse camera clicked regularly beside me. The original vision for the film and the paintings was that they could work together as a sort of allegorical tale about the human spirit. And although focusing on the site, I strongly felt that the project should also tap in to a more timeless and universal spirit.
How does it feel as a non-native New Yorker working on a subject as close to the hearts of New Yorkers as the World Trade Center?
As a non-native New Yorker I am continually aware of the devastating impact that the events of September 11 had on New Yorkers. This can never be underestimated. Yet I am also aware of being able to bring a different vision to what the rebuilding signifies, a particular take that is not the way a New Yorker or an American might see things. I am more aware of this as time goes on and as, almost like in a process of crystallisation, the agreed stories about September 11 seem to solidify. It is potentially more difficult to keep a totally clear and open mind and just to be there with a fresh and openhearted artistic contemplation. But I hope that by sticking to the essence

Main image: Joe Woolhead



Marcus Robinson
CV

1979
Selwyn College, reads Modern and Medieval Languages

1982
Moves to Paris and begins his documentation of the city

1992
Les Miroirs du Temps, book of photography, published by Hazan, Paris

1993
Exhibits his photography of the Louvre in the new Carrousel du Louvre, Paris

1998
Commissioned to take photographs at the inaugural match at Le Stade de France in Paris

2000
Marcus' time-lapse film of the London Eye is shown at the London Film Festival, and his exhibition *Millennium Wheel* opens at the Oxo Gallery, London

2000
Commissioned by English Heritage to document the restoration of Wellington Arch at Hyde Park Corner, London

2002
Marcus begins to document the redevelopment of the World Trade Center in New York City

2004
Works with director Danny Boyle on *Millions*

Left:
Marcus filming on site in 2010 with Tower 1 in the background.
Below:
Drawing the view from Tower 4, 2011.
Bottom:
'Ironworker with Halo', oil paint on wood panel, 5 x 4 ft.

"I am drawn to the urban and industrial environment particularly because of the scale and of the vibrant textures and materials that define these landscapes."



of my original vision for the project and being totally alive in the present moment, the collection of film and paintings will over time, take on a life of its own.

You work in lots of different mediums; how do they differ in expression for you?

Working in different media is exciting and inspiring. I grew up in an artistic household, and have always loved the way music and images work together. For many years I was keeping drawing books in which I captured Paris street and cafe scenes in pencil and watercolour. Over time the desire to paint grew stronger and after a very successful exhibition in the South of France, which gave a lot of momentum to the work, I always painted as part of the long term commissions I was doing. The act of drawing and painting is always very humbling and refreshing. I find it brings me back to really looking and observing. Some of the drawings and paintings I do, in the midst of chaotic and frenetic action are more about trying to capture the energy of movement and are often done not looking at the page. This always feels very liberating. It is always very exciting to begin a painting and to not know exactly where the painting will take me and what it will become. It is a balancing act between having an idea and a starting point and then allowing the painting to take on its own life.

The act of drawing and painting is always very humbling and refreshing.”



Alan Tennentbaum



Alan Tennentbaum

Opposite page, top:
Marcus painting 'The Beam' in the art studio at Tower 7.

Opposite page, middle:
Marcus preparing to paint 'Man of Steel' in background.

Opposite page, bottom:
'The Beam', oil on wooden panels, 16 x 8 ft.

Below left:
Untitled, pencil on paper, 18 x 24 inches.

Bottom left:
Untitled, pencil on paper, 18 x 24 inches.

Bottom right:
'Musical Cranes', oil paint on wood panel.

Having played music all my life and always listened to a wide range of different types of music, I love the very particular world that can be created by telling stories with just images and music. How did you get started?

After leaving Selwyn I lived and worked in Paris for 16 years, specialising in architectural and urban photography. In particular I was always drawn to areas of urban transformation and was fascinated by extreme contrasts of industrial dereliction juxtaposed with audacious modern architecture, such as the futuristic Bibliothèque National designed by Dominique Perrault rising from the characterful rusty landscape of the Tolbiac railway goods yards.

When I moved to London to make the film and photographic book about the creation of the London Eye, I started playing around and experimenting with time-lapse film and music. Channel 4 picked up this experimental style and in 2000, on the eve of the new Millennium, they broadcast my short film about the making of the London Eye. This was my first film.

This sparked off a whole series of projects focusing on urban transformation and I made many short films set to trance and trip hop musical scores. These included films about the demolition of huge structures such as Tilbury and Pembroke Power Station, the restoration of the Wellington Arch for English

Heritage, the construction of the new Home Office in Marsham Street, London and the construction of Larnaca International Airport in Cyprus.

Your work is often industrial in nature; what draws you to the urban environment?

I am drawn to the urban and industrial environment particularly because of the scale and the vibrant textures and materials that define these landscapes. The urban chaos of New York, and the kaleidoscopic mix of different eras and styles is very inspiring seen through a painter's eyes, especially those parts of the city where old Manhattan facades covered in graffiti and street art coexist with the latest modern and high end 'luxury loft condominiums'.

How did your time at Selwyn shape you and your work?

I have very happy memories of Selwyn, particularly of the amazing, long standing friends I met there. Having grown up in Belfast, it was a dream to get a place at Cambridge to study Modern Languages and very inspiring to be immersed in the stimulating ideas and ways of thinking that are a quintessential part of studying there. Being at Selwyn shaped many of the ideas and thought processes that have guided me through the years and created the basis for my life in Paris. The friendships forged at Selwyn in the

intensity of the student environment are precious and long lasting.

And finally, what's next?

The REBUILDING project in New York will go on for at least another 3 to 4 years, although a version of the film will be screened in the UK on Channel 4 next spring. I have many ideas for the collection of paintings that is taking shape. The vision is to tell the story of the rebuilding in a series of large-scale 16ft by 8ft paintings. Another area of great inspiration is the jazz and salsa scene in New York, which is an ongoing topic of exploration ...



Marcus Robinson



Marcus Robinson



Marcus Robinson



Marcus Robinson

HONORARY FELLOWS

This year, Selwyn welcomes three Honorary Fellows: the acclaimed actor and musician, **Hugh Laurie**; the distinguished Chief of Staff of the British Army, **Peter Wall**; and the bestselling author, **Robert Harris**. All three alumni have done extraordinary things in their careers, and the College is proud and delighted that they wish to join the Fellowship.

Welcome to the Fellowship



General Sir Peter Wall
(SE 1975)

1974 Commissioned into the Royal Engineers.

1975 Reads Engineering at Selwyn.

1980 Promoted to Captain after serving with Royal Engineers in Belize and, what was then known as, Rhodesia.

1996 Deployed to the Former Republic of Yugoslavia and promoted to Colonel.

2003 Named Chief of Staff of the National Contingent HQ in Qatar, overseeing UK operations in Iraq.

2009 Knighted in Queen’s Birthday Honours.

2010 Named Chief of the General Staff, the professional head of the British Army and the Army’s top soldier.

Hugh Laurie
(SE 1978)

1978 Reads Archaeology and Anthropology at Selwyn.

1981 President of Footlights at Cambridge.

1986 –

1989 Stars in the classic comedy *Blackadder*.

1989 –

1995 *A Bit of Fry and Laurie*.

1996 Publishes his debut novel, *The Gun Seller*.

2004 –

2012 Stars in eight seasons of the critically acclaimed US television drama *House*, which won five Emmy awards, two Golden Globes and a Peabody award.

2011 Releases his first solo Blues album, *Let them talk*.

A full-body photograph of Hugh Laurie. He is wearing a dark blue suit, a black bowler hat, and a dark scarf. He is holding a reddish-brown electric guitar and is in a dynamic, slightly crouched pose as if playing. The background is a plain, light blue wall.

Robert Harris
(SE 1975)

1975 Reads English at Selwyn.

1982 Publishes his first book, *A Higher Form of Killing*, a study of chemical and biological warfare, written with fellow BBC journalist Jeremy Paxman.

1986 *Selling Hitler* is published.

1987 Made Political Editor at the *Observer*.

1992 Publishes his first novel, *Fatherland*, which goes on to sell over three million copies.

1995 –

2009 Writes six more bestselling novels, including *Enigma*, *Pompeii* and *The Ghost*.

2011 *The Fear Index* is published, and due to be turned into a film with Paul Greengrass (*The Bourne Ultimatum* and *The Greenzone*) directing.

‘I am very touched and honoured by this chance to renew my links with Selwyn. I had a wonderful and formative three years here, and I look forward to seeing some old friends and making some new ones.’
Robert Harris

COMMENT: TIM STEVENS

End of The Peers Show?

The Bishop of Leicester, Tim Stevens (SE 1965), as Convenor of the Lords Spiritual reflects on this summer’s frustrated attempts at House of Lords reform.



“In July this year after a two day debate on the second reading of the Lords Reform Bill, the Leader of the House of Commons abruptly announced to the House that the Government were withdrawing its proposals for timetabling debate. It was a public admission that there was insufficient support in the House to push through perhaps the most radical reform of Parliament for over one hundred years in less than ten days of debate.

For those of us who had spent the previous nine months on a Joint Committee of both Houses of Parliament scrutinising the Government’s proposals, it looked like a car crash that had been waiting to happen. The question now is whether the Government will seek to put this battered car back on the road this autumn or whether it will consign it quietly to the scrapyard of history. We shall have to wait and see.

After so many hours of hearing expert evidence in Committee, and so many hundreds of pages of carefully drafted report, I couldn’t help asking myself whether it had been a good use

‘It was John Major who remarked: “If the answer to a question is more elected politicians, you are probably asking the wrong question”.’

of a Bishop’s time to become so immersed in the detail of constitutional change and all the political and parliamentary games which could have such damaging long term and unintended consequences for the British Constitution.

But I think it was right for a Bishop to have been part of this. After all, Lords Spiritual have been a significant element of the Houses of Parliament for over six hundred years. As the Archbishop of York (SE 1973) put it in a Lords debate in 2007: “The Lords Spiritual remind Parliament of the Queen’s coronation oath and of that occasion when the Divine Law was acknowledged as the source of all law... Ours is a sacred trust – to remind Your Lordships’ House of the common law of this nation, in which true religion, virtue, morals and law are always intermingled; they have never been separated.”

So the debate about reforming the Upper House of Parliament has also been a debate about the place of the Established Church. And whether, in an increasingly diverse, secular and plural society, there is any place for an Established Church at all.

Photographs: Rii Schroer



(continued from previous page)

My experience as the Bishop of Leicester over the last thirteen years, in one of the most multi faith cities in Europe, has been that there remains a special role for the Church of England as the institution which is trusted to bring together all the faiths into a safe space where conversations, encounters and dialogue can happen. Phillip Blond, the Director of ResPublica Think-tank, argued this on the BBC in 2010 when he said: “Church establishment in England creates a more diverse political and social life, prevents religious extremism and helps to minimise partisan conflict and secular violence, and by so doing realises the Christian religion in a wholly authentic fashion.”

For that reason the Church of England has argued consistently in its submissions to the Government that the House of Lords needs to remain a place where the full diversity of British civil society religiously, ethnically and culturally is represented. The Archbishop of Canterbury, in his evidence to the Joint Committee put it this way: “Our starting point has been to ask what will best serve Parliament and the Nation. In a bi-Cameral legislature, what kind of Second Chamber do we actually need, which provides a restrained but effective check and balance to the House of Commons? Our view is that a Second Chamber should be composed so as to ensure that just use of power entrusted to the Government of the day, one which commands a majority in the House of Commons; so as to ensure true and impartial accountability, scrutinising and revising Government legislation with a degree of independence not possible in the House of Commons; and so as to represent the diversity of what I and others have called non-partisan civil society and intellectual life.”

There are, of course, many arguments for some immediate reform of the House of Lords. It is over large and remains based on a system of privilege or heredity which is no longer defensible. A smaller House of Lords, without membership for life and with a statutory Appointments Commission which ensured that expertise from all parts of British society was appointed,

‘...there remains a special role for the Church of England as the institution which is trusted to bring together all the faiths into a safe space where conversations, encounters and dialogue can happen.’

would be an immediate incremental improvement. But a radical reform, turning the House of Lords into a fully elected chamber in competition with the House of Commons, is unlikely to serve the present needs of Britain. It was John Major who remarked: “If the answer to a question is more elected politicians, you are probably asking the wrong question.”

My task will be to try to keep an eye on this on behalf of the Bishops of the Church of England in the coming months. It may be that a revised Bill will be brought before Parliament again in the autumn with the Coalition giving it one more try. In that event there will be a long period of Parliamentary debate and the Government will, in the end, be challenged to use the Parliament Act to drive it through. A second, and much preferable, option would be to bring forward a different kind of Bill which slimmed down the House of Lords; made it more disciplined and ensured a robust process for appointments. That would probably command the support of both Houses of Parliament and be achievable quite quickly.

It’s approaching fifty years now since I first came to Selwyn and experienced the life of the College Chapel and the sensed association between Selwyn and the Church of England. Much of that has changed in half a century, as has the place of the Church in English society. But the value of the Church of England’s contribution in Parliamentary debate is as significant today as it was then. It’s a contribution worth spending interminable hours in Committee to preserve.”

Do you have anything to add to the debate? Alumni and friends of the College are warmly invited to contribute comment, which we will then post on our website.

AN OLYMPIC PERSPECTIVE: KIM WELLS

Vive La Team GB!

Kim Wells (SE 1989) was chosen to accompany the French Sports Minister Valérie Fourneyron during her visit at the Olympics.

Within minutes of watching us win the bid to host the Games in 2005, I was determined to be involved. As a proud Londoner with a passion for both languages and sport, this was the opportunity of a lifetime to play my small role in putting on the Greatest Show on Earth. In 2011 I applied, along with a quarter of a million others, to be an Olympic Gamesmaker, specifically to be part of the Protocol Team.

I was then assigned to the role of Dignitary Assistant, essentially combining the role of Guide, Interpreter, and Trouble-shooter to a visiting Sports Minister. The hours spent at Selwyn having Dr. Tilby pick my essays apart would prove to be great preparation, although I did feel slightly inadequate when the first three Dignitary Assistants I met in training were the Princess Royal’s Lady in Waiting, a former Labour Cabinet Minister, and the Manager of Sir Trevor Brooking’s office at the FA! The pre-Games experiences continued with a VIP tour of the Olympic Park in January (and the chance to meet my principal, the French Sports Minister), and sneak previews of both the Torch and a Gold Medal.

Mme Fourneyron was the only one of 180 Sports

Ministers who stayed for the entire 17 days of the Games, so I was in the enormously privileged position of being involved in every single day of London 2012. We met several Prime Ministers, Royalty, and countless current and past sporting legends as we combined plenty of live sporting action with meetings, TV interviews, and even partying with medal-winning French athletes. Our chauffeur covered over 1,000 miles over the two weeks, taking us to 22 different sports; from Archery at Lords, to Show jumping in Greenwich Park, to Beach Volleyball on Horseguards Parade.

Personal highlights were being at Eton Dorney when we won our first Gold of the Games, and to be in the Velodrome for Sir Chris Hoy’s victory in the Team Sprint, but the atmosphere in every single venue was electric. However what will stay with me forever was the bonhomie amongst all the nations of the world, both in the stands and on the field of play. There was warmth and humour wherever you went, largely thanks my superb fellow Gamesmakers.

At the Closing Ceremony I felt like a kid the day after Christmas had ended, but with memories that will last a lifetime. As Mme Fourneyron’s Head of Cabinet Office said while we said our final goodbyes; “La Grande Bretagne est un pays unique, et son peuple extraordinaire. Vive La Grande Bretagne!”

Kim Wells, read MML at Selwyn. He is Director of Learning and Teaching at Caterham School in Surrey, and the winner of the Independent Schools Award for Education Initiative of the Year 2011 for instituting an innovative student to student mentoring scheme.



Kim had a wonderful time, and here he shares with us some of his most memorable photos from the games...

- 1 Mme La Ministre and me.
- 2 Volleyball at Earls Court.
- 3 Hoy’s lap of honour.
- 4 Beach Volleyball at Horseguards.

- 5 Bottoms up!
- 6 Olympic Stadium.
- 7 Medal winning gymnasts at the O2.
- 8 3 Day Eventing in Greenwich Park.
- 9 Hoy’s first Gold.
- 10 My walk to work every morning.
- 11 Dutch hockey fans and me at the Riverbank Arena.

‘At the Closing Ceremony I felt like a kid the day after Christmas had ended, but with memories that will last a lifetime.’

Images © Kim Wells

Noticeboard

A Women’s VIII

When he was a student at Selwyn, **John Farr** (SE 1951) rowed in the Lent Bumps, and his generosity will mean that others can continue to do so. The ‘John Farr’, a new VIII for Selwyn’s women was christened in June to much delight from all of the College’s rowers.

South African Bursary Scheme

The South African Bursary Scheme, which helped many students from Southern Africa fulfil their potential at Selwyn has now come to a close. The funds remaining will be used to support general bursary funds at the College. The story of one recipient follows...

My name is Christian John Makgala (SE 1998), and I am an Associate Professor of History at the University of Botswana. I am a citizen of Botswana in Southern Africa. In 1998 I began to read for an MPhil in African History at Selwyn College, University of Cambridge. I also went on to study for PhD on completion of my MPhil in 1999 and completed in the summer of 2001. I received financial support from the Cambridge Commonwealth Trust and Selwyn College South African Bursary.

I am forever grateful to Selwyn College and Cambridge Commonwealth Trust for having enabled me to study at Cambridge, and in the process meet people from different cultural and social backgrounds. This is something that shaped my worldview and interaction with other people quite profoundly. This has also helped unleashed the full scholarly potential in me, the result of which is a significant contribution to the development of my country, Botswana.

Selwyn would be delighted to hear from all who received a South African Bursary; please contact the Development Office. To read more about Professor Makgala, visit the alumni pages and his personal website: www.thuto.org/ubh/ub/makgala.htm



Face it, it’s brilliant...

Ross Harper (SE 2008) and **Ed Moyses** (SE 2008) have had national press attention for their innovative advertising scheme to pay off their student debts, including being filmed for a TV programme which will be broadcast across the whole of China. So far, they have raised over £42,000 toward their debts.

Ross writes ‘During our time at Selwyn, Ed and I spent many evenings in the bar planning what we were going to do when we left university. We knew we wanted to try something slightly entrepreneurial, but we didn’t have much money to invest. We, therefore, had to be a bit creative.’

BuyMyFace.com is a viral marketing website, giving companies (and individuals) the chance to purchase our faces for a day, and have us paint them with an image of their choosing.

We began the project on 1st October

2011, when our faces sold for just £1. However, as more and more newspapers covered our story, and we received increasing website traffic, our faces became far more valuable – costing hundreds of pounds a day.

BuyMyFace.com has given us the opportunity to travel all over the country doing interesting things in order to make our story more interesting, and therefore increase the impact of each advert displayed on our website. Now, with our year coming to an end, and our student debt nearly paid off, we’re looking towards our next project. Together, we’re releasing an application for smart phones, which is completely unrelated to anything we’ve done previously, but we hope can be as successful. Watch this space!

Ross and Ed on the 2011 Oxbridge Varsity Ski Trip, advertising for Ernst and Young.



To book events, update your details, read the latest news from the College and find old friends. Join us on the Selwyn Alumni Online Community at www.selwynalumni.co.uk



On the day that the Olympic torch started its tour around the UK, **Mike Lapage** (SE 1946) carried the flame on the leg between St Stephen and St Austell in Cornwall. Mike won a silver medal in the 1948 Games in London, rowing for England (to read more about Mike’s experiences, see our last issue).

Press Association

Grey haired men on the Silk Road

After five years of active planning and practice rides in Europe and Morocco, **Richard Margolis** (SE 1968) and four friends set off in March to motorbike from the UK to Beijing. Ranging in age between 57 and 63, there were four on bikes, and one driving a Ford Transit van to carry spare tyres and camping gear. The trip took 14 weeks, and when the group arrived in Beijing on 28 May, they had travelled a distance of over 5,000 miles as the crow flies.

You can find more pictures and read more about Richard’s extraordinary trip on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/Selwyn.College.Cambridge).

Right (top to bottom): The Sumela Monastery, NE Turkey; Swiss traveller, Ernst, and his Suzuki; There’s no throttle on a donkey!



Top: Have silly hat, will travel! Above: 11,000 ft up on the Baskoon Pass, Kyrgyzstan



Images © Richard Margolis

The 2011 Annual Fund



A Cambridge education would be diminished beyond belief were financial problems to result in the supervision system being abandoned or scaled back. Selwyn is determined to make sure that all of our students, regardless of the subject they are studying, are given the highest quality teaching possible.



For Selwyn’s future

Christopher Clarke (SE 1964), former Deputy Chairman of the Competition Commission and legator, shares why he has remembered Selwyn in his Will.

‘Since I went up in 1964, Selwyn seems to have transformed itself quite remarkably. It has achieved much on almost all the dimensions that make for a successful Cambridge college – academic excellence, music, accommodation and sport to name but a few. This seems to be reflected in a much greater pride and confidence in itself than was apparent 45 or so years ago. If ever there was an example of a college pulling itself up by its own bootstraps, Selwyn must be in the first rank. It seems this has been achieved by the vision and leadership of successive Masters, not least Richard Bowring who quietly, purposely and convincingly has personally led the way, including identifying and attracting a professional team to achieve some clearly identified goals of which access to the necessary finance has been an important one. These achieve-

ments mask the fact that in financial terms, Selwyn remains at a relative disadvantage compared with other colleges. In spite of good progress in attracting additional financial commitments and investing wisely, Selwyn’s endowment at £30 million is, I understand, only 30% of the size of the endowment of the average Cambridge college. Selwyn now faces the additional challenge of reduced Government support. I believe therefore that Selwyn deserves my support. This is not simply because I owe much to the College for my time there and for my becoming part of the wider Selwyn, and indeed Cambridge, community in subsequent years which has served me well in both the private and public sectors. But also because Selwyn has shown the willingness, ability and assurance to continue to develop. Finally, in terms of the method of giving, I made my first

financial commitment some time after my earnings had peaked, so I have donated by making a bequest in my will to which I hope to add in due course. This has several advantages. First, I do not have to provide the cash now, nor indeed until after my death – so I will not even notice it! And second, while my bequest might be money that might otherwise pass to my children, they would only get it after the deduction of inheritance tax and given the increase in property prices, there is scope for both Selwyn and my children to benefit.’

To find out more information about leaving a legacy to Selwyn and the 1882 Society, or to receive a copy of our new legacy brochure, please do contact the Development Director, Sarah Harmer (01223 330403 or sbph2@cam.ac.uk).

The importance of teaching

The heart of a Cambridge education is the supervision system – the distinctive Oxbridge framework of teaching undergraduates as individuals or in small groups. By learning in this way, our students develop self confidence, critical thinking skills, intellectual curiosity and mental agility: qualities which set them apart for the rest of their lives. Supervisions create a unique atmosphere, one in which students have personal contact with those at the cutting edge of their field. This sort of access to academics and researchers would be unthinkable at many Universities, and ensures that our students make the most of their time here. However, as the way

we fund higher education in the UK changes, the supervision system is coming under immense pressure. Last year, I wrote in this space about the need for student support. Starting this autumn, students are paying fees of £9,000 a year, on top of living expenses. It is clear that the current levels of support provided by the University and the College will soon be insufficient, and Selwyn has made it a priority to raise funds for student support to ensure that no student feels as though Cambridge is beyond their financial reach. However, as tuition fees have trebled, funding from the Government has been cut by 80%. This cut, which effectively pushes the

‘...as the way higher education is funded in the UK changes, the supervision system is coming under immense pressure.’

financial burden of a University education from the public purse to the student, means that Cambridge is caught in a double bind. In order to support our students, we must ensure that we are spending every pound possible on bursaries and hardship funds, but as the cuts take place to what was called ‘the teaching grant’, there will be more strain on College finances to pay for supervisions. Individual and small group teaching is a very expensive method of education. On average, a Cambridge degree costs approximately £17,000 (against approximately £9,000 at other UK Universities). After student fees and a contribution

from the University, Selwyn still subsidises each student by £1,700 a year from our endowment. Selwyn is determined to be able to attract and support the best academics and researchers in every field to ensure that all of our students, in all subjects, are given the highest quality teaching possible. Donations to the 2012 Annual Fund will be used to bolster the College’s teaching support fund, which will go directly to support the supervision system.

For more information about supporting the 2012 Annual Fund, please contact the Development Officer, Beccy Lang (01223 767845 or rcl41@cam.ac.uk).

Fully funded

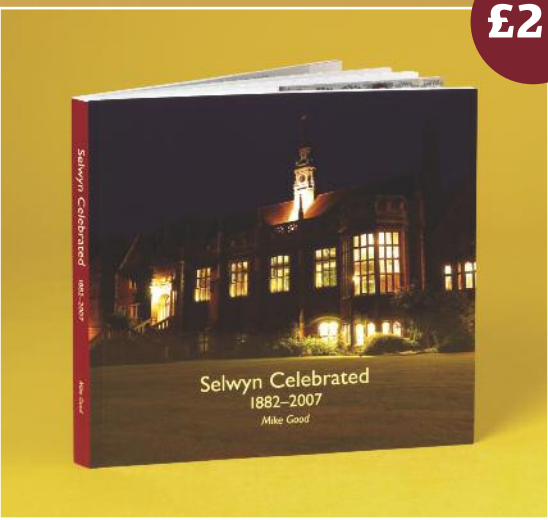
We are delighted to announce that funding has now been completed for the Spencer Fairest Law Fellowship. Thanks to the generosity of 78 alumni, £1.1M has been raised in order to endow the teaching post, which will be named in honour of John Spencer and Paul Fairest – two Fellows who have formed generations of lawyers at Selwyn over the past 50 years. The Spencer Fairest Fellow in Law will take up post after John Spencer’s retirement in early 2014.



Support Selwyn!

Give a bit of Selwyn to someone you love!
Our range of merchandise should have something
for everyone - from College Choir CDs to ties,
teddies and tumblers. Money raised goes directly
into student support funds.

Order by phone on 01223 767844, or online
www.sel.cam.ac.uk/alumni/merchandise



£25

Selwyn Celebrated
– A history of Selwyn College
by Mike Good

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- Cufflinks: £18.50
- Pen: £2.60
- Card: £1.60

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