

The Pembrokian

The background image shows a courtyard of historic stone buildings. The buildings have a mix of stone and brickwork, with several windows and a prominent arched wooden door. In the background, a large, ornate domed tower with Gothic-style windows is visible against a blue sky with some clouds. The foreground is filled with lush green foliage, including bushes and trees, partially obscuring the lower part of the buildings.

Benefaction Funds
Chinese Fellowship

Introducing the Strategic
Development Director

University Honours Pembroke Donor

Events Round-Up - Arts Week -
Staff Long Service Awards - Sports News

Issue No. 31, June 2007

Donation to Fund Chinese Studies at Pembroke

Dr Stanley Ho has made a £2.5 million donation to the University, half of which will go to Pembroke to endow permanently a Tutorial Fellowship in the history of modern and ancient China. It will also fund a Junior Research Fellowship in Chinese and the expansion of our Chinese collection in the library. We are also very pleased to announce that, in response to this generous gift, an alumnus has provided the endowment for a graduate scholarship in cultural Chinese Studies.

These gifts will enable us to further our aim of making Pembroke a leading centre of Oriental Studies within Oxford, and we are very pleased that we now have a Fellowship in Chinese, to complement our existing ones in Japanese and Arabic.

China's links with Oxford are long-standing. The Bodleian Library received its first Chinese book in 1604, and Oxford received its first Chinese visitor, Shen Fuzong, in 1687, who came to catalogue the Bodleian's Chinese holdings. Now, more than 700 Chinese students study at Oxford at any one time, the largest number of international students after the United States.

The Master, who travelled to Hong Kong with the Vice-Chancellor to attend the reception marking Dr Ho's donation, said: 'The College would like to express its thanks to Dr Ho for this generous gift. Pembroke has for some years placed great emphasis on developing our specialism in Oriental Studies and is keen to promote Chinese Studies as part of this commitment. This benefaction represents a major step forward.'



The Vice-Chancellor and the Master of Pembroke present Dr Ho with a print of the College. (Photograph courtesy of University Press Office)



Damon Wells with the Chancellor of the University, Chris Patten (photo by permission of Rob Judges)

Pembroke Alumnus Added to the Clarendon Arch

Damon Wells (1961), a generous benefactor to the College since the 1970s, has been admitted to the Chancellor's Court of Benefactors (CCB) and had his name engraved on the Clarendon Arch. The CCB is the University's forum for acknowledging the generosity of the University's most munificent supporters, in keeping with Oxford's ancient tradition of honouring those whose contributions have built the University and its Colleges. Members of the CCB are invited to meet with the Chancellor and senior members of the University twice a year to hear about important developments. The Clarendon Arch, near the entrance to the Bodleian Library is inscribed with the names of Oxford's most generous benefactors throughout history, including HRH Queen Elizabeth I, John Radcliffe, and Cecil Rhodes. We were very pleased to see his outstanding contribution to the College recognised in this way, and the event was marked by a celebration in College the following day.



Fake That in performance - (photo courtesy of Edward Morgan)

The Crystal Maze Ball

Pembroke's student ball was held on 11th May. For one night only, College was transformed into a recreation of the Crystal Maze. Despite the imperfect weather, all the guests thoroughly enjoyed the entertainments on offer, including the Crystal Dome, an appearance by Richard O'Brien, host of the original TV show, and a performance by Take That tribute-band Fake That.



*Students at the black-jack table
(photo by permission of Jason Mahendran)*



From the Dreaming Spires to the Ivy League

Pembroke history student, Verity Harding, describes winning the prestigious Von Clemm scholarship to Harvard.

I first encountered the Michael Von Clemm Fellowship in my third and final year of studying Modern History at Pembroke. Established in memory of Michael Von Clemm (1935-97), a graduate of Harvard and a graduate student (and subsequently Honorary Fellow) of Corpus Christi College, the Fellowship affords one fortunate student the chance to study at one of the world's most prestigious institutions. In my latter years at Oxford I specialised in American History, writing my thesis on the student Black Power movement of the late 1960s under the guidance and tuition of Dr Stephen Tuck, Fellow in History at Pembroke. With his help I found I had something new to say on a topic that I felt had not yet been explored, and I applied to the Von Clemm Fellowship to allow me to spend a year at Harvard's African-American Studies Department, broadening my knowledge and refining my theories.

To my delight and amazement, I was successful, and thus in September of this year I am flying to Massachusetts to start a year's postgraduate study at Harvard. I hope that their in-depth courses on all aspects of African-American history will allow me much better perspective on the events I am studying and the influencing factors I will undoubtedly have missed at undergraduate level. Academia aside, I am excited to explore Boston, a city that I have only heard described in glowing terms, and am embracing the opportunity to compare the Dreaming Spires with the Ivy League. This is truly an amazing opportunity and I am extremely thankful to the Von Clemm Board of trustees for choosing me, and to the Pembroke History department for getting me to the stage that I could be considered!

NEWS

Net Community

This autumn we will be launching an online net community for alumni and students. As well as having the capability to book events and donate online, the website will allow alumni to be in touch with one another, by searching for contact details and using other interactive features. The website will be launched in September as part of a redesigned College website – watch out for more news in the monthly email bulletins. If you are interested in keeping up with these developments, and we don't have a current email address for you, please send one to our Alumni Officer, Cate Field, at catherine.field@pmb.ox.ac.uk

Emeritus Fellow is Honoured by the Orthodox Church

On March 30th 2007, the Holy Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate elevated Bishop Kallistos Ware to be Titular Metropolitan, the Orthodox position equivalent to Archbishop in the Roman and Anglican Churches. This is a tremendously rare tribute, offered in recognition of his scholarship and pastoral contribution to the Orthodox Church, and ecumenically to the broader Christian and scholarly world. He is now the Most Reverend Metropolitan Kallistos of Diokleia.

Staff Long Service Awards

Gifts were recently awarded to four members of staff in recognition of their long service to the College. John Barlow (Development, 10 years), Andy Hodgson (Porter, 10 years), Kevin Bardell (Groundsman, 10 years) and Krishna Singh (Scout, 25 years) received their gifts from the Master at a drinks reception in Broadgates Hall.



*John, Krishna, Kevin and Andy with the Master
(photo by Jo Bowley)*

New Archivist

Pembroke has appointed its first official archivist. Amanda Ingram will be in College for 3 days a week, looking after and developing our archive. Look out for Amanda's article on her role and her plans for the archive in the next Record.



*John Barlow
(photo by Jo Bowley)*

John Barlow To Retire

John Barlow, long serving member of the Development team, will be retiring in September. We will all miss his tireless dedication and hard work, and wish him well in his retirement. A full appreciation will appear in the Record.

Knighthood for Imperial War Museum Director

Sir Robert Crawford (1964) has received a Knighthood in the January 2007 New Year's Honours.

Sir Robert joined The Imperial War Museum as Research Assistant in 1968, the year after gaining his Modern History BA at Pembroke. He continued at the Imperial War Museum, working as Head of Research and Information, Keeper of the Department of Photographs, Assistant Director and Deputy Director-General before becoming Director-General in 1995. He was awarded a CBE in 2002 for services to museums.

Pembroke Society Organist

Congratulations to Lionel Pike (1959), who was made an Honorary Fellow of Royal Holloway College on 19th May, in recognition of his 40 years of service to their music department. Professor Pike is the regular organist for the Pembroke Society, having played for the chapel service before the Society dinner every year since 1960.

Sir Roger Bannister Running Track Opened

Lord Coe, Chairman of the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games, opened a newly refurbished running track at Oxford University's Iffley Road sports complex on 10th May 2007. Located at the same site where the young Roger Bannister famously ran the first sub-four minute mile, the new track bears Sir Roger's name.

After the official naming by Lord Coe, Sir Roger fired the starting gun for an opening set of one-mile races by current Oxford students.

The track, last refurbished nearly 20 years ago, needed resurfacing to increase its force reduction, which had been worn away over time. The resurfaced track has now been awarded UK Athletics certification to hold meetings and be eligible for record attempts.

Sir Roger said: 'In 1880 the Oxford Student Athletics President convened the meeting organising the first athletics governing body in Britain and wrote its rules. In the same year the first cinder track was built here. In 1948, when I myself was the undergraduate President, I was responsible for building the first 440 yard cinder track and this place brings back memories of so many great friends. I cannot but feel gratitude that my name will be linked in perpetuity with this track.'

Lord Coe added: 'Sir Roger's achievement was a truly historic moment in track and field history to become the first man to run the mile in less than four minutes. It is fitting that the track at Iffley Road where Roger set this momentous record should be re-named in his honour. I hope that many other records will be set at this newly refurbished track and that some young athletes that run here will go on to compete in the London 2012 Games.'

Pembroke Professor Leads Ground-Breaking New Study



Professor Davis

Professor Ben Davis, Fellow in Chemistry at Pembroke, is leading research into a new way of detecting biological structures, which could help in the fight against disease. The new method uses chemistry to assemble proteins into 'protein probes' that can be sent into the body to, for instance, detect inflammation and disease in the brain.

The human body's immune system uses its own 'protein probes' – antibodies – to seek out foreign objects such as bacteria and viruses. These antibodies are proteins shaped to 'fit' around parts of a target structure. 'We think of antibodies as natural but the ones we use for detection are not always that great at binding to certain structures and in some ways the binding of antibodies to their targets is pretty unrepresentative of other protein-to-protein interactions,' said Professor Davis. 'Our protein probes, created using chemical rather than biological techniques, are sometimes better at binding with targets than antibodies because they can mimic natural protein partners more closely.'

The Oxford scientists used chemistry to control the modification of proteins from simple chains of amino acids to complex structures similar to those seen in nature. By combining these structures with ready-made protein scaffolds the research team were then able to produce and test protein probes designed to target specific biological structures.

'The strategy behind these probes could be useful for making synthetic proteins in many areas of medicine and science' said Professor Davis 'but the real goal is that we hope it could enable us to find clues as to how we have ended up with such complex life forms from surprisingly few genes.'

SPORTING NEWS

Pembroke RUFC v. the Old Boys

by Jeremy Bartosiak-Jentys, Alex Formstone, Ian Graham and Mark Sayer



Both teams (photo courtesy of Alex Formstone)

Buoyed by the success of last season's inaugural Old Boys vs. College rugby match, Old Pembrokiens RUFC once again challenged the College Rugby Club on Saturday 18th November 2006 at the College sports ground.

Not wanting to meddle with a winning formula, this year's skipper Alex Formstone (1999) again arranged for the pre-match meetings to take place in the College Bar on the Friday evening. Special mention must go to Adam Hunter (2001) who, despite being unable to play through injury, stayed out until 3am to ensure College fly-half, and former Blue, Johnny Fennell (2002) wasn't able to perform at his optimum the following morning.

What the Old Boys lacked in fitness they made up for in sheer physical presence. The front row of Toby Coe (2000), William Stebbing (2003) and 2005 captain Jeremy Bartosiak-Jentys (2000) gave their opposite men a torrid time at the scrum, whilst Matt Lees (2002) and Eddy Formstone provided valuable line out ball. It wasn't until mid-way through the second half that the massed spectators got to see the College side make their impression on the game. Loose play by Old Pembrokiens allowed winger Min Patel (2005) to seize the ball in his own twenty-two and, showing a swift turn of foot, outpace all covering defenders to run the length of the pitch and touch down for a superb try.

For the final 5 minutes, waves of ultimately unsuccessful College attacks crashed against the Old Boys' defensive wall, with flanker Guy Lyon and centre Mark Sayer (1999) putting in a series of crunching tackles. Old Pembrokiens managed to hang on for the last few minutes and even added another penalty through Hammond at the death. Final Score Pembroke College 14 – 20 Old Pembrokiens.

Looking ahead, the Old Boys will again be challenging the College on the morning of 20th October 2007 (the day of the Rugby World Cup final). We would love to involve as many Old Boys as possible in 2007: if you are interested in either playing or supporting Old Pembrokiens RUFC then please contact oldpembrokiens@gmail.com

Men's Rugby

Congratulations to the Men's Rugby team, who recently won the Cuppers Plate, beating Jesus 27-12. Notable performances came from Chris Owen, who scored a try, two conversions and a drop goal for a total of 12 points, as well as Piers Holden, Adam Taylor and Jonny Fennell who also all scored tries.

PCBC News

Following only hours after the annual PCBC Pimm's Party in April, Pembroke put in a winning performance at Abingdon Head. Pembroke men raced in S2 and S3, picking up a pot for the latter. They were the second fastest crew beaten only by Broxbourne RC: they soundly beat several other colleges including St Anne's and Queen's despite equipment problems and a late night before. The girls raced in a novice 4+ and took the title for their boat class. And just hours after the Pembroke Ball PCBC won the Oxford Street Olympics 4man 2k relay, with an average split of 1:28

Oxford v. Cambridge Women's Boat Race

Congratulations to Alice Millest (2004) and the rest of the Oxford crew, who triumphed over strong headwinds and high waves to beat Cambridge by a length in the 2007 Lightweight Women's Boat Race in Henley on 1st April.



Alice (third from the right) with the winning crew (photo courtesy of Alice Millest)

Other News

The girls' rugby 10s reached the Cuppers final recently, but sadly lost against Merton. On a satisfying, and somewhat vengeful, note the girls' basketball beat Merton this month 23-10, and are looking good enough to claim the Cuppers trophy for Pembroke once again – which would make this the fourth consecutive year as champions.

SPORTING NEWS

Summer Eights

by Chris Morris

PCBC once again qualified more boats than any other college in this year's Summer Eights, with 9 crews lining up on the bunglines and impressive performances from the men's 1st VIII who were the fastest Oxbridge crew at Wallingford Regatta.

Throughout the week a host of notable performances were recorded by Pembroke crews. Each day the Women's 1st VIII rowed with a determination and maturity that gave no indication that five of them had only started rowing in November. They closed to within half a length each day of a Christ Church crew crammed with Blues, but despite getting so close Christ Church were able to pull away to the extent that they almost managed to bump St. Edmund Hall who remain at Head of the River. The Women's 2nd VIII stormed their way down the bumps course rarely rowing past Donny Bridge and won their blades with four bumps in four days. The bump on Wadham was a particular sight to behold with the stubborn cox's refusal to concede resulting in 200m of side by side racing which ended in thumping fashion as Pembroke finally decided to ram their bows into the Wadham stern. The Men's 2nd VIII formed a formidable unit that was arguably the fastest for several years and were unfortunate not to win blades themselves. However, it was the Men's 1st VIII who were a particular health risk to those Pembroke supporters of a nervous disposition. On each day M1 closed the gap on Magdalen to tantalisingly close proportions and pressurised them all the way to the finish. On both Wednesday and Friday, the gap was closed to within a canvas at the exit of the gut and stayed within a ¼ length or under all the way until the finish with Magdalen literally hanging on by the skin of their teeth at the end. Indeed, everything was set for a grandstand finish on the Saturday with a huge crowd united in desire to see Magdalen knocked off the top to the extent that even Oriel screamed in support of Pembroke! But all credit to Magdalen, who saved their best until last and despite the gap closing to agonisingly narrow proportions they were just able to hold off a late Pembroke surge on the finish line.

After an exciting and action-packed week, we are 2nd and 3rd on the river and remain the only College realistically capable of being Head of the River in both Men's and Women's rowing - despite some flagrant attempts by Christ Church to import a squad of internationals!



Men's 1st VIII (photo by Jo Bowley)

Friends of Pembroke College Boat Club to integrate with College

by Will Wagner, President of FPCBC

Friends of Pembroke College Boat Club (FPCBC) is an old Pembrokian club founded over 35 years ago to raise funds for the Boat Club, and to maintain links with alumni. Rowing is unfortunately an expensive sport (new eights cost over £20,000) and FPCBC raises money to help make such purchases, adding to the funding provided by College. Since FPCBC was started, it has witnessed the rise of Pembroke on the river. Moving from the bottom of the second division the men have been near the top for nearly two decades, twice gaining the Headship. The women have had similar successes, and Pembroke is now the strongest rowing college at Oxford. Both the men and women are in the top three crews and the College has the highest second boats on the river.

FPCBC has always been separate from College and is run by a committee of volunteers. Running the club involves keeping track of donations, producing and distributing a newsletter, and advising the current Boat Club Committee. The administrative burden of maintaining members' contact details is considerable so gaps between newsletters can be rather variable.

When FPCBC was created the College Development Office did not exist, however it now duplicates the task of maintaining a contact database of Pembroke alumni. To enable the Friends to concentrate on fundraising, the newsletter and social events, the Committee of FPCBC has agreed with College that the Development Office will take over administrative tasks with the merging of FPCBC records with College. The FPCBC bank account will be moved within College to allow gift aid to be claimed on donations, but all money raised by FPCBC will continue to be designated for expenditure on the boat club only. It is also proposed to create a steering committee comprising representatives from College, FPCBC and the current Boat Club Committee, to oversee all major equipment purchases for the club, and to coordinate fundraising for the Boat Club.

If you are already a member of FPCBC and are currently donating money you will hear more shortly. Once all the details of the changes have been finalised we will be writing with instructions on how to change your FPCBC standing order to a College direct debit. If you are not currently a member and would like to be, or were a member and we have lost touch with you, please get in touch with Matt Clayton-Stead (Secretary, FPCBC), 64 Scarcroft Road, York YO24 1DD (Matthew.Clayton-Stead@pinsentmasons.com).

MUSIC AND DRAMA



Pembroke Pantomime- “Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs” was written by Pembroke first year, Chris Armstrong, and directed by JCR Music and Drama rep Danielle Orchard. The show featured the “Wicked Master” played by first year Seb Peel, and his tennis-playing sidekick “The Bursar”, played by first year Marcelo Gigi. The 7 dwarves were kindly supplied by the Boat Club.



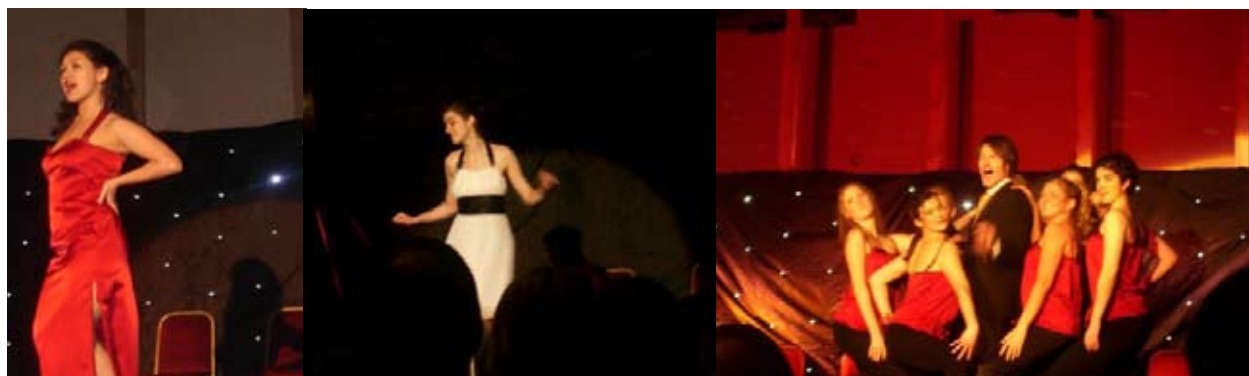
The Pantomime Cast

Pembroke College Music Society Christmas Concert was one of the first concerts to be hosted at the GAB, so that Pembroke’s many talented pianists could take advantage of the incredible piano that lives in the Rockefeller Room. The repertoire was performed entirely by Pembrokiens, and included a lot of classical and chamber pieces, but also a couple of popular Christmas classics such as “I Don’t Want a Lot for Christmas” performed by the newly formed Pembroke Girls Choir.

The Music Society continues to hold its informal events, kindly hosted by the Master and his wife, Lynne. These provide Pembroke students with an informal setting in which to perform any kind of musical repertoire, and this year has seen frequent performances from the newly formed Pembroke Madrigal group. Newly elected President of the Music Society, Laura Shearing, has also been busy organising weekly lunchtime chapel recitals, inviting Oxford-wide performers and groups to play short sets in the Damon Wells Chapel.

All That Jazz

In 7th week of Hilary, Pembroke College Music Society followed the success of last year’s “Grease” with “All That Jazz”: three nights of jazz cabaret, featuring numbers from vocalists such as Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Peggy Lee and Nina Simone, as well as jazz and tap dancing. The cast was recruited from across the University but with a Pembroke bias placed on band members and production team. The production team included Danielle Orchard as producer/director, Lara Delaney (Lincoln) choreographer/director and Charlie Spencer (Pembroke) as musical director. The cabaret-style production saw the audience (dressed in black-tie) seated at candlelit tables and served with wine and canapés. The event was a big hit, selling out across all three nights, which has been a massive boost to the PCMS Productions fund, from which they hope to buy stage lighting and other technical equipment for future Pembroke productions.



Some of the performers on stage at All That Jazz

MUSIC AND DRAMA



Arts Week

This annual event spanned 4 days during 3rd week. The Pembroke line up included an all Pembroke production of Brian Friel's "Translations", a drama of cultural change and the consequences of colonialism set in mid-19th century Ireland, directed by first years Christopher Thursten and Charlotte Merton, and produced by first years Chris Armstrong and Rini Banerjee and 3rd year Pamina Bou. First year Pembroke music student Joe Bolger also directed a semi-opera "The Tempest" by Purcell, which featured a predominantly Pembroke cast and orchestra. Both of these events were very well attended, and kicked off an exciting range of events during Arts Week.

Arts Week also recruits performers from across the University as a whole and allows Pembroke students to try their hand at some of the arts. The line up included a poetry reading in the Fellows' garden, a short film expose, an art and photography competition and exhibition (held in the Emery Gallery and organised by JCR Art rep, Constance Usherwood), a performance from comedy group the Oxford Imps, a set by chart-topping Indie band "Seven Story Down", an arts workshop and strawberry picnic on the quad, gumboot dancing workshop, RnBollywood dancing, Capoeira, Salsa workshop, and an "A Cappella and Pimm's Afternoon" featuring performances from the Oxford Belles and "Out of the Blue". All of the events took place at Pembroke, most of them inside a marquee on Chapel Quad.



The Cast of "Translations", together and in action, with the Arts Week Marquee.

Forthcoming events...

Three Pembroke students will be performing "Human Wishes" as part of the Samuel Johnson conference planned for 9th week of Trinity term. The single act drama, written by Samuel Beckett and based on a poem called "The Vanity of Human Wishes" by Johnson, will be part of the entertainment for conference attendees.

All photos in this section courtesy of the JCR.



Citizens and Democracy in Russia

by

Professor Stephen Whitefield, Fellow in Politics

Photo courtesy of Professor Whitefield

Observers of Russia are rightly concerned with the erosion by Vladimir Putin and those around him of democratic rights and freedoms. But what is the role, if any, of Russian citizens in this process? As a thought experiment, consider what would happen if Britain's political leaders tried to stifle press freedom, squash opposition parties, and arrest political opponents. I like to think that one reason such things don't happen here – at least to the extent that it is happening in Russia – is because the British people would take action in a wide range of ways to ensure that democracy was protected. Politicians here should fear what citizens would do if their democratic rights were threatened. So, is the problem in Russia that nasty politicians are able to ride roughshod over the preferences of citizens? Or do its citizens support anti-democratic policies?

I have been thinking about these issues by analysing survey data on Russian public opinion and political behaviour that I have collected (particularly in collaboration with Geoff Evans at Nuffield College) on numerous occasions over the last 15 years. (We are about to go into the field again in another project that looks at the character and political consequences of social inequality in Russia and twelve other Central and East European countries – for more information look at our website: <http://eurequal.politics.ox.ac.uk/>)

Here are four aspects of the relationship between citizens and democracy in Russia that seem most relevant to me.

Firstly, citizens are divided on the desirability of democracy. The largest group of Russians are those that profess support for the ideal of democratic government: 46% in 2003. But many people in Russia are not democrats at all, rejecting the very idea that it is a good system for running the country. In 1993, people with those views comprised 26% of the population; by 2003, with Putin in power, the number of anti-democrats had shrunk to 17%. The rest are 'in-between'. (Incidentally, both those who like democracy in principle and those who don't have judged Russia's democracy very negatively in practice.)

Russians are also strongly divided on system-level issues more broadly. It is commonplace in studies of politics in

Western Europe that political differences – and certainly party differences – have narrowed. In the West these days we are supposed to agree on the big picture of how to run the government and the economy – democracy and the market. Political disagreements arise among us, from this perspective, around who wins and loses from policies or because of personality and style rather than substance. (I don't say I entirely endorse this view of West European politics, particularly since it is largely untested in the political science literature.) Russians, however, don't think about politics in these incremental terms. Rather they make political judgements based on fundamental system-level normative commitments. Should we be in a democracy at all? Should we have a market economy or a socialist system? Are we citizens of Russia or do we identify with the Soviet Union? Should we integrate with the West or remain isolated from it?

Russians like Putin. His approval ratings remain at about 75% positive. When I investigated the bases of Putin's popularity, I thought it might rest on a number of undemocratic foundations. For example, it might be that he is supported by those who oppose democracy as an ideal system. In fact, it is quite the opposite. He is as supported by democrats as is the 'democratic opposition'. Or might it be that he is supported by people who wanted a strong leader who could solve Russia's problems even if it meant overthrowing democracy? This is also not the case. Nor is he supported by anti-Westerners or anti-Semites. A lot of support for Putin is based on citizens' experience of better living standards since he came to power and expectations of improvements to come. But the largest factor driving his popularity is that he is believed to make Russian political institutions work effectively and make government more responsive than was the case under Yeltsin. Putin's government is seen to reduce the politics of intense division and institutional conflict.

Despite their normative approach to politics, Russia's citizens are not politically active these days. Very few of them are members of civil society organisations and by comparison with the heady days of activism under perestroika, few people engage in overt political behaviour of any sort, far less oppositional action. Voter turnout has also declined substantially – though it is no lower than

FEATURE

the UK – and identification with political parties and party membership is also weak.

So, is the problem of democracy in Russia mainly about nasty politicians or anti-democratic citizens?

In divided societies, where major questions about the ideal way to run government and the economy - and even about how to define the contours of the nation-state itself – are contested, politics are likely to be quite different from that which we find when citizens agree over such major questions. We should note that democracy, without agreement about system-level issues, is likely to be difficult and potentially dangerous for elites and citizens alike. When people disagree over fundamental values, they are likely to get even more angry and upset by policies than is the case when the marginal rate of tax goes up by a penny or when home energy certificates are introduced.

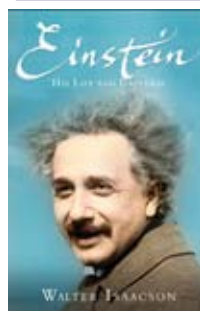
To return to our thought experiment; Russian citizens are probably not organised enough to act on their own in defence of democracy when elites erode their rights. But if pro-democrats were self-organised enough to do so, then the large number of anti-democrats probably would be too.

So, who would want to organise citizens into political activity? We know from other post-Soviet states, and especially from Ukraine, that political quiescence can quickly turn to mass activism and even revolution during democratic elections when political elites collide. In Ukraine, fortunately, a peaceful outcome was found in the ‘Orange Revolution’, though the aftermath has hardly produced a decisive revolutionary victory for the democratic, Westernising, pro-market side – rather that country’s deep political divisions remain unresolved. It was notable just how nervous the Russian political elite became in the face of the ‘coloured revolutions’ that occurred in countries around them. That nervousness was felt by many Russian citizens too.

Putin has presided over relative political stability and some economic growth in recent years. But Russia still lacks entrenched democratic or property rights. The political elite has intervened regularly to reallocate property for political reasons that are also often connected with the personal gain of so-called ‘second tier elites’ within the apparatus who missed out on the first wave of privatisation. Economic growth, based mainly in the oil, gas and natural resource sectors, has not been used to fully establish a market economic system. Rather, it has financed, at the elite and the citizen level, a system that maintains numerous market distortions and has helped paper over political divisions.

In other words, Russia remains fundamentally unconsolidated as a democracy - and market economy - and part of the lack of consolidation is that divisions over the ideal economic and political order among citizens remain unresolved. In the absence of real democratic competition, however, these divisions also remain currently unmobilised. Unfortunately, therefore, we can easily see how politics in Russia might become much worse if political elites, perhaps fighting over the Putin succession, were to become divided enough to want, for their own reasons, to mobilise citizens around the often opposed ideals that they profess. While we might wish for a decisive break with Russia’s authoritarian past, we should remember the great political confrontations of the 1990s when democracy was in (relatively) full swing and understand that democratic competition among elites that would mobilise Russian citizens carries great risks of open political conflict, which democrats these days might not be favourites to win.

That leaves me with the best hope that a great reforming leader of vision and wisdom will somehow emerge to succeed Putin. How Russian!



Einstein: His Life and Universe

by Walter Isaacson

Cover image courtesy of Simon & Schuster

A new biography of Einstein by Walter Isaacson (1974) has entered in the No. 1 spot on the New York Times best-sellers list.

Isaacson is receiving praise for putting a human face on a complex figure, portraying him as a charismatic and passionate man who was often careless about personal affairs. “I like writing about people with interesting minds,” said the author, whose previous subjects have included Benjamin Franklin and Henry Kissinger. “The goal of the book is to show how the mind of a genius actually works,” Isaacson said, “but it also seeks to make the man and his universe something we can all understand.”

Walter Isaacson came to Pembroke as a Rhodes scholar studying PPE, and then embarked on a career in journalism. He is currently CEO of the non-partisan Aspen Institute think tank in Washington, and served as vice chairman of the Louisiana Recovery Authority, the hurricane recovery volunteer advisory panel to Gov. Kathleen Blanco.

EVENTS



The Tesdale Lunch

Photo by Jo Bowley

Some fifty members of the Tesdale Society gathered on 6th September to enjoy drinks and lunch with their fellow legators, as guests of Pembroke. Afterwards, they took the opportunity to visit the Emery Gallery, and to see for themselves some of the refurbishment which has been done around the College in the past two years.

London Reception

Photo by Kirsty Ramage

The first Pembroke London Reception took place at the Oxford and Cambridge Club in November. The event attracted over 100 guests, proving especially popular with younger alumni. We look forward to making it a regular fixture in the calendar.



Gaudy: 1970-1974

Photo by Cate Field

A gaudy was held in College on 13th April for matriculation years 1970-74. Alumni returned from as far afield as Australia and the US to enjoy a delicious meal in Hall, and drinks in the bar afterwards.



Smithson Book Launch

Photo of the author by Jo Bowley

Pembroke was pleased to host the UK launch party for *The Lost World of James Smithson* on 22nd May. Heather Ewing's book is the first biography of one of the College's most prestigious alumni. Distinguished guests included the Cultural Attache at the US Embassy, and the Director of the National Portrait Gallery at the Smithsonian Institution.



London Dinner

Photo by Cate Field

Pembroke's annual London Alumni Dinner was this year held in Stationers' Hall on 17th May. 70 alumni and College representatives attended, and very much enjoyed both the fine food and the after-dinner speech, this year delivered by John Hays (1967). John shared with us his memories of Pembroke, his tips for success in business, and (as the new Vice Chairman of Sunderland FC) some insights into the sporting world as well. We were delighted to have John, and his wife Irene, with us for the evening.

EVENTS



Forty Years On Reunion: 1965-67

Photo by Jo Bowley

In September we were delighted to welcome back alumni celebrating the 40th anniversary of their matriculations. The guests particularly enjoyed the Memorabilia Room, featuring pictures and quotes from their time at Pembroke. This was the first of our “decade reunions”, a success we hope to replicate for many other year groups.



Garden Party

Photo by Cate Field

Approximately 500 alumni, students, parents and staff gathered in Chapel Quad to enjoy champagne and afternoon tea at the annual Garden Party on 26th May. The weather fortunately stayed dry, and a lively afternoon was enjoyed by all. The party atmosphere was carried down to the Boathouses by many of the guests, who concluded the afternoon’s festivities by cheering on the Pembroke crews.



Annual Meeting

Photo by Kam Miles

A number of alumni and donors gathered in the Geoffrey Arthur Building in January to hear about the progress Pembroke has made in the last year. They had the opportunity to ask questions of the Master, Academic Director and Bursar, and this was followed by lunch in Hall.

The Ossulston Lunch

Photo by Jo Bowley

We invited a number of our significant donors to the biennial Ossulston Lunch in College on 10th March, in recognition of their generosity. Special mentions must go to the chef, Kevin Dudley, whose beautiful presentation and decoration of his dishes was much admired, and to the Student Madrigal Group, who entertained the guests during lunch



PROFILE

Andrew Seton - New Strategic Development Director at Pembroke

I am delighted to be addressing you as Pembroke's new Development Director. But as part of this greeting, I feel I must explain myself as you may be wondering how I came to be here. Pembroke will surely agree that they have taken a leap of faith in appointing me as I am quite a novice in the world of "development".

You can at least be assured that I am no stranger to Oxford. I was born and raised here, became a student at Univ. where I read Russian, and then went on to post-graduate studies at Wolfson. After realizing that I would never make it in the academic world and needed to get away from Oxford's apron strings, I found myself in the City and spent a satisfying 25 years or so ascending a career ladder in international investment banking, surprisingly and luckily able to trade off my Russian for much of the time. After taking early retirement in the face of one-too-many takeover shake-ups in the mid 1990s, and becoming a trustee of one of London's smaller and less well-off orchestras, I spent 3 years in Kiev running the European Bank's (EBRD) business in Ukraine - a kind of swan-song for me - before falling into the comfortable embrace of a number of non-executive roles, some of which are still being wound down as I write this.

Non-executive directorships are all very well, as many of you will know, but I found they tended to make me envious of those who were still in full-time employment, maybe because I am not yet very old. And so I read Pembroke's advertisement for this post with a lot of excitement, especially since my wife and I had moved back to Oxford a little over 3 years ago, thinking it would be good place to retire now that our 5 children had achieved adulthood. The opportunity came, I confess, at a time of personal reassessment..... and when the Univ. development people had started at long last to make inroads into

my resources. I was beginning to feel mellower, more nostalgic, more willing to accept that my upbringing and education were – actually - the work of others in addition to myself (even though some of my children still think differently as they continue to repay their student loans...). I also knew I could not pass up a (last?) chance to go back to work with other people full-time, as opposed to meeting them only at board meetings.

I have learnt enough about your college in the last few months to understand that it has come a long way recently in only a few years, and that I am lucky to be joining at a very promising time. Giles Henderson and the governing body have paid very serious attention to governance and the College's accountability to its stakeholders and alumni.

John Church has introduced up-to-date and efficient financial management. These leaps forward in the College's administration have been reciprocated by increasing generosity on your part, and accompanied by progress on the academic front, helped by attracting endowments for important new fellowships. They show that Pembroke has clearly already learnt many of the lessons I benefited from in banking, and that it has some extremely loyal supporters.

I hope, with your cooperation, that I will be able to build on these recent advances and help Pembroke to deliver its central goal of offering a model Oxford education consistently to many generations of students. I am anxious to start listening to you and to have your thoughts on how to do this, as well as your comments about the College generally. Indeed I would encourage you to do this as soon as you like and not to wait for a gaudy or other event. Be sure that I will be writing again soon when my feet are properly under the desk to give you feedback as our ideas in the Development Office progress. I look forward very much to meeting as many of you as possible, whether at the College or outside, in the coming months and years.



*Andrew at the recent Wightwick Dinner
(photo by Jo Church)*

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Photo of Andrew Seton, courtesy of Andrew Seton. Photos of Kam, Cate and Catherine by Jo Bowley

Oxford Alumni Card

Alumni of Oxford University are eligible to receive an Oxford Alumni Card, which has a growing number of associated benefits and discounts on eating out, accommodation, car hire, magazine subscriptions and much more. The discounts are available in Oxford and beyond. See the alumni website for the latest list: <http://www.alumni.ox.ac.uk/services/alumniocard/>

The Oxford Alumni Card also identifies you as having a connection with Oxford to those on other University and college premises, and should secure you a warm welcome. We are confident that the card, while not being able to guarantee entry to every University and College building, will at least get you a more friendly response in these places, so do remember to bring it with you when you next come - though, of course, you do not need it to visit Pembroke! You will also need your Alumni Card in order to sign up for the Email Forwarding service, run by the University Alumni Office (<http://www.alumni.ox.ac.uk/services/emailforward>) and to book online for the Oxford Alumni Weekend.

If you have not yet received your card, please send your full name, address, college and matriculation year to: alumniocard@ousoc.ox.ac.uk or phone +44 (0)1865 288062.



CALENDAR OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS

2007

23rd June	30 Years On - 1976-78
3rd August	Gaudy: Years Up To 1956
10th August	1957 Jubilee
14th-16th September	Oxford Alumni Weekend <i>See enclosed information</i>
21st September	Gaudy: Years 1999-2000
15th November	London Reception <i>See enclosed information</i>

2008

26th January	Annual Meeting <i>All are invited to this review of College life and progress</i>
8th March	Tesdale Lunch <i>Invitations will be mailed to members of the Legacy Society</i>
24th May	Garden Party <i>All welcome, invitations will come with the Annual Report</i>
20th June	1958-61 Jubilee <i>A celebration of 50 Years On for alumni and partners</i>
29th August	Gaudy: Years 2001-2002
September (tbc)	Oxford Alumni Weekend
November (tbc)	London Alumni Event