MATTHEW D’ANCONA
Julian Barnes, Man Booker Prize Winner

JEREMY HUNT
Delivering the Olympics

NIKKI EMERSON
Paralympic Hopeful

NICHOLAS KRISTOF
Arab Spring

ISSUE 11 | 2012
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WELCOME

From the President

I should like to welcome you to the latest edition of the Floreat Magdalena magazine with news from the College and the wider alumni community.

To mark the approaching London 2012 Olympics, we are proud to feature some of Magdalen’s connections to the Games. When London previously hosted the Olympics in 1908 and 1948 Magdalen members took gold on the river (see Mark Blandford-Baker’s article on pages six and seven), while this year Magdalen member Jeremy Hunt (1985) is charged with delivering the Games in his role as Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport. We wish him well for what is shaping up to be an inspirational and memorable Games.

Away from the sports field and river, this edition of Floreat provides us with an opportunity to celebrate the success of Julian Barnes (1964) in winning the 2011 Man Booker Prize, the third Magdalen winner in the past eight years. We also hear from double Pulitzer prize-winning journalist Nicholas Kristof (1981) on his reflections and experience of the recent Arab Spring.

Magdalen is in the final stages of planning a major redevelopment and extension to the New Library on Longwall Quad and you will hear more of this in the coming months as we seek the support of our members in helping to make these plans a reality. As you will read in the archivist Robin Darwall-Smith’s article, the New Library, and the site it sits upon, has a rich and varied history, to which our plans will add a new and exciting chapter.

In addition to sharing Magdalen’s past, I very much hope that the articles in this magazine give you a flavour of Magdalen today and a sense of the community that exists here. We welcome you, our members, to share in this by joining us at alumni events in College or in London, or further afield, and by letting us know your news for this magazine or the College Record. You may wish to get more actively involved, and one way of doing this is by standing for election to the Magdalen Society (see page 13), which continues to do a wonderful job in supporting the College’s alumni activities and networks. I would like to acknowledge, in particular, the vision and dedication of Judith Hibbert (1980), who is standing down as Chairman of the Magdalen Society after six years in the role.

I hope you enjoy reading this magazine and I look forward to seeing many of you at our forthcoming College events.

Flore Magdalena!
Professor David Clary
Nikki Emerson (2006) broke her back in a car accident in 2008 while a student at Magdalen. She writes of her wheelchair racing trials for the GB team in the London Paralympic Games this summer.

I watched the 2008 Beijing Paralympic Games from my hospital bed at the National Spinal Injuries Centre, never dreaming that just over three years later I’d be awaiting selection for the Great Britain Paralympic team for London 2012.

Realistically, I should be aiming to race at the 2016 Paralympics in Rio de Janeiro rather than London 2012, as I’ve been wheelchair racing for only three years. However, thanks to my coach’s intense training regime and the fitness I retained from my time playing lacrosse for the Blues, I was selected for the under-23 World Championships in my first full season of racing in 2010 and won four medals.

After another successful season last year I achieved the required times to be short-listed to race the 100m, 200m, 400m and 800m at the London 2012 Paralympic Games. I had to take some time off this spring due to illness so now I’m training harder than ever to get back up to fitness before the qualifying period for the Games closes on 8th July. I train twelve times a week in my racing chair and in the gym, with a few pool sessions for recovery. The track season started in April so it’s been a busy few months with the London 2012 test event in the Olympic stadium, the National Championships and the Paralympic qualifiers in Switzerland. The Paralympic team will be selected on 9th July so I’ll race a few more times in the UK and the USA this month and then it’s really just a case of nervously awaiting the announcement.

If I don’t make the Great Britain team for London I’ll be very disappointed after all the hard work I’ve put in, but I hope to have a long career ahead of me. I’m aiming to make the finals at the World Track Championships in France next year and to be fighting for a medal in the Rio Paralympics in 2016. So whilst racing in London this year would be an absolute dream come true, I have a lot more to look forward to in the coming years both on and off the track.

www.nikkiemerson.co.uk
www.twitter.com/Nikki_Emerson
The Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP (1985), Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport and the minister responsible for overseeing this summer’s Olympic Games, describes the challenges and excitement of hosting a home Olympiad.

“The Olympics is the greatest show on earth – and working to deliver it on behalf of the Government is the greatest job on earth.

We’ve never seen anything of the scale we’re about to witness. It’s the first time we’ve hosted a sporting event watched live by half the world’s population; where the numbers visiting the UK will equate to two small European countries; and where everything we do will be scrutinised by 40,000 journalists from around the world.

If that level of profile sounds intimidating, it’s also an incredible platform to showcase everything that’s great about the UK today. That’s why it’s important we make sure the magic of the Games doesn’t just stay in London but spreads throughout the country.

So we will have the Torch Relay travelling for 70 days around the country, as well as a Cultural Festival promising 1,000 events and 10 million opportunities for people to see something free of charge and a brilliant programme of 2,000 community projects inspired by the Games.

All of this fits the aim of creating a long-term legacy for Britain – one that will encourage tourism and economic growth, strengthen our communities, inspire more young people to choose sport, and get more people coming to the UK to study at fantastic institutions like Oxford and elsewhere.

Getting all of that right so that Britain gets full value out of the Games is a big part of the job. My other main challenge is making sure all aspects of Government knit together to deliver a truly fantastic Games.

And here it’s worth remembering the sheer scale of the operation. The Olympic construction project to create the Olympic Park has involved the biggest demolition programme in Europe; the most ambitious soil clean-up operation ever seen in the UK; and the most extensive tunnelling operation since the Channel Tunnel to improve power infrastructure.

The fact that we now have a glittering new Olympic Park in place of what used to be a dismally neglected brownfield site is a fantastic achievement – that all of this was delivered on time and on budget is even better.

But the thing that excites me most of all are the possibilities for the future – a wholesale regeneration of East London of a speed and scale not seen since the Docklands redevelopment of the eighties, and exemplified by the sparkling £1.4 billion Westfield shopping village.

And this is before we get to the other logistical challenges, such as how to manage 800,000 more people travelling on London’s public transport system. Or how we deliver a policing and security operation equivalent to hosting a Wimbledon championship, two FA Cup Finals and a G20 summit on the same day every day. Or making sure our airports are ready to deal with more than 600,000 international visitors to the Games, including at least 120 heads of state.

It’s a big challenge, but I’m tremendously excited by what this year will bring – and I know that whatever the coming months throw at me, the time I spent at Magdalen will stand me in extremely good stead.”
Mark Blandford-Baker, Home Bursar, reviews Magdalen’s long association with the Olympic Games.

Olympic participation by Oxonians since the start of the modern Games in 1896 has produced a remarkable level of success with 136 medals from 157 men and women. Twenty-nine Magdalen men and women have won no fewer than 16 of the 66 gold, ten of the 43 silver, and two of the 26 bronze medals. However, University members competing at the Olympic Games have changed over the last 116 years with the shift from the dominance of the public schools producing the best athletes in the country to the largely professional sportsmen and women of today, and this has accelerated even in the last 20 years. The number of Oxford undergraduates or alumni who represented their country at the Games was much greater before the Second World War than since.

It is perhaps no surprise that Magdalen’s competitors, and medal winners, are predominantly oarsmen. The boat club was in its heyday in the early twentieth century and the gold-medal winning coxless four at the 1908 London Games was a Magdalen crew of C.R. Cudmore, J.A. Gillan, D. Mackinnon and J.R. Somers-Smith. This was a remarkable crew which only a year earlier had been the College’s second four. At Henley in 1908 it won both the Stewards’ and Visitors’ Challenge Cups, setting new course records in both. At the Olympic Regatta they beat the Canadians and then the other United Kingdom crew from Leander Club, to take gold. The UK eight included G. Nickalls (by then aged 42), C.D. Burnell and G.S. Maclagan onboard and beat the Hungarians and then the Belgians to claim the crown of the blue riband event.

Magdalen provided eight of the nine men for the eight in Stockholm in 1912 where Leander took the gold medal having beaten the Canadians, then the Germans only to have to race New College, the other UK crew in the final. (The Magdalen crew included: E.R. Burgess, L.G. Wormald, E.D. Horsfall, J.A. Gillan, A.S. Garton, A.G. Kirby, P. Fleming, and H.B. Wells, who was thecox.) An old rivalry with our neighbours was fuelled by a debate, after the race, about the pick of the stations. Five of the Magdalen men of these 1908 and 1912 crews made the ultimate sacrifice on the battlefields on the First World War. They included Mackinnon, whose brother was also at
the College and met the same fate; they endowed the scholarships that bear their name.

In Antwerp in 1920 the British (rather than UK) eight was made up of five Magdalen men, S. Earl, W.E.C. James, R.S.C. Lucas, G.O. Nickalls and E.D. Horsfall; they took silver. The 1948 Olympic Regatta was once again held at Henley. Richard Burnell, Eton and Magdalen, had Bert Bushnell, a local boat-builder, as his partner in the double sculls. They had not even raced beforehand having only started training together three weeks earlier. This unlikely alliance of social and sporting backgrounds, which is the subject of a BBC documentary to be broadcast in 2012, was a gold medal-winning formula.

Alexander Lindsay, chairman of the Friends of the Boat Club, was in the British eight in Rome in 1960. Our most recent competitor was Alison Bonner at Seoul in 1988, where with her pairs partner Kim Thomas of Hampton, they came eighth. Alison became Magdalen’s first, and so far only, female Olympian and our most recent rower at that level. The stories of these crews, how they reached the heights of representing their country and more of what went on can be found in Upon the Elysian Stream: 150 years of Magdalen College Boat Club.

Great Britain has only ever won one medal in the athletics discipline of the hammer throw. Malcolm Nokes, an undergraduate from 1919 to 1922, read the shortened course in Chemistry and went on to teach at Malvern and later Harrow. He then went to work for AERE at Harwell Isotope Division, followed by the CENTO Institute of Nuclear Science in Tehran. He competed for the University in athletics and swimming, but the height of his sporting achievement was to take bronze at the 1924 Olympic Games in Paris. Though he did not find such success at the 1928 Games, he had the honour of being the British team flag-bearer at the Opening Ceremony, a job allocated by a ballot of the team members. In May 2012 Nokes was recognised with an entry in the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography.

Elsewhere in the stadium Magdalen men have competed on the running track. Also winning bronze in 1924 was Arthur Porritt in the 100 metres, for his native New Zealand. Later Lord Porritt, he became the first President of the International Olympic Committee’s Medical Commission in 1961. From 1960 to 1963 Porritt was simultaneously President of the Royal College of Surgeons and the British Medical Association.

Evelyn Montague came sixth in the 3,000 metres steeplechase at the 1924 Games. Sir Christopher Chataway competed in the 5,000 metres at both the 1952 and 1956 Olympics. In 1952 he was leading the field in the final but was passed on the last bend, then his foot brushed the curb but he managed to recover to finish fifth. At a London v. Moscow athletics meet at White City in 1955 he broke the world record for the three miles, overturning a result of two weeks earlier when he had trailed Vladimir Kuts by over twelve seconds. In Tokyo in 1964 Adrian Metcalfe was a member of the 4 x 400 metre relay team which took the silver medal. He later served on the IOC’s press and broadcasting commissions; more recently he advised on the 2012 bid.

In the Fencing Salle, Henry ‘Bill’ Hoskyns fenced in the Olympics a record six times from 1956 to 1976, winning an épée team silver medal in 1960 and an épée individual silver medal in Tokyo in 1964 after barraging for the gold. Taking the world championship individual title in 1958, he was the world’s leading épéiste through to 1965. After a remarkable career at world level at the age of 66 (and the last Briton to win an Olympic medal), he won a bronze medal at the Millennium World Veterans Championship in Hungary. Bill Hoskyns, although not quick on his feet, had extraordinary timing and could put his opponents under continuous pressure so as to induce them to attack at the moment of his choosing, when he displayed an uncanny ability to pick up his opponent’s blade at the very last moment. A skiing accident in which he broke a leg did wonders for his parry-riposte. His nonchalantly elegant style gave him a gentleman-amateur image that was much admired. One American opponent said simply “Suave - so suave, it’s painful.”

With 70,000 volunteers needed to help run the 2012 Games there will doubtless be some Magdalen members in that number. I, for one, will be heading up Control Commission at the Olympic Regatta.
Julian Barnes
The Sense of an Ending
MAN BOOKER PRIZE WINNER 2011
Matthew d’Ancona (1986) was a member of the 2011 Man Booker Prize judging panel and is a columnist for The Sunday Telegraph, Evening Standard, and GQ. He was recently named top commentator in the UK at the annual Comment Awards and is working on a book for Viking Penguin about the Coalition. In this issue of Floreat he talks about writer Julian Barnes (1964) and the selection of his latest novel A Sense of an Ending as the Man Booker Prize Winner.

As a young graduate, Julian Barnes wrote a literary guidebook to Oxford - an account, as he later explained to the Paris Review, of “every writer who had passed through the city and university”. This bibliophile’s vade mecum, compiled by Barnes as a pleasant distraction from his work on the Oxford English Dictionary, was never published.

Had the guide ever made it into print, I am fairly confident I should have bought a copy - and thus, no doubt, have been aware that Barnes and I were at the same undergraduate college. As it happens, this coincidence passed me by when I was judging the Man Booker Prize last year – a prize that was won by his extraordinary novel, The Sense of an Ending. In the event, I only found out that he, too, was a Magdalen alumnus, when this newsletter kindly invited me to contribute a short piece on his victory. Shows what you can miss when you’re busy reading.

Actually, I do not think this is altogether surprising. While it is true that Barnes makes no secret of his Oxford past, it defines him much less than it does other members of the extraordinary literary circle that gathered at the New Statesman in the Seventies: Martin Amis (Exeter), James Fenton (Magdalen), the late, great Christopher Hitchens (Balliol – where else?). In contrast, Barnes has always seemed like a continental cuckoo – Faubert’s cuckoo, perhaps – in the nest of English institutions.

It would be glibly insufficient to characterize The Sense of an Ending as a European novel. For a start, it tells the story of a very English gang of school friends, a tale seen through the eyes of Tony Webster, a middle-aged man recalling the suicide of his contemporary, Adrian Finn, and relies for much of its compressed power upon England’s class system and genius for repression. Yet it is unashamedly a novel of ideas, to an extent more often associated (perhaps too lazily) with the continental fictional tradition. As Tony – an unreliable narrator – looks back, the layers of irony and self-deception are stripped away to reveal unsuspected strengths and frailties in the key protagonists. What, precisely, happened between Tony’s former girlfriend, Veronica, and Adrian? Why did Adrian kill himself? Why do past emotions, once so concrete and immovable, become so fugitive?

The Sense of an Ending – which, tantalizingly, shares its title with a classic of literary criticism by the late Frank Kermode – is a novel of extraordinary subtlety and immaculate structure. It is certainly intended to be enjoyed more than once, and – having read it no fewer than five times – I can attest to the rewards awaiting those who relish its 150 pages more than once. Most great books are page-turners. This is a page-turner.

In a series of meetings, lunches, gatherings at the Garrick, days in Highgate, and afternoons in Fitzrovia, we judges (Susan Hill, Chris Mullin, Gaby Wood, and our splendid chair, Dame Stella Rimington) discussed 138 novels, narrowed them down to a longlist of 13 and shortlist of six, before awarding the prize to Barnes’s novel in October.

It was a fantastically time-consuming exercise but hugely enjoyable - and as intrinsically contentious as anything I have ever been involved in. After weeks of (utterly spurious) media speculation that the judges were somehow conspiring to “dumb down” the prize or to drag it into the populist mire, we ended up choosing a book that is conspicuously literary and intellectually ambitious.

In truth, it is not why we chose it. We chose The Sense of an Ending because it was, without question, the best novel published last year: a fizzing reminder of what fiction can do, of the resilience of the form, and of the verbal alchemy that can turn a great storyteller into an unparalleled magus of the heart. ‡

OTHER MAGDALENE MAN BOOKER PRIZE WINNING WRITERS:

Alan Hollinghurst (1972) – for The Line of Beauty in 2004

One of my eeriest experiences covering the Arab Spring uprisings came in Bahrain. The authorities had opened fire without warning on a group of peaceful pro-democracy protesters, and the dead and wounded were being rushed to the main hospital. I was in the Emergency Room, interviewing patients and doctors, and posting regular updates on Twitter and Facebook. But in the chaos of the shooting, I had been separated from my driver, who had my electrical cords, and so my phone eventually ran out of juice and I was unable to post further updates.

As I continued with my reporting, I began to hear rumours that an American journalist had been among those shot. I asked hospital staff, but the ward was in chaos and they didn’t know if it was true or not. Still, the rumours grew and gained detail: some said that the reporter was a man who had been shot in the neck and was injured but alive. I looked all over for this reporter but couldn’t find him. Finally, after several hours, I was able to find my driver and get on line again to see my Twitter feed.

It turned out that the rumour had been about me. When I stopped tweeting, some of my followers feared that I might have been shot as well, and somehow that concern morphed from uncertainty to fact to detail. Looking through my Twitter feed, I felt like Tom Sawyer attending his own funeral.

The social media had a profound effect on all the Arab Spring uprisings. The Internet provided a measure of anonymity, so that people could support protests while facing less risk of arrest. They also left people realizing that vast numbers of others in their countries felt the same outrage. Finally, the ubiquity of video-capable mobile phones meant that whenever government thugs attacked protesters, there would be video on Youtube within a couple of hours. That raised the costs of such violence for a ruler, and it meant that each bout of government brutality led to more protests.

Another breakthrough was the role of women. They played a major role in many protests, and it became apparent that chauvinist security forces didn’t know quite what to do with women who challenged them. Government thugs who were perfectly comfortable clubbing young men felt embarrassed knocking women to the ground. They still did so, but sometimes they looked uncomfortable and sheepish. And brutality toward women seemed to carry a higher cost when it became public. In Cairo, for example, cameras rolled as security forces beat and kicked a woman on the ground, and pulled off her cloak to reveal a blue bra. She became known as the Blue Bra girl, and Egyptians were enraged at the attack on her - even though many male protesters had been treated far worse.

So from the front lines in Egypt, Bahrain, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia and Mauritania, I learned that the Middle East is changing in extraordinary ways, with far-reaching consequences that we’re only beginning to understand. I learned that women will be more a part of the region’s future. I learned that social media can be a powerful tool to take on dictators. But I also learned to keep my charger with me, and not to believe everything on Twitter.

http://kristof.blogs.nytimes.com
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Alice Brennan (2006) was working in Japan when last year’s tsunami hit. Alice was so moved by the disaster she decided to stay on to help.

On 11th March 2011, Japan suffered its biggest natural disaster in living memory. A magnitude nine earthquake and the resulting tsunami devastated more than 400 square miles of the north east coast, taking the lives of 15,840 people. The reactors at Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Plant were severely damaged by the waves, plunging the country into a state of nuclear emergency. At the time, I was working in southern Japan, and had never before felt an earthquake. I watched the story unfold with my evacuation route in my pocket and my heart in my throat.

A couple of weeks later, instead of leaving Japan as I had planned, I moved to Tokyo to work with Peace Boat Disaster Relief Volunteer Center (PBV), a relief organisation working in the affected region, where I began helping to mobilise the international community in support of the relief efforts. In April I was sent to the disaster zone for the first time.

I was struck by how absolutely colossal the damage was. PBV was sending up to 600 volunteers a week at this point to clean mud from homes and distribute hot meals to survivors, but the entire prefecture still looked like a disaster movie. I visited crowded evacuation centers and coastal villages where not a single building was left standing. My first job was cleaning a factory where six-week-old fish either lay in rotting piles or hung from nearby trees like grotesque fruit. My second job was to clean the shop of an elderly gentleman called Mr Sato, who had sold cosmetics before the tsunami destroyed his livelihood. He was very surprised, and I think touched, to see a group of young foreigners cleaning his drains. Upon learning I was English he shook my hand heartily and told me, “Thank you for coming, and congratulations on your royal wedding.” It was a very touching and bizarre moment in the most exhausting and rewarding week of my life.

In the 10 months since the disaster struck, PBV volunteers have cleaned 1,900 buildings, distributed 110,000 hot meals and 1,780 tonnes of relief goods. Our work has evolved with the needs of the community, which has recently seen our volunteers helping shop proprietors, fishermen and factory owners restart their businesses. However the biggest battle will remain healing the psychological and emotional scars left by the 11th March. To this end, PBV is providing psychosocial support to residents of 4,000 temporary homes. Our services will remain on offer to survivors for the foreseeable future.

Last September I went to Ishinomaki with PBV and I was unspeakably thrilled to see that Mr Sato had reopened his cosmetics shop. Even though the area is still a long way from true recovery, success stories like this emphasise the tremendous impact of a coordinated international aid effort.
MAGDALEN SOCIETY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

The triennial elections for the Magdalen Society Committee will be held on 15th September this year at the AGM, ahead of the Annual Alumni Dinner.

The purpose of the Magdalen Society is “to maintain and foster contacts between and for the mutual benefit of the members of the Society and Magdalen College”. The Committee, which was enlarged in 2009, is composed of the President, a Fellow member, 12 elected alumni members, from whom the Chairman and Deputy Chairman are chosen, and the Secretary, who is usually the College’s Alumni Relations Officer.

In order to make the Committee as representative of the alumni body as possible, three places are reserved for alumni under 10 years since matriculation. The Committee may also co-opt members – for example, to help with regional events.

The main role of the Committee is to advise and assist the Alumni Relations Officer in particular and the Development Office in general in the planning of the College’s alumni events programme, and to that end it meets termly in London as well as at the AGM in College to review past events and to discuss the future programme. The duties are not onerous, though a commitment to attend the majority of the meetings is expected. In addition, the Chairman of the Committee attends the College’s termly Development & Alumni Relations Committee meetings.

Although some members of the current Committee will stand again, all 12 alumni member places are up for election, for a term of three years. Having served two terms, I shall be standing down as Chairman. The current Committee membership encompasses a good range of ages and geographical locations (including the United States) and we hope that this will continue.

Anyone who is interested in helping to shape and support alumni events at Magdalen should put their name forward to Mark Tindall, the Acting Alumni Relations Officer (mark.tindall@magd.ox.ac.uk or +44 1865 276082), by 27th July. Candidates’ details, together with details of the voting procedure, will then be posted on the College website. In order to keep mailing costs to a minimum, voting will be conducted online. Votes will also be taken in person at the AGM. Should anyone require a print version of candidates’ details and a voting form, these may be obtained from the Alumni Relations Officer.

Judith Hibbert (1980)
Magdalen Society Committee Chairman

CALENDAR COMPETITION

Do you have some quirky or unusual photos of Magdalen and Magdalen life?

We are running a competition for photographs to be included in the 2013 Magdalen Calendar for Benefactors. The calendar is sent to all members who have made a gift to the College in the current academic year.

The prize for the winning entry will be a case of white wines which has been kindly donated by Victoria Bracey (1987). Delivery can be arranged by Majestic to any UK address.

Prizes will be awarded for photographs which, in the opinion of the judges, are the most quirky and unusual. The deadline for all entries is 1st September 2012.

Entries should be sent to Mark Tindall at the address below together with a statement declaring that the photograph(s) is/are the photographer’s own property, and that permission is granted for it/them to be displayed in the College and reproduced in official College publications. (Copyright will remain with the photographer.) Entries can be sent as hard copy or CD by post or by email. Colour or black and white images will be accepted.

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WITHERED LILIES

The old members’ cricket team continued to enjoy success in 2011, as well as meeting together socially.

Apart from a fairly substantial defeat in the end to the JCR, though we very nearly hung on for a draw, we won two matches and had the better of two draws. Though we’re famed for our close finishes, we’re also winning decisively, sometimes!

There was definitely a feeling of continuity to this year’s squad, although we are always happy to incorporate any old members who want to play only a single match. An encouraging number of 25 players and two umpires participated and we’re getting close to a 50-year age gap between youngest and oldest player, which to me at least seems a positive thing. It is especially pleasing to be increasing our involvement with those who’ve recently left the College and, as a consequence, our vastly improved fielding is certainly having an impact on results. It was also delightful to be able to welcome David Morgan, who played for Magdalen in the 1950s and lives in America, to one of the games.

If anyone is interested in playing in 2012, please contact me on the email address below.

John Claydon (1968), johnandgillclaydon@hotmail.com

MAGDALEN ALUMNI GOLF TEAM

On 23rd March, 12 Magdalen golfers took part in the annual inter-collegiate golf championships at Frilford Heath. In glorious weather the College recorded a considerable improvement over recent years, finishing 4th out of 16 teams. Andrew Mawby (1962) won the individual prize for the highest score and Gavin Tennent (1955) performed with particular distinction.

On Friday 14th September there will be a golf day at Oxford Golf Club, followed by dinner in College. All Magdalen alumni who play golf are invited to take part and enjoy the opportunity to meet and play with other members.

If these events are of interest and you would like further details of Magdalen alumni golf activities, please contact me on my email below.

Andrew Doherty (1977)
Team Captain
andrewdoherty09@btinternet.com

ALUMNI NETBALL TEAM

A team of six Magdalen Old Girls returned to College in February to play the current student netball team. Under a beautiful clear sky the fierce but friendly match resulted in a sweeping victory of 23–11 in favour of the Old Girls. Afterwards alumni and student players met for dinner at the ‘Kashi’ (Rajasthan) on the Cowley Road, providing an excellent opportunity for networking as well as trading netball war stories.

Emma van Dijkum (2004)
Daniel Hyde, Informator Choristarum, is responsible for the music and development of the College’s world-famous Choir of men and boys. Here he reviews some of the activities of the past year and reveals some future plans.

As one walks through the Cloister in the late afternoon, the tolling Chapel bell reminds those nearby that one of the fundamental experiences of Anglican worship is about to take place. Choral Evensong envelops that perfect mixture of psalmody, canticles, prayers and anthems, affording a moment for reflection upon the rich tapestry of College life. A healthy College cannot fail to be enhanced by a lively and active Chapel, which in turn benefits from a thriving music programme.

Over the past year, the College Choir has continued to thrive both within the routine of daily chapel services, and with a varied programme of concerts, tours and recordings. Tours in the past two years have taken the men and boys to Belgium, Holland and Germany; closer to home there have been concert performances in festivals at Newbury, Southend and Thaxted. Recording work continues apace, with two discs currently “in the can” and due to be released later in the year; one a programme of Renaissance and Tudor church music, the other a sequence of lesser-known and more contemporary Christmas carols. Highlights within the round of Chapel services always include the Advent and Christmas services, and of particular note was a rare performance of Tomás Luis de Victoria’s Officium Defunctorum on All Souls’ Day 2011.

Magdalen members dropping in for Evensong on Saturdays may have been surprised to see ladies singing in the front pews, with the Academical Clerks in the rows behind. The Magdalen Consort of Voices is now in its second year, and continues to flourish and enrich the Chapel music programme. By slightly reducing the six-day a week commitment for the Choristers, and with the better balance of school and choir commitments which the boys now enjoy, the overall standard of singing in Chapel has improved further, and the Consort has provided a long overdue opportunity for women, both of Magdalen and some other colleges, to sing in the Chapel.

One area of the Chapel Choir’s extramural work which we continue to develop is the opportunity for performances with orchestras. In December 2010 we made our debut at Cadogan Hall in a programme of Christmas music with the Academy of St Martin in the Fields; it was a pleasure to be invited back to join this world-famous chamber orchestra for another concert in April 2011 that included Fauré’s Requiem, given to great acclaim in the church that bears the orchestra’s name. In April 2012 we joined the Oxford Philomusica for a sell-out performance of Bach’s St John Passion at the Sheldonian Theatre. We shall be returning there for a debut performance with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment on 9th November 2012.

All members of Magdalen, past and present, are welcome at our services and concerts. I am always pleased to meet members including former Academical Clerks and Organ Scholars; please do introduce yourself to me if you’re visiting the Chapel.
Magdalen has ambitious plans to redevelop and extend its New Library over the coming years; the College Archivist, Dr Robin Darwall-Smith FSA, looks back over the history of the building.

The corner of High Street and Longwall Street is now dominated by the New Library. It was not, however, built as a Library, and is the third building known to have stood here. Documents in our archives mention a house with a forge on this corner which had existed since the 1240s, and been owned by the Hospital of St. John since 1302. When Magdalen College was founded in 1458, this house came to us with the Hospital’s other properties—including over a dozen houses running from Longwall Street to the main entrance to the College.

For a while, Magdalen let these houses be. By 1480, however, our Cloister, Hall and Chapel were all complete, and it was time to re-examine our local properties. Within a decade we had demolished all these houses, and replaced them with seven large buildings (which could be leased for correspondingly larger sums). The new corner house became an inn, first called the “Cardinal’s Hat”, but later, by the 1540s, known as the “Greyhound”.

As part of the same development as the “Greyhound”, we erected next door to the College a building to house both Magdalen College School and Magdalen Hall. In the 1820s, however, Magdalen Hall moved to Catte Street, and the rest of the building, already damaged by fire, was demolished, leaving only the Grammar Hall.

The College therefore needed a new home for the School, and chose the corner of Longwall Street. In the 1840s all our houses there, including the “Greyhound”, were demolished, and John Chessell Buckler designed a new School Hall, built to the same dimensions as its medieval predecessor. President Routh, then a mere 94 years old, laid the foundation stone on 19th September 1849, and the building was opened on 1st May 1851 with a grand concert.

Soon an asphalted playground appeared to the north of the Hall, along with a chapel and classrooms. One range of classrooms even ran right into the Hall itself, as shown on the accompanying illustration.

By the 1920s, however, both College and School were expanding, and there remained the problem of St. Swithun’s Quad, still unfinished since 1884. Furthermore we still had no single student library: undergraduate books were split up between the Summer Common Room, the Founder’s Tower, and the New Building.

The solution was obvious: in 1928 the School was moved to Cowley Place (with promises—unfortunately not kept—of a grand new building), and its site occupied by the College. Giles Gilbert Scott created a new quadrangle by completing the west range of St. Swithun’s, and turning it west, not east, and he converted the Hall into a Library by inserting a basement and mezzanine floor. He also had to lower the ground level in front of the Library to bring it to the same level as that of St Swithun’s (the walkway in front of the Library shows the original level). The new Quadrangle and Library were opened in 1932 by Edward Prince of Wales.
ADDISON’S WALK ETCHING & CONTEMPORARY PHOTO

Emeritus Fellow in History, Dr John Stoye, recently visited the Development Office with a print of a view along Addison’s Walk dated 1883.

THE MAGDALEN DEER HERD

Marilyn Bowler, Associate Development Director, asks Head Gardener Claire Shepherd some of your FAQs about one of Magdalen’s unique and endearing features, the Deer Herd.

Q: How long has there been a deer herd at Magdalen?
The College maintained a deer herd of sorts in the Grove from about 1710, but they were not introduced into the Meadow until the early 20th Century.

Q: What species of deer do we have at Magdalen?
We have Fallow Deer (Dama dama), which are natural and low maintenance. The mix of colours in the herd changes each year and includes spotted (menils), dark/black (melanistic), brown (common) and the lightest coloured (white).

Q: How many deer are in the herd?
The number varies each year from 34 to 40. The total rises to around 70 in the summer when the fawns are born. The life span is around 12-16 years. Reduction of the herd takes place during the winter, mainly through live sales. We recently sold 18 animals of varying age, seven of which were sold to a Magdalen old member as a Christmas present from his father-in-law.

Q: How often do the deer shed their antlers?
The deer lose their antlers in May, but they are fully grown again in three months.

Q: When is the herd moved across the meadows?
The herd is moved to the central water meadow in August when the grass is cut and bailed for hay. They stay there until December, providing the meadows don’t flood. Sometimes they will need extra feed during the winter.

Q: Do the deer demonstrate different types of personality?
Yes, and we have some real characters. The oldest is a nine year old doe and she frequently jumps over the fence. Generally, deer are either feisty or placid. The herd is managed in such a way as to give a balance of personalities so that there is not too much fighting in the rutting season.
A YEAR AT MAGDALEN IN PHOTOS


Law Dinner at Gray’s Inn, 6th July 2011. Guest speaker: The Hon Michael Beloff, QC (1960)

Fastolf Society Lunch, 2nd July 2011

1961 Anniversary Tea, 17th September 2011

London Reception, 8th November 2011

May Morning

Hacks’ Dinner, 23rd July 2011. Guest speaker: Mr Ian Hislop (1978)

Annual Alumni Dinner, 17th September 2011. Guest speaker: Mr John Sergeant (1963)

The President lighting the Diamond Jubilee Beacon on Magdalen Tower, 4th June 2012

MCR and SCR cricket match

The mating pair return, Summer 2012

The JCR Charities Team with Ross Barden, the Director of Tickets for Charities

Paris Reunion, 6th May 2011

Summer Eights Lunch, 4th June 2011

The restored Tower Bells return to Magdalen, 27th February 2012

Annual Fund event, 11th February 2012

Summer Eights

The New Building in May

Jubilee Event in London for Young Alumni, 7th June 2012

Basketball Team in their new kit

We are always delighted to receive photographs of Magdalen events for use in College publications. Please email: development.office@magd.ox.ac.uk

We are grateful to all those who have contributed photographs to the magazine.
LEAVING A LEGACY

Your Will is your opportunity to provide for your family, friends and those organizations that have influenced and shaped your life. For most people it is the one opportunity they will have to make a significant financial contribution to those people and causes that they care deeply for. If you believe that you benefitted from your time at Magdalen and you would like future generations to share your experience, perhaps you might consider including Magdalen in your Will.

A gift in your Will is the one gift that everyone can make. It is your chance to add to a long tradition of generosity of previous generations for the benefit of future generations. In addition, a gift in your Will can be a very tax efficient method of supporting Magdalen, while at the same time lowering your Inheritance Tax liability. If you would like information on including Magdalen in your will, or you would like to discuss in confidence, and without obligation, how a gift in your Will can benefit Magdalen and its students please contact Sean Rainey in the College’s Development Office.

+44 1865 286796
sean.rainey@magd.ox.ac.uk

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<th>2013</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Subject Gaudy: Biological Sciences and Human Sciences</td>
<td>16th March</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year Gaudy (1974–77)</td>
<td>23rd March</td>
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<td>Annual Alumni Dinner</td>
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<td>Year Gaudy (2001–02)</td>
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<td>Calleva Symposium</td>
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<td>Carols by Candlelight</td>
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