

# Quincentenary Library - News

## New Services :

**Online Library Catalogue :** You can now look at the Jesus library catalogue online. Go into JNET and look for the Library under Departments and Staff. Heritage Online will link you into our library catalogue. This is still under development, and improvements will be made shortly.

**Naxos Music Library :** Again under JNET, Departments & Staff – Library. You can find the link to the Naxos Music Library. The library has taken out a subscription to the world's leading online music library which contains text resources, classical music and other genres. Please ask the librarians for the username and password.

**EBooks :** We are starting to make ebooks available to you. They can all be found on the Newton catalogue or you can find a list of them with instructions via JNET. 118 of the most heavily used undergraduate textbooks are available online.

**DVD & Video Room :** The library and IT Department are converting the room at the back of the Kwok Computer Room into a dedicated DVD & video viewing room. We are putting a permanent DVD & video player in this area and it can be booked through the Porter's Lodge. This should be ready for use in the next couple of weeks.

**Light Reading Collection :** The college is about to double the amount of shelving in the light reading room in the library. The collection will also be doubled, so please make use of all the new books.

**Stationery Additions :** As well as a laminating machine the library has now acquired a large hole-punch and stapler that members of college are welcome to use. The hole-punch takes up to 65 sheets of 80g paper, the stapler takes up to 210 sheets of 80g paper.

## Novels & Films for Borrowing :

Improve your acquaintance with the latest award winning novels and films by borrowing them from the Quincentenary Library.

We have copies of all the latest Man Booker prize winning novels - Margaret Atwood's 'The Blind Assassin' (2000), Peter Carey's 'The True History of the Kelly Gang' (2001), Yann Martel's 'The Life of Pi' (2002), D.B.C. Pierre's 'Vernon God Little' (2003), Alan Hollinghurst's 'The Line of Beauty' (2004) and John Banville's 'The Sea' (2005).

We have a fair selection of the novels which were shortlisted for the prize last year – J.M.Coetzee's 'Slow Man', Ian McEwan's 'Saturday', Salman Rushdie's 'Shalimar the Clown', James Meek's 'The People's Act of Love' and Zadie Smith's 'On Beauty', and for previous years, e.g. Ian McEwan's 'Atonement' (2001) and Monica Ali's 'Brick Lane' and Margaret Atwood's 'Oryx and Crake' (2003).

We also have a number of recent Oscar winning films on DVD, e.g. Ang Lee's 'Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon' (2000), Richard Eyre's 'Iris' and David Lynch's 'Mulholland Drive' (2001), Stephen Daldry's 'The Hours', Roman Polanski's 'The Pianist', Philip Noyce's 'The Quiet American' and Pedro Almodovar's 'Talk to Her' (2002) and Gonzalez Inarritu's '21 Grams' and Fernando Mereilles' 'City of God' (2003).

## Long Service Awards & Elections

Two members of staff have completed 10 years service with the College. They are : **John Gray**, Porter; and **Frances Willmoth**, Archivist.

At its meeting on 20 February 2006 Council elected Dr Frances Willmoth to a Fellow Commonership.

Frances will be well known to many, having been a member of College staff since 1996. She studied History at the University of Birmingham and then undertook an archive traineeship at the Bodleian. After working in Cardiff she moved to Cambridge and, as a member of Emmanuel College, took an MPhil in History of Science followed by a PhD.

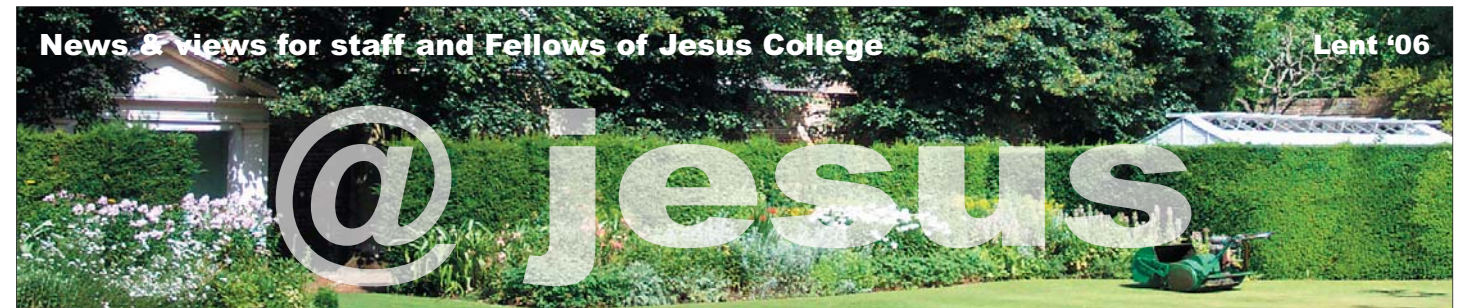
Between 1991 and 2001 she edited the Correspondence of John Flamsteed, the first Astronomer Royal and a Jesuan to boot. She is currently Director of Studies for History and Philosophy of Science and an Affiliated Research Scholar in the Department of History of Science. She is the College's Archivist, as well as Assistant to the Keeper of the Old Library and Assistant to the Editor of the Annual Report.

We offer our warmest congratulations to her.

## Cake Stall

**Tuesday 14 March**  
**East House**  
**11 - 2 pm**

In aid of CLICSargent (Caring for Children with Cancer) to support fundraising by Ashley Meggitt (IT Manager) who is running the London Marathon in memory of Charlie Moore.



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# The Tutorial Office

## New & Improved

Visitors to the Tutorial Office since last academic year will have noticed the spacious, freshly painted look in here as well as a couple of new faces. We have bashed down a wall (not entirely on our own, though at times we were tempted to take a hand) to allow us to add a fourth desk. Between us, we deal with undergraduate admissions (including Access) and undergraduate tutorial matters in the new Tutorial Grand Arcade.



L - R : Louise Hind, Jenny Jenyon, Helen Flanagan, Fenella Leigh

**Access & Schools Liaison Officer – Helen Flanagan** has taken over from Kate Lawton. She works with state schools and colleges in the North East, encouraging students to consider university education and offering advice and support for teachers and students on applications to Oxbridge.

**Admissions Secretary (Undergraduate) and Praelector's Secretary – Jenny Jenyon** has settled into her role as Admissions Secretary, while continuing as Praelector's Secretary. With great relief she has handed over her tutorial assistant duties to Fenella.

**Tutorial Assistant – Fenella Leigh** recently joined us from Madingley Hall. She works part-time (Monday to Thursday from 9.30 to 1.30 pm) and deals with a range of tasks including Tripos examination administration and undergraduate student certificates and transcripts.

**Financial Tutor's Secretary and Senior Tutor's Secretary – Louise Hind.** No changes here. I'm still secretary to the Senior Tutor (mostly dealing with undergrads) and for the Financial Tutor (involving grads and undergrads experiencing unanticipated financial hardship and applying for various grants and bursaries).

So, I have a lovely bright space at the end nearest the Senior Tutor's office and Jenny has the other end. Fenella and Helen benefit from a marvellous view out of the bay window – well, once the builders have finished the car park below anyway. In the middle there's plenty of space left for filing cabinets, visitors and probably even a medium-sized dance.

Louise Hind

We would welcome feedback about @jesus - what you like or don't like about it, topics you would like covered in future issues, ideas for future articles.

If you want to write an article yourself, either as a one-off or as a regular contribution, please let us know.

Email :

[newsletter@jesus.cam.ac.uk](mailto:newsletter@jesus.cam.ac.uk)

## The Daffodil

*I stepped outside this winter's day  
Surprised I saw my bright display  
Of brave gold blossoms bent to pray  
Whilst yesterday they brightly  
waved  
Now touch the earth with ice  
arrayed*

*So laden with the weight of frost  
Their trumpet heads not braced  
aloft  
A glimpse of warmth was all but lost  
But wait in just another hour  
These gentle fragile stoic flowers*

*Raise again from being low  
Brightly waving to and fro  
If gentle flowers thus can grow  
Can we not learn from all that's still  
A lesson from the daffodil?*

*So where's the secret of their  
strength?  
Whose great wisdom there  
entrenched  
The pattern for this fluorescent  
flower  
To make the frail fronds like a tower  
Within the petals lies the power*

*Inside the veins a liquid gold  
To make the daffodil so bold  
A waxy stuff called silicon  
A happy accident so I'm told?*

**Hazel Yorke**  
Building Manager's Secretary

# John Clare's Cottage

The poet John Clare (1793-1864) lived and worked on the edge of the Fens just to the north of Peterborough. His birthplace and family home for forty years, in the village of Helpston, recently came onto the open market for the first time in generations. Clare is known as one of the greatest poets of nature, and the most locally rooted; he also wrote powerfully about love, loss and labour, rural poverty, mental illness and social upheaval. He is the main focus of my research, and since I am also chair of the John Clare Society I felt impelled, and well placed, to launch an effort to make something new of this most talismanic of old buildings.



Discussions, suggestions, cautions and much enthusiastic support followed fast. We resolved to do our best to establish the cottage as a dynamic cultural, educational and environmental centre celebrating Clare's legacy. We assembled a small group of initial trustees, people (like Tom Lewis (1991) and John Cornwell, Fellow Commoner of this College) with an interest in Clare and with vital supporting skills in media, commerce, heritage and finance. The person who has taken the project most to heart, and has brought the most extraordinary energy and ambition to it, is Barry Sheerman, who chairs the House of Commons Select Committee on Education and Skills (and who – for the record – is my father-in-law).

We have made good progress. The cottage has been temporarily secured while we pursue a major fundraising campaign. We have submitted a million-pound bid for lottery funding, and are making encouraging progress towards our seven figure target for donations from individual supporters across the world, other public and private funds and commercial sponsors. Together with a range of partners, from the RSPB to the National Association of Teachers of English to the University of Cambridge Botanic Garden, we are continuing to develop our plans for a wide-ranging programme of activities based at the cottage, including inspirational school visits, adult literacy projects and writers in residence.

Jesus College has been an honourable exception to an academic tradition of neglecting the work of John Clare over the years. He has an important place in Raymond Williams's (1961, Fellow) seminal account of literary representations of social change, *The Country and the City* (1973). A selection of Clare's poetry and prose was edited by Merryn and Raymond Williams in 1986, while Eric Robinson (1942) has edited numerous volumes of Clare's work and has established an important collection of material related to Clare.

Further details of the project are available at [www.johnclaretrust.org](http://www.johnclaretrust.org). I would be delighted to hear any suggestions for the future uses of the cottage, or for any likely sources of funding or support.

The old house stooped just like a cave  
Thatched o'er with mosses green  
Winter around the walls would rave  
But all was calm within  
The trees they were as green agen  
Where bees the flowers would kiss  
But flowers and trees seemed sweeter then  
—My early home was this—

**Dr Paul Chirico**  
[pac17@cam.ac.uk](mailto:pac17@cam.ac.uk)  
Fellow

# FoIA - One Year On

It is now just over a year since the Freedom of Information Act came into effect. During 2005 the College received seven Freedom of Information requests. Thus far this year it has received four. It seems clear that interest in obtaining information under the Act is growing and it is interesting to note that most of the most recent requests have been from students.

Being a new law, many things about the Act are still being defined and clarified and it is clear that some institutions are better at compliance than others. On the whole the Higher Education sector has done well, although it has not been deluged with requests like some of the larger government departments.

There has been quite a bit of media interest in the Act and the press have used it to try and find out information. As you might expect, the Guardian ran most stories about FOI (198) but other papers like the Daily Mail and the Independent have also made good use of the Act. Enquirers are not obliged to say why

they want the information or whether they are acting in an official capacity, so it is sometimes difficult to say whether they are acting for the media or not. We think that two of our requests have come from the press. Another enquiry that went to all Colleges concerning investments in the arms trade did lead to some adverse publicity for the colleges in general, although Jesus was not specifically featured.

Quite a few enquiries have been sent to all colleges. As I also deal with FOI at Downing this means that I have had to answer a couple twice, which is a bit tedious. One of these enquiries came in as a survey – is important to remember that these count as FOI requests, even if they do not mention the Act.

Other points worth remembering are:

Date stamping post when it is received or noting the date of receipt is very important, as we are working to a deadline. Enquiries do not have to say that they are Freedom of Information

requests. Refusing a request is a formal process, there are certain steps that we are required to take by law, for example to state the legal grounds for our refusal and tell the person about their right to complain if they disagree. Treat anything like this with especial care.

The College has done well this year – all but one of our enquiries were answered well within the 20 working day deadline. They all get logged on to the FOI database so we know exactly where we are in the process of answering them. It is important that we continue to be aware of the Act and its implications for the way in which we handle information, especially when dealing with requests.

If you have any questions or receive anything that you are not sure about then do not hesitate to ask for advice.

[foi@jesus.cam.ac.uk](mailto:foi@jesus.cam.ac.uk)

Susan Sneddon  
Modern Records Manager

## 'Jesus: The Life of a Cambridge College'

This will be the title – unless anyone comes up with a better one – of a substantial and fully illustrated "coffee-table" book about the College whose publication (now planned for October 2007) the Council has authorised. Its aim will be to fill out the rather sketchy picture that most Jesuans – old members and current residents – have of their College's history: institutional, academic, religious, financial, cultural, domestic, social and sporting. There will be close on forty essays, contributed by almost as many authors, with over 200 illustrations. So it will be a book that can as readily be dipped into as read from cover to cover.

Beginning with a description of the College as it now is – a cosmopolitan community of more than 800 people, all, in their different ways, concerned to see that "education, religion, learning and research" flourish here within one of the world's greatest universities, the book will go on to tell how, generation by generation, its members have contributed to the making of what, though we may often take it for granted, is in truth a

remarkable institution. There will be essays about the College's physical and historical setting – its foundation within the ruined buildings, and with the exiguous endowments, of a twelfth-century nunnery; about the treasures it has acquired over the centuries – its archives, manuscripts, books, silver, paintings and sculpture; about some of the famous (and not so famous) people who have studied and taught here; and about their achievements as scholars, scientists and writers. Other essays will explain how, after three-and-a-half centuries as one of Cambridge's smaller, poorer and rather insignificant colleges, Jesus rapidly expanded, becoming a good deal richer and much better known, thereby making possible its development into the College we all know.

There will be essays, too, about most (if not quite all!) aspects of the College in the sixty years since the end of World War II – telling of an especially notable group of dons of the 1950s and 1960s, of the emergence of a large community of graduate students and, of course, of the arrival, thirty years ago, of women

as fellows and students. Several old members have agreed to write about the College they encountered (with some trepidation) as freshmen, and of their lives as students.

The volume will be designed and published by Book Production Consultants, a well-established local firm who have produced books for many academic, cultural and commercial institutions. It will appear under their Granta Editions imprint. Details about pre-publication orders will be circulated early next year. Meanwhile, Peter Glazebrook, who is acting for the College as the book's General Editor, will be glad to hear from members of staff (and from fellows and students too!) who have unusual photographs or mementoes of the College, College events or College personalities, which they think might make good illustrations. He is also particularly keen to hear from long-serving staff who would be willing to be interviewed on tape about their memories of life here.

**Peter Glazebrook**  
Fellow