CatzEye
St Catherine’s College Oxford
Trinity 2013
Master’s Introduction

Welcome to the Trinity Term 2013 edition of CatzEye...

Celebrations marking our 50th anniversary as a College, held throughout 2012, have encouraged us to reflect on the characteristics we wish our community to possess. In the afterglow of those celebrations, 2013 has been a time of consolidation, and of renewed determination to promote the features which we hold most dear.

We can, and should, be extremely proud of all that has been achieved in our first fifty years. Now is the time to seize that bountiful legacy of success and further the outward-looking, creative and open nature of our community over the course of the next fifty years. With this challenge in mind, I am encouraged that the edition of CatzEye to which I have the great pleasure of introducing you demonstrates a College community as lively as ever.

I hope you will agree that our first fifty years have been hallmarkmed by an array of students impressing on us the diversity of their interests and achievements, and the heights to which they ascend in pursuing them. Five decades on, our latest cohort of undergraduate arrivals has shown that to be as true as ever, and in this edition we highlight the musical abilities of Makoto Nakata (2012, Music), and the eagerness of our students to use social media to celebrate our distinct community ethos.

The members of our Fellowship continue to thrive as both teachers and researchers, widening even further the boundaries of knowledge. It is fascinating to see our arts and sciences Fellows working on similar topics, while approaching them through the lenses of different disciplines. Both Gervase Rosser (History of Art) and Barrie Juniper (Botany) have recently had books on images published. Eager to use their knowledge to the betterment of society at large, Catz Fellows continue to attract international distinction, and in this edition the awarding of the National Medal of Science to Honorary Fellow John Goodenough by President Obama is recorded.

Our alumni continue to remind us that spectacular achievement is not reserved to those who work within College. In this edition we congratulate Michael Billington (1958, English) on his well-deserved OBE, and Jessica Simor (1986, Geography) on taking Silk in this year’s Queen’s Counsel nominations.

The aftermath of our 50th anniversary celebrations is not, therefore, a time for complacency. Instead we relish with confidence the challenges that the next fifty years will doubtless bring, buoyed by the many achievements of our community so far and the evidence which suggests we have many more to look forward to in the future.
Sir Patrick Nairne, 1921 – 2013

We are deeply saddened to announce the death of Honorary Fellow and former Master (1981-88) Sir Patrick Nairne, at the age of 91. Sir Patrick enjoyed a distinguished career in the Civil Service and was once described by Denis Healey as ‘the very model of the best British civil servant’. He is remembered in College for his gentle diplomacy, tact and administrative skills, and for running St Catherine’s alongside a number of distinguished public service commitments.

He was born in 1921, and read History at University College, Oxford. His undergraduate studies were interrupted by distinguished service in the Second World War. He fought at El Alamein under Field Marshall Montgomery and took part in the invasion of Sicily in 1943 for which he was awarded the Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry.

He served on the Lord Franks review of the Falkland’s conflict, was Chancellor of the University of Essex (1983-97), a Trustee of the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, and a Chairman of the Nuffield Council of Bioethics.

We send our sincere condolences to Sir Patrick’s widow, Lady Nairne, six children and extended family. A full obituary will follow in the next edition of The Year.

Sir Patrick Nairne’s contribution to College is marked annually with a Lecture or Seminar held in his name. We were delighted to welcome back alumnus and Honorary Fellow, Lord Mandelson of Foy and Hartlepool PC (1973, PPE) for this year’s event.

A lively and topical discussion covered – among other things – Lord Mandelson’s career, the record and legacy of the New Labour government (1997-2010), and an assessment of the current Government’s economic programme.

Lord Mandelson, a former JCR President, gave his seminar in the presence of two of his tutors, Sudhir Anand (Economics) and John Simopoulos (Philosophy), and spoke warmly of his Politics tutor, the late Wilfrid Knapp. Their presence prompted some gentle sparring about Lord Mandelson’s academic prowess as a Catz undergraduate, as well as reminisces on his student political activism.

On the record of New Labour in government, Lord Mandelson recalled his pride in the transformation of British economic productivity; the investment in and promotion of a ‘new culture of delivery, discipline and accountability’ in public services, and the extent to which Britain became a more ‘progressive, inclusive and tolerant society under Labour’. He spoke of his party’s attempts to tackle poverty, and touched on the development of a more ‘settled’ relationship with the European Union.

The Seminar was hosted by Today presenter, and St John’s alumnus, Evan Davis. The inquisitorial, and often humorous, interviewing makes the podcast of the Seminar lively viewing! It can be seen online at http://tiny.cc/nisfxw.

‘I remember Sir Patrick during the 1988 Catz Ball. I recall him noting how the sensation of moving from one bustling, ear-splittingly noisy tent to another reminded him of being in battle during WWII. It was a striking illustration of the depth of the man’s life experience, and it has stayed with me since’. 

Matt Peacock (1985, English)
Makoto Nakata (2012, Music) wins the Oxford Philomusica Concerto Competition

The College’s musical success continued this term with violinist Makoto Nakata (2012, Music) winning the Oxford Philomusica’s Youth Concerto Competition, for her performance of Erich Korngold’s Violin Concerto in D, Op. 35.

Beating two other finalists, Makoto performed with the Oxford Philomusica orchestra, the University’s internationally acclaimed orchestra in residence.

The panel of ‘distinguished adjudicators’ included Catz musician Mark Simpson (2008, Music), who said that Makoto’s ‘bold musicality and complete control of her instrument’ were especially impressive. Mark’s latest work has recently been given five stars by the Guardian as a piece which ‘thrills the ears and sends the imagination wild’.

Wallace Watson Award winner announced

Robin Lucas (2010, Biology), Sara Lukic (2010, Physics) and Myles Karp (2012, Social & Cultural Anthropology) were named winners of this year’s Wallace Watson Award.

Robin and Sara are planning to undertake a two-week hiking expedition across Iceland. They will commence the trip with a trek starting in Landmannalaugar, and will take in many unusual geological phenomena on a number of remote and rarely visited nature reserves.

Myles, meanwhile, will travel to banana plantations around Central America to watch the growth and cultivation of his favourite variety of banana, the Gros Michel. He will bring a cutting of the Gros Michel plant back to Oxford’s Botanical Garden in order to raise awareness of the history of ‘the world’s favourite fruit’.

The London Party & Legacy Lunch

The College was delighted to organise two special events earlier this year – one marking the generosity and foresight of our community of Legators, and another providing an opportunity for alumni based in London and the Home Counties to meet for a friendly after-work drinks reception.

Matriculands ranging from 1941 to 1982 attended our Legacy Lunch in April. Our community of Legators currently stands at 155 members, with twenty-two of them having made pledges since the beginning of 2012. Between them, they have pledged more than £6m, and the biennial Lunch is an opportunity for them to witness College in excellent health!

The Master, Professor Roger Ainsworth, said that ‘our Legators pledge to St Catherine’s believing in the power of its timeless mission – to help release the potential in our young students by providing them with an environment within which they can flourish. Their financial support alone is invaluable, but the knowledge that we are an institution which individuals would like to remember with this most personal of gifts is much appreciated and deeply humbling’.

Meanwhile, we were delighted to be able to host our annual London Party in the headquarters of Ove Arup. The venue was particularly special, as the firm of structural engineers worked with Arne Jacobsen in the construction of the College and, as the Master pointed out on the evening, it was Ove Arup who wrote to the University Surveyor in 1958, recommending Jacobsen for appointment as the College’s architect. Over 200 alumni, Fellows, parents and friends gathered at the firm’s Fitzroy Street headquarters for the event.
Catz in YouTube sensation

Our version of ‘The Harlem Shake’, an internet meme in which a group of people perform a comedy sketch accompanied by a short excerpt from the song Harlem Shake, has attracted almost 90,000 hits on YouTube, as well as national media coverage. The Catz take on the craze, which can be viewed online at http://tiny.cc/v00fxw, is set in the rooms above the old Porters’ Lodge on the College’s Quad.

Organiser, Alistair Adams (2011, Physics) paid tribute to filmmaker Benedict Cohen (2012, Geography) who filmed, edited and uploaded the clip, and to the more than 100 Catz students who participated, saying, ‘the whole process was overwhelming, showcasing again the fantastic community spirit which abounds at Catz’.

In another exciting development, the College website is being redesigned with applicants in mind, in an attempt to make the College look as accessible and attractive as possible to potential students.

Promoting Access to Catz

The College is delighted to announce the formal extension of the Admissions Officer’s remit to include schemes to encourage applicants from a more diverse array of backgrounds to consider making an Oxford application.

The Master, Professor Roger Ainsworth, said, ‘St Catherine’s, which was founded so that students could be spared expensive College fees, is committed to promoting fair access to the transformative power of an Oxford education’. The development of the role enables our Admissions Officer, Kathryn Williams, to work extensively with a variety of schools and colleges across the country in promoting the College as a welcoming environment.

This year, Kathryn has produced a College Prospectus, and has had copies posted to every school with students aged 16-18 in the country. The number of school visits to College has increased over the past twelve months, with visits from a number of primary school aged children augmenting our traditional programme of sixth form outreach.

Catz welcomes Booker-nominated author to graduate study

Catz is proud to count amongst its alumni a number of renowned authors, but surely few of its current students can claim to be former Booker Prize nominees!

CatzEye asked Michael Collins (2012, Creative Writing) and his Booker-nominated The Keepers of Truth to explain his rationale for returning to study thirty years after beginning his undergraduate career at the University of Notre Dame in the United States.

‘Education and its benefits morph over time. This return to academic life entails a process of unlearning, letting go of ways of knowing and doing and coming again with a fresh sensibility to my craft.

It is – in some respects – a humbling journey, an acknowledgment of advancing years, but that pressing sense of urgency also helps to realign one’s vision, to understand that there is only so much time allotted all of us.’

Michael’s books have been translated into twenty-two languages, and have attracted international acclaim, including Irish Novel of the Year, French Novel of the Year, and an appearance on the New York Times ‘notable books’ list. He is also a distinguished runner, winning a bronze medal for Ireland at the World 100k Championships.
**The JCR Report**

St Catherine’s is an unashamedly modern college. For over fifty years, the JCR has had a proud reputation of being different. After a period of intense College reflection, the question for today’s students (much like it was for the ‘the dirty thirty’), is how do we hope to reflect on St Catherine’s in (another) fifty years?

This year’s Common Room has displayed Catz’s characteristic enthusiasm. In sport, we are rightly proud of our highest achievers but equally of all those who get involved at any level. Our Women’s 1st XI Football team was victorious in Cuppers for the first time. Catz Hockey has again proved that it is a force to be reckoned with, winning the league in Michaelmas and defeating Catz, Cambridge in a clash of the titans. The river has, as ever, been a place of success.

The Arts can boast wide participation too. A successful Arts Week was the culmination of a year’s diverse portfolio of activities. An array of speakers, performances and events has complemented our established music and poetry societies. The inaugural ‘Equal Opportunities Lecture’ given by David Lammy MP is, we hope, the start of a wider commitment in the JCR to host more speakers and events. Many of our members have had enormous success outside College, in fields as diverse as radio, journalism, film and theatre.

The College is no longer a ‘blank canvas’. I am not the first President to report successes in sport and the arts, whilst having to neglect so many other achievements. Rest assured that we are rightly considered a dynamic presence within the University and that our unique atmosphere continues. Ultimately, ours is a diverse, inclusive community. We were, for instance, delighted to fly the rainbow flag in February in support of LGBT History Month. I am sure that the JCR will be ably served by my successor, Shan Chang (2012, PPE) and I wish him all the success in marrying the best of ‘old’ Catz, with a vision of ‘the new’. Nova et Vetera.

Marcus Stevenson (2011, Geography), JCR President 2012-13

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**The MCR Report**

The MCR has continued to develop its lively community this year, through a varied programme of activities and sporting endeavours. We have established a regime of new squash lessons and five-a-side football – competitive sports which sit nicely alongside our yoga and circuit training schemes! A number of MCR women were also involved in the Rowing Club’s blade-winning boat in this year’s Torpids competition.

We have also sought to improve the provision of student-led welfare services to MCR members. This has seen us re-establish regular ‘welfare brunches’ after a five-year hiatus and set up a fully-trained peer support team. We have created an MCR LGBTQ Representative, improving the services we can offer to our LGBTQ members. We ran a highly successful Valentine’s Bop last term. Though the bop was set in 1923, we demonstrated our eagerness to innovate with a live Twitter feed projecting messages from hopeful lovers across the MCR throughout the evening! A new payment terminal in the MCR bar means that we no longer have to be so trusting of our bar staff’s mathematical skills!

We were very proud of MCR members who participated in the victorious Oxford team in the Varsity Blind Wine-Tasting Competition against Cambridge, which involved identifying twelve unmarked wines by grape, country of origin, region, vintage and taste.

In short, ours is an active and diverse MCR. We are constantly seeking to improve it by enabling members to put on their own events, a successful endeavour which has seen the advent of evenings for the sampling of wine, sushi and even exotic fruit!

Linda Geaves (2010, Geography & the Environment) and Wojciech Kozlowski (2012, Physics)
Copley Medallist & Nobel Laureate meets Catz students

We recently announced with great pleasure the Royal Society’s decision to award alumnus and Honorary Fellow, Professor Sir John Walker (1960, Chemistry), the Copley Medal. The Medal, believed to be the world’s oldest scientific prize, predates the Nobel Prize by some 170 years. Sir John, who was made a Nobel Laureate in Chemistry in 1997, dined in College with the Master in May, and kindly met a number of current Chemistry undergraduates.

Matthew Fisher (2011, Chemistry) said, ‘Sir John’s enormous achievements are a great source of pride amongst the College’s Chemists, and meeting him was a tremendous privilege.’

Catz appoints Artist in Residence

The College’s commitment to art was re-affirmed this term with the appointment of Silke Rehberg as Artist in Residence, as Dr Gervase Rosser, Fellow and Tutor in History of Art explains:

‘Silke Rehberg is a sculptor, working chiefly in terracotta and focusing on portraiture. Based in North Rhine-Westphalia, she has won prizes, held exhibitions, and had various public works commissioned in Germany and Italy. While at St Catherine’s she was able to use a converted storeroom as a studio, where she worked on a composite portrait of the College, ‘head hunting’ (as she put it) a selection of subjects including students, staff and Fellows.

Sir Michael Boyd delivers student rehearsal workshop

Earlier this term, our Cameron Mackintosh Visiting Professor of Contemporary Theatre, Sir Michael Boyd, delivered a student workshop on Chekhov’s The Cherry Orchard. Joe Murphy (2009, English) told CatzEye about the experience of working directly with one of theatre’s leading directors:

‘We are really lucky, for this opportunity to experience a real rehearsal room and how it actually works. A group of thirty students was told by the former Artistic Director of the RSC that he was here to ‘nick our ideas’. An enticing start...

Having spent the morning dissecting the first few pages of the play, we were led through an intense workout by Liz Rankin, Michael’s former Head of Movement at the RSC. Duly warmed up, we separated into groups to rehearse a scene.

As we rehearsed, Michael was unrelenting in his scrutiny, managing to identify and celebrate the nuances in the different performances and infecting us all with his humorous sense of play and drawing us all into this act of creation. This felt like proper collaboration; an experience in which all ideas were heard, each leading a tiny discovery.

We were shown how to go about creating theatre. I’m certain that we won’t forget.'
Fellows’ Publications

Dr Gervase Rosser, Fellow and Tutor in History of Art, has published, together with his wife Dr Jane Garnett (Fellow in History, Wadham College), Spectacular Miracles: Transforming Images in Italy, from the Renaissance to the Present (Reaktion Books). The book confronts an enduring Western belief in the supernatural power of images – that, for instance, a statue or painting of the Madonna can fly through the air, speak, weep, or produce miraculous cures. Although contrary to widely-held assumptions, the cults of particular paintings and statues have persisted beyond the Middle Ages into the present day.

Drawing upon rich documentation from northwest Italy and elsewhere, Spectacular Miracles examines these images across a range of historical contexts, demonstrating the subversive power of the miraculous image to bypass clerical and secular authority. Engaging with history and anthropology, together with visual culture and images and religion, Spectacular Miracles is a study of the continuing power of faith and art.

Dr Barrie Juniper (1952, Botany), Emeritus Fellow in Botany, cataloguing a collection of seventeenth century fruit watercolour paintings whose origins are uncertain, has published The Tradescants’ Orchard.

All sixty-six of the original illustrations are reproduced in facsimile for the first time. As to the solution to their mysterious provenance, Barrie suggests they ‘might be the world’s first full colour “PowerPoint”, designed to be spread out on manorial tables for the delectation of the great and the good and, as a presentation, infinitely superior to the crude black and white wood cuts of contemporary gardening texts’.

Andrew Barry, Fellow & Tutor in Geography

The College has sent its warmest congratulations to Professor Andrew Barry, Fellow and Tutor in Geography, who is leaving his post in College at the end of this term to take up the Chair of Human Geography at University College, London.

Professor Barry was first elected to a College Fellowship in January 2006. A graduate of Cambridge, he had previously held posts at Brunel University and Goldsmiths College, London. With research interests spanning political and economic geography, social and anthropological theory, and science and technology studies, he has given lectures around the globe.

Marcus Stevenson (2011, Geography) commented, that ‘Geography is one of Catz’s largest subjects, and it is with great sadness that we hear that an inspirational and much-loved tutor is leaving’. The Master, Professor Roger Ainsworth, said that, ‘though saddened to lose such a dedicated and talented tutor, we appreciate how prestigious Andrew’s new appointment is, and everyone in College joins me in wishing him every success’.

President Obama recognises Honorary Fellow John Goodenough

Honorary Fellow Professor John Goodenough has recently been awarded the US National Medal of Science in recognition of his ground-breaking research that led to the first commercially-available lithium ion battery. His work revolutionised consumer electronics, earning him recognition by President Obama with ‘America’s highest honor for invention and discovery’.

President Obama, speaking during the White House ceremony which may be viewed online at http://tiny.cc/xi7kw, said that John and his fellow award-winners had the potential to inspire generations of future American scientists and inventors.

To win a copy of this beautifully-illustrated book, signed by the authors, complete and return this term’s Prize Crossword by Monday 19 August 2013!
Adam Foulds (1994, English) named among ‘Best of Young British Novelists’ of the decade

For three consecutive decades, literary magazine *Granta* has ‘foreseen the brilliant careers of the British literary scene’ by showcasing a list of the most promising young British novelists under 40 years of age. The College was delighted to hear that this year’s edition included Adam Foulds (1994, English).

His 2009 Booker Prize shortlisted novel, *The Quickening Maze*, was praised by the former Poet Laureate, Sir Andrew Motion, for telling a compelling story which ‘unfolds in lavish close-up’. Adam’s latest work, *A World Intact*, is set during the allied invasions of North Africa and Sicily during WWII, and follows the struggles of a young man returning from the Front to his rural home. Finding an unchanged community, the protagonist discovers a familiar world in which he no longer feels he belongs.

The *Granta* list, published once every ten years, has highlighted the emerging talents of now leading literary luminaries including Martin Amis, Pat Parker, Kazuo Ishiguro, Ian McEwan, Salman Rushdie, Alan Hollinghurst, Zadie Smith, and fellow Catz alumna, Jeanette Winterson (1978, English).

Adam recently received the EM Forster Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters in New York.
Alumni Honours

The College is pleased to announce two prestigious appointments, received by two of our alumni.

Jessica Simor (1986, Geography) has been appointed Queen’s Counsel in the 2013 Silk appointments. Jessica, a founding member and barrister at Matrix Chambers, London, has a wide-ranging public law practice, and is widely recognised as a noted specialist in EU law and human rights. She has strong commercial judicial review experience, working in areas including consumer protection, agriculture and environment, customs & excise and VAT.

Honorary Fellow and alumnus Michael Billington (1958, English) has been awarded an OBE in the New Year’s Honours List, for services to theatre. Michael has been the Guardian’s theatre critic since 1971, arguably making him Britain’s longest serving professional stage critic. The author of State of the Nation: British Theatre Since 1945, he estimates that he has spent over 8,000 evenings at the theatre, in addition to writing the biographies of the playwrights Tom Stoppard, Alan Ayckbourn (Emeritus Fellow) and Harold Pinter.

Alumni Publications

Chris Moorey (1967, English) has recently published his latest book, Traveling Companions: Walking with the Saints of the Church (Conciliar Press, 2013). The volume briefly introduces saints from across a wide variety of times, places, and walks of life, in a language that brings them closer to contemporary readers’ lives.

Richard Thomson (1971, English) has recently published Art of the Actual: Naturalism & Style in Early Third Republic France, 1880-1900 (Yale University Press, 2013), which examines the impact of the French Republic’s rallying cry for liberty, equality and fraternity on the art of the period. Naturalism, emphasising that art should be drawn from the everyday world, insisted that all subjects were worthy of treatment; an ideal aesthetic match for republican ideology. By illuminating the role of naturalism in a broad range of imagery in late 19th-century France, Richard Thomson provides a new interpretation of the art of the period.

Dr Anthony Jones (1978, Chemistry) has authored a chapter addressing the properties and applications of titanium compounds for the Kirk-Othmer Encyclopedia of Chemical Technology, one of the leading chemistry journals covering the properties, manufacturing and usage of chemical substances.

Pioneering Women: Forty years on

In 2014, we will celebrate the fortieth anniversary of the arrival of women at the College with a number of events. Catz was among the first of the men’s colleges to become co-educational, doing so in 1974, along with Brasenose, Hertford, Jesus and Wadham. To highlight the anniversary, CatzEye did some digging in the College Archive to try and trace the impact those early female arrivals had and, in doing so, uncovered a female cohort eager to make their mark on College life.

(Please let us know if you would like to contribute ideas for the celebrations, or would like to be involved. We’d be delighted to hear from you!)

Shortly after the College’s Governing Body voted to admit women, the then Master, Alan Bullock, notified the alumni, writing that, ‘it is not the first time that St Catherine’s has changed. Indeed, it
surpasses all other Colleges in the speed of its advance and growth in little more than a century’.

That openness to change was at the heart of the College’s decision to admit women some forty years ago, motivating the Governing Body to seek The Queen’s approval to change the College Statutes by adding two simple – but hugely significant – words. On 20 December 1972, royal approval was duly received and Article 2b of the Statutes was altered to note that the College existed ‘to provide for men and women a College wherein they may work for degrees’.

Thirty-four women, approximately one-third of the 1974 cohort of new Catz arrivals, were matriculated in October 1974. This new corpus of Catz women clearly immersed themselves in College life. That same 1974 edition of the Chronicle recorded the ‘welcome arrival of women undergraduates’ and their ‘partly unexpected effect’ in enlivening College clubs. The Music Society flourished, with its Michaelmas 1975 concert in Oxford’s Town Hall selling out immediately. The Apollo Society, a long-time custodian of Catz drama, was revitalised under the Presidency of Morwenna Brett (née Semmens) (1974, PPP). A performance of Twelfth Night was staged at the Oxford Playhouse with Fellow in English, Michael Gearin Tosh, directing. A review of the performance even appeared in The Sunday Times, sufficiently impressing stage critic Harold Hobson. In sport too the impact of the new arrivals was keenly felt. The Chronicle predicted that Josette Mooney (1974, Mathematics) would ‘go down in history as the first girl cox ever to score a bump in the Rowing Second Division’!

The Governing Body’s decision to admit women had implications for the Fellowship as well as the student body. Gilliane Sills was, in October 1974, elected as the College’s first female Tutorial Fellow and would teach generations of Catz Engineers over the next thirty years.

Though nationally 1979 would be remembered as the year a woman first entered Downing Street, the students of St Catherine’s were that year blazing a similar trail by electing Fiona Stewart (1977, Law) as the College’s first female JCR President.

As early as 1975, it would seem that College had adjusted smoothly to the new arrivals. JCR President Peter Mandelson (1973, PPE) would recall that, ‘it is hard to imagine that the College was ever unmixed’. Penelope Gouk (1974, History) was one of those new arrivals. At the end of her time as an undergraduate, The Year interviewed her on the experience. Her response to the question ‘do you think girls have a special contribution to make to College life?’ is worth reprinting in its entirety as a reminder of the early experiences of co-education:

“While I dislike the idea of women en bloc having a unique contribution to make purely by their femaleness, nevertheless there have been certain marked changes in College life. Apparently, there has been considerably less drinking in recent years. It would seem some men behave in a more restrained fashion in the presence of women. Another effect is the overall approach to work, which seems more serious… certainly St Catherine’s has undergone a real renaissance in music and drama since 1974”.

Forty years on, St Catherine’s is proudly a diverse academic community which recognises and values the contributions of all its members. In his circular to the alumni advising them of the College vote in favour of co-education, Alan Bullock would note that ‘the Governing Body decided that admitting women would result in gain compared to loss to the College community’. Four decades of co-education has certainly affirmed the accuracy of that vision.
CLUES ACROSS
1 Host stranded character in Barrie Juniper’s Book (3, 11, 7)
2 Like some paper and some drawers (5)
3 Nippy vessel (9)
4 Sound emanating from the heart of this crossword? (5)
5 Sought by early chemists — and Harry Potter (12, 5)
6 Sinuous creature spotted in early newsreel (3)
7 He shaves as closely as possible but no more (5)
8 Two letters on show in Edinburgh zoo? (5)
9 Everything is endlessly allegorical (3)
10 Ray’s letter from Greece (5)
11 God’s Own Country — and Bullock’s! (9)
12 014? (6, 5)
13 Not moved by the way Bond likes his Martini? (9)
14 Show scant respect to officer at dance (5)
15 Merchant? King? Or Master Fry? (6)
16 The snake in the logic circuit (5)
17 Is a Croat without the right to become Irish PM? (9)
18 It separates the light side from the dark side in Queen’s (3)
19 A labyrinth can do this (5)
20 Cradle of Civilisation in the University Parks (11)
21 Greek letter for imperial unit of pressure (3)
22 What 6 does (4)
23 Heard with Chopin at the market; and seen with Brahms down the pub! (5)
24 Wandered like a Turkish river? (9)
25 Moved in French bird (3)
26 Wandering like a Turkish river? (9)
27 South African custom to turn meat in pastry (7, 4)
28 Used in season to down a bird it rhymes with (9)
29 European currency unit first struck in 1266 (3)
30 Psychoanalyst had no right to quarrel (4)
31 One man’s “magic” is another man’s — (Robert Heinlein) (11)
32 A traveller has one or two 2; officially Sherlock Holmes had 60 (5)
33 What this is — oddly cultured! (4)
34 Ingredient of no-prep pie? (9)
35 The end crowns all,/ And that old common arbitrator, Time,/Will one day — “Troilus and Cressida” (3, 2)
36 Is it occult? Yes and No! (5)
37 Bulleted refreshed — past due (7)
38 When the moon hits your eye like a huge pizza — (That’s amore) (3)
39 Not moved by the way Bond likes his Martini? (9)
40 One piece of timber off to the side of a ship (5)
41 Silly and persuadable — to begin with, at least? (3)
42 Spies? Worms? Atkin’s? (5)
43 Reliably unreliable — he’s been late for every performance since 1953 (5)
44 The automata of 1 down: are their replies a little mechanical? (5, 8)
45 Nothing round one of the seals implicated in the Challenger disaster (1-4)
46 Reduce chemically (9)
47 The language of spin? If your on the ball— yes! (7)
48 Names for Smart Alecs, collectively (5)
49 The end crowns all,/ And that old common arbitrator, Time,/Will one day — “Troilus and Cressida” (3, 2)
50 Unhappy Hindu first and last — but an ascetic (5)
51 One competes with these creepers and climbers (5)
52 Superficial part of the TV we hear (5)
53 Epic poet or family man (5)
54 The — Gate, film by Polanski (5)
55 Wan fashion designer (3)
56 To book your place on any of these events, please contact Lucy Thompson.

CLUES DOWN
1 Form of polythene beloved by John Simop (9)
2 Boredom in French (5)
3 Wireless gradiometer without the accelerometer? (5)
4 Show scant respect to officer at dance (5)
5 Merchant? King? Or Master Fry? (6)
6 “The snake in the logic circuit” (5)
7 Is a Croat without the right to become Irish PM? (9)
8 Not in party top (5)
9 It separates the light side from the dark side in Queen’s (3)
10 A labyrinth can do this (5)
11 A14? (6, 5)
12 One man’s “magic” is another man’s — (Robert Heinlein) (11)
13 Used in season to down a bird it rhymes with (9)
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19 South African custom to turn meat in pastry (7, 4)
20 A traveler has one or two 2; officially Sherlock Holmes had 60 (5)
21 European currency unit first struck in 1266 (3)
22 Psychoanalyst had no right to quarrel (4)
23 Ingredient of no-prep pie? (9)
24 Fruit jam pressed into a library book (9)
25 The language of spin? If your on the ball— yes! (7)
26 Is it occult? Yes and No! (5)
27 Unhappy Hindu first and last — but an ascetic (5)
28 One competes with these creepers and climbers (5)
29 Superficial part of the TV we hear (5)
30 Epic poet or family man (5)
31 The — Gate, film by Polanski (5)
32 “The end crowns all,/ And that old common arbitrator, Time,/Will one day — “Troilus and Cressida” (3, 2)
33 One man’s “magic” is another man’s — (Robert Heinlein) (11)
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35 A labyrinth can do this (5)
36 A14? (6, 5)
37 One man’s “magic” is another man’s — (Robert Heinlein) (11)
38 “The snake in the logic circuit” (5)
39 Is a Croat without the right to become Irish PM? (9)
40 Not in party top (5)
41 A labyrinth can do this (5)
42 One man’s “magic” is another man’s — (Robert Heinlein) (11)
43 Used in season to down a bird it rhymes with (9)
44 “The snake in the logic circuit” (5)
45 Nothing round one of the seals implicated in the Challenger disaster (1-4)
46 Reduce chemically (9)
47 The language of spin? If your on the ball— yes! (7)
48 Names for Smart Alecs, collectively (5)
49 “The end crowns all,/ And that old common arbitrator, Time,/Will one day — “Troilus and Cressida” (3, 2)
50 Unhappy Hindu first and last — but an ascetic (5)
51 One competes with these creepers and climbers (5)
52 Superficial part of the TV we hear (5)
53 Epic poet or family man (5)
54 The — Gate, film by Polanski (5)
55 Wan fashion designer (3)