Once a Caian...

Breaking New Ground with Stephen Hawking
THE NEW WEST ROAD BUILDING

Living Longer, Feeling Better by Kay-Tee Khaw

The Capture of The Jesus Gun

Treasures from The Box of Delights
From The Master

“Once a Caian, always a Caian” is a wonderfully attractive and reassuring slogan for our alumni, but it has far more significance when it is strengthened and reinforced by frequent and meaningful contact between the College and the Caian Diaspora. So one of the things I have most tried to encourage during my Mastership is a greater personal involvement between Caius and all the 9,000 Caians who make up the greater Caius outside Cambridge.

As a result we have introduced, among many other things, the College Open Days, the Parents’ Feasts, the MAs’ Lunches and Dinners, the Commemoration Feast and the May Week Benefactors’ Day, in addition, of course, to the Annual Gatherings and the Service for the Commemoration of Benefactors that have for so long been part of the Caian calendar.

The two things, however, for which I am most frequently thanked are the Master’s Christmas Card and the Master’s Report in The Caian – both inspired by the need to keep in touch with as many of you as possible. I now think that more than this is required. Not everyone has the stamina to read through my Master’s Report and not everyone will receive my personalised salutations at Christmas and the New Year. So we are introducing this new Caius Magazine to tell you about more current events at the College and to remind you of some of the more light-hearted stories which fit less well into the formal historical account of the Annual Record in The Caian.

I very much hope that you will enjoy this new venture.

Neil McKendrick (1958)
The Master’s Lodge

“Caius has meant everything to me”

PROFESSOR PHILIP GRIERSON (1929)
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At a private ceremony attended by Fellows and College staff on 28 February 2005, the most celebrated Fellow of Caius, Professor Stephen Hawking (1965), invited his wife, Elaine, on his behalf, to “cut the first sod” with a special shiny chrome shovel. He said he had lived in the previous building on the site (a Victorian villa universally known as "L" block) very happily for 15 years, and he hoped that students would enjoy the new building for many years to come.

A massive JCB digger then took over the task and began burrowing into the earth at great speed. There is a considerable amount of digging to be done, as the new building will provide much-needed underground parking for up to 26 cars.

On the ground floor, there will be 19 rooms for undergraduates, all with en-suite facilities, and the splendid maple-floored Cavonius Centre, generously endowed by one of the College’s new Gonville Fellow Benefactors, Mrs Rita Cavonius, in memory of her late husband, Professor Dick Cavonius.

The first and second floors will each have another 28 similar student rooms, arranged in Wings of 7 rooms grouped around a gyp room. On the top floor, there will be 8 Fellows’ sets and 3 large Supervision rooms. The additional student accommodation will enable about half of the second year undergraduates who currently live in College lodging houses to move into the College itself.

All Caians and friends of the College who have contributed to the Development Fund over the past four years are cordially encouraged to accept their invitations to the May Week Party on Saturday 18 June, when the Master will be laying the official Foundation Stone for the new building.

One unique aspect of the new limestone-faced, energy-efficient building is its sinuous shape, specially designed to preserve the magnificent, mature trees which surround it, Copper Beech, Wellingtonia and Scots Pine.
Thanks to the outstanding generosity of Caians and friends of the College all over the world, work is now in full swing on the new student accommodation building at West Road. This is the most ambitious construction project at Caius since Harvey Court was built in the nineteen-sixties.

Breaking new ground

Another equally unusual feature is the manner in which it has been provided for the College, by an unprecedented outpouring of support from hundreds of recent and not-so-recent Caian graduates, post-graduates, friends of the College and parents of past and present undergraduates.

The land on which it stands was left to the College 500 years ago by Dame Anne Scroop, the last surviving descendant of Edmund Gonville’s brother. That noble tradition of benefaction has been continued in the funding of Harvey Court’s new neighbour.

There is a scale of donor recognition, to encourage gifts to the Building Fund, culminating in the right to name the entire building for a donation of £5,000,000. The College awaits with interest approaches from computer business billionaires who may share Dr Caius’ legendary fascination with Gates!

Less fancifully, a donation of at least £25,000 entitles a donor to name one of the 75 student rooms in perpetuity. Over 60 Caians and friends of the College have already claimed this privilege, either in their own names or in memory of a loved one.

Donations of at least £100,000 entitle donors to name a Fellow’s set or a Supervision room. Caians who went down comparatively recently, Jonathan Bailey (1987) and James Arnold (1993) have generously named 2 of the 3 Supervision Rooms. Most of the 8 Fellows’ sets have also been named, in memory of Lord McNair (1906), Brian Harland (1935) and other celebrated Caians.

Still larger donations of over £200,000 are recognised by the privilege of naming a whole Wing. Dr Philip Marriott (1965) has achieved this distinction, as have a group who came up in 1962. Caians from 1954, who recently celebrated their Golden Reunion in College, are determined to match this success.

This is a new departure in College funding and it is a dramatic demonstration of the extraordinary loyalty many Caians feel for the College. Membership is now clearly understood to be a lifelong commitment on both sides.

“Once a Caian ... always a Caian” is a rallying cry in which our Members have every right to feel very great pleasure and considerable pride.
Living Longer
Feeling Better

by Professor Kay-Tee Khaw (1991),
Fellow and Professor of Gerontology
from 1993 to 1997, participants provided detailed information on their health and lifestyle. Their diet and physical activity were recorded and many physiological measures were taken, such as lung function and bone health. They also gave blood samples. Over the years, their progress has been recorded.

Lifestyle factors such as diet or physical activity influence physiological measures. It is not necessary to be a marathon runner or to have extremes of diet. For example, lung function and bone health were positively associated with the number of flights of stairs climbed daily, and negatively associated with a sedentary lifestyle, as indicated by the average number of television viewing hours.

Increasing physical activity was also associated with much lower risks of heart disease, stroke and total mortality. Even people who were moderately inactive (i.e. up to 30 minutes of walking a day) had 20% lower mortality than people who were completely sedentary.

Reduced salt consumption from cutting back on highly processed food was associated with a halving of rates of high blood pressure. Six-year mortality from all causes, including cancer and heart disease, was inversely related to blood vitamin C level, a good indicator of fruit and vegetable intake. Increasing the consumption of fruit or vegetables by one serving per day was associated with 20% lower mortality.

Modest changes can have a profound impact on health: changing to a Mediterranean diet resulted in a 70% reduction in four-year mortality in people with heart disease. The changes were not huge: an average increase of about 50 grams of fruit, 30 grams of vegetables and 20 grams of bread daily, reduction of about 30 grams of processed meat daily and using margarine rich in alpha-linoleic acids in place of saturated fats such as butter and cream.

We recently completed a trial in healthy men and women aged over 65, giving them enough vitamin D to raise blood levels to those of young adults in tropical countries. This vitamin D supplement taken once every 4 months resulted in a 20% reduction in total fractures over 5 years.

Psychosocial factors also appear to have an impact on health. Our results showed that people who found life comprehensible, meaningful and manageable had a 20% lower subsequent mortality than those who did not.

Over the next few years, we will continue to assess the physical and mental functioning of the participants in EPIC-Norfolk, as well as their eye health. We are particularly interested in dietary and other behavioural factors that may predict good health. This and many other studies demonstrate that most people can stay healthy for much longer as they get older.

Ageing is a great success story but it presents society with new challenges. Certainly, we need strategies to support and care for large numbers of older people with disability, but we should also try to deal with these problems before they arise, by maintaining the health and quality of life of our ageing population.

Our research priority is to identify the major causes of age-related decline and disability and then find the best ways of preventing or postponing them. Results so far suggest that modest changes in lifestyle:

- increasing fruit and vegetable intake by one or two servings a day
- increasing physical activity by climbing stairs or walking for a few minutes a day
- improving vitamin D levels

can help to improve the health of the whole population in later life. There is nothing mysterious or difficult about it: we can all live longer and feel better.
This is the fourth year of our Annual Telephone Campaign but I still feel a sense of excitement as it approaches. By Dr Anne Lyon (2001) Fellow and Director of Development

We talk about the Caian community around the world; and every day we receive letters, emails, phone calls and donations from loyal Caians who care about the College and want to stay in touch. However, the Telephone Campaign is really the time when current resident members reach out to their predecessors of all ages and engage them in a live impromptu conversation, to find out what they have in common.

At first, it’s a little daunting for both sides, but it’s lovely to see how quickly the students gain confidence, as they realise that the Caians they are ringing are genuinely pleased to hear from them and delighted to have first-hand knowledge about recent events at Caius and direct contact with the current generation of undergraduates.

Before the first Caius Telephone Campaign in 2002 I was a little cautious ... but I need not have worried as the whole campaign proved an exceptionally happy experience both for the Caians called and the student callers. In 2003 and 2004 parents also enjoyed their calls from the enthusiastic undergraduates. All those on the list to be called received a pre-call letter encouraging them to contact us if they did not want to take part and as a result each year a small number have decided to opt out.

The Green Room, where the calls were made, was vibrant with talk about College sport, up-to-the-minute reports of the success of the Boat Club in the Lent Bumps, the Chapel Choir, favourite tutors and supervisors, the Shadwell and Sherrington Societies, the state of student rooms and more than anything else the continuing tradition of Caius as a friendly College.

As a result of ten days' calling all three campaigns took place with volunteer undergraduate callers during the first two weeks of the Easter vacation. The calls themselves tended to be long and chatty, creating an air of good humour, and offered a wonderful opportunity for current students to talk to those who came here before them and to keep them in touch with all that is happening in College today.

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As a result of ten days' calling all three campaigns successfully raised over £200,000, through the generous support of many Caians and parents. The money went towards a range of projects vital to maintain the academic excellence and future wellbeing of the College. Many people gave "unrestricted funds" which can be used immediately to meet the College's most important needs, including teaching, research, building maintenance, bursaries, library, sport and music. Others chose to make a specific contribution to the West Road Building Fund, in the hope that the dream might one day become a reality. As you have probably gathered already, the sinuous, state-of-the-art student

At the May Week Party, Caius Telephone Campaign callers enjoy meeting some of the Caians and parents they called.
...Always a Caian

accommodation is now well under way, so all those who showed faith in it in past campaigns can congratulate themselves on their perspicacity!

As important as the fundraising was the opportunity the young callers had to talk with older Caians, whether contributors or not, about the College today and how it is adapting to meet new challenges. All were able to share their ideas and opinions about the College’s future. The student callers received many appreciative letters and some of them gained valuable work experience placements, for example in medicine, law and the media, through the Caians they called.

All those who make a donation are invited to the College’s May Week Party, including a buffet lunch, afternoon tea, music recital and other activities. Many visitors go on to the river at the end of the afternoon, as this Party is traditionally held on the last day of the May Bumps. Last year, the Caius First VIII, for the sixth time in seven years, provided the perfect finale by rowing over as Head of the River. This year the Party will be on Saturday 18 June and our oarsmen and women would welcome your vociferous support! The Party is also the perfect opportunity for the undergraduates to meet those they have called on the Telephone Campaign.

The College offers its warmest thanks for the generous contributions of all those who have taken part in its first three Telephone Campaigns. These funds are vital to maintaining the College’s many strengths.

After three hugely successful campaigns we approach this year’s event with renewed confidence and enthusiasm. Once again, cheerful students have volunteered to give up a few hours of their precious time over the Easter Vacation to talk to some of their predecessors and compare College life today with how it was years ago.

Were they really the good old days? Or are these the good new days? Do students today work harder? Do they play harder? Do they have as much fun? How does it feel, having to borrow money to pay for your own education? Was it really easier when most students had State grants to support them? Does anyone toast crumpets in front of gas-fires these days, or are they more likely to pour hot water on a plastic pot of instant noodles? Do they still have time for sport? And what’s the beer like in The Eagle?

One of the wonderful things about the Telephone Campaign is that you never know quite where the several hundred conversations are going to go. For the older Caians, it can be a sentimental journey back to memories they never thought to revisit. For the younger members, the discussions often give them a completely new perspective on their own lives. They are not the first people to walk through those famous Gates. Perhaps they have more in common with generations past than they realised. For both sides, it’s often an enriching experience in unexpected ways. At the end of the evening, it’s fascinating to hear the students comparing notes about this brief insight into the Caius of yesteryear. Many have messages to pass on to their Tutors from their former students.

As Easter falls early this year, the Campaign will take place in the last two weeks of the Easter vacation, from 10–21 April. If you would like to receive a call and have not received a letter of notification, please telephone our Alumni Officer, Michaela Weberová on +44 (0)1223 339574 or email her on mw298@cam.ac.uk and she will be delighted to arrange for a Caius undergraduate to call you during the ten-day Campaign at a time convenient for you.

The College hopes that the Telephone Campaign will again prove to be a most enjoyable link between Caians old and new as they unite to support your College in the twenty-first century.
As well as our academic and sporting successes, Caius has a reputation for putting on the most spectacular student stunts, pranks and rags. In our Autumn issue, we will tell how Caius Engineers in 1958 hoisted an Austin Seven on to the Senate House roof. They were inspired by the military-minded Caians of 1921, who secretly spirited away a 6-ton German artillery piece from Jesus Close and displayed it in Caius Court.

The Jesus Gun

Many of the undergraduates of the time had, of course, served with distinction in the Great War, so they were better prepared than most generations of students to carry out such a task, but the immaculate precision and efficiency of the coup elicited sincere congratulations even from the men of Jesus who were its victims.

The leader and mastermind of the raid, G F Hopkinson (1919) was promoted to Major-General in the Second World War, fought a brilliant rearguard action in the retreat to the Normandy beaches of 1940 and despite falling asleep on his motorbike and breaking several ribs in the crash, got three vehicles home to England.

He was the only British officer to save any transport at all in the evacuation. He then trained as a parachutist, was dropped in the sea when Allied Forces invaded Sicily and was picked up after four hours by a ship commanded by E R Gibson (1922), with whom he had rowed in the same boat at Cambridge 21 years previously. Sadly, his luck finally ran out and he was killed in action near Taranto in 1943.

Back in 1921, however, the reputation of Caius was at stake and Hopkinson was just the man to defend it. Two German guns had arrived at Cambridge station as trophies for the two Colleges, a fine Hun 4.2 and a decrepit relic of the war of 1870. Enterprising Caians, noting that the splendid gun was addressed to Jesus and the wretched one to Caius, corrected the obvious mistake by changing the labels. But then, as The Granta reported at the time:

“A Brass Hat from the War Office, who, curiously enough, was interested in Jesus, was sufficiently tactless to point out on a visit to that college that their gun was obviously a changeling.”

So the smart gun was removed from Caius Cricket Ground and installed in Jesus Close.

The Dean, Joseph Hunkin, later Bishop of Truro, had recently set up the Caius Co-Optimists Club “to distract the men from drinking beer”. The Club was to organise “Comic Relief ... displays of dramatic, musical or oratorial talent, or such other forms of entertainment as may suggest themselves to members of the Club.” The entertainment that suggested itself to the Club’s Hon. Sec., G F Hopkinson, was the simultaneous recovery of Jesus’ Gun and Caius’ honour. He insisted, however, that the raid was to be carried out on sound military lines, without any of the “hooliganism which had unfortunately marred the celebrations of the defeat of the grace for granting to Women Students privileges of membership of the University, only a few weeks before.”

The expeditionary force was divided into five units:
(a) Enemy Gun Detachment, consisting of Officer Commanding, 4 Section Commanders and 50 Other Ranks.
(b) Gap Party, O.C. and 6 men.
(c) Covering Party and Fighting Patrols, O.C., 4 Section Commanders and 50 men.
(d) Limber Party, O.C. and 4 men.
(e) Bodyguard to G.O.C., strength to depend on the state of mind of the G.O.C. on the night of the raid.

Hopkinson himself borrowed the keys to the Great Gate into Tree Court and made duplicates from wax impressions, so that the gun could be moved swiftly into Caius on arrival. He also saw to the opening of two gates at Jesus to admit the invaders and under cover of darkness sawed through the metal bolt holding the gun in place. At one point a Jesus porter passed within three feet of him while he lay on the ground beneath the gun.
The Gap Party also worked hard in the nights preceding the raid, sawing through a section of the massive iron railings, which would be removed for the passage of the gun and afterwards replaced. The Limber Party’s job was to provide a suitable conveyance for the transport of the gun. The Fighting Patrols were ready to deal firmly with any opposition from Police, Proctors or Jesuits.

Zero Hour was 10.05pm on the night of 10 November 1921, as the Co-Optimists had promised the Senior Tutor there would be no rags on Armistice Day. By 10.15, all units had passed unobserved through the two gates and the Gun Party attached two ropes, each 36 yards long, to the gun by steel hooks specially made for the job by a blacksmith. 50 men heaved away for a quarter of an hour but failed to shift the gun from some deep cement chocks, which enclosed the wheels. Runners called up reinforcements and the 50 men from the Fighting Patrols added their weight to the ropes. At last, “with a noise like all the devils of the underworld” the cement chocks gave way, and so did one of the ropes, plunging the gun’s muzzle and several participants into the soft mud.

To the amazement of all, no one in Jesus appeared to have heard a sound. The rope was reattached, the heavy section of railings removed and the gun was pulled with surprising ease into Victoria Avenue, up Jesus Lane and along Trinity Street. The Fighting Patrols formed up several deep across the road at the front of the party and a few solitary policemen wisely decided not to challenge them. Hopkinson’s counterfeit keys worked perfectly; the Great Gates swung open and the gun rolled serenely into Tree Court just as an angry Proctor arrived on the scene.

Hopkinson pointed out politely that as an officer of the University, the Proctor had neither rights nor jurisdiction in the College. As The Granta’s special correspondent put it:

“Emitting what I took to be a snarl of baffled rage, but which may well have been no more than a sneeze induced by the nipping air, the dignitary took his undignified departure.”

Further opposition was encountered from the Senior Tutor, Colonel Stratton, but by this time (11.30pm) thick matting had been carefully laid under the Gate of Virtue to protect the steps and the gun trundled serenely into Caius Court to be parked outside the Master’s Lodge.

Professor Christopher Brooke, in his excellent History of the College, records that the Master, Sir Hugh Anderson and his guest that evening, the Bishop of Ripon, looked out of the window after a convivial night-cap or two:

“Bishop, do you see anything?”

“Yes, Master, I think I see a gun!”

“Thank goodness,” said the Master, “so do I.”
It was originally put together as a fiftieth birthday gift to a remarkable man, David Bach, founder of the “Workers’ Concerts”, in some ways an Austrian equivalent of the British Proms, which for the first time made the finest music available to all, regardless of class or social status. He united the artistic community of Vienna and beyond, befriending Jews and non-Jews, right wing and left wing, rich and poor, with his passionate belief that art belonged to everyone.

The gift was a personal tribute to this unique man, a handmade box covered in python skin, containing 88 identical sheets of paper with paintings, sketches, musical extracts, poems, stories and vignettes by many of the most gifted artists, writers and composers of the day, including Arnold Schoenberg, Richard Strauss, Béla Bartók, Arthur Schnitzler, Karel Capek and Stefan Zweig.

Oskar Kokoschka
While recovering from bullet and bayonet wounds received in the First World War, the Expressionist painter created a series of portraits of his host’s young daughter, Lotte Mandel. Perhaps the most valuable individual work in the box is this hitherto unknown charcoal drawing of the same girl.

Leo Delitz
A mural design by a famous wartime frontline artist turned successful portrait painter who came to England and died in comparative obscurity. His view was that if everybody had their due, David Bach would have a huge house with a beautiful music room and he would paint the mural for him free of charge.

The ‘Box of Delights’ is a time-capsule from Vienna in the nineteen-twenties, an extraordinary collection of 88 original, many unpublished works by some of the most celebrated writers, artists and composers of the time.

The College is actively seeking a leading museum or an individual philanthropist anywhere in the world to purchase this collection and undertake to keep it together and on public display.
Eighty years on, at our May Week Party last year, the Box was a gift again, generously given to Caius by Dr Philip Marriott (1965) who inherited it from his adoptive father, David Bach’s nephew, Herbert Bach. Dr Marriott believes that these beautiful works, hidden from view for so long, deserve to be seen and enjoyed.

The College is actively seeking a leading museum or an individual philanthropist anywhere in the world to purchase this collection and undertake to keep it together and on public display.

At Dr Marriott’s request, the proceeds will be used to help the College and his old school, Newport Free Grammar, to provide outstanding educational opportunities for future generations of students, in accordance with David Bach’s belief that art and education should be made available as widely as possible.

In the Box: Carry Hauser

“The Dreaming Flautist” by an artist well-known for his series of pictures connected with Freudian dreams.

Harry Tauber

A theatrical costume design. Holofernes was a tyrannical Assyrian general. Judith, a Jewish widow of noble rank, invited him to her bed, plead him with wine and beheaded him, saving her city from invasion. Note the Jewish sandal on one foot, the Nazi jackboot on the other, the Star of David on his jacket and the swastika on his helmet.

Marie Strauss-Likarz

A beach scene by the feminist artist features women smoking and playing the predominantly masculine game of chess.

Frau Lehár

The Andrew Lloyd Webber of his day contributed some studies for “The Yellow Jacket”, which later evolved into the popular song “You are My Heart’s Delight” in his operetta “Land of Smiles”.

John Galsworthy

The British playwright and novelist enjoyed a lively correspondence with David Bach, who had put on several of his plays to great acclaim in Vienna.

Julius Zimpel

This drawing of a young girl is by a silversmith associated with the Wiener Werkstätte, makers of the presentation Box.
Once a Caian...

Editorial

Belonging to Caius is not something that happens to us for three or four years and then stops: it goes on for a lifetime. Caius enters the very fibres of our being, guiding and directing the patterns of our thoughts, our aesthetic and intellectual responses, our emotional range and our social skills. The formative experiences we have enjoyed at College make us Caians for life.

In fact, being a Caian is a great privilege, from the excited moment of receiving the letter of acceptance, the nervous arrival at the Gate of Humility and the increasingly confident passages through the Gate of Virtue to the final proudly begowned and hooded march through the Gate of Honour for graduation. That privilege continues through our lives. We may not have it emblazoned on our gateposts or even our letterhead, but we know who we are, "we happy few, we band of brothers" — and of course sisters. But privilege carries responsibility. We are the inheritors of a magnificent tradition — and it is our duty not only to pass on the torch but to keep the flame burning brightly. This College is a continuous living channel of intellectual enquiry and expression stretching in an unbroken line all the way back to the Middle Ages.

It is easy to be complacent about Caius: it is a jewel of our culture, that has gone on for so many centuries, and from strength to strength — surely it would be philistine folly to destroy such a treasure? The truth is that the College is not as strong, secure and independent as most of us tend to think.

The Oxford and Cambridge Universities Act of 1923 ensured that the Oxbridge Colleges retained the financial independence they had enjoyed for all the centuries of their existence, while awarding much-needed regular State support to the Universities in the form of grants. The post-war Royal Commission had recommended, and both Houses of Parliament had accepted, that the Colleges should not be dependent on direct grants, but should charge their students fees — as they are required to do by the College statutes.

Our College Statute 24 includes the words "Members of the College in statu pupillari shall pay such fees at such times as the College Council shall from time to time determine."

After World War II, governments of both hues established a system whereby most students received grants with which to pay their college and university fees, and for their maintenance. The grants were means-tested and intended to ensure that students from poorer families were not disadvantaged.

An unfortunate side-effect was that the Colleges appeared no longer to need their traditional benefactors. For centuries, the wealthy and successful had made gifts and left legacies to their Colleges to help to cover the costs of future generations of students. Now it seemed that a benign government had belatedly realised the value to the nation of the Oxbridge Colleges and was distributing largesse like a long-lost godfather, returned from Africa with a pocketful of diamonds. Right and Left agreed that, in the interests of equality of opportunity, education should be paid for by the State.

From the nineteen-seventies, governments began to change this arrangement and put universities and colleges under increasing central control. First it was decided that government funds should no longer be used to help to pay the costs of overseas students, forcing the universities to introduce much higher fees for them. Then succeeding administrations passed further laws, most notably restricting the Colleges’ freedom to decide their own...
Always a Caian College You!

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Universities for distribution rather than directly to the Colleges as payment of their fees. At the same time, HEFCE was empowered to set conditions to the grants it distributed. Serious financial erosion followed this loss of independence, when the government decided to reduce the amount available for distribution by one third in real terms over the ten years to 2008.

In consequence, before the turn of the century, many Colleges began to find that their income was insufficient to pay for the services they needed to provide if educational standards, the supervision system and their traditional role in supporting research were to be maintained. Cutbacks had to be made to contain rising deficits.

The Colleges turned to the one group of people who could be relied on to understand the urgency of their position – their own alumni, spread across the world, perhaps decades away from their own undergraduate days, living other lives but linked by a firm conviction that the experiences they had enjoyed in their youth should be made available to future generations.

It has often been said that the fairly recent innovation of Development Offices in nearly every British college and university is a move towards the American model for funding education. It can more accurately be seen as a return to the model used for centuries by the Oxburgh Colleges, whose success and longevity is largely due to a continuing process of benefaction on the part of satisfied and grateful graduates.

That process was undermined by the comparatively brief period during which we were given to understand that the Government would pay. It is now clear that it will not, or at least not enough.

So the Oxburgh Colleges have turned to their members, and the response has been heartening. After a hiatus of half a century, the ancient and noble practice of benefactions to Colleges is being handsomely renewed. Not every graduate feels a desire or duty to contribute, but very many are glad of the opportunity and see that it is just to do so. We have been very fortunate: it is human nature to wish to share that good fortune.

There are other benefits in renewing association with one’s College: it is a wonderful institution to which to belong; there are old friends to be found and new friends to be made in this community of kindred spirits. Maybe even more valuable is the reassessment of our own core values, the great truths we learned so long ago which are well worth revisiting.

Like all the best relationships, this one is thoroughly symbiotic. This time, however, maybe we should not be asking ourselves what Caius can do for us, but what we can do for Caius.
Towards the end of Dinner in Hall on the evening of 15 November 2004, an undergraduate banged the gong for attention and asked us all to sing “Happy Birthday” in honour of Professor Grierson, who was 94 that day. A rousing chorus followed and the Senior Fellow of Caius rose from his chair to the right of the Master, visibly moved:

“In all my time in this College, I can’t remember that honour being paid to anybody else! Thank you very much.”

As Philip Grierson had recently embarked on his 76th year at Caius, we took this to be a rare but richly deserved compliment. Frank McManus (1945) recently wrote about his Cai Memory of “musical evenings at Philip Grierson’s when records were beyond students’ means”. That tradition continues to this day, although the preferred entertainment now consists of a film from his vast collection of over 3,000 videotapes and DVDs, ranging from the Russian masters in black and white to the latest releases.

He gives three parties in the first week of each Michaelmas term, inviting some 20 undergraduates and a couple of their friends to supper at Pizza Express and to choose a video from his collection to watch afterwards. He finds “nothing to complain of in their habits”. They never smoke, fore they somehow sense that he would dislike it, drink moderately and he thoroughly enjoys their company. He also enjoys wine, drinking a glass of sherry every day, but claims never to have tasted beer or spirits. His father, a committed teetotaller, gave him and his two sisters £50 each for not drinking alcohol until they were 21.

He came up in 1929 from Marlborough, where he had already taken his first MB, but changed from Natural Sciences to History. His father was a Dublin businessman, a member of the Protestant Ascendancy, and his mother’s family were doctors. He had at first no thought of an academic career, but he knew he was not cut out for medicine and had no inclination towards the Church or Law. His father paid for everything and generously allowed him to keep the money from the scholarship he won in his third year. Life as an undergraduate then cost about £250 a year, but less for research students, who had no teaching or lecture fees to pay.

He moved into G staircase of St Michael’s College when records were beyond students’ means”. That tradition continues to this day, although the preferred entertainment now consists of a film from his vast collection of over 3,000 videotapes and DVDs, ranging from the Russian masters in black and white to the latest releases.

He has always been an assiduous collector, notably of coins, and is still Honorary Keeper of Coins at the Fitzwilliam Museum, which houses his collection and will eventually become its owner. “Caius has meant everything to me” he says, and the College will benefit from half of his estate, but hopefully not too soon.

His main interest is Numismatics and the History of Money, especially that of the Western Middle Ages. For a man who has apparently spent all of his adult life in Cambridge, he has travelled widely. For some 30 years, he was also Professor at the Université Libre de Bruxelles, flying over just after the last day of each term. He spent on the average two months a year in Brussels and two months in Washington DC, at the Center of Byzantine Studies at Dumbarton Oaks, where he was tempted by the promise of enough money to create the best collection of Byzantine coins in the world and then enough to publish it. He has lectured in French, German and Italian and has “a smattering” of Russian and Dutch but no Irish!

He has published a shelf and a half of books on history or numismatics. The most impressive feature is the ten-volume catalogue of the Byzantine coins at Dumbarton Oaks, largely though not entirely his work and now a standard reference on the subject. His second magnum opus, which he expects others to complete, will be a massive 14-volume survey of the coins of the Middle Ages. Volumes 1 and 14 of this are on the shelf and he hoped to have another volume ready for the publishers by the end of April, but the deadline has slipped back a little.

He is relieved not to suffer from the two afflictions which can prevent one’s enjoyment of a long life: “arthritis and what’s that other one, that affects your memory?” “Alzheimer’s?” “That’s it!” with a smile and that playful twinkle in the eye that so many generations of Caians remember with affection.

On his birthday, celebratory port and claret were taken in the Panelled Combination Room. He was the first to rise to his feet, declining a second glass and apologising to the company: “I’m so sorry to leave you, but I have some work to prepare for 9 o’clock in the morning.” Everyone laughed, but it was the truth, for it was the hour he expected his secretary to arrive.
Caians of a certain age will treasure their copies of John Venn’s history of the College, collected from the Tutorial Office many years ago for a modest charge on their College accounts. More recent Caians will have admired the stained glass window in Hall commemorating John Venn. To find out more about John Venn’s life, you will need to turn to Christopher Brooke’s more recent history of the College. To find out more about his diagrams, you will need to turn to Anthony Edwards’ new book, Cogwheels of the Mind.

I remember the period in the late 1960s, when I was first introduced to Venn diagrams in the sixth form at school. Curiously, at more or less the same time, my elder brother was being introduced to them in his first year reading Mathematics at University, my younger brother was meeting them in secondary school, and my sister was meeting them at primary school. Venn diagrams may have proliferated throughout the educational system in the 1960s, but their roots go back to John Venn’s work in the 1880s.

Anthony Edwards’ elegantly written and beautifully illustrated book carries us effortlessly from the history of Venn diagrams, through their mathematical properties and topology, to his own contributions in the field of Venn diagrams for many sets.

The account of the author’s own work on Venn diagrams is presented as an adventure story. First there is the search for a satisfactory diagram for five sets (Venn only offered diagrams for four sets). The solution is of such elegant simplicity that it extends naturally to an arbitrary number of sets, with illuminating insights into fields as diverse as combinatorics, fractal geometry, digital electronics, and multi-dimensional hyperspace. The climax is the discovery of completely symmetrical Venn diagrams for seven sets.

As the accompanying picture shows, these diagrams possess huge aesthetic appeal. The text of the book is equally engaging as the author’s quest roams across many disciplines. You might even like to ask Anthony Edwards to autograph your copy when you are next in Caius – his room in Tree Court is easily identified by a stained glass window featuring his own design.

Touring with a choir can be exhausting: 25 musicians far away from home spending intense periods of time together in enclosed spaces and often in a different bed each night (touring, that is, rather than bed-hopping!). Choir Tours are usually great fun and give an insight into the life of professional musicians. They can either confirm or crush budding divas’ ambitions to pursue a singing career once the rigours of singing in Caius Chapel for 3 years have come to an end. I’ve been lucky enough to travel around Britain, Europe and South Africa with the choir, and I am extremely grateful for the opportunities and experiences.

Our visit to South Africa in September 2003 was a gruelling tour (17 singing engagements in 17 days, once singing 3 times in a day!). But it was definitely worthwhile fitting in as much as we did. It was surreal to travel to places where Cambridge choral music sounds so alien. By South African standards, we were all incredibly affluent, and this can be a frightening place: back at home, we were all shocked but not really surprised to hear that our tour organiser, Robin Walton (1955), had been shot. Thankfully, he has now made a full recovery.

Understandably, we were rather cosseted during our stay — an extension of the unbelievable security in which many of our hosts lived: gated, guarded apartment blocks, caged doors and guard dogs. It is difficult on a short visit to take in the complexity of a society as divided as South Africa is, both racially and economically.

Much of our time was spent in ‘white’ circles – St John’s College and Rodean School, two ‘society’ clubs, huge American-style shopping malls, and with the exception of one family, all our hosts were white. But music crosses frontiers that are hard to bridge in any other way, and our singing took us to another side of South Africa, one that will be hard to forget.

My most vivid memories are of our visits to Shomang Primary School in Soweto and the AIDS project in the township of Mpophomeni, in Kwa-Zulu Natal. Coming away having sung to whoever will listen (and having been sung to as well!), you realise how little you know, how little you have done in your life, and how little you are doing.

Being treated as celebrities, like the people we see in Comic Relief each year, is both enjoyable and uncomfortable, for pathetic imitations, but we persevered and many of the moves have stayed with us. Those who came to Anything Goes last May Week will have seen reincarnated our particular favourite, a bum-wiggling gyration which some of our members achieved with more style than others.

In the end, this chant provided our greatest ovation of the tour, at Shomang, where the roar of approval (and subsequent mass encore) was magnified by a group of children in the furthest corner of the playground squealing “Very, very good! Excellent!” — complete with heroic gestures of approbation. At moments of such communion, our differing circumstances were briefly forgotten amidst an outpouring of joy and gratitude. Back in Cambridge, it only takes the words “Very, very good!” to spirit us straight back to that magical occasion.

It is difficult to describe such a journey, part sporting tour, part volunteer work, part holiday, but more than all of those. The camaraderie and spiritual challenge of a tour to a place so remote from Cambridge University, where we experienced the power and beauty of human interaction through music, is something I enjoyed immensely at the time and still appreciate greatly. Overall, I think the tour was probably the most truly educational activity I have ever been involved in. Hopefully, we all took something away from the tour. And hopefully, we also left something behind.

The Inter-Collegiate Instrumental Awards Scheme was set up in 1979 by Peter Le Huray to encourage the most gifted undergraduate instrumentalists in Cambridge to channel their energies into chamber music, and to aim for the highest possible standards of performance.

Caian Instrumental Award Winners

By Kevin Weaver (2002)

In return for taking part in chamber music recitals in Cambridge, award holders receive both financial support towards tuition and coaching from experts in the profession such as members of the Endellion and Fitzwilliam Quartets, James Boyd, Brian Hawkins and Celia Nicklin. It is therefore a great achievement that not just one or two, as in recent years, but seven of these awards were won by Caians this year! This makes a grand total of eleven undergraduate award holders in Caius.

During my time on the scheme, I have had the opportunity to work with a whole range of ensembles – string quartet, viola quintet, clarinet quintet, string sextet, and this has been an extremely useful and enjoyable way to get to know a broad repertoire of chamber music.

The Instrumental Award Scheme celebrated its 25th Anniversary in Michaelmas Term with a series of concerts given by past members. The standard of this series was astonishingly good, with particular highlights for me being the concert given by the London Haydn Quartet, and that given by Caians Maya Magub (1990) and Rosie Biss (1995). It was both inspiring and encouraging for current award holders, who could see how formative the Instrumental Award Scheme can be in the development of the careers of many notable chamber musicians.

Being a member of the scheme is a considerable commitment. In order to progress, one has to put aside five or six hours each week for chamber music. This can be extremely rewarding both musically and socially. Since 1993, the scheme has put on an annual showcase concert in West Road Concert Hall for exceptional award holder groups. This year, my string quintet had the honour of opening the evening with one of my favourite chamber works, Mozart’s G minor string quintet, K.516.
Caius comes to Hong Kong – “Asia’s World City”
By Stephen Roith (1976)

On 29 October 2004, a group of Caians and their partners gathered at the British Consulate General in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People’s Republic of China for a reception hosted jointly by the British Consul-General in Hong Kong and the Master of Gonville and Caius College.

For the 19 or so Caians present, based in Hong Kong and the neighbouring region and these days rarely involved in College affairs except when delving into the annual issue of The Caian, this was a very special opportunity to meet Neil McKendrick and Anne Lyon (and each other) without taking a 13-hour flight to England.

Few Caians, even in the Far East, will be unaware of recent progress in turning the College into a genuine centre of excellence, both academically and in many other fields, of its ambitious plans for the new building in West Road and of the new political and financial environment it faces. How much more compelling and persuasive, though, to hear the Master himself expound eloquently the triumphs of the past few years and the unprecedented challenges ahead for Caius, the University and the Oxbridge collegiate system. The reception also gave what was for most of us a first opportunity to meet other Caians based in this part of Asia.

Delightful as the evening was as a purely social occasion, the Master and Development Director had a serious purpose in visiting the Far East. Many Caians are not yet used to being the target of persistent fundraising efforts in the same way as the alumni of the great American universities have always been. However, for those of us keen to maintain our links with Caius, sometimes from far away, the College’s modern need to maintain a continuous fundraising campaign will provide us with more (and more pleasurable) opportunities in the future to keep in touch.

For this correspondent, the Friday evening reception was followed by a longer and still more enjoyable meeting with the Master and Dr. Lyon over lunch the following day (Hong Kong being thankfully one of those few remaining places where lunch is still taken with due seriousness), which was incidentally the longest meeting with a Master of the College that I have ever had, whether before graduation or otherwise. As ever, there is no such thing as a free one, however.

After two hours or so of exposure to fine food and wine and the charm and determination of the College’s top fundraising team, your correspondent was able to stop wrestling with his conscience and reach for his cheque book, safe in the knowledge that the funds were being committed to a most worthy cause. While somewhat poorer in purely monetary terms as a result, I now not only have the satisfaction of having given to such a good cause but can also look forward to returning to the College in November to attend my first Commemoration Feast.

I hope the Class of ’76 will be well represented!

Attendees included:
Singapore Reception
by Dr Charles Ng (1958)

On Saturday 23 October 2004, the Master held a Buffet Dinner at Eden Hall, Singapore, the official residence of the British High Commissioner, for Caians in South-East Asia. Dr Anne Lyon was present to welcome Caians and their spouses at the dinner and reception. Although the majority were from Singapore, some came from Malaysia and Thailand. Among the guests were spouses, parents, and even a baby of one of the young couples.

The Master was in great form and delivered a synopsis of the achievements of the College and past alumni including the long list of Nobel Laureates and other distinguished Caians. He mentioned the sporting and academic successes of recent years and development plans including the West Road Building. He appealed to the Caians to donate and help to raise funds for the project and use their influence to seek donations from local philanthropic foundations and friends of the College.

The Reception and Dinner was the first time that the Master of a College in Cambridge (or Oxford) had come to Singapore to raise funds from its alumni and I would like to congratulate Caius for being the pioneer, although we have had visits from the Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge University in the past. The UK is way behind the USA in fund-raising from overseas alumni. Harvard, Stanford and other Ivy League colleges often visit to raise funds as the Asian economy takes off, with China and India now resurgent.

For many of us, the evening was an opportunity to meet fellow Caians who were at College during our own time as well as those from other years. There were more than 20 members of the College present apart from the Master and Dr Lyon. Before the dinner, one member delivered the familiar College Grace in Latin. Many of us felt nostalgic for past dinners in Hall but the food at Eden Hall was much better!

Apart from the official reception, I had the honour and pleasure of inviting the Master and Anne to my house to meet my family and to dine at the China Club and view the modern skyline of Singapore from a great height.

I am confident that their visit to Singapore was successful and achieved their objective of donations for the West Road Building. It certainly raised the awareness of Caians in Singapore of the need to help their Alma Mater. We are all most grateful to the British High Commissioner for hosting the Buffet Dinner and Reception in the beautiful colonial building and grounds of Eden Hall.

For our third meeting, held on 3 March 2005, we returned to the Harvard Club, where we took a table in the Grill Room next to the fire and enjoyed drinks and a bar menu. Several Caians and our guests discussed just about everything you could imagine, from Alexander the Great to the Cultural Revolution.

Once again, news from Caius was a highlight and we were all especially interested in Stephen Hawking’s ground-breaking performance at the site of the new building. We salute the achievements of those who have steered the project so far and look forward to visiting in person when our travels bring us back to College.

Any Caians visiting New York who would like to make contact with the New York group are invited to contact Michaela Weberová at the Development Office.

Attendees at the New York meetings so far have been: Professor Peter Walker (1960), Dr. Graham May (1967), Dr. James Wirth (1973), and wife Pamela, Anthony Gottlieb (1975), Paul Kriker (1980), Jonathan Foreman (1984), Martyn Tipping (1988), Dan Friedman (1990), Dr Yun Lee Too (1992) and husband George, Dr Simon Dyton (1994).
Giving something back

John Perrin (1935)

Many years ago in my first term at Caius, my father died at an unexpectedly early age. In spite of his being an extremely successful surgeon, our family was left almost destitute. So I packed up my belongings and prepared to leave Caius and abandon a career in medicine.

When I got home there was a letter for me from the College. It said the College had reason to believe I was in some financial difficulty, but I was to come back the next term and continue my studies. The College would find the means to make this possible. So in time I became qualified in medicine. There is no way I have ever been able to repay such a debt so I have decided to leave a legacy to Caius in my will.

My father had a distinguished academic record when he was at Caius, always remembering his days there as among the happiest in his life. I feel the same, and can only thank once again, at the end of my life, the Master and Fellows of Caius for their kindness and generosity.

Ian Whitehead (1965)

It was early June 1968 and my finals result had just been published when, together with about 10 friends, I set out for an afternoon on the river. The weather was idyllic and as we had two private punts there was no hurry at all to be off the water.

After racing from one end of the Backs to the other and indulging in the usual water fight, things calmed down and our two punts separated for a while. I had the pole and came alongside a punt loaded with American tourists somewhere near Trinity.

"The weather was idyllic and as we had two private punts there was no hurry at all to be off the water."

Slowly we and the Americans made our way side by side up the river engaged in conversation. It was only when we got to the Silver Street bridge that the tourists realised I was sitting on the back of our punt, which had very quietly been chained to the front of theirs. So they had been working extremely hard to propel both boats upstream!

They were not very happy but we did point out that it was our river and just after finals was a risky time to go punting.
David Lunn (1966)

My most vivid memory is of an unlikely and anonymous Caian sporting hero. None of my small group of close contemporaries can remember the event, but I’m sure I didn’t imagine it.

In the 1968–9 Soccer season Caius, who were not then renowned for their sporting prowess, amazingly fielded three Blues – John Battye (1966), Derek Emslie (1967) and John Richardson (1967). Sadly, when they were playing for the University, the regular league side struggled. Despite being ably led by Martin Fisher (1966) the side approached the last game facing the spectre of relegation. I can’t remember whether it was against Downing or Peterhouse, but whoever it was actually had to beat us in order to stay in Division One. We only had to draw in order that they and not Caius were relegated.

Our team, which at times featured young Colin Summerbee Shindler (1967), was quite talented and we were confident we could avoid the drop, even when our captain was compelled to return early to the Navy on exercise. I took charge in Martin’s absence. Abstinence played very little part in sport during the nineteen-sixties (or seventies) so the evening before the match was quietly spent relaxing in The Eagle. I felt less relaxed the next day, when I found that three of my team had had to drop out and so I was down to 8 men for the match.

I scoured the College and found two replacements but no goalie. Finally in the library I spotted a young man who bore more than a passing resemblance to Clark Kent. I sat down opposite him and tried to explain our predicament. He tried at first to ignore me and then pleaded complete lack of interest in football. He had not played football since his prep school days – and then only in goal.

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I rose to the challenge. A man who has played in goal must have been heaven-sent. The honour of the College was at stake and here was divine intervention. Relegation could set the cause of Caius Soccer back for years. How could he refuse? I explained that the game would only last for 90 minutes and the result was so little in doubt that I believed he might not even touch the ball.

And for the first ten minutes of the game he did not touch it. He appeared to have forgotten that when playing in goal you are allowed, even encouraged to use your hands. Neither had he moved his feet. Soon we were 3–0 down and I fear I may have been a little terse in recommending that he should try and anticipate where the ball was going.

He tried. The next time they took a shot, he threw himself heroically to the left. The ball went in to the right. 4–0 down.

 Shortly after that, the opposing centre-forward hammered the ball goalwards from about ten yards out. It hit our new goalkeeper firmly in the midriff with a velocity which knocked him backwards off his feet. Somehow he clung on to the ball, rising to his knees before throwing it behind for a corner and collapsing winded on the ground. Yet it had been a spectacular save and the applause and encouragement from the rest of the team was genuine. Our goalie gradually recovered and got back on his feet. He glowed. It was as if our Clark Kent had run back to the changing-rooms, thrown his glasses and briefcase into a corner and emerged in cape and hood. Nothing was going to go past him now and indeed nothing did. He began to play fearlessly and as he did so you could feel the confidence surging through the rest of the Caius players.

We began to push the opposition back and just before half-time we got one goal back. A second followed shortly after, and a third. For the last 20 minutes we camped in their half and with virtually the last kick of the match Matthew (or so my memory tells me), a research student, stabbed the ball home. 4–0 down after 20 minutes: 4-all at full time. A fairy-tale ending. Our opponents were relegated and left the ground quickly. We celebrated late into the night, first exhausting Bob Pryor’s supply of ale before moving on to the buttery and then the late night bar at Harvey Court.

To this day, I cannot remember the name of the reluctant Caian who had not played football since his prep school days – yet was persuaded by a student he had never met before to leave his studies in the library for the honour of the College. An anonymous hero whose goalkeeping feats eventually saved the soccer team from relegation. So who was he? Did he ever play football again? And had I checked behind the squash court at Barton Road would I have found Bob’s dog, Barney, chewing on the remains of a hood and a cape? Clark Kent, where are you now?

Raymond Escoffey (1942)

My copy of the Cambridge Encyclopedia disdains to include him. I need to turn to my Petit Larousse Illustré to find a reference to this star of the English medical firmament – “physiologiste britannique ... prix Nobel en 1932 pour ses recherches sur le systéme nerveux.”

I had not given up my habits of study, being in school parlance something of a “swot”. Nearly every morning, breakfast barely over, saw me arrive bearing books, paper, etc., in the reading room. Such a timely arrival ensured either a choice of armchair by the fire or a desk by one of the windows with a view of Gonville Court. Either way, warmth and quiet were assured.

An approaching, slow, soft shuffle one day broke my train of thought. I returned to the world, as it were, to see a fairly diminutive old gentleman in a blue suit by my chair. In his hand he held an ink bottle. Could I open it for him, please? I obliged and a little voice thanked me.

He was about two years older than I am today. But, in two years’ time, I am cautiously optimistic that, if present performance is anything to go by, I may still be capable of opening any ink bottle! To each his glory ...

I can still see the small, and very great, Sir Charles Sherrington (1880) today.

Brian Sacks (1970)

My most embarrassing memory is of running, early in my first term, alongside international steeplechaser John Jackson, who paid me the ultimate compliment, asking: “Is that a Cambridge vest?” Innocently, I answered: “No, Marks and Spencer.”
Jonathan Balcon (1950)
I was introduced to Caius by the then Bishop of Truro, whose son, Oliver John Hunkin (1935) worked for my father at Ealing Studios.

At the age of 19, being unfit for military service, I came up from Eton and was academically unprepared for further education. Freedom to control one’s own life, to smoke, to drink, to indulge every fantasy, it was all overwhelming!

You usually read about the success stories in magazines like this, but I’m afraid I was an unsuccessful Caian. I wanted to read Agriculture but had only elementary sciences, so I ended up reading Modern Languages, a subject I did not like. Nobody mentioned that there was an Estate Management Faculty.

In my first term, I received my call-up papers, the Korean War having turned nasty. Dear Francis Bennett suggested that in order to remain exempt I should join the Territorial Army, so I duly reported to the University Training Corps and was recruited into the Royal Armoured Corps Wing.

When I realised that City life would serve me better than a degree, I arranged for another Caian, Stephen Marshall (1950) to introduce me to the City of London Yeomanry (Rough Riders) TA, to which splendid Regiment I transferred in 1952 as a Corporal. I soon made Troop Sergeant and was commissioned back into the Regiment in 1955. In 1960 we amalgamated with the Inns of Court Regiment and became The Inns of Court and City Yeomanry (The Devil’s Own).

I retired in 1967 as a Major commanding “B” Squadron. I then joined the Kent Special Constabulary, with whom I served for 24 years, ending as a Divisional Commandant.

I was an unsuccessful Caian but loved every moment of my life at Caius. I was Secretary of the University Film Society and together with Robert Emerson (1949) was instrumental in founding the Caius Dramatic Society which launched David Swift (1950) into his professional acting career. Recently I took Part 1 of a Law Diploma at Kent University, but sadly my work at Lloyds took a turn for the worse in the ‘nineties and I was unable to take Part 2. I still look on Cambridge as my Finishing School!

Your Very Own CaiRing
by our very own Ralph Owen (1999)

CaiRing is the name for the College’s new alumni pages, at http://www.cai.cam.ac.uk/CaiRing/

Access to some of the pages is secured by password so that Caians can post information they don’t mind other Caians seeing but which they don’t want to reveal to the wider world.

Passwords were recently sent to Caians who matriculated between 1978 and 1987 inclusive. Other years are being invited to join CaiRing over the next few months.

Here’s what you can see on the new pages:

• **Caian Who’s Who**
  An online directory of all Caians where you can post details of your own activities and catch up with old friends and contemporaries.
  You can update details the College holds about you and can choose exactly which details are available to other Caians.

• **Discussion Forum**
  An opportunity to chat with other Caians about whatever you like, or post requests to get in touch with old friends.

• **Photo Galleries**
  Lots of pictures of Caius including recent events.

• **Job Adverts**
  A chance to find a job or to advertise a job you think would be of interest to other Caians.

PLUS news of Caius and information about College Events, progress on the West Road building and details of the College Appeal.

We hope you will enjoy the renewed contacts that CaiRing will provide and that you will find your sense of belonging to the worldwide community of Caians increasingly valuable, beneficial and rewarding.
those of you who didn’t spend most of your time at Caius lying in a muddy field under a pile of large, sweating, smelly blokes don’t know what you missed.

Keen readers of The Caian who may have noticed the absence of a report by the Rugby Club from 1996 to 2002 will be pleased to learn that the Club was not dead, but merely unwell. By the time I came up in 1999, the College was struggling to field even one regular XV.

Having played in the back row at school, I expected to face stiff competition for a place in the College 1st XV. But at the first training session I learned that the Club was desperate for players. University rugby as a whole has suffered from the rising intake of women and soccer-playing state school entrants. To make matters worse, the all-conquering Boat Club kept pinching any likely lads before they could be seduced by the siren-call of rugby, further reducing the available manpower.

Also, it seems that Caius did not employ the more enlightened admissions policy of other Colleges. The Admissions Tutor at St. Nameless’ College was renowned for throwing a rugby ball at interviewees as they walked through the door – if they caught it, they were offered a place and if not, they were told to apply to Oxford!

It was mere good fortune then that my arrival at Caius coincided with a bumper intake of rugby-playing freshers. That first training session was little more than an opportunity to throw a ball around and learn each other’s names ahead of our first match on the second Tuesday of term. We were beaten narrowly by Corpus Christi on that occasion, but the Renaissance of Caius Rugby had begun.

We finished that season third in the old 3rd Division. I was pleasantly surprised to find myself appointed Secretary. With new shirts on the way and another surprise intake of keen freshers, the future looked bright.

As a satisfyingly violent means of releasing the pent-up frustrations of studying, rugby was the only sport in town. The weekly stresses of twelve hours of lectures, four of supervisions and nine of laboratory work (not to mention the many hours of “self-directed study”) could all be relieved by two hours of doing unto others before they could do unto me.

Older Caians may be surprised to learn that these days Girton is a force to be reckoned with on the rugby field. The tasty bluestocks of yesteryear have been replaced with some less appetising hairy hams in rugby socks. When we were drawn against them in Cuppers in 2001, even the new-look Caius XV was daunted by the prospect of facing a side two divisions above us.

An epic game began at furious pace, and Girton drew first blood with an early try. The lead had already changed hands four times when John Moller burrowed over the Girton line, only to disappear under a pile of bodies. After digging him out and seeing how dazed he was, the referee asked him what day of the week it was – a standard concussion test. John had no idea, but he knew he’d just scored to make it 30-29 to us. Heroically, he shook off the cobwebs to chip over the conversion and the final whistle sealed a famous Caius victory.

I have fond memories of playing rugby for Caius, but my back doesn’t share this rose-tinted point of view. I am still to be found running around a rugby field, but these days I have a whistle in my hand and people are less inclined to tackle me. To prove that referees have no friends, in my first match in charge, I sent my old team-mate John Moller to the sin-bin and he’s never forgiven me!

The current Caius team have enjoyed an undefeated League season, scoring 310 points and conceding only 77. They reached the play-offs for promotion to the 1st Division for the first time in many years and hope to go one step further next season.

If the Admissions Tutor would like to lend a helping hand, I’d be delighted to lend her a rugby ball for the interviews in December!
The Rise and Rise of Caius Boat Club
by Jack McDonald (1995)
(Fellow, Dean and Senior Treasurer of Caius Boat Club)

At the turn of the new millennium, three prominent Cambridge boaties published The Bumps: An Account of the Cambridge University Bumping Races 1827–1999 (George Gilbert, Clare College Cambridge, 2000). A visiting Martian reading this comprehensive account of Cambridge College rowing could be forgiven for placing Caius at the less interesting end of a list of things that go bump on the Cam. Only in the final section of the book does an unfamiliar Caius start to appear on the bar-charts, and even then behind proud Downing. Our women do not feature at all.

All that has changed now. As I write, our 1st Men’s Lent VIII has just won the Lents Headship for the fourth time in as many years, and our 1st Women’s Lent VIII has retained third place. This is Caius’ 15th Headship in eight years – and now our bar on the chart stretches up beyond the top of Gilbert’s book, across my study and safely into Tree Court. The informal student websites now pit Caius Boat Club against The Rest of the River in bumping tables and predictions!

Why has this happened? What is the Reason Why?

The simplest and best answer is that Caius Boat Club has flourished because Caius is flourishing globally. As I prepare for pastures new in the University of Strasbourg, I wonder to myself what has been distinctive about Cambridge. Certainly the quality of teaching and research delivered in the Faculté de Théologie in Strasbourg is not inferior to that in the Faculty of Divinity here.

But the life, education and personal development experienced by students are vastly deeper and wider in Cambridge, principally because of the colleges. Why does Caius have its own chapel, its own choir, its own orchestra, its own playing fields, its own London charity, its own amateur dramatics society, its own boathouse?

– Because the College aims to stimulate the widest and deepest possible experience of life and civilisation amongst its Junior and Senior Members. And our students respond keenly to the challenge to combine intellectual endeavour with athletic, cultural, aesthetic and charitable pursuits.

Which propels me from these lofty parsonical sentiments to the raw reality of Caius Boat Club’s success: the people. I cannot overstate the determination, effort, maturity and grace of the students of Caius. For the decade that I have been here, they have provided the Fellowship not just with our raison d’être but also with limitless conversation and fascination.

The basic conditions provided by the College and by Caians being right, it is the students who have constructed a sporting club which is a hive of activity, energy and care. Sometimes my breath is taken away at the support which students in the Club show towards one another, especially in moments of personal crisis.

Caius Boat Club is not least a training ground for leadership and friendship. To all my Captains of Boats – Alistair Flett, Paul Rutkowski, Dr Tom Fardon, David Tait, Paul Steen, Harry Pim, Dr David Stokes, Sarah Holliday, Richard Bamford, Katie Davidson and Richard Jones – Thank you from my heart for all that you have given and shown us.

I can only close with one fundamental Reason Why, a reason who has offered nearly three decades of totally loyal and expert service to us. We salute our Boatman, Tony Baker.

Oh to, oh to be, oh to be a, Caian!

Gonville Boat Club

David Tait (1996), Captain of Gonville Boat Club, writes to invite any Caians who would like to renew their association with other keen Caian oarsmen of the past, either socially or on the river, to visit the Gonville Boat Club section of the Caius Boat Club website: http://www.caiusboatclub.org.uk or to make contact with him on: david.tait@cantab.net
EVENTS & REUNIONS FOR 2005

Caius Club Dinner ........................................... Friday 8 April
Annual Gathering (1971 & 1972) ................................ Friday 15 April
Jersey Caians Lunch ........................................... Saturday 23 April
Easter Full Term begins ...................................... Tuesday 26 April
Easter Full Term ends .......................................... Friday 17 June
Benefactors' Day (May Week Party) ......................... Saturday 18 June
Oakeshott Society Ball ........................................ Friday 24 June
Graduation ....................................................... Thursday 30 June
Annual Gathering (up to & including 1953) .......... Tuesday 5 July
Admissions Open Days ....................................... Thursday 7 and Friday 8 July
Master's Farewell Dinner for Benefactors .......... Friday 16 September
Annual Gathering (1982 & 1983) ......................... Friday 23 September
Michaelmas full term begins ............................. Tuesday 4 October
Commemoration of Benefactors' Feast ................ Sunday 20 November
Michaelmas full term ends ................................. Friday 2 December