

MAGDALENE MATTERS

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UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

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Welcome

Dear Members,

I write these few words whilst on the road with the Master. Bringing a flavour of the College to Members who live a very long way from Cambridge is both a privilege and a pleasure. We are so lucky to receive the warmest of welcomes when visiting alumni in SE Asia, the USA, Europe or the UK. The very recent Members' Dinners in Hong Kong and Singapore were a reminder, if one was needed, of the wonderfully loyal support we enjoy. I look forward to meeting many more of you during the various upcoming events this spring and summer, please do check the events pages on the website regularly.



This year we are celebrating the 300th anniversary of the arrival of Samuel Pepys's library at Magdalene in 1724, 20 years after his death. This remarkable, rare collection of 3,000 books assembled during his lifetime is housed in the Pepys Building. It took several decades to complete the building itself due to a lack of funds and Pepys subscribed on three separate occasions to support its construction; 300 years on it seems the right time to completely restore this unique Grade I listed building from top to bottom to ensure it stands proud for generations to come.

I trust you will find the architect's outline of our plans contained in these pages informative and of interest. Some of you will, I hope, choose to support this important endeavour and others will wish to focus their support elsewhere. We thank you for your ongoing interest, commitment and support of Magdalene, whatever form it takes.

CORINNE LLOYD

Editor and Director of Development

Magdalene Matters is published by the Alumni and Development Office. For further information or if you would like to submit content for future issues please contact the Senior Communications Officer, Mr Matthew Moon, or the Editor, Mrs Corinne Lloyd.

The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily represent the views of Magdalene College Cambridge.

Cover photo taken by Mr Matthew Moon

Magdalene Outreach

by Ms Natalie Thompson, Schools Liaison Officer

We were thrilled to discover in October that 15% of Magdalene's UK undergraduate applicants had engaged with one or more of our outreach events in the 12 months before submitting their application.

These students either attended a residential, a workshop run by Magdalene's Schools Liaison Officer, engaged with an online application support session, or entered our Arts and Humanities Essay Competition.

Several of these students are now Magdalene offer-holders, and we hope to see them take up their places in October. There is more work to be done to widen participation in Higher Education and we remain committed to improving representation in each successive academic year.

Subject Tasters

A new addition to our outreach programme for 2024 has been the hugely popular Subject Tasters webinar series.

Fellows and PhD students, representing a range of disciplines, led online sessions giving prospective applicants an insight into the subjects and teaching styles they could encounter at university. Sessions included: 'An Introduction to Joined up Thinking', with Outreach Fellow Dr Hannah Critchlow (2003); 'Social and Cultural History in the Time of Napoleon', with Senior Research Fellow Dr Sara Caputo (2019); and 'Climate Change in Tuvalu', with Dr Liam Saddington.

The Subject Tasters have been exceptionally well received, with over 1,500 students attending one or more session.

Schools Tours

Magdalene's Schools Liaison Officer, Natalie, spent two weeks visiting schools in our Link Areas of Merseyside, North Wales,

and the Isle of Man in Lent Term (you can read all about this on the College website).

In February she spent a week in Merseyside running workshops on 'A Level Choices' and 'Preparing to Apply to Competitive Universities'. Several schools hosted multi-school workshops, allowing us to reach 860 students from 23 schools across the region.

March saw the launch of HE+ Merseyside, which invites Year 12 students to participate in workshops and competitions run collaboratively by the Cambridge Admissions Office and Magdalene. HE+ Merseyside was visited by the University Vice Chancellor, Professor Deborah Prentice.

In March, Natalie visited students from the North Wales Seren Hubs in Gwynedd and Anglesey, Conwy and Denbighshire, and Flintshire and Wrexham. Magdalene has supported the Welsh Government's Seren programme since its inception in 2015. 400 students from 35 schools attended workshops on 'Critical Thinking, Metacognition, and Study Skills' and 'Preparing to Apply to Competitive Universities'.

Upcoming Events

We are looking forward to the brand new University of Cambridge Seren Residential, in partnership with Churchill College, for Welsh students in Year 12. Across Magdalene and Churchill we will welcome 108 students for four days of academic taster sessions, department and museum visits, College tours and admissions workshops.

We will also be hosting our annual Magdalene Residential for Year 12 students over the summer. June will be a busy month of school visits, we will welcome HE+ Merseyside students for a residential in July and look forward to the annual STEM SMART Residential in August.





**Mr Robert Chartener
OBE (1982)**

Fellow Commoner and
Chairman of the Magdalene
College Foundation, Mr
Robert Chartener, has been

awarded an Order of the British Empire (OBE) for
services to Higher Education.



**Professor Paul Dupree
(1996)**

Professor Paul
Dupree received an
honorary doctorate in
natural science from the
University of Copenhagen.

The award is in recognition of Professor Dupree's
outstanding contributions to unraveling the
complex structure of the plant cell wall and the
enzymes involved in its degradation and synthesis
and extensive collaborations and networking with
researchers at the Department of Chemistry.



**Professor Emily So
(2005)**

A new report
from The Earthquake
Engineering Field
Investigation Team (EEFIT),
co-led by Professor Emily

So, in collaboration with 30 global experts from
industry and universities, assessed the damage
in the aftermath of the Turkey-Syria earthquakes
and found that a drive for profit pushed all players
within the construction industry to take shortcuts.



Dr Philippa Steele (2010)

Dr Philippa Steele has been
promoted to Principal
Research Associate, the
research equivalent of
Professor, at the Faculty of

Classics. Her book *Exploring Writing Systems and
Practices in the Bronze Age Aegean* looks closely
at Cretan Hieroglyphic, Linear A and Linear B,
attempts to bring research on writing in the
modern world, and problems of language and
writing endangerment, into conversation with the
study of ancient writing systems.



**Professor Claire
Spottiswoode (2011)**

National Geographic
covered research
by Professor Claire
Spottiswoode, into the

honey-hunting partnership between humans and
wild birds in East Africa. The research has found
that wild honeyguide birds prefer to cooperate
with people who have learned specific local calls,
to find and access honey-filled bees' nests. One
of only a few rare instances of wild animals and
people working together to find food.



Dr Ari Ercole (2014)

Royal College of
Anaesthetists announced
Dr Ari Ercole as a Macintosh
Professor. Dr Ari Ercole is an
anaesthetist and intensive

care physician at Cambridge University Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust. His clinical interests are
concentrated on using digital technology and
informatics to improve care, in particular after
severe neurological injury in the ICU.



**Professor Walid Khaled
(2014)**

The University of
Cambridge has received UK
Research and Innovation
(UKRI) funding for research
on age-related biological

changes in model organisms as part of a national
collaboration. UKRI funding of £3 million has been
awarded to support a new research cluster, as part
of the MRC National Mouse Genetics Network led
by Professor Walid Khaled.

An exciting discovery led by Professor Khaled,
holds the potential for an alternative to surgery
to reduce breast cancer risk in carriers of BRCA
gene mutations. The researchers now have funding
from Cancer Research UK to trial this preventative
approach in mice. If effective, it will pave the way
for a pilot clinical trial in women carrying BRCA
gene mutations.



**Dr Peter Asimov
(2022)**

Lumley Research
Fellow in Music, Dr Peter
Asimov, was announced
as the winner of the IMS
Outstanding Dissertation

Award 2023. Peter's current projects include
performance-driven historical studies of French
modernism, the musical work of Yvonne Loriod
(1924–2010), and the intellectual history of
rhythm, in addition to several publications in
progress drawn from his thesis.

PROFESSOR HELEN VENDLER

Portrait Unveiled in Hall

Magdalene College is proud to unveil the first portrait of a female Fellow, Professor Helen Vendler (1994), in Hall. Professor Vendler was Parnell Fellow at Magdalene from 1994 to 1995 and was elected as an Honorary Fellow in 1997.

Professor Vendler was an esteemed American Literary Critic who has held the position of a professor of English at Harvard University from 1984. She was appointed as the William R. Kenan Professor of English and American Literature and Language at Harvard, and from 1987 to 1992,

she served as the Associate Dean of Arts and Sciences. Professor Vendler became the A. Kingsley Porter Harvard University Professor in 1990, marking her as the first woman to hold this esteemed position. In 2004, the National Endowment for the Humanities selected her for the Jefferson Lecture, the federal

government's highest honour for achievement in the humanities. The New York Times called Vendler "the leading poetry critic in America".

The artist behind this remarkable portrait is Mrs Mary Minifie, a renowned portraitist hailing from the East Coast of the United States. Mrs Minifie is a graduate of Wellesley College and the Boston University School of Fine Arts, where she earned her MFA. Her artistic journey led her to live and work abroad in Egypt, England, and Austria, where she exhibited her work extensively. Upon her return to the US she commenced her focused study of portraiture and the human figure under the guidance of portrait painter Paul Ingbretson.

The College is enormously grateful to a number of Fellows, whose generous donations funded the painting of the portrait, and to Mr Robert Chartener OBE (1982), Chairman of the Magdalene College Foundation and Fellow Commoner, for his great efforts to make the painting possible and arranging for its transport to Magdalene.



i It is with great sadness that the College reports the death of Professor Helen Vendler on 23 April 2024 at the age of 90. One of her last public engagements was taking part in an unveiling ceremony of her portrait where she described her happiness during her time at Magdalene as both "warmly personal" and "profoundly intellectual". She will be greatly missed.



*Professor Gina Neff
(2023) at Digital Good
Network Sheffield.*

IS GENERATIVE AI A THREAT TO DEMOCRACY?

by Professor Gina Neff (2023), Senior Research Fellow

Could a slew of deepfakes, misinformation, and online abuse created using Generative AI be unleashed to undermine the UK's next general election?

Some in the UK Government are signalling that we should be on our guard. James Cleverly, the Home Secretary, warned before his Silicon Valley touch-down with tech bosses in February that malign actors working on behalf of hostile governments could disrupt upcoming elections, commenting: the “era of deepfake and AI-generated content to mislead and disrupt is already in play”. Our team recently submitted evidence to the Joint Committee on National Security Strategy. And the topic has been at almost every AI conference of 2024, in anticipation of elections in democracies around the world. In a moment when there is much political

difference, we agree that something should be done to make people more resistant and societies more resilient to the effects of misinformation.

Deepfakes are some of the most prominent forms of AI-generated misinformation in the news today. A deepfake is an image, video, or recording that has been convincingly manipulated to misrepresent someone as doing or saying something that was not actually done or said. Deepfakes can be used for a variety of malign purposes, from promoting online scams to promulgating sustained harassment to inflaming political divisions and hatred.

We have already seen deepfakes aimed at all major UK political parties. In October, deepfaked audio of the Leader of the Opposition, Keir Starmer, emerged purporting to show him shouting and swearing at his staff. In November, faked audio of London Mayor Sadiq Khan went viral, stoking division around pro-Palestine protests and the

Remembrance Day parade. And in January, research was published showing that there were more than 100 deepfakes of Prime Minister Rishi Sunak circulating as paid promotions on Facebook alone.

While Generative AI makes it possible to generate ever more convincing disinformation, our problems are both technical and social, and it is vital to remember there is always a person or organisation sitting behind them intending to do harm.

Elections are a social and societal matter, built on trust. Helping the public understand what information they can trust online will be vital. Deepfakes are one particularly troubling form of 'fake news' but they are the tip of the iceberg when it comes to Generative AI's potential to generate and spread misinformation. In their August 2023 report, the Commons Science, Information and Technology Committee identified 'trust' as one of their 12 challenges of AI, warning that 'this material can be used to damage people's reputations, and – in election campaigns – poses a significant threat to the conduct of democratic contests'. What online material we can or cannot trust has always been a tricky question, but it is one that will only be supercharged without clear action on safe and responsible AI.

It's not just false information that Generative AI can help create. Thousands of AI generated social media accounts operate on major platforms to parrot particular views, to artificially inflate engagements on posts, and to abuse or troll real people. A major investigation from Tortoise media in February, for example, revealed that hundreds of bot accounts operated from Saudi Arabia were engaged in trolling celebrity Amber Heard on X/ Twitter.

These armies of AI generated troll accounts have the potential to push people off social media and out of politics. MPs, candidates, and politicians from all backgrounds are increasingly at risk, but this kind of abuse is particularly targeted at women and people of colour, with research from the charity GlitchUK showing that Black Women are the target of significantly more online toxicity than any other demographic.

We cannot allow unchecked AI-ran bot armies to disrupt our free and fair politics, where people from any ethnic, economic, or cultural background should be able to stand for office and do their jobs without receiving torrents of abuse.

What can be done?

At the Minderoo Centre for Technology and Democracy at the University of Cambridge, we work to radically rethink the relationship between technology and society, campaigning to make sure that AI is developed and deployed responsibly and for the benefit of humanity.

Part of the challenge is helping people understand what information they can trust online. Fact checkers across the world already do a lot of work verifying stories and countering misleading narratives, but with generative AI ramping up the sophistication of false narratives and speed at which they can be created, they have their work cut out for them.

Our Cambridge team are part of the Horizon Europe project AI4Trust, a consortium of 17 organisations across Europe working to build tools to combat mis- and disinformation that combine AI capabilities with human-in-the-loop fact checkers. More innovative fact checking and content verification schemes of this kind are going to be necessary going forward, which is also going to require buy-in from regulators and media platforms across the world.

Societies need the help of social media platforms if we are to combat an AI generated bot pandemic, too. In a recent article for Wired, I warned of a new 'Digital Dark Age' with social media platforms pulling up their data drawbridges, preventing any of us from studying how harmful narratives and toxic behaviour are spread online. More eyes are needed to spot where this problem is happening – and more hands necessary to combat it.

One vital step towards a more transparent and accountable digital information space is for social media providers to allow researchers greater access for academics and civil society to data from their platforms. Access to data of this kind can work hand-in-hand with manual verification practices such as source verification or technical solutions like content watermarking to create a trustworthy information environment. This is one of the issues that we at MCTD Cambridge have been working on. We believe that this problem involves everyone and will require the efforts of a more informed public, companies and governments.

And after all, democracies rely on trust and transparency to function. Building a system of trust is the only way that Generative AI and functional democracies can exist hand in hand.



Professor Gina Neff

Professor Gina Neff runs University of Cambridge's Minderoo Centre for Technology & Democracy. Her award-winning research focuses on how digital information is changing our work and everyday lives. She led the team who won the 2021 Webby for the Internet's best educational website, the A to Z of AI, which has reached over one million people in 17 different languages. Her books include *Venture Labor* (MIT Press 2012), *Self-Tracking* (MIT Press 2016) and *Human-Centered Data Science* (MIT Press 2022).

Read more about the Minderoo Centre for Technology and Democracy at www.mctd.ac.uk.

CHASING THE WORK-LIFE BALANCE

by Ms Niamh Bridson Hubbard (2016), Bye-Fellow

In December, I found myself on the start line of the European Cross Country Championships in Brussels. Although this was the most prestigious event that I had been selected to compete at, the moments before the race were much like any

other. I stood shoulder to shoulder with my teammates and competitors, shoes already covered in thick mud, and enjoying the final moments of calm before the gun went off.

The course comprised of six 1-mile laps around the park under Brussels Atomium statue. Every inch of the perimeter was lined with spectators armed with cow bells, megaphones, and homemade signs to cheer us round. Thirty-five minutes of gruelling running later, we re-grouped as a team just beyond the finish line. All six of us had finished inside the top twenty, seeing us not only come away with a team gold but also put together the best performance by a GB team in the history of the event. It really was a day to remember.

Two weekends previous, in a breakthrough race, I had snuck into the team at the trial in Liverpool. I had started off conservatively and worked my way through the field, moving into a qualifying position in the last mile. Of the selected



team, I was the only one who hadn't represented Great Britain before and, bar one other postgraduate student, the only one not on a professional contract. In a sport like cross country, 25 is quite old to be making a team for the first time. Due to the time demands of training at an elite level, unless you can consolidate junior success into securing a sponsor that allows you to pursue athletics full-time, very few people manage to remain competitive.

I had experienced this acutely in the year I spent working for a management consultancy between finishing my undergraduate degree and returning to start my PhD in 2021. Any training I wanted to do had to be done first thing in the morning due to unpredictable finishing times and this odd schedule mostly kept me away from training with others. When I was running, I was often exhausted, unable to hit the splits outlined by my coach and I found myself picking up small injuries that I struggled to shift. My experiences over this year quickly led me towards applying for a PhD.

My desire to start a PhD was motivated by two key factors. The first was academic interest into questions of how we balance work with life, how many hours each week we should work, and how the outcomes of these relate to our wellbeing. For my MPhil thesis I had touched on these topics, but following my experiences in the private sector, I felt they warranted further enquiry. The second was that I recognised the PhD would better support my own wellbeing; providing me with high levels of autonomy, opportunities to use my skills, and discretion over the way I structured my time.

Over the last three years, I have seen my academic and athletic careers flourish together. I've had the pleasure of working as part of a research team on the global four-day week pilots, presented the findings of my own research into working time reduction at conferences, and recently delivered a short lecture series in the Sociology Department on critically evaluating the role of paid employment within contemporary society. On the running side, I've seen year-on-year improvements, becoming a regular feature of international teams and opening up possibilities to pursue running full-time once I finish my PhD.

That isn't to say that everything over the last few years has been simple. While managing my time may be less challenging than previously, correctly managing my energy remains an exercise in continuous negotiation. Recently, my partner described me as "intentionally boring", a slightly tongue in cheek characterisation, but perhaps not an unfair one. Time before and after work spent training and weekends spent away competing tend not to leave much surplus for seeing friends and family. Rather than social commitments, spare time I do have tends to be put towards rest – that or trying to address the ever-growing pile of laundry I seem to generate.

I feel incredibly lucky to be in the position I am in and thankful for all the wonderful people who have supported me over the last few years, in particular my supervisor, Magdalene's own Brendan Burchell, who has met my attempts to 'do both' with unwavering – if slightly bemused – enthusiasm. As I look forward to the year ahead, my calendar is full of exciting events: competitions, conferences and hopefully the submission of my PhD. In the midst of all of that however, I plan to make the most of the remainder of my time at Magdalene.



FASHION ON THE RATION

by Dr Clare Bradley (2000)

In spring 2018 I bought four pairs of shoes in six weeks. They were lovely (hello, 1930s-style coral suede high-heels), but seeing them lined up in the bottom of my wardrobe made me feel very wasteful.

I suspect that many of you, like me, have become more aware in the last few years of the impact of the clothing and textile industry – from human tragedies like the Rana Plaza sewing factory collapse in 2013, to environmental disasters like the mountains of discarded clothes created by shipping our clothing waste to other countries.

I wanted to address the impact of my own wardrobe and buying habits – but the downside? Sewing and knitting are two of my main hobbies, and part of the pleasure of these hobbies comes from browsing fabric shops or opening the sewing room cupboard at home and picking from a teetering pile of lovely fabrics to start a new project. I started the hunt for a scheme that would make me stop and think about what I was buying and making, but which didn't make me feel resentful or suck all the pleasure out of my hobbies and my wardrobe.

Over the years I'd come across a few schemes on sewing blogs and social media that others had tried. Some of these were a short, sharp shock to someone used to buying clothes regularly, and I was worried that I wouldn't want to, or be able to stick to them. 'Buy nothing new for a year' is a great way of resetting your thinking about your clothes, but what happens if that's the year that the elastic on half your pairs of knickers gives up the ghost?

The scheme I settled on was one which suited my personal wardrobe. I wear a lot of 1940s-style clothes, just because I like the fashion of that era, and so I looked up the UK clothes rationing scheme from 1941. This allows me 66 coupons each year, which can be 'spent' on ready-made clothes and shoes (e.g. eleven coupons for a woollen dress, one for a pair



of short socks), but also fabric and wool. I've stuck to that allowance for almost six years now. By restricting myself in this way I really reflect on what I need and how much I want it. I can have 8 metres of silk to make a Victorian fancy dress ballgown, but that means I can't have any new socks for four years! I've found myself using more, sturdier natural fibres, and mending and remaking things rather than getting rid of them, as most people up until the mid-20th century did.

I'm not pretending I'm some sort of environmental saint – nobody needs a Victorian fancy dress costume, and yes, I could cut back further – but if everyone made small changes in many different aspects of our lives, we could have an impact. Our mass buying power could support companies which pay their workers fairly and don't dispose of thousands of tons of cheap synthetic clothing in other countries.

Perhaps you'd like to give it a try? Try mending a sock, you'd be surprised how amazingly smug it makes you feel to put on something you've mended yourself. And I'll continue wearing my coral suede high heels until I destroy them by wearing them to cycle in.



Dr Clare Bradley studied Medicine at Magdalene and is now a respiratory consultant at Portsmouth's QA Hospital. She was crowned the winner of the BBC's *The Great British Sewing Bee* in 2020 and is a master of mending repairs and refashions. You can follow her work on Instagram [@clare.bradders](https://www.instagram.com/clare.bradders).



History of the Pepys Collection and Building

2024 marks the 300th anniversary of the Pepys Library arriving at Magdalene. This year is focussed on raising funds to completely renovate and repurpose the unique Grade I listed Pepys Building.

Samuel Pepys (1633–1703) was Secretary to the Admiralty, a Member of Parliament and President of the Royal Society. A scholar of Magdalene, he directed in his Will that his library, the collection of a lifetime, should pass into Magdalene's possession and be housed in the Pepys Building after the death of his nephew in 1723.

A private library, wrote Pepys, should comprise 'in fewest books and least room the greatest diversity of subjects, stiles and languages its owner's reading will bear'. His library reflects a remarkably wide range of interests including literature, history, science, music and the fine arts.

The 3,000 volumes, including his diaries kept from 1660–1669, are kept as Pepys left them, arranged by height in the

twelve book Presses which he had made to house the collection.

The Pepys Building

The Pepys Building is not just a building; it's a time capsule of the past; built over several decades, it offers a glimpse into the vibrant architectural history of England.

The original plan was a modest all-brick structure with two wings separated by a skeletal link. Construction initially stalled due to lack of funding but the project was revived after advice from architect Robert Hooke in 1677. The new idea was to bring the front forward by several feet and create a large room over a covered exterior corridor linking the two wings. A fan of the new plans, Pepys made three subscriptions to the original building fund.



The only part of the College not built in brick, the back of the building, is in the style of a Jacobean manor house, while the front is neo-classical and constructed in Ketton stone.

The exact history of the building is unknown, and it is full of puzzles. The least of these is the irregular ground-plan. The south wing deflects northwards and it is believed this is because of the College Brew-house ran alongside the river (no longer there unfortunately). The dormer windows are not uniform; the south wing is two feet shorter than the north and there is a lopsided rhythm and asymmetry to the building. The middle window on the first floor is not central and the distance between the second and third windows is greater than that between their equivalent pair on the other side.

We aim to carefully restore the entire Grade I listed heritage building to its former glory, with architectural integrity and remarkable craftsmanship.



Plans for the Pepys Building

by Mr Robert Montgomery, Conservation Architect

Having completed the award-winning College Library, Archive Centre and The Robert Cripps Gallery, Magdalene now has the opportunity to create much-needed additional facilities for the Pepys Library within the vacated space in the iconic 17th century Pepys Building.

This work forms part of the wider development strategy for the College's collections and also enables the preservation and conservation work of the Pepys Building itself. FJCStudio with the assistance of RMArchitects have been appointed by the College to put forward proposals for the careful preservation and sympathetic alterations to the Pepys Building.

The Pepys Building, completed in 1703, forms the east side of Second Court at Magdalene. The design of the building is a dichotomy of styles;

seen from the Fellows' Garden it is reminiscent of an early 17th century Jacobean Manor House, whereas from Second Court it is of a late 17th century collegiate building in the English Baroque style, popular at that time. This later style is attributed to Robert Hooke and the College history states that his advice was sought in 1677 to 'revive the designs of an earlier building'. Hooke's proposal was to bring forward the west elevation and 'create a large room over a loggia in the central link' which housed the Pepys Library from 1724.



Architectural visualisation of the new public entrance hall.



The current design put forward by FJCStudio uses the spaces vacated in the right cloister, where the College library used to be, to create additional facilities for the Pepys Library. There will be a new entrance area with a seminar room and accessible toilets on the ground floor and a designated reading area for visiting academics and a general exhibition space on the first floor. The Pepys Library will also be fully accessible with a lift to provide access to the first floor so that the collection can be experienced by everyone.

The design is sympathetic to the character of the Pepys Building and provides the maximum use of the building without harming its Grade I listed status.



Pepys Library School Visits

by Ms Catherine Sutherland, Special Collections Librarian

Samuel Pepys and the Great Fire of London are popular parts of the national curriculum for the youngest of primary school age pupils. As part of its outreach work, the Pepys Library offers school visits for year one classes (five- and six-year olds) to see Pepys's diary for themselves.

The school children are always very well prepared for their visits and come armed with several facts and questions. A six-year old's concept of time often leads to some unusual queries, and I am often asked if I have met Samuel Pepys!

A typical visit includes a short talk about Pepys, his library and the Great Fire of London. We look at a large portrait of Pepys, a map of London by Wencelaus Hollar (1607–1677) which shows

the area damaged by the fire, and some pictures of early 'fire engines' invented shortly after the event. To conclude their trip, the young visitors look around the library, where we have staff on hand to point out Pepys's diary on display.

It is a pleasure to see how much the school groups gain from seeing the library, and the lively nature of their visits certainly contrasts with the quiet, academic use of the library for visiting scholars. It is a prime example of how historic libraries can be used for public benefit and offer a wide range of educational purposes catering for different audiences.

Due to its size, the Pepys Library is currently limited to accommodating one class at a time, and therefore we usually host schools from Cambridge within walking distance of the library. Schools from further afield would love to visit, however they are often limited to organising trips for whole year groups to be financially viable. The addition of a seminar room with audio-visual capabilities would enable the library to host longer visits for larger school groups opening up the collection and its treasures to future generations of historians.

THE DIAS LAW LECTURE

by Sir Christopher Greenwood, Master

Mr Mickey Dias (1955) was a much loved and legendary figure in Magdalene for almost sixty years. Born into a distinguished family of lawyers and judges in what was then Ceylon, he followed his father and grandfather to read Law at Trinity Hall, where he obtained a starred first as well as a tennis Blue. He was elected as Magdalene's first Law Fellow in 1955 and remained a Fellow until his death in 2009.

During those years he turned Magdalene into a legal powerhouse, producing a Lord Chief Justice, a Chancellor, three members of the Court of Appeal and eight High Court judges, as well as a First Treasury Counsel, numerous QCs and partners of major law firms. A great scholar and a superb teacher, he is remembered with affection by all he taught. At Mickey's memorial service, the late Lord Judge (1959) said that in writing a judgment he always asked himself "whether this would be good enough for Mickey Dias".

In Mickey's memory, the College has established the Dias Law Lecture. We are delighted that the first lecture will be given by his daughter, Mrs Justice Dias. She will consider the extent to which the themes of one of Mickey's most famous articles – "Gotterdammerung: Gods of the Law in Decline" – raise issues which are still relevant today.

As a former student of Mickey, to whom I owe more than I can put into words, I am very much looking forward to this.

i The College is working to fully endow the Mickey Dias Law Fellowship so it will continue to provide for a full time lecturer in Law in perpetuity. To support the fund please visit: www.magd.cam.ac.uk/dias-law-fellowship



*Mr Micky Dias at Magdalene
Graduation Day c1980.*

© FACULTY OF LAW, EMINENT SCHOLARS ARCHIVE, UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Young Enterprise

UK's Finance and Enterprise Education Charity

by Mr William Salomon OBE (1975)

Receiving an OBE for educational charity work earlier this year was an immeasurably proud moment for me and my family. Young Enterprise has always been an important part of our lives, since my father, Sir Walter, founded the charity in 1962.

Entering our 7th decade there is still so much more that needs to be done to increase young people's access to opportunities to build the skills to learn to earn and look after their money.

Young Enterprise was originally based on a successful Junior Achievement programme encountered by my father while travelling in America. He admired the US charity's ability to foster work readiness, entrepreneurship and financial literacy skills and was particularly impressed by its philosophy of "learning by doing", a philosophy that still underpins Young Enterprise's work today. Over 60 years ago, he launched the first UK Company Programme in Chatham, Kent and it attracted 113 teenagers who formed eight student firms.

It was in the 70s when the charity took its first great leap forward, seeing 22 Young Enterprise Area Boards of volunteers start up across the UK. These wonderfully creative volunteers established Young Enterprise Centres in abandoned warehouses and disused factories, a church building and even in a pub. An initial demonstration of the can-do attitude and

creativity that Young Enterprise aims to instill and develop in all the young people who pass through its programmes.

By the 80s, backers such as Mobil Oil were coming aboard, and six regional winners attended the national finals in London with the 'Best Company' receiving £1,500 in cash. This was the beginning of the exciting format Young Enterprise still uses today, now a national initiative, where school students aged 13 – 19 are given the opportunity to develop their skills and prepare for the world of work by setting up and running their own company.

In 2023, Young Enterprise celebrated 60 years of providing financial and enterprise education opportunities in communities across the UK. Throughout that time, over 7.2 million young people have benefited from Young Enterprise's programmes, while 1.1m young people have since set up and run 84,000 Young Enterprise companies. All this would have been impossible without the thousands of industry volunteers and teachers who continue to support programmes across the UK every year.

Through these hands-on programmes, resources and teacher training, Young Enterprise has markedly increased access to practical real-world learning. The type of learning children not only seem to enjoy, but often excel in. With the help of its partners, educators, and volunteers, Young Enterprise has been able to equip its young people with key workplace skills to further support them in building their own futures.

In December, the House of Lords called for an urgent overhaul of secondary education, while both major parties are providing policies aimed at dealing with record absenteeism. Too many children are finding that the UK's 'one size fits all' approach to education policy simply doesn't excite or motivate them. The secondary education system continues to remain focused primarily on academic learning and exams. And while academics



Young Enterprise Trade Fair at Old Spitalfields Market London.

LOOKING AHEAD, WE ARE COMMITTED TO UNLOCKING THE POTENTIAL OF YOUNG PEOPLE WHO FACE THE GREATEST BARRIERS TO SOCIAL MOBILITY, BY PROVIDING INCREASED OPPORTUNITIES FOR THEM TO APPLY THEIR LEARNING AND BY SUPPORTING THEM WITH RELATABLE ROLE MODELS AND A DIVERSE VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY.

are clearly important, it is Young Enterprise's belief that this need to be accompanied and complemented by meaningful opportunities for young people to apply their learning. Too often, learning can be too focused on building knowledge, rather than providing opportunities to translate that knowledge into action, and in doing so build critical skills. Being involved in Young Enterprise's work has enabled me to travel around the country, visiting schools and talking to young people, seeing our programmes in action, and observing the type of learning that they can apply and transfer into their future plans.

These real-life skills, together with an enterprising mindset help prepare young people for a fast-paced changing world

of work – qualities the nation's businesses are looking for when they hire recruits. Communication, financial capability, problem-solving, team building and increasingly digital skills are as essential. When they are given the experience, the young people I have met over the years have always provided inspiration through their ability, hard work and sense of fun.

Looking ahead, we are committed to unlocking the potential of young people who face the greatest barriers to social mobility, by providing increased opportunities for them to apply their learning and by supporting them with relatable role models and a diverse volunteer community. Our work through Project IF "Inspiring Futures" focuses specifically on bringing opportunities into the most deprived areas of the country and preparing young people for an increasingly complex world, enabling them to make positive contributions to their own communities and become agents of change in society.

By continuing to provide real-world experiences of learning, we hope we can instil the next generation with the same enthusiasm that we have had for entrepreneurship, and in doing so, potentially transform many young people's lives. A prospect that stands to benefit us all in terms of increasing the future productivity and economic potential of our country.

Young Enterprise inspiring students in the class room.



MAGDALENE-MAGDALEN SPORTS DAY

by Mr Gordon Yu (2022)

According to legend (i.e. a comment from Matt Tighe (2006) on Magdalene's Instagram), Matt organised the first Magdalene-Magdalen rugby match in Lent 2008. Since then, the event has expanded to encompass all the sports both sides can manage to put a team out for.

This year, we had the pleasure of hosting our Oxf*rd counterparts and golly, what an immeasurable pleasure it was. Over 300 students, alumni, and lovers of all things Magdalene, including the Master, Sir Christopher Greenwood and the Chaplain, The Reverend Sarah Atkins (2002), made their merry way to the impenetrable fortress/Colosseum that is John's pitches.



Magdalene Women's Netball Team.

The build-up in the week was rather tumultuous. I became rather well acquainted with Keith, John's groundsman, as more and more sports were cancelled due to our common enemy – slightly above average amounts of rain. That morning, all in attendance thought we were not playing on grass at all. However, by some Magdalene-Magdalen miracle, the sun was shining on the hallowed day and Keith gave us the go-ahead to play on grass. It was a rather scary sight to see over 50 Oxf*rd students descending into town to buy boots from Sports Direct on their College's budget.

The women's football started the day off strong with a 2-1 win showing some classy finishes and bone-crunching defending. At the same time, mixed netball unfortunately suffered our only defeat of the day. I am told that a mixture of match-fixing, cheating, and general conspiracy led to this injustice. I am proud that men's football was able to put out two teams for the first time in a long while. The men's first team cruised to a 7-1 win, emulating Germany's triumphant thrashing of Brazil in 2014. The men's second team showed the depth of the footballing talent at Magdalene by squeaking past Oxf*rd 1-0. Meanwhile, ladies' netball revenged their mixed counterparts by calmly cruising to a 26-9 victory. Magdalene had a clean sweep in the racquet sports as well, winning the badminton (6.5-1.5), tennis (Pair 1 6-3, Pair 2 7-6), and squash (2-1). My personal highlight of the day was the rugby match. On the back of a 7-year winless streak, Magdalene came out 40-28 winners, only needing to sacrifice one player's nose in the process – but he ensures us that it is now straighter than before. To round off the day, mixed hockey won 15-8. A frankly fantastic day for Magdalene sport!



Magdalene Mixed Hockey Team.

After the sport concluded, the most important aspect of the day began: the evening festivities. Magdalene and Magdalen sang, danced and played some questionable darts in the revamped bar. The games room hosted pool and table football. A rather frantic game of "Où est le Poulet?" ensued as everyone tried to find the chickens, Léa Steele and I, who had a pot of gold (50p and £1 coins) to hand out. Though it was never a competition, I think we won the night as well.

Magdalene-Magdalen is one of the highlights of the year and brings together the College like nothing else. I look forward to next year. Till then, Garde Ta Foy!



Magdalene Men's Rugby Team.

LIVES AND THE DREAM: WRITING THE BIOGRAPHY OF MARY AND PADRAIC COLUM

by Professor Margaret Kelleher (2023), Parnell Fellow

My project during this wonderful Parnell Fellowship is a biography of two Irish writers: Mary Maguire Colum (1884–1957) and Padraic Colum (1881–1972). The works and lives of these writers are now unjustly forgotten, even within Ireland: though older Irish people remember lines from poems by Padraic which they learnt at school, such as ‘An Old Woman of the Roads’.

Mary Maguire Colum is mentioned in passing in a handful of studies and her excellent memoir *Life and the Dream* (1947) is a well-kept secret, but can be stumbled upon in second-hand bookshops. The memoir details her childhood and young adult life in Ireland, and the first decades of the Colums’ lives in America (where they moved in 1914). In a welcome recognition of its value – especially as a portrait of the Irish Literary Revival – it has been recently translated into Japanese.

Mary’s review of *Ulysses* in 1922 was one of the three liked by James Joyce. In 1931, Amy Loveman (founder of the American weekly magazine *Saturday Review of Literature*) described Mary as ‘the most brilliant of our women critics’. And in an especially memorable indication of her contemporary status as critic, F. Scott Fitzgerald, in a letter to his editor Max Perkins on the publication day of *Great Gatsby* (1925), wrote of Mary Colum, ‘I’d like her to like it’.

Padraic Colum was wittily described by fellow writer Frank O’Connor as ‘the only sane man in Irish literature’; his death in January 1972 made front-page news of the *New York Times*

(Mary’s did not). The following lines from his obituary provide a useful summary of his life and point to some of the challenges facing my biography:

“Colum was an acquaintance and admirer of all, a confidant of some, a perceptive critic and revealing biographer of many. In his own right, he was a gentle, lyrical poet, a whimsical teller of tales for children, an able historian and essayist, a founder of the Abbey Theatre and, potentially, a fine dramatist. But the Irish Renaissance was filled with so many towering figures that Padraic Colum was sometimes over shadowed when many thought he should not have been. His times were flamboyant times, and he was mild, modest and inconspicuous..... Mr. Colum was a devoted friend of Joyce, and many called him Joyce’s Boswell”.

In summary, I am telling the narrative of two lives, lives that are largely unknown; and the recurring tendency or temptation (or need?) is to render them significant or interesting through the lives of those they knew, or more precisely the now more famous people by whom they were known. Instead, my aim is to recover the ‘dream’ as well as their lives: to explore within their very unusual emigrant narrative their specific hopes of literary success, the fate of such hopes, the graph of their personal fortunes and happiness as individuals and as a married couple. Given their deep involvement in early twentieth-century cultural and political movements in Dublin, what led them to emigrate and what did it mean, and require, to stay?

I am hugely fortunate in having encountered many archival materials previously unmined,





Mary and Padraic Colum. Photo by Robert W Kelley, *Life Magazine*, 23 August 1948.

that can enable the rich and complex biographies – both personal and professional – of Mary and Padraic to be revealed. These include extensive holdings at the New York Public Library where a recent fellowship at the NYPL's Cullman Centre enabled months of research, and the recent discovery of some 500 early love letters exchanged between Padraic and Mary prior to their marriage. I am currently spending many happy hours in the magnificent Magdalene New Library perusing that correspondence.

The photo reproduced here was first published in *Life Magazine* on 23 August 1948, as part of photographer Robert W. Kelley's feature on the MacDowell Colony for artists at New Hampshire, which Mary and Padraic frequently visited. They are busily at work on their jointly authored biography, *Our Friend James Joyce*, which was published soon after Mary's death in 1957.

To cast a personal light on this snapshot of professional collaboration, by way of conclusion (for now), I draw

lines from one of Padraic's last poems, called 'Images of Departure' and written in the late 1960s. It was inspired by a trip to Ireland, alone, during which he viewed John Hughes' sculpture of Orpheus and Euridice, still to be seen today in Dublin's Hugh Lane Gallery. In the poem, the speaker refuses a narrative of age and loss for the pair of lovers, choosing instead an emblem that defies change:

*'They have not aged, this pair, they well remember
The eagerness of first companionship,
The dreams, the ardors, and the prophecies'*

'Images of Departure', 1969.



Professor Margaret Kelleher is Parnell Fellow at Magdalene 2023–2024. She is Chair of Anglo-Irish Literature and Drama at University College Dublin, board member of the Museum of Literature Ireland and a member of the Royal Irish Academy.

JCR UPDATE

by Ms Melanie Benedict (2022)



Halfway Hall

This year's new JCR committee has begun with a great spirit of growth, cohesion and providing for our College Members.

The Magdalene-Magdalen Sports Day was the most successful yet and shed light on the beauty of our love for Magdalene. It was wonderful to see students across the years work together for our victory!

Our Greens and Charities Officers, Ms Polly Wilson (2022) and Ms Martha Wood (2022), have worked incredibly hard. Together the JCR raised over £800 in Lent Term for local charities.

Our Catering and Accommodation Officer, Ms Hannah Townson (2022), with the help of the Head of Catering, has secured students breakfast pastries and coffee in the Bar, which will be used as a morning cafe for Easter Term. They also organised many themed formals including a Lunar New Year, International Women's Day and St Patrick's Day formal!

Halfway Hall was quite the celebration, as was the Marriage Formal, organised by Freshers' Reps Mr Dev Atara (2023) and Ms Harriet Reagan (2022). Our Magdalene Jazz Band provided wonderful music for both receptions. BOP, while keeping its roots, has had a refresh, and students are enjoying our weird and wacky themes as much as ever.

Ms Karen Dias (2023), our Access Officer, helped run the CUSU Shadow Scheme with great success, and our Class Act Officer and Treasurer, Mr Devan Simon-Mcbride (2022) and Mr Saughn Sekhon (2022) both volunteered as shadows.

Overall, every single member of the JCR has been on a roll providing for our students. With two terms to go, I can only look forward to all that they have in store!

MCR UPDATE

by Mr Felix Dresden (2020), MCR Co-President



St John's Swap

Lent Term has been and gone, bringing to the MCR a mix of old and new. The weekly BA formals and post-drinks remain the heart and soul of our social life. The Parlour talks, organised by Academic Officer Ms Brittany Muffet (2021), continued with 'Ramsey Theory – seeing the world through many colours', and secretaries Ms Hannah Clayton (2021) and Mr Valentin Datcu (2023) provided the Spring Banquet, a perfect crescendo to end term.

Social Secretary Ms Leila Uddin (2020) and Women's Officer Ms Hattie Powell-Cook (2023) have started a tradition of Sunday coffee mornings. These have been a success with those preferring breakfast and newspapers, to wining and dining.

Exciting one-off events happened this term: Lunar New Year mahjong hosted by Vice-President Mr Diarmid Xu (2020), and a Sustainability Swap hosted by Green Officers Ms Lola Stakenburg (2023) and Ms Jenna Goldblatt (2023), gave members a chance to swap unwanted items. A different kind of swap happened at John's formal hall thanks to Leila. (We had hoped to go Trinity too... until their ceiling collapsed.)

Meanwhile, Treasurers Mr Isaac Wilkins (2022) and Mr Hugh Thomas (2021), Diarmid, Co-President Ms Siobhán Johnson (2022) and I have continued to fight for unsung victories behind the scenes. From here, onwards and (in the case of the Trinity scaffolders) upwards!



MAGDALENE IN AMERICA

by Mr Robert Chartener OBE (1982), Fellow Commoner and Chairman of the Magdalene College Foundation

The Magdalene College Foundation (MCF) has had several busy months. In early November, 30 alumni met in Boston at the home of Dr Peter Abbott OBE (1998), the British Consul General to New England.

After drinks, Dr Abbott introduced Dr Melanie Ivarsson, the Chief Development Officer for the mRNA pharmaceutical company Moderna. She gave a fascinating presentation about her company's ground-breaking efforts to develop a COVID-19 vaccine. Moderna, a fraction of the size of other companies researching similar prevention drugs, worked tirelessly to gain approval from the Center for Disease Control within a one-year period. It was a truly inspirational story. Following her presentation, the group walked a short distance to the Somerset Club and enjoyed a dinner generously sponsored by Mrs Leslie and Mr Alastair Adam (1990).

Two days later, another group of 30 alumni met for the 31st annual Magdalene Dinner in New York. Held at the Colony Club on Park Avenue, we were joined by the Master,

Sir Christopher Greenwood, Development Director, Mrs Corinne Lloyd (2010), and the Senior Bursar, Mr Steven Morris (2007). The Master spoke after dinner about the great contribution being made by the New Library. The 32nd New York Dinner will be held this November.

In early March, a dozen alumni gathered near Grand Central Station for a late breakfast sponsored by the directors of the MCF. Later that week, two dozen alumni met in Washington, DC, for an enjoyable evening of drinks hosted by new MCF director, Ms Clemency M Burton-Hill MBE (2000), and her husband, Mr James Roscoe, Deputy Head of Mission at the British Embassy in Washington. We enjoyed one of America's best-kept secrets (revealed to this group as Gruet's delicious Méthode Champenoise sparkling wine from New Mexico) and proclaimed that this should become an annual event.

As we enter the spring months, we look forward to supporting the Pepys Restoration Project. Pepys' books arrived at the College exactly 300 years ago, and we plan to bolster Magdalene's efforts to provide additional research space, improved accessibility and safer storage conditions for this unique collection. Our ranks in North America are small, but our excitement about the College's prospects remains large and enthusiastic.



Upcoming Events

14 September

Pepysian Celebration Weekend:
17th Century Feast in Hall

15 September

Pepysian Celebration Weekend: Open Air
Theatre in the Fellows' Garden

21 September

10th, 25th and 50th Anniversary
Reunion Dinner for 2014, 1999, and
1974 matriculands

18 October

Magdalene in London: Dinner at
the Oxford & Cambridge Club

19 October

NRM Night

8 November

NRM Night

13 November

Toronto Dinner

15 November

Annual New York Dinner

16 November

Washington DC Dinner

22 November

NRM Night

6 December

Annual Carol Concert in London

7 December

Benefactors Event: Festive Drinks
with the Master

7 December

The Master's Guild Dinner

Please note that the above events may be subject
to change.

Additional events may be added; please check
www.magd.cam.ac.uk/events and look out for
updated listings in *Magdalene eMatters*. If you
are interested in attending an event or would
like additional information, please email
events@magd.cam.ac.uk.