

WORCESTER  
COLLEGE  
RECORD



2002

orchestras. With our musical evenings, choral concerts and Chapel choir all being of the highest standard, it is a wonder that we ever feel the need to go beyond our walls. However, students do venture out from our beautiful grounds, and when they do so, it is undoubtedly with great success: the student press, debating, mooted courts, student radio, political and charity groups across Oxford have all benefited from Worcester student participation.

Clearly the student body is very busy but it is still amazing the time that is found to sit and chat in the buttery, play pool in the bar or venture further into Oxford to sample the delights of the city's nightlife. Perhaps the social event that stands out most this year was the Commemoration Ball. For those who attended it was unforgettable. The work and effort which had been invested in this mammoth project certainly paid off. If the year started with a Roman form of opulent celebration, it ended with Worcester showing that in one part of the modern world at least such splendour can still be created!

In many ways, it must seem that we lead a rather charmed life but we do realise that to support it many people work very hard indeed. I know that my fellow members of the JCR would wish me to thank them all - from those who see that the beloved buttery can always supply a caffeine fix to others who prevent trespassers from treading on the holy ground of the lawn of the main quad; from the Head of Security and his team of porters to the scouts without whom many students would disappear into a pile of papers; from the kitchen and bar staff who provide us with sustenance to the gardeners who create the beauty which surrounds us. All of them deserve our gratitude, as do many other members of the College, both senior and junior, who quite simply make Worcester such a lovely place in which to study and to spend one's Oxford career.

**Duncan Cowan Gray**

*\*A long tradition - see the article by the Revd Peter Thorburn. (ed)*

## MCR REPORT

2001-2002 has been a year of change in the Middle Common Room; for the first time, a shared presidency, an experiment that proved largely successful; for the first time too, a former JCR president, Jamie Corner, graduating to the MCR helm. Certainly the Presidents had experience on their side, with a combined total of eight years at Worcester. More to the point, we had the support of a superb committee and the graduate community as a whole. Material acquisitions in the Common Room itself have been a wide-screen television, dart board and billiard table. These improved amenities are largely thanks to our Treasurer, Marc Coward, who has clarified our accounts and placed our affairs on a secure financial footing. We must also record our appreciation of our Secretary, Luke Rallan, our Social Secretaries, Hazel Betts and Lucy Moore, our bar manager, Richard Bomphrey, the Women's and Welfare Representative, Liz Young, and our Computer Representatives, James Murray and Alexander Hutton. An innovation was to have a Green Representative, Andrew Reisner, who did much to ensure the success of the new recycling scheme and to raise awareness in College of the importance of energy saving and environmental issues. Our heartfelt thanks go to all of them.

One of Worcester's finest achievements this year was the victory of the College Quiz team in the University Inter-Collegiate Quiz Tournament. The four protagonists, John Wilby, Marc Tervakoski, James Murray, and their captain, Keith Owen were all drawn from the MCR. They defeated rivals from Balliol, Pembroke and Magdalen en route to the finals when in one evening they demolished Brasenose 240-40, embarrassed Nuffield 255-60, and dismissed the challenge from Somerville, TV's current University Challenge champions, by the resounding margin of 285-130. It was a remarkable demonstration of their ability to recall arcane knowledge and leaves us with high hopes for their success when, as surely they must, they come face to face with Jeremy Paxman and his inimitable style of questioning - and, of course, with a no less intimidating Provost at the Champions' dinner.

The MCR's fine sporting tradition continues. David Close gained a University Hockey Blue and two Blues for Cross Country went to Paula Radcliffes, Kirsty Anderson and Hattie Dean. Mark Tervakoski and Martin Law won University half-blues in Rugby and Sailing respectively. Clare Winter helped to take the Worcester Hockey 1st XI to the finals of cuppers, where, in her absence, they lost. Andy Short rowed with the University Lightweight (in our experience, a group of sportsmen who are anything but lightweight). Sam Byrd played for the University Squash 2nd team, while George Nicholson, in fives, and Carl Lantzke, in Australian Rules Football, took the University to impressive victories over Cambridge - in the latter case by the crushing score of 119-8, again under the nose of Jeremy Paxman.

Less spectacular, but still commendable, was the MCR football team's passage through the qualifying rounds of MCR cuppers, under the stewardship of Adrian Patterson and Luke Rallan, until its eventual defeat by Exeter in the Quarter finals. Luke

also led the cricket team in some fine performances, culminating in a satisfying defeat of the SCR in the last over of a disturbingly close-fought contest.

Where less hearty pursuits are concerned, it was encouraging to note that Presidents do not necessarily become burnt-out shells on leaving the post: Lamar Mitchell, former President and current official MCR poet, is now President of the Oxford University Poetry Society. Meantime Gina Clark is forging a viable alternative career for herself as a gamelan percussionist, and a number of MCR members play in the Worcester College Orchestra and sing in the choir. All these talents for poetry, music and song were revealed in two MCR arts nights - events which we hope will become permanent fixtures in the Worcester calendar.

Finally, for some of us in the MCR this, for various reasons, has been a difficult year. Both Presidents would like to express their gratitude to everyone in college for their support during this time. Graduates come to the MCR to continue the process of learning, but not just learning in its narrowest sense. Success should not just be measured in terms of the achievements listed here, or by academic prowess. Indeed, these can be misleading objectives. We believe firmly that true success is found through a broader learning experience, in the continuing effort to live at peace with oneself and with others. This ideal is what the graduate community should ultimately represent and we would like to thank all our contemporaries for helping to make these civilised values an essential part of our continuing tradition. For our part, looking back on our time here, we are sure we shall say with Yeats, that our glory was we had such friends.

Jamie Corner, Adrian Paterson

## SPORTS REPORT TRINITY 2002 – HILARY 2002

### *Cricket*

Once again, the cricket team proved to be an unbeatable force in the league. Good contributions were made by several players, especially Chris Goode in the field, who made sure that the opposition never got an easy run. The team won the cuppers competition in style against Wadham, with our two blues players, Chris Stearn and Charlie Warren, turning in good performances.

### *Tennis*

Traditionally strong at tennis, Worcester had high hopes at the beginning of this season. Unfortunately, because several members of the team were sitting finals, we failed to find the rhythm and organisation needed to compete effectively in the top division. Thus the final results were disappointing, with the first and second teams - both in the top division - drawing on points and ending up in the hat for possible relegation. The result of the draw has led to the bizarre situation in which the first team is now in the second division, while the second team has remained in the first. However, Graham Babcock, the new captain, is looking forward to a promising season this year with a strong squad, including a couple of capable first year undergraduates.

### *Rowing*

Summer Eights proved to be a wonderful week for Worcester. We came third overall out of all the colleges. Blades were awarded to the gentlemen's eight, in recognition of a number of past boat club captains and other members of the 'old guard'. The men's first eight rounded off the week's work by bumping Merton in front of the boathouse. The women's boats, coached by Hugh Price, also had a fantastic week, narrowly missing out on blades.

The freshers this year more than made up for their lack of experience with their enthusiasm, and showed they could help to contribute to a boatclub that is full of confidence at the moment. Despite the late cancellation of Torpids, there remains a good number of rowers that should ensure a repeat of last year's success. The women are looking particularly formidable, especially with the inclusion of Claire Bulmer, Worcester's very own member of the successful women's blue boat.

### *Rugby*

The rugby team was to have a difficult season with injury removing a number of key players. The team held its division in Michaelmas term and created real motivation for improvement in Hilary, but two broken legs and a concussion in the first match weakened the squad. A high number of cancelled games meant the team was then relegated to the third division. But then a narrow victory against University College restored our fortunes and won us the rugby plate - a feat greatly helped by the bagging