Late September is still the time I most enjoy – when the new year begins, new undergraduates and new post-graduates arrive, and the academic cycle gets under way.

My whole educational process had a wonderful ‘academic feel’ and I shall always be grateful to my schoolmasters who recognised a latent talent, and the lecturers who had the courage to teach me a discipline.

As I write this my third letter for Optima, I am aware that although it seems that one academic year has barely finished the next is already upon us. There was a time, I guess when I was last at school (1957?), the summer break seemed to stretch endlessly before me. Time to read several good books (Catcher-in-the-Rye!), time for tennis every morning, time for so many pleasures, time for recuperation. Happy school days! Nevertheless, late September is still the time I most enjoy – when the new year begins, new undergraduates and new post-graduates arrive, and the academic cycle gets under way. I imagine it is much the same thing in industry or commerce when the newly employed arrive ready to change the world, or at least the company. The pulse quickens; so let me begin by wishing you all a successful and rewarding year whatever you happen to be doing.

I’ve always enjoyed the academic life. As a schoolboy I found some subjects extremely difficult (including Chemistry) and although I suppose I did moderately well I certainly never felt entirely at ease with academic work. In many ways sport (especially rugby) was my salvation. My schoolmasters were excellent and looking back, I now recognise that they were exceptionally talented teachers. Even now, I remember much of what they said and even more disconcertingly, the voice in my head remains their voice. My own experience of education at school, I guess, is like that of many others. A strong favourable response to the emotional appeal of art and literature. They are more interested in human problems, seemingly easier to appreciate and have more appeal. For me history with all its drama had a definite attraction that was aided by a truly brilliant teacher. First the story – take no notes boys(!) – then good concise notes – followed by the essay for homework. Wonderful! Maths and Science were different, somehow conveying the feeling of looking forward and not over one’s shoulder (comments please!). I came into Chemistry because at the age of twelve my school decided – on the basis of the end of the year examinations – that I had potential as a scientist (or rather more than I had for the alternatives). To be honest, I probably felt they were right. I grew to love Chemistry, not only because of the excellent teaching at school, but because of the excellence of the course at University and from my contact with truly inspirational researchers.

My whole educational process had a wonderful ‘academic feel’ and I shall always be grateful to my schoolmasters who recognised a latent talent and the lecturers who had the courage to teach me a discipline, and not be ashamed to do so.

I like to believe, and from those of you that I meet at alumni weekends and elsewhere it seems apparent, that many of you appreciate the flavour of your chosen area or subject that was conveyed to you at Fitz. Your experience was similar to that of my own. I’m also aware that many of you also appreciated the care and attention you received at Fitz and the opportunity to participate in so very many ‘outside’ activities. You were part of a small community which fulfilled the role of a small University with all the advantages that such a small fraternity brings. The ability to participate, to be part of, to be a member of a community that cares because everyone knows where they are and, more importantly, why they are there.

One final note; Trinity College has, for a five-year period, agreed to give Fitzwilliam £50,000.00 every year, provided that this amount is matched by other donations. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Graham Nutter (Geography, 1966), who donated £50,000.00 this year to establish the Graham Nutter Fund. Trinity College will be offering the £50,000.00 donation to Fitz for the next two years, but these donations are contingent upon gifts of equal value from other sources.

Donating to the Student Hardship Fund in 2003 will not only help relieve student hardship at Fitzwilliam, but would ensure that the generosity of Trinity will continue.

As always I may be overly optimistic in my view (comments please!) but I very much hope we are still able to produce graduates fit to meet the challenges of the modern world whatever they might be. As always, I welcome the opportunity to address you all in this way, but please, please make an effort to visit the College, take lunch or dinner with me and allow me to show you the progress that the College has made over recent years.

Best wishes
Contents
Optima • Issue III

The Master’s Message
Professor Brian Johnson, FRS, talks about new beginnings, reminisces about early academic experiences and the value of enthusiastic teachers with a passion for their subject. He looks at current student hardship at Fitz, and what can be done to relieve it.

Sarah Asplin QC (Law, 1979)
“I soon realised that Fitzwilliam offered a lively atmosphere, excellent teaching and a superior Law library.”

Completing Fitzwilliam
The Bursar, Christopher Pratt, brings us up-to-date with progress on the New Buildings.

Fitzwilliam Benefactors
We are sometimes overwhelmed by the generosity of our members and are proud to publish members of The 1869 Foundation (below), and a list of Friends of Chapel.

Stephen Scott Fawcett (Theology, 1978)
Inspired by that celebrated explorer, Ernest Shackleton, Stephen tackled Antarctica and walked to the South Pole unaided.

Fitzwilliam Gardens
We are fortunate to have a dedicated team of gardeners who work very hard to make the grounds beautiful throughout the year. Steve Kidger, Head Gardener, talks about the latest updates and the challenges the New Buildings Programme has brought.

Make it a Fitz-tive Christmas
As well as the usual items of memorabilia, we are pleased to offer a selection of Christmas and note cards reproduced from watercolours by David Birtwhistle (Architecture, 1966).

events@fitz.cam.ac.uk
Rossie Ogilvie, Development Officer, looks forward to events planned for 2003.

1869 Foundation Members as at 1 November 2002
We formally launched a legacy appeal in the first issue of Optima and it prompted a wonderful response. The following have very kindly pledged a legacy to Fitzwilliam College in their Will. There are others, but we have respected their wish to remain anonymous.

Sir B Askew
Mr R W B Ball
Mr R G Bell
Revd A F P Brown
Professor L Burns
Mr K A Bystram
Mr C C Cannon
Professor J F Cherry
Mr B Chilver
Mr P M Dawson
Mr M Edwards
Mr R S Eldridge
Dr S G Fleet
Dr C J Gill
Mr S G Grabowski
Mr E G Hall
Mr P J K Hall
Mrs T Hancock
Mr R G Higginbottom
Mr D J Howells
Revd D H Hunter
Dr C L Johnson
Mr M K Kidd
(now deceased)
Mr R J Lorimer
Mr R S Lyons
Mr T D Martin-Jenkins
Mr A J B Oakes
Professor N J G Pounds
Mr P H Prior
Mr I Reid
Dr G A Richardson
Group Captain
A E Silvester
Mr J W Skillington
Mr H J Snelling
Mr M Somerville
Mr T M Telford
Mr J B Turner
Mrs M Walters
Mr J K Ward
Mr J Washington
Mr M R Whitworth
Mr D M Williams
Mr C T Wood

Cover illustration, photograph of the award winning Chapel interior, by Michael Anderson
Sarah Asplin QC, Law, 1979

Like Judith Oliver (featured in our second issue) Sarah was among the first female students admitted to Fitzwilliam in 1979, after attending Southampton College for Girls. She was awarded the Fitzwilliam R N Walters prize in 1981. Sarah specialises in pensions litigation and became a QC earlier this year.

“My entry into Fitz in 1979 was a relaxed and pleasant one. Everyone seemed very friendly and welcoming – though perhaps the fact that we were the first year to include female undergraduates had something to do with it!

Sad to say, I had wanted to become at barrister since I had been at school, so the choice of Law at Cambridge wasn’t really an issue! My initial preference for Law was greatly enhanced however, by my studies of those who practised it. The simplicity, integrity and intellect that came across in the judgements of Lord Denning MR and the fact that he had risen to such great heights in the law from humble beginnings was something that genuinely inspired me, and spurred me on. This was particularly pertinent for me, because there were relatively few female role models in British Law when I studied it. This is something – I am glad to say – that has altered over time.

I was initially drawn to Fitzwilliam because my brother had been there. It didn’t take me long to get excited about the College in its own right though – I soon realised that Fitzwilliam offered a lively atmosphere, excellent teaching and a superior Law library. I believe that Fitzwilliam has always had a strong Law department and has deservedly done well. I wanted to support that strength by making a contribution to the Law Fund, especially as I feel that I benefited greatly from it.

I soon realised that Fitzwilliam offered a lively atmosphere, excellent teaching and a superior Law Library... I believe that Fitzwilliam has always had a strong Law department and has deservedly done well. I wanted to support that strength by making a contribution to the Law Fund, especially as I feel that I benefited greatly from it.

The Law Fund that Sarah mentions above is the Burrow Law Teaching Fund. This Fund was established to support a College teaching position in law and was initiated by a very generous donation from a Fitz Member. Fitzwilliam is committed to providing an outstanding standard of instruction and support to all its Law students. We believe that making an additional Law teaching position available will ensure that exceptional Law students such as Sarah will continue to flow through our doors.

The fund currently stands at £48,213. To be able to support a full-time Law teaching position we hope to raise a total of £475,000 over the coming years. This is an ambitious target, but one we believe will make a real and continued difference to all students of Law at Fitz. If you are interested in supporting the Burrow Law Teaching Fund, please turn to the giving section at the middle of this newsletter.

I was initially drawn to Fitzwilliam because my brother had been there. It didn’t take me long to get excited about the College in its own right though – I soon realised that Fitzwilliam offered a lively atmosphere, excellent teaching and a superior Law library. Fitz has a truly well-deserved reputation for fostering an open attitude towards people, institutions and ideas. I remember feeling encouraged in the outlook that one can achieve whatever one is capable of without the need for any ‘connections’. The confidence I gained from such an outlook definitely helped me in the relatively closed world of the Chancery Bar.

It also led to one of my proudest moments. In the case of Equitable Life v Hyman I represented the policyholders, and was led by Jonathan Sumption QC. Winning the case in the Court of Appeal and then again in the House of Lords has been the most satisfying achievement of my career to date. In fact, the best bits were probably getting permission to appeal in the first instance, and then obtaining a costs order which enabled us to get to the Court of Appeal.

Based on my experiences both at Fitz and throughout my career to date, my best advice to all undergraduates would be the same. Work hard, keep focussed and follow whatever path you have chosen without letting anyone deter you – despite the difficulties you may encounter. Anything is possible.
Completing Fitzwilliam

Completing Fitzwilliam is the overall name for the three-building development, about which there have been articles in both of the first two editions of Optima. Gatehouse Court and the theatre are now rather more than holes in the ground – in the case of the Theatre, a very big hole. Piling was successfully completed in the summer, since when the basements of both buildings have been excavated and as I write, brickwork has started to rise from the ground floor slab of the Gatehouse, while in the Theatre, there is a forest of steel reinforcement for the complex basement slab and walls. The forest will vanish in concrete next week.

We have the highest crane in Cambridge, proudly flying the College flag. There is much speculation about how it got there. Suffice to say that for a while, we undoubtedly had the top Bursar. Both buildings are on programme for handover, Gatehouse Court in August 2003 and the Theatre in December 2003. Forty of those returning for the 2003 Reunion will be able to inspect the new rooms first hand and plans are under way for a series of events to mark the availability of the Theatre, which emphasise its multi-purpose role and include concerts, plays, opera, lectures and badminton. The interior has adjustable shutters to enhance the acoustics differentially for these various uses. No doubt the organisers of the first student Entz of 2004 have their eyes on its possibilities too, in which case the sound retaining qualities of the building will be thoroughly tested!

The third (and final?) new building is making progress, too. The College has appointed Edward Cullinan to draw up sketch proposals for the Library and IT building on the site between A Staircase and The Grove. This promises to be something very special in itself, as well as making a vital contribution to the academic life of the College. Curiously, Edward was working for Sir Denys Lasdun in the late 1950s and had a hand in our original buildings on the Hill.

If I am always asked how we are financing £12.2 million of construction. The answer is a little complex, because funds have come from a number of sources. £4 million of the above figure is intended for the Library/IT building, and has been promised by an anonymous benefactor. Of the remaining £8.2 million: £1.5 million came from a legacy by Hubert Walker; £1.2 million from a gift from the Tsuzuki Educational Institutes in Japan; £0.7 million from St John’s and Trinity Colleges and £3.44 million from College resources accumulated over the last ten years (many thanks to all those who have contributed). Our burgeoning conference trade will ensure that maintenance of these superb facilities will not place a burden on our students. There is currently a capital shortfall of £1.36 million, for which grant applications are under consideration. The College may have to sell some student housing or to borrow, if the grant applications are not successful. What is certain, though, is that where we have mud, cranes and some disruption now (it is not straightforward to approach from Storey’s Way at the moment), we will soon have a new main entrance and a stunning Theatre, of which past, as well as future generations of members can be justly proud.

If you would like to donate to the New Buildings Fund, please turn to the giving section at the centre of Optima. All donations are always very much appreciated.

Friends of Chapel

We received a wonderful response to the Chaplaincy Appeal featured in the last issue of Optima. The following members very kindly donated £50 or more to the Chaplaincy Fund and we are delighted to bestow them with the designation ‘Friend of Fitzwilliam Chapel’.

Revd H A Atherton
Mr D J Auger
Revd Dr J L Barnes
Revd Dr J C A Barrett
Dr M N A Bockmunch
Mr J H Bradnock
Revd A F P Brown
Mr J D Chrisp
Professor M A Clarke
Revd D A Clarkson
Dr G C Coles
Revd R J M Collins
Professor G I Davies
Revd B K Donne
Revd Canon G R Drake
Revd Dr D Duckworth
Dr M S Edwards
Revd P Edwards
Revd P J D Elliott
Mr C J Firth
Rt Revd R M C Frith, Bishop of Hull
Dr C J Gill
Revd Canon R W Goldspink
Revd A G Greenhough
Revd R D Greaves
Revd J F Hale
Revd H W Hewitt
Mr R H C Holland
Revd C R Honey
Revd Dr D Horrell
Dr B A Hughes
Revd D H Hunter
Revd Canon D E R Isitt
Mrs V Isitt
Revd Dr D J Keep
Ms A M King
Revd Dr R B Knox
Revd J W Lansley
Mr C J Lees
Mr R Mills
Revd N T Moffatt
Revd D Mowbray
Mr A J Nainby
Rt Revd Dr M J Nazir-Ali, Bishop of Rochester
Rt Revd Dr P J Nott
Revd Preb F H Palmer
Revd T P Patton
Revd A T Pepper
Revd J P Pinner
Revd M C Prescott
Revd Dr B Quash
Revd R M Rimmer
Dr G Robson
Revd P W Russell
Revd M B Sanders
Revd J F Sertin
Revd D Shaw
Revd A H Stevens
Revd J D Waller
Revd Canon A C Warner
Revd M J Winbolt Lewis
Canon Dr K E Wright

Fitzwilliam College is an Exempt and Statutory Charity (Inland Revenue No. XR1732)
Stephen Scott-Fawcett (Theology, 1978)

Like many of our Members, Stephen Scott-Fawcett has used his time at Fitz as a springboard to outstanding achievement. The direction in which Stephen has jumped however, is perhaps a little further south than most!

Proceed! So said a one-word telegram from the Admiralty to Sir Ernest Shackleton in response to the question of whether his Antarctic exploration of 1914 should go ahead. Shackleton himself could not have known what was to come when he followed this advice and set off to the ‘Great White’, but, thanks to Stephen Scott-Fawcett (Theology, 1978) more and more people these days are getting an idea.

Yet at first viewing, Stephen’s progression to the Antarctic might not seem as straightforward as Shackleton’s. Stephen originally qualified as a Chartered Surveyor, but in 1978 however, he took time-out from checking the ‘lay of the land’, and studied the less worldly-based realm of Theology as a 3-year undergraduate of Fitzwilliam College. Based at Ridley Hall, Fitz struck him as “a no-thrills, very modern college, with a great sporting record and very friendly, approachable academic staff”. During his time at Fitz he appreciated the opportunity to experience the standard of teaching and pastoral care available at Cambridge, in an environment at Fitz that was committed to “the breaking down of old-boy traditions within Oxbridge ... the challenge of studying a Cambridge Tripos did my confidence no end of good and set me up to tackle life’s obstacles with determination!”

And tackle them he did! After completing his Tripos, Stephen returned to the study of the natural environment of a Chartered Surveyor, and enjoyed the challenge and success brought by the continued expansion of his work, rising to the position of Managing Partner at Martin and Mortimer.

Then one day in 1985, he picked up a biography by Roland Huntford of the famed Antarctic explorer, Shackleton. The most remembered exploit of the celebrated historical figure was the expedition which began with that dramatic telegram of 1914, in which Shackleton led a group of 29 men, attempting to cross the width of the Antarctic continent. The expedition halted on the outward boat journey when his ship became trapped and crushed in the ice. The story of Shackleton’s escape, with all his men, is now stuff of legend and is viewed by many as a monumental triumph of human courage and absolute endurance.

Since reading this biography, the example of leadership and determination demonstrated by ‘The Boss’ (Ernest Shackleton) has inspired Stephen’s thinking: “his genius for man-management and guts has guided many of my personal and business decisions in the past 15 years”.

This inspiration has influenced not only his thinking, but his actions as well. In 2000–1 Stephen walked to the South Pole unaided, and like Shackleton and his men, saw parts of the world that most of us see only as images on a screen or page: “Antarctica is a mountainous continent, in places 4,500m high and buried by ice between two and three miles thick ... I have never seen natural beauty on such a magnificent, and moving scale”.

Stephen is now recognised as an expert, not only in the history of Polar exploration, but also in the ‘Great White South’ in general, giving lectures throughout the UK. He is a Friend of the Scott Polar Institute and an active member of the James Caird Society.

Over the coming years, he plans to take his understanding of Shackleton’s Antarctic expeditions to a new level altogether, by organising a new expedition of his own alongside the great-grandson of the celebrated explorer. In 2007 – the one-hundredth anniversary of Shackleton’s Nimrod expedition of 1907–9 – he plans to re-enact this expedition in which Shackleton missed out on polar priority by 97 miles. In doing so, he plans to replicate not only the distance travelled by Shackleton, but the conditions he lived under, including his clothing, equipment and food!

Discovering the importance of testing your potential is something Stephen views as important for all Fitz students: “What you discover at Cambridge by theological study must only ever be a means to an end. That end is surely, to go out into the torn and battered society in which the global community finds itself and to offer compassion, empathy and above all, a considered explanation of how we’ve got ourselves into such a mess and how we might resolve it, regardless of our political and/or religious convictions.”

This is something he adheres to himself by remembering his times at Fitzwilliam, how they have benefited him, and the value of keeping in touch with Fitz and its members – most recently by supporting the Fitzwilliam Chaplaincy Fund, and attending the Theologians Reunion that took place in July 2002.

“I feel Fitz has made great efforts to keep in touch with its alumni. All graduates owe the College a huge debt of gratitude. I was delighted to be invited to the Theologians’ Reunion. I was impressed by the real spirit of friendship and one-ness. The College is not a building but a corpus of like-minded souls. I’m moved by Fitz’s commitment to providing educational opportunities and the College’s sense of social responsibility to ensure that all students of talent, regardless of background and circumstances, have a chance to excel. I feel Fitz embodies this ideal and whilst this prevails I am glad to be counted as a Fitz man and would wish to support it socially and financially within my means”.

The Chaplaincy Appeal aims to raise the ambitious target of £450,000 to build up the hours of the Fitzwilliam Chaplain. This will ensure the continued pastoral care and spiritual support for all those who attend Fitz. If you are able to donate to the Appeal, please turn to the giving section. You can make a single gift or spread your donation over one, two or any number of years of your choice.
The Greener Side of Life

As the Bursar has outlined on page 4, the building of the Gatehouse Court and Theatre is gathering pace, with the memory of scaffolds steadily dimming, and a vision of a new wing of the College coming further and further into sight.

For many of us at Fitz, the completion of the buildings will be a source of excitement and relief. This is perhaps particularly true for those responsible for the care and cultivation of the magnificent Fitzwilliam College Gardens.

The existence of a building site on campus has been a challenge in itself for Steve Kidger (Head Gardener) and his staff. Transplanting several important trees from one part of the College to another is no mean feat when you consider the size of the tree and the equipment required to move it! The *acer drummondii* (a variegated form of the Norway maple) had originally been planted by King Juan Carlos of Spain, and was among the first of the relocated flora to receive the best ‘TLC’ that a two-tonne truck and the Fitz gardeners could provide.

In the meantime, the gardens throughout the rest of the College have not slackened in their development. They are currently evolving to a softer, more exotic look and feel. This is primarily achieved by using more herbaceous plants. Gardening, like most other sectors, follows fashion and herbaceous planting is currently in vogue – mainly due to the excellent new varieties now available and their improved flowering, better resistance, more compact shape, and longer seasonal display.

This new planting programme is of course supplemented by ‘contributions’ from students. Shopping trolleys, traffic cones, College Cava, and underwear (male and female!) are all spotted amongst the marigolds and marjoram from time to time. Perhaps the most unusual contribution to the landscape however, was Steve’s discovery of a veritable crop of potatoes, growing weed-like through the Tree Court beds. Wherein from this discovery soon followed an indignant student, who claimed to have been deprived of his supper!

Perhaps surprise though, is something that best describes Fitz’s gardens. Most one-time inhabitants of the College will probably recall their wonder at the attractive environment that greeted them when they first walked through the Porters’ Lodge door. Fitzwilliam’s overall layout and location allows it to offer a greater diversity of landscape design and plant interest than many of the more traditional College Courts.

It is this layout – currently undergoing dramatic change – which will allow the gardens to evolve, and not only adjust to, but complement the new buildings. When the plants ‘burst into life’ next Spring, fresh new foliage and developing flowers will eclipse all memory of trucks ferrying trees from one site to another, and perhaps even of potatoes in Tree Court! If it’s been a while since you visited, now is a unique period of the College’s history to see. Not only is Fitzwilliam entering the final stage of construction of new buildings which will ‘turn the College around’ to face an entirely different direction, but its gardens are evolving, and maturing apace. In the words of the Head Gardener himself: “Gardens are dynamic and each season transforms the environment. It’s never entirely the same from one year to the next”.

If you would like to know more about the Building programme that is currently underway, please visit the Fitz website: http://www.fitz.cam.ac.uk/development/ and click on ‘Needs’.

Four watercolour images of our beautiful gardens at Fitz are now available for sale as Christmas or blank cards, and mounted or framed prints. If you would like to view or order any of these images, please turn to page 7.
Make it a Fitz-tive Christmas!

This year, Fitz has developed a range of charming and useful products, suitable for gifts at Christmas. Many of the products are at a reduced price (such as our cuddly Fitz Billy Goat), in preparation for a re-launch of Fitz memorabilia in the near future. So not only is it an ideal time to get those last-minute gifts to make it a Fitz-tive Christmas, you can add some savings in to the bargain!

NB: prices quoted are exclusive of postage & packing. Please add £1 for initial item plus 50p per additional item for orders in the UK. Please contact the Development Office for non-UK postage. * Please contact the Development Office for postage prices on these items.

Introducing our newest addition – images of the College as painted by one of its Members. These beautiful images, painted in watercolour were produced by David Birtwhistle (Architecture 1966). Included in the pack of blank cards are four images, each taken from various points around the College. The Christmas Card pack has five cards and includes the message ‘Seasons Greetings’ inside. These cards are a perfect way to wish your friends and family a Merry Christmas, while supporting a worthy cause during the Festive Season!

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<tr>
<td>* Tankard</td>
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<td>T-Shirts</td>
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<td>Ties Crested Polyester</td>
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<td>Ties striped Silk</td>
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<td>* Umbrellas striped (extra large)</td>
<td>£12.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>* Umbrellas crested (extra large)</td>
<td>£18.00</td>
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<td>Woollen Hat</td>
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<td>Mounted Print NEW</td>
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<tr>
<td>* Set of all four Prints NEW</td>
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<tr>
<td>* Framed, Mounted Print NEW</td>
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How to order (Cheques should be made out to ‘Fitzwilliam College’)

Name
Address
Phone
Method of payment □ Cheque □ Credit card □ Visa □ Mastercard □ American Express
Credit Card Number
Expiry Date
Signature

Total:
The days following the last weekend in September this year felt much like the days that follow Christmas – the Reunion weekend was such an exciting, event-packed and popular weekend that it has taken some time to return to earth!

Now of course, preparations for the 2003 events and publications calendar are in full swing. We are currently accepting submissions from students both past and present for the 2003 Fitzwilliam Society Journal, so if you have any Members’ News you’d like us to know about, please get in touch via e-mail at journal@fitz.cam.ac.uk

The Development Office is also currently updating Fitzwilliam Memorabilia. We have already made changes to our Christmas Card range with the addition of the delightful images of Fitzwilliam College grounds as painted by David Birtwhistle. If you would like to order any existing memorabilia, or suggest any other type of remembrance of Fitzwilliam College, please do let us know.

As with most organisations around the country, Christmas activities – such as the delightful Advent Carol Service earlier this month – are now well underway. If you would like to visit the College to see some of the most beautiful Christmas arrangements in Cambridge before the new year, it might be a good opportunity to take advantage of all graduates’ dining rights. All graduates of Fitzwilliam have High Table Dining entitlements of one free meal per term. If you wish to take advantage of this privilege, please telephone the Steward’s Secretary, Jacky Miller on 01223 332021 or e-mail Stewards.Secretary@fitz.cam.ac.uk

The London Society Dinner is of course high on the agenda of Alumni events. This grand occasion will take place on Friday 9th May 2003, and details about how to book will appear in the Journal and in the next edition of Optima.

Modern Languages Reunion

One of the high-points of 2003 will doubtless be the Modern and Medieval Language Reunion planned for 11th April. This will mark the 30th anniversary of the original MML Dinner. Initial information is now being sent to Linguists who attended the 1993 occasion (1971–1992), and to those who matriculated in 1993. General invitations will be sent out in the new year. We are hoping to see a lot of past MML faces pay us a visit!

The Fitzwilliam College Credit Card

We are also exceedingly grateful to those members who have taken out the Fitzwilliam College/MBNA card. You might be interested to know that in the year 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002, Fitz has received the impressive sum of £2,422.80 in royalties. The credit card is a relatively painless method for you to support Fitz and if you are interested in applying, please see the pullout section in the centre of Optima or contact:

Carol Lamb
Tel: 01223 332015 or email cel33@cam.ac.uk

Fitz Online – Get Connected!

The first stage of Fitz Online has now been launched and is doing well.

Why not go and take a look at online.fitz.cam.ac.uk right now and add your name to the Members’ Directory, currently standing at 338 Members.

Your details will be not be available to anyone else viewing the site, but it will allow old friends to make contact (through a computer-forwarded e-mail) with you.

If you have any queries or comments about the above Alumni Events, or any other event co-ordinated by Fitzwilliam College, please contact:

Rossie Ogilvie
via e-mail at events@fitz.cam.ac.uk

Returning to the Fold: Fitzwilliam’s Lost Sheep

Finally, a special plea to anyone who knows the whereabouts of any of their contemporaries who appear in our Lost Sheep page (in the Alumni section at www.fitz.cam.ac.uk). Please drop us a line, or give them a nudge, and hopefully we can re-establish contact. Currently, we are looking for around 4000 missing members, so we really do need your help to bring this number down. Year lists of lost sheep are available on request.

Thanks again for all your support and kind comments over the last few months. We are always pleased to hear your suggestions about how we can make our events and alumni programmes better still.