

WINCHESTER



COLLEGE



AD PORTAS

4th May 2011



WINCHESTER

COLLEGE

AD Portas
to receive Old Wykehamist Fellows
of The Royal Society and The British Academy
Wednesday 4th May 2011

Honorands

Professor Stephen Bann	FBA	(Coll, 1955-60)
Professor David Beach	FRS	(G, 1967-71)
Professor Jeremy Brookes	FRS	(K, 1961-65)
Professor Christopher Brooke	FBA	(Coll, 1940-45)
Professor Nicholas Brooks	FBA	(C, 1954-59)
Professor Terence Cave	FBA	(K, 1952-56)
Professor John Dunn	FBA	(Coll, 1953-57)
Professor Freeman Dyson	FRS	(Coll, 1936-41)
Dr Maurice Keen	FBA	(Coll, 1947-52)
Professor Michael Longuet-Higgins	FRS	(Coll, 1939-43)
Mr John Lucas	FBA	(Coll, 1942-47)
Professor Ian Macdonald	FRS	(Coll, 1941-46)
Professor Nicholas Mackintosh	FRS	(Coll, 1948-53)
Dr Andrew McLachlan	FRS	(Coll, 1948-53)
Professor Nicholas Postgate	FBA	(Coll, 1959-63)
Professor Francis Reynolds	FBA	(F, 1946-51)
Professor Nicholas Shepherd-Barron	FRS	(Coll, 1968-72)
Professor Charles Thomas	FBA	(H, 1941-44)
Professor John Tiley	FBA	(Coll, 1955-59)

Honorands In Absentia

Professor John Albery	FRS	(A, 1949-54)
Professor Horace Barlow	FRS	(I, 1935-39)
Professor Sir Michael Dummett	FBA	(Coll, 1939-43)
Professor Guy Jameson	FRS	(Coll, 1948-53)
Professor Anthony Pawson	FRS	(I, 1965-69)
Professor David Thouless	FRS	(Coll, 1947-52)

The Prefect of Hall's Speech

Domini Professores, Doctores in Philosophia, in Scientia et in Litteris, Socii utriusque societatis virorum doctissimorum, huius Collegii filii fidissimi, summa laetitia, summa verecundia, summa modestia vos in aulam nostram hodie ingredientibus salutamus. Pari quidem honore, pari dignitate salutamini omnes; at tamen unus vestrum, ut videtur, nobis primus inter pares habendus est, Professor Dyson, cui contigit, quod nemini antea nisi reginae nostrae illustrissimae, bis ad portas sic palma nostra decorari. Vos, domini, Socii Academiae Britannicae Societatisque Regalis, rei Wiccamicae, ut ita dicam, quintam illam praestatis partem, vitam ita penitus studiis rebusque academicis deditam, ut immemores vestri et pro bono publico fines proferatis et propagetis scientiae humanae.

[Professors, Doctors of Philosophy, of Science and of Letters, Fellows of our two foremost learned societies and loyal sons of Wykeham, it is with very great joy, respect and humility that we salute you as you enter our courts today. Though all are welcomed with equal honour and esteem, Professor Dyson, we note, must be judged a 'first among equals', the only honorand, save our most illustrious sovereign, to be received Ad Portas twice. As Fellows of the British Academy and Royal Society you embody the quintessence of the Wykehamical ideal, a life deeply devoted to academic study, furthering the bounds of human knowledge and understanding in the selfless service of the nation.]

It is an irony that the motto of the Royal Society is *nullius in verba* meaning 'on no one's words' or 'take nobody's word for it', and yet it is precisely with words that we welcome and honour you here today. Certainly Fellows of the British Academy might favour the power of words over empiricism, but we hope that all honorands will feel entirely embraced by our welcome. You are arrayed before us as Fellows of the Royal Society and of the British Academy, learned men, who, to conjoin the terms of each institution, are peer-elected and the most eminent scholars in your fields of study, representing both a significant development of knowledge and understanding, and the finest protocols of academic working: this, surely, is the zenith of human endeavour.

The methods and principles of science represented by the Royal Society, and those of the humanities represented by the British Academy may differ substantially, yet both institutions fulfil their work with common precepts of academic discourse, namely that concepts and insights have to be repeatedly tested and proved, and subsequently re-formed. It is the transparency of this process and its scrutineering focus that allows us all to trust the knowledge propagated by you and your colleagues.

Both Royal Society and British Academy are places of great intellect and erudition, yet both have a societal outlook, neither body giving succour to the self-indulgently recondite or abstruse: after all, scholarship is not effective until it can be shared. Wykeham would have approved of this sense of utility. This is nowhere clearer than in your combined academic output of, between you, many dozens of books, thousands of journal articles and more than a million hours of lectures, tutorials and seminars. Collectively you have been awarded some of the most prestigious prizes in the academic world, giving credence to your eminent position. We earnestly hope that in some small way the training and instruction received as pupils of Winchester College helped stoke intellectual curiosity and the means to pursue it. To take up the life of the mind requires that the mind is not the master, but a disciplined and directed 'trusty servant'; and it is furthermore essential that the mind can work well in a community of souls striving together to unfold deeper layers of understanding.

Amici venerandi, summo huius Collegii honore vos nunc decoramus; multi enim praeterlapsi sunt anni ex quo his excessistis portis per quas tanto triumpho iterum hodie estis ingressi; nemo tamen est quin

credat vos tanta adhuc vigere doctrina, tanta sapientia, ut huius quoque saeculi iuventuti insignissimo possitis esse exemplo. Aetas Fundatoris nostri, domini, cuius beneficio ‘hic ad pietatem et ad studia literarum alimur’, societatibus illis quarum Socii estis carebat; vobis, tamen, praecepta eius secutis, usque per vitam placuit ingenium colere, studia amare, scientiam augere, insigne vero et egregium παράδειγμα omnibus Wiccamicis hodiernis.

[Honoured friends, we receive you today with your old school’s highest accolade; for, whilst many years have elapsed since you passed out from these gates through which once again today you have entered in such splendour, your capacity to inspire with wisdom and learning today’s young people too is entirely without question. The age of our Founder, gentlemen, ‘by whose benefit we are here brought up to godliness and the studies of good learning’, lacked the learned societies of which you are Fellows; you, however, following his precepts, have chosen throughout your lives to cultivate intelligence, to love learning and to extend knowledge, a conspicuous and outstanding example to all Wykehamists of today.]

Dr. Maurice Keen’s Speech

Wiccamici, gratum est mihi privilegium et felix officium pro hac sodalitate Sociorum Academiae Britannicae et Societatis Regalis respondere ad orationem Aulae Praefecti tam disertam benignamque, simulque vobis, insignissime Custos, Socii et Informator, gratias agere pro invitatione tam suavi quam inexpectata ut honorem receptionis Ad Portas accipiamus. Hoc officium mihi contingit non pro ullo merito meo, sed quod bis liberalitati Fundatoris nostri, Gulielmi de Wykeham, obligatus sum, prius et olim ut Scholaris, recentius et nuper ut Socius huius Collegii.

[Fellow Wykehamists, it is a welcome privilege to me and a happy duty to reply, on behalf of this company of Fellows of the British Academy and of the Royal Society, to the Prefect of Hall’s kind and eloquent speech; and to thank you, most excellent Warden, Fellows and Headmaster for your invitation to us, as delightful as it was unexpected, to accept the honour of a Reception Ad Portas. This duty falls to me not for any merit of my own, but because I have been twice over under obligation to the generosity of our Founder, William of Wykeham, first in the past as a Scholar, and then again more recently as a Fellow of this College.]

It is indeed a pleasure to find myself assigned the duty of replying on behalf of this party of my fellow scholars and betters to what the Prefect of Hall has so flatteringly told you of us. He has described this ceremony as the School’s highest honour and for us as old Wykehamists that is an awesome thought. At the same time it is a joyful one, and moving and meaningful for us above all because the invitation comes in your name, that of the current generation of Wykehamists, and because we are in your presence, you who are benefiting today from the quality of the teaching here and the encouragement to pursue interests and activities that do not centre on the Div Room, as once we did. It is heartening for us to hear, as we do from young Wykehamists about the universities, that these remain as outstanding as ever. May they continue to be so, and may there be among you, as I am confident there will be, those who will one day be honoured in the same way as we are today, whether like us in a group or, like Professor Dyson, at his first reception Ad Portas in 1995, personally for personal distinction.

There is a wooden placard that you will all know hanging on the wall in School and offering (with appropriate symbolism) three choices to the Wykehamist – *aut disce aut discede, manet sors tertia caedi* [*anglice* apply yourself to learning, or go out into the world to serve; if you stay around, the third

option is regular flogging]. Most of the Old Wykehamists who have been honoured by reception *Ad Portas* in the last hundred and fifty years have been men who took the second choice and went out into the world and served it with distinction – as statesmen, soldiers, judges, ambassadors and in other high offices. We, in contrast, have opted for the first choice, the pursuit of learning, and have stayed with it for life, and that gives Winchester a special claim on our gratitude and affection. For it was here at school that we made our first encounter with academically serious study, which is the life blood of the varied academic disciplines which have been the focus of our individual lives. For the scientists of the Royal Society this is inevitably so, since under the British system the decision to specialise on the science side is one that virtually has to be made at school. The number and distinction of the Fellows of the Royal Society in our company is telling testimony to Winchester's long and proud tradition in the teaching of the sciences. For the humanists among us the position is not quite so clear, but I suspect that for all of us Academicians too the combination of inspirational teaching here and the ambiance that six centuries of educating youth have breathed into the buildings and the lovely setting of this place will have had a major intellectual impact on our young lives. For myself I know that it was very direct. It was the stones of Chamber Court and charismatic task-times with Walter Oakeshott, then Headmaster, and the only Headmaster of Winchester ever to have been elected a Fellow of the British Academy, that first stirred what became my lifelong enthusiasm for medieval history. We all, I believe, will have had our different but comparable individual experiences of intellectual awakening and excitement during our time here, the memory of which has stayed with us for life.

So for all of us your welcome has made today a moving experience and a reaffirmation of the debt we owe to Winchester. I would like to say a great deal more of that debt, and from a full heart, but I am getting near what was put to me as a suitable limit of words for my response. So I will conclude with some last words of gratitude and of good wishes for the rising Wykehamist generation, reverting to the Latin tongue.

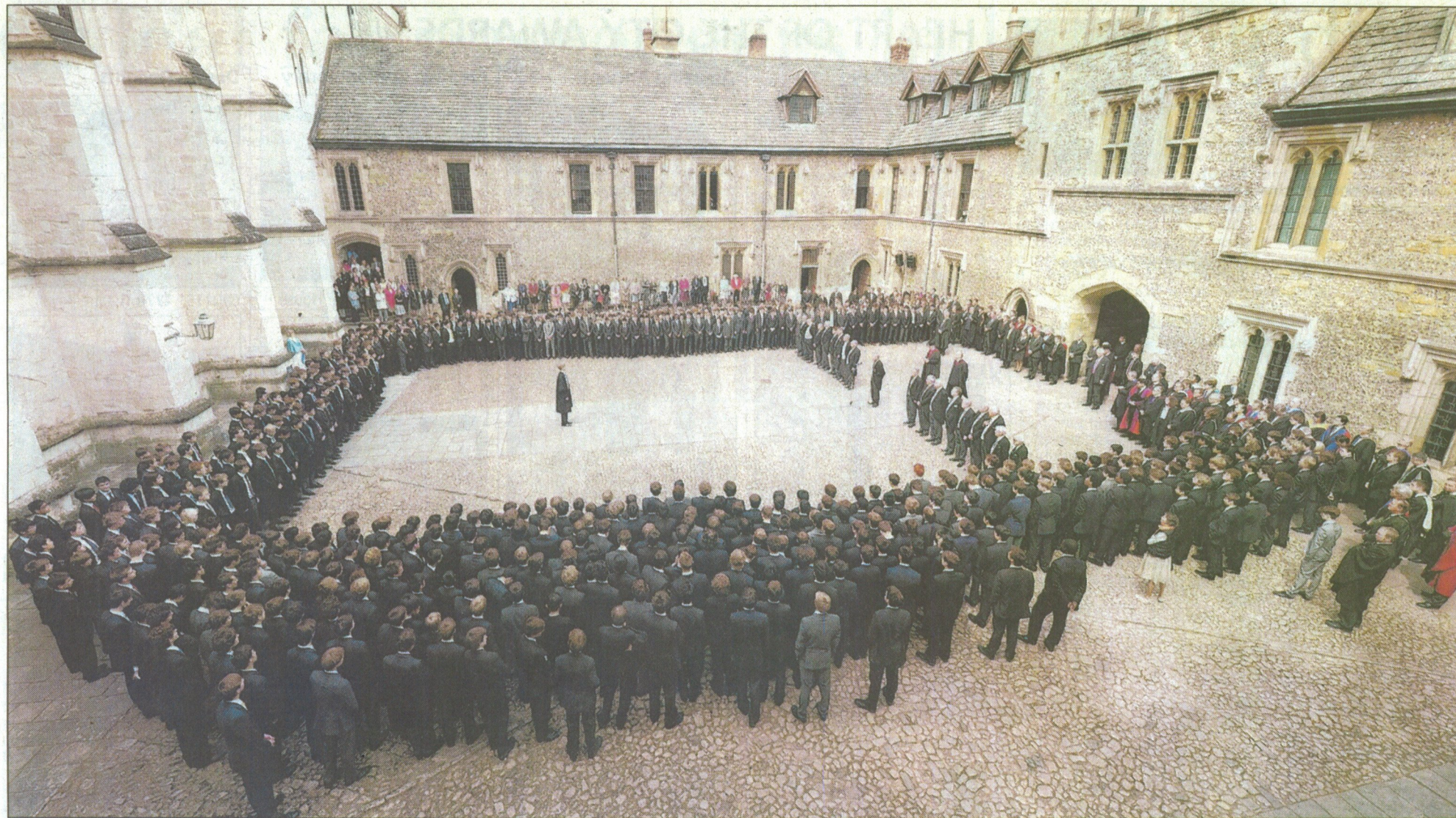
Gratissima nobis hodie est haec receptio Ad Portas, non solum quia nos ipsi laude ornatur, sed etiam, et praecipue, quia utraque societas ab Alma Matre nostra Wintoniensi tanto honore est affecta. Stet Res Wiccamica!

[This reception Ad Portas today is a great delight to us, not only for the individual accolade bestowed on us, but also, and especially, because our two societies have been so greatly honoured by Winchester, our Alma Mater. Stet Res Wiccamica!]

Those received Ad Portas in its modern form

1873	14 May	Lord Selborne (Lord Chancellor)
1881	4 October	Archbishop Tait
1883	? June	HRH The Prince of Wales
1883	19 November	The Prime Minister (Mr W E Gladstone)
1890	3 March	The Bishop of Winchester (Bishop A W Thorold)
1893	25 June	HRH The Prince of Wales
1895	15 October	The Bishop of Winchester (Bishop R T Davidson)
1902	12 June	Indian Princes
1909	27 July	The Prime Minister (Mr H H Asquith)
1910	9 July	The Earl of Selborne
1911	2 August	The Bishop of Winchester (Bishop E S Talbot)
1912	15 July	TM King George V and Queen Mary

1921	4 June	Lord Chelmsford
1923	24 March	Dr H A L Fisher
1923	9 June	Viscount Grey of Fallodon
1923	7 November	HRH The Prince of Wales
1924	8 March	The Bishop of Winchester (Dr F T Woods)
1928	6 July	The Prime Minister (Mr Stanley Baldwin)
1929	2 April	HM Queen Mary
1932	16 July	The Bishop of Winchester (Dr C F Garbett)
1937	29 May	Seven Wykehamist Judges
1942	17 October	The Bishop of Winchester (Dr M Haigh)
1943	25 September	Viscount Wavell
1945	6 July	Sir Charles Portal
1946	17 May	TM King George VI and Queen Elizabeth
1949	26 February	The Duchess of Kent
1952	2 July	The Bishop of Winchester (Dr A T P Williams)
1954	4 December	Viscount Simonds
1955	25 July	HM The Queen
1959	24 October	General Sir Francis Festing
1961	7 October	Dr A T P Williams
1962	19 May	The Bishop of Winchester (Dr S F Allison)
1963	5 October	Viscount Brookeborough
1966	9 July	Sir Walter Moberly
1970	9 May	Lord Clark
1974	29 June	Professor Arnold Toynbee
1975	28 June	The Bishop of Winchester (Bishop J Taylor)
1976	8 May	Field Marshal Sir Michael Carver
1978	6 May	The American Ambassador (Sir Kingman Brewster)
1981	16 May	Nine Wykehamist Judges
1982	19 May	HM The Queen
1984	12 May	Viscount Whitelaw
1985	17 October	The Bishop of Winchester (Bishop C James)
1990	5 May	Sir Geoffrey Howe
1995	20 May	Professor Freeman Dyson
1996	30 November	The Bishop of Winchester (Bishop M Scott-Joynt)
2000	27 June	HRH The Prince of Wales
2004	11 th June	The Nawab of Pataudi and Richard Noble Esq OBE
2006	6 th October	Lord Jay of Ewelme GCMG
2008	30 th April	25 Officers (24 OWs and 1 OQ) Iraq or Afghanistan (+3 in absentia) tours



AD PORTAS WELCOME

Winchester oldboys returned to the city last week to be honoured for their achievements.

Winchester College welcomed 19 former pupils to an Ad

Portas ceremony on Wednesday, a traditional college event held to recognise exceptional achievement.

The ceremony has been running since 1615, and was last held three years ago when 25 Old Wykehamist army officers

were honoured for their service in Iraq and Afghanistan. Prince Charles was received in June 2000.

For almost 250 years the ceremony was conducted to welcome examiners prior to the selection of scholars to Oxford

University.

However, since 1873, the speech has served as a mark of regard to distinguished old members of the college.

This year's 25 honorands, six of whom could not attend, were academics and all either Fellows

of the Royal Society (FRS) or Fellows of the British Academy (FBA), and the majority were professors of their fields.

The whole school was present for the ceremony with welcoming speeches made in both English and Latin.