

# The Harvard Club of the United Kingdom



◆ News & Notices ◆ November/December 2010

## Upcoming Events

### ◆ \*20 November

**THE Game Live!** Live telecast of Harvard v Yale at Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, 65 Fleet St., London EC4Y 1HS. Contact: robertgould@post.harvard.edu

### ◆ 22 November 5.30pm

**President Drew Gilpin Faust** at Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, 65 Fleet St., London EC4Y 1HS

### ◆ 4 December 12.00 noon venue tba

**2010 Nobel Peace Prize: Prospects for political reforms in China?** Talk over dim sum lunch by Dr. Mayling Birney (AB '94) – Lecturer at LSE, Department of International Development. Hosted by the HCUK Asia Current Affairs and Culture SIG. Contact borisvan@gmail.com to RSVP by 29 Nov. More details overleaf.

### ◆ \*16 December 6.30pm

**Festive Drinks Party** Shelburne Room, The Lansdowne Club, 9 Fitzmaurice Place, London W1J 5JD (Nearest tube: Green Park) Contact: jpmaciver@post.harvard.edu

### ◆ 13 January 2011 Save the date! 6.30-8.30pm

**"A Clash of Innocents": Cambodia from 1975 to the Present and Beyond** co-hosted by the Asia Current Affairs and Culture SIG. The Lansdowne Club, 9 Fitzmaurice Place, London W1J 5JD (Nearest tube: Green Park). For more details see below Contact: Boris Van: borisvan@gmail.com

*\*invitation enclosed*

*See also events - www.hcuk.org*

## Letter from the President

As autumn takes hold here in the UK, it's hard for me not to think of autumn back in Harvard Square. Sue and I were lucky enough to spend a beautiful October weekend in Cambridge a few weeks ago. Although the stated purpose of the visit was to attend the HAA board meetings, we still found time to visit with our son Noah '13 (and feed his many friends and Leverett House roommates), and take a beautiful early morning run by the Charles. It struck me that the dire Cambridge winters that I recall from so many years ago were a small price to pay for the spectacular fall weekends. I hope that all of you can find an excuse to pass through Cambridge some time soon.

While in Cambridge, I met with the board of the Harvard British Club, a very energetic group of Harvard undergraduates who entered Harvard from the UK. The Harvard British Club now has official "club" status and is supported financially both by Harvard University and HCUK. I'm pleased to see a real UK identity beginning to develop on campus. The Harvard British Club helps students newly arrived from the UK to get settled and transition to life in Cambridge, and sponsors a number of social and cultural events aimed at UK students. This year, HBC members could be spotted wearing poppies for Remembrance Day and attending a big Bonfire Night bash (without the bonfire!). We will keep you updated on HBC events on the HCUK website. Many HBC members will be returning to the UK for the January "J Term" and HCUK will be hosting an informal networking event to give current students and alumni a chance to meet. We'll be sending you details shortly.

Current students would really value the opportunity to spend a day or two "shadowing" alumni at work to learn more about what different career choices might entail. If you'd be interested in providing a shadowing opportunity to an undergraduate this January, please let me or Verity Langley know. It would be a great experience for you too!

Finally, don't forget that we've a number of great events coming up in November and December, including The Game on November 20, President Drew Faust's visit on November 22 and our revived (and hereafter annual) Festive Season Party on December 16. Check out the HCUK website and sign up!

Best regards to the entire Harvard family in the UK.

**Don Guiney AB '78**

## HCUK Presidents - Past & Present



<i>l-r:</i>	Don Guiney AB '78	2010-
	Brandon Bradkin AB '89 JD '92	2006-2010
	Jan Bunstead EdM '75	2004-2006
	Robert Gould AB '67	2002-2004
	Joan Porter MacIver AB '75	2000-2002
	Brooks Newmark AB '80 MBA '84	1997-2000
	Jim Baker AB '68 MBA '71	1993-1997
<i>not present for the photo call:</i>		
	Dudley Fishburn AB '68	1973-1990
	Mark Hoffman AB '59 MBA '63	1990-1993

### 3 January 2011 6.30-8.30pm

**"A Clash of Innocents": Cambodia from 1975 to the Present and Beyond** Co-hosted by the Asia Current Affairs and Culture SIG. Exceptional stories of individual lives through a presentation and discussion by author Sue Guiney (parent of Noah Guiney '13) and Boris Van '08 about Sue's new novel and the work of Boris with Anjali House, the Siem Reap shelter which brings education and art to Cambodian street children. There will be a book signing by Sue and exhibition of art work by the children of Anjali House. Contact: borisvan@gmail.com

**The Lansdowne Club, 9 Fitzmaurice Place, London W1J 5JD**

## Pepys Walk - 2nd October 2010

**S**tuart Gordon organises particularly interesting days out in London. A year ago it was John Harvard's Southwark. This year Samuel Pepys' London.

Our group, varied by country, college and age, assembled in the medieval St Olave's Church in Hart Street, the smallest City church and enchanting. Here Pepys and his wife are buried, each having fine memorials, her bust was made by John Bushnell in 1670. The church was saved from the Great Fire of London in 1666 by tearing down the rows of wooden houses between it and the fire. Pepys was one of the people who saved it. It was where the Navy Office went to church.

Pepys' life is full of irresistible material:- sex, drink, plague, fire, music, marital conflict, the fall of Kings, corruption and courage in public life, wars and incarceration in the Tower. He was born on 23rd Feb 1633 and died in 1703. The Diary he kept from 1st January 1660. He stopped on the 31st May 1669 'due to dimming eyesight and ill-health.' In the same year his wife died, aged only 29. He wrote it in his own shorthand and it remained leather-bound in Magdalene College, Cambridge. It was first deciphered in 1825 and finally from 1970-83. His friend and fellow diarist, John Evelyn remembered Pepys as a 'worthy, industrious and curious person, none in England exceeding him in knowledge of the Navy, a very great cherisher of learned men.'

The weather was perfect and we walked to places Pepys might have visited. To Trinity House, now modern and impressive and still having a connection with St Olave. The Aldersgate, mentioned by Pepys: 'This afternoon, going through London - I saw the limbs of some new traitors set upon Aldersgate, which is a sad sight to see, and a bloody week this and the last have been, there being ten hanged, drawn and quartered.' *The Diary, 20th October 1660.*



*The walkers standing in front of The Monument commemorating the Great Fire of London.*

We came upon a perfectly normal large pub in spite of its grisly name 'Hung, Drawn and Quartered'! We learnt that its present site is about a quarter of a mile from Aldersgate. The Monument to commemorate the Great Fire we looked at. It is possible to go to the top but no lift and 311 steps. Pepys was proud that he himself informed the King that London was burning. St Bride's Church(yard) we had a look at (a wedding was going on inside). Pepys was christened here and his house adjoined the churchyard. To the 'Cheshire Cheese' for lunch on Fleet Street - a very ancient eaterie, existing in Pepys' time but no record of his having visited it (it was Samuel Johnson's favourite pub).

Refreshed, we took a short tube ride to the Houses of Parliament. We had the good fortune to have a very senior Blue Badge guide who, having been primed about the group, managed several Pepys references. He was an MP twice, spoke brilliantly, especially on naval matters. The tour of parliament was superb, a fitting end to an excellent day.

**Elizabeth Thomas (Columbia)**

### **HCUK Asia Current Affairs and Culture Special Interest group**

**4 December 12.00 noon. Venue TBA**

#### **2010 Nobel Peace Prize: Prospects for political reforms in China?**

**Dr. Mayling Birney (LSE) will be giving a talk over dim sum lunch followed by a lively discussion.**

The recent awarding of the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize to activist Liu Xiaobo has garnered increased attention to the prospect of political reforms in China. It seems to have come at a timely moment as Wen Jiabao, China's Premier, recently stated publicly that the results of China's economic development cannot be guaranteed without political reform. What does the ruling elite mean by this? How might it be perceived and received differently by activists and the Chinese people? How are broader political, economic, and social factors shaping the demand for reform and the willingness to reform? The anticipation of changes in China's top leadership and the Politburo in the coming years also intensifies questions about whether and how China's political system might open up.

**Mayling Birney (AB '94)** is a Lecturer (Assistant Professor) at LSE in the Political Economy of Development, with a special expertise in the politics and political economy of China. She is currently finishing a book that explains what it is about China's authoritarian system that enables central authorities to limit the unwanted outcomes of their own political reforms. The book closely examines the realities and uneven development of China's village elections system, China's most significant democratic reform to date, drawing upon years of original survey research, qualitative field research, and archival work.

**Contact [borisvan@gmail.com](mailto:borisvan@gmail.com) to RSVP by 29th November. Cost of lunch will be split amongst attendees.**