

COLLEGE NOTES



On Wednesday 12 March, the Wednesday after Hilary Full Term, in a solemn ceremony in the Convocation House, Don Fraser, Professor and Tutor in Earth Sciences, was inducted as Senior Proctor for the current year. As his deputies he nominated former Senior Tutor Dr Daniel Lunn and Dr Rosa Fernandez, Lecturer in Economics. Our photograph shows the College procession forming up on the Terrace to leave for the installation, headed by the Bedel of Arts, with Professor Fraser accompanied by the Provost and followed by Dr Lunn and Dr Fernandez¹. After the ceremony the College entertained the retiring Senior Proctor, Dr John Forder of Balliol College, and his colleagues to lunch in Hall.

The Proctors are elected annually by Colleges in rotation; the last Worcester Proctor was Jeremy Horder (Junior Proctor, 1996-7)², and before him James Campbell (Senior Proctor, 1973-4)³. (Edward Wilson held the complementary office of Assessor in 1984-5.) Most junior members while in residence are probably only vaguely aware of the Proctors as the disciplinary officers of the University, and only set eyes on them at their degree ceremony, when the Junior Proctor charges them to

¹ Photograph by Rob Judges, reproduced by kind permission.

² See his article, 'From Dean to Proctor', *Record* 1998.

³ See his article, 'Interesting Times', *Record* 1977.

continue to obey '*omnia Statuta, privilegia, consuetudines et libertates istius Universitatis, quatenus ad vos spectent.*' But the Proctors have a wide range of further duties and responsibilities, sitting *ex officio* on Council and on numerous important University committees. In the past they had others which have fallen into desuetude: they enjoyed powers of summary jurisdiction (though not, as is sometimes believed, of summary execution) and in somewhat more recent times, as older readers will remember, they were responsible for maintaining a list of approved student lodgings and for registering junior members' motor cars. The latter had to display a green light at the front, permanently wired in to the sidelights, and many an undergraduate had to explain this strange usage to unbelieving policemen in other parts of the country beyond Proctorial sway.

We are confident that Professor Fraser will be assiduous in defending collegiate interests, particularly in the continuing debates on University governance, and hope that he will not find his duties too arduous or unrewarding.

We have this year sadly to record the death of one of our distinguished Honorary Fellows, M. François-Xavier Ortoli, President of the European Commission from 1973-6. The obituary from the *Independent* is reprinted below. We believe that in his younger days M.Ortoli actually spent a year at Worcester as a visiting student, but appear to have no official record of this; we should be most grateful to hear from any readers who could enlighten us about it.

Three members will be leaving the Governing Body this year. Retirement beckons for the Senior Fellow, Edward Wilson, Tutor in Medieval English since 1975, and also Fellow Librarian and Keeper of the Archives and Garden Master. His sometimes acerbic but always amusing presence will be much missed in the Common Room, over which he has latterly presided as Steward. In his tutorial capacity he will be succeeded by Dr Laura Ashe, and in his other offices respectively by Dr Scullion, Professor Ware and Professor Roberts. Derek Terrar, Tutor in Physiological Sciences, is 'migrating' to New College, and Peter Heather, Tutor in Medieval History, is leaving us after a regrettably brief stay to return to London University as Professor of Medieval History at King's College; he will be succeeded here by Dr Conrad Leyser. Our good wishes go with them all, as also with our Chaplain, Emma Pennington, who will be joining the team of ministers in charge of the nearby combined parishes of Horspath, Garsington and Cuddesdon. Appreciations of all four appear below, together with a further appreciation of John Eland, whose retirement we reported in our issue of 2006. Mention should also be made of another important member of the College staff, our Accountant, Mr John Boucher, who has retired after thirteen years'

