

as the patron of William Waynflete, whom he had appointed to the mastership of the Hospital of St Mary Magdalen in Winchester in 1438. Waynflete would even go on to succeed Beaufort as bishop of Winchester in 1447, and to emulate Wykeham in founding an Oxford college, Magdalen in 1458.⁵ Beaufort may also have been mindful of his episcopal foundations of New College and Winchester and his relative lack of endowment of them. He may thus have been keen to provide something of a legacy which might smooth their existence in the uncertain political times of his last years, when he was also supporting his particular interest of St Cross Hospital.⁶

The Concordia is also somewhat symptomatic of its time. As well as political uncertainties at home, there was the military situation in France which was exacerbating political tensions in England. The Concordia was being drawn up at about the time that the earl of Suffolk was negotiating a truce with France (to last until 1 April 1446), as English fortunes declined in France. It may have been mere coincidence that this truce was to start on 1 July 1444,

The signed and VYf]WcbYX'a Ybi 'Zcf h\Y'X]bbYf'UZYf'h\Y'?]b[Nj 7c''Y[Y]j Yfg' gB Yk '7c''Y[Y'Zcch/U' '% &
New College Archives, Oxford, NCA JCR/R/Mallett/4b

As well as student sporting exchanges, there was a suggestion in 1931 at New College that Ua cfY'Zcfa U'YI WUb[Y'cZVta a cb'fcca 'f][\hgk]h' ?]b[Nja][\hVY'X]gW'ggYX/U'committee was duly appointed.¹³ Nothing seems to have come of this initiative which was perhaps looking to Yb\UbW'h\Y'gc'WU'YI WUb[Y'UfYUXmhU_]b['d'UW'VYrk Yyb' ?]b[Nj 7c''Y[Y'UbX'B Yk '7c''Y[Y'k]h' a Ya VYfg'UhYbX]b['Zcfa U'W'YVfU]cbg'Uh'YUW'ch'YfNj'c'W]cbg'¹⁴ The initiative was revived in 1974/5 when there was again discussion between the two colleges about reciprocal rights for their senior members. Neither seemed to be being particularly generous though in suggesting that visiting fellows from the other institution would have to pay for meals. There was also discussion about taking such reciprocity to the level of junior members with discussions about such as access to 'h\Y'ch'YfNj']VfUf'm'5 'gh]W]b['dc]bh'Zcf'B Yk '7c''Y[Y'k Uj'h'Uh'Vm'h'Yb' ?]b[Nj 7c''Y[Y'k Uj'Wb'fYg]X'Ybh]U'z'UbX'B Yk '7c''Y[Y'k ci 'X'VY'D'b'U'Y'hc'YI'h'YbX'h\Y'g'la'Y'\c'gd]hU]mhc' ?]b[Nj'k'ca'Yb'X that bar would be removed in 1979 when New College also became mixed.¹⁵

That the Amicabilis Concordia was very much still in mind in these years became particularly clear in 1944 when it was formally affirmed by all four institutions. The Second World K Uf\UX'UfYUX'mbchXYh'ffYX'B Yk '7c''Y[Y'Z'ca 'Uh'Y'U'gh'X'f'U]b['U'Y'h'f'c'Z'V'cb['f'U'i 'U'h]cb'hc' ?]b[Nj College on its 500th anniversary in 1941,¹⁶ and this was enhanced when the similar 500th anniversary of the Concordia arose three years later. The Provost of Eton seems to have been the first to spot the anniversary as his letter reminding New College of this was reported at the Warden

JCR/R/Mallett/4, NCA JCR/R/Darlow (1919, 1921, 1922, 1924 (on two separate occasions). Athletics: NCA JCR/L2/B2 (1928). Tennis: NCA JCR/R/Parsons/1 (1930).

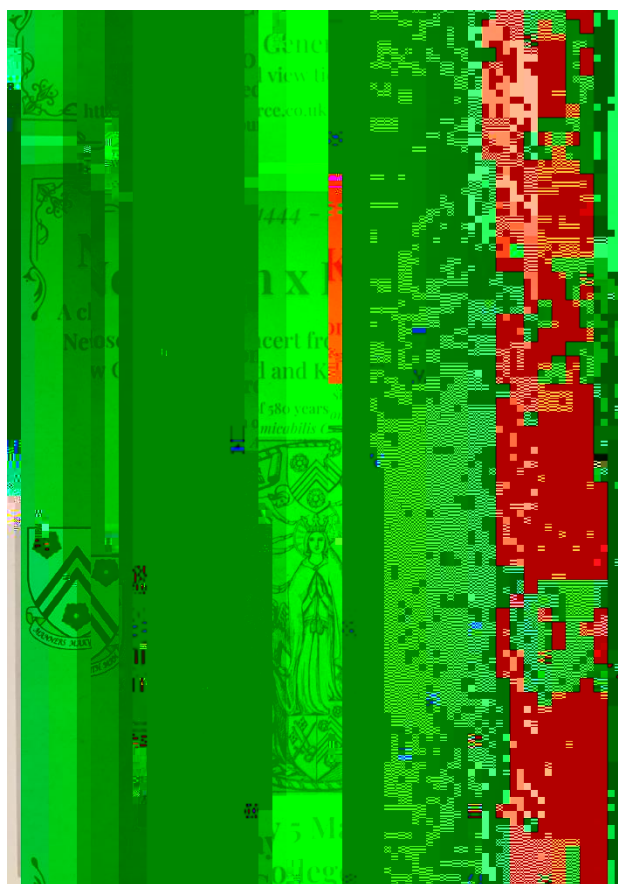
¹³ NCA 9645, p. 124.

¹⁴ H\Y'a Ybi 'Wj Yf'Zcf'h\Y'%'\$*': ci bXYfNj 7ca a Ya cfU]cb'Uh'B Yk '7c''Y[Y'ZYU'i fYg'h\Y'Ufa'g'c'Z'U'U'm'U''Z'ci'f']bg]h' h]cbg' B 75 ' >F #F #D\]ddg#%#%' "5 ffUb[Ya Yb'g]Zcf'B Yk '7c''Y[Y'U'gh'X'Ub'W'Uh' ?]b[Nj'k'Yf'Y'Y]b['X]g'W'ggYX' in 1936: NCA 9646, p. 74.

¹⁵ NCA ACA 1/97.

¹⁶

the Concordia involving all four choirs, with also a dinner in New College. Logistically, organising all four choirs in one location has not been easy, and this concert had to be held on 22 April rather than the ideal date of 1 July which should perhaps have been feasible as it was a Friday. Warden MacGregor acknowledged that hitting the actual anniversary had been his intention but that a ten-week lead-in time was probably what the original Concordia had had anyway. The programme for the concert comprised choral pieces reflecting roughly the eras of 1444, or at least since 1444, and 1994.²⁰ So organising just two choirs in one location has been more manageable. Thus New College *UbX' ?]b[Ńj 7c`Y[Y` \Uj Y` VcdYfUHX` a cst fYWbhm]b` gj` W` Uj` U dYfZcfa UbW`]b` ?]b[Ńj 7c`Y[Y` 7\UbY` cZ` < UnXbŃj` The Creation* on 3 November 2023 by the two choirs and a concert in New College Chapel by the two back rows (groups known respectively as the New Men and the ?]b[Ńj Men) on 5 May 2024.²¹ This last concert even promoted in its publicity that it was a celebration of the 580th *Ubb]j YfgUfm cZ` hY` 7cbWfX]U` UbX` i h]` gYX` W`]a U[Y` cZ` hY` %\$` : ci bXYfŃj` Commemoration* featuring all 4 institutions. Indeed, this piece itself has even been prompted by a *j]g]h` B Yk` 7c`Y[Y` cb` %A UFW` &\$&(` Zfca` hY` ?]b[Ńj 7c`Y[Y` A]XXY` 7ca` a cb` Fcca` k` \Yb`* some of the material discussed here was displayed. Such interchange and cooperation were very much the idea of the original Concordia and is testimony to its enduring legacy.



Publicity for the New Men *UbX' ?]b[Ńj A Yb` WbWfncb`)` A Um&\$&(`*
New College Archives, Oxford, NCA CH/K11/1

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²⁰ NCA CH/H6.

²¹ NCA CH/H6; NCA CH/K11.